

Liberty County 2008 Spring Ag Newsletter

March 25, 2008

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service will present a

FORAGE PRODUCTION MEETING VIA THE INTERNET

DAYTON HIGH SCHOOL AG SHOP HIGHWAY 321 DAYTON, TEXAS

This meeting series on forage and beef production is unique as eleven Southeast Texas counties will participate in this web shop program. This meeting will bring you live speakers from College Station. Participants will have a chance to ask questions of our speakers during their presentations and receive answers. Some of you may be familiar with this type of meeting because you have participated in this type of meeting at your work place.

We hope to see you on April 8th and 10th.

TUESDAY APRIL 8, 2008
6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

**Soil Fertility Principles and How to Work with
the High Fertilizer Prices to Provide Adequate
Fertility for Pastures**

Dr. Mark McFarland

Professor and Texas AgriLife Extension Service Soil
Specialist

Weed Control Principles and Herbicide Updates

Dr. Paul Baumann

Professor and Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Weed Specialist

THURSDAY APRIL 10, 2008
6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Forage Species, Growth and Development

Dr. Larry Redmond

Professor and Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Forage Specialist

**Optimizing Beef Cattle Production and Forage
Values**

Dr. Jason Cleere

Assistant Professor and Texas AgriLife Extension
Service Beef Cattle Specialist

Dinner will be served each evening from 5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Three CEU's *total* will be given to those pesticide applicators attending the meeting. RSVP to the Extension Office at 936-336-4558, ext.221 or 281-593-0405, ext.221 by the close of business day on **Friday, April 4, 2008.**

Beef Cattle & Forage

NATIONAL SORGHUM PRODUCERS
Ensuring Sorghum's Profitability

BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTION VIDEO SERIES
MONDAY APRIL 14, 2008
9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.
RAYWOOD LIVESTOCK MARKET



Part 1 of the educational program series on beef cattle production will be held on **Monday, April 14, 2008** from **9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.** at the Raywood Livestock Market between Raywood and Devers. The program will cover beef cattle herd health and calf working procedures. There will be

a brief discussion period following the video. Part 2 of the series will be held sometime in May, with more details forthcoming in the near future.

2008 EVENING LECTURE SERIES. **MANAGING PASTURES AND HAY MEADOWS**

Texas AgriLife Extension Service will host an Evening Lecture Series on Managing Your Pastures and Hay Meadows at the Crosby Community Center at 409 Hare Road in Crosby, TX.



Dr. Paul Nester, IMP Specialist for Harris County will speak on managing imported red fire ants on **Tuesday, May 20, 2008**. 2 TDA IPM CEU's given.

Wayne Thompson, CEA-ANR for Harris County will speak on managing Brush and Weeds on **Tuesday, July 22, 2008**. 2 TDA GEN CEU's will be given.



Each program will run from **6:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Pre-registration is required by calling the Harris County Office of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 281-855-5600.

Senate and House Pass Another Farm Bill Extension

As sorghum grows steadily in the southern U.S., farm bill negotiators in Washington, D.C. passed yet another extension to the 2002 Farm Bill on Wednesday, preventing U.S. farmers from reverting to operation under antiquated "permanent law" which dates back to the 1930's and 40's. The previous extension would have expired on Saturday, March 15th. The new extension will take over and last until April 18th.

Rumors abound in farm policy circles. House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel has been ill, preventing the Ways & Means Committee from making important budget decisions. Meanwhile, concerns have surfaced that conferees are not being consulted in negotiations and that budget decisions may include significant cuts in crop insurance funding and perhaps large cuts to Commodity Title spending.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Tom Harkin was optimistic about completing a bill by the new deadline. "Although a new bill is within reach, Congress needs more time to reach agreement and obtain the necessary cooperation from the White House," he said. "There is still a considerable amount of work ahead before we can pass a bill: obtaining the needed funding for the bill and fitting all of the demands within the funding we expect to be available."

Though the new extension appears to give Congress a month to complete the farm bill, only 11 of those days are "working days" when Congress will take votes. On three of those days votes do not begin until 6:30 in the evening.

Some parties have suggested passing a package agreed upon by the House and Senate then voting to override a presidential veto, should the President veto the bill.



Rainwater Harvesting to Reduce Erosion

Rainwater harvesting is an obvious solution for homeowners looking to reduce water use and lower their irrigations bills. However, flooding and erosion control are other benefits worth the consideration of many homeowners.

Rainwater harvesting can turn stormwater problems into water supply assets by slowing runoff and allowing it to soak into the ground.

Impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and streets block rainfall and other precipitation from infiltrating naturally into the ground. Precipitation that does not soak into the ground, but instead runs off its surface is called stormwater. Movement of this stormwater across the soil causes erosion. It can also carry and deposit untreated pollutants, such as sediments, nutrients, and pesticides, into surface-water bodies.

Capturing and storing rainwater allows it to be applied at a rate that infiltrates the soil. Reducing run-off also helps to reduce the contamination of surface water with sediments, fertilizers, and pesticides in rainfall run-off.

Methods for harvesting urban rainwater include:

- Crescent-shaped berms around plants on slopes.
- Gabions (piles of large rocks encased in wire mesh).
- French drains (holes or trenches filled with gravel).
- Permeable paving materials, such as gravel, crushed stone, and open or permeable paving blocks, on steep slopes.
- Terrace grading (stair-step-like shelves) of slopes.

For more information on designing and building a rainwater harvesting system go to <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu>.

Texas Master Gardener



UPCOMING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE LIBERTY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Each program will be held in the Liberty County Courthouse Annex at 2103 Cos Street, Liberty, Texas beginning at 7:00 p.m. Programs run approximately 1½ - 2 hours. These programs are open to the public free of charge.

April 17, 2008 Citrus
Speaker Bonnie Childers

May 15, 2008 Roses
Speaker Sandy Gammon
Texas Certified Master Gardener
Liberty County

June 19, 2008 Pest Control
Speaker Ron Holcomb
County Extension Agent - ANR
Liberty County

July 17, 2008 Fall Vegetables
Speaker Ken Flournoy
Texas Certified Master Gardener
and Area Farmer
Liberty County

August 21, 2008 Horticultural Places
of Interest in Southeast Texas
Speaker Nancy Brandli
Texas Certified Master Gardener
Liberty County

September and October .. To Be Announced

November 20, 2008 ... Pecans and Grafting
Speaker Leonard Vyroal
Bear Creek Fruit Study Group
Texas AgriLife Extension
Harris County

*Programs are subject to change, so please call the Extension Office prior to a program. **RSVP** to the Extension Office one day prior to a program, so we will have enough educational materials on hand for the program.*

We hope you find this newsletter informative. We are going to try something new with this newsletter and have plans at this point to continue the new format unless you all don't like it. Please let us know what you think about the format. Also please let us know if you change your address or no longer want to receive the newsletter. We want to get the information to the ones who need it. I hope to see you at the future programs.

Ron Holcomb
County Extension Agent - ANR
Liberty County

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate are encouraged to contact the Liberty County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 936-336-4558, Ext.221 or 281-593-0405, Ext.221 five business days in advance of the event to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you will require.