



## Wichita County Agriculture News

February 2014

Extension Office \* 600 Scott Ave, Suite 200\* Wichita Falls, TX 76301\* 940-716-8610

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### 2014 Farm & Ranch Agenda

Hours: Wednesday, March 5, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Thursday, March 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

400 vendors from 27 states and Australia. Over \$5000 in prizes and giveaways.

Scott Daily Horse Training Demonstrations both days.

The expo will feature a live production bull sale again this year. Selling 30+ lots of high quality breeding bulls on Thursday March 6 in the JS Bridwell arena at 1:00pm. Bulls will be on hand both days to view starting at 12:00 (noon) on Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Continuing Education Units (CEU) for Oklahoma (4), Texas (8). Spray drift demo, managing pastures for cattle and wildlife; weed and brush management tips, much more (see attached agenda)

Visit the website [www.starexpos.net](http://www.starexpos.net)

Call the Wichita AgriLife Extension Office for details 940-716-8610

### Private Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing

Wed. March 26, 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.



## **2014 No-till Oklahoma Conference**

March 11th & 12th, 2014  
Registration opens at 7:30am  
Conference starts at 8:45am Mar. 11  
The National Center for Employee Development  
2801 State Highway 9 East  
Norman, Oklahoma 73071-1104  
Cost is \$115 (after February 25th \$140)



OVER 20 PRESENTATIONS, INCLUDING:

- \*Producer panel on no-till canola
- \*Diseases and weed control in wheat and canola
- \*Economics of no-till canola
- \*much more on intensive wheat production, grain sorghum, RMA info

### **CONTACT INFO**

Jason Warren, PhD.  
Soil and Water Conservation/Management Extension Specialist  
Oklahoma State University  
368 Ag Hall  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
(405) 744-1721  
[jason.warren@okstate.edu](mailto:jason.warren@okstate.edu)

For all the details on registration, topics, speakers, etc. go to <http://notill.okstate.edu/>

## **TAHC Adopts Cattle Rules for ... Trichomoniasis... Programs**

(excerpts from Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) Jan. 31, 2014 new release)

**Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis, Test Exceptions:** This rule allows untested adult bulls to be purchased without a current Trich test, if moved under TAHC permit with official permanent identification. TAHC inspectors will permit untested bulls from a market to either a feeding facility, another sale barn (if the intent is to resell it), or to another physical location given by the buyer. The permit will expire seven days from the date of issuance. The bull cannot be commingled with female cattle during the seven days. At the end of the seven days the buyer must agree to have the bull tested, resold through a livestock market, or deliver it to a slaughter facility.

**Chapter 51, Entry Requirements, Trichomoniasis:** The rule changes the Trich entry requirements to allow Texas bulls participating in out of state "bull station feeding trials" to return to their Texas farm of origin without a Trich test, if they were maintained in a controlled environment without any contact with female cattle while out of state.

To view details of all the rules that were adopted, visit <http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/regs/code.html>

Yvonne "Bonnie" Ramirez, Director of Communications & Public Relations

(512) 719-0710

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

## **LOCAL CATTLE MARKET UPDATE**

Wichita Livestock Sales Co., LLC

Report for Feb.12, 2014

Packer cows were \$5 to \$10 higher.

Bred cows/ pairs were steady with good demand.

*\*in some cases these cattle were not bringing much more than packer price*

Feeders were \$2- \$3 higher.

## **FDA PROPOSES VOLUNTARY ELIMINATIONS OF SOME ANTIMICROBIAL DRUGS FOR FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS**

On December 11, 2013 the U. S. Food and Drug Administration proposed plans concerning "antimicrobial drugs that are considered medically important and which are approved for use in feed and water of food animals". In short, antimicrobial drugs that are considered important in human medicine would no longer be permitted in feed or water for production purposes (improved weight gain, efficiency, etc.) and those same antimicrobial drugs used in feed to water to treat, control, or prevent sickness in food animals would require veterinary approval. To view the FDA announcement see: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/NewsEvents/CVMUpdates/ucm378166.htm>

*Beef Cattle Browsing – December 2013 Editor: Dr. Stephen Hammack*  
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/browsing/beef-cattle-browsing-december-2013/>

## **CANOLA for the Rolling Plains?**

A county agent's summary of comments from "grass roots" players and researchers.

### Upside-

- \*FINALLY, something to rotate with wheat, in the winter.
- \*Has the potential of equal net dollars to wheat.
- \*Simple method to significantly reduce grassy weeds.
- \*Reported increase in wheat yields following canola.
- \*Offers another option if weather pattern stays DRY and you are switching from summer to winter crops.

### Downside-

- \*Can it handle our cold weather? Or how soon can we learn varieties, planting info, etc. that make the difference.
- \*Equipment issues are still a challenge: how to get correct seeding rate and spacing; getting correct planting depth in stubble; harvesting.
- \* No consistency to date on varieties; lack of local variety data.
- \* Can't graze it.

If we had not been in a drought the past three years, plus be in the middle of one of the colder winters to date, most people would do back flips with the upside potential offered by canola. I'm not saying it is the answer, but we could have tried new varieties for mesquite and prickly pear in the past 3 years and been disappointed.

Learning a new crop, getting the right equipment and learning how to get it set correctly is not easy or quick . We are working now to set up canola variety trials in Wichita County to be planted this fall. If possible, there will be some seeding rate trials. If you have an interest in information on canola, please contact the Extension office, 940-716-8610 to be added to our CANOLA INFO EMAIL LIST.

## **TXSmallGrains on Twitter**

For those of you looking for current updates on small grains and oilseeds around Texas, consider following **TXSmallGrains** on Twitter. Updated posts on crop status; current issues; information on field days; educational material... all as it becomes available. Contact: Clark Neely cneely@ag.tamu.edu

## **Clark Neely, Ph.D.**

Small Grains and Oilseed Extension Specialist  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
342C Heep, College Station, TX 77843-2474  
Office: 979-862-1412  
Mobile: 814-571-5628  
Email: [cneely@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cneely@ag.tamu.edu)  
<http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/wheat/index.htm>



## **2014 Farm Bill Talking Points**

From the office of Dr. Joe Outlaw  
Professor and AgriLife Extension Economist  
Co-Director of the Agriculture Food Policy Center (AFPC)

Received Feb. 6, 2014

- The President is expected to sign the farm bill into law on Friday February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- It will take several months for USDA-FSA to interpret the changes in the new bill and be ready to implement it for producers.
- Producers should be cautioned that what they have read or have been told is in the farm bill is subject to change until the regulations for each of the programs is published.
- If past experience is a guide, sign-up would not occur until summer. There are significant changes to the commodity programs that provide the safety net to row crop producers that producers will need to become familiar with.
  - Direct payments that have provided the bulk of the producer safety net have been eliminated.
  - Producers will have to make a choice between a new agriculture risk coverage (ARC) program that protects producers against income losses relative their recent income experience and price loss coverage (PLC) that provides income protection against deep price declines.
  - Producers will also have the opportunity to update their base acres allowing them to obtain protection on crops they currently grow rather than what they grew during the 1980s.
  - These two decisions will have to be made for the 2014 crop and will not be changeable for the life of the farm bill. A new area-wide insurance program will be available to all producers to purchase beginning in 2015 that is designed to protect them against losses that would normally fall within their insurance deductible range.
- The farm bill decisions are quite complicated but AgriLife Extension Economists are working on educational materials and a tool to assist producers with these decisions.

Prior to sign-up with FSA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will conduct educational meetings across the state in cooperation with Texas FSA.

**Free Seminar  
on**

**“Saving our Trees”**

**Saturday, March 1, 2014; 8:30 - 12:30 p.m.  
River Bend Nature Center  
2200 3rd St, Wichita Falls, TX**

8:30-9:00	Registration. “Give us your questions”
9:00-10:00	Evaluating Trees/Tips to Save Them Gregory David, Certified Arborist, Muenster, Texas
10:00-10:30	Dealing with Day to Day Issues- Insects, Disease, Pruning Charlie Carr, Certified Arborist, Wichita Falls
10:30-11:00	Stretching Soil Moisture to the Max Paul Dowlearn, Low Water Use Nurseryman, Wichita Falls
11:00-11:30	Question/Answer Panel
11:30-12:30	RBNC Tree Tour -With presenters

For more information or to register contact the Wichita County Extension office at 940-716-8610

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David Graf, County Ag Ext Agent

## **2014 Ranch & Farm Agenda**

March 5, 2014

### **Wednesday, March 5 – 5 CEU's**

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast "Staying on Top in a Changing Industry"	Tim Niedecken Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers
8:00 a.m.	Registration	
8:40 a.m.	Welcome	Judge Gossom Wichita County Judge
	HOWDY. Focus of AgriLife in Texas	Ronald Woolley Regional Program Leader
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Laws & Regs for Critter Control	Henry Krusekopf TX Dept. Agriculture
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Brush Management Strategies For Profit	Ken Cearly AgriLife Wildlife Specialist
11:00-12:00 noon	Environmentally Safe Chemicals for Pond Management	Bob Lusk Whitesboro
1 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Pest Management for Quail	Dale Rollins AgriLife Wildlife Specialist
2:00 -3:00 p.m.	Pasture Weed ID & Brush Mgmt	Gerald Hobson Dupont

### **Thursday, March 6 – 3 CEU's**

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Coffee/juice/donuts	
8:00 a.m.	Registration	
8:40 a.m.	Welcome	Judge Gossom Wichita County Judge
	Ag Producers & AgriLife	Miles Dabovich District 3 Administrator
9:00 -10:00 a.m.	Demo- Technology in Equipment to Minimize Drift	Brian Bales, Wylie Sprayers Rick Rathbun, CAPSTAN
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Laws & Regs, Record Keeping	Henry Krusekopf TX Dept. Agriculture
11:00- 12:00 noon	IPM, Technology, and Winter Canola to Control Grassy Weeds in Wheat	Heath Sanders Great Plains Canola Assn
1:00 p.m.	Bull Sale	