

Mitchell County AG Newsletter



May 2010

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GLCI Range Tour Approaching>

On May 6, Big Country RC&D, NRCS and Texas AgriLife Extension will sponsor and major Tour and Field Day for range land enthusiasts. The 2010 edition of this event will be held on the Spade Ranch, in Mitchell County and feature a variety of topics sure to please all who attend.

Registration and activities for the day will begin in the Civic Center with coffee and burritos from 7:30 am until 8:30 am. At the conclusion of registration and some brief comments, travel to the Spade will be take place on a number of vans and small busses to hold traffic to a minimum and allow faster travel time.

Upon arrival at the Ranch, a welcome will be issued by Spade representatives and the four Tour stops will follow. The four stops to be included on the Tour include the following:

- >Plant Identification
- >Forage Production & Utilization
- >Chemical Pear & Mesquite Control
- >Wildlife Management

The presenters are top experts in their particular area and include Dr. Dale Rollins and Dr. Allen McGinty from Extension.

Following the four stops, participants will travel back to the Civic Center for a noon meal, catered by Bama's.

To follow up the noon meal, presentations from chemical reps including Dow and Dupont will provide the latest in developments and strategies for improvement of native pastures. In addition, an update on Biological Control of Salt Cedar will be presented to bring the latest progress and control measures to participants.

After the conclusion of this portion of the program, folks who would like a first hand look at the Beetles at work will adjourn to the field site.

The program will adjourn at 3 pm at which time 5 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be provided to those present. This total includes 1- Laws and Regs, 1 - IPM and 3 General CEU's.

A great variety of door prizes will be given, as well and the ever-popular "range stick" and a copy of the Range Plant ID book and informational notebook will be provided to each person attending.

At this time of year and the excellent moisture we have, how could you not be present for this Tour. If you have not done so, please call our office to reserve your place no later than May 3rd.

Beef Cattle Browsing News -

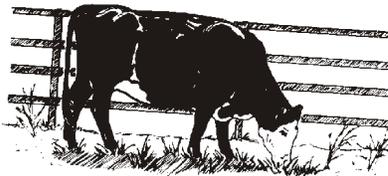
(The following information was taken from Dr. Stephen Hammock, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Emeritus)

National ID Changes:

In February, the Secretary of Agriculture announced some changes in the National Animal Identification System. A new framework will be developed by a partnership of Federal, State and Tribal Nation representatives. It is intended that the new program:

- *Apply only to animals moving interstate
- *Achieve basic animal disease traceability without overburdening producers.
- *Be led by State and Tribal Nations with federal support
- *Allow maximum flexibility to meet local needs
- *Encourage low-cost technology
- *Insure data are owned and maintained under control of States or Tribal Nations
- *Reduce Federal role and operate on principles of personal accountability.
- *Reduce concern expressed to this point in NAIS.

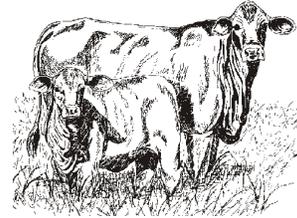
The program will be mandatory only in traceability of animals shipped interstate. However, each State and Tribal Nation will determine specific approaches to accomplish this traceability.



Six cow herds with long calving seasons were converted to a short season. Average calving season was reduced from 273 days to 85 days. The result, 92% of the cows calved in the desired season compared to 46% before the season was shortened. The average time taken to arrive at the shorter season was 3.8 years.

One objection raised by some to shortening the season is that cows have fewer opportunities to breed and therefore fewer will calve over a year with a short season. However, in these herds the average of cows calving after the short season had been attained was 89% compared to 87% for the last year before the change was made.

Averaged over the six herds, cost of production was reduced and income increased with a shorter calving season.



Hope to see each of you during the GLCI Range Tour on May 6th ! Call our office if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

*John R. Senter
Mitchell CEA-Ag*

Shortening Calving Seasons: