

# AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

Val Verde County



## BRUSH BUSTERS BASICS COMING TO VAL VERDE COUNTY

Brush Busters is a cooperative program of the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Service to expedite the adoption of Tactical Brush Management Systems (TBMS) technology. Brush Busters methods are easily understood, even by those with little or no previous experience in brush control. We recommend only “select” treatments capable of killing at least 7 out of 10 of the plants treated. Brush Busters methods make every attempt to keep equipment costs and complexity to a minimum, and whenever possible, to use non-restricted herbicides. One-page pamphlets are available from most County Extension offices that describe, in a simple 3-step process, the Brush Busters control methods for mesquite, pricklypear and cedar.

During Brush Buster Basics participants will learn how to treat mesquite and pricklypear to increase the productivity of your property!

### HERE ARE 5 REASONS TO MAKE ATTENDING BRUSH BUSTERS BASICS A PRIORITY!

1- Brush Busters stresses the use of individual plant treatments to:

- Reduce costs.
- Reduce the quantity of herbicide released in the environment.
- Improve the level of control obtained.
- Avoid the need to use expensive broadcast treatments that “paint with a broad brush”.
- Extend the life of broadcast treatments when used.
- Sculpture the landscape to meet specific management goals.

2- Dr. Morgan Tredwell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Range Specialist will be here to help answer all your brush management questions.

3- Brush has been considered a major management problem facing landowners for year. Brush control will help increase your grass production which in turns allows for better livestock management, decrease soil erosion and water run off for a healthier range land!

4- 2 General CEUs are available for producers who have their private applicators license.

5- Learn about all the new products and research out their to make achieving your brush management goals easier!

March 14, 2019

5:30 - 7:30 PM (dinner included)

\$20 if you register before March 11th

\$25 registration fee at the door

Pre-register online at:

<https://valverdeextension.ticketleap.co/brushbustersbasics/>

or by calling 830-774-7591

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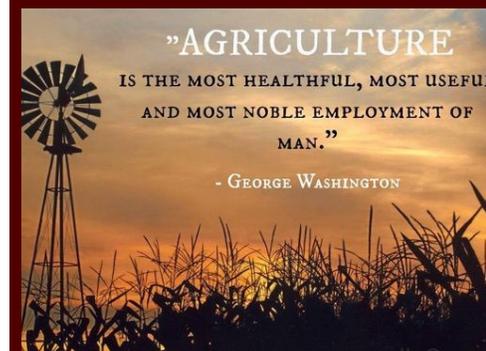
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# Getting Ready for Spring and Worms!

## TOP 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT WORMS!

1. Predators and Parasites are the 2 MAJOR issues in the sheep and goat industry. Sheep and goats are much more vulnerable to contracting parasites known as stomach worms and coccidia, due to their close grazing and slow-to-develop immunity. Stomach worms cause a great deal of loss in sheep and goats if left unchecked or untreated.

2. Know your drenches! The use of Anti-parasitic drugs should be used wisely and sparingly. Frequent use of these drugs will allow the parasites to become resistant.

### Benzimidazoles Class (Safe-guard and Valbazen)

Safe-guard has been around for the longest and because of that more resistance to Safeguard than some of our other drenches. Valbazen is the more potent drench in the Benzimidazoles class of wormer. It however it is not approved for pregnant females and you can see issues especially used in the first 30 days of pregnancy.

### Imidazothiazole/tetrahydropyrimidine Class (Prohibit and Tramisol)

Prohibit has been around a long time but hasn't been used a lot in recent years so we are seeing lots of good results with it. You want to give Prohibit at the recommend does as we have seen livestock get very sick from giving it when you are doubling or tripling the dose (they will die in minutes from you giving it).

### Macrocyclic Lactone Class (Ivermetin/Ivomec and Cydectin)

Ivomec (give 2 to 3 recommended dose) New research if you give it to animals that have been fasted for 12 hours it will increase the effective kill rate of Ivomec.

3. A study conducted on goats with benzimidazole (Safe-guard or Valbazen) resistant worms showed that two consecutive-day doses of Safe-guard or Panacur or Valbazen reduced the fecal egg count by 92%. The benefit of multi-day dosing on nematode populations with emerging benzimidazole resistance is expected to be short-lived, because resistance will progress to total failure of benzimidazoles with repeated exposures so do not use this worming method more than 1 time a year...try COMBINATION DRENCHING!

5. Dose deep into the oral cavity when drenching for the best success!

6. We DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY INJECTABLE DEWORMERS as they are off label and we have seen injectable wormers have less than a 50% success rate vs their drench counter parts.

7. Know what worms are in your herd or flock. Test (fecal egg count reduction test or larval developmental assay) every 2 years to determine which anthelmintics are effective. The two main parasites are the barber pole worm (*Haemonchus contortis*) and the small brown stomach worm (*Ostertagia circumcincta*) The Barber pole worm is a parasite that pierces the lining of the "true" stomach and causes blood and protein loss and anemia. This parasite is difficult to control because of its short life cycle and its ability to hibernate until its environment is more favorable. The small brown stomach worm also burrows in to the wall of the "true" stomach, but unlike its partner in crime, it causes digestive upset and scouring(diarrhea) in the victim.

8. Since the primary way these parasites are transmitted is through grazing, pasture management plays a key roll in controlling the parasite. A few examples of pasture management would be the use of clean or safe pastures, pasture rotation, and mixed species grazing.

9. DONT WORM THEM ALL! Refugia is a population of worms from untreated livestock. These worms have a much lower chance of having the genes for resistance. It is recommended to intentionally allow sheep and goats to be exposed to parasites that have not had a chance to develop resistance to a dewormer. Try not treating some animals that are low risk for parasitism. These would include animals that do not show signs of parasitism, have a good body condition score, and/or are nonlactating mature animals.

10. Check out <https://www.wormx.info> for great information about preventing parasites from being a problem in your herd!

Source: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aded98\\_ee0c71542e694d2b8a9906aa290d0446.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/aded98_ee0c71542e694d2b8a9906aa290d0446.pdf)

## When To Ship?

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has done research on the best time to ship and what will help you get the biggest bang for your buck! Check out these tips below as well as some noteworthy marketing opportunities for your lambs and goats this spring.

- Regardless of age, healthy, well conditioned animals top the market. Unhealthy, lethargic or thin animals are generally discounted.
- Sell when it rains (or other inclement weather that restrict the numbers coming to a weekly auction market).
- Sell when nobody else does.
- An 'optimum' live weight for young slaughter goats is 60 lbs.
- Goat kids weighing 46-49 pounds are difficult to sell. In this narrow weight range, goats are too heavy for the traditional 'cabrito' market and too light for the markets on the coasts and in the northeast. Maximum live weight for the cabrito market is 38-42 pounds.
- Castrate male goats/lambs. Wethers/muttons sell well any time of the year and will bring "top dollar all day". Although opportunities exist to sell intact male goats/lambs for a premium (to castrates), these opportunities occur infrequently and are relatively small in size (number of head required). Another justification for castrating young lambs or goats to eliminate the possibility of ewe lambs or doe kids breeding prematurely.
- Woolled breed lambs (finewools, medium wools and crosses) remain in demand, both as feeders and fats.
- An 'optimum' target slaughter weight for hair lambs is 60-70 pounds.
- Compared to the woolled breeds, the hair sheep are earlier maturing and fatten very quickly. Consequently, harvest weight for fed hair lambs (with 0.5 inches of backfat or less) will seldom exceed 100-120 pounds.
- The summer months (June – September) are generally a difficult time to sell hair lambs and market prices are usually at their annual low.

Holiday	Consumer Preferences	
	Goat	Lamb
Easter- April 21	young, milk fed <40lb live weight	30-55 lb live weight, fat
Passover- April 19-27		30-55 lb live weight, fat, no blemishes
Cinco De Mayo - May 5	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Ramadan - May 5 - June 4	no permanent teeth, 45-80 lb live weight	60-80 lb live weight
Memorial Day - May 27	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Eid al-Fitr- June 3	no permanent teeth, 45-80 lb live weight	60-80 lb live weight
July 4th	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Caribbean Holidays- August	yearlings and older intact bucks, 80lb+	
Eid al-Adha- Aug 10	no permanent teeth, 45-80 lb live weight	prefer blemish free yearlings, 60-100 lb live weight
Labor Day - Sept. 2	grilling size, usually <65lbs live weight	
Rosh Hashanah- Sept. 29 - Oct. 1		forequarters, from 60-110 live weight
Christmas	young, 15-25 lb live weight	young, 15-25 lb live weight

\*To capitalize on these opportunities, animals must usually be marketed at least 7-10 days before the holiday/event occurs.

Source: Marketing Goats & Sheep - Dr. Machen

## Upcoming Events

### Brush Busters Basics

Dink Wardlaw Ag Complex  
March 14, 2019  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Pre-registration is encouraged

### Benefiting from Birds

Dink Wardlaw Ag Complex  
March 27, 2019  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Pre-registration is encouraged

### Lawn Care 101

Val Verde County Extension Service  
Facebook Page  
March 25th - April 15th  
6:30 PM

### Girls Gone Grilling

Val Verde Winery  
March 30, 2019  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Pre-registration is REQUIRED

### Grow It, Eat It, Cook It

Dink Wardlaw Ag Complex  
April 1st & May 14th  
12 pm - 1:30 pm

Pre-registration is encouraged

### Texas Landowner Liability

Dink Wardlaw Ag Complex  
May 1, 2019  
5:30 - 7 PM

Pre-registration is encouraged

## Meet and Greet

### OUR VAL VERDE AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES COUNTY AGENT

Val Verde County

I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be the new Agriculture/Natural Resources County Agent here in Val Verde County. I was excited to take this position as it addresses two areas about which I am very passionate—agriculture and education.

I have been involved in agriculture all my life! From the pasture where I work with my family raising Beefmaster cattle and meat goats; to the show ring where I showed heifers, steers and goats from our pastures; to Texas A&M University where I earned a degree in Agricultural Science; to marketing internships with the Texas Beef Council where I first had the opportunity to tell the public about how their steak got from a producers' pastures to their table; to working long hours at the Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo where I was able to meet many influential leaders in the agriculture industry; and to my classroom where I taught agricultural science to high school students at Springtown High School. I served as the Kinney County Agent for two years before taking this position with Val Verde County.

These experiences and opportunities have made me even more passionate about our industry and helped me realize the importance of education. As a producer, I understand the value in continuing my education so that I can improve programs within our cattle and goat operation. As a Texas Beef Council intern, I learned to execute well-organized promotional and educational events, and that education is a strong marketing tool as we continue to market Texas Agriculture to our communities. As a teacher, I realize how important consumer education is to our industry.

I am a steward of the land, a livestock producer, and an educator. Being your county agent allows me to work with great producers like you. I look forward to hearing from you regarding issues you may have, and providing quality programs that will provide you relevant, and important information about our constant evolving industry. I can be reached by phone at 830-774-7591 or by email at [emily.grant@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:emily.grant@ag.tamu.edu).

*Emily Grant*

"Success Is  
Never Owned,  
It Is Rented  
And The Rent  
Is Due Every  
Day."

UNKNOWN

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