

**April 2020**

**AgriLIFE EXTENSION**

Texas A&M System

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## Sutton County Agriculture/Horticulture Newsletter

### Upcoming Programs

#### Face-To-Face Educational Programs Postponed

As you are aware, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many of us to change the way we function. Some of our planned programs have been cancelled, others postponed. For Example:

*Pesticide Applicator Training* (March 25)- postponed . Date TBA

*Using Technology In Feral Hog Control Efforts* (April 15)- postponed . Date TBA

However, there ARE still online opportunities. Following are a couple of examples:

#### **RANCHERS LEASING WORKSHOP ONLINE COURSE**

The course is designed for both landowners and lessees and focuses specifically on grazing, hunting and livestock leases.

Tiffany Lashmet presents on the various legal issues to consider, including why written leases are important, the key terms to include in a lease, and steps to protect one's operation from liability.

Dr. Greg Kaase covers the economics of leasing, including common lease payment structures and how to find average cash lease rates in various parts of Texas.

The cost of the course is \$75. To register or see more information, interested participants can visit <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/product?catalog=AGEC-002>



#### **ADVOCATING FOR AGRICULTURE SYMPOSIUM**

(online April 14th) **2 CEUs**

Scientific-based information about beef compared to synthetic products, new hemp production laws, herbicides used to maintain productive lands, selecting livestock that fit the environment, Path to the Plate programming, pesticide safety and environmental health, proper use of fertilizer, and understanding the sustainability movement.

To Register, please visit <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/188>

The cost is \$10/person

Registration closes on April 12th

#### **AGGIE HORTICULTURE LIVE** (Weekly Programs)

Join Aggie Horticulture for their "Tips for Success".

The page extends their education outreach online: [www.facebook.com/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/](http://www.facebook.com/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/)

For topics, schedule and resources, see:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive>

Various topics weekly.



## **Coronavirus: Human strain causes fear, but domestic livestock strains are routine** *Excerpt from article by Kay Ledbetter, AgriLife Today*

Many people are hearing about coronavirus for the first time as the China strain, COVID-19, affecting humans causes concern all across the world. But coronaviruses are not new to livestock and poultry producers, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife veterinary epidemiologist. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, common human coronaviruses usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. Most people get infected with one or more of these viruses at some point in their lives.

"Coronavirus is a common virus in livestock herds and poultry flocks seen routinely worldwide," said Heather Simmons, DVM, Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, IIAD, associate director as well as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's associate department head and extension program leader for Veterinary Medical Extension.

"In wildlife, bats are known to carry over 100 different strains of coronavirus, and wild civets are the source of the coronavirus that causes SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), first reported in China in 2002-2003," Simmons said. "Although our understanding is still limited, wild pangolins (a scaly anteater) sold at live markets may be associated with the recently reported coronavirus outbreak in China."

Bats, civets and pangolins are all commonly sold at live markets in China, she said. Coronaviruses from wildlife are dangerous since they have the potential to mutate, adapt and spill over to new species, including humans.

"That is the concern now, this new strain of coronavirus has emerged to cause disease in humans," Simmons said. "It is important to create an understanding of the difference between coronaviruses occurring in domestic livestock and poultry compared to coronaviruses that spill over from wildlife to humans."

To date, the coronaviruses in livestock are not considered reportable diseases because their main effect is as an economic burden to livestock producers. They are known to occur worldwide annually, with some of the most common coronaviruses found in production animals to include the scours and winter dysentery in cattle, porcine respiratory coronavirus in swine and avian infectious bronchitis in poultry.

The World Health Organization has reported that while another coronavirus, MERS-CoV, is known to be transmitted from dromedary camels to humans, other coronaviruses circulating in domestic animals have not yet infected humans. "That's what is very important to understand at this time," Simmons said. "We have been dealing with these diseases for a long time but as of yet, we have not seen cases worldwide transmitted from livestock to humans or vice versa."

While coronaviruses have a high morbidity, or rate of illness, in livestock and poultry they are generally considered to have low mortality, rate of death, Simmons said. Coronaviruses will affect either the respiratory system or the gastrointestinal system, depending on the species and the age of the animal.

**Coronavirus in cattle:** In calves, diarrhea commonly occurs in animals under three weeks of age due to a lack of obtaining antibodies when the calf does not get enough colostrum from the mother in order to build up immunity. Clinical signs include severe dehydration and diarrhea. The severity of the clinical signs depends on the age of the calf and their immune status. This is often seen by producers in the winter months as the virus is more stable in cold weather. The second clinical syndrome, winter dysentery is found in adult cattle. Clinical signs include bloody diarrhea with decreased milk production, loss of appetite with some respiratory signs. Bovine coronaviruses can also cause mild respiratory disease or pneumonia in calves up to six months. The virus is shed in the environment through nasal secretions and through feces.

**Coronavirus in swine:** There are multiple coronaviruses that affect swine. Like cattle, they affect the respiratory or gastrointestinal tract. In sows and piglets, porcine respiratory coronavirus usually presents with no clinical signs. If clinical signs do occur, it may be a transient cough within the herd and spread of this disease occurs through aerosolized methods.

**Coronavirus in poultry:** Infectious bronchitis virus, or IBV, is a rapidly spreading respiratory disease in young chicks. Clinical signs in laying hens include reduced production, eggshell abnormalities and decreased internal egg quality.

### **How to treat**

Livestock producers should consult with a veterinarian for treatment. Treatment in livestock herds and poultry flocks typically includes supportive therapy of fluids. Antibiotics are not indicated for viral infections but may be used if a secondary bacterial infection occurs.

## Ag Pesticide Applicator and Course Provider Update 2020 Covid 19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

To address the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and licensure requirements for Ag Pesticide applicators, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will work with the ag pesticide applicators and CEU course providers of Texas during this critical time. Licensed applicators with expiring licenses or needing CEU's will be allowed to renew their license even if they have not met their CEU requirement for **their current licensing period through December 31, 2020**. Due to the restrictions of meetings in place by the Governor and many cities, many CEU events have been canceled. The TDA will work to insure all the state's pesticide applicators are able to acquire their licenses and required continuing education courses in a safe and effective manner during this time frame.

Once the restrictions have been lifted and courses are scheduled again, **applicators will be required to obtain their required CEUs for their respective license classification for each licensing period**. By allowing a CEU exemption, this will allow the applicators to maintain their ability to perform pesticide applications for pests, weeds, insects etc., without disrupting daily business functions.

**PRIVATE APPLICATORS - - For licenses expiring in 2020 ONLY:** The TDA will also exempt private applicators from the TDA Rule 7.24 (v) (5). This rule does not allow a private applicator to acquire more than 10 CEUs through correspondence courses. During this quarantine time frame, private applicators will be allowed to acquire **ALL** of their CEUs through correspondence courses (online). Private applicators are required to obtain 15 CEUs per 5-year licensing period.

### April Horticulture Tips

#### PLANT:

Transplants of warm season vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers can be set out now. Any transplant must be acclimated before being planted into the garden. The way to acclimate your transplants is by moving the plants outdoors, out of the direct sun and wind for a few days. Next, move them into partial shade. Complete these steps gradually over the course of a week, then move them into full sun.



#### FERTILIZE:

Roses have high fertilizer requirements. Use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts. Then use ammonium sulfate every 4 to 6 weeks, usually just as the next growth cycle starts following a flowering period.

Apply a 2-1-1 or 3-1-2- analysis fertilizer to your warm season grasses. Use the same high nitrogen fertilizer for shade

trees, evergreens and ground covers. Add iron later this month for plants that show chlorosis (yellowing leaves with dark green veins). Sweep iron products off any surface that could be stained.

#### BE ON THE LOOKOUT:

- Continue to spray rose varieties susceptible to black spot using a spray containing a general fungicide. Use as directed on the label.
- Check new tender growth for aphids on annuals and perennials.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CHORES:

- Flower and vegetable seeds left over after planting the garden can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing them in a sealed glass jar in the refrigerator until needed.
- Check garden hoses and replace them if they're leaking. Sharpen garden tools, oil pruners and loppers.

#### Parting Thoughts..... About gardening

I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border. I think it is a flower garden; she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error. Sara Stein

A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay. Sara Stein

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