

**News From Your County Agent**  
**By Marcel Valdez, CEA-ANR**  
**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**  
**Zavala County**

After a typical southwest Texas blistering hot weekend we begin the week with thunder, lightning, rain and cooler temperatures all which started around 2:00 a.m. on Monday. An unusual cool front made its way to our area giving us a cool Monday to start the week and temperatures should be under the century mark for most of the week. Remember recent rains have provided water in unintended collection sites making for suitable breeding grounds for mosquitoes so please empty any containers that are holding water and use insect repellents when outdoors. Greetings to all of you and thank for reading this week.

**10 Days Remain For You To Get Steer Projects and Validate Them**

By the time this article is published you will have approximately 10 days to find and get a steer project and make plans to validate such projects. The annual steer validation for all steer projects in Zavala County will be held on Saturday June 22, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Chaparrosa Ranch facilities located south of La Pryor. If you plan to show a steer at the county show you will need to have purchased these animals by this day and bring the animals to the validation site in order for your to be eligible to show in the 2020 Zavala County Junior Livestock show. If you ordered a state steer validation tag and plan to show a steer project in San Antonio, Houston, Austin or any other major show in Texas you must also have these animals validated on this date. If you need more information about the steer validation process contact the Zavala County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

**Changes Might Be Coming For Food Labeling**

Many folks stick to the label use by date to a “T” because of confusion in the way many food products are labeled. U.S. regulators are urging food-makers to be more consistent with labeling terms like “Best By” and “Enjoy By” that cause confusion. By clarifying the meaning of such dates, they are trying to prevent people from prematurely tossing products and to reduce the mountains of food that goes to waste each year.

So what is new? Phrases like “Best By”, “Enjoy By” and “Fresh Through” generally indicate when a food’s quality would decline — not when it becomes unsafe to eat. To help make that clearer, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently recommended companies stick with “Best If Used By.” Industry groups got behind the phrase after earlier guidance from regulators, along with the more definitive “Use By” for perishables food that should be thrown out after a certain date. But the FDA hasn’t endorsed the latter phrase, which could have safety implications. Regardless, the FDA’s recommendation isn’t mandatory, and consumers will likely continue seeing variations, in some cases because of local regulations. With milk, for instance, states may require “Sell By” or other labeling.

It’s difficult for manufacturers to pinpoint how long foods will stay good, given variables like how long they sit on loading docks and how they’re stored in people’s homes. Milk should be good for at least a few days after its “Sell By” date, though exactly how long will depend on factors including

pasteurization methods. Many people use dates on packages as guideposts and rely on their senses. Crackers might taste stale, for instance, while more perishable foods might be discolored or smell funky. Foods like fresh meat and dairy are more vulnerable to spoilage in part because their moisture allows the small amounts of bacteria to multiply more quickly. In some cases people do not even look at the labels which can provide good information about the product you are buying. With that said many of us need to remember that every time we waste food by throwing away perfectly good products it could be products that could be used to fight hunger somewhere in the United States or the world. We will see what federal changes will take place and when, so stay tuned.

### **Tip of The Week: New Cattle and Horse Rules Go Into Effect Wednesday June 12, 2019**

As all of you know regulations for livestock continue to change and as Zavala County producers you should stay informed about current rules that may affect how you do business in Zavala County, in Texas and across the country. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) held a regularly scheduled Commission meeting on May 21, 2019, at its headquarters in Austin. The following rules were adopted and will go into effect on June 12, 2019.

#### **Chapter 51, Entry Requirements – Exotic Cervids**

The TAHC will no longer require Brucellosis testing for captive exotic cervids entering Texas. However, Brucellosis testing is still required for captive exotic cervids if they were once free ranging or if they resided within the Designated Surveillance Area or the Greater Yellowstone Area.

#### **Rule Review for Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis; Chapter 43, Tuberculosis; Chapter 47, Authorized Personnel; Chapter 50, Animal Disease Traceability; Chapter 51, Entry Requirements**

The Commission received no comments on the rule reviews. The Commission made the assessment that the rules should continue to exist for disease control purposes.

#### **Chapter 38, Trichomoniasis**

Three changes were proposed to the Trichomoniasis (Trich) chapter.

1. The proposed amendment no longer allows samples to be pooled by approved laboratories as an official Trichomoniasis test for positive herds, herds identified as adjacent premises, and change of ownership testing. These samples must be submitted individually.
2. It was proposed that the use of virgin certificates be restricted to sexually intact male cattle under 18 months of age belonging to a breed registry, which maintains an official list of animals within a specific breed and associated with a unique identification. Thus, the amendment requires all male cattle under 18 months of age not belonging to a breed registry to be tested for Trich before being sold.
3. The proposed amendment requires sellers to provide a written disclosure for female cattle that have been exposed or potentially exposed to a Trich positive bull within the six months prior to sale. The provision allows a buyer of female cattle to take this information into account for herd management when purchasing female cattle for breeding purposes.

#### **Chapter 44, Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)**

The proposed rule creates Chapter 44 for the purpose of establishing a Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) control program. Due to the adverse effects the disease has on both the health and

productivity of cattle, TAHC proposes to designate BVDV as a reportable disease in order to control the significant animal disease threat.

The proposed rule contains the primary elements and standards of a BVDV Control Program which include: movement restrictions on animals determined to be persistently infected (PI), reporting requirements, official BVDV tests and testing requirements, official identification requirements, biosecurity standards, and recordkeeping requirements.

Bovine viral diarrhea is a viral disease of cattle and other ruminants that is caused by the bovine viral diarrhea virus. BVDV is a member of the pestivirus genus. The transient BVDV infections cause diarrhea, decreased milk production, reproductive disorders, increased occurrence of other diseases and death. The losses from fetal infection include abortions, congenital defects, weak and abnormally small calves, unthrifty, and death among PI animals. Learn more about BVDV at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/emergingissues/downloads/bvdinfosheet.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergingissues/downloads/bvdinfosheet.pdf).

#### **Chapter 45, Reportable Disease (BVD)**

The proposed rule adds Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus to the already established reportable disease list.

#### **Chapter 49, Equine (Official Identification)**

The proposed amendment includes the following electronic identification (ID) as official identification for equine tested for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA): Unique and permanent forms of identifications, such as electronic ID compliant with ISO 11784/11785, non-ISO electronic ID injected in the equine on or before March 11, 2014, and digital photographs sufficient to identify the individual equine.

#### **Chapter 51, Entry Requirements (Equine)**

The proposed amendment incorporates forms of electronic identification (see Chapter 49, Equine rule proposal) as official identification for equine moving on an equine passport. Complete details of the rule proposals are available on the TAHC website at [www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html](http://www.tahc.texas.gov/regs/proposals.html). Have a wonderful week-M.V.

June 10-14, 2019.