

LUBBOCK COUNTY SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNER NEWS

(806)775-1680 (phone) ●(806)775-1658 (FAX)
rj-scott@tamu.edu (e-mail) ● <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> (web)

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916 Main, Suite 201 Lubbock TX 79401; P.O. Box 10536 Lubbock TX 79408

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The purpose of this newsletter is to assist and educate small acreage landowners to make the best decision for their production needs and keep them updated on educational opportunities. If there is a topic you would like me to address please email me at rj-scott@tamu.edu and I will try to address your request. If you would like to be on the newsletter email list let me know and I will be glad to add you to the list. The Lubbock county Extension website is <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/>.

AFTER CRP PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 16th we will be holding a “After CRP Program” discussing what to do with you CRP land once it comes out of the CRP Program. The Program will be held at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center located 3 miles north of Lubbock on East FM 1294 Registration will begin at 8 am followed by topics such as: CRP Overview, CRP Origin and Extent, CRP Management Plans and Mid-Contract Practices, After CRP: Land Management Alternatives, Wildlife Management, Grazing Management, Economic Considerations for Wildlife Management, Economic Considerations for Farming and Grazing. More information will be available as the program gets closer.

HORSE PASTURES

Pasture is used as a roughage for horses kept in pastures. Many horses are kept on native pastures of grasses and Legume Pastures vary in nutrient content, depending on the growing season. The lush, green pasture growth of early spring is very high in moisture. As the spring progresses, the moisture content will decrease, and the nutrient content will increase. Once summer rolls around and the pasture matures, it becomes deficient in protein, energy, and other nutrients. It may be necessary during the later months of summer to supplement horses on pasture, especially if



their activity level is high. Common warm-season perennial grasses are: Bermuda grass and native grasses.

The purpose of the pasture will determine the species of grass to plant. Remember, a pasture can be used as an exercise area or to supply a significant portion of daily nutrients. Each grass has certain characteristics that make it desirable for specific use. For the complete article by *Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky* go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **Newsletters** and go to the **2010 Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter** link.

TEXAS STILL #1

BEEF - Texas ranks first in the nation in total cattle numbers (14 million head) and also has the broadest spectrum of producers and variation in production environments. The beef cattle industry is by far the largest sector in the Texas agriculture industry.

SHEEP - Texas leads the nation in lamb and wool production and is internationally famous for its wool.

GOAT - Texas is the leading state in goat production with approximately 1.4 million head. and is internationally famous for its mohair and the associated industries for wool and mohair are a major agricultural enterprise in Texas.

SWINE - Texas Currently Ranks 18th Nationally in Total Number of Pigs Produced. There Are Currently No Market Hog Plants in Texas; However, in the Panhandle There Are Two Large Commercial Farms. The Show Pig Industry in Texas Is Extremely Popular, with over 48,000 Hogs Being Raised Each Year for Show.

WHY DO I NEED TO SOIL TEST?

Soil fertility fluctuates throughout the growing season each year. The quantity and availability of mineral nutrients are altered by the addition of fertilizers, manure, compost, and mulch. For example, if soil is already high in phosphorus, adding fertilizer with phosphorus will prevent plants from absorbing essential micro

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nutrients, affecting their growth and health. The test will tell you what nutrients are present in your soil and whether they are in balance. It will also give you appropriate recommendations about the kinds and amounts of fertilizer to use in order to maintain your soil at maximum fertility. Without a soil test, you may actually harm your plants by adding fertilizers that create imbalances. With a soil test, you will know exactly what to use.

The soil test will also tell you the pH number of your soil. The pH number refers to how acidic or alkaline something is. A pH number of 7 is neutral. Numbers lower than 7 indicate more and more acidic soils. Numbers higher than 7 indicate more and more alkaline soils. Most soil nutrients are readily available when soil pH is slightly acidic at 6.5. When pH rises above this value, nutrient elements such as phosphorus, iron, manganese, copper, and zinc will become less available. When soil pH drops below 6.5, manganese can reach a toxicity level for some sensitive plants. A soil test will tell you the pH of your soil and give recommendations about bringing it to the desired pH level.

The soil test takes the guesswork out of fertilization and is extremely cost effective. It not only eliminates the waste of money spent on unnecessary fertilizers, but also eliminates over-usage of fertilizers, hence helping to protect the environment.

When Do I Soil Test?

Soil samples can be taken in the spring or fall for established sites. For new sites, soil samples can be taken anytime when the soil is workable. Most people conduct their soil tests in the spring. However, fall is a preferred time to take soil tests if one wants to avoid the spring rush and suspects a soil problem. For more information go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **Links** and go to **Small Acreage Landowners** link.

Selecting Trees

Living trees, shrubs are usually the most important materials in landscaping. Their selection, placement and maintenance are the main criteria the layman uses to evaluate landscape work. It is extremely important, therefore, to select trees that will serve the function as dependably as possible. For a list of trees and shrubs recommended for Lubbock area go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **the Lubbock Master Gardeners** link.

GOAT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

We will be having a Goat Management workshop October 20th designed to address herd management, health, nutrition, reproduction and selection. Dr. Frank Craddock, State Sheep and Goat Specialist from San Angelo will be the featured speaker. More information will be available as the program gets closer.



HIGH PLAINS AG CONFERENCE

Attention Private Pesticide Applicators- **Dec 1st** we will be offering 5 CEU's toward your Private Applicator Licence. The training will be held in Lubbock and the cost will be \$40.00 which will include a lunch. Watch for more information in the November-December newsletter or contact the Lubbock County Extension office at 806-775-1680.

YOUTH BEEF 706 COURSE

A Youth Beef 706 Course is being held in Lubbock. Sign your youth up for this tremendous opportunity to learn about the Beef Cattle Industry **Session 1:** July 20-21 or **Session 2:** July 22-23. The workshop is at no cost to the youth or accompanying adults. It is open to all youth who will be in high school next fall. Go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **Newsletters** and go to the **2010 Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter** link look for the Beef flyer

WHEN HAVE YOU TESTED YOUR PRIVATE WATER WELL?

Private water wells should be tested annually. The Lubbock County Office of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is sponsoring a water well screening day for area residents on **May 24th**. Samples from private water wells will be screened for possible contamination from common contaminants including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and high salinity. The cost is \$5 per sample. Make check payable to Lubbock Livestock Committee.

You will need to pick up a sample bag and instructions from the Lubbock County AgriLife Extension Office located at 916 Main Street, Suite 201 in Lubbock from 8 am-12 noon and 1 pm-5 pm. You can contact the Lubbock County Extension Office by calling 806-775-1680 to receive an approved water sampling bag and instructions for taking your well water sample. It is very important that only sampling bags from the Lubbock County Extension Office be used and all instructions for proper sampling followed to ensure accurate results. Samples can be delivered to Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at 1102 E. Farm-to-Market 1294 by 9:30 a.m. on May 24th where the testing will be conducted.

A meeting explaining your screening results will be held on **May 25th** at Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center. It is extremely important to be at this meeting to receive your results, learn corrective measures for identified problems, and to improve your understanding of private well management. Go to <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> click on **Newsletters** and go to the **2010 Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter** for more information.

Robert Scott
Texas AgriLife County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Lubbock County