

**DID YOU KNOW...**

.....Fall is the perfect time to perform soil tests on your lawn, garden, pasture or hayfield. It is also a good time to apply limestone to raise pH if needed. Soil test kits are available upon request from the Extension Office at 113 East Fordall Street, Henderson, Texas 75652. Call (903) 657-0376 for more details. Most typical soil tests costs around \$13 and we are available to assist in interpreting the results once you receive them from the laboratory

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10/25/2018 6pm Civic Center

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## Rusk County

# Ag News & Views

FALL 2018

## Horticultural Crop Webinars



Don't miss these special educational webinars focusing on Small Acreage Horticultural Crops. The 2018 schedule is as follows: (date – topic)

Website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/smallacreage/webinars/>

**All webinars will be presented by  
Dr. Joe Masabni**

- October 12 Bio Intensive Planting
- November 9 Evaluating Various Soil Types
- December 7 Collapsible Beds

**All webinars are held between noon and 1 p.m. To participate in a webinar, click on the appropriate link on the date of the webinar at 11:30 am to test the connection and make sure audio and video are working properly.**

**Webinars will start promptly at noon.**

**NOTE: The password for all webinar meetings is "online" (without quotes)**



First Day of Fall  
September 22



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Rusk County AgriLife  
Extension Ag**

*Jamie Sugg*

Jamie Sugg  
County Extension Agent-  
Agriculture



# DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE

## RUSK COUNTY HAY SHOW

(PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 18 AT THE RUSK COUNTY EXPO CENTER)

**NEW DATE:** October 25, 2018 6 pm  
**NEW LOCATION:** Henderson Civic Center  
1500 Lake Forest Parkway  
Henderson, TX 75652

- Free Meal
- 1 CEU for pesticide license holders

**All hay samples  
are still due by  
September 21st**

For more information call 903-657-0376

Persons wishing to attend with special needs are asked to call in advance, so that necessary accommodations can be made.



**\*\* Important—use one-gallon clear bags for your hay samples (example: Ziploc baggies)**

**Hay Will Not Be Returned To Producer**

## 2018 RUSK COUNTY HAY SHOW

**Henderson Civic Center  
1500 Lake Forest Parkway  
Henderson, TX 75654**

DATE & LOCATION CHANGE

\_\_\_\_ Entry Number  
(Internal Use Only)

**October 25 @ 6:00 P.M.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you RAISE or PURCHASE this hay? (circle one)      RAISED      PURCHASED

### CLASS OF HAY ENTERED:

\_\_\_\_\_ Hybrid Bermuda Grass (Coastal, Jiggs, Tif85, Tif44, Alicia, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Common Bermuda Grass

\_\_\_\_\_ Bahia Grass

\_\_\_\_\_ Mixed (All Others)

### CUTTINGS:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1ST      \_\_\_\_\_ 2ND      \_\_\_\_\_ 3RD      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

If more than one sample of the same grass & same cutting, give additional information below  
(for your personal identification).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRIES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st**

# East Texas Beef & Forage Clinic

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

Friday, November 16, 2018

Henderson Civic Center

1500 Forest Parkway—Henderson, TX

**Registration/Breakfast 8-8:30 a.m.**

*Breakfast Sponsored by Heritage Land Bank*

**5 TDA CEU Hours**

**(2 General, 1 IPM, 2 L&R)**

## Welcome

Jamie Sugg, Rusk County Extension Agent—Agriculture & Natural Resources

## Feral Hogs in East Texas *(1 Laws & Regs)*

Jamie Sugg, Rusk County Extension Agent—Agriculture & Natural Resources

## A Multi-tiered Approach to Brushy Weed Control *(1 General)*

Vanessa Olson, Forage Specialist—Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

## Break

## Pesticide Updates *(1 General)*

Darren Rozell, Rozell Sprayers

## Lunch

## Pesticide & Chemical Safety/Farm Safety *(1 Laws & Regs)*

Nycole Vance, Southwest Center for Ag Health, Injury Prevention & Education

## Understanding the Pesticide Label *(1 IPM)*

Lee Dudley, Panola County Extension Agent—Agriculture & Natural Resources

**Registration \$30 per person. Please Pay at the Door!**

**RSVP to the Rusk County Extension Office at (903)657-0376 by November 13th to  
guarantee lunch reservation.**

Sponsored by: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—Cherokee, Panola, Rusk & Smith Counties

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Extension Office at 903-657-0376 for assistance before November 2, 2018.

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.



## Potassium is for Persistence

We rely heavily on our bermudagrass pastures and hay meadows during the summer in some parts of Texas. Often times we are disappointed with production, see a thinning of our stand and/or see disease like symptoms. This is often times referred to as “Bermudagrass Decline.” We quickly blame weather. Granted weather can have an impact on each of those issues. However, there is often a deeper problem that we need to access.

### Primary Causes:

**Low Potassium (K) Fertility:** A deficiency in K will result in poor stress tolerance, reduced winter hardiness, decreased disease resistance, and reduced rhizome and stolon production. To determine if K deficiency is causing the problem, a soil analysis will be imperative. Collect representative soil samples from the affected areas and another from areas nearby that are unaffected or less affected. More soil testing information can be located here: (<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>). Potassium deficiency may occur during periods of water stress. The plant absorbs K from the soil by drawing in water from the soil that contains K. Therefore, even if the soil test indicates an adequate level of soil test K, a drought can reduce the amount of K available to the plant.

**Low Soil pH:** There are several ways that soil pH causes a problem. First, toxic levels of soluble Al can occur in soils where the soil pH has dropped too low. This burns back the fine root hairs and prevents root growth. Low soil pH also reduces the availability of other nutrients such as P, K, Mg, Ca, and others. Ultimately, low soil pH starves the plant of water and nutrients. Soil pH (as evaluated by soil test) showed not to be less than 5.5 for Coastal bermudagrass and 5.8 for Tifton 85 bermudagrass. Over seeded forages such as clover and ryegrass need a pH of 6.0 or higher for optimum growth.

**Leaf Spot:** Helminthosporium leaf spot (*Bipolaris* spp.) is commonly associated with bermudagrass decline. Helminthosporium leaf spot commonly attacks bermudagrass stands where K levels are low.

**Ryegrass:** The past two springs have been abundant with rainfall and ryegrass (volunteer or otherwise). In the spring when bermudagrass is breaking dormancy, an abundance of ryegrass can out-compete bermudagrass for water, nutrients and light. Heavy growth of ryegrass and removal as hay can deplete large amounts of K from the soil, thus effectively reducing the amount of K available to the bermudagrass. To avoid this problem, be sure to avoid late applications of N to ryegrass stands and utilize as much ryegrass forage as possible by grazing.

**Drought:** Bermudagrass is quite drought tolerant. However, if drought is combined with other stressors such as K and pH stress drought can be challenging for bermudagrass to handle. Remember to maintain soil fertility during good growing conditions (periods of rainfall) so if drought does become an issue bermudagrass will be better prepared, so to speak.

**Poor Nutrient Management in Hay Production:** Bermudagrass can be an excellent hay crop if properly managed. High rates of nitrogen fertilization with no attention to depletion of other plant nutrients (especially K) can lead to low soil potassium and the associated problems as listed above. Annual soil testing and special attention to K levels with help alleviate these problems.

## BQA TIP-OF-THE-MONTH – OPTIMUM STOCKING RATE

May is generally the month of greatest forage production for most producers in the southern U. S. As such, it is tempting to increase cow-calf numbers to take advantage of any surplus forage. However, if ranches are stocked to utilize all the forage at peak production it means that the rest of the year the property is overstocked. When managing stocking rates keep forage production patterns in mind so that stocking is appropriate throughout the year. It is also worth considering stocking at 80% or some level below maximum capacity to allow for drought and any adverse weather conditions.

(From Jason Banta, Ph. D., [jpbanta@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jpbanta@ag.tamu.edu), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator)

## Choosing A Calving Date

Optimum calving date depends on the relationship between a cow's nutrient needs and available sources of nutrients, primarily obtained from forage. Nutrient needs are dictated largely by where a cow is in her production cycle. Nutrition from forage depends on how much is available and its quality. Quantity and quality are affected by such things as length of growing season, temperature, precipitation, weather extremes, type of forage, soil characteristics, and production factors for harvested forages. These variables differ across geographic regions.

Nutrient needs are highest from calving through peak milk production. Nutrient costs are lower when highest nutrient needs coincide with seasonal highs in forage quality. Conversely, lowest nutrient needs should coincide with periods of lowest forage quality. If nutrient needs are not matched with forage quantity and quality, supplemental feed costs will increase which must be offset with higher revenue from higher market value.

NOTE: In most of Texas, spring calving results in lower nutritional cost. But spring calves are weaned in the fall, when calf prices are usually lowest. Fall calving can result in higher prices for calves weaned in the spring, but nutritional costs are usually higher due to overwintering a cow and calf. Every producer should evaluate the relative benefits of costs and returns from different calving seasons. They are not the same for everybody.

(Prof. Anim. Sci. 32:145; Univ. of Nebraska, South Dakota St. Univ., USDA-ARS in Miles City, MT)

## Planting Winter Forages

Late September-early October is the ideal time for planting cool season annual forages such as annual ryegrass, small grains (rye, wheat or oats) and/or cool season annual legumes. Anytime we are incorporating new forages into our production systems it is important to make sure to match the forage species to your location (soil type, average annual rainfall, intended use, etc). If you have questions about forages appropriate for your area contact the Rusk County Extension Office.

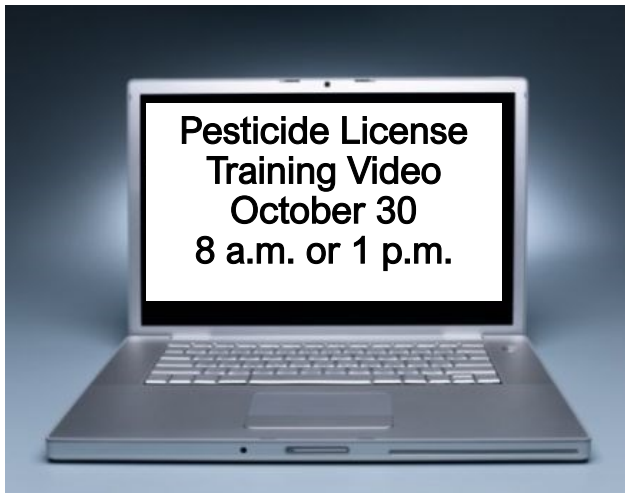
Three methods for establishing cool-season annual grasses include planting into a prepared seedbed, the light disking method and overseeding or sodseeding into undisturbed soil.

### **Overseeding warm-season perennial grasses with cool-season legumes offers several benefits:**

1. Grazing can begin 4 to 6 weeks earlier grazing in the spring, which reduces the winter feeding period.
2. Legumes typically have higher nutritive value than do most grasses.
3. Legumes fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and make it available to the pasture system.
4. A good stand of legumes can help control spring weeds by competing for space, water, sunlight and nutrients.

### Upcoming training for anyone interested in obtaining their Private Pesticide License:

- ♦ For head-count purposes, please RSVP by October 29
- ♦ Arrive at either 8am or 1pm, October 30, at the Rusk County AgriLife Extension Office
- ♦ Purchase the training materials. Exact cash or check for \$50
- ♦ View the 3-1/2 hour video



### Additional Fees to pay at a later date:

- ♦ License Fee (payable to TDA)
- ♦ Exam Fee (payable to PSI)

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## RC livestock producers eligible for drought assistance

SPECIAL TO THE HENDERSON NEWS

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director in Rusk County, Chris Lynn, announced Friday that ranchers and livestock producers may be eligible for assistance from the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for grazing losses incurred in 2018.

According to Lynn, "Rusk County recently met qualifying drought ratings that 'trigger' eligibility for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program.

LFP provides compensation to livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought. Qualifying drought ratings are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor located at [www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu).

tor.unl.edu.

Eligible livestock include alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer, or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period.

Applications are required for 2018 losses. To expedite applications, producers who experienced losses in 2018 are encouraged to collect records documenting their losses. Supporting documents may include information related to grazing leases or federal grazing permits, contract grower agreements, and more.

"We encourage producers to contact our office for an appointment and to learn what records are required to apply

for assistance," said Lynn.

For more information, contact the Cherokee-Rusk County FSA office at 903-683-4234. Information can also be found online at [disaster.fsa.usda.gov](http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov).





## Rusk County Farmers' Market

\*\*\*CLOSED FOR THE SEASON\*\*\*

Location: Henderson Community Center,  
Parking Lot at Fair Park  
Tuesdays and Saturdays

Locally grown vegetables, herbs, fruits, handmade crafts,  
jewelry, candles, jellies/jams and brown bag mixes.

### PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Licensed private applicators are required to re-certify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits, including two credits in laws and regulations and two credits in integrated pest management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license.

### List of herbicides that do not require a Pesticide Applicators License:

Milestone	Cimarron Extra
Chaparral	Remedy Ultra
PastureGuard	Cimarron Plus
Redeem R&P	Reclaim
Spike 20P	VelPar L
Spike 80DF	Amber
Vista XLT	Pastora



## Rusk County Extension Agent's Radio Report

Tune in to 100.7 FM Monday thru Friday at 8:00 AM to hear  
the Rusk County Extension Agents' Report on KPXI radio  
Henderson, Texas

We will be discussing a wide array of agricultural, natural resource, 4-H, and Family  
and Community Health related issues and events

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We are on the web:  
[rusk.agrilife.org](http://rusk.agrilife.org)



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add you to a mailing list. The  
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list (other than saving us money on postage) is  
that I will be e-mailing weekly Livestock  
Market reports and trends