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Montgomery County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

for Livestock, Equine and Forage Producers

Electronic Newsletter Available

If you would like to receive this newsletter via an electronic mailout, meaning that you would receive it in your email inbox please send an email to April Fagan at the Extension Office indicating your intent to be added to that mailout. Send that email to: amfagan@ag.tamu.edu

Montgomery County Fair & Rodeo

The fair begins April 9 and ends on April 18, 2021 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The schedule is full of great things to see and do. For more information go to <https://www.mcfa.org/> or call 936-760-3631.

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.

TDA Pesticide License Renewal

You may have Pesticide Applicators that did not get their license renewals like normal in January and February. This was due to a problem on the TDA end, and those renewal notices were not sent out on time. TDA has agreed to waive late fees for pesticide licenses that were due to expire during the months of January and February. *This waiver does not extend past those two months.*

Hardin & Liberty County Beef Quality Assurance Field Day

Wednesday, April 7th

Registration 8:15 am - 8:30 am
GH White Ranch Headquarters

Program 8:30 am - 2:00 pm
264 FM 2518, Cleveland, TX 77327

Program Topics will focus on:

Dr. David Anderson

Beef Market Outlooks

Dr. Joe Paschal, PhD - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Livestock Specialist

Health Protocols, Value added Marketing Programs

Dr. Ron Gill

Cattle Handling—Sorting, Handling and Processing Calves

Dr. Lourens Havenga—Multi-Min USA, Inc.

Presentation on Taking care of the immune system-before we vaccinate! The do's and don'ts.

Dr. Thomas Hairgrove, State Extension Veterinarian

Calf processing techniques & practicum.

Dr. Sonja Swiger, Extension Livestock Entomologist

External parasites

Cost to attend - FREE (Meal included)

Please preregister by Monday, April 5th by calling the Liberty County Extension Office at 936-334-3230.

Pond Management Field Day

Hosted by the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation Board

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2021

RSVP Required by April 28, 2021 – Call 936-539-7822 or email brandon.gregson@ag.tamu.edu

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Location: P6 Farms in Montgomery

(9963 Pooles Road Montgomery Tx, 77356)

Topics:

Matt Ward- Lochow Ranch Pond and Lake Management

- Basic Pond Management
- Fish Surveying

Raul Villarreal: Pond Site Identification and Preparation

RFID Program for Cattle Producers: Texas Animal Health Commission

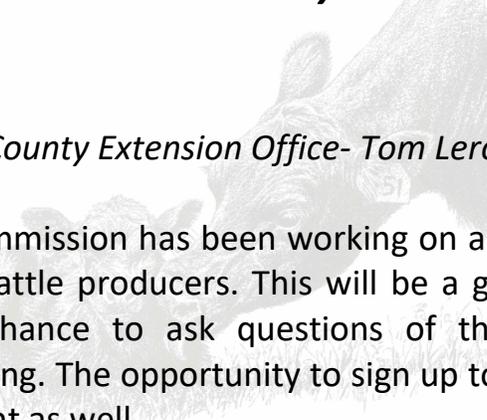
What is it? What does it mean to you as a cattle producer?

Date: May 25, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Montgomery County Extension Office- Tom Leroy Education Building

Texas Animal Health Commission has been working on an RFID tagging system to implement with Texas cattle producers. This will be a great introduction to this system as well as a chance to ask questions of the Texas Animal Health Representatives presenting. The opportunity to sign up to be a part of this system will be available that night as well.



The A.R.T. of Horsemanship Clinic

Attention, Respect and Trust

Willis Arena

Saturday, May 1, 2021 Building confidence with your horse and yourself

Clinician: Greg Sokolowski

Mounted Patrol, Houston Police Department

Greg has worked for the Houston Police Dept for 29 years and has been in the mounted patrol since it started in 1984. He evaluates and teaches new horses and officers. Graduated Parelli Level 2 and currently working on level 3. He attended Martha Olivo 2-week Hoof Groom School in 2003 and is a Certified Barefoot Trimmer. Greg has attended and participated in many horse/ horsemanship clinics all over the U.S. and Canada. He has participated in many large events and functions on horseback with Houston Police Department, including: Republican National Convention, Rockets Championship Events, Astros Championship, Economic Summit and Galveston Mardi Gras.



Clinic Includes:

- Discussion about people, horses, and the clinic
- Groundwork
- Work on obstacles and confidence
- Work in the saddle
- People making smarter and safer decisions with horses
- Recognizes horses red flags
- Foundation is the key
- Helping build confidence in horses

Clinic Registration Fees:

Clinic Participant: \$75.00

Registration complete when fees are paid,

(bring your own horse)

(Participant must be at least 16 years of age)

Audit Fee - \$15.00 (under 12 free)

Freeze Branding Clinic for All Equine

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Montgomery County Fairgrounds Expo Arena
6:00 PM till 7:30 PM

- Brands should be registered with the appropriate County Clerk's Office.
- The Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee will have a variety of stock irons available.
- Horse owners are welcome to bring in their own irons for use.
- Branding Fee: \$20.00 per animal
- Call 936-539-7822 by May 10th to make a reservation.
- Horse owners must make a reservation to secure a time.
- Theft Prevention Information will be provided for equine owner benefits.

Sponsored by:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Montgomery County
Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee

Private Applicator Training

May 20, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Montgomery County Extension Office

The training program will begin at 9:00 AM and last about 4 hours. Study material must be purchased ahead of time to assist with preparation (included in the registration fee). The study guide is actually utilized during the training portion of the program.

There is \$60.00 cost for the training to cover program materials, and related costs. The registration fee can be paid when reserving your seat. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office by May 17th to reserve your seat. The documentation will be provided at the conclusion of the training to be used in securing a test date.

Virtual Learning Opportunities

Aquatic Herbicides & Permitting

April 20, 2021

Presented by: Brittany Chesser

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3295>

Join us for an in-depth program as we cover the 15 aquatically approved herbicides, their common uses, modes of action, and differences between terrestrial herbicides for a better understanding when making management decisions. We will also cover frequently asked questions on aquatic herbicide use including water restrictions (i.e. "Can I still eat my fish?", "Is this toxic to my fish"). Lastly, we will go over what type of permitting you may or may not need for aquatic vegetation management in lakes or ponds.

Water Quality for Fisheries Management

May 18, 2021

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3296>

We will cover what is water quality, how do you determine water quality, the link between water quality and chemistry, why you should worry about water quality for your fish. Most people are surprised to learn how critical water quality is for their fish, how many different water quality factors can impact their fish (often in unusual ways), that toxic organisms in their pond can kill their fish, livestock, or companion animals, and how minor amendments to water quality can drastically improve their fishery. We will also cover what is tested during a standard water quality test, how each parameter tested affects your fish, how to fix any issues found during the test, how to apply treatments, and how to have your water quality tested.

Aquatic Vegetation: Beneficial or Pest?

June 15, 2021

Presented by: Brittany Chesser

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3293>

Join us for an in-depth conversation on the pros and cons with having aquatic vegetation in your pond or lake. We will cover the top beneficial aquatic plants which may add aesthetic value or have wildlife value; along with covering the top nuisance species (native and non-native) which could pose a threat to your pond or lake. If you would like your aquatic vegetation identified and discussed during the presentation, please send high quality, up close photos, against a light background to brittany.chesser@tamu.edu before June 13, 2021.

Beef cattle producers encourage to conduct BSEs on bulls prior to the spring breeding season - this year is probably more important than ever in the recent past

Following the February winter storm that produced record low temperatures across a large portion of the state, there is concern from producers about the presence of frostbite on some breeding bulls. Others have expressed concern about reduced sperm production and quality even if no frostbite was observed on the scrotum. As testing of bulls for the spring breeding season recently began, there have been reports from Veterinarians and Extension agents of a higher-than-normal prevalence of breeding soundness exam (BSE) failures in bulls. While it is difficult to estimate the extent to which a specific operation's bull battery may (or may not) have been affected by abnormally low temperatures and extended snow and ice cover, one thing remains certain...a pre-breeding BSE is the only way to objectively evaluate a bull's readiness to breed prior to turnout.

Please know that we are working diligently to provide you with the information necessary to make best management recommendations to your producers in order to help mitigate any negative consequences of the recent winter storm on bull fertility. Dr. Tom Hairgrove is actively collecting data from several Veterinarians, which in collaboration with Dr. Ky Pohler, will be analyzed and used to inform those recommendations. Thank you to Andy Holloway for bringing this to our attention by sharing some of the results of BSEs that have been conducted in Hemphill County.

Early observations indicate a higher-than-normal rate of BSE failure or deferment to re-test in bulls that have visual signs of frostbite. However, it appears that a large portion of those are due to morphological sperm abnormalities (physical/structural defects) that can be attributed to damage that occurred during storage. From a conceptual standpoint, the damage most likely occurred due to excessive heating in response to the frostbite. Similar consequences would be expected during times of extreme heat stress, such as is often the case throughout the summer months in Texas. We also (preliminarily) expect younger bulls to have been more resilient to the extreme cold, as they have a greater ability to raise their testes and prevent frostbite. However, we do not yet have the objective data to support that notion.

Nonetheless, many of the bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred to re-test may recover and pass a BSE, without requiring a full 60-day cycle of spermatogenesis to do so. While we do not yet have the objective data to back that up as it relates to this specific scenario, that is the conclusion that the available information points us toward.

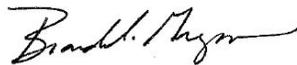
It is also important to recognize that even in a normal year the rate of BSE failure is in the realm of 15 to 20% of bulls tested, and therefore approximately 1 out of every 5 bulls would be expected to fail a BSE. While it is likely that there will be a small portion of bulls that will be non-breeders due to physical damage and inability to physically breed cows, those bulls should be quickly identified by a BSE.

This extreme weather event is one of many reasons why working with your Veterinarian to conduct a pre-breeding BSE on all bulls is always advised, and therefore should be recommended, regardless of past performance. This is also true for recently purchased bulls that underwent a BSE prior to the winter storm. For producers that do not routinely conduct pre-breeding BSE's, this would certainly be the year to start, and to start early. The knowledge gained in doing so will provide them with the ability to decide if they

need to replace bulls while replacements are still available, or if they need to turn out more bulls than normal.

A key take away from this is to not panic and not immediately cull all bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred for re-test. Once results are known on the initial tests, plans can be made to locate additional sires if needed or a plan can be developed to rotate sires in and out during the breeding season. Following the re-test, we suspect many, or at least several of the deferred bulls will pass a BSE. Producers should be encouraged to request a complete BSE that includes evaluation for motility, morphology, physical defects and testing for Trichomoniasis. Most often a quick screening for sperm motility constitutes a “fertility test” on bulls. Morphology is as important to a sperm’s ability to fertilize an egg and is often not looked at during routine BSEs conducted in the field. The value of a complete BSE cannot be overemphasized.

Sincerely,



Brandon S. Gregson
County Extension Agent, Agriculture

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No. 288

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