



Wichita County Agriculture News

April 2014

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FDA plans to phase out some antibiotic use on farms

In an effort to address potential antimicrobial resistance concerns in humans, the US Food and Drug Administration has issued new guidelines to extend veterinary oversight and phase out the sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics that are important to human medicine in food producing animals for growth promotion purposes. *Guidance 213* calls for animal pharmaceutical companies to voluntarily revise the FDA-approved labels for these products to remove *growth promotion* labels. FDA also proposes to change Veterinary Feed Directive regulations to move the over-the-counter status of the remaining appropriate therapeutic uses to require veterinary oversight when used to treat, control or prevent health issues in animals. The new steps being taken by FDA will promote the judicious use of important antimicrobials to protect human health while ensuring sick and at-risk animals receive the care they need.

Preventative measures can minimize trich impacts

Trichomoniasis is a sexually transmitted protozoan disease that causes pregnancy loss or abortion in the cow, prolonged calving intervals and high open rates in infected herds. An infected bull can quickly spread the disease to a high percentage of females in a herd. Several states have adopted rules to reduce the risk of transmission. Bulls are asymptomatic and there is no treatment for the disease. Currently 6-7% of US herds are showing an incidence of infection and annually there is an economic impact of \$65 million. Preventative strategies - use AI exclusively, import only virgin bulls, test older bulls, vaccinate TrichGuard is the only vaccine available and it must be given in two doses.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing

Wed. May 29, 2014, 8:00 a.m.
Wichita Co. Extension office
600 Scott St. Wichita Falls, Texas.
Call the Extension office for details

2014 Quail Masters

What is QuailMasters? Intensive, hands-on training. Exposes participants to the best quail habitat in the state of Texas and make them 'masters' of the art and science of quail management.

QuailMasters will enhance your decision-making skills relative to 3 phases of quail management:

Habitat Management; Population Management; People Management

QuailMasters Course Schedule:

Session I: Apr. 27-29, Roby

Session II: June 1-3, Location TBD

Session III: Aug 3-5, Location TBD

Session IV: Oct. 12-14, Location TBD

Cost: \$400

Includes most meals and all materials. Lodging & travel are the student's responsibility.

Registration is limited.



Mares Tail Plot Tour

Friday, April 18 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

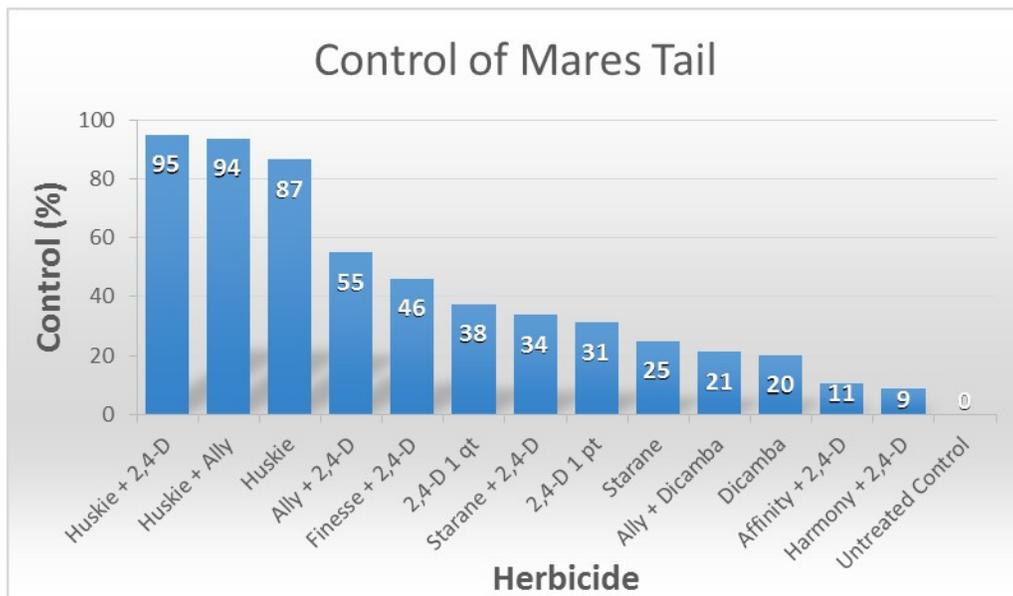
Off of Highway 287 at Iowa Park, exit on Bell Rd,
go 3.5 miles north to the white gates on the east side of
road.

Go to back of the wheat field.

(Across the road East of Barry Mahler's home place).

HUSKIE, at 14 days after treatment was had almost double the average control of other treatments for Mares Tail. While it is labeled for wheat, the impact on wheat yield in this plot has not been determined. Plots were sprayed March 20, at label rates for each chemical listed. All treatments included a non-ionic surfactant. Water volume of 12 gpa. Applied at 20 psi. Wind speed was 11 mph. Air temp of 73 degrees. Six inch soil temp 57 degrees.

14 Days after Treatment



Special thanks to: Barry Mahler, Winfield Solutions, Helena Chemical, Dr. Clark Neely, Dr. Todd Baughman, Jonathan Rameriz for their critical part in this trial, sponsored by the Wichita Crops

Farm Bill Wheat Example

by Dr. Mark Welch

If you want to get a taste of how the new farm program will work on paper, this could be for you. To help farmers prepare for the decisions they face in making a choice between PLC and ARC, Dr. Mark Welch, AgriLife economist and Dr. George Knapek, Ag Food Policy Center, have developed a sample comparison of how the programs will work under a hypothetical set of price and yield conditions. The price and yield components of this example are not intended as forecasts or expectations. The numbers are used to demonstrate the mechanics of ARC and PLC to produce one set of outcomes. While this example is for a specific area of Texas, it can be easily adapted to other production regions. Working through this example will help demonstrate the components of each program that affect the payment outcomes, particularly the relative sensitivity of each program to price and yield variability. A producer's expectations of both will be important factors in deciding into which program to enroll.

Remember this is strictly an example but it provides the mechanics of how this works under these conditions.

A copy has been added as an attachment, or please call the Extension office at 716-8610 and we can send you a copy

USDA Officially Announces Sign-Up Date for Farmer and Rancher

Disaster Assistance Programs

Sign-Up Begins April 15 for Livestock, Honeybee, Fruit Grower Programs

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) will provide payments to eligible producers for livestock deaths and grazing losses that have occurred since the expiration of the livestock disaster assistance programs in 2011, and including calendar years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to collect records documenting these losses in preparation for the enrollment in these disaster assistance programs. Information on the types of records necessary can be provided by local FSA county offices. Producers also are encouraged to contact their county office ahead of time to schedule an appointment.

Contact your local FSA office

FORMING DISCUSSION GROUPS FOR MARKETING/PRODUCTION



There has been some interest in forming a discussion group or groups for marketing and production that would allow producers to hear speakers on key topics and allow for group discussion. A couple of examples would be: 1] panel of speakers on cover crop pros/cons in a drought. 2] on-line live discussion with Joe Outlaw on farm bill decisions. Members of the group would decide meeting times, topics, and

speakers. Past experience with these type groups has shown groups need to be about 8-10 per group at most. This makes it easier to keep topics focused on what interests that group, plus members become more comfortable in sharing information. If you are interested, SIGN UP AT THE APRIL 21 FARM BILL MEETING, reply to our email, or call the Extension office 716-8610.



Beef Check-off Referendum

Upon request of the Texas cattle industry, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) will conduct a referendum on the establishment of a refundable assessment on cattle sales or ownership transfer in Texas.

Only an individual or legal business entity who has owned cattle any time in Texas from June 6, 2013 to June 6, 2014 is eligible to vote in the referendum.

Eligible Texas producers of cattle will vote to determine if a refundable maximum assessment of \$1.00 per head of cattle will be collected at each point of ownership transfer. The Beef Promotion and Research Council of Texas (BPRCT) will set the assessment rate each year, not to exceed the maximum assessment rate. The assessment will be used for promotion, marketing, research and educational efforts regarding beef and beef products.

The referendum will be held by physical balloting. Ballots will be available at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices beginning June 2, 2014. **Eligible producers may vote at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county offices June 2-6, 2014 during each office's regular business hours.**

If an eligible producer is unable to access a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service county office, beginning May 19, 2014, a ballot may be requested from TDA until no later than June 2, 2014.

Voting packets will be mailed by May 19, 2014, to all Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension offices. All ballots are to be mailed to TDA in Austin (return envelope will be provided), and the results will be released after June 19, 2014.

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.

FARM BILL BASICS MEETING



April 21, 2014

Region 9 Education Center,
301 Texas Loop 11, Wichita Falls
(south of Atwood's on Beverly Drive)

- ◆ 6:00pm start registration
- ◆ 6:30 serve meal; introduce sponsors
- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Welcome, intro- Stan Bevers, Caleb Pool (rep for Mac Thornberry)
- ◆ 7:10 Overview of Farm Bill- James Richardson (AFPC)
- ◆ 8:10 Basics of New Forage Program- Stan Bevers
- ◆ 8:30 Q/A
- ◆ 9 pm-adjourn

**Cost \$10
including meal**

☆ Learn about the three sign-ups and four new programs that are all part of this farm bill. .

☆ “Producers need to become familiar with as much as possible as soon as possible so they are prepared to make decisions that will impact them for the life of this farm bill,” Dr. James Richardson.

☆ Learn about PLC (Price Loss Coverage), ARC (Ag Risk Coverage), Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), the new STAX program for cotton.

☆ Get prepared to take advantage of updating base acres.

☆ Learn how reallocation of acres to generic acres can benefit you.

☆ Information on Livestock Forage Disaster Program and Livestock Indemnity Program, retroactive to 2012.

Pre-registration is requested so adequate food is prepared. Those unable to attend can access the presentations via the services of Region 9 by contacting the AgriLife extension office in Wichita County, 940-716-8610 for details.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating