

Polk County AgriLife Extension Beef/Forage & Natural Resources Newsletter

Upcoming Events

1/24- Aquatic & Fisheries Science Seminar #1

2/6- Spring Wildlife Habitat Workshop

2/11- Beef Production 101 Seminar

2/19- Aquatic & Fisheries Science Seminar #2

3/1 East Texas Fruit & Vegetable Conference

3/6- Aquatic & Fisheries Science Seminar #3

3/6-3/31- Catch & Photo Fishing Tournament

5/17- Beef & Forage Workshop

Lice in Beef Cattle

Lice are external parasites that are sometimes overlooked in a health management plan in cow calf herds. But, this parasite can cause negative impacts in cattle health, weight gain, and your bottom line.

A single cow can be home to over a million lice. Symptoms of lice include lameness, dermatitis, hair loss, allergic responses, and skin crusting or scabbing. Lice also cause anemia, which lowers feed efficiency, thus effecting weight gain and milk production. If an infestation is severe enough it will lower the cows' resistance to other diseases leading to secondary diseases and potentially death. The cattle biting louse feeds on hair and scales, while four other species suck blood form cattle. These species are short nosed cattle louse, long nosed cattle louse, little blue cattle louse and cattle tail louse. These four species have specific areas in which they feed on cattle. Lice are typically more abundant during winter and spring in our region. Because of this your health management plan should include treating cattle in late fall and winter.

Lice are spread from one individual to another through direct contact. As a result your management plan should consist of not introducing heavily infested cattle into your herd or quarantined infested individuals. A plethora of control methods exists including spot treatments, dust, powders, sprays, dips, ear tags, boluses, pour-ons, lotions, and injectables.

This is the time of year when lice can become a serious problem in cattle. So if you suspect you have a problem implement control measures to improve the health and production of your cattle.



Aquatic & Fisheries Science Seminar Series and Polk County AgriLife Extension Fishing Tournament

The mission of the Polk County AgriLife Extension fishing tournament is to provide quality educational material in fisheries and aquatic sciences. Educational material will be distributed through a seminar series and which tournament participants are encouraged to attend. Tournament participants will gain a broader understanding of how fisheries are managed in the State of Texas and how tournament participants can implement individual practices to improve the quantity and quality of fisheries stock, but also aquatic habitats. **Must attend at least one seminar to participate in fishing tournament.** Seminars will begin at 6:30 PM and will take place at extension office meeting room.

Spring Wildlife Habitat Workshop, February 6th

Workshop will be beneficial for landowners or individuals looking to expand their knowledge and skills in managing land for wildlife. Topics will include longleaf pine forest management, brush management methods for east Texas, land management decision support tools, benefits and management of native plants, and habitat management suggestions. The workshop will be at the extension office meeting room and lunch will be provided. Registration starts at 8 and workshop will be from 8:30-2:30. **Please RSVP by Jan. 25th.**

Beef Production 101 Seminar Series, February 11th

The beef production 101 seminar series will be a three part series focused for new or inexperienced beef producers. It will be an evening seminar starting at 6:30 at the extension office meeting room. Determining a stocking rate and grazing plan development will be the topic for the first seminar.

East Texas Fruit & Vegetable Conference

March 1st, at the Pitser Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin. A variety of topics will be covered and information will be relevant for both homeowners that enjoy gardening and commercial producers. RSVP required. More information about the conference will be posted on the website when made available.

Website

The agriculture and natural resources tab on the Polk County AgriLife Extension website has been updated. You can now find past weekly newspaper articles and quarterly newsletters. You can also view details and flyers for upcoming events.



January 2019

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Management Tips

- Collect and send off your soil samples now so that you will have the results prior to fertilization this spring.
- If you have a hay field or pasture that needs limeing, apply lime in fall through winter to allow time for the lime to interact with the soil and raise the PH.
- Consider a second fertilization of your cool season pastures to allow your forage to extend latter into the spring.
- If you have a spring calving season take the time to prepare and consider making a kit with essentials you may need during calving season.
- Spray glyphosate on dormant warm season pastures to control winter annual weeds. (Cease once soil temperatures reach 60 °F)
- Mid-winter through early spring is an excellent time to conduct prescribed fires to reduce understory density.
- Compile harvest data from this past hunting season to better manage game populations on your property.
- Winter and early spring is an ideal time to plant native warm season grasses.

Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer is making its way into Texas and has the potential to become another non-native invasive species that not only affects native wildlife habitats but also landowners' pocketbook. The Emerald Ash Borer is native to Asia and was first discovered in Michigan in 2002. Since that time this invasive insect has spread to 33 states and was first spotted in Harrison County in 2016. Since then it has been detected in Marion, Cass and Tarrant County.

If you are a landowner in East Texas you need to be aware of this insect. This pest is destructive to all 16 native species of ash trees in the United States. There are four native ash trees in Texas and ash trees make up a significant component of urban, suburban, and rural forest in Texas. Since 2002 millions of ash trees across the United States have fallen victim. The Emerald Ash Borer is very aggressive and infected trees may die within two to three years. Symptoms include dead branches near the top of a tree, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk, bark splits exposing larval galleries, extensive woodpecker activity, and D-shaped exit holes.

You can do your part to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. The insect is commonly spread form one area to another through the movement of ash tree wood, typically firewood. It is believed this is how the Emerald Ash Borer made it from Northeast Texas to Tarrant County. Movement of firewood is also a common vector for movement of various other tree pest and diseases. So do your part and protect our forest.



January 2019

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