



# s AgriLIFE Extension Ag Newsletter

Update, Spring & Summer 2012



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Extension Office at 361-449-1703 at least eight days before all programs for assistance. Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

## Hay Harvesting and Production Field Day

A hay harvesting and production field day will be held on Thursday May 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the Brooks Ranch located at 2100 F.M. 534 Mathis Texas 78368. A \$10.00 registration fee will be charged. A meal will be provided by Fuller Tractor. An RSVP is requested by May 7, 2012 to the Live Oak County Extension office at (361) 449-1703 or Fuller Tractor at (361) 358-4084. Program Speakers and topics include: Dr. Larry Falconer Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Extension Economist: Cost of producing hay and a comparison of low input and high input systems. Dale Rankin County Extension Agent Texas AgriLife Extension Service Live Oak County: Producing high quality hay and drought recovery of our hay pastures. Pat Hinze Hay Equipment Specialist New Holland – Hay Equipment discussion and demonstration. The program is being sponsored by Fuller Tractor, Brooks Ranch and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Live Oak County. 2 CEU's will be offered for private commercial and non commercial applicators. Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of the mentioned activities, are encouraged to contact the County



## Private Applicator Training

A Private Applicator Training is scheduled for landowners that want to get a license to spray restricted or state limited use products. The class is scheduled for Monday May 21, 2012 at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office of Live Oak County at 204 Bowie Street in George West Texas 78022. Registration will start at about 7:45 a.m. and the class will begin at 8:00 a.m. the class takes approximately 4 hours of video, question and answer session. The Exam will be administered immediately at the conclusion of the class. Study material can be purchased before hand or at the time of the event for \$40.00 dollars. A \$10.00 Training fee will also be collected at the time of the event for the class. To sign-up or find out more information about the training give us a call at (361) 449-1703.

will be charged to help with cost recovery and the meal. CEU's will be offered for Private Commercial and Non Commercial Applicators.

A request has been sent to TDA for 5 hours but has not been approved yet. Tour stops and program speakers will include a Native Grass Planting Demonstration Site on a newly established pipeline with guest speaker Forrest Smith with the South Texas Natives of CKWRI Texas A&M University Kingsville. There will also be a location that will focus on brush control and new herbicides under research by Dupont and also new products that or being released by Dow AgroScience with guest speaker being Dr. Wayne Hanselka Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Emeritus) and a Dow Agro Science representative. We will also have stops on Row Crops at these stops we will be talking about varieties, Insect and Diseases Pressure and Oil Seed Crops. Our Guest Speakers for this part of the program will be Dr. Roy Parker Texas AgriLife Extension Entomologist, Dr. Danny Fromme Texas AgriLife Extension Service Extension Agronomist. And Seed Company Seed Reps. Also on the program is Mr. Ruben Garza Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Inspector discussing Laws and Regulations for Applicators. A presentation on Rain Water Harvesting for Home and Agriculture Use will be conducted by Brent Clayton Texas AgriLife Extension Service Water Resource Specialist.

If you would like more information about this program please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office of Live Oak County (361) 449-1703.

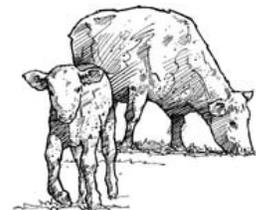
## White Tail Deer Management

If rain comes some individuals may try to establish deer food plots. If establishing food plots it is recommended that you establish them on 2 percent of your habitat base ( 2 of every 100 acres of habitat). Individuals should plant fewer and larger food plots to reduce browsing pressure. Plots should be enclosed to just allow deer in. This will also allow you to monitor the site for deer usage. Make sure and follow recommended seeding rates for establishment and cost effectiveness. Plots should be fertilized according to soil test. If individuals plan on supplemental feeding now is the time to restart these especially because of our lack of spring rains and our range conditions starting to decline. Remember if planting a food plot or supplemental feeding they should be available when the deer need them most July through August and January/ February. Food plots and supplemental feeding should meet the nutritional needs of the deer and be plants and supplemental sources that the deer will readily consume.



## Range and Pasture/ Row Crop Field Day

The Texas AgriLife Extension Office of Live Oak County and the Extension Ag/ Nr Committee is pleased to announce a Range and Pasture/ Row Crop Field Day on Thursday May 31, 2012 . The program will start at 2:00 p.m. with registration between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. at the Shell Station at Goynes Junction on the east side of 59. An RSVP is requested by May 25, 2012 to (361) 449-1703 to help prepare for the meal. A \$15.00 registration fee



## Clues to

## Rebuilding

**Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist**

## Beef Herd

In the aftermath of last year's drought, it is taking some time to determine where the industry is with respect to stopping herd liquidation and beginning the process of herd rebuilding. The first consideration is that the drought continues in force in the Southwest; in

parts of the intermountain Rockies; and in the Southeast. Some additional drought forced liquidation is occurring in these regions, though the magnitude of the impacts on the broader market is much smaller than last year. The aggregate numbers suggest that an 18 to 20 percent year over year decrease in beef cow slaughter, combined the slight increase in beef replacement heifers reported on January 1, will be needed to stop beef cow liquidation in 2012. Even sharper decreases in beef cow slaughter will be required before any beef cow herd expansion is possible.

Beef cow slaughter is currently down 6 percent from last year, not enough to stop additional liquidation. However, the drop in beef cow slaughter has been much more pronounced lately. In the last 4 weeks or reported slaughter data, beef cow slaughter has averaged nearly 18 percent less than the same period last year. In the most recent data, weekly beef cow slaughter was 26 percent less than one year ago. If the current reductions in beef cow slaughter persist for many weeks of the year, stabilization of the beef cow herd inventory, or even fractional growth in beef cow numbers, is possible in 2012.

Of course, the slaughter cow market is very strong and will continue to bid for cows. In Oklahoma, slaughter cows price is currently around \$90/cwt. for average dressing breaking and boning cows, with high dressing cows bringing nearly \$100/cwt. The year to date decrease in beef cow slaughter is being moderated by a 1.7 percent increase in dairy cow slaughter, resulting in an overall decrease in total cow slaughter of 2.3 percent so far this year. A continued sharp decrease in beef cow slaughter will pull the total cow slaughter lower and continue to support strong cull cow prices.

It is more difficult to say anything about heifer retention. The cattle on feed data appear to be a mixed set of indications. The April 1 on-feed total was up 2 percent but included 4 percent more heifers while steers on feed were up less than one percent. In total, heifers make up a slightly higher percent of cattle on feed compared to last year. The picture is widely varied across states. In Texas and Kansas, where total cattle on feed is unchanged to lower than last year, the on-feed inventory

consists of increased heifers on feed and less steers. This may be related to the drought effects on regional cattle shipments during liquidation and the timing of steer versus heifer sales during liquidation. In some other states, such as Idaho and South Dakota, on-feed inventories consist of fewer heifers and more steers, which could be an indication of heifer retention. In Nebraska the large increase in feedlot inventories consists of both more steers and heifers.

In the end, I don't think much can be said about heifer retention from the current cattle on feed numbers. Placements of steers versus heifers in the next few months may provide stronger clues until replacement heifer numbers are reported later. The mid-year Cattle inventory report in July may be anticipated more this year than sometimes for clues to heifer retention in 2012. Weekly cow slaughter will monitored as closely this year for the magnitude of year over year decreases as it was last year for the magnitude of increases related to drought impacts.



## **PLAN CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE NEXT DROUGHT**

The best time to think about drought conditions is when it's raining straight down. During favorable years you have to control your optimism and enthusiasm and be able to look into the future - to see the next drought coming. Start planning now, because when you realize you are in a drought it is too late to plan for drought - your options have been spent.

The best management at the end of a drought is to insulate yourself as best as possible against the next one. Fortunately, there are options available to reduce the impact of droughts. Unfortunately, the most effective of these options are strategic in nature, that is, they require long-term decisions and commitments prior to drought. This may force us to think about bad times when we are

having good times, which is not always easy for folks among whom "hope springs eternal." Of course, there are things you can do when you are six months into a drought, but we seldom like the alternatives at that point in time.

Strategic objectives that can mediate the effects of drought and that should be an integral part of total ranch management include:

- Building the range forage base.
- Maintaining or creating diversity of plant and animal populations.
- Improving efficiency of range utilization through better grazing distribution.
- Matching animal nutrient requirement with range nutrient availability.
- Developing alternate sources of feedstuffs.
- Building cash equity position.
- Developing less drought sensitive on- and off-ranch alternative income sources.
- Don't forget wildlife!
- Contingency (including drought) planning.

There are other things we can do in the early post-drought period that can help the next time around. Several of these involve management decisions on the livestock operation, and drought may provide a good time to reevaluate goals. Drought, and attendant herd reduction, offers the unexpected possibility of reviewing an entire livestock production enterprise.

Is your breeding season short enough? A short breeding season (no more than 90 days) is the key management tool around which other ranch programs are built. It is difficult to correctly supplement, select heifers or cows on a performance basis, efficiently market animals when cows calve year-round or over an extended period of time.

Is the breeding system right for you, purebred vs. crossbreeding.

Are you using the right breed or breeds?

Is there an opportunity for combination stocking that you have overlooked?

Is the supplement program you use the most efficient? Consider the use of NIRS technology and "fecal profiling" your herds to improve the efficiency of your feeding program.

Revisit your marketing options - are they the best they can be?

## Contingency Planning

A wise rancher I know repeats to himself the saying "It is our responsibility to be successful under conditions as we find them (instead of what we wish they were)." Ranch plans need to be flexible enough to adjust for changing circumstances on a continuous basis. The components of range, livestock, market, and money management are interrelated and almost inseparable. Is your plan one that can accommodate changes from "normal" conditions, such as drought? In many parts of Texas, as much as two-third to three-fourths of the total annual forage is produced by June 30. At that time you can foresee what changes should be made immediately or by fall. Timely recognition and action to make needed stocking rate adjustments protects both forage and livestock performance, preserves flexibility and avoids forced sales on distressed markets. Timely stocking rate adjustments in small increments spread marketing opportunities and risks and maintain steadier numbers and cash flow, as opposed to massive selloff or expensive relocation.

Example drought plan statements could include (Merz 1985):

Ranch is stocked at 25% below average forage production on good condition range. Only during extended dry periods are adjustments necessary. However, forage will be evaluated during July and adjustments made at shipping time on October 1. When adjustments are initiated, priorities will be as follows for increasing drought severity; a) cull heifers, b) sell 10% of breeding herd, c) feed stored hay, d) move top 50% of registered breeding herd to alternate feed, and e) liquidate herd.

If at least 5 inches of rain in not received by June 1, plan will be initiated to cull bottom 15% of herd. If short duration system begins to cycle too fast because of dry weather (less forage), plan will continue to cull stock to get cycling back into line with dates on the grazing plan. Five inches of rain by June 1 is 25% below normal for this time of year based on average annual rainfall.

Continuously evaluate forage and moisture conditions. In October, standing hay and Texas wintergrass will be inventoried as to AUM of

forage. Livestock will be adjusted, as needed, so that forage will not be overused by beginning of growing season in April.



### **Tree and Shrub Irrigation during a Drought** Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist

During a severe drought, the goal for tree and shrub irrigation is twofold; reduce water use to save precious water and money, yet use enough water to preserve your substantial investment in your landscape trees and shrubs.

Irrigating large trees is often misunderstood. Laying a hose at the trunk of a large tree and letting it run for hours does not water a tree and can waste huge amounts of water. In addition, sprinkler irrigation systems do not water trees. They simply do not apply enough volume of water to meet the tree's requirement.

To irrigate trees and large shrubs within a lawn area, apply water just inside and a little beyond the "dripline", not at the trunk. The dripline is the area directly below the outermost reaches of the branches. This is where the feeding root system of a tree or shrub is located.

Simply lay a slowly running hose on the ground and move it around the dripline as each area becomes saturated to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. For large trees, this watering technique may take several hours. In the continued absence of significant rainfall, large trees and shrubs will benefit from a twice a month watering to help them survive drought and heat.



### **Timely Yard and Garden Tips**

Fertilize container and hanging basket plants

every third week with a water soluble supplement and continue to feed every third month with a granulated formulation.

Fruit bearing fruit trees require a deep watering once a week for maturation of the crop.

'Oscar' okra is a high quality heavy bearing selection for gardens with limited space.

Next time you water your lawn, evenly distribute several tuna or cat food cans and time how long it takes to fill them up. If they fill up in 20 to 30 minutes, you have applied about one inch of supplemental irrigation. If not, adjust your sprinkler system accordingly.

If handpicking or vacuuming up stinkbugs in the garden isn't working, consider applying an approved pesticide such as liquid Sevin®.

If spider mites are bothering your tomato crop, consider applying Malathion at recommended label rates.

Soft bodied insects like aphids on peppers and other crops are easily controlled by the use of Insecticidal Horticulture soaps.

Before adding mulch material to flower beds and shrub borders, water the area first. Then apply a thin two inch layer of a finely shredded native hardwood or cedar material and water once more.



### **Lawn Maintenance Guide for the Summer Months.**

May 1- May 30 Fertilize Buffalograss and Zoysiagrass. According to soil test recommendations. In the absence of a soil test fertilize with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. St. Augustine lawns should be watched closely for Brown patch. Disease develops with wet humid conditions when night temperatures fall below 70° F and day temperatures range from 80- 85° F. Avoid over watering and over fertilization to reduce favorable conditions for disease to develop. Application of herbicides, especially the

hormone type herbicides, can increase the activity of Brown patch. If Brown patch develops treat with fungicides such as PCNB (terraclor), mancozeb, myclobutanil (Immunox), propiconazole (Fertilome Liquid Fungicide), or thiophanate-metyl (Fertilome Halt or Scott's Lawn Fungus Control). Continue new lawn establishments from seed, sod or sprigs. Continue mowing and watering as needed. Excellent time to begin fire ant bait treatments followed by individual mound treatments. Bait treatments include hydramethylnon (Amdro or Combat), abamectin (Raid or Ascend), fenoxycarb (Award or Logic), pyproxfen (Distance) or methoprene (Extinguish). Individual mound insecticides include acephate (Orthene), carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin (Spectracide BugStop), pyrethrins (Organic Solutions) or other products.

June 1-15 Fertilize common bermudagrass lawns with a fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. Continue mowing and watering as needed. Watch for symptoms of Gray Leaf Spot on St. Augustine grass. Symptoms will appear as lesions on the leaves with blue-gray centers with slightly irregular brown margins that are in turn bordered by a ring of chlorotic tissue. Gray leaf spot is more likely to appear on St. Augustine lawns in partial shade with high nitrogen fertility rates. Treat Gray Leaf Spot with propiconazole (Green Light Liquid Fungicide) myclobutanil (Immunox).

June 15-30 If the lawn has a history of grub problems, apply halofenozide (Scott's Grub Ex) or imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Season Long Grub Control). Continue mowing and watering as needed.

July 1-15 Fertilize bermudagrass and St. Augustine lawns with a fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. Continue mowing and watering as needed. Take-All Patch symptoms may begin to appear in lawns and continue if summer conditions are very hot and dry.

July 15-August 15 Check lawn for insect activity such as chinch bugs or white grubs. If chinch bugs are found treat with bifenthrin (Talstar) or cyfluthrin (Tempo or Bayer

Advance Garden Lawn & Garden Multi-Insect Killer). Check for white grubs by taking a shovel or sharp shooter and cutting a one square foot area of sod to a depth of 4-6 inches. If 4-5 grubs per square foot are found, treat the lawn with carbaryl (seven) halofenozide (Scott's Grub Ex) or imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Season Long Grub Control). Continue mowing and watering as needed.

### **ATASCOSA COUNTY FARM FUEL & OIL TANK COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.....**

Atascosa County AgriLife Extension and Atascosa County Farm Bureau are teaming up to sponsor a Farm Fuel and Oil Tank Compliance Program on May 31, 2012. The program will be held at the Jourdanton Community Center, Next to the Jourdanton Library at 2:00 pm.

Federal guidelines require farmers to prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan if you store more than 1,320 gallons of aggregate oil and fuel in containers of 55 gallons or larger in aboveground storage tanks at a location. The preparation and implementation of an SPCC plan not only ensures regulatory compliance but also provides farmers with a game plan to prevent petroleum spills and releases that could reasonably be expected to discharge into waters of the state as well as an instruction guide in proper cleanup methods. The SPCC plan federal deadline is May 10, 2013.

There are three types of SPCC Tiers based on the capacity of oil and fuel storage at a location. A SPCC plan must be prepared in accordance with the oil pollution prevention guidelines in the Code Federal of Regulations (CFR) 40 CFR, 112.

Tier I SPCC requirements: Small facilities- store 10,000 or less gallons aggregate above ground petroleum storage capacity; individual above ground petroleum storage container equals 5,000 gallons and Tier 1 Self-Certify Plan.

Tier II SPCC requirements: Mid-sized facilities- store 10,000 or less gallons aggregate above ground petroleum storage capacity, one individual above ground petroleum storage container is equal or greater than 5,000 gallons and Tier II Self-Certify Plan.

Tier III (P.E. Certified) SPCC

requirements: Large facilities- Total aboveground fuel/oil storage capacity of greater than 10,000 gallons, a licensed professional engineer must prepare and certify the plan for Tier III sites in accordance with all the applicable requirements.

If you have greater than 10,000 gallons of above ground oil or petroleum storage capacity, you may be eligible for NRCS's cost sharing program, to offset the costs associated with SPCC preparation and implementation.

Other topics confirmed for the program include: Pipelines and Right of Ways – Speaker Judon Fambrough, SPCC Cost Shares – Ryan Novak, Atascosa NRCS, Brush Management – Dr. Bob Lyons, AgriLife Extension Range Specialist, Weather Forecast-- Paul Yura, National Weather Service.

Call (830) 769-3066 to make reservations. Private applicators are being offered a total of three CEU's ( 1-IPM, 1-L&R, 1-G)

### **The Dove Hunter's Responsibility**

It has often been stated that "ignorance of the law is no excuse." This is especially true for dove hunters. It is the responsibility of the individual hunter to know the law and to be aware of the circumstances surrounding each hunting opportunity.

Federal law states that the hunter is responsible for determining whether or not a field is baited. Before hunting, address the following points to help ensure a legal hunt:

- ? Familiarize yourself with federal and state migratory game bird hunting regulations.
- ? Ask the landowner, your host or guide, and your hunting partners if the area has been baited.
- ? Suspect the presence of bait if you see doves feeding in a particular area in unusual concentrations or displaying a lack of caution.
- ? Look for grain or other feed in the area. Is the seed there solely as the result of an allowed normal agricultural operation?
- ? Where crops have been manipulated or harvested, look for the presence of grain that may be unrelated to the manipulation or harvest.
- ? Look closely for seed and grain on prepared agricultural fields. Is the seed there solely as

the result of a normal agricultural planting or for agricultural soil erosion control?

? Know the planting, harvesting, and other agricultural practices that are recommended for the areas that you hunt.

? Abandon the hunt if you find grain or feed in an area and are uncertain about the reason it is there. Remember that the rules for hunting doves differ from those for waterfowl.

Additional restrictions apply to waterfowl hunting.

### **PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING....**

There will be a Pesticide Applicator Training at Ashland/Aqualon Training Center, located at 1 Mill Street in Kenedy, TX on Wednesday, May 24, 2012 beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information call J.D. Folbre at 830-780-3906.

There will also be a Pesticide Applicator Training at the Bee County Extension office on Friday, June 8, 2012 beginning at 8:00 a.m. For more information call Matt Bochat at 361-362-3280.

Dale Rankin

County Extension Agent (AG/NR)

Live Oak County

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361-449-1703 (phone)

361-449-1892 (fax)

Any program participant needing Special accommodations is asked to call the Extension office 8 days in advance to make arrangements, please call Dale at 361-449-1703 or 449-1859.

Extension Programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

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

A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program

