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April 18, 2017  
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## Montgomery County Agricultural Resources Newsletter for Livestock, Equine & Forage Producers

### Pond / Lake Management Clinic

Private farm ponds and lakes in southeast Texas serve a variety of functions. Many landowners desire to acquire the techniques and skills for managing their ponds to reach their goal expectations. A seminar is scheduled for **Tuesday evening, April 25, beginning at 6:00pm** which will provide the information landowners desire. The program will be held at the Montgomery County Extension Office. Topics will include:

Fish Stocking Rates & Population Ratios will be a primary topic, Water Quality Concerns, Aeration and Turbidity, Weed ID & Control Options, Sites Selection, Design & Contours for Productivity

The program will feature the following speakers: Dr. Todd Sink, Extension Fisheries Specialist, Mozelle Carter, NRCS, & Michael Heimer, TAES.

Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office to reserve your seat for this most educational program, 936-539-7822 or [m-heimer@tamu.edu](mailto:m-heimer@tamu.edu) There will be a \$15.00 registration fee to cover program costs and refreshments.

### MCAHC Open Ride Nights

The Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee provides area horse owners the opportunity to exercise and work their horses at the Lone Star Expo once a month. The open ride nights are held on a Wednesday evening in April through August. Horse owners are able to ride from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the arena. We do not set up any obstacles that

would hinder use of the entire arena. The 2017 dates are April 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, and August 30. There is no preregistration or fee involved. We do require a negative coggins and no stallions are permitted.

### **Private TDA Pesticide Applicator Training**

We have had several producers request some help in getting their TDA License. We will offer a training on **Thursday morning, April 27**, at the Montgomery County Extension Office. The training program will begin at 9:00 AM and last about 4 hours. Study material must be purchased ahead of time to assist with preparation (included in the registration fee). The study guide is actually utilized during the training portion of the program. There is \$50.00 cost for the training to cover program materials, and related costs. The registration fee can be paid when reserving your seat. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office to reserve a seat at the April 27th training. Documentation will be provided at the conclusion of the training to be used in securing a test date.

### **Preparing Your Pasture and Cattle for Summer**

This program will feature Extension and industry speakers on **Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 8:00am. The program will adjourn at 1:00pm. The program is being held at the Madison County Fair Grounds, Mtg Hall, in Madisonville. For more information or to RSVP, contact the Madison County Extension office at 936-3482234.

### **Beef Cattle Nutrition and Forage Management Clinic**

This evening clinic will discuss the various aspects of managing the nutritional needs of different classes of beef cattle. Those groups will include: stocker type, weaning age calves, replacement heifers, bred cows, and rebreeding cows. Each of these types have different needs and the environmental influences constantly change those needs. We have a team of speakers for this program that include: Dr. Jason Cleere, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist and Dr. Don Goodman, DVM. Dr. Cleere will discuss the stocker, growing heifers and replacement heifers. Dr. Goodman will discuss the grown cow and reproductive needs. The program will be held on **Thursday evening, May 18**, beginning at 6:00pm. A registration fee of \$15.00 will cover the program materials and meal. The program will be held at the Montgomery County Extension office located at 9020 Airport Road in Conroe. Please RSVP so we may better prepare for the evening.

### **Zika Risk Rises with Temperatures**

The Texas Department of State Health Services recommends that anyone who has a rash, fever, joint pain, or eye redness seek medical attention and testing. Zika remains a significant health risk to pregnant women and their babies, and it's only a matter of time until we see local transmission here. There are six south Texas counties that have been identified as well as Mexico as areas of concern.

Zika testing is widely available through commercial labs, so health care providers can order testing through their normal channels. The DSHS doesn't want the cost to prevent anyone from getting tested. The health alert and additional information on precautions and travel advice are available at [TexasZika.org](http://TexasZika.org)

## **BQA TIP OF THE MONTH – COLOSTRUM FOR NEWBORNS**

Consumption of colostrum shortly after birth is critical to calf survival and health. During calving season, monitor newborns to ensure they are nursing. If calves haven't nursed within the first 10–12 hours after birth provide assistance to ensure adequate consumption of colostrum; in some instances, you may want to provide colostrum sooner.

Before calving season begins it is a good idea to have an esophageal tube feeder and a source of colostrum on hand. Commercial colostrum products vary in the amount of immune globulins they contain, so make sure to get a product that is designed for replacement and not just as a supplement.

## **TRENDS IN MARBLING AND CARCASS QUALITY**

Official inspection of beef for wholesomeness and safety is required. Quality grading by the USDA, in which marbling is the primary factor, is optional on the part of the processor. Not all beef is assigned a quality grade. Over the last 20-25 years, about 80% of inspected beef has been graded for quality. Of that graded amount, Choice and Prime made up 59-64% from 2000 to 2008. In 2009 it increased to 67% and steadily rose to 78% in 2015.

Most major breeds have been selecting for higher marbling for some time. For example, genetic change for marbling in Angus has increased steadily and consistently going back to 1972, when breed-wide genetic evaluation began. So, changes in overall national Choice-Prime percentage trailed breed-wide genetic change. This might be explained by the fact that the nation's beef herd today consists of a higher percentage of Angus than was once true; and Angus has been shown by the U. S. Meat Animal Research Center to rank highest in marbling of the 18 most numerous beef breeds.

Similar trends can be seen in high-quality branded beef programs, most of which require upper 2/3 Choice or Prime quality grade. Certified Angus Beef® is the largest high-quality branded program. Inadequate marbling is the most prevalent reason for a carcass failing to be accepted for CAB. At one time the acceptance rate for CAB was around 15%, but is now near 30%. Price premiums for Choice carcasses compared to Select vary over time but long-term average around \$8-10/cwt. And CAB brings significant premium over Low Choice. If quality grade in the nation's beef supply continues to increase, it will be interesting to see if and to what extent premiums might be affected.

## **What is Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)?**

Equine infectious anemia (EIA) is an incurable, infectious disease caused by a virus that can affect horses, donkeys, asses and other equine. This virus destroys red blood cells and is spread through blood-to-blood contact, not through close proximity or casual contact. The virus can be transmitted from an infected equine to a "clean" equine by biting flies, the use of unsterilized or contaminated medical instruments, or through a blood transfusion. This disease does not affect humans.

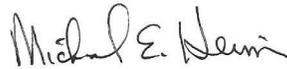
This Texas law requires that ALL equine animals, except zebras, eight months of age or older have a negative EIA test within the previous 12 months before undergoing any change-of-ownership with the exemptions listed separately.

TAHC regulations DO require zebras entering Texas to have had a negative EIA test within the previous 12 months and a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) also known as a health certificate, issued within the past 45 days unless they are moving between approved zoos. All zebras, including those from Texas, must have had

a negative EIA test within the previous 12 months, when entering shows, fairs, exhibitions or other assemblies.

Can I keep my equine if it tested positive for EIA? Because an infected equine is considered to be the only reservoir of this disease, it is best to remove the animal from the equine population. If it must be kept, the animal is to be permanently quarantined at least 200 yards from other equine. All other equine on the premise will also remain under quarantine until the infected animal is isolated or they are tested negative 60 days after removal. A quarterly inspection of the quarantined premises will be performed by the TAHC for as long as the infected equine remains on the premise to ensure the animal has not left or commingled with other equine.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Heimer,  
County Extension Agent, Agriculture

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