

Winter 2013



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Parker County
Ag News

Even though you received a flyer about this event a few weeks back, I wanted to let you know that we still have room left for some more folks to attend if you need CEUs. This is a great opportunity to obtain 5 CEUs in one day. **The deadline to register is set for Thursday, Jan. 17.** (If you come in on Friday, I'm sure Erin will still accept your registration, however the Extension office will be closed on Monday, January 21 for MLK Day.)

This year, you may have noticed that we have Dr. Don Rennie, Extension Coordinator—Pesticide Safety Education coming back to present the Laws & Regulation portion of the program. Dr.

Rennie delivers one of the most entertaining versions of Laws & Regs around while still covering the key points of safe, legal and effective pesticide use.

Also we have our very own Parker County resident, Gerald Hobson of Dupont who always shares the latest news on chemical weed and brush control and pasture management practices.

For IPM, we have Dr. Allen Knutson, Extension Entomologist coming to discuss area grasshopper and armyworm control along with pecan insect control.

Will Hatler, Extension Range Specialist from Ste-

phenville will discuss local brush problems and various control methods recommended and any new products which are available.

David Waidler, AgriLife Researcher, will conclude the day with a talk on Watershed Management/Watershed Planning for Texas and how landowners could be impacted in the future.

During the lunch hour, Dr. Max Dow, Region 3 Director of Texas Animal Health Commission will give a brief presentation on the Cattle Traceability Rule.

This conference is going to be one of our best ever and I hope to see you there!

BIG Conference to feature cattle heard rebuilding strategies

Waco—Tips on rebuilding Texas cattle herds and an update on livestock traceability will be featured topics at the 51st Blackland Income Growth Conference scheduled Feb. 4-6 at the Extraco Events Center in Waco. The center is located at 4601 Bosque Blvd.

"We think we have something for everyone, and producers will take home plenty of strategies they can incorporate into their operations," said Ron Wolley, conference coordinator and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

regional program director at Stephenville.

The annual conference is sponsored by AgriLife Extension and the Waco Chamber of Commerce.

Registration for the main Blackland Income Growth Conference on Feb. 5 is \$20 per person and includes lunch. Several sessions will award continuing education units. Producers are encouraged to download the brochure at: <http://stephenville.tamu.edu/blackland-income-growth/conference-information/>

to see specific continuing education credit allocations, sessions and speakers.

The keynote luncheon speaker Feb. 5 will be Dr. James Kroll, also known as "Dr. Deer" and is the Henry M. Rockwell Chair in forest wildlife and director of the Institute for White-tailed Deer Management and Research at Stephen F. Austin State University.

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Tags for Cattle Traceability Rule Available

As you have probably learned by now and may have read in the last newsletter, adult cattle in Texas must have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership. This rule, which went into effect January 1, 2013, replaces the tagging requirement originally associated with brucellosis testing. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) rule states that at change of ownership, all sexu-

ally intact adult beef cattle 18 months and up, and Mexican-origin cattle, must have a TAHC-approved permanent identification.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has agreed to assist in the tag distribution for the Cattle Traceability Rule. **We have the TAHC approved metal tags available at no cost here at the Parker County Extension office.** Ear taggers are also available but only

to be borrowed and returned. The Extension office address is 604 North Main, Weatherford, 76086.

We will not however be the sole source of tags. It is my understanding that tags are available from local veterinarians and also auction markets, but not for distribution, tagging of untagged cattle only. A complete list of permanent identification accepted by TAHC may be found at: www.tahc.state.tx.us

Pasture Management & Watershed Program—March 19

Many of you came to hear Dr. Larry Redmon speak back in 2011 and went away with increased knowledge of pasture and hay production, fertility options, and weed control. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Redmond, State Extension Forage Specialist, will be

back in Parker County to present a program on Tuesday, March 19, at the Extension office meeting room, starting at 6:30 p.m. at a cost of \$10.00 per person. This year he will be covering not only Pasture & Hay Management but will also discuss Watershed Manage-

ment and Water Quality. The importance of preventing run-off of nutrients, chemicals and soil particles from our property and ways to accomplish this will be presented. Mark you calendars now. More information coming out later.

Texoma Bee Keepers Conference Set for February 16

Bee keepers from across North Texas and Southern Oklahoma will have the opportunity to attend the first Texoma Bee Keepers Conference from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 16, 2013. The conference will be held at Luby's Cafeteria, 1801 9th Street in Wichita Falls, TX.

The conference speakers include: Jerry Hayes, past president of the Apiary Inspectors of America and regular contributor to American Bee Journal's "The Classroom", Bill Baxter, Assistant Chief Apiary Inspector with the Texas Depart-

ment of Agriculture; and Dr. Juliana Rangel, the new Assistant Professor of Apiculture in the Department of Entomology at TAMU. In addition, local bee keepers and published authors Jerry Breedlove and Douglass Hill will present their new two cell cup system for re-queening hives.

The conference will require a registration fee of \$20 which includes the noon meal. Deadline for registration is 5 p.m., Friday, February 8 and can be mailed to Texoma Bee Keepers Confer-

ence, c/o Wichita County Extension, 600 Scott, Suite 200, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. Mailed registrations must include the name of each person, a check for \$20 per person, phone number and a return mailing address and email if available, to confirm registrations. Mailed registrations must be received by Friday, February 8 to ensure a meal reservation. Tickets will be available at the door for \$20, but will not include a meal.

For more information call the Wichita County Extension office at 940-716-8610.

USDA 2012 Census of Agriculture

The 2012 Census of Agriculture forms were mailed to over 3 million U.S. agricultural producers during the last week of December. In Texas, about 375,000 Census forms were mailed out.

What is the Census of Agriculture? The first Census of Agriculture was conducted in 1840, and is now conducted every five years. The Census is a com-

plete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and tenure, operator characteristics, production practices and economic information. The Census serves as a very important "voice" for America's farmers and ranchers.

Why is the Census of Agriculture important? The Census provides the

only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the Census, producers will show the value and importance of agriculture in their county and can help influence decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture. By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves and their communities.

Census of Agriculture, *cont.*

Who uses the Census of Agriculture data? Census data are used by all who serve farmers and rural communities: university research and extension, state and local officials, agribusinesses, farm organizations, commodity groups, and many others.

- Companies and cooperatives use the facts and figures to determine future locations of facilities that will serve agricultural producers.
- Community planners use the information to target needed services to rural residents.
- Legislators use Census statistics when shaping farm policies and programs.
- Producers use the information in making plans for their future operations
- Used to allocate block grant dollars to states
- Used to allocate funds for beginning farmer, conservation and other programs
- Used to help identify research priorities and to allocate funds accordingly
- Used in rural economic development

like broadband Internet expansion
I'm retired *or* I've never farmed, do I need to return the Census form?
Yes. Everyone who receives a Census form is required to return the Census form, even if they no longer farm or have never been involved in agriculture. A simple note of explanation on the front page will suffice. **Please note:** retired operators who own land enrolled in CRP or WRP are counted as farms and should complete the Census form.

I only have a small operation, do I count? Yes. It only takes \$1,000 worth of agricultural production to be counted as a farm. A few cows, several goats, laying hens for local egg sales, some hay production—it doesn't take much to be a farm. Everyone should complete and return their Census form.

Other key points:

- The Census of agriculture has mandatory reporting authority, just like the population Census.
- Individual information is guaranteed complete confidentiality by federal law, Title 7 of the U.S. code. Title 7 prevents NASS from sharing individual information with any other

government agency and also gives NASS immunity from any type of mandatory disclosure of individual data, including legal processes and FOIA.

- NASS is restricted to publishing only aggregate totals at state and county levels such that the identity of any individual is not discernible in the published totals.
- The form is lengthy, but there are many commodity specific sections for which producers will simply check "No", because they do not raise those items.
- There is a toll free phone number on the front of the Census form for anyone with questions: (888) 424-7828. NASS will operate calling centers from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, to respond to incoming calls.



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*Improving Lives.
Improving Texas.*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service educates Texans in the areas of agriculture, environmental stewardship, youth and adult life skills, human capital and leadership, and community economic development. Extension offers the knowledge resources of the land-grant university system to educate Texans for self-improvement, individual action and community problem solving. The AgriLife Extension Service is a statewide educational agency and a member of the Texas A&M University System linked in a unique partnership with the nationwide Cooperative Extension System and Texas County Commissioners Courts.

We're on the Web!

<http://parker-tx.tamu.edu>



Information provided by:

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Parker County

Educational program of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating