

News From Your County Agent
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Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week. We finally got a little break from extremely hot conditions over the weekend, thanks to scattered showers that cooled down some spots of the county plus giving our area a little sip of water to an otherwise thirsty landscape. Remember earlier rains this spring provided ideal growing conditions for grasses and other vegetation to grow fast but much of this vegetation is dry so be careful as you celebrate the fourth of July weekend with fireworks and outdoor grilling. Happy fourth of July weekend to all of you.

2017 Aggie Youth Commercial Steer Camp Set

If you and your youngsters are interested in commercial steer projects then I encourage you to make plans to join us in College Station on July 26-27, 2017 for this year's Aggie Commercial Steer Camp. This camp is open to all students, parents, County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers who are interested in learning more about the commercial steer project.

Participants will gain valuable information regarding nutrition, quality and yield grading, record keeping, interview skills and giving speeches. Representatives from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and Texas Cattle Feeders Association will be onsite to answer any questions about their contests.

Registration ends on July 15, 2017. The camp is \$175 for students and \$100 for parents, County Extension Agents and Agricultural Science Teachers. To register for the program, please visit <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/steer>

Reminder To Sign Up For Beef Cattle Short Course

The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course has a rich tradition and historical place in the programs emanating from the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. Dating as far back as 1942, Professor John K Riggs started the first in a series of Beef Cattle Short Courses held on the campus of Texas A&M College to discuss the results of beef cattle research from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station with Texas beef producers. This historical beginning and purpose is still the standard today for the Beef Cattle Short Course held at Texas A&M University. Today the highly respected TAM Beef Cattle Short Course is nationally and internationally recognized as the largest attended beef cattle educational program of its type in the world.

This valuable event will be held on August 7-9 2017 in College Station Texas on the campus of Texas A&M University. Part of the short course is the Cattleman's College which features more than 20 concurrent sessions. Topics include animal health, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, selection, research, marketing and handling. Management sessions will cover business, forage, range, and purebred cattle. Topics such as landowner issues and fence building will be featured at this BCSC. Sessions are designed for everyone, from the newest member of the industry to the most seasoned producer. A number of pesticide CEUs, veterinarian CECs and BQA credits are available to attendees. Additionally, over 125 agriculture related businesses and trade show exhibitors annually attend the course and attest to the fact that it is the most highly attended activity of its kind anywhere in the United States. Annually over 1400 participants attend the Beef Cattle Short Course to gain valuable knowledge about beef cattle production. To register for this event go

to <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/content/uploads/2017/05/mailout-updateschedule1.pdf> or contact the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at (830) 374-2883.

Tip of The Week: Fireworks Safety For a Fun Fourth of July

One of the most popular parts of the Christmas season and the 4th of July celebration in Zavala County are the firework. For many of us fireworks are as much a part of summer celebrations as fajitas, ribs or mollejas on the grill. And like so many of the things that make summer great, a little preparation offers a whole lot of protection. These safety tips will help everybody at the party have an absolute blast.

Supervise the celebration. Fireworks are fun, but keep in mind they aren't toys and they shouldn't be handled by kids. Supervision is one of the most important safety measures to take when using fireworks — even those as simple as a sparkler.

Surround check. Look around before you light 'em up. Check to see that you're a good safe distance from buildings, vehicles, and most importantly, people and dry vegetation including your dry bbq wood pile.

Pup protection. You've probably noticed that dogs aren't big fans of fireworks. The loud noise scares the bark right out of them. It's probably best to keep your furry friends in the house to protect them from the big bang.

Ready aim. It should go without saying, but pointing or throwing fireworks at family and friends is never a good idea. Just aim for the sky and watch the colors fly!

One at a time. Lighting one firework at a time can go a long way towards keeping things manageable and controlled.

Watch the eyes. Protect your eyes from the heat and potential sparks by wearing a good pair of safety glasses.

Water works. It's a good idea to keep a bucket of water nearby and make sure you have easy access to a hose — just in case a wayward spark tries to start something.

Don't do duds. If you've got a dud, don't try to relight it. It could still be live. Wait a few minutes and then soak it in water before disposing of it.

I hope each of you has a great and safe 4th of July weekend. M.V.

June 25-30, 2017.

