

Scott Strawn CEA-AG
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Wheat Field Day

10:00 A.M. Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Noon Vela Farm

2.5 miles north of FM 759 on County Road 11

Or

4.25 miles south of FM 3045 on County Road 11
Perryton , TX

Speaker

Dr. Jourdan Bell. Extension Agronomist
will be discussing the varieties in the
Dryland Uniform Variety Trial

Wheat Variety Judging Contest

Sponsored by Texas Wheat Producers



1 IPM CEU for pesticide applicators

For more information contact your local county extension agent in the following counties:

Ochiltree: 806-435-4501

Lipscomb: 806-862-4601

MAY 2021
OCHILTREE COUNTY AG NEWSLETTER



Conduct Breeding Soundness Exams (BSE) On Bulls

Dr. Jason Smith-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Following the February winter storm that produced record low temperatures across a large portion of the state, there is concern from producers about the presence of frostbite on some breeding bulls. Others have expressed concern about reduced sperm production and quality even if no frostbite was observed on the scrotum. As testing of bulls for the spring breeding season recently began, there have been reports from Veterinarians and Extension agents of a higher-than-normal prevalence of breeding soundness exam (BSE) failures in bulls. While it is difficult to estimate the extent to which a specific operation's bull battery may (or may not) have been affected by abnormally low temperatures and extended snow and ice cover, one thing remains certain...a pre-breeding BSE is the only way to objectively evaluate a bull's readiness to breed prior to turnout.

Please know that we are working diligently to provide you with the information necessary to make best management recommendations to your producers in order to help mitigate any negative consequences of the recent winter storm on bull fertility. Dr. Tom Hairgrove is actively collecting data from several Veterinarians, which in collaboration with Dr. Ky Pohler, will be analyzed and used to inform those recommendations.

Early observations indicate a higher-than-normal rate of BSE failure or deferment to re-test in bulls that have visual signs of frostbite. However, it appears that a large portion of those are due to morphological sperm abnormalities (physical/structural defects) that can be attributed to damage that occurred during storage. From a conceptual standpoint, the damage most likely occurred due to excessive heating in response to the frostbite. Similar consequences would be expected during times of extreme heat stress, such as is often the case throughout the summer months in Texas. We also (preliminarily) expect younger bulls to have been more resilient to the extreme cold, as they have a greater ability to raise their testes and prevent frostbite. However, we do not yet have the objective data to support that notion.

Nonetheless, many of the bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred to re-test may recover and pass a BSE, without requiring a full 60-day cycle of spermatogenesis to do so. While we do not yet have the objective data to back that up as it relates to this specific scenario, that is the conclusion that the available information points us toward.

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It is also important to recognize that even in a normal year the rate of BSE failure is in the realm of 15 to 20% of bulls tested, and therefore approximately 1 out of every 5 bulls would be expected to fail a BSE. While it is likely that there will be a small portion of bulls that will be non-breeders due to physical damage and inability to physically breed cows, those bulls should be quickly identified by a BSE.

This extreme weather event is one of many reasons why working with your Veterinarian to conduct a pre-breeding BSE on all bulls is always advised, and therefore should be recommended, regardless of past performance. This is also true for recently purchased bulls that underwent a BSE prior to the winter storm. For producers that do not routinely conduct pre-breeding BSE's, this would certainly be the year to start, and to start early. The knowledge gained in doing so will provide them with the ability to decide if they need to replace bulls while replacements are still available, or if they need to turn out more bulls than normal.

A key take away from this is to not panic and not immediately cull all bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred for re-test. Once results are known on the initial tests, plans can be made to locate additional sires if needed or a plan can be developed to rotate sires in and out during the breeding season. Following the re-test, we suspect many, or at least several of the deferred bulls will pass a BSE. Producers should be encouraged to request a complete BSE that includes evaluation for motility, morphology, physical defects and testing for Trichomoniasis. Most often a quick screening for sperm motility constitutes a "fertility test" on bulls. Morphology is as important to a sperm's ability to fertilize an egg and is often not looked at during routine BSEs conducted in the field. The value of a complete BSE cannot be overemphasized.



Plains Cotton Growers Announce Premiums & Discounts

Shawn Wade, with PGC has recently addressed the revised 2021 Cotton Loan Premium and Discount table. There will be greater discounts for plastics (extraneous matter). He states:

Level One and Level Two plastic discounts will increase to -3130 points for Level One and -3240 points for Level Two.

The 2020 discount was -1870 for Level One and -2080 for Level Two.

He also addresses increased discounts for Color/Leaf/Staple combinations under the 2021 chart, but on a positive note, there will also be an increased premium for premium Color/Leaf/Staple combinations.

His full article is at: https://plainscotton.org/downloads/cotton_news/2021/CN210423.pdf

Loan Charts: [Loan Charts – Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.](#)

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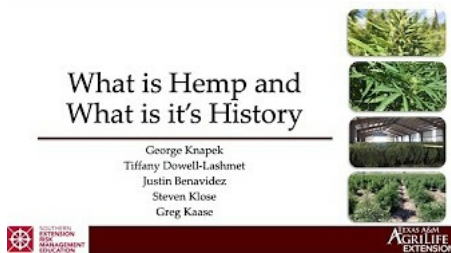


Economic and Legal Considerations for Hemp Production in Texas-Video Series

Dr. Justin Benavidez-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Tiffany Lashmet J.D.-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

A group AgriLife Extension Economists recently released, "The Economic and Legal Considerations for Hemp Production in Texas", a series of videos completed with funding from the Southern Risk Management Education Center. The series will provide a comprehensive set of tools for managing economic and legal risks during the production of hemp. You can find the video series at:



https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLL_kA2L7x1vH5vcX2ePEoQsCvUYboeXLj

This video series details:

- An overview of the hemp plant, and basics of hemp production
- The laws and regulations to know and comply with when producing hemp in Texas
- A brief overview of budgets for hemp production
- Crop insurance for hemp
- The FARM Assistance program and its potential uses when growing hemp.

The series is completely free to all viewers. We hope that you will watch the videos yourselves and

Herbicide Resistance in Corn

In response to concerns about herbicide resistance on Texas High Plains corn fields, Texas A&M AgriLife is partnering with Texas Corn Producers to survey corn producers and crop consultants about herbicide management across the region. If you grow corn or scout corn acres, your response to our brief survey is greatly appreciated. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Jourdan Bell (jourdan.bell@ag.tamu.edu)



How to access the survey using a QR code:

1. Open your camera app from the Home screen, Control Center, or Lock screen.
2. Select the rear facing camera. Hold your device so that the QR code appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app.
3. Tap the notification that appears at the top of the screen to open the Qualitrics survey in Safari.



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Ochiltree County

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"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

"The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating"