Texas Cooperative EXTENSION
The Texas A&M University System

Livestock & Pasture News

Walker County

Fall 2006

It's Hay Testing Time_____

Fall Hay Evaluation:

October 19th, 2006

It is time to start collecting your hay samples for the Walker County Fall Hay Evaluation. The Fall Hay Evaluation is scheduled for October 19th, 2006 at the Sam Houston State University-Ag Center (Indoor Arena). Entries for the Walker County Fall Hay Evaluation are due in the Extension Office, NRCS Office, or a participating feed store in Huntsville or New Waverly before September 28th. Your first entry in each class is FREE! Additional entries per class are $5.00 each. This is an excellent (and economical) way to evaluate the quality of your stored forage. Knowing what you are feeding is extremely important when deciding when and how to utilize your hay with different classes of livestock. Our 2006 hay testing and program awards are being sponsored by the Walker County Farm Bureau and American Plant Food Corporation. The county hay evaluation is a great method for economically evaluating your forage.

We once again have a slightly modified program planned for this years' event, which should allow more flexibility with everyone's schedule. We will start at 6:15 PM with the meal (Beef Products), the program will begin by 7:00 PM and conclude at 8:30 PM. In addition to the discussion regarding hay quality, our 2006 educational program will include presentations on the Texas Beef Council & your Beef Check Off program, as well as, Practical Applications of Carcass Evaluation Via Ultrasound.. Entry forms for hay samples are on page 11 of this newsletter. Contact the Walker County Extension Office for more information. Our phone number is (936) 435–2426.

FALL EVENTS: 2006

Multi Co. Cow Country Congress
Walker Co. Fall Hay Evaluation
Walker Co. Timber Growers Field Day
Walker Co Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale
EQUIP Sign Up
Houston Co. Beef Quality Assurance
Montgomery Co. Grounds Conference

2006 Cow Country Congress_____

Cow Country Congress will be held Friday, September 22 near Palestine in the Tucker Community at the Lamb Ranch. The Lamb Ranch raises registered Brahman Cattle and sell F1 replacement cattle. This ranch also runs cross bred cattle in addition to the cattle operation the ranch has a high fence white tail deer program. Cow Country Congress is a annual Beef and Forage event that travels from county to county. The following counties of Texas Cooperative Extension sponsor this one day event; Anderson, Freestone, Houston, Leon, Madison, Walker and Trinity.

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Inside this issue:

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE.

September 10-16 is National Preparedness Week!

See the checklist on page four and start gathering your supplies!

Feeding Horses During Drought Conditions___

Pete G. Gibbs
Extension Horse Specialist

Late 2005 and 2006 represent the third compromised hay crops in less than a decade. Horse owners who typically pay around $3 to $3.50 a bale for good grass hay during normal hay production years, have been faced with hay shortages and increased costs to secure good quality hay for horses. This has driven annual horse keeping costs upward by at least 25 %, with hay costs alone more than doubling in some cases.

Research conducted at Texas A&M representing previous dry periods has isolated changes in type of hay as the single biggest dietary factor associated with digestive disturbance in horses. Horses do not tolerate dietary change well, and the shortage of hay has caused some horse owners to have to feed hay of different types, or from different batches. Even the same type of hay can vary a great deal in quality, depending on how it was managed, when it was cut and where it was grown.

In typical years of adequate rainfall conducive to growing good Texas hay, horse owners have been able to be somewhat picky about hay and even ask for nutrient analyses prior to purchase. This spring of 2006, many owners are glad to just be able to find hay that is clean and free of mold, almost independent of nutrient content. This shortage of hay has prompted many questions about alternatives for meeting roughage requirements and keeping horses healthy with hopes for a good growing season this summer.

One way to stretch your existing hay supply is to actually weigh each block or portion of hay prior to feeding, aiming for no less than .75 % of horse body weight per day in long stem roughage. To keep the digestive tract healthy, this is the minimum, and daily hay provided between .75 and 1.0 % of body weight will usually meet a horses need for chewing and for gut fill. Concentrate feeds that are higher in crude fiber than a horse owner might normally feed can be used to help decrease the need for long stem roughage. Feeds that are 14 % crude fiber or higher will help, allowing horse owners to cut back to as little as ½ % of body weight per day in long stem hay. There are even feeds on the market that exceed 20 % crude fiber, and this is enough fiber to keep the horse's digestive tract healthy, particularly if the feed is extruded, which can further slow rate of intake. Horse owners who have clean round bales can stretch the hay supply further by limit-feeding a round bale. This is easily accomplished by fencing or paneling off the round bale, allowing horses a limited amount of time to eat from the bale each day.

Some processed forms of roughage can also be helpful during the hay shortage. Processed roughage can be found in cubed and chopped/bagged forms. On a pound to pound comparison, these roughage sources are quite a bit more expensive than traditional square bales. However, the feeding value can be comparatively better because many of these alfalfa-based roughages have a guaranteed nutrient content.

One solution to getting through these tough times is to use both clean, dry gr ass hay and a processed roughage such as those mentioned above. This can help stretch existing hay supplies. Again, for horses that also get some

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Supplemental Forage Management for East Texas White-tailed Deer_____

Billy J. Higginbotham, Extension Wildlife Specialist and James C. Kroll

Well planned food plots can increase forage availability and at least partially compensate for decreases in suitable deer habitat. However, maximum benefits can be obtained only if forages complement the diet available from native vegetation and if forages are available when native vegetation is lacking or is low in nutritional value. In East Texas these stress periods occur in late summer and late winter. In addition to timing the availability of supplemental forage properly, landowners also must plant appropriate species in the best available sites, use correct planting techniques and ensure soil fertility.

Cool-season species can be planted on either upland or bottomland sites. Whenever possible, food plots should be planted in existing openings to reduce costs. Examples include fallow fields, pipeline and transmission line rights-of-way, logging roads, fire lanes and interior road rights-of-way. Areas adjacent to public roads or areas of public access are poor planting sites since they may encourage poaching.

Soil samples should be taken to determine lime and establishment of individual species.. Failure to properly amend the soil may result in drastically reduced yield or excessive weed competition. Your county Extension agent can help with soil testing. 1. increase the nutrition available to deer; If soil testing is not possible, food plots should be:

- limed every 3 years at the rate of 2 tons per acre
- fertilized after germination with 200 pounds per acre of 6-24-24

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Animal Issues: Emergency Management Plan_____

The Walker County Animal Issues Committee is continuing to develop our capabilities to address emergency situations relating to animals. The basic theory of emergency management is to plan for the worst scenarios possible and then everything else is covered. We are in need of a few resources. One of the big ticket items in terms of necessity, is a water source in the event that water systems in the area are out of service. If you happen to have an artesian spring with a pipe that could be tapped to fill large transport containers, we would like to visit with you. We are also interested in learning of any livestock handling equipment such as portable chutes, loading ramps, and other similar items that could be made available in the event of an emergency. We are also interested in adding volunteers to the committee teams. If you would like to volunteer or have access to equipment and resources, contact Reggie Lepley, CEA-Ag at the Extension Office (936) 435-2426 or Butch Davis, Emergency Management Coordinator at the Sheriffs Office (936) 435-2400.

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concentrate feed, total roughage at about 1 % of body weight will usually meet the roughage need and minimize vices such as wood chewing and chewing of manes and tails.

Avoid some types of hay completely as several have been associated with various types of sickness in horses. Kleingrass should not be fed if it can be avoided, as there are indications that it can cause liver problems in horses. Given a choice, horses will select other grass hays over kleingrass, and voluntarily consume smaller amounts of kleingrass over time. Also avoid johnsongrass, sorghum-sudan crosses (haygrazers), Russian, Foxtail and German millets if at all possible. Concerns over prussic acid and cystitis syndrome are the basis for this recommendation. Fescue is typically acceptable for most horses, except for broodmares during the breeding season. The last 90 days prior to foaling, mares should be kept away from fescue because of concerns over foal death at time of birth and the complete absence of milk production in some mares provided access to fescue. While prairie hay can be fed to horses, the nutrient content of this hay is usually quite low. So, if the prairie hay is clean and free of mold, a workable solution is to mix some prairie hay with a legume source such as alfalfa for horses.

If a horse that normally eats hay quite well, refuses a new batch of hay, that should be a warning sign to the owner. Horses that are accustomed to good quality hay may refuse hay that is really mature and stemy, or hay that contains mold. There have been reports of square bales being offered for sale that were actually made by re-baling big round bales. If the round bales were of good quality, there should not be a problem. However, if the original round bales were weathered and contained any mold, a batch of square bales made from one large round bale could vary a great deal in quality from bale to bale.

Some of the senior feeds on the market are already being fed to old horses with teeth problems and to old horses that have had a noticeable problem with chewing and processing long-stem hay. These senior feeds are designed with enough fiber included so that older horses can eat the feed and actually do not have to be provided any long hay at all. Younger, mature horses fed these senior feeds can likely get by in the short term without any hay, however, a good recommendation is to still provide some roughage if at all possible.

For more information on selection and use of hay and processed roughage in feeding horses, go to and click on equine science. Then go to the publications section and find information related to hay for horses, as well as feeding

Alternative Deer Food Plot Thoughts: Here is a deer food plot scheme for early season hunters.

IDEAL FORAGE COMBO FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER FOUND

Information excerpted from original news release (Sept 6, 2004)
http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/WFSC/Sep0604a.htm

"With fall-planted cowpeas, there's a narrow window of opportunity from Sept 1 through about Sept 15," said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas Cooperative Extension Fisheries and Wildlife Specialist. "After that, you'll see diminishing returns."

Higginbotham and Dr. Ray Smith, a Texas Agricultural Experiment Station legume breeder, have identified and improved a combination of oats and Arrowleaf clover that make up for the deficiencies of traditional plantings.

"Based on the results of our trials, we're now recommending a combination seeding rate of 40 pounds per acre of forage cowpeas, 40 pounds of oats and 10 pounds of Arrowleaf clover," Higginbotham said.

"In our trials, this triple mix resulted in over 3,000 pounds per acre of cowpea production by Thanksgiving; over 5,000 pounds per acre of oats by April, better than 3,500 pounds per acre of Arrowleaf clover in April –with even higher yields possible in May," Smith said.

"What we needed was a warm and cool season combination to enhance the potential to attract deer early in the fall," Higginbotham said Commercially sold mixtures often include some sort of early producing forage mixture, usually of the brassica family, such as rape or turnip.

"Call it 'variety compatibility'" Higginbotham said

Drought Conditions Bring Additional Worries for Cattle and Hay Producers_____

Besides the effect of reduced production due to lack of moisture, drought also creates other negative aspects for cattle and hay producers. Warm-season annual grasses, such as forage sorghums, sorghum-sudan hybrids (haygrazer types), and the various millets can also accumulate nitrates to a level that is toxic to cattle during periods of dry weather. Typical nitrate accumulation occurs with excessive N fertilization followed by a period of drought, although toxic levels of nitrates have been observed in warm-season annual grasses with as little as 50 lbs of N/ac under drought conditions. While aboveground plant growth is reduced, nitrate uptake continues to occur and concentrates in the forage tissue. Ruminants are affected because microbes in the rumen are able to convert nitrate to nitrite. Nitrite is then absorbed into the bloodstream where it converts hemoglobin, which carries oxygen throughout the bloodstream, into methemoglobin , which does not carry oxygen. Cattle death is due to asphyxiation.

The total level of nitrate in forage will determine whether or not the forage is safe to feed. Remember: Nitrate levels in hay do not diminish with time! Nitrate levels, however, in silage, may be reduced by 50% or more, but may still be excessive for safe feeding. Only a forage analysis for **NITRATE** (currently $5.00 at the Texas A&M University Soil Testing Lab) will determine whether or not the fresh forage, hay, or silage is safe to feed to livestock. Nitrate levels of 5000 ppm or greater may be dangerous to feed to animals and greater than 15000 ppm are toxic to most classes of livestock. The official Texas A&M University advisory is to not feed forages that contain greater than 10,000 ppm nitrate. The more conservative number of 5000 ppm, however, may be a much safer number to use in actual practice.

Producers using warm-season annual forages or johnsongrass should have their hay crops tested prior to harvesting. Look at the forages carefully. If the forage to be harvested for hay has been under drought stress, there is a good likelihood that it is high in nitrates. If a good precipitation event occurs and plant growth is reinitiated (good green color, no droopy leaves), then the forage may be safe to feed, but a forage analysis for nitrate would still be advisable. DO NOT HARVEST the forage and then test! To do so could wind up costing you time, effort, and money and result in a hay crop that you will not be able to feed. Likewise, cattle should not be pastured on warm-season annual grasses or johnsongrass if conditions are such that nitrate levels could be elevated to a toxic level. Again, only a forage analysis can determine if the forage is save to graze.

If nitrate toxicity was not enough to worry about, there is also the issue of prussic acid (hydrogen cyanide) poisoning. Forages belonging to the genus *Sorghum* can produce prussic acid following light frosts or drought. In well-cured hay crops, prussic acid is not a concern since volatilization of the compound into the atmosphere occurs during the field curing process. Cattle, however, may succumb to prussic acid poisoning while grazing if plants have been subjected to drought stress. Again, do not turn cattle into pastures of drought-stressed sorghums or johnsongrass. Wait until better growing conditions before pasturing cattle on any stressed warm-season annual plant or johnsongrass. Millets, while still capable of accumulating nitrates to a toxic level, do not produce prussic acid.

As cattle producers, it is bad enough that dry weather conditions have reduced forage production, and in some cases, surface water supplies. Not paying attention to the weather conditions and the forages that can cause the death of animals due to nitrate accumulation and prussic acid poisoning, can only make matters worse. If you are in doubt, or have additional questions, please contact your local county extension agent.

Preparation: Emergency Supplies_____

Info from the Governors Division of Emergency management.. Having emergency supplies in easy-to-carry containers will serve you well, no matter what kind of natural or manmade emergency you may face. Here is a basic checklist:

- First-aid kit
- Extra prescription medications, written copies of prescriptions, other special medical items
- Important documents and records, photo IDs, proof of residence, information you may need to process insurance claims
- Cash (power outages mean banks and ATMs may be unavailable)
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Phone numbers of family and friends.
- Road maps, a travel plan, hotel reservations, list of places between your town and your destination you can stop if the highways are clogged.
- 3-day supply of non-perishable food, one gallon of bottled water per person per day, Coolers for food and ice storage, paper plates, plastic utensils
- Manual can opener, knife, tools, booster cables, fire extinguisher, duct tape, tarp, rope
- Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags and extra clothing
- Toilet paper, cleanup supplies, personal hygiene products
- Eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids
- Special supplies needed for babies, older adults or pets
- Extra keys

Additional useful information can be found at *www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/texasprepared.htm, www.ready.gov, www.redcross.org or www.americaprepared.org.*

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(cool-season plots) and

- top-dressed with 200 pounds per acre of 34-0-0 fertilizer in mid-December (cool-season small grains).

The site should be shredded and disked to prepare a clean seedbed. Agricultural limestone (if needed to correct pH) should be applied prior to disking and worked into the soil. Planting sites should not be shaded by nearby trees, but should be adjacent to adequate escape cover. Since cool-season plantings are often established in hunting areas, particular care should be given to placing these plots near adequate escape cover, travel corridors and other types of habitat frequented by deer. All legumes should be inoculated to increase nitrogen fixation. This will lower fertilizer needs and improve soil quality over time. Planting depth is also critical for successful establishment. Failure to plant species (especially legumes) at the recommended depth may result in poor stands.

The sizes and shapes of supplemental food plots vary tremendously. Most plots are from 0.5 to 3.0 acres in size. Since deer are more apt to feed along the edges of plots than in the center, several small plots are more effective than one large plot. Larger food plots can be established, especially if the shape is long and narrow instead of square. Long, narrow food plots maximize the edge available and can cut across more home ranges of deer. However, plots must be wide enough to prevent excessive shading from nearby trees. Properly established food plots are expensive, and this may limit the acreage that can be established. Therefore, it is important to maximize productivity and carefully select planting sites. A good rule of thumb is to plant 1 to 3 percent of the total habitat in both warm- and cool-season forages.

Cool-season forages provide additional nutrition during the hunting season as well as during the critical stress period in January and February prior to spring green-up. Cool season combinations can extend forage availability into early summer, about the time warm season plots become useable by deer.

Rye is an excellent cereal grain to include in a cool season forage combination because of its cold hardiness. Grains that can supplement rye in a combination plot include oats and wheat; however, rye should constitute at least two-thirds of the small grain component. Arrowleaf clover, a legume, is also a valuable component of cool season forage plots. It provides forage through late spring and early summer. Once established, arrowleaf clover should not have to be replanted. An annual program of shredding in late summer, followed by light disking or late summer burning of the clover, will result in sufficient seed to develop a stand the following year. Since the Arrowleaf clover component of the stand requires slightly different management than the cereal grains, the clover should be planted in a strip adjacent to the small grains. Ryegrass may be planted with the arrowleaf clover since it will also reseed itself and responds favorably to the same management. Cool-season forage combinations of small grains, arrowleaf clover and ryegrass have yielded as much as 4 to 5 tons of forage per acre per year.

Other good cool-season forage species include subterranean clover, sweetclover and Austrian winter peas. Subterranean clover and sweetclover varieties should be selected to produce in the spring and early summer months. Austrian winter peas provide some early growth and may be established alone or in

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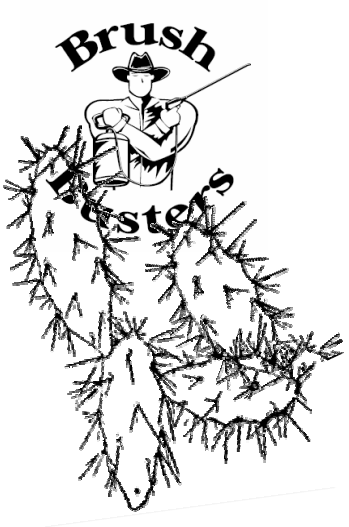
Changes Made To Brush Busters Recommendations for Prickly Pear Control__



The Extension Brush Busters cactus control recommendations have been modified by recommending Surmount herbicide. The previous Brush Busters recommendation was Tordon 22K. This change is due to economic considerations related to spot spray applications. Both of these products work well and are equally effective for this plant control application. Extension Range Specialists still recommend Tordon 22K for broadcast applications. Both chemicals are restricted use products.

Private Applicator Class Developing_____

If you are in need of a Texas Department of Agriculture Private Pesticide Applicator License, contact the Walker County Extension Office to be included in the next class. We will schedule the class for this Fall as soon as there are enough participants. Cost of this class is $30.00. Following the class and successful TDA testing requirements being met, the Private Applicator License fee is $60.00. Each Private Applicator License is good for five years.

Beef 706 Class_____

AUSTIN, TX - Texas cattle producers are invited to attend Beef 706-College Station, a beef checkoff-funded program hosted by Texas A&M University, the Texas Cooperative Extension Service and the Texas Beef Council (TBC). This free, two and half day workshop focuses on various factors impacting the safety and quality of beef in an effort to improve producer's bottom line.

Taking place in College Station September 18 - 20, Beef 706 is an educational hands-on course for beef producers to learn about safety and quality issues affecting their product. Beef 706-College Station will reach Texas cattle producers with information enabling them to perform sound management practices that will increase consumer confidence in beef as a safe and wholesome product.

"The Beef 706 program follows cattle through the production process offering participants a revealing look at how their operation affects the end product," said Dr. Richard Forgason, TBC beef quality committee chair. "As a past participant, it's a great opportunity for cattlemen, and we look forward to working with Texas A&M University to bring this program to area producers."

Producers attending the Beef 706 program will be given the opportunity to not only see, but also experience, the quality challenges facing the beef industry today. Cattlemen will learn what factors affect beef's palatability, as well as gain information on utilizing their herd's genetics, feedyard performance and carcass characteristics.

Beef 706-College Station is limited to forty attendees and is available on a first-come basis. Participants will receive beef quality assurance credits and veterinarians will receive continuing education hours. Participants interested in this free program must register by September 11 by phone or email. Please contact Lori Sleeper at (800) 846.4113 or via email at loris@txbeef.org. For more information on Beef 706-College Station and other beef quality programs, please visit www.texasbeef.org

Montgomery Co. Grounds Conference____

October 26, 2006 (8:00 AM)
Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe, Texas
This day long program will contain a variety of topics on landscape & turf. There will be **5 hours of CEU credit** for TDA and SPCB credit. Call (936) 539-7822 for registration material and more information.

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This years program will start with registration at 7:45 a.m to 8:45 a.m. followed by introduction of the ranch owner, manager and other special guests. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and should conclude about 3:00 p.m.

Topics and speakers will include Dr. Jeral Evers, Professor & Forage Management Researcher, will discuss legumes and winter pastures. Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist will be discussing Pond and Wildlife Management. Ronnie Lamb will talk about his deer program under high fence. Dr. Jason Banta, Assistant Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist will be speaking on drought and winter feeding as well as cow culling.

A discussion on pasture recovery during and after a drought will be conducted by Dr. Monte Rouquette, Professor & Forage Physiology Researcher. Dr. David Anderson, Associate Professor & Extension Economist will be on hand to discuss tax implications of selling cattle during drought and reinvesting in the cow herd. The Farm Service Agency will have a County Executive Director on hand to discuss issues that may pertain to producers from FSA standpoint.

This event will also feature on site tours of cattle, Jiggs bermudagrass, the wildlife high fence operation and stock ponds with feeders and aerators. There will be 2 CEU's offered. As in years passed there will be a number of commercial exhibitors on hand to visit. A Rib-Eye steak lunch will be included in the $10.00 registration fee. All Walker County participants are ask to RSVP to the Walker County Extension Office 936-435-2426, by Monday, September 18.

The Lamb ranch is located in the Tucker Community. If you are driving up U.S. Hwy 79 and 84 turn on FM 645 North, travel one mile, take county road 2907 travel 4 tenths of mile, make a left at the huge red oak tree, go through the cattle guard that will put you at the barn.

2006 SERIES SCHEDULE

EVENING OF FORESTRY

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION - FORESTRY

Time & Location

Each monthly program will take place from

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

at the

Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center in Overton, TX.

The program is FREE.

Speaker notes and handouts are included.

Texas Cooperative EXTENSION
The Texas A&M University System

For additional information please contact Barbara at 903-834-6191

Announcing

A new opportunity for forest landowners to learn about the profitable and wise-use of their forest land.

EVENING OF FORESTRY

This new series is based upon the award winning Master Tree Farmer and Master Wildlifer programs developed by forestry professionals throughout the South.

Landowners and persons considering land ownership who are interested in managing their land will find this new series an exceptional opportunity. You will learn how to practice sustainable forestry, manage the land to meet objectives, and communicate with professional foresters.

2006 Schedule

Date	Day	Topics
Jan 24	Tuesday	Web-based Silvicultural Support Tools
Feb 21	Tuesday	Introduction to Wildlife Management
March 21	Tuesday	Biology and Management of Small Game
April 27	Thursday	Management of White-Tailed Deer
May 30	Thursday	Fish Pond Management
June 22	Thursday	Managing for Wildlife Diversity
Aug 22	Tuesday	Wildlife Recreational Opportunities
Sept 28	Thursday	What Is BioEnergy?
Oct 26	Thursday	Forestry Terms and Concepts
Nov 28	Tuesday	Economics, Taxation, & Estate Planning

Beef Cattle Browsing___

FACTORS AFFECTING PRICE IN SPECIAL REPLACEMENT HEIFER SALES

Missouri researchers evaluated prices of 2950 bred heifers in 929 lots sold through Show-Me-Select spring and fall sales from 2001 through 2004. Heifers in these sales must: be producer-raised or owned at least 60 days before breeding (with complete information on original breeder); conform to prescribed health and vaccination protocols; be dehorned and without scurs; have complete service-sire EPDs (with requirements on Birth Weight or Calving Ease), weigh at least 800 lb, be in BCS of 5 to 8, be evaluated for pelvic area and reproductive tract score, and be free of physical defects or undesirable disposition. Average price was $1080/hd (2005 average was $1349), average weight was 1033 lb, 36% of heifers were AI-sired, and 86% were Angus or Angus-cross. Factors significantly (P<.05) affecting price were: heifer weight; calf EPDs for Birth, Yearling, Milk, and Marbling; lot size; and position in the sale. Factors tending (P<.05 to .10) to affect price were: type of sire service; expected calving date; and calf Ribeye EPD. Buyers paid more for heavier heifers, sold in larger lots, and sold more toward the middle of the sale. Prices tended to be higher for heifers expected to calve earliest and those sired by AI. Heifers sold for more when their calves were predicted to have higher Birth, lower Yearling, lower Milk and higher Marbling EPDs, and tended to pay more for higher calf Ribeye EPD. Heavier calf Weaning EPD positively, but not significantly, increased heifer price.

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NRCS ANNOUNCES EQIP SIGNUP

Farmers and ranchers can signup to be considered for funding under the **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for 2007.** EQIP is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides cost-share assistance for producers to carry out conservation practices to solve soil, water, and other natural resource problems on farms and ranches. **Eligible practices in 2006 for Walker County were:** pasture and hayland grass establishment, brush management for Chinese Tallow, cross fencing, pine tree planting, livestock water (pond or pipeline), and wildlifeland improvement. These practices will be cost-shared at approximately 50% of established average cost. If you would like more details on this program, contact the NRCS office that serves your county: **Walker County NRCS (Huntsville) - 936/291-1901, ext. 3**

If there is no answer, please leave a message with your name, phone number, and a good time to return the call and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale

October 21, 2006

Mark Your Calendar!!

Saturday, October 21
8:00 AM—2:00 PM
At the Walker County Extension Center Green House

Join us to help dedicate the LEAF-PRO facilities and program on this day!!

Plants for Sale:

- Bulbs
- Trees
- Vegetables
- Much More…
- Huge Garage Sale

Plus LEAF-PRO Educational Demonstrations on:

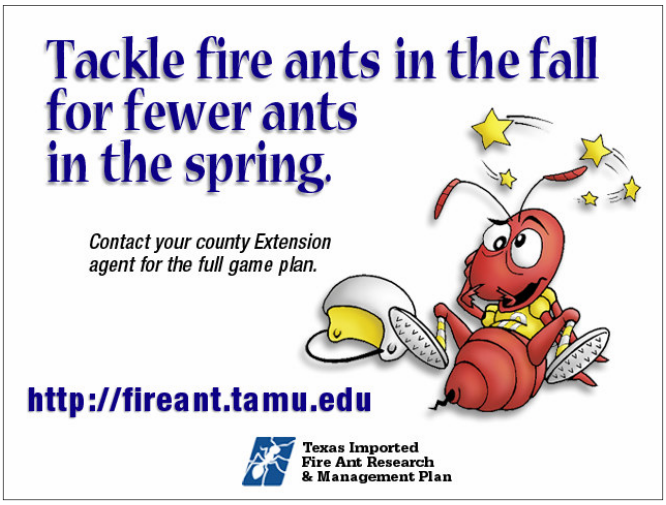
- **Composting**
- **Chipping & Shredding**
- **Recycling**

LEAF-PRO
Landscape Environmental Awareness Facility Protection Reduction Outreach

The Latest Broadcast on Fire Ant Control Products

Dr. Paul R Nester, Extension Agent – IPM – Houston Metro Area
For more information see our web site, http://fireant.tamu.edu - Updated 4/20/2006

Broadcast Baits
(Apply at 1.5 lbs/acre unless noted on label)



All Areas including Agricultural Lands (grazed, hayed, cropped, orchards, gardens, etc.)
Extinguish (0.5% methoprene) - labeled for use almost anywhere. Very slow to work, 2-3 months applied in spring, 4-8 months applied in fall.
Amdro Pro (0.73% hydramethylnon) - labeled for grazed pastures and hay production, as well as non-crop areas. The only "Amdro" or hydramethylnon labeled for pastures where livestock used in food production are grazed. Works in about 4 weeks.
Extinguish + Amdro Pro Hopper Blend - mix 0.75 lb of each applied at 1.5 lbs/acre total. Gives speed of Amdro Pro and "forgiveness" and thoroughness of Extinguish at no extra cost.
Esteem (0.5% pyriproxyfen) - Recent label for Esteem for use in hay pastures or with livestock used for food production. Very slow, 2-3 months applied in spring, 3-6 months in fall. Very forgiving in application and coverage.

Non-Food Producing Lands. This can include horse pastures and other non-crop areas as noted.
Amdro (0.73% hydramethylnon) - labeled for use in urban as well as non-crop areas. Works in about 4 weeks.
Amdro Yard Treatment (0.036% hydramethylnon) - version of Amdro that can be applied through a regular fertilizer spreader at 21 lbs/acre. High volume application for homeowners is an industry trend.
Extinguish Plus (0.25% s-methoprene + 0.36% hydramethylnon) - the same ingredients as the hopper blend, but in a single package. NOT for use in hay pastures or with livestock used for food production, *may be used in horse pastures.*
Award (1% fenoxycarb) – Also formally called "Logic" which is no longer being made, but all uses are on Award label. A good IGR, but very slow. NOT for use in hay pastures or with livestock used for food production, *may be used in horse pastures*.
Spinosad products (also called Conserve , 0.015% spinosad) - considered all natural or "organic", fast, but inconsistent when broadcast. Available under Green-Light, Ferti-Lome, Safer, or Ortho product line. Green-light product is certified organic by OMRI meaning it is approved for use in organic gardens.
Ascend/Varsity/Clinch (0.011% abamectin) - Not an IGR, but performs like an IGR when broadcast applied, hard to find, limited to professional market.
Ceasefire (0.00015% fipronil) - Bayer is changing the bait granule for better performance, so not available now. Past tests indicate speed of control similar to Amdro.
Advion (0.045% indoxacarb) - Professional version. 90% or better control in THREE DAYS, foraging suppression in 12 - 48 hours.
Spectracide "Once & Done" (0.016% indoxacarb) – Retail version, high volume application, same active as Advion. Two to three applications per year usually needed.

Contact Insecticides – short list *
Over 'N Out/TopChoice (0.0103%, 0.0143% fipronil) - About as fast as Amdro, but VERY long true residual activity. May see good control for over a year, particularly on clay soils. Expensive ($20/5,000 square feet vs $10-12 per acre for baits) so use in high traffic areas or where long term control is needed.
Sevin XLR Plus (47% carbaryl) - labeled for pasture mound drench, 1.5 quarts/100 gal.
Pyrethroids (Ortho Max, Bayer Lawn and Garden, etc.) and other broadcast treatments – Use as directed to kill the mound and suppress foragers, but may not kill colony. Uses a lot of insecticide.
Spinosad (0.5% liquid) – considered all natural or "organic." Has a fire ant mound drench statement on label. Available from Green-Light or Ferti-Lome. Green-light product is certified organic by OMRI meaning it is approved for use in organic gardens.

* a good reference is "2005 Fire Ant Control Materials for Alabama Homeowners", ANR-175-A, on http://www.acew.edu

(Continued from page 8)

Average lot size was 3.13 heifers, with a maximum of 7 head. Average beef herd size in Missouri is 35 cows, so these sales appear to target average producers. Since such producers probably sell calves mostly at weaning and retain few heifers, it is not surprising that they did not pay more (and, in fact, paid less) for higher Yearling and Milk EPDs of their calves. These heifers were screened for factors contributing to calving difficulty (light body weight and small pelvic area), so buyers evidently felt that Birth EPD was not important. The authors stated, "This research found that quality developed heifers bred to sires with superior carcass quality genetics EPD demand premiums." However, in view of the small average herd numbers in the state, the apparent targeting of such herds in these sales, and the high probability that these herds sell calves at weaning through traditional markets, it is difficult to see why such producers should emphasize carcass genetics. If such emphasis is being given it generally should not be, as there is likely little if any opportunity to be rewarded. (Prof. Anim. Sci. 22:217)

EFFECT OF HEAT SYNCHRONIZATION ON BRAHMAN-CROSS COWS

Arkansas researchers studied effects of treatment with progesterone via CIDR (controlled internal drug-releasing device) for seven days followed by prostaglandin administration. Compared to control cows, the treatment resulted in increased number of mounts, improved synchronization, higher first-service conception, decreased interval to first estrus, and possibly induction of estrous cycles in anestrous individuals. So, this method may offer benefits other than synchronizing heat. (J. Animal Sci. 84:1916)

SICKNESS IN THE FEEDYARD

Data continue to accumulate revealing the effect of sickness on fed cattle. New Mexico and Texas researchers analyzed four years of feedout data involving 813 steers, of which 22 percent were treated for sickness at least once. Animals were classified as never being treated (NT), treated once (T1), or treated two or more times (T2+). Compared to sick cattle (average of T1 and T2+), NT gained 0.28 lb/day more, cost of gain was $0.15/lb less, carcass value was $0.10/lb higher, and net income was $176/hd higher. Compared to T2+, T1 gained 0.24 lb/day more, cost of gain was $0.15/lb less, carcass value was $0.09/lb higher, and net income was $184 higher. (J. Animal Sci. 84:12, Supple. 1)

EFFECT OF SIRE WEIGHT AND SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE ON HEIFERS

New Mexico researchers studied purebred Brangus heifers sired by three groups of sires: high Yearling EPD-low Scrotal Circumference EPD (HL); low Yearling-high SC (LH); and moderate Yearling-moderate SC (MM). LH-sired heifers were significantly lighter at both weaning and yearling. Postweaning ADG was not different. Postweaning, MM ate less feed daily and LH had poorer feed efficiency. At puberty, MM were 42 days younger and 71 lb lighter than LH and 54 days younger and 104 lb lighter than HL. Pregnancy percentages were: HL-71.4; LH-75.0; MM-87.5. It appears that, as in many things biological, moderation may be best. (Prof. Anim Sci. 22:48)

(Continued from page 5)

combination with cereal grains (Table 2).

Whenever possible, livestock should be excluded from food plots established for deer. Failure to exclude livestock may result in stand failure and certainly will limit the forage available for deer. Fence wires should be spaced to permit deer easy access to plots (i.e., the bottom wire should be 18 inches from the ground).

Information excerpted from Wildlife Management Handbook http://wildlife.tamu.edu/publications/A067.PDF

Table 2. Cool season supplemental forage combinations recommended for East Texas white-tails.*

Species	Region	Site	Seeding rate (lbs./acre) broadcast**	Planting depth (inches)	Comments
Rye	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	75.0	1.0	
Oats	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	25.0	1.0	Combine and plant oats and rye. Combine and plant rye-grass and clover adjacent to small grains on well-drained soil.
Arrowleaf clover	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	10.0	0.5	
Ryegrass	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	10.0	0.5	
Rye	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	60.0	1.0	
Oats	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	10.0	1.0	Combine and plant rye, oats and wheat. Combine and plant ryegrass and clover adjacent to small grains. Plant on well-drained soils.
Wheat	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	20.0	1.0	
Arrowleaf clover	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	10.0	0.5	
Ryegrass	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	10.0	0.5	
Sweetclover	Post Oak or Pineywoods	Bottomland	20.0	0.5	Plant adjacent to other food plot components.
Subterranean clover	Pineywoods	Bottomland	20.0	0.5	Plant adjacent to other food plot components.
Austrian winter peas	Post Oaks or Pineywoods	Upland or Bottomland	60.0	1.0	Plant adjacent to other food plot components or in combination with small grains. Reduce seeding rate by 50 percent if planted in combination with other forages.

* Planting dates for all varieties are September 15 to October 15, depending upon available soil moisture.
**Reduce seeding rate by 20 percent if a seed drill is used for planting.

HAY EVALUATION Submission Form

– COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION & SECURELY ATTACH TO YOUR HAY SAMPLE:

(Sample DEADLINE: September 28th, 2006)

Please attach the following information securely to your hay sample. The 1st sample entry per class is FREE, sponsored by the Walker County Farm Bureau, additional samples per class are $5.00 each. Samples may be turned in at the Walker County Extension Office on TAM Road, Natural Resource Conservation Service Office at the West Hill Mall or a participating feed store in Huntsville or New Waverly. Hay sample must be producer grown to qualify for entry to the State Hay Show. Questions about your entry? Call: 435-2426

CLASS OF HAY ENTERED:

PRODUCER GROWN _____
PURCHASED _____

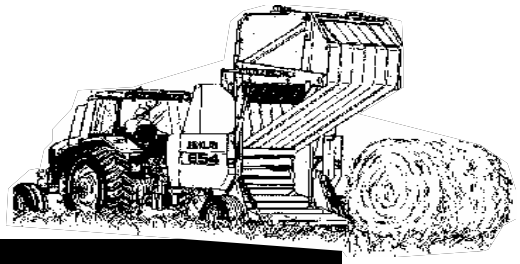
IMPROVED BERMUDA _____
COMMON BERMUDA _____
BAHIA _____
SORGHUM _____
LEGUME _____
LEGUME GRASS MIX _____
RYEGRASS _____
MIXED GRASSES _____

NAME _____
PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____

ONLY ONE SAMPLE PER FORM

Samples Must Consist Of:
TWO BLOCKS From Square Bales OR
ONE FULL CLEAN FEED SACK from Round Bales. NO PLASTIC BAGS!

Texas Cooperative EXTENSION
The Texas A&M University System



HAY QUALITY TESTING 2006

Samples due: September 28, 2006
See entry form enclosed in Newsletter

Activity Format for 2006:

- This event will be held as a Forage Quality Testing Campaign
- A selection of non-identified samples will be displayed for educational comparison

Educational Program Topics:

- **Texas Beef Council & Beef Check-Off Report**
- **Carcass Evaluation Via Ultrasound Technology**

Testing results will be returned during the Hay Evaluation Program on

Thursday
OCTOBER 19, 2006
6:30 PM
At the
SHSU Ag Complex, Indoor Arena
(beside I-45)

If the hay producer is not in attendance on October 19th testing results will be mailed.

Forage testing is an annual educational activity developed by Texas Cooperative Extension and the Walker County Extension Livestock & Pasture Committee.

For more information contact the Walker Co. Texas Cooperative Extension Office at (936) 435–2426.

Hay Testing Sponsored by:
Walker County Farm Bureau
Awards Sponsored by:
American Plant Food Corporation

RSVP by 10/17/06 to (936) 435-2426

6:30 PM Hamburger Supper $ 3.00 per person

Free Meal!
I'll bet the beef is good.

It had better be. The Texas Beef Quality Producer program is all about the *food.*

The TBQP program was developed to assist cattlemen in producing a safer, more wholesome food product. Better beef management practices help deliver a better meal for the all-important consumer. Get ready to participate in an upcoming Texas Beef Quality Producer training near you.

The TBQP Program is built upon a proven system of Best Management Practices. The full session offers an all-day training with, of course, a free beef meal included. Participation is not mandatory but you should get your seat reserved now because producers are finding the benefits go well beyond the ranch gate... through the sale barn, to the feedyard and most importantly, all the way to the consumer.

Our nation's Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) programs are vital. They help cattlemen give the consumer a wholesome eating experience – even with market cows and bulls. And a good eating experience with beef brings the consumer back for more.

Call or go online to RSVP for your seat and free meal:
Mark Perrier, TSCRA, mperrier@texascattleraisers.org
800-242-7820 • www.texasbeefquality.com
A collaborative effort of:

Texas Cooperative EXTENSION

TEXAS BEEF COUNCIL

Training Levels

Each Training session is divided into two levels for your convenience.

Level I - Covers Beef Quality Assurance, industry updates, record keeping, environmental stewardship and proper management practices associated with genetic selection, cattle handling, culling, vaccination, drug use and more.

Level II - Presents a detailed explanation of the necessary steps and paperwork required to become a CERTIFIED Texas Beef Quality Producer.

Can't make the next training? Call or go online and request a CD to train from home.

GET SIGNED UP - GET INVOLVED

Next Session: Crockett, Texas
October 5, 2006 - Lothrop Masonic Lodge

Level I Program	Level II Program
Registration - 7:30 am	Registration - 2:30 pm
8:00 am - 3:00 pm	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

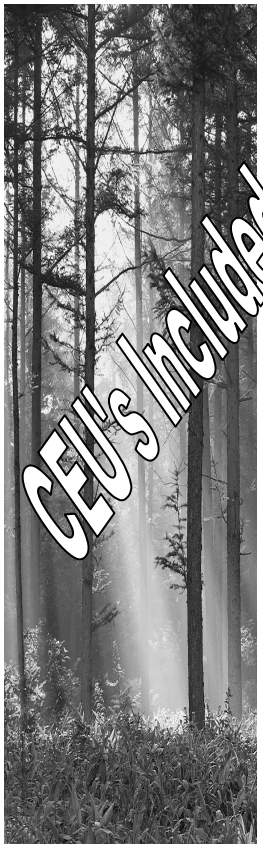
Please RSVP by Sept. 28th to TSCRA, 800-242-7820 or Houston Extension Office
Eddie King, Houston County Extension Agent, 936-544-3255

Directions: The Masonic Lodge is located on Loop 304 on the east side of Crockett.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Pfizer Animal Health · AG CREDIT OF SOUTH TEXAS · CAPITAL FARM CREDIT · Great Plains Ag Credit · SOUTHWEST TEXAS ACA · TEXAS LAND BANK

Cargill Cattle Feeders · AGRILAND FARM CREDIT SERVICES · AG TEXAS FARM CREDIT SERVICES · HERITAGE LAND BANK



Walker County Timber Growers & Landowners Association

FALL FIELD DAY

October 21, 2006

Presentations and Demonstrations on:
Forest Herbicides:
Selection
Application
& Equipment

TDA Pesticide Applicator CEU:s will be available

Noon Meal Co-sponsored by Walker County Farm Bureau

Contact the Texas Forest Service for more info (936) 295–5688.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Walker County Livestock & Pasture News. If you have questions or would like more information call us at (936) 435-2426.

Walker County Extension Office:
102 Tam Road Suite B, Huntsville Texas 77320
http://walker-tx.tamu.edu

Sincerely,

Reggie Lepley

Reggie Lepley
County Extension Agent – Agriculture

Non-Profit Org.
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Texas Cooperative Extension
102 Tam Road Suite B
Huntsville, Texas 77320