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## Tom's Tidbits

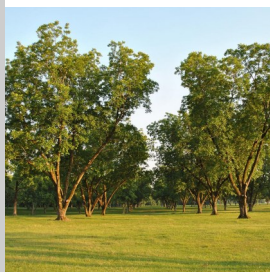
I hope everyone's 2018 has started off on a good note. My 2018 has been busy! From an agricultural standpoint we ended 2017 very dry and that has continued into 2018. The long range forecast predicts the drought conditions to continue in the coming months. I received 3.5 inches of rain February 18th-24th at my house in Goldthwaite and have received reports of up to 6 inches from around the county. While these rains were welcomed we are still listed in drought stage 2 (severe drought). Although we are hopeful of more rain in the coming weeks, please remain aware of current conditions when making management decisions. If we can ever help you in any way please give us a call or come see us in the basement of the courthouse. Have a great spring!



**Tom Guthrie,**  
**CEA, AG-NR**

## Pecan Management Calendar for Texas

### MARCH



1. At bud break begin watering at least once every two weeks through October (Preferable to irrigate weekly with 1 inch).
2. Keep grass and weeds short, finish up any ground work not completed.
3. Perform maintenance on equipment and irrigation systems.

### APRIL

1. Purchase casebearer pheromone traps for late April placement.
2. Spray zinc three times, beginning at bud break every 7 days.
3. Fertilize depending on the age of trees-50 lbs. N/acre on mature trees.
4. Continue irrigation weekly if no rains occur
5. Begin grafting when new growth starts and bark slips easily.

## Fertilizing Your Lawn

I always recommend a soil test before you start your spring lawn care program. If you are like me and sometimes get too busy and forget to get it tested you should use a complete fertilizer with a 3-1-2 ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. An example would be 15-5-10. Typically in Mills County nitrogen is our most limited soil nutrient. You should wait to apply your fertilizer until after the first frost and the grass begins to green. FYI: soil testing material can be picked up at the Extension office.

## Weed Control in Your Lawn

If you are seeing weeds growing in your lawn right now, they germinated last fall. They sprouted in September, established roots over the winter, and started growing in February, especially after rain. To control the weeds you need to apply a pre-emergent weed killer in early September. Pre-emergent weed killer needs to be put out before the seed emerges or germinates. A good rule of thumb to keep in mind when wanting to control winter weeds is to put it out around Labor Day. When wanting to put out for summer weeds such as grass burs and crabgrass you should put out the pre-emergent 2-3 weeks before the date of the last killing freeze, which is usually mid March. Most products are active for 50-100 days so in about 3 month you will want to reapply. Apply post emergent herbicides when weeds are present and the grass is healthy and actively growing. These will help to eliminate non grassy weeds that have already sprouted. I am not aware of any post-emergent products that will eliminate the current grassy weeds such as the rescue grass and ryegrass we are currently seeing.

*"This is a good grass  
to eat now so use it  
while you got it..."*

## Texas Winter grass

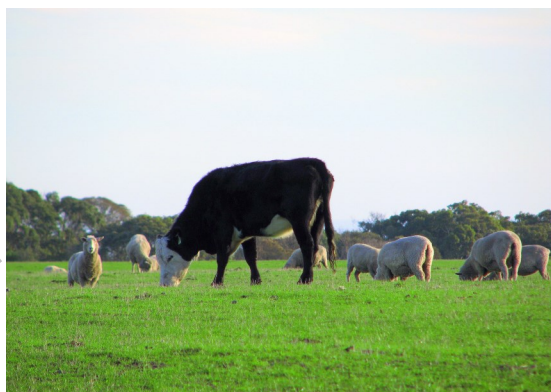
Texas Winter grass has become a common grass seen in local pastures. It is a native, cool season perennial and not a warm season grass. Right now is the optimum time to graze it before it goes to flower, and puts out the awned floret or seed. This is where it gets its common name "spear grass". Data gathered from Extension Range Specialist, Baron Rector out of College Station shows that on March 27th in a previous year this grass had 12% crude protein, 0.12% phosphorus, and 44% digestible organic matter. On February 28th in a dry late winter spring, the crude protein was 6%, 0.06% phosphorus, and 37% digestible organic matter. Data from April and May show 10-13% crude protein and 0.08-0.15% phosphorus. When we have rainfall like this year the numbers will be on the higher end. This is a good grass to eat now so use it while you got it as it will lose its quality by June.



# Mills County Agriculture Production

For the most part, 2017 was a fair year for agriculture production in Mills County. Every December the Mills County Extension Agriculture Committee meets to complete the Annual Ag Increment Report. While these numbers are an *estimate* of commodities produced in Mills County it gives a good idea of the importance of Agriculture to our county. Here is a look at some of our largest agriculture commodities. Estimates for agriculture commodities sold for Mills County in 2017 come in at \$47.1 million. This was up \$2.7 million from 2016. After a few good years of adequate and timely rain fall livestock stocking rates have slowly increased. Beef cattle production was the largest contributor at \$19.2 million. Milk production came in second at \$6.0 million, with less than stellar prices production was good. Sheep production ranked 3rd at \$5.9 million and goats ranked 6th at \$2.9 million. If you combine sheep and goats they would come in strong at \$8.8 million. While overall goat numbers have declined over the past few years, sheep, in particular hair sheep, numbers have risen greatly. Sheep and goat prices have remained strong. Hay production is an important commodity grown here and came in 4th at \$5 million. Hay was a little down from the previous year as the dry fall affected some second cuttings this year. Coming in 5th was hunting at \$4.9 million. Hunting is always a strong, stable part of our production in Mills County. Our range, pasture, and crop lands support strong and diverse agriculture production across Mills County.

Commodity	2017 Estimated Value
Beef	\$19,187,200
Milk	\$6,000,000
Sheep	\$5,859,600
Hay	\$5,000,000
Hunting	\$4,925,000
Goats	\$2,874,000



## Multi Species Grazing

Central Texas is an ideal area to graze sheep, cattle, and goats on the same property. Multi species grazing can be used to more effectively utilize all of the browse and forage in pastures, target weeds and brush, and to reduce parasite loads across pastures. I will say that while adding another species to your pasture can have benefits, you need to be aware of the additional management decisions to your operation. Make sure that your fences, facilities, and predator problems can all support adding another species.

Incorporating a multi species grazing system can help you improve the sustainability of your grazing lands while potentially adding economic benefits. Keep in mind that the diet for cattle will consist of 80% grass, 12% forbs, and 7% browse. The diet for sheep will be about 60% grass, 30% forbs, and 10% browse. The diet for goats will be 45% grass, 44% browse and 11% grass. A white-tailed deer will consume 60% forbs, 30% browse, and 10% grass. Multi species grazing works because most of us have a mixture of grasses, forbs and browse and can make some variation work. Before moving to a multi species system you should evaluate your property and determine how much grass, forbs and browse you have. Ask yourself what your management goals are. Are you managing for livestock only or does your operation include wildlife? Always incorporate proper stocking rates and do not overgraze.



# Combination Dewormers

In the sheep and goat world, parasite resistance to dewormers has become quite common and has gradually gotten worse. In an article written in January of 2017 by Dr. Ray Kaplan, Professor of Parasitology, University of Georgia, Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Kaplan indicated that surveys indicated that most farms have worms resistant to at least 2 of the 3 major groups of dewormers. Research has shown that the best approach is to use several different dewormers all at one time as a combination treatment. The two major benefits of using drugs in combination are: (1) you get an additive effect with each drug used leading to an increase in efficacy; and (2) by achieving a higher efficacy, there are fewer resistant worms that survive the treatment. Before implementing a combination approach you should be aware of a few precautions. In the USA dewormers must be bought and administered separately. This may lead to an increased cost and also different groups of dewormers are not chemically compatible so they must not be mixed together in the same syringe. They can be given one right after the other.

Goat Chart: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aded98\\_c7a6cc3b624043aeaefe8693f9f13c71.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aded98_c7a6cc3b624043aeaefe8693f9f13c71.pdf)

Sheep Chart: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aded98\\_e173a9632aa742aa8241ea5d1f3694a2.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aded98_e173a9632aa742aa8241ea5d1f3694a2.pdf)

## SHEEP Dewormer Chart

**\*Important --Please read notes below before using this chart\***

1 ml = 1cc	Valbazen (albendazole) ORALLY	SafeGuard (fenbendazole) ORALLY	Ivomec Sheep Drench (ivermectin) ORALLY	Prohibit (levamisole) ORALLY	Cydetin Sheep Drench (moxidectin) ORALLY
Weight Pounds (lbs)	7.5 mg/kg 0.75 ml/ 25 lb	5 mg/kg 0.6 ml/ 25 lb	0.2 mg/kg 2.9 ml/ 25 lb	8 mg/kg 2 ml/ 25 lb	0.2 mg/kg 2.3 ml/25 lb
20	0.6	0.5	2.3	1.5	1.8
25	0.75	0.6	2.9	1.8	2.3
30	0.9	0.7	3.4	2.2	2.7
35	1.1	0.8	4.0	2.6	3.2
40	1.2	0.9	4.5	2.9	3.6
45	1.4	1.0	5.1	3.3	4.1
50	1.5	1.1	5.7	3.7	4.5
55	1.7	1.3	6.2	4.0	5.0
60	1.8	1.4	6.8	4.4	5.4
65	2.0	1.5	7.4	4.7	5.9
70	2.1	1.6	8.0	5.1	6.3
75	2.3	1.7	8.5	5.5	6.8
80	2.4	1.8	9.1	5.8	7.2
85	2.6	1.9	9.7	6.2	7.7
90	2.7	2.0	10.2	6.6	8.1
95	2.9	2.1	10.8	6.9	8.6
100	3.0	2.2	11.4	7.3	9.1
105	3.2	2.3	1.02	7.7	9.5
110	3.3	2.5	12.5	8.0	10
115	3.5	2.6	13.1	8.4	10.5
120	3.6	2.7	13.7	8.8	10.9
125	3.8	2.8	14.2	9.1	11.4
130	3.9	2.9	14.8	9.5	11.8
140	4.2	3.0	15.4	10.2	12.7
150	4.5	3.1	16.0	11.0	13.6

**Valbazen** Suspension (11.36 % or 113.6 mg/ml): 7.5 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 7 days. Do NOT use in pregnant ewes in the first trimester of pregnancy.

**Safe-Guard/Panacur** Suspension (10% or 100 mg/ml): Note that SafeGuard is not approved for use in sheep. Sheep dose is 5 mg/kg orally; meat withdrawal time of 6 days.

**Ivomec Drench for Sheep** (0.08% or 0.8 mg/ml): 0.2 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 11 days. Protect from light.

**Prohibit Soluble Drench Powder (Sheep):** (Note that this drug is also sold as Levasol and Tramsiol) 8 mg/kg ORAL dose. Approved for use in sheep with meat withdrawal of 3 days. Solution prepared by dissolving a 52 gram packet in 1 quart (943 ml) of water. This yields a solution with 49.6 mg/ml. Always make sure to follow directions on packet when preparing.

If dosing lambs, it is safer to dilute further (1 packet in 2 quarts of water), and then administer twice the amount listed on the chart. The larger volume administered will provide a wider margin for safety if there are small errors in dosing.

**Cydetin Sheep drench** (1 mg/ml): 0.2 mg/kg orally; approved in sheep with meat withdrawal time of 14 days.

### NOTE for Guideline for Dewormer (Anthelmintic) Dosages in Sheep

This chart was developed by Ray M. Kaplan, DVM, PhD and Lisa Williamson, DVM, MS (University of Georgia). It is provided as a possible guideline for anthelmintic (deworming) dosages for sheep. Producers should always consult their veterinarian for advice on their specific management situation for determining which dewormer(s) are best to use in their flock, and the proper dosages for their flock. Meat withdrawal times should always be strictly adhered to.

Note that drug resistance in parasites of sheep is extremely common. The effectiveness of a particular dewormer should always be tested before being used by performing either a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) or DrenchRite larval development assay (contact Dr. Kaplan's laboratory [706-542-0742] for more information about the DrenchRite test).

Updated September 2014

## Dewormer Chart for Goats

**\*Important --Please read notes below before using this chart\***

1 ml = 1cc	Valbazen (albendazole) ORALLY	SafeGuard (fenbendazole) ORALLY	Ivomec Sheep Drench (ivermectin) ORALLY	Prohibit (levamisole) ORALLY	Cydetin Sheep Drench (moxidectin) ORALLY	Rumate (morantel) Feed Pre-mix ORALLY
Weight Pounds (lbs)	20 mg/kg 2 ml/ 25 lb	10 mg/kg 1.1 ml/ 25 lb	0.4 mg/kg 6 ml/ 25 lb	12 mg/kg 2.7 ml/ 25 lb	0.4 mg/kg 4.5 ml/25 lb	10 mg/kg 45 gm/100 lb BW (Duvet)
20	1.6	0.9	4.8	2.2	3.6	
25	2.0	1.1	6.0	2.7	4.5	11 grams
30	2.4	1.4	7.2	3.3	5.4	
35	2.8	1.6	8.4	3.8	6.5	
40	3.2	1.8	9.6	4.4	7.3	
45	3.6	2.1	10.8	4.9	8.2	
50	4.0	2.3	12.0	5.5	9.0	23 grams
55	4.4	2.5	13.2	6.0	10	
60	4.8	2.7	14.4	6.6	11	
65	5.2	3.0	15.6	7.1	12	
70	5.6	3.2	16.8	7.7	12.7	
75	6.0	3.4	18.0	8.2	13.6	34 grams
80	6.4	3.6	19.2	8.8	14.6	
85	6.8	3.9	20.4	9.3	15.4	
90	7.2	4.1	21.6	9.9	16.4	
95	7.6	4.3	22.8	10.4	17.3	
100	8.0	4.6	24.0	11.0	18	45 grams
105	8.4	4.8	25.2	11.5	19	
110	8.8	5.0	26.4	12.1	20	
115	9.2	5.2	27.6	12.6	21	
120	9.6	5.5	28.8	13.2	22	
125	10.0	5.7	30.0	13.7	22.7	56 grams
130	10.4	5.9	31.2	14.3	23.6	
140	11.2	6.4	33.6	15.4	25.4	
150	12.0	6.8	36.0	16.5	27.3	68 grams

**Valbazen** Suspension (11.36 % or 113.6 mg/ml): 20 mg/kg orally; withdrawal time is 9 days for meat and 7 days for milk Do NOT use in pregnant does in the first trimester of pregnancy

**Safe-Guard/ Panacur** Suspension (10% or 100 mg/ml): the label dose in goats is 5 mg/kg, but a 10 mg/kg dosage is recommended. At 10 mg/kg, withdrawal time is 16 days meat and 4 days for milk. Add 1 day for each additional day the drug is used (e.g. if administered 2 days in a row then withhold milk for 5 days after 2nd dose).

**Ivomec Sheep Drench** (0.08% or 0.8 mg/ml): 0.4 mg/kg orally; meat withdrawal time is 14 days and milk withdrawal is 9 days.

**Prohibit Soluble Drench Powder (Sheep):** (Note that this drug is also sold as Levasol and Tramsiol) 12 mg/kg oral dose with meat withdrawal of 4 days and milk withdrawal of 3 days. Solution prepared by dissolving a 52 gram packet in 1 quart (943 ml) of water. This yields a solution with 49.6 mg/ml. If dosing kids, it is safer to dilute further (1 packet in 2 quarts of water), and then administer twice the amount listed on the chart. The larger volume administered will then provide a wider margin for safety if there are small errors in dosing.

**Cydetin Sheep drench** (1 mg/ml): use orally at 0.4 mg/kg orally; for a single dose the meat withdrawal time is 17 days and milk withdrawal is 8 days. Note that these withdrawal times are only applicable for the sheep oral drench at the dose given here. Higher doses will require a longer withdrawal time.

**Morantel tartrate** (Rumate) recommended label dose for goats is 10 mg/kg, orally. There is 0 (zero) withdrawal time for milk in lactating cattle and dairy goats. Meat withdrawal time for goats is 30 days. Because of the large differences in morantel concentration among the various products, it is important to carefully read the label and make sure you are dosing correctly. The dosage on the chart above is for Duvet Rumate. [With Duvet Rumate, feed 0.1 lb (45 grams) per 100 lbs. BW; and with Manna Pro feed 1.0 lb per 100 lb. BW]. There is also a highly concentrated form called Rumate 88, but this is meant for mixing into large volumes of feed (feed 0.1 lb (45 gram) per 2000 lb BW). Note that the 10 mg/kg dose used for the chart is the label dose; administering 1.5 – 2X this dose may improve efficacy. If an elevated dose is used then withdrawal times would need to be extended.

### NOTE on Guideline for Anthelmintic Dosages in Goats

The attached chart was developed by Ray M. Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DACVM, DEVPC (University of Georgia) with subsequent contributions by Patty Sharkey DVM, MPH (Clemson University). It is provided as a possible guideline for anthelmintic (deworming) dosages for goats. Producers should always consult their veterinarian for advice on their specific management situation, for determining which of the dewormers remain effective on the farm, and for determining the most appropriate dosages for their herd. Meat and milk withdrawal times listed in this document are based on the most current information available from FARAD as of its writing. Be aware that these recommended withdrawal times may change over time as new pharmacologic information is obtained.

With the exception of fenbendazole administered at the 5 mg/kg dose, these drugs are **not** approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in goats, and when used in goats are considered extra label use. Fenbendazole at the recommended dose rate of 10 mg/kg is also considered extra-label usage. The FDA regards extra-label use of drugs as an exclusive privilege of the veterinary profession and is only permitted when a bona fide veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists and an appropriate medical diagnosis has been made. The following chart is intended to serve as a guideline for improving accuracy when dosing goats with an anthelmintic, but these drugs should be used in goats only when appropriate veterinary advice has been received. Cattle pour-on dewormers should NEVER be used in goats to treat internal parasites.

Drug resistance to multiple drugs and sometimes to all available drugs in parasites of goats is extremely common. The effectiveness of a dewormer should always be tested before being used by performing a Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) or DrenchRite larval development assay (contact Sue Howell in Dr. Kaplan's laboratory [706-542-0742]; or drenchrte@uga.edu) for more information about the DrenchRite test, current cost = \$450).

To improve the effectiveness of deworming treatments, multiple dewormers may be administered at the same time sequentially. It is important not to mix the different drugs together as they are not chemically compatible. They should be given separately, but can all be given at the same time, one right after the other. It is always recommended to treat goats selectively given their individual need for treatment based on FAMACHA score, fecal egg count, body condition score, and other health measurements as a guide. This recommendation is even more important when using drugs in combination. If all animals in the herd are treated, resistance to the dewormers will develop rapidly, and if using a combination there will be nothing left to use when this happens.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE ON CYDETIN:** For a short period, it was recommended to administer Cydetin (moxidectin) by injection. However, new information suggests that the oral route is preferred. If the cattle injectable is used, FARAD recommends a 120-130 day meat withdrawal time. NOTE that the cattle pour-on formulation should NOT be administered to goats orally – this is not permissible under extra-label use. ALWAYS use the sheep oral drench. Check <http://www.acsrrpc.org/> website for more information on drug choice and drug resistance.

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Providing Solutions**



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## Program Dates

April 5, 2018, **Pecan Short Course**, Goldthwaite, TX 325-648-2650

The registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the program starts at 9:00 a.m. Please RSVP by April 1st. The cost is \$25.00 and includes a catered meal. This program has been approved for 3CEU's for licensed pesticide applicators. Please call for full details of speakers and location.

April 4, 2018, **Minister's Tour**, Goldthwaite, TX, 325-648-3118

April 24, 2018, **Spring Cattleman's Clinic**, Lampasas, TX, 512-556-8271

May 7, 2018, **Pecan Field Day**, San Saba, TX 325-372-5416

May 10, 2018 **Sheep Symposium**, Hamilton, TX 254-386-3919

## ***Hey Did You Know?? - Hay Testing Probe Available at Extension Office***

If you are curious to what your hay quality is, the Extension Office has a hay testing probe available to pull samples for testing. It is available to local producers. Please call and reserve the probe, which can be checked out for 2 days and then returned to the Extension Office.

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