

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/>.

BEEF 706 COURSE

Date :April 10 & 11, 2008

Registration: Email jhodgkins@txbeef.org or call
Texas Beef Council at 1-800-846-4113

Deadline: March 21, 2008

Cost: Free to Texas Cattle Producers and Educators

Agenda topics include: Both live and carcass evaluations, cattle grid buying, managing feeder cattle, fabricating carcasses, genetic selection, tour Cargill Beef Plant.

The Beef 706 Course will be taught through the cooperative efforts of Texas Tech University and Texas AgriLife Extension. The sponsor of the workshop is the Texas Beef Council.

SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNERS ONLINE COURSES

The small farm owner is a growing segment in Texas agriculture. Per Ag Census statistics, 33% of all farms and ranches in Texas are ranked under 50 acres in size.

The small scale farm or ranch owner may have purchased the operations for many reasons – retirement, a source of alternate income, or to impart a life-style change. Small scale farmers/ranchers many times have arrived in the enterprise with the need for education concerning enterprise choices, basic production guidelines, as well as advice on marketing strategies

and agricultural legalities. Small scale farmers/ranchers have hurried schedules but are considered very technically astute. With the growing success of University level distance learning opportunities, the same webcourse access can be provided for adult learners in non-degree seeking courses.

The Small Scale Web-Based Program is targeted for small scale farmer/ranchers in need of agricultural courses to address some of the most common small scale enterprises and problems. The courses are completely asynchronous (can be completed in time available) but at the same time, interactive. Course facilitators will lead threaded discussion as a part of the learning modules and monitor classwork and survey instruments providing individual feedback to the course students. The courses will also be very useful in notifying students about additional learning opportunities that may be face-to-face instruction as well as resource sources.

Courses available:

April 2008

- * Resource Inventory - Apr 21, 2008 - May 19, 2008

May 2008

- * Beef Cattle Management May 19, 2008 - June 27, 2008

June 2008

- * Resource Inventory - Jun 2, 2008 - Jun 30, 2008

July 2008

- * Basic Beef Cattle Management - July 14, 2008 - Aug 22, 2008

September 2008

- * Basic Beef Cattle Management - Sept 24, 2008 - Oct 17, 2008

For more information click [Small Acreage Landowners Info.](#) at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/>

COTTONTAIL AND JACKRABBIT CONTROL L-1910

Cottontails and jackrabbits are common throughout most parts of Texas. There are several species of cottontail rabbits in Texas, but only one species of jackrabbit, the black-tailed. Jackrabbits are true hares and differ in many ways from cottontails, which are classed as rabbits.

Because of their food preferences, the presence of cottontails and jackrabbits frequently conflicts with agricultural or forestry interests. They also can damage gardens, ornamental trees, shrubs, fruits, vegetables and lawns. Cottontails and jackrabbits also have been known to carry tularemia, a disease that can be transmitted to people. Although it may be necessary to control cottontails and jackrabbits to reduce the damage they cause, completely eliminating them is not necessary, desirable or even possible. There are several control methods that can be used.

Cultural Control

Modifying the habitat to make it less attractive to rabbits is often an effective method of control.

The removal of brush piles, weedy patches, rock or lumber piles will sometimes cause rabbits to leave in search of a more suitable habitat. This method is especially effective in suburban areas, where suitable habitat is difficult to find.

Trapping Jackrabbits are not often caught in box or cage traps because they are reluctant to enter traps or dark places. However, trapping can be an effective way to remove cottontails. The traps should be placed where the rabbits are feeding or resting. Corn cobs, dried leafy alfalfa and clover are good cold-weather baits. Apples, carrots, lettuce and cabbage are good baits to use during the warmer months.

Chemical Control

Several repellents are registered for rabbit control. Repellents are usually available from garden supply centers, feed stores and hardware stores. Restricted-use pesticides are available but can be used only by a licensed pest control operator or a person who has a private applicator's license that permits the use of such chemicals. Directions on all chemical labels should be read, understood and followed exactly.

Shooting

In rural areas, shooting is a quick, easy and effective method of control. Mornings and evenings are the best times to attempt to shoot rabbits. Check local laws and ordinances before using this as a control method.

Restrictions

Cottontails and jackrabbits are not protected in Texas and may be taken at any time. However, persons wishing to live trap the animals and then relocate them should notify local representatives of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

BASIC HORSE MANAGEMENT 101

I am currently working on a Basic Horse Management 101 Course to be held in June at Texas Tech. Some of the tentative agenda topics will be: Basic Safety, Hay Selection, Horse Nutrition, Health Care, Permanent I.D. and Hoof Care.

More details to come as the program develops.

VACCINATING CATTLE

The Clostridial complex is a genus of bacteria responsible for several diseases including but not limited to Blackleg, Enterotoxemia, Malignant edema, Red Water and others. These spore-forming bacteria can reside in the soil for long periods of time and are widespread. Sometime during their life, every calf will be challenged by the Clostridial complex.

An annual "Blackleg" booster administered to the cow herd within 45 days of calving will boost the clostridial antibodies included in colostrums and bolster protection of young calves. Those same maternal antibodies may overwhelm given to young (2 months of age or less) calves. However, vaccination of young calves 'primes' the immune system and facilitates an effective immune response when the second vaccination is received.

Beef Quality Assurance best management practices require that all injections be given in the neck. If afforded a choice, choose a subcutaneous (under the skin) route of administration over intramuscular.

Vaccine handling, syringe management and needle selection

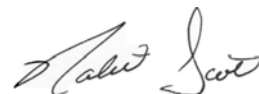
Implementation of a vaccination program is fairly easy but should be done in a manner to make sure the program is successful. When handling vaccine, make sure that it is not left exposed to heat, freezing temperature or sunlight for an extended period of time.

Sunlight (UV light) is detrimental to vaccine, particularly modified live virus (MLV) vaccines, but will also reduce effectiveness of killed (K) vaccines as well. Most exposure to UV light occurs during processing of cattle. Efforts should be made to shield syringes and vaccines from sources of UV lights at all times.

Heat has long been a concern of producers when handling of vaccine. Although exposure to prolonged heat will lead to deterioration of vaccine, brief exposure to room temperatures will not inactivate vaccine. If it would, injecting it into an animal that is 101° F would also inactivate it.

Use sterile 18 or 16 gauge needles that are 5/8 to 1 inch in length for most processing needs. Change a needle whenever it gets dirty, dull or experiences a burr. As a minimum, change needles every 10 head.

For the complete Beef Cattle Penning Newsletter go to Newsletters at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu>.



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