

## Walker County Agriculture Update

September 2019

Greetings from the Walker  
County, Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension office!

### “Earthworms will dance” -Joel Salatin

When the earthworms are happy, you are doing it correctly regardless of your methods. **Be sure to read about The Scoop (on) Your Dirt Event planned for October 25<sup>th</sup>** (pg. 4).

Howdy! It has been a while. I have had several people ask me if they were still on my newsletter list. Yes, you are! Nice to hear you missed me -and the newsletter.

I had to take a break on the newsletter part of the job for a few months. The May edition was the last previous newsletter because we (Extension District 9, Texas County Agricultural Agents) hosted the 2019 State Professional Improvement Conference at the end of July. I oversaw the registration process and spent days/nights/weekends these past several months making sure everybody who attended was able to participate in each event they signed up for.

Glad to see you again!

One of the great things that happen during the TCAAA conference is the recognition of outstanding individuals at the Man of the Year Banquette. These honorees support agriculture in various ways, but all make great impact in their efforts which are worthy of recognition.

This year, District 9 TCAAA was proud to recognize one of our “own” from Walker County! **Dr. Bobby Lane** received the Man of the Year award during the conference. It was truly a high point in my career to introduce Dr. Lane to the County Agents from across the state of Texas prior to his receiving the award. Dr. Lane, Thank You for your service and support of Texas Agriculture!



Glad to have you here! Read on.

- ***When you have the opportunity, let others hear your message.***

## Upcoming Events:

### Beef Calf Management

Thursday, September 12, 2019

6:30 PM

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd, Huntsville, TX)

\$10.00/participant

RSVP Required (936) 435-2426



(Topics) Calf management/value added calf management, ideal weaned/feeder calves, muscling, castration, vaccination, dehorning, implanting, identification, internal & external parasite control. – Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Adding value to your calf crop CAN be accomplished if you put the work into doing it and then marketing correctly. Dedicated/Proven management practices are obtainable which will allow you to develop higher quality and performance from your herd offspring. Key Point: Evaluate then implement what can work for a return!

### Walker Co Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale!!

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Texas AgriLife Extension office, Walker County

102 Tam Road, Suite B

Huntsville, TX 77320

8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Fall is the best time of year to plant shrubs, perennials & fruit trees! Come out and get your plants. We will have Fall vegetables as well. Don't wait too late in the day, what you need may be in somebody else's garden!

### Winter Pastures: Establishment & Management

Thursday, September 26, 2019

6:30 PM

1 Hrs. CEU Credit Available: (1 Gen)

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd, Huntsville, TX)

\$10.00/participant

RSVP Required (936) 435-2426



(Topics) Options for cattle & wildlife utilization, selection, planting, management and harvest strategies. -Dr. Larry Redmon, Extension Specialist & Associate Department Head

It is nearing the time of year when cool season and winter type pastures start becoming of interest. Regardless of whether you want them for beef cattle or wildlife, planning and preparation help ensure success. Selection of forage varieties and matching species to your location are essential. Knowing how to plant properly and then manage the individual species is also required. Past those requirements, you must know how to properly harvest the forage to make the investment of time and money worth your while.

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Festival**  
**Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension office (Tam Road & Hwy 75 N, Huntsville)**  
**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Bring the family. This is a great educational event to learn about butterflies and their importance to us. If you have never seen a butterfly being tagged for tracking purposes, you need to be here -it's a neat thing!! All ages are welcome. Children's area events available!! Tag & Release of Monarch butterflies is scheduled for 12:00 Noon. Meet the Walker Co Beekeepers and visit with some of our Master Naturalist friends. This educational festival is sponsored by the Walker County Master Gardeners.

**Backyard Poultry: Production & Management**  
**Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

**6:30 PM**

Walker Co AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd,  
Huntsville, TX 77320)

RSVP requested (936) 435-2426

**Cost: \$10 per person**

(Topics) Breed Selection, Nutrition, Health Management & Disease Prevention, Egg Handling. –  
Dr. Craig Coufal, Extension Poultry Specialist &  
Program Leader



The popularity of raising backyard poultry has reemerged in recent years. If you have joined the chicken train or may be thinking about getting on-board, here is the educational event for you! Join us to learn how to care for these entertaining animals providing benefits of both fresh eggs and hours of good old fashion outdoor therapy.

**Beef Cattle: Female Development & Selection**  
**Tuesday, October 8, 2019**

**7:00 PM**

Walker Co AgriLife Extension Office (102 Tam Rd,  
Huntsville, TX 77320)

RSVP requested (936) 435-2426

**Cost: \$10 per person**

(Topics) Selection & development of females, improving reproduction, body condition scoring, discussion of pregnancy detection methods (palpation, blood, ultrasound), Artificial insemination & synchronization. – Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Developing a sound, physically capable herd of cattle requires forethought and planning. There are methods which will help you; however, you must implement the steps and make the correct decisions beforehand. This class will help explain what you can do to improve your herd performance.

## Wild Game Dinner Tonight

Thursday, October 10

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Walker Co Storm Shelter (455 SH75 N, Huntsville, TX)

RSVP required (936) 435-2426

Cost: \$40 per person (or) \$70 per couple for all three menus



If you like to eat exceptional wild game dishes, or if you want to learn how to prepare some outstanding healthy wild game recipes this will be a don't miss event! We will be discussing and demonstrating some excellent recipes for game fish, duck, and venison. Menus will be paired with local wines. Food safety & care of wild game meat prior to the kitchen will be discussed to help you get your "all-natural, free-range, organic" protein ready to eat.

## The Scoop (on) Your Dirt Event!

Friday, October 25

12:00 PM (NOON) – 2:00 PM

Crabbs Prairie Volunteer Fire Department (28 FM 1696, Huntsville, TX 77320)

RSVP required (936) 435-2426

LUNCH PROVIDED

Testing Fee: NO CHARGE!!!!

Your Soil Samples must be turned into the Walker Co Extension Office prior to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

\*Special event Soil Collection forms (required) will be available from the Walker Co Extension office (phone number above), OR REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AND REQUEST A FORM & I will email you one when I receive them.

Ok it's not dirt, it really is soil. This educational event is a replacement for our traditional Fall Hay Evaluation... Each year at the Hay Evaluation we talk about the soil fertility required to produce high quality hay. For 2019 we are going to turn the table a just a bit and talk about managing high quality productive soil which then supports your forages regardless of it being hay or grazing pastures (spring, summer, fall, or winter).



\*We want you to collect a sample of your soil from a field that needs help or an increase in production capability. We will have the sample tested at NO CHARGE to you, compliments of the Walker Co Livestock & Pasture Extension Committee. Sample forms are available at the Walker Co Extension office.

At the educational event, we will return your individual sample results. SHSU Agronomist, Dr. Bobby Lane will work with you to explain the meaning of the information you obtain from your analysis. Participants will learn how to correctly read and interpret these reports. You will know and understand what your soil pH level is and if there is need for adjustment. We will help you to determine fertilizer blends that support your individual results. Various tools will be discussed such as apps available for phones or tablets and the NRCS Soil Web Survey tool available online. NRCS District Conservationist, Floyd Nauls will provide insight and guidance on navigating and getting the best possible utilization available with this handy tool.

RSVP is required for this event for our meal planning – it will be good! Take a half day off your workweek to join us for this new educational event. The return on participation for test results and knowledge will more than pay for your investment in time.

**SAVE THE DATE! -More info as plans develop: 2020 Annual CEU Conference**

**Friday, January 10, 2020**

Walker County Storm Shelter

**Out of County Events:**

**East Texas Farm, Ranch, and Wildlife Expo**

**Friday, September 13, 2019**

Crockett Civic Center (1100 Edmiston Drive, Crockett, TX 75835

Cost: Participant (By Sept 9<sup>th</sup> \$12.00), (At the door \$\$15.00)

Registration/More Info: Crockett Area Chamber of Commerce (936) 544-2359 to RSVP by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

- 8:00**                    **Doors Open, Registration and Visit Trade Show Exhibits**
- 9:00-10:00**        **General Session *Wild Pig Management***  
*Dr. John Tomecek, Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This session offers TDA licensed pesticide applicators with one hour of continuing education in Integrated Pest Management*
- 10:15-11:15**      **Concurrent Educational Session 1 *Nuisance Animal Trapping***  
*Dr. John Tomecek, Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This session offers TDA licensed pesticide applicators with one hour of continuing education in Integrated Pest Management*
- 10:15-11:15**      **Concurrent Educational Session 2 *External Parasite Control on Beef Cattle***  
*Dr. Jason Banta, Associate Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This session offers TDA licensed pesticide applicators with one hour of continuing education in Integrated Pest Management*
- 11:30- 1:00**        **Lunch, Visit Trade Show Exhibits**
- 12:30-1:00**        **Outdoor Demonstrations Hay Baling and Nuisance Animal Trapping**
- 1:00-1:45**        **Concurrent Educational Session 3 *Winter Feeding and Supplements for Beef Cattle***  
*Dr. Jason Banta, Associate Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*
- 1:00-1:45**        **Concurrent Educational Session 4 *Aquatic Vegetation Management in Ponds Part I***  
Brittany Chesser, Program Specialist Aquatic Vegetation Management, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- 2:00-3:00**        **Concurrent Educational Session 5 *Aquatic Vegetation Management in Ponds Part II***  
Brittany Chesser, Program Specialist Aquatic Vegetation Management, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- 2:00-3:00**        **Concurrent Educational Session 6 *How to Make Money in the Cow Business***  
*Dr. Jason Banta, Associate Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*
- 3:00**                    **Adjourn**

## **2019 Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

Scotts-MiracleGro Lawn & Garden Research Facility, 3100 F&B Rd, College Station, TX

Cost: Participant/\$55.00 person before 9/27 (or) \$65.00 per person between 9/28 & 10/2

Registration/More Info: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2902> Contact Alisa Hairston (979) 845-0884 for more info.

The Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day offers an opportunity for members of industry and the general public to see and hear about current research activities in the Texas A&M turfgrass program and select related programs in entomology, pathology, and soil science. Attendees will have the opportunity to **earn CEUs** for professional development, visit the trade show floor to see some new products from industry, and enjoy a delicious lunch alongside fellow turf professionals and enthusiasts!

## **Ranchers Leasing Workshop**

**Friday, October 11, 2019**

**8:30 AM -2:30 PM**

Thomas G Hildebrand Equine Complex (3240 F&B Rd, College Station, TX 77843

Cost: \$50.00 Individual/\$80.00 Couple by October 10 (includes lunch)

Register <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2794>

Over 800 Texans have participated in these programs over the past two years, 100% would recommend it to a friend! Half-day seminar, participants will be able to ask questions, interact with attorneys and economists. Unique program focusing specifically on grazing, hunting, & livestock leases, including: Legal necessity for having leases in writing, Economic considerations in setting lease rates, Key terms to include in lease arrangements, Landowner liability considerations for landowners and tenants

All participants receive their own copy of the Ranchers' Agricultural Leasing Handbook, which contains checklists and sample lease language.

Program Objectives:

1. Explore the potential economic and strategic benefits of incorporating leases into operation.
2. Understand the importance of reducing agreements to written instrument.
3. Gain basic knowledge of contract law and common lease terminology.
4. Develop strategies to evaluate, negotiate, & draft agricultural lease agreements.
5. Learn basics of landowner liability law and limited liability statutes.

**SAVE THE DATE! -More info as plans develop: 2019 Cow Country Congress**

**Friday, October 18, 2019**

Stalwart Ranch Weaning Barn, (Hwy 21) Crockett, TX

Cost: (usually) \$20.00 per person -I will share more details in the coming weeks...

## **Ranch Management University**

**October 21 - 25, 2019**

G. Rollie White Visitor's Center (7707 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy, College Station, TX 77845)

Cost: Participant/\$6255.00 person before 10/15

Registration/More Info: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2805>

The Ranch Management University is an intensive 5-day event targeting new or inexperienced ranchers and landowners and covers the fundamentals of soils and soil fertility, forage establishment, pasture management, and utilization by livestock. Basic livestock management practices such as castrating and vaccinating calves are demonstrated. Grazing management, stocking rate, and body condition scoring

are also highlighted. Planning for profit, horse production, financial assistance programs, connections between agriculture and health, fundamentals of lawn management and ag laws Texas landowners need to know will also be discussed. Additionally, several wildlife management topics are covered for those interested in managing white-tailed deer, turkey, quail, feral hogs, and honeybees. Approximately one-half the workshop involves lectures and discussion, with the remainder consisting of the field demonstrations of various how-to methods of soil sampling, calibrating sprayers, and inoculating legume seed. Various forage species, including bermudagrass, small grains, annual ryegrass, and clovers are studied by workshop attendees. A demonstration covering hog trap management will also be given. Plenty of time is allowed for interaction with Texas A&M University faculty with expertise and experience in all management facets of the soil-plant-animal interface and wildlife management.

NOTE: meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks) and a RMU workbook with all Power Point presentations, contact information, glossary, etc. and a flash drive containing hundreds of relevant publications are provided.

### **Additional Items and Information of Note:**

#### **General Turfgrass Management Tips for Summer**

Dr. Becky Grubbs-Bowling, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**Watering:** We are finally starting to feel the full effect of the Texas heat. Heavy rainfall early in the summer made it possible for many parts of the state to refrain from turning irrigation on until just recently, but you may be starting to feel that old familiar "itch" to crank up your sprinkler system.

When irrigating, take steps to use water as efficiently as possible both to conserve resources and to promote dense, healthy turfgrass growth. For a simple guide to improving water-use efficiency, check out the checklist linked here: <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Water-Wise-Checklist-for-Texas-Home-Lawns-3-2.pdf> (link may not work in the pdf version).

One thing to remember is that if your warm season turfgrass undergoes a prolonged period of drought, it can go into **summer dormancy**. Simply put, your turfgrass will cease growth, turning a tan to golden brown color, then recover when water becomes available again in the late summer/early fall. Many trees and other perennials use similar survival tactics in the landscape, shedding leaves in the summer. Allowing your grass to go dormant is always an option when you don't want to irrigate on a regular basis during these hottest and driest weeks of the year. After all, when you describe it as a "golden brown", it doesn't sound so bad! If you choose to go this route and allow your lawn to go into summer dormancy, remember to stop fertilizing, as fertilizer products are best applied when turfgrass is *actively growing*, not dormant.

Summer dormancy is contingent on your lawn's ability to develop **deep, healthy roots** during periods of active growth. Remember that many warm-season grasses can root several feet into the soil under ideal conditions. To encourage deep rooting, implement good cultural management practices that promote deep water infiltration and healthy turfgrass growth. Many of the water-wise practices listed in the factsheet above will help with this.

#### **As we get closer to fall....**

Remember that irrigation practices can have a significant impact on turfgrass diseases. This is especially true as we get closer to fall. As a rule of thumb, water **early in the morning**. Evening watering can prolong the period of leaf wetness and promote conditions for disease. Large Patch Disease (*Rhizoctonia solani*) becomes active as soil temperatures start to drop consistently below 70 F, so as we get closer to

September and October, scale back watering and fertilizer applications to minimize disease risk. Remember that turfgrass growth begins to slow during this period anyways, and less water and fertilizer are generally required.

**Mowing:** Refer to the linked factsheet for tips on appropriate mowing practices for warm-season Texas lawns. <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/ESC052-1.pdf> (link may not work in the pdf version).

Mowing requirements can vary some throughout the summer, and you may notice that your turfgrass does not need to be mowed as frequently if it is struggling with heat and drought stress. However, it is important to remember that many summer weeds are currently flowering and producing seed. Frequent mowing and removal of clippings during this time can be helpful in managing weed populations, even if you are not mowing much off your actual turf. Annual weeds return each year from new seed, so taking steps to reduce seed populations in your landscape can go a long way toward reducing weed numbers next spring.

**Fertilization:** Continue to fertilize as needed to support healthy turfgrass growth but remember that fertilizers will continue to promote vegetative growth. When there is insufficient water to support this growth, consider scaling back or suspending fertilizer applications until water becomes available again.

While nitrogen rates can be determined largely by turfgrass species, use, and management capabilities, other nutrient rates including phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) should be determined by your soil test. If you haven't completed your soil test yet this year, it's never too late! Soil tests will also help you to identify important soil properties like pH - which will influence nutrient availability. Remember that **knowledge is power!**

## *In This Issue:*

### **IT IS HOT AND THINGS MELT, BUT THE HAY GETS ROLLED.**

#### **Small things can trigger...**

I was cleaning the garage during some recent vacation time. If you wondered where I have been this past few weeks of August... Anyway, I spent considerable time digging through old boxes and throwing things away. Organizing is fashionable now according to what I hear.

One treasure I discovered was an old sticky back dashboard calendar. You know the type that you would peel off the back and stick to your truck dashboard. Who does that anymore, new trucks cost too much to mess up the dashboard? Have you ever tried to peel one of those melted things off an old dusty farm truck dashboard?

Now days (most) people are more likely to stick something to the back of their phone.

The calendar was from a western wear store in Livingston, Texas. Lots and lots of good memories from that time period. It got me to thinking about some of the happenings from back around then which brought up remembrances of dusty pickup trucks with calendars melted to them in the hay field.

My longer-term readers with good memories may possibly remember me leaving you somewhat hanging after mentioning a personal experience feeding square hay bales (January 2018). It is time to go back to that line of thought and rejoin the next part of the story.



## **IT IS HOT AND THINGS MELT, BUT THE HAY GETS ROLLED.**

By Reggie Lepley

Days spent in the hay field will give anybody a real-world education. It is amazing what you can learn as a kid.

You can't participate in such agricultural production without learning something. Heat, dust, sun and NO shade make a classroom that will get your attention. Back then we didn't even know that tractors could have cabs in East Texas, much less air conditioning or radios. That equipment belonged to our rice farmer friends on the coast.

Part of the "take home" education I learned was; don't waste anything you worked hard to produce.

Some of you may know my dad was a county agent also. He worked to do things as efficiently and cost efficient as possible on a limited budget. I have so totally learned to understand that viewpoint.

We had an old wire tie baler (*mentioned in the previously referenced article*) that was capable of some exceptionally tight and heavy square bales. Man, was I glad to see that thing go when it finally couldn't be patched up anymore. The baler wasn't PTO powered like they are nowadays, there was a gas engine mounted on it which operated the baler. All the tractor did was pull it through the field. The only entertaining thing about the rig was when you forgot to take the coffee can off the exhaust stack before spinning the flywheel by hand to fire it up.

Leaving the coffee can up there during start-up was kind of like shooting a potato cannon. POOF! Then having to chase the can down after it landed in the nearest snake habitat.

Did I mention it was old? The rust on that thing had its own patina.

After the passing of the old wire tie square baler, dad partnered with a guy who had invested in a new-fangled used round baler. If you ever heard Jerry Clower talk about secondhand pulpwood trucks, you can probably picture that baler set up also. Production did pick up since we baled additional fields. Hay hauling got somewhat easier and a bit more mechanical. Feeding the hay even changed.

But we noticed something quickly.

Where the cattle were fed, we were seeing uneaten and trampled, wasted hay. That's not good.

We tried moving feeding locations regularly. Well, that didn't really solve the issue by itself, so dad went up to the local ag shop and commissioned some hay feeding rings. They helped. They helped a lot, but there were still challenges.

Feeding losses: (excerpted from Making, Storing & Feeding Hay, by David Bade & Sim Reeves)

The amount of hay lost during feeding depends on the feeding system and on the amount allocated per animal per feeding time. An efficient feeding system should keep losses to a practical minimum. Feeding losses are caused mostly by trampling, leaf shatter, chemical and physical deterioration, fecal contamination, over consumption and refusal.

To some extent, you can control these losses by proper management. Management decisions include feeding method, intervals between feedings, amount of hay fed at one time, weather conditions and the number of animals fed.

The largest hay losses occur when large haystacks are fed without animal restrictions. The lowest hay losses result from hand feeding livestock the amount they will consume at one time. However, the labor expense for the big haystack is lower, and hand feeding requires extensive labor. The most economical feeding system is somewhere in between.

When feeding large round bales, you must use some restriction barrier to limit animal access. Barriers include electric wires, feeding racks, panels, wagons, gates and many other items. Feeding racks are now available in various sizes and shapes.

Research conducted at Overton showed that feeding large round bales free choice resulted in a 24 percent hay loss. Feeding identical bales in a feed rack cut the loss to 4 percent. (Standard small bales sustain a 6 percent loss when fed free choice and a 3 percent loss when some type of restricted access is used.) This 24 percent loss from free-choice feeding justifies the use of a feeding rack to conserve feed and money.

During the feeding season, hay may be fed in one or more areas. Both systems have advantages and disadvantages. The main disadvantage of feeding in one area is the heavy traffic on sod during wet weather. This can result in soil compaction and deep ruts throughout the field leading to this area.

Feeding in one area destroys the sod excessively and usually involves muddy conditions. In this situation, a producer should feed on concrete or gravel to reduce hay losses and eliminate some of the muddy conditions. Feeding in different spots in the field each time can improve soil fertility, but it requires more time and is less convenient.

Either system will work, depending on each producer's situation. Under either feeding system where the sod is killed, these areas should be reseeded as soon as possible. Scatter the excess hay and manure in surrounding areas.

It would have been nice to have an overhead hay feeding rack discussed in the previous information. Of course, back in those days, tractors with front end loaders weren't even a "normal" thing for most people. We made do with the technology and equipment of the day to address our challenges.

We all know that everybody has that one animal.

We had two or three of those non-thinking beasts. For some reason, they 'thought' they should be able to wear the bale feeding rings built at the ag shop. And they kept trying to wear the rings until we had to finally cut one out of the tubing one cold wet windy day. Enough.

From that time on, we would change feeding grounds regularly, as well as, unroll the round bales on the driest ground we could find to encourage maximum consumption. Kind of a throwback to the feeding of individual flakes of hay off the trailer (*my January 2018 article*).

This worked well for us. It cost us some time, but it worked. We would cut and remove strings then pull the tail of the bale loose and push the bale in the opposite direction with either the tractor or the front

end of the truck. All this was a highly technical undertaking guaranteed to provide lots of interest for two young boys. We got to carry knives... and didn't have to hide them from mom anymore.

Late one day, dad and I had been unrolling some hay on a lease pasture down toward the lake. There were lots of big hills on the place which made it extremely easy to unroll the bales. That was real fun.

Don't get in front of them!

We had been having some ongoing problems with gates & fence gaps being left open on this place. It was hunting season in East Texas. Unfortunately, some of the local "hunters" weren't good at all about closing gates. On top of that, they didn't even ask permission to cross the property if you know what I mean.

Anyway, after we feed the cows, dad said, "Let's go down to the bottom and check the wire gap this afternoon". So, we drove over to the top of one of the hills and left the truck to walk down to the fence gap. Since it was wintertime, cold and muddy, we didn't want to drive down the hill and possibly not be able to drive back up the rutted, very wet, two track road. No cell phones back then, remember those days?

We walked down the hill. This place had big hills...

Down at the bottom of the hill, we checked the gate. Yes, we had to close it -again. Somewhere in this process we both look up at the sound of a truck coming through the pasture and down the hill at a rapid clip.

Fortyish years later, I distinctly remember dad saying, "Well it sounds like we are finally going to see who this is, here He comes".

If you will; envision Ray Stevens singing "Boogity Boogity" right about here.

Dad no more than got those words out when I saw the truck coming through the trees. Here It comes, all the way down the hill to the bottom of the road. Then, a real "What The..." moment occurred.

I remember unnecessarily saying, "Dad, that's our truck", just about the time the old 70's something model double cab Chevy dead centered a pine tree, BAAAM! The truck coming down that big hill smacked with enough momentum to bend the cow catcher- nowadays fashionably referred to as a brush guard.

Dad was an early adopter of that equipment.

It made a great big ole "V" shaped bend in the center of the heavy metal cow catcher hanging on the front end. Smooth dead center.

By gosh, it hit hard enough to knock six years of summer dust off the dashboard. Even though the dashboard calendar didn't pop off, all the junk in the backseat was in the floorboard. Some backseat junk was even in the front floorboard. The back tires lifted off the ground - fencing supplies flew out of the truck bed.

It is remarkable how you never forget some things.

Moral of the story... If you are unrolling hay and park on top of a hill, be sure to put the truck in PARK

when you get out. You don't want to waste hay; or bend the front end of your truck.

*I still have the skunks and tar paper hay barn story. Maybe next year you get to hear about that; I'm not finished with this general topic just yet.*

If you have questions or would like more information regarding Extension Educational Programs, call us at (936) 435-2426.



*Reggie Lepley*

Reggie Lepley,  
County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Walker County  
(936) 435-2426

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 three to five days in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating