

Mitchell County AG Newsletter



October 2010

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Ag Day Planned for October 7th :

The Annual Mitchell County Ag Day has been set for Thursday, October 7th and, as usual, the Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee has put together what should be very enjoyable and informative day.

The event will once again be held at the C.C. Thompson Room with registration, coffee and donuts from 8:30 until 9 am. Then, at 9 am., the bus will depart for identified tour stops which are still in the final stages of planning. One definite stop will be the Cotton Harvest Aid plot and will be made possible by the cooperation of Russell Erwin, who has once again allowed us to implement this research work on his farm. Producers who know of any interesting sites which would make a good stop of interest, are urged to call our office soon.

Speakers and topics for the day will be Extension Specialists: Dr. Randy Boman - Harvest Aid Trial and also Zinc and Nitrogen Issues and Variety Updates for 2011; Dr. Jackie Smith - 2010-11 Price Outlook for Cotton, Sorghum and Cattle;

Dr. Jason Woodward: Cotton Disease Management and Update.

As usual, a noon meal will be provided and is being prepared by Gas N Grub. Also plan on the annual 2009 Bale Count winner being named and awarded a pair of hand made boots as well as submitting your best guess-timate for the 2010 bale count.

Producers who attend the program and are in need of Continuing Education Units towards Private Applicator License certification, will receive three (3) CEU's.

Finally to help with meal planning and seating purposes, all folks who plan to attend, should call our office and ***make a reservation no later than 12 noon on Monday, October 4th.***

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact John R. Senter at 325-728-3111 as soon as possible to advise of auxiliary aid or service requested.



New Volunteer Cattle Program

According to Bill Hyman, Executive Director for Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas, a new voluntary cattle health program can help ranchers market their breeding animals and also reassure buyers that bulls are free from cattle trichomoniasis.

The ICAT represents about 8,000 cow-calf producers. Under this program, Hyman says that ranchers can assure buyers that their bulls and cows are from this hard to eradicate disease. He noted that this new certification involves not only bulls, but, female cattle as well. Producers with a certified herd will also be able to sell bulls without a test.

The certification program has four basic components:

1. Ranchers enter into a voluntary agreement with the Texas Animal Health Commission and have the non-virgin bulls in their herd tested annually for trich, three consecutive years. Records must be kept for examination by the TAHC representatives.
2. During the three years the herd is earning certification, pre-existing cattle trichomoniasis regulations must be followed for identifying, isolating and testing non-virgin bulls prior to any change of possession. Test results must be known prior to physically moving the bulls to a new herd.
3. Bulls in a participating herd must be tested prior to slaughter, which can be accomplished at the processing facility, with prior arrangements.
4. Female cattle added to the participating herd must be come from another trich-free herd or:
 - a. be virgin, or be bred only to a bull that has tested negative for trich, or:
 - b. be at least 120 pregnant and be examined by an accredited veterinarian, or:
 - c. have a calf at side and no known exposure to an infected bull.

As trichomoniasis becomes more and more of a wide-spread concern, these types of programs may in fact offer some security for both producers as well as buyers - maybe something to think about?

Mid-Year Cattle Numbers:

According to Dr. Steve Hammack, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Emeritus, July 1 cattle numbers show a continued decline. Compared to the same time last year, all classes of cattle were down by about one to three percent.

The only exceptions were dairy replacement heifers, up 2.5% and cattle on feed numbers, up about 3.4%.

Hide Color Effects on Price ?

Three years of data collection at North Dakota auctions on 31,000 head of 537 pound cattle in November - December and almost 30,000 calves averaging 627 pounds in January.

Average price was \$ 1.30/cwt for black, \$ 1.29/cwt for Charolais-cross; \$ 1.27/cwt for red and \$ 1.27/cwt for mixed color.



I look forward to seeing each of you at the October 7th Ag Day ! Make sure to make your seating/meal reservations by calling the Extension Office before 12 Noon, October 4th.

Sincerely,

*John R. Senter
Mitchell CEA-Ag*

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