

Texas Ag Commissioner approves killing feral hogs with poison

By Craig Hlavaty, Houston Chronicle



Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller approved the use of pesticides this week to aid in the killing of feral hogs, long a scourge of Texas landowners. The approved poison is called Kaput Feral Hog Lure and contains warfarin which is already used to kill larger rodents. The nasty swine cost Texans nearly \$52 million in damages a year making eradicating them a major issue. Nationally, the

cost Americans nearly \$1.5 billion. "This is going to be the hog apocalypse, if you like: If you want them gone, this will get them gone," Miller said. Miller's office wrote in statement to Dallas' CBS11 they fully-researched the Kaput product and considered the environmental impact before approving its use on feral hogs.

"Kaput Feral Hog Bait has been researched extensively and field-tested in Texas over the past decade in partnerships with various state agencies including TDA. Hogs are susceptible to warfarin toxicity, whereas humans and other animals require much higher levels of exposure to achieve toxic effects," the statement said.

The substance will only be available to licensed pesticide applicators, according to Miller's office, and dispensed in special hog feeders built for attracting the hogs.

"Warfarin has been studied extensively in animals and is practically non-toxic to birds. Due to the insolubility of warfarin in water, there should be no impact to aquatic life. Non-target wildlife, livestock and domestic pets would have to ingest extremely large quantities over the course of several days to reach a toxic level of warfarin in the bloodstream," Miller's office added. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has approved of the use of warfarin. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been consulted as well and they support this new feral hog control management practice.

What about the nagging worry that a feral hog's meat is inedible? Some people say they taste just as good or better than standard pig flesh.

"Warfarin at 0.005 percent as a feral hog toxicant has been shown to have a low level of residue in hog meat, especially in muscle tissue, which is what humans typically consume. One person would have to eat 2.2 lbs of hog liver—where the warfarin is most concentrated in the body—to achieve the same exposure as a human would receive in one therapeutic dose of warfarin." For more information on this article go to: <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/texas/article/Texas-Ag-Commissioner-approves-killing-feral-hogs-10950587.php>

Spring Ranch Management University

April 3-7 2017 @ College Station, Texas



Registration \$500 attendance is limited to 40 people.

Register online at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu> and enter "ranch management" in the search bar.

Registration ends March 24th online.

For additional information or late registration, contact Linda Francis at 979-845-2425 or l-francis@tamu.edu.

Cross Timbers

Land Management

Symposium

**Bringing the latest information in the science and practices
of Brush Management on Rangeland to the Cross Timbers Area**



Date and Time:

May 5, 2017
9:00am—2:30pm
Registration will
Begin at 8:30pm

Location

City Hall
1907 E. Washington
Stephenville, TX

Registration

Registration is \$40/person
Information is
Available at your local
County Extension Office
Deadline: May 1, 2017

This event will highlight land management practices, opportunities that are available,
and present a trade show that has vendors that are relative to
land management in the Cross Timers Area

Agenda

- 9:00 Common Ag Practices Myths vs. Facts - *Ron Gill*
- 10:00 Native Pasture Restoration — *Randy Bow*
- 11:00 Break
- 11:20 What's growing in my Pasture — *James Jackson*
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Programs and Opportunities Available for Land Owners —
Jason Johnson
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Wildlife Management in the Cross Timbers - *Jim Cathy*
- 3:00 Booths will remain open

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Texas Cattle Fever Ticks

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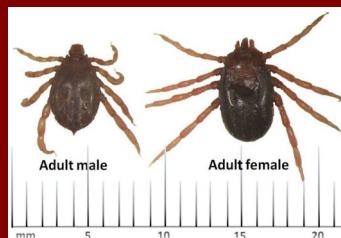
Dr. Sonja Swiger, 254-968-4144, slswiger@ag.tamu.edu

COLLEGE STATION, TX- As of Feb. 1, more than 500,000 acres in Texas are under various quarantines outside of the permanent quarantine zone.

Dr. Pete Teel, Texas A&M AgriLife Research entomologist at College Station, said the vigilance and cooperation of regulatory agencies, namely the Texas Animal Health Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Animal and Plant Health Service, in collaboration with the livestock and wildlife industries are needed to detect, contain and eliminate cattle fever ticks. How risky is the disease? Teel said the Southern Region of the U.S. is home to more than 400,000 cattle operations producing a third of all fed cattle in the country. This region is the original distribution location of these ticks before the eradication program, and climate modeling indicates it would still support these ticks today. Mortality in cattle without prior exposure to the disease is estimated to range from 70-90 percent. There are no protective vaccines and no approved drugs to treat sick animals in the U.S., he said. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that if eradication of these ticks had not occurred, cattle industry losses across the southern U.S. today would be about \$1 billion annually.



The origin of the cattle tick is the Mediterranean area where climates are relatively temperate, while the southern cattle tick is from the tropics of the Indian sub-continent. Thus, they were both successful in adapting to the southern climates of the U.S., as well as similar climates in Mexico, Central and South America. Teel said fever ticks remain on the same animal through their larval, nymphal and adult stages all the way through until the blood-engorged females drop off the host animal. Once off the host, females lay from 2,500-4,000 eggs, and then die. The males remain on the animal to mate with more females. It takes 20 days from the time the larvae arrive on the host animal until the first females start dropping off with the most females leaving the host at about Day 25. So, animal movement during this period allows ticks to be dropped into new locations. For more information on this study and read the full article go to: <http://today.agrilife.org/2017/02/02/texas-cattle-fever-ticks-back-vengeance/>



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Grass-fed Beef Conference May 2-3 2017 College Station, TX

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Registration is \$250 through April 15
To register online, visit
<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Beef>
and enter keyword "grassfed."

"This comprehensive program will cover all facets of grass-fed beef production," said Dr. Jason Cleere, one of the conference instructors and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist in College Station. "From discussing cattle types best suited to grass-fed beef operations to sustainable production systems, there will be lots of information to take home and apply," said Dr. Ron Gill, conference instructor and AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, College Station.

Topics to be discussed will be:

- Overview of the U.S. beef industry.
- Natural, grass-fed and organic production systems, where can you best fit?
- Growing forage – production fundamentals of high quality grass finished beef.
- Cattle types suited for grass-fed beef.
- Forage-based nutrition for cattle. Can actively growing forages meet nutritional demands or will you need harvested forages?
- Preventative herd health.
- Handling cattle for wholesome beef.
- Carcass fabrication...a demonstration. Understanding what you sell.
- Consumers and their expectations.
- Taste of Texas beef.
- Marketing a unique product.
- Sustainability.

For more information about the conference go to: <http://today.agrilife.org/2017/02/20/grass-fed-beef-conference-scheduled-may-2-3-college-station/>

EQUINE HERPES VIRUS CONFIRMED IN DENTON COUNTY

Here is what you need to know!!!!



Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy

What is Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy

Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is a neurologic disease of horses linked to the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1). EHV-1 in horses can cause respiratory disease, abortion, and neonatal death. Neurological signs appear as a result of damage to blood vessels in the brain and spinal cord.

EHV-1 is easily spread and usually has an incubation period between 2-10 days. Respiratory shedding of the virus generally occurs for 7-10 days, but may continue longer in infected horses. For this reason, a 21-day isolation period of confirmed positive EHM cases is suggested.

Clinical Signs

Clinical signs of EHM in horses may include:

- Fever of 102°F or greater. Fever most often comes before neurologic signs
- nasal discharge
- lack of coordination
- hindquarter weakness
- leaning or resting against a fence or wall to maintain balance
- lethargy
- urine dribbling
- head tilt
- diminished tail tone
- penile paralysis

Consult your veterinarian if your horse exhibits any of these signs.

Emergence of EHM

There has been an increase in the number of EHV-1 cases and several outbreaks of EHM at large horse events and facilities in recent years. The increasing numbers of EHM outbreaks support the designation of EHM as an "emerging disease."

How the EHM is Spread

Horse-to-horse contact, short distance aerosol transmission and contaminated hands, equipment, tack and feed all have a role in disease transmission. Direct and indirect contacts are most important for transmission since the size of the virus limits capacity for airborne transmission to distances of less than 30 feet.

Horses exposed to EHV-1 and incubating the virus can shed virus via nasal secretions. Horses with severe clinical signs consistent with the neurological form of EHV-1 most often have a large viral load in nasal secretions and present the greatest risk for disease spread.



Diagnosis of EHM

Contact your private veterinarian if your horse develops EHM-compatible clinical signs. Nasal swabs and whole blood collected from the symptomatic horse are essential for detection of horses positive for the virus. Recent advancements in EHV-1 diagnostic testing enable laboratories to differentiate the non-neuropathic and the neuropathic strains of EHV-1. Both strains may cause Neurologic signs, but the neuropathic strain is more likely to do so. Diagnostics for detection of antibodies to EHV-1 indicate past exposure to EHV-1 and not current infection.

Vaccination

Currently, there is no USDA licensed EHV-1 vaccine with a label claim for protection against the neurological strain of the EHV-1 or EHM.

Prevention

Practice and enforcement of biosecurity measures on equine premises can help prevent the spread of EHV-1. Consistent biosecurity practices must be taken to reduce the risk of disease spread.

Key to disease control is the immediate separation and isolation of identified suspect cases. Ideally, a person caring for a sick horse should not also work with healthy horses. If this is impractical, always handle healthy horses first and sick horses last.

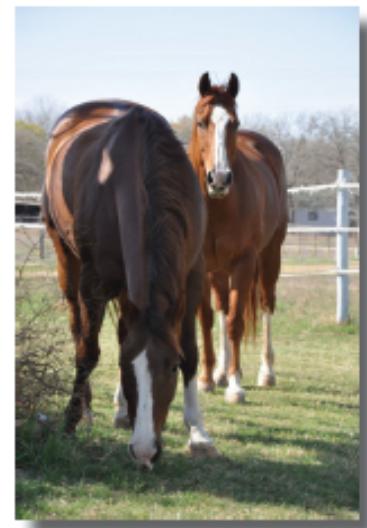
People can easily transmit this virus on their hands and clothing. Individuals should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and hot water between contacts with horses to reduce risks of disease spread. Wearing disposable gloves and changing them between horses or use of hand sanitizers between horse contacts are other alternatives. When handling any sick horses suspected to have EHV-1 infection, it is imperative that halters, bridles, and other tack not be shared with stablemates. Feed and water buckets should also be dedicated to sick horses and not be shared within a stable.

Disinfection

Herpes viruses can be treated by many disinfectants. A 1:10 dilution of bleach in water is effective against EHV-1. All areas must be thoroughly cleaned of dirt, plants, and animal waste before the use of these products. Use soaps or detergents to clean the area before applying a disinfectant.

In barn environments, where organic material (dirt, plants, animal waste, etc.) cannot be completely rid of, it is suggested to use a disinfectant

that retains activity in the presence of organic matter. Phenolics, such as 1 Stroke Environ® or SynPhenol-3®, and accelerated hydrogen peroxide products, such as Accel®, have this property. Be sure to follow manufacturers' recommendations and label instructions for all disinfectants.



Additional Resources

TAHC EHV-1 Webpage:

http://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/equine/equine.html

USDA EHV-1 Webpage:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/horse-disease-information/sa_herpes_virus/ct_equine_herpes_virus_type_1

American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners:

<http://www.aaep.org/info/equine-herpesvirus-rhinopneumonitis>

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If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our Ag Producers list, please have them contact us.

SPRING 2017

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