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CALF MANAGEMENT TIPS

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by Joe C. Paschal, Livestock Specialist,
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas is one of the few states that can go from the dead of winter to the beginning of summer in five days. Fortunately, the calves that are coming now in pastures throughout the bottom half of Texas will be the prime beneficiary of the better weather as will the green that is beginning to appear in pastures from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. Now is the time to consider a few economically beneficial few calf management tips.

First, when possible, your calves should be identified. A good ear tag will help you remember the birthdate and dam of the calf, and later at weaning and marketing, his growth rate and market value. Calves born early in the season weigh more at weaning (about 2-2.5 lbs. more per day of

age) and calves that are born earlier are generally out of more adapted (and fertile) cows. Calf weight at weaning and marketing will assist you in deciding which cows are more productive and produce more valuable calves.

Second, as soon after birth as possible, castrate bull calves that you are not intending to raise and dehorn all calves. Doing these practices at a very young age reduces the pain of the procedure and increases the speed of recovery. Castrated calves are more desired by the feeding industry and they bring more dollars per pound when marketed as their carcasses will quality grade higher and be more valuable. The downside to castration is the steer calves will weigh less at weaning than bull calves but using a calf growth implant

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Lee County Extension News is a service of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Lee County.

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

PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT

INSECTS

Phylloxera

For producers that observed galls, Fig 1, on new pecan growth last season, treatment time is here, depending on your location. Insecticide applications should be applied when there is approximately 1 to 2 inches of new growth. Treatments need to be made only to those trees that had galls last season. If you are unsure about activity, the orangish-yellow crawlers, Fig 2 can be seen with the aid of a 10X lens. Recommended insecticides can be found in the table at the end of this letter.

Figure 1.
 Pecan stem
 phylloxera
 galls.



Obscure Scale

Pecan is considered an oil sensitive crop and therefore oil treatments for obscure scale should only be made during the dormant

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WALNUT CATERPILLAR

Just a heads up on this pest. Based on dates of observed damage in past years and time required for egg maturity and larval development, Bill Ree, Extension Program Specialist, is alerting Pecan Growers to be on the look out for walnut caterpillar egg lay, which he believes could be under way.

The best defense for preventing defoliation from the walnut caterpillar is to recognize a problem before it gets out of hand. Although trees will re-foliate after defoliation, the impact of defoliation can

severely impact the crop.

Early indications of activity can include finding egg masses, defoliated terminals, frass (droppings) on sidewalks and orchard floor and observing cast skins from molting on tree trunks.

Insecticides recommended for management are in the table below.

Bill Ree, Extension Program Specialist III—
IPM, Texas Pecan Pest Management
Newsletter, May 16, 2019



Egg Mass with first instar larvae.

FREE CEUs OFFERED MONTHLY

The monthly Natural Resources Webinars, each offering one Continue Education Unit for Pesticide Private Applications, continue. The Webinars are free.

RSVP the day before, to 979-542-2753

The remaining dates are:

- July 11** Texas Pesticide Laws & Regs
1 IPM
- Aug 1** Ready to Control Some Brush? Leaf Spraying Options
1 General
- Sept 5** Selection and Management of Introduced and Native Grasses
1 IPM
- Oct 3** Mesquite and Mixed Brush Herbicide Treatments
1 General
- Nov. 7** Pesticide Laws & Regulations
1 L&R
- Dec. 5** The Tools in Our Land Management Toolbox
1 IPM

Suggested insecticides for controlling pecan nut casebearer, walnut caterpillar, and fall webworm. This information is provided for educational purposes. Read and follow label directions.

Insecticide			
Active ingredient	IRAC group	Brand name	Remarks
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	11A	Javelin-WG® Crymax® Deliver®	Bt insecticides have short residual activity, multiple applications may be needed for control
Methoxyfenozide	18	Intrepid® 2F	Grazing allowed
Spinetoram	5	Delegate®	Grazing allowed
Spinosad	5	Entrust** SpinTor® 2SC, Success®	Grazing allowed
Tebufenizide	18	Confirm® 2F	Do not graze livestock in treated orchards
Chlorantraniliprole	28	Altacor	Grazing allowed
Methoxyfenozide + Spinetoram	5 18	Intrepid Edge	Grazing allowed
Flubendiamate	28	Belt SC	Grazing allowed

*The spinosad formulation of Entrust is approved for organic production by the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI).

Note: Other insecticides, including chlorpyrifos, pyrethroid insecticides, combinations of these active ingredients, and malathion, are also labeled for PNC control in pecans. However, these broad spectrum insecticides can have a negative impact on beneficial insects and increase the risk of outbreaks of other pests. For this reason, only insecticides that target primarily pecan nut casebearer and other related caterpillar pests are included in this table. See Table 12 for list of all insecticides labeled

GENERAL TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT TIPS

WATERING

You may have noticed that throughout much of the state we have received A LOT of rainfall over the past several months. For most of us, it will be some time before we really need to be supplementing irrigation on a regular basis to support healthy turfgrass growth. It can be tempting with the warmer weather this time of year to get outside and start feeding the lawn with water and nitrogen-based fertilizers, but *applying these too early in the year on warm-season turfgrass can promote disease and be detrimental to turfgrass health in the long-run*. Instead, now is a great time to start thinking about an annual irrigation audit.

Conducting an audit, as early as in March or April, allows time to check irrigation efficiency, familiarize yourself with the precipitation rate of your system, and make any repairs before temperatures spike and irrigation becomes a necessity. So, where do you begin?

You have a couple of options:

1. Hire a licensed Landscape Irrigator, Irrigation Technician, or Irrigation Inspector to conduct a formal audit on your system. (Cost can typically range from \$200 – \$700 depending on the size of your system and the scope of the audit).

2. Complete a catch can audit on your own.

There are advantages to both options.

In the state of Texas, "a person may not sell, design, install, maintain, alter, repair, service or inspect an irrigation system – or consult in these activities – in this state, unless the person is licensed by the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ)." Licensed irrigation professionals have un-

dergone considerable training and maintain their training through continuing education within the state. For more information on Landscape Irrigators, and other occupational licenses related to irrigation in the state of Texas, you can click [here](#).

The advantage to having a licensed professional perform an irrigation audit is that they are the best-equipped to identify less obvious problems with your irrigation system that may be impeding the efficiency of that system without your knowledge. Particularly if you have moved into a new home and are using the irrigation system for the first time, a professional audit is one way to ensure that your system complies with rule requirements and has no immediate problems. When seeking a licensed irrigation specialist, you can start with your AgriLife County Extension office or local landscape professionals. Many professional lawn care companies will have a licensed irrigator on staff.

A **catch can audit** is one way that you can evaluate your irrigation system on your own. This option can sometimes prove more convenient and cost-effective depending on your overarching goal. Performing an audit yourself also allows you to better familiarize yourself with your irrigation system which can be beneficial in reaching your watering goals and monitoring the system for defects throughout the summer. Ideally, a catch can audit will tell you two key things about your irrigation system:

1. **The precipitation rate.** In other words, how long do I need to run my system in order to put my desired inches of water across my lawn?

2. **Distribution uniformity.** When you run your system, is each area of your lawn receiving equal coverage, or are some areas receiving excess or insufficient water? Uneven water coverage can create problems with turfgrass health and compromise your ability to use water efficiently

3. **Leaks, Clogs, and Broken Equipment.** An audit can help to identify system problems including leaks, clogged nozzles, or broken sprinkler heads.

Catch Can Sets are available through the **AgriLife Bookstore** (BN-019: Homeowner Aggie Irrigation Catch Can Kit), or you can use similar items you may have on hand such as tuna fish cans or coffee cans.



Catch Can Sets available through AgriLife Bookstore.

Remember that it is important to continue monitoring irrigation equipment throughout the summer to prevent new problems from arising.

Turfgrass will not require water on a regular basis until it is actively growing. Remember that environmental factors including temperature, wind, humidity, and precipitation will all influence how much supplemental irrigation is required to support plant growth. To use water most efficiently, you can manually turn-on water based on visible wilt or stress. Even during the hottest months of the year, most warm-season turfgrass

GENERAL TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT TIPS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

will maintain an acceptable appearance with an average of 1 to 1.5" of water per week applied deeply and infrequently (typically across 12 days per week).

Early morning watering will help reduce the period of leaf wetness and optimize water-use efficiency compared with evening or midday watering.

MOWING

Mowing is a practice performed on an as-needed basis. It may be April or May before turfgrass needs regular mowing, but you might still find that mowing early can be useful in regulating residual winter weeds and the new summer weeds that start to emerge. For more information about mowing including an overview of appropriate mowing heights and frequency, visit the [AggieTurf](#) website.

A new publication on appropriate mowing practices for warm-season turfgrasses is available to subscribers of AggieTurf. To subscribe to AggieTurf, click on the link above and sign-up using the form on the home page.

FERTILIZATION

When considering nutrient management, the focus should generally be more on preparation and planning, rather than early applications. The first step in developing a successful fertilization plan for the growing season is to conduct a soil test if you have not done so within the

past year.

A soil test will provide information on key soil characteristics that will influence nutrient management decisions including:

- Soil pH
- Macronutrient availability
- Micronutrient availability

To conduct your soil test, you will need to collect approximately 10 - 15 samples across the area that you intend to manage in order to get an average estimate of soil properties. Samples should be collected at a depth of between 4" to 6" where the majority of roots are concentrated in a turfgrass lawn. Combine your samples and blend them well. Samples can be submitted to the Soil, Water, and Forage testing lab in College Station. You can also submit samples to a private lab depending on your personal preference. Finally, you have the option to submit a separate sample for any problem area or area that you wish to manage differently.

If this is the first soil test you have completed in three years or more, it is recommended that you select the "R + Micronutrients" option from the urban soil submittal form. In addition to providing information on macronutrients (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, sulfur, and calcium), it will provide information on key micronutrients including iron, zinc, manganese and boron. It can be valuable to evaluate micronutrient availability at least once every 3

years. For macronutrients, it is recommended that you consider an annual soil test, as these may change more rapidly depending on your management practices.

While nitrogen rates can be determined largely by turfgrass species, use, and management capabilities, other nutrient rates including phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) should be determined by your soil test.

In general, nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied to warm-season turfgrass until it has been mowed at least twice for the year.

Warm-season turfgrass lawns in Texas typically require up to three nitrogen fertilizer applications per year, applied between May and October. Single application rates will often be between 0.5 and 1 lb of N per 1000 ft². Of course, the annual amount of fertilizer applied will be dictated by growth rate, environmental conditions, and overall expectation of the homeowner.

It is important not to over-apply fertilizers to your lawn or to apply at inappropriate times as this can result in increased environmental losses and nutrient pollution into ground water and surface water resources. Follow label recommendations for your product and species of turfgrass, recognizing that different turfgrass species may require more or less nitrogen than others. For annual nitrogen requirements by species, visit individual species pages on the [AggieTurf website](#).

See attached flyer for the July 19 Workshop.

Land Management Options

Topics to include: Pond Weeds, Common Tree Diseases, Fire-Wise Landscapes and Prescribed Burns.

[Texas Lawn Companion, Spring 2019 Edition,
Dr. Becky Grubbs-Bowling, Assistant Professor &
Turfgrass Extension Specialist, Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension]

PECAN PEST MANAGEMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



Figure 2. Yellowish orange phylloxera crawlers on new growth.

Photo credit; Dr. Mike Hall (retired)



Figure 3. Stage of new growth for phylloxera treatments.

season. However, if you missed the opportunity for a dormant oil treatment you can still achieve some control by treating for the crawler stage. To monitor for crawler activity I have had good luck using double-sided sticky tape, secured with a pushpin to tree trunks and branches. When crawlers are observed a treatment with a contact insecticide can help reduce the spread of this insect.

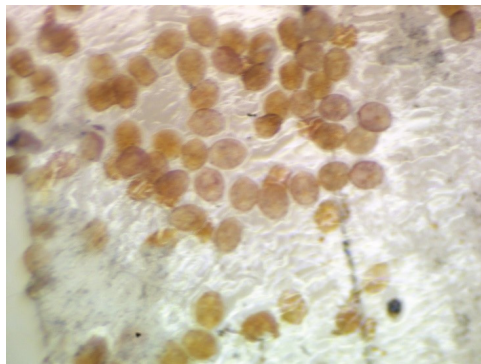


Figure 4. Obscure scale crawlers collected on sticky tape band.

Borers

Borer issues on pecan are always a secondary problem caused by some type of stress or injury. Injury could be the result of freeze damage, sun scald, rodents, equipment injury or from other insects.

There are numerous insects that can attack the woody portion of the tree and a good reference for these insects is "A Guide to the Insect Borers, Pruners and Girdlers of Pecan and Hickory" by J. D. Solomon and J. A. Payne. This publication can be found at: https://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_so064.pdf.

In regard to "borer" management, the first recommendation is to promote good tree vigor. Other additional management options include the use of systemic imidacloprid applications and trunk sprays with contact insecticides when adult beetles are

observed on tree trunks.

Figure 7. Young pecan tree showing signs of flat-headed apple tree borer injury. (Cracked and sunken area)



Pecan Nut Casebearer

Anyone in the pecan business knows the importance of monitoring and management of PNC and we as a commodity are fortunate in that we have an excellent monitoring tool with the PNC pheromone trap. Using the pheromone trap

The following are a few businesses that sell PNC traps and lures. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension recommends 3 traps for 50 acres or less and at least 5 traps for orchards larger than 50 acres. Traps should be placed in the orchard 20 - 30 days prior to an average spray date to ensure that the start of the initial adult flight is detected.

Great Lakes IPM Tel: 800-235-0285
www.greatlakesipm.com

ISCA Technologies/Moritor Technologies Tel: 951-686-5008
www.iscatech.com

Oliver Pecan Co. Inc. Tel: 800-657-9291
www.oliverpecan.com

Pape Pecan House Tel: 830-379-7442
www.papepecan.com/

Southern Nut 'n Tree Equipment Tel: 800-527-1825
www.sntequipment.com

Trece Tel: 918-785-3061
www.trece.com (for bulk orders only)

Granulate Ambrosia Beetle (aka, Asian Ambrosia beetle)

This insect was first observed in the early 1990's infesting pecans in Anderson County. The Granulate ambrosia beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*, is an invasive ambrosia beetle that was first detected in the United States in the mid 1970's infesting peaches in South Carolina.

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Healthy Summer Days and Nights

Staying healthy during the summer can be a difficult task due to vacations, summer camps and busy schedules. Here are some tips for you to stay healthy this summer season.

REST - because the days are longer, you may find yourself staying up later. The average person needs 7-9 hours of sleep a night. Studies have also shown that people who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk of obesity and food cravings.

HYDRATE - because of the higher temperatures our bodies work harder to stay cool by perspiration (sweating). To prevent dehydration drink a minimum of 64 oz of water each day.

STAY COOL - Try swimming or any other water sport of your liking. If you

are exercising outdoors, remember to wear light clothing that allows you to stay dry and cool to prevent heat exhaustion.

EAT SUMMER FOODS - Lots of great fruits and vegetables are currently in season. Add zucchini, tomatoes, cantaloupe and watermelon as side dishes to your meals. These foods are low-calories which may help you eat less while keeping you full.

[<https://dinnertonight.tamu.edu>]

Looking for something for



DINNER TONIGHT
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Get help with meals and menu ideas.
Healthy and delicious, these recipes
cook up in a snap.

<https://dinnertonight.tamu.edu>

PECAN PEST MGMT

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This beetle attacks a wide range of deciduous trees, which unfortunately includes pecan and is present in the eastern half of Texas.

Infestation usually first become apparent in the spring when newly infested trees either fail to leaf out or the tree leafs out but the new foliage soon wilts.

Infestations also have a characteristic "toothpick" of frass that sticks out about 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches as shown in the attached picture. These infestations are usually on the main trunk or scaffold limbs but can even occur on exposed roots. Infestations start in the spring with a mated female beetle initiating an attack on a host plant. These female ambrosia beetles carry spores of a fungus with them which

they inoculate their galleries. The female lays eggs in her gallery and the adult beetle and the larvae feed on the fungus rather than the tree. Upon completion of larval development males mate with their sisters and only mated females exit the host plant to start the cycle again. Males are not capable of flight.

Trees that are heavily infested will die and should be removed. However, under light infestations, trees can survive. Removed trees should be destroyed (burned, chipped, buried, etc.) rather than just tossed on a brush pile. If anyone observes this type of damage, Bill Ree, Extension Specialist would like to hear about it. w-ree@tamu.edu

[Texas Pecan Pest Management Newsletter, March 2019; Bill Ree, Extension Specialist III]

Summer Veggies with Bow-Tie Pasta

Course: Kid Friendly, Main Dishes, Side Dishes, Snacks, Vegetables

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

- 2 yellow crook-neck squash, sliced
- 2 zucchini, sliced
- 12 baby carrots, sliced
- 1/2 head red/purple cabbage, chopped
(about 2-1/2 cups)
- 2 tsp canola oil
- 1 box (16 oz) Farfalle pasta bowtie, whole wheat
- 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsps low sodium soy sauce

Instructions:

1. In skillet, put all vegetables with sprays of butter.
2. Place lid on vegetables and cook until tender.
3. In sauce pan, prepare pasta as directed on box.
4. Drain pasta, toss with cooked vegetables.
5. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container	
Serving Size	214 g
Amount per serving	
Calories	250
% Daily Value *	
Total Fat 4g	5%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 220mg	10%
Total Carbohydrate 49g	18%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 6g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 11g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 72mg	6%
Iron 3mg	15%
Potassium 635 mg	15%

*The % Daily Value tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet, 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

KEEPING SUMMER'S BOUNTY SAFE TO EAT

Fresh melons and berries fill the aisles of grocery stores and markets. Roadside produce stands full of home grown fruits and vegetables are seen along the highway. All of these are signs that summer is here and so is a bounty of fresh produce. "Summer's harvest of fresh fruits and vegetables is an important part of a healthy diet," said Tonya Poncik, Lee County Extension Agent, Family and Community Health. "Just remember to handle fresh produce safely to prevent foodborne illness," she said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that there are 48 million cases of foodborne illnesses each year resulting in 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths.

Although not traditionally associated with foodborne illness, fresh fruits and vegetables have been linked to several outbreaks. That's because fresh produce is often eaten raw. In fact, in past years a number of outbreaks have been traced to fresh fruits and vegetables that were processed under less than sanitary conditions.

To help consumers keep fruits and vegetables safe to eat, the Partnership for Food Safety Education (www.fightbac.org) gives six recommendations for safe handling of fresh produce:

Check: "Food safety for fresh fruits and vegetables begins at the store," Tonya said. Before purchasing, make sure the produce is not bruised, cut or damaged. If purchasing items that are pre-cut, such as melons, or packaged, such as salads, buy only the items that have been

kept refrigerated.

CLEAN: Hands should be washed in warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling fresh produce. Make sure cutting boards, counter tops, peelers and knives are also clean before using them.

Fresh produce should be rinsed under running tap water before you eat it. That's also true for fruits and vegetables that have rinds or skins that will not be eaten. "People don't realize they need to scrub the outside of melons with a vegetable brush or rub them with their hands under running water," Tonya said. "If bacteria contaminate the outside of a melon for example, when you slice into it you have the potential of bringing that contamination into the



fruit."

Clean firm-skinned produce with a clean vegetable brush or rub it with your hands under running tap water. Do not use detergent or bleach to wash fresh produce. After washing, dry fruits and vegetables with a clean cloth or paper towel.

Vegetable brushes can be purchased at your local variety store for two to four dollars. They are an inexpensive tool

that can help you keep your fresh produce safe to eat.

SEPARATE: In the grocery cart, keep fresh fruits and vegetables away from such items as cleaners, detergents and raw meat, poultry and fish. At home, that advice also holds true during storage in the refrigerator and during preparation. Keep fresh produce away from raw meat, poultry and fish.

Do not use the same cutting board for produce and meats unless it is cleaned with hot, soapy water before and after food preparation.

COOK: If fresh produce has been in contact with raw meat, poultry, fish or their juices, throw it away or cook it thoroughly.

CHILL: To prevent bacterial growth, store all cut, peeled or cooked produce in the refrigerator within two hours.

THROW AWAY: Fresh fruits and vegetables that have not been refrigerated within two hours of cutting, peeling or cooking, should be thrown away. Remove and throw away bruised or damaged portions of fresh produce before cooking or eating them raw. Any fruit or vegetable that will not be cooked and that has been contaminated by raw meat, poultry, fish or their juices should also be thrown away.

"If in doubt about the safety of a fruit or vegetable, throw it out!" Tonya said.

For more information on safe handling of fresh produce, contact the Lee County office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

African Swine Fever (ASF as it is commonly referred to) has been in the news recently as a result of an outbreak in China. It is a major health threat to swine production in many countries, but fortunately it is not in the US. ASF is a highly contagious viral disease that causes death in domestic and wild pigs of all ages. Symptoms include high fever; decreased appetite and weakness; red, blotchy skin or skin lesions; diarrhea and vomiting; and coughing and difficulty in breathing. Mortality rate is as high as 100% within 2-10 days. ASF is spread from hog to hog via body fluids and some ticks as well as feeding uncooked leftovers or by travelling from an infected farm to an uninfected one. ASF is not a threat to human health and

cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans and it is not a food safety issue for people. Symptoms are similar to classical swine fever so accurate diagnosis is important.

ASF was first identified Africa in the 1920s. In 1957 it was found in Portugal after pigs were fed leftovers from airplanes from a nearby airport containing infected pork. Smaller outbreaks have occurred in other European and Caribbean countries since then. In 2007 it was reported in the Republic of Georgia and then China in 2018. In 2019 it has been reported in Mongolia, Vietnam and Japan (in March). Since there is no treatment or vaccine for ASF, the only option to reduce its spread is depopulation of sick or infected animals.

USDA's Agricultural Research Service began to research it in the 1970s. In the 1990s, they began focusing on the genome of the virus (containing about 150 genes) to determine which genes might cause the sickness and keep them from activating the disease. Then they could then create a live attenuated vaccine, like the vaccines for measles, polio and smallpox in humans. That program was slowed by lack of funding in 2004 but has recently been revived with assistance from the Department of Homeland Security. In the meantime, since there is no vaccine, producers should practice good biosecurity management by restricting movement of hogs and people on and off their locations. In addition, Customs and Border Protection is on alert for passengers arriving from affected countries who might be carrying uncooked pork products. In March, over

one million pounds of illegal products containing pork from China were confiscated in New York. China has culled over 1,000,000 pigs in an effort to control their ASF outbreak.

In addition to the research on vaccine development, there is also research on diagnostic methods. Being able to quickly and accurately determine presence of the contagious virus is critical to containment, since there are no vaccines currently. In one method, a rope is suspended in a pen for pigs to chew on and then the oral fluids can be collected and tested for the virus, a simple and effective method to test for a group of swine. Currently there are two vaccine candidates but no approved vaccine. This work is being conducted through USDA APHIS and the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology.

The US pork industry is a powerhouse with its' 2018 inventory of 73 million head producing 20 billion pounds of pork. But it is well behind No. 1 ranked China with 433 million and the No.2 European Union's 150 million head of pigs. But Texas isn't as well known for hog production. In 2018 it ranked 18th (out of 50 states) with an inventory of about one million head, the majority located in the Panhandle, well behind No. 1 ranked Iowa with an inventory of 23 million head. An ASF outbreak, however accidental or unintentional, would devastate the US swine herd and pork production. If you travel internationally, don't bring pork products back unless you declare them!

[Joe C. Paschal, Livestock Specialist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension,
Corpus Christi]

CALF MANAGEMENT TIPS *Cont'd from Page 1*

when castrating will offset the loss of gain. Dehorning or disbudding will improve the appearance and uniformity of the calves and reduce the potential for injury to you and other animals. If genetically homozygous polled bulls or cows are used, dehorning will not be necessary.

Finally, vaccinate your calves for the Blackleg or Clostridial diseases, especially if their dams have not been vaccinated and the calves are over a month old. This vaccination will protect calves from these "sudden death" diseases. All the commercial vaccines provide excellent immunity from these diseases and all calves should receive vaccinations and boosters according to the label.

Speak with your veterinarian about your herd health management.

Extension Education Schedules Tour

Have you thought of taking a family vacation, but didn't want to commit yourself to all the driving that involves? How about leaving all the driving and reservations to the Lee County Extension Education Association and join them on their upcoming tour, July 15 - July 20. This 6-day/5-night trip includes a full schedule of activities and events and is open to all. Seats are limited, so register soon. Registration deposits are due now, with monthly installments due the next two months.

The trip includes stops at:

U. S. SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER – Visit historical Shuttle Park, Rocket Park and all indoor exhibit areas such as the main museum atrium and the Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Tour the Saturn V Hall, mockups of two International Space Station modules and see the Huntsville Operations Support Center, Space Station Development Laboratory and the historic Redstone Test Stand on the Marshall Space Flight Center Bus Tour.



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, the world-premiere exhibition, "Apollo: When We Went to the Moon", chronicles the timeline from the beginning of the Space Race – a time when the U.S. and Soviet Union competed over their accomplishments in space exploration – to the collaborative culture of the International Space Station program and beyond.

ROCK CITY, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, RUBY FALLS – Rock City will amaze you. Located atop Lookout Mountain, Rock City is a true marvel of nature featuring massive ancient rock formations, gardens with over 400 native plant species, and breathtaking "See 7 States" panoramic views.

Take an unforgettable journey along the Enchanted Trail where each step reveals natural beauty and wonders along the woodland path.



Take a thrilling ride on the Incline Railway, the world's steepest passenger railway. In operation since 1895, the Incline is a National Historic site and Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

Ruby Falls is the nation's tallest and deepest underground waterfall open to the public in the U.S. Every day hundreds of gallons of water rush over the falls by the minute and amaze visitors. In 1928, Leo Lambert and a team of excavators found a breathtaking waterfall located over 1,120 feet below the surface

of Lookout Mountain. Lambert named the falls after his wife, Ruby, and opened the area as a public attraction in 1930.

WORLD OF COCA COLA MUSEUM – There's plenty to see and do at World of Coca-Cola. You can visit the vault where our legendary secret formula for Coca-Cola is secured and taste 100+ beverages from around the world.

Regarded as the most closely guarded and best-kept secret, the secret formula for Coca-Cola represents over 125 years of history, special moments, memories and the timeless appeal associated with Coca-Cola. Now you can get closer to the famous secret formula than ever before!



STONE MOUNTAIN PARK – Rising 1,686 feet above sea level, Stone Mountain is a quartz monzonite dome monadnock. A trip on the Summit Skyride, a high-speed Swiss cable car, provides a stunning view of the Confederate Memorial Carving as it transports guests more than 825 feet above ground to the top of Stone Mountain.

Discovering Stone Mountain Museum is an excellent resource in learning how Stone Mountain



has been many things to many people and features artifacts and stories that span 12,000 years. The Scenic Railroad is a full-size locomotive from the 1940s. Enjoy a lively five-mile excursion around the mountain in the open-air cars of the Scenic Railroad.

THE FRENCH QUARTER – On the last night of the tour, you'll stop in New Orleans where you can roam through Jackson Square, tour St. Louis Cathedral or stop off for beignets and coffee at the Café du Monde.

The tour costs are:

\$900/person – double occupancy

\$800/person – triple occupancy

\$750/person – quad occupancy

Contact Tonya Poncik, 979-542-2753, with any questions about the trip.

RETAINED OWNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

With feeder cattle prices pressured by rising corn prices and costs of gain, as well as cyclically larger supplies and feedyard losses this summer, many feeder cattle coming off grass this summer will not return the profits expected when the cattle were purchased or turned-out. As a result, many operators will be evaluating retaining ownership through the feedyard.

Understanding the margin opportunities and expected revenue is arguably the

first consideration. Compared to the potential sales prices as feeders, what is the breakeven as fed cattle? Once a breakeven is determined, you can decide if and how to manage risk, including if the feedyard offers risk management as a service. While the cyclical price risk is lower, for cattle marketed in the winter to early spring, the market will still be supported by seasonally tighter supplies. It is no guarantee, but the fed cattle market has not traded below the up-

per \$110's during the first quarter since 2011.

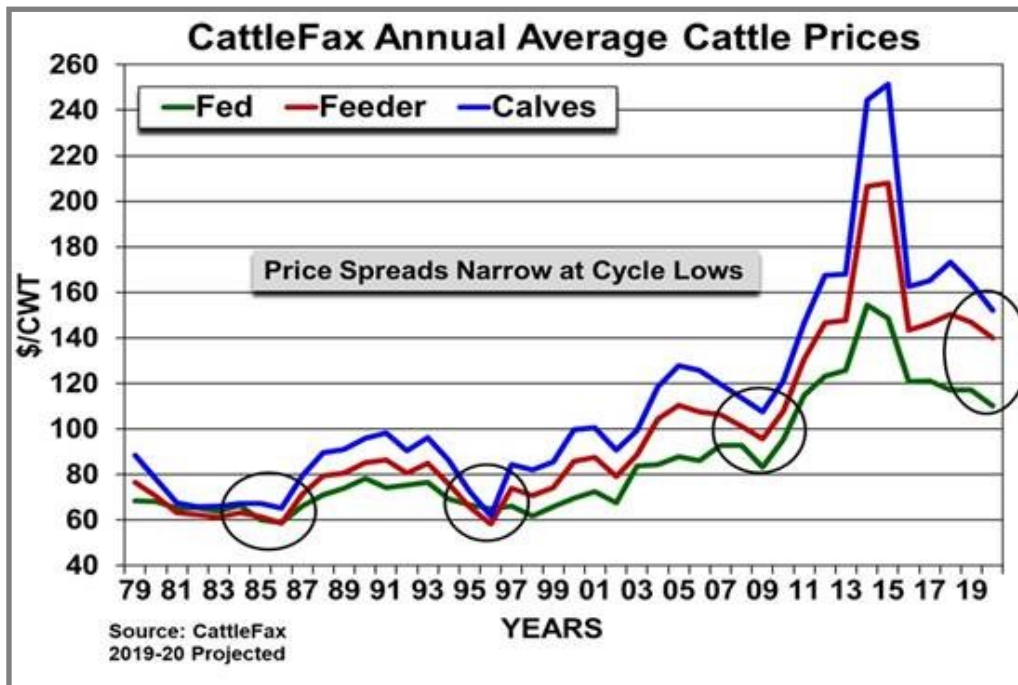
Costs of gain will be higher, but how much will be unknown until new crop corn acres and yield are more well known. Roughly speaking, every \$0.10/bu. change in corn impacts cost of gain by \$0.02-\$0.03 per pound. Local corn basis will be also be important, as well as protecting the cost of gain by hedging or contracting the grain. Obviously, cattle performance and type will also impact costs of gain.

Another question is how the cattle will be marketed. Will they be sold on the cash market, or will the cattle be marketed on a grid or formula arrangement? Depending on the expected performance and grading of the cattle, grid arrangements could return important added value.

Feeding performance will be better in the milder winters of the south, while corn basis will be better in the north. The last few years, harsher than expected winters in the north have resulted in higher cost of gains than originally projected. Of course, freight will also be a major factor in determining the best region to feed the cattle.

Bottom Line: Depending on the influence of corn on summer feeder values, many producers will have the tough decision to sell or retain ownership through the feedyard. Retained ownership often offers good opportunities, but there are many factors to weigh. Retained ownership may also be a consideration for calves weaned this fall as calf values will likely not be as strong as the last few years.

[Patrick Linnell, www.cattlefax.com]



Solutions for Health & Wellness

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Family and Community Health unit helps Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families and communities. To see what's available, click on topics below.

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Financial Management

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