



San Patricio Agriculture

“Agriculture Affects Everyone”

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST: March, 2016

Volume 5, Issue 2

- * March 22, 2016
Grass Growers' Gathering
- * April 7, 2016
Coastal Bend Spring Wheat
Field Day
- * April 19, 2016
Agricultural Symposium
- * April 20, 2016
Coastal Bend Grain Storage &
Handlers Safety Conference
- * May 19, 2016
Ranch Management Field Day
- * June 1, 2016
San Patricio County Crop Tour

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email instead of by U.S. Postal Service, please contact the Extension Office at 361/364-6234 or by email - sanpatri@ag.tamu.edu

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

Hello again,

Agriculture took a jackrabbit start in February but slowed down by March due to low topsoil moisture that concerned many that did not believe they could get the crop up. After our recent rains, and as soon as it dries up, planters again will be seen all over San Patricio County finishing up. This was a much needed rain and should get us off to a great start.

March and April are usually busy months, not only for crop production, but also for Extension programs. We have slated several and I have included fliers for those programs on tap for the next couple of months. If you need more information please give me a call.

On April 19, I will again be simulcasting the Agricultural Symposium here at the Extension Office. If you would like to attend in Sinton feel free to do so. There is a flier included with the agenda. Two TDA CEU's will be available for this program.

I also wanted to mention the Extension variety trials that are taking place in the county.

- 1) Wheat Variety Trial - Chopelas Farm - South on CR 1441 off Hwy 188 W
- 2) Grain Sorghum Hybrid Trial - Miller Farm - Intersection of Hwy 181 E and CR 3963 NE of Taft
- 3) Grain Sorghum Performance Test - Hunt Farm - approximately 1/2 mile N on CR 3865 off Hwy 188 E of Taft
- 4) Irrigated Corn Trial - Ring Bros Farm - 1/4 mile N on CR 2149 and CR 600, North of St. Paul
- 5) Cotton Race Trial - Rieder Farm - 1 mile West of West Sinton on CR 1541 off of FM 630

There will be a QR Code and instructions on the Extension sign that will take you to our website where the plot maps will be available. If you need assistance let me know.

Till next time,

Beef Cattle Browsing

Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COW WEIGHT / EFFICIENCY AND DROUGHT

Larger (heavier) cows require more nutrition. Researchers wondered if the relative efficiency of different size cows stays the same when precipitation differs, resulting in variation in available forage. A study was conducted on high-desert rangeland from 2011 to 2014. Relative to the 50-year average of 13.5 inches at the study location, precipitation was: 2011 (94%), 2012 (58%), 2013 (108%), 2014 (124%). A group of 80 Angus X Gelbvieh cows, all of which had been in the herd for four consecutive years, was evaluated. Based on May, 2013 weight, cows were categorized into five groups: 1000 lb (Sm), 1100 lb (Sm-Med), 1200 lb (Med), 1300 lb (Med-Lg), and 1400 lb (Lg). Cow efficiency was calculated as weaning weight ÷ cow weight. Nine AI sires were used across all groups.

Efficiency of Sm was significantly higher than Med-Lg and Lg in all years, and was significantly higher than Sm-Med in wetter years. Over all, Sm were most efficient, Sm-Med and Med were intermediate, and Med-Lg and Lg least efficient. Efficiency of Sm over the years ranged from 0.41 in 2012 (the driest year) to 0.58 in 2014 (the wettest year); Lg ranged only from 0.35 in the first two years to 0.39 in 2013. The authors concluded, "This is an indication of the ability of smaller cows to lower maintenance requirements in response to changes in the production environment but with optimal upside potential when conditions are favorable".

NOTE: Since the same sires were used across all groups, small cows had some inherent efficiency advantage due to "terminal sire effect", i.e., mating relatively smaller, lower-maintenance cows to relatively larger, high-growth sires. Also, in spite of this and numerous similar research findings, the industry in general continues to increase size (body weight) of cows.

(J. Animal Sci. 93:5829; Univ. of Wyoming)

USING EXPECTED PROGENY DIFFERENCES IN BUYING BULLS

Joe C. Paschal, Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

When looking for a new herd sire, many bull buyers get lost in all the data and acronyms that go along with selling purebred bulls today. In the past, most buyers evaluated bulls just by looking at them or by comparing them with other bulls in the pen. Today bull breeders have a lot more data to offer buyers who want it in addition to those who still like to just look.

Initially that data included birth, weaning and yearling weight, adjusted for the sex of the calf; since males are heavier, and for the age of dam, due to the influence of milk production - higher in older cows, lower in younger ones. Similarly records on other traits such as carcass, fertility, longevity and docility were also collected.

About 40 years ago it was realized that bulls and females could be evaluated for their actual genetic value in these traits. Each animal in the breed could be selected on their genetic merit. These values were called Expected Progeny Differences or EPD. The EPD is calculated for each trait and for each animal in the breed. The EPD is reported in the units of the trait measured, for example pounds of weight. Each EPD also has an accuracy value that tells you how close the EPD really is to the animal's true genetic value. It has made accurate selection to improve performance very easy.

Recently, using DNA, beef cattle geneticists have been using genetic markers to improve the accuracy of the EPDs from young animals, especially young bulls, so that they can be selected earlier for traits of importance. They are called Genomic EPD or GE-EPD. Now even young animals can be selected and used reliably to improve our genetics. This earlier selection also reduces bull development costs since the better bulls will improve selection success by reducing the amount of time between when a bull is selected for breeding and his calves actually hit the ground.

For more information on this and other topics contact your local County Extension Agent.

For more information: <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/geneticsE164-8.pdf>

Texas Row Crops Newsletter

Levi A. Russell & Mac Young, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Corpus Christi Research & Extension Center

SUGARCANE APHID TREATMENT DECISION TOOL FOR SORGHUM

Since its first detection in southern Texas in 2013, the sugarcane aphid has spread throughout the southeast and into the Great Plains causing severe damage to crops which have resulted in significant financial losses for producers. In response, entomology faculty at Texas A&M AgriLife have studied the aphid to determine effective control strategies. Using this information, agricultural economics faculty collaborated with entomology faculty to develop a decision tool for treating the aphid.

The tool uses information about the producer's cost of treatment, grain sorghum yield and price, and marketing costs to determine the number of aphids per leaf required for profitable treatment. A scout card for the sugarcane aphid on sorghum can be found at <http://j.mp/sorghumscascout> and the Sugarcane Aphid Treatment Decision Tool for Sorghum can be downloaded here: <http://j.mp/sorghumsca>.

Please contact Levi Russell (lrussell@tamu.edu) or Mac Young (amyoun@ag.tamu.edu) at 361-265-9203 with any questions regarding the Decision Tool. Funding for the tool was provided by Southern Risk Management Education Center.

Texas Row Crops Newsletter

Josh McGinty, Paul Baumann & Pete Dotray, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Corpus Christi Research & Extension Center

DON'T FORGET RESIDUAL HERBICIDES IN 2016

With continuing El Nino conditions this year, the moisture outlook for the 2016 crop is still favorable. Keep in mind that good growing conditions also favor the growth and development of our weed species as well. Our primary concern this season, as it has been for the past few years, is with glyphosate-resistant Palmer amaranth and common waterhemp (you may know these as pigweed or carelessweed). Currently, resistant Palmer amaranth has nearly become a statewide issue, while significant populations of resistant common waterhemp exist across large portions of central and southeast Texas.

The backbone of our current management recommendation for these (and most other weeds) is the inclusion of residual preplant incorporated or preemergence herbicides. When we include an effective residual herbicide in our weed control program, we take a large amount of pressure off of glyphosate and other herbicides used postemergence. The key point here is that an effective weed control program should be centered upon these soil residual herbicides. Postemergence herbicides such as Roundup, Liberty (in LibertyLink crops), and others should only be viewed as a means to control weed "escapes" that make it through the residual herbicides. As the season progresses and these postemergence herbicides are applied, the inclusion of a soil residual tank-mix partner should be seriously considered, as it will extend your protection from later-emerging weeds. This is especially true when a wetter than average season is expected and multiple flushes of weeds are possible throughout the season.

In order to realize the benefit from these residual herbicides, it is important to remember that these materials MUST be incorporated into the soil in order for them to work. The herbicide must be present in the zone of the soil where weed seeds are germinating. If a proper incorporation does not take place, the herbicide will simply sit on the soil surface (often degrading rapidly due to sunlight), and weeds will germinate and emerge safely from below. Mechanical incorporation through shallow tillage (typically to a depth of 2 to 3 inches) is a highly effective method of incorporation. This is particularly important with the "yellow" herbicides such as Prowl and Treflan (see Figures 1 and 2). When mechanically incorporating, it is important to uniformly distribute the herbicide into the soil to avoid "streaking" of the herbicide. This is best achieved by making two tillage passes in different directions. The depth of incorporation is also critical - the herbicide only needs to be mixed to the depth of germinating weed seeds. If incorporated too deeply, the herbicide will be "diluted" in the soil and poor weed control will be likely. For example, if you have incorporated to twice the required depth, you have effectively reduced the herbicide rate by 50% in the zone where weed seeds are germinating. Power-driven incorporation tools will typically place the herbicide as deep as the machine is running, while implements such as a tandem disk or field cultivator will place the herbicide to approximately one-half the depth of tillage. Keep in mind that mechanical incorporation may not be recommended for some herbicides, so read the product label for instructions about recommended incorporation methods. Many residual herbicides may be incorporated by rainfall or irrigation, and it is the first rainfall or irrigation that determines the depth of these herbicides. In these situations, we are relying upon water to move the herbicide into the soil, thus the quantity of water is critical for getting the herbicide deep enough. In dryland production, if a significant rain (0.75 in. or more) is not predicted within 7 days after application a mechanical incorporation may be required.

Grass

Growers'

Gathering



March 22nd

9:00 to 2:00

**Johnny Calderon Building
710 East Main, Robstown, TX**

- *Management of Grassy Weeds*
- *Livestock Grazing Systems*
- *The Ruminant Digestive System*
- *Nutrient Management for Maximizing Forage Yield and Quality*
- *Fencing Options*

A participation fee of \$20 which includes lunch will be charged at the door.
Please RSVP by March 18th to: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—
Nueces County at 361.767.5223 or j-ott@tamu.edu.

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
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Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of the mentioned activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 361.767.5223 eight days before all programs for assistance.

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NUECES AND SAN PATRICIO COUNTIES

Coastal Bend Spring Wheat Field Day

April 7th

9:00 to 1:00

Texas A&M Agrilife Research
and Extension Center,
10345 Hwy 44, Corpus Christi



*A participation fee of \$20
which includes lunch will be
charged at the door. Please
RSVP by March 20th to:*

Texas A&M Agrilife
Extension Service
Nueces County

Ph: 361.767.5223

Fax: 361.767.5248

Email: j-dt@tamu.edu

*Extending Knowledge
Providing Solutions*



Field Day Topics

- * Live UAV Drone Flight
- * UAV Drone Observations on Wheat
- * Spring Wheat Variety Performance Data
- * Insect Management
- * Dealing with Foliar Disease
- * Weed Management



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2016 Corpus Christi Agriculture Symposium
April 19, 2016

***This will be simulcast at
Extension Office, 219 N.
Vineyard, Sinton
1 IPM, 1 General, TDA
CEUs Offered***

8:30-9:00 am – Registration

9:00-9:30 am

Genetic Testing for Qualitative Traits and EPDs – Dr. Joe Paschal
The completed map of the cattle genome has made the search for genes that can cause genetic diseases through “loss of function” much easier and it has also enhanced the ability to more accurately predict the performance of animals, especially very young calves, through Genome Enhanced Expected Progeny Differences.

9:30-10:00 am

Economics of Herd Rebuilding in South Texas – Dr. Levi Russell
As we turn the corner in the cattle cycle and calf prices decline, financial considerations of herd rebuilding are particularly important. The spreadsheet tool introduced in this presentation can be used by producers to determine the maximum bid price for replacement females and to examine the keep vs. sell decision.

10:00-10:30 am

Economics of Bull Selection – Mac Young
This will be a review of factors affecting ranch economics based on bull selection and use criteria including breed, age, breeding ratios, calving percentages and EPD levels

10:30-10:45 am – COFFEE BREAK

10:45-11:15 am

Preparation for Brush Control Applications this Spring and Summer – Dr. Megan Clayton
It is almost time to start applying herbicide to most brush species – are you ready? We will discuss some do-it-yourself brush control equipment options, calibrating your spray equipment, how to select the right (and cheapest!) herbicide for the job, and how to prepare the spray mix so that you’re ready when the plants are in the best condition.

11:15-11:45 am

Cattle Market Update – Dr. Levi Russell
As we move into the next phase of the cattle cycle, it’s important to discuss market trends and to look at where prices will be going in the coming year.

11:45-12:30 - LUNCH

12:30-1:00 pm

Cotton Technologies Update – Dr. Josh McGinty
An update will be given on the latest cotton variety performance results from the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Coastal Bend, and Upper Gulf Coast regions, along with an update on new weed control technologies available for cotton.

1:00-1:30 pm

Sugarcane Aphid Update: Changes from Section 18 – Dr. Robert Bowling
Sugarcane aphid management for 2016 will be dynamic as options are uncertain at the current time. This presentation will provide management updates as well as an update on tools available for managing sugarcane aphid in sorghum including status of section 18 requests for Transform and other products as well as a reduced phl for Sivanto.

1:30-2:00 pm

Pesticide Apps for Your Smartphone or Tablet – Dr. Megan Clayton
Although there are an endless number of smartphone applications available, we will cover some of the apps related to pesticide application that you may find useful for managing your rangeland, pasture, or crops this year.

**COASTAL BEND
GRAIN STORAGE & HANDLERS SAFETY
CONFERENCE**

**Wednesday
April 20, 2016
8:30 am — 3:45 pm**

**Location: San Patricio County Fairgrounds—Civic Center
219 W. 5th Street, Sinton, Texas**

**Fee: \$20 (Includes Lunch) payable at the door
\$27 CPR Certification (Limited 20 Participants)**

Pre-Registration required by April 15, 2016 by calling (361) 364-6234

AGENDA

- 8:30 - 10 am: Motor Vehicle Safety Training, Rey Garcia, RPG Motor Transportation Specialists**
- 10:30 - 12 noon: Grain Tube Extraction & Engulfment Demonstration - Jason Lee, Planters Coop Sinton Facility**
- 1:15 - 3:45 pm: CPR Certification - James Shepard & Luis Garcia, Texas Cotton Ginners Trust**

Lunch will be at Butter Churn Restaurant, 207 West Sinton, Sinton, TX 78387

Sponsored by: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Nueces, San Patricio and Refugio County Farm Bureau, Woodsboro Farmers Coop, South Texas Country Elevators Assoc.

For further information you can also contact Michael Donalson, Refugio County-CEA 361-526-2825 or Jason Ott, Nueces County-CEA 361-767-5223

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**219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387
361-364-6234**

Bob McCool

**Bob McCool
County Extension Agent
Ag/Natural Resources**

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Join us for a 12-Webinar Series Agricultural Business Start-Up School

- Gain ideas for operations you can add to an existing ranch
- Learn options for setting up grazing & wildlife leases
- Discuss business types, tax info, & insurance needs
- Exposure to all the latest land management tools & techniques
- Taught by professionals in each field and topic

2nd Monday of every Month
Noon – 1 pm
April 2016-March 2017
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To Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/GenNextWebinar>

Or call 979-845-2604

Contact: Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu or 361.265.9203

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

GENERATION
NEX T
Our Turn to Ranch



GENERATION
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Our Turn to Ranch

2016-2017 Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch Webinar School – held live noon to 1 pm

- April 11th
 - Setting up a New Agriculture Business
- May 9th
 - Understanding Business Taxes 101
- June 13th
 - Business Insurance Needs
- July 11th
 - How to set up Grazing and Wildlife Lease Agreements
- August 8th
 - Shaping Your Own Future Using Social Marketing
- September 12th
 - Ecotourism Opportunities
- October 10th
 - Alternative Ranching Operations
- November 14th
 - Understanding Market Fluctuations
- December 12th
 - Planning Land Use and Surveying Your Resources
- January 9th
 - Agricultural Apps for Smartphones and Tablets
- February 13th
 - Land Management Toolbox
- March 13th
 - Targeted Wrap-Up Session

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387*

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In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service
219 N. Vineyard Attn: Ag/NR
Sinton, Texas 78387
(361) 364-6234

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