

**News From Your County Agent**  
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**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**  
**Zavala County**

According to weather experts we have had 11 consecutive days with temperatures over 100 in our area, with Saturday and Sunday being the hottest and perhaps records in many parts of Texas. At least finally we will be getting a little relief from extreme heat early this week with temperatures dropping into the mid and upper 90's and even some decent chances of rain. Yes I know that is not much of a cool down, however its better than the other option. Of course, typically August is the hottest month for our region, so good bye July and welcome August. Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week.

**4-H Enrollment Begins August 15, 2015**

The new 4-H year will begin on September 1, 2017 and continue until August 31, 2018. New 4-H members must enroll in 4-H online using 4-H Connect when you join your first 4-H club in Zavala County. You will be asked to provide contact information, school enrollment, project involvement, and other important information about you as a new 4-H member that will be used by the county extension office and your club managers. Adult volunteers will also use 4-H Connect to supply contact information and complete required volunteer screening.

For current or existing 4-H members, re-enrollment is required EVERY YEAR, beginning August 15. Go to <http://texas.4honline.com>. Log in to your 4-H Connect account, verify that your information is correct, and submit your profile for review by your county extension agent. Remember to check that your address, e-mail address, phone number, age, and grade in school are accurate. Always use the free Mozilla internet browser. 4-H Connect does not function properly in Internet Explorer, Safari, Netscape, etc. Mozilla may be downloaded at [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com). Please be advised that 4-H Connect will be down for maintenance from August 11-14, 2017, so please do not attempt to register on the system during these days because it will not work. Remember there is a \$20.00 member participation fee due when you enroll. This participation fee goes up to \$25.00 after October 31, 2017. Complete enrollment and re-enrollment instructions are available from the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, by calling 830-374-2883 or go to the Zavala County AgriLife Extension Service Website at <https://zavala.agrilife.org/>. These instructions will also be available after August 15th on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**4-H State Lamb and Goat Validation Tag Orders Now Underway**

If you are planning to show a 4-H goat or lamb project at any major show in Texas you must have these animals validated through the Texas 4-H/FFA state validation program. Currently the Zavala County Extension Service office is taking orders for these tags. Cost for the tags is \$15.00 per tag for both lambs and goats if ordered between August 14-31. After August 31st the state will begin charging \$25.00 per tag, so order your tags early. Once you order your tags you will be notified as to the date, time and location where the state validation process will take place, however the state rules require that this state validation take place between October 1 and October 31, 2017.

Please note! If you will be showing your lamb or goat project ONLY in the Zavala County Livestock Show in Crystal City you DO NOT have to place a tag order for your lamb or goat project. State tags

are for goats and lambs that will be showing in a major show in Texas such as the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, Houston, San Angelo, Star of Texas show and others. If you are showing a lamb or goat project in Zavala County ONLY the local show goat and lamb validation process will take place on Saturday September 23, 2017 at the ZAE stockshow grounds in Crystal City from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for lambs and breeding ewes and from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon for meat goats and breeding doe's. For more information about the local or state validation process or to order state tags contact the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, by calling 830-374-2883 or go to the Zavala County AgriLife Extension Service Website at <https://zavala.agrilife.org/> . This information will also be available on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### **Tip of the week: Don't Forget Pets and Livestock During Extreme Heat**

Last week was indeed brutally hot for us humans so can you imagine what kind of toll this kind of heat will have on pets, livestock and other creatures living and trying to survive outdoors. It is important for all of us to do everything humanly possible to protect the animals that depend on us for their care and safety. For the most part livestock roaming loose in pastures and range will seek shelter, shade, water and they also have mechanisms that help them cope with extreme heat. However, those animals that are confined to pens, kennels, and other enclosures will need extra attention during periods of extreme heat. Here are some things you can do.

During periods of extreme heat, provide a large water bowl or trough that will not tip over. If the water is outdoors, leave it in a shady area so it stays cool. Automatic watering bowls tend to stay cooler. There are various new products available that refill pet bowls automatically. If necessary, leave more than one bowl or bucket of water for small livestock or pets. Take a plastic bottle and fill it slightly over half full of water and put it in your freezer to freeze. Then take it and put it in your pets water bowl or water bucket to help keep the water cool during the heat of the day.

Keep your pets and small livestock in well-ventilated areas — not the garage. Unless your garage is air-conditioned, heat builds up there quickly. Go stand in your garage for 10 minutes during the middle of the day and see how it feels. It's unbearable. Use portable fans if necessary to help circulate air in the area. Some 4-H families already have lamb and goat project on feed and in a pen so be sure to do all you can to keep these project comfortable.

There are many signs of heat stress that you can look for in your animals. Some general signs include: Panting, increased respiration rate, increased water intake, loss of appetite, listless/lethargy, increased salivation and in severe cases may become unconscious. You should ensure you are well informed on the heat stress signs of any species you own and watch closely during days of extreme heat.

If your animals are showing signs of heat stress the following actions can be taken to cool them down: Move them to the shade immediately, preferably somewhere with a breeze. If animals are too stressed to move, pick them up and move them or provide shade where they are; offer plenty of cool clean water, but encourage them to drink small amounts often spray them with cool water, especially on the legs and feet, or stand them in water. Use sprinklers or hoses for cattle, pigs and horses. Lay wet towels over them. Dogs and cats can be placed in buckets/troughs of cool water. Poultry should

not be wet down unless there is a breeze to aid the cooling process; increase air movement around them. This can be done with fans, ventilation, or wind movement; decrease stocking rates to allow animals room to lie down if the animal shows no sign of improvement contact your local veterinarian for assistance.

While heat stress can have significant impacts on production and animal welfare, by making some minor management changes and taking a little extra care of your animals during periods of extreme hot weather, the effects of heat stress can be substantially reduced. Stay cool and have a great week.  
M.V.

July 31-August 4, 2017

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.