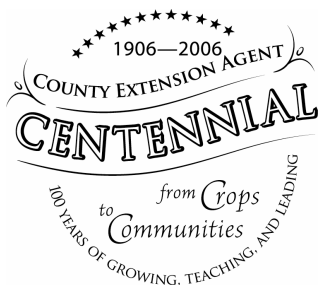


Livestock & Pasture News



Since November 2006, Texas Extension has been celebrating 100 years of County Agents working in individual counties with agricultural producers and other county residents. As County Agents, we work to keep alive the “tried and true” practice of showing practical and economical methods of producing agricultural crops within the county we serve.

As you would expect, some of our educational delivery methods have changed over the years; however, an important one that is still widely utilized is the field day style program. You are invited to join us for a variety of educational programs in the next few months, some of which will be field days, some class sessions or workshops, and as always, you are encouraged to give us a call with questions.

If you haven't been by the office in a while, Spring will be a great time to drop in and see the **LEAF-PRO** Demonstration Gardens being developed and maintained

by the Extension Master Gardeners. **LEAF-PRO** is an educational program developed here in Walker County to show and teach environmentally responsible practices which can be utilized in the home landscape. This local program supports the Texas Extension Earth Kind initiative.

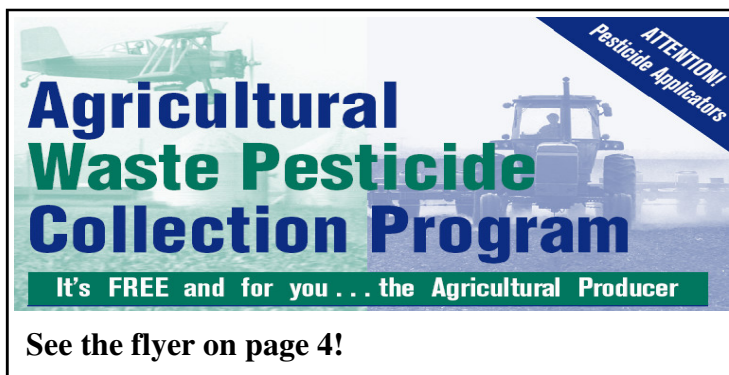
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE.

- Bee Keeping Association Meetings
- Timber Growers Association Information



Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Program

It's **FREE** and for you . . . the Agricultural Producer

See the flyer on page 4!

Pecan Field Day

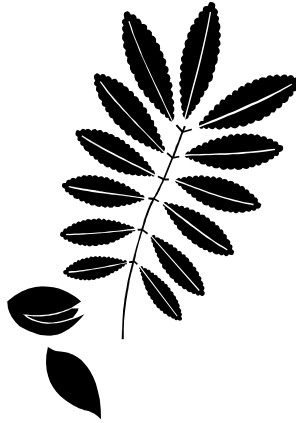
Friday, May 4, 2007

10:00 AM until 3:00 PM

(time is tentative)

James Boyce's Farm
Oakhurst, TX

Join the San Jacinto County & Walker County Extension Offices for the 2007 Pecan Field Day. Topics to be included at this program will include; Pecan Varieties, Integrated Pest Management topics such as pest monitoring and pest control options, orchard management, fertilization, grafting and harvest equipment and methods. Pesticide recertification credit will be available for TDA Pesticide Applicators. Call for directions and to RSVP.



Want to Learn About Beekeeping?



Everyone interested in participating in the Walker County Area Beekeepers Association is invited to contact Chuck Johnson. Chuck can be reached by phone at 936-291-0943 for more information.

The group meets at the Walker County Extension office on the 4th Thursday of the month.

New Landowners Meeting

Landowners who are new to the land, or maybe have been away for a while, often have many questions about the help or assistance which may be available to them.

There is a meeting for New Landowners scheduled for **May 10th 2007, 6:30 PM at the Walker Co Extension Office.**

The meeting will be held at the Walker County Texas Cooperative Extension office (Tam Road & Hwy 75 North) Representatives from a variety of local agencies will be on hand to discuss the assistance, information, or services available to landowners. Agencies which have been invited to participate include:

- Texas Forest Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Farm Services
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- Texas Cooperative Extension

If you want to learn more about these offices and how they can assist you be sure to be on hand for this meeting.

Walker County Animal Issues Committee Emergency Management Plan

Resulting from the September 2005 Hurricane Rita evacuation and the impromptu development of an Animal Shelter to support evacuated families, Walker County began forming our Animal Issues Committee in 2005. Since then we have not had a major animal incident which has occurred; however, we want to be as prepared as possible. Events which we would like to have an emergency response in place for encompass three main areas: Natural Disasters, Accidental Events and Intentional Events.

Depending on the emergency, we want to be prepared to contain the situation until the appropriate help arrives, or respond as best as our local resource capabilities will allow. We formed two working groups to address these animal related emergencies. The Animal Issues Committee is divided into a Small Animal Working Group Co-Chaired by Barbara Collins and a Large Animal Working Group Co-Chaired by Gary Evans. Each Working Group is divided into teams consisting of a Facility Team, Feed Team, Medical Team, Registration Team, and a Transportation Team. As previously reported, Team Leaders have been assigned for most of the teams; however, we are still developing membership support for all teams. Each team needs to be several members deep to insure adequate operational effectiveness.

If you are interested in serving on one of these teams to assist with resource identification and being involved in the various team areas, please contact the Walker County Extension Office (936) 435-2426 or the Working Group Co-Chairs.

Unwanted Pesticides or Used Motor Oil?

DON'T DUMP THEM!

Bring them to this local collection event for **FREE** safe disposal!

Open to ALL Texas residents

- Who apply pesticides or other agricultural chemicals for the production of agricultural products in Texas
- Who currently have banned or unwanted agricultural chemicals

No wastes accepted from chemical dealers

FREE OF CHARGE
Voluntary & Confidential

Collection Hours are:
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

March 13, 2007 • Bryan

Brazos Ct. Rd. & Bridge
2617 Hwy. 21 W

County Extension Agent: Eric Zimmerman, 979-823-0129

March 14, 2007 • Hunstville

Kate Barr Ross Memorial Park, 486 SH 75 N
County Extension Agent: Reggie Lepley, 936-435-2426

March 16, 2007 • Carthage

TxDOT Carthage-Area Office, 861 S. Shelby St.
County Extension Agent: Douglas McKinney, 903-693-0380

March 26, 2007 • Pampa

TX Cooperative Extension
Gray County Show Barn (Bull Barn)
12125 E. Frederic

County Extension Agent: Brandon McGinty, 806-669-8033

March 28, 2007 • Plainview

Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S. Columbia St.
County Extension Agent: Michael Dolle, 806-291-5267

March 29, 2007 • Brownfield

Terry County Livestock Barn, 1792 CR 430
County Extension Agent: Chris Bishop, 806-637-4060

No wastes accepted from chemical dealers.

*If you have a large volume of wastes,
please coordinate with the TCEQ prior to the event.*

Contact Information:

Your local County Extension Agent or the TCEQ at 512-239-3143
www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html



We CAN Accept:

Agricultural Chemicals:

- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Oil
- Oil filters*
- Grease
- Transmission fluid
- Diesel fuel
- Power steering fluid
- Paint
- Gasoline
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Lead-acid batteries
- Brake fluid

Other Items:

- Properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers

* There is a limit of two 55-gallon drums per participant for oil filter recycling. Oil and filters will not be accepted from businesses that change oil for a fee.

For large quantities of pesticide containers, please contact U.S. AgRecycling at 1-800-654-3145 to arrange free pickup.

We CANNOT Accept:

- Tires
- Radioactive materials
- Explosives
- Household materials
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Herbicides containing 2, 4, 5-T (Silvex) or pesticides or wood preservatives containing pentachlorophenol (unless quantities are less than five gallons)
- Nutrient materials that are neither hazardous nor contain pesticide admixtures
- Biomedical wastes
- Ammunition
- Fertilizers



- ♦ **Bottom Line -**
 - Economics of Producing Forages
- ♦ **Fertilizer Outlook for 2007**
- ♦ **Tour of Producing Forage Pastures**
 - Prine Ryegrass & Oats mix
 - Crimson Clover
 - Ball Clover
 - White Clover
- ★ **Management of Grasses & Legumes**
- ★ **Grazing Issues**
- ★ **Weed Control & Economics**

**Field Day Will Depend
upon Weather & Growing Conditions**

Prior To date!

GUEST SPEAKER:

GERALD W. EVERS
REGENTS FELLOW AND PROFESSOR
PASTURE MANAGEMENT
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY AGRIC. & EXT.
CENTER, OVERTON, TX.

**EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAM**

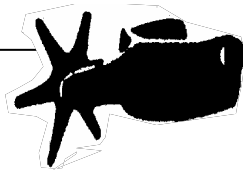
DEVELOPED BY:
THE EXTENSION LIVESTOCK &
PASTURE COMMITTEE OF WALKER
COUNTY

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Walker County Agriculture

Forage

Field Day



**Robert Bruner's A Bar Pasture
(Walker Loop) off FM 1791**

March 23, 2007

3:00 PM

**Dutch Treat Meal (\$2.00) will be
served at the Chuck Wagon
following forage tour.**

**RSVP REQUIRED by 3/21/07 to
Walker Co., Texas Cooperative
Extension at (936) 435 2426.**

**Directions available when RSVP is
called in.**



**2 HOUR TDA PESTICIDE APPLICATOR
C.E.U. CREDIT
(GENERAL CATEGORY)**

WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TDA PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

Horses, Hays, and Pastures:

A Pasture Management Program for Horse Owners

May 3, 2007
Pearce Pavilion, Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Attention: Horse Owners:



Do you purchase hay but are unsure of the quality?
Do you know how to raise the best hay for horses?
Do you plan to establish hay meadows or grazing pastures?
Do you know how to apply fertilizer for optimum pasture performance?
Do you know how to effectively control weeds in your pasture?
Do you have pastures needing re-establishment and management following the drought?
Do you know what alternatives to hay can be used when hay is in short supply?
Do you know which plants in your pasture are toxic to your horses?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then, this workshop is for YOU!

The current drought conditions in Texas are the 3rd in the past 10 years. Many horse owners are faced with pastures that require significant care and rejuvenation. Horse hay is currently in short supply, with quality and safety being primary concerns. This workshop is designed to address horse pastures, as well as the production, selection and feeding of various hays and processed roughages to horses. Plus, materials will also be available on Horse Theft Awareness and Prevention, at this pastures/hays workshop.

Section 1 – Horse Pastures

9:30 a.m. - Coffee and Morning Refreshments
10:00 a.m. - Soils and Soil Fertility – Dr. Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist
10:45 a.m. - Forage Species – Dr. Larry Redmon
11:15 a.m. - Forage Establishment and Management – Dr. Larry Redmon
12:15 Noon – Catered Lunch

Section 2 – Horse Hay

1:00 p.m. - Hay Production and Forage Analysis – Dr. Larry Redmon
1:45 p.m. - Selecting and Feeding Hay and Processed Roughages to Horses – Dr. Pete Gibbs, Associate Department Head and Extension Horse Specialist
2:30 p.m. – Feeding Management of Horses – Dr. Pete Gibbs
3:15 p.m. – Toxic Plants and Dangerous Hays – Dr. John Reagor, TAMU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
4:00 p.m. – Weed Management in Pastures – Dr. Larry Redmon
4:45 p.m. – Wrap Up

This workshop is co-hosted by the Departments of Animal Science and Soil & Crop Sciences.
It will include take home materials on Horse and Equipment Theft Protection.

Directions to Facility

Pearce Pavilion is located on the southwest side of Texas A&M University, College Station. It is on George Bush Drive, on the south side of the road, next door to the Horse Center. It is also just ¼ mile east of the entrance to the Bush Library.

Registration

Registration is \$100 for the 1-day event and includes morning snacks, refreshments, and lunch. Also included as part of the registration fee is a cap with logo that is only available to workshop attendees. Registration forms are available at the Walker County, Texas Cooperative Extension office, (936) 435 –2426, 102 Tam Road Suite B, Huntsville, TX.

Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter

February 2007

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ANGUS STOCKER/FEEDER PREMIUMS?

Getting higher the last few years, according to Certified Angus Beef. The CAB "Here's the Premium Study" compiles data from cooperating auctions in California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Data are collected in the Fall for 500 lb calves and in the Spring for 700 lb feeders. Each auction reports prices from a minimum of five groups, each containing at least five head. Data have now been reported on almost 237,000 head. From Spring, 1999, through Spring, 2003, premiums for Angus over other breeds ranged from a little less than \$2.50/cwt to a little over \$3.50. But things started changing in Fall, 2003. Since then, premiums have ranged from a little over \$3.50 (for yearlings in Spring, 2004) to a little over \$5.50 (for calves in Fall, 2005). As always, price premiums should be considered along with other factors affecting profit, especially any losses that might occur in performance and efficiency from lack of hybrid vigor. (CAB, Black Ink Basics™, Vol. 2, Issue 4)

ETHANOL FROM CORN- THERE'S SOMETHING LEFT TO FEED

Production of ethanol from corn continues to increase. This is causing some concern that there will be less corn for feeding, not to mention the elevating effects on corn price. However, there are byproduct feeds resulting from ethanol production, one of the most useful being distillers grains plus solubles (DGS), which is available wet (about 25-35% dry matter) and dry (about 90% DM). The dried product costs less to transport per unit of DM and can be stored for longer periods. Every bushel of corn yields about 17 lb of DGS.

How good is DGS as a cattle feed? Like many byproducts, the nutritional content varies but is usually, on DM basis, around 30% crude protein and 90-95% TDN compared to 9-10% CP and 88-92% TDN for corn. DGS is high in digestible fiber and low in starch. So, unlike high-starch sources like corn, DGS interferes less with utilization of forage, making it a good source for supplementing on low-quality forages. DGS is also high in bypass protein and fat (about 10-12%). The fat level should not interfere with forage utilization by grazing animals, but could be a problem in hay/silage programs where higher rates might be fed. Also, compared to corn, DGS is high in phosphorous and sulfur, so total ration levels of these minerals should be monitored. DGS should

generally be limited to about 20% of total diet DM. So, while DGS offers real possibilities for cattle feed, there are limitations. We'll still need corn, especially for finishing, and lots of it.

GENETIC EFFECTS OF FOLLICLE SIZE AND PREGNANCY RATE

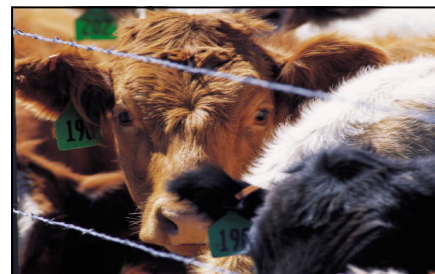
Heritability of pregnancy rate (PR) in cattle has generally been found to be low, so genetic improvement from selection of breeding stock is slow. Some research has shown a phenotypic relationship between ovulatory follicle size (FS) and PR. FS is a quantitative trait, so it could be potentially more useful in genetic selection than qualitative, all-or-none traits like PR.

Researchers at the USDA Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City, MT, wanted to evaluate any genetic factors that might be involved in the relationship between PR and FS. They studied females from a stable composite population (consisting of 50% Red Angus, 25% Charolais, 25% Tarentaise) that had been developed at the Miles City station. Data were collected on 780 females, ranging in age from 1 to 12 years, over a four-year period. FS was determined by transrectal ultrasound shortly before artificial insemination. As has been found in many studies, heritability of PR was very low (0.07) and, unfortunately, that of FS was only slightly higher (0.16). In addition, genetic correlation between PR and FS was also low (0.08). The authors concluded that selection for FS "would produce essentially no correlated response" in PR, but that including both PR and FS in a selection index might be slightly more efficient in improving PR than by selection only on PR. (J. Animal Sci. 84:1646)

FACTORS AFFECTING CARCASS COMPOSITION

University of California researchers reviewed and analyzed results of 43 studies to assess effects of genetic type and growth implants on carcass traits. Eight breed-types were categorized as either early (EM) or late (LM) maturing. Implant status was implanted (IP) or non-implanted (NIP). At the same ribeye fat

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

cover, LM produced significantly heavier carcasses with larger ribeye area than EM, but intramuscular and internal fat did not significantly differ. At the same live or carcass weight, LM had significantly larger ribeyes and less fat cover, intramuscular fat, and internal fat than EM. At the same weight, IP produced slight, but not significantly larger ribeye than NIP. At heavier weights, IP had significantly less fat cover and internal fat. Regardless of weight, IP had lower intramuscular fat. As has been shown in numerous individual studies, this extensive review and analysis showed that later maturity and implanting resulted in heavier carcasses at the same fat cover. At the same weight, later maturity and implanting resulted in carcasses that were more muscular and with less external, internal, and intramuscular fat. (J. Animal Sci. 84:3143)

REDUCING VARIATION- THERE ARE LIMITS

We often hear that there is too much variation in the nation's beef cattle herd. Compared to something like poultry or swine that's undoubtedly true. But chickens and pigs are raised under much more uniform conditions than beef cattle, at least up to when cattle are weaned. The same kinds of cows don't fit both the Upper Plains and the Gulf Coast. That's not to say that we can't reduce genetic variability, within limits. But, let's think about sources of variation we have little or no control over. Chickens can be marketed that are all hatched on the same day. But that's not true for beef cattle. We sometimes hear that feeders would like start cattle with only a 50-pound range in weight. One of my associates, Dr. Ron Gill, recently reminded us of the variation in calf weight within a herd even with a narrow breeding season. Let's say you have just a 45-day breeding season and your average weaning weights usually run 500-525 pounds. That means calves gain a little over 2 lb/day to weaning. So, even in a herd of high genetic uniformity, those calves will range at least 100 pounds at weaning, just from differences in the age of the calves. We should pay more attention to reducing variability, but we also should figure out ways to better manage the variability that is inherent in beef production.



Toxic Plant Database

<http://texnat.tamu.edu/cmplants/toxic/index.htm>

This web based resource can help you with questions regarding plants or potential problems.

Knowing how to recognize toxic plants and the symptoms they cause is the first step in preventing poisonings. This database contains the: pictures, descriptions, information on distribution and habitat, information on the toxic agent, symptoms of poisonings, and information on Integrated Toxic Plant Management for each toxic plant.

ITPM involves identifying toxic plants, understanding the symptoms of poisoning in livestock, recognizing problem areas and formulating a management strategy for minimizing livestock losses.

Texas Adapted Lablab Variety Developed

Lablab (*Lablab purpureus* [L.] Sweet) is a vining, herbaceous tropical legume with high nutritive value as a forage or browse for ruminant animals. Useful qualities of this tropical forage include drought tolerance, high palatability, high nutritive value, excellent forage yields and adaptation to diverse environmental conditions.

Currently, seed of the Australian lablab cultivar 'Rongai' is imported into the US primarily for supplemental forage plantings for white-tailed deer. Rongai was released by the New South Wales Department of Agriculture in 1962. Rongai is very late maturing and generally does not flower in northeast Texas before frost.

'Rio Verde' lablab was developed through selection for tolerance to defoliation, forage production potential and Texas seed production. 'Rio Verde' was developed at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton, Texas and released by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) in 2006. 'Rio Verde' is the first lablab cultivar developed in the US and also has the value-added trait of Texas seed production.

'Rio Verde' initiates flowering in late August (Aug. 25 at Overton, TX) with 50% bloom occurring about Sept. 1; the earliest mature seed are produced by Oct 15. In comparison, Rongai lablab is very late flowering and generally does not flower in central or northeast Texas before frost.

Additional information can be found at
<http://overton.tamu.edu/rioverde/index.htm>



Help Support

- ◆ Educational Programs for Landowners
- ◆ Youth Scholarships
- ◆ Legislative Awareness

Join the Walker Co. Timber Growers & Landowners Association

\$10.00 Annual

Association Membership.

Call the Texas Forest
Service at (936) 295 – 5688
for additional information.

Provisions from the American Disability Act will be considered when planning educational programs and activities. Please notify the Walker County Extension Office if you plan on attending an Extension Educational program and need specialized services. Notification of at least two weeks in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

**We hope you enjoy this issue of Walker County
Livestock & Pasture News. If you have questions or
would like more information call us at
(936) 435-2426.**



**Walker County Extension Office:
102 Tam Road Suite B, Huntsville Texas 77320
<http://walker-tx.tamu.edu>**

Sincerely,

**Reggie Lepley
County Extension Agent – Agriculture**

Non-Profit Org.
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Huntsville, Texas 77320