

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

Walker County Agriculture News Update

November 2016

Greetings from the Walker
County, Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension office!

“Agriculture, manufactures, commerce and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise.” –Thomas Jefferson

To use a somewhat common saying of today’s world: Word..

I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to present a talk on niche beef markets to the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club in Longview, Texas this past month. I noticed issues addressed in that quote by Thomas Jefferson highlighted by group discussion and response just a few times throughout my presentation. Actually the topic came up four times, I counted.

American agriculture has ability to innovate and lead when allowed. Individual enterprise and economic income potential is even furthermore strengthened by the ability to adapt when allowed the proper amount of freedom. Over the past months, “The Kid” developed a speech for the Farm Bureau, Free Enterprise Speech Contest. Unfortunately, she didn’t have the chance to compete due to a scheduling conflict with the State Fair of Texas Public Speaking Contest. She was able to present the topic at our local Walker County Farm Bureau, Annual Banquet; however, the more people reached the better. I think that I may just share her thoughts with you in this issue. Hopefully you will appreciate the thoughts of a Walker County 4-H & FFA member.

It is time to tighten your cinch and see where this trail will point your pony’s ears. Glad to have you here! Read on.

- ***When you have the opportunity, let others hear your message.***

Upcoming Events: (2 CEU’s in Walker Co. and up to 7 CEU’s in Montgomery Co.)

New Landowner Information program (1 CEU)

Thursday, November 17 @ 6:30 PM-approx. 8:00 PM

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office

102 Tam Road,

Huntsville, TX 77320

\$10.00 /person (RSVP to 936-435-2426 for seating)

One of the many challenges faced by new landowners’ is obtaining pertinent information or how to find said information. I am sure you

will find the topics of this discussion useful. We will have Floyd Nauls from the NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) and Brad Dyer with the Walker County Appraisal Office with us to discuss conservation management options, as well as, timber and agricultural land valuations with the group. Another of the issues that often come into play with agricultural enterprises is the financing of land acquisitions. Randal Prehoda, with Capital Farm Credit will be with us to provide some answers on options regarding purchasing agriculture land. Additionally, there is a local organization with resources available to assist landowners active in wildlife habitat



conservation practice. This information will be discussed by the TU-Mile Sportsman's Association. I also plan to spend some time explaining what TX A&M AgriLife Extension can offer in the way of educational resources and information for our new landowners.

I encourage you to call the Extension Office at (936) 435-2426 to reserve your seat in the classroom.

Wildlife Management: 101 (Native TX/Large Mammals) (1 CEU)

Tuesday, November 22nd @ 7:00 PM-approx. 8:30 PM

Walker County AgriLife Extension Office

102 Tam Road,

Huntsville, TX 77320

\$10.00 /person (RSVP to 936-435-2426 for seating)

Hey I know this date is going to be during hunting season! We won't start until 7:00 PM; you will have time to get out of the field and get over here. Dr. Aaron Sumrall, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent, Newton County will be with us to help you decide if wildlife management is something that fits your interests.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Making the decision to actively manage wildlife.
- Setting your management calendar for the year.
- Management Steps, Tools, & Practices to prepare for.

This informational event will allow you to determine what amount of planning needs to be done to "get in the game" with basic wildlife management and see if this option fits your goals.



**FYI: we are planning to hold a series of educational wildlife related classes this coming year – this event will be the "kick off" for the 2017 series. If you are serious about wildlife, it is time to get in on the start of these exciting programs. Join us November 22nd for the initial class.*

Save the Date:

Walker County Annual CEU Recertification Conference

Friday, January 13th, 2017

Walker County Storm Shelter

More information will be released as the program develops.

Out of County Events: (but not very far)

1st Annual Southeast Texas Town & Country CEU Recertification Seminar

December 15, 2016

7:00 AM until 4:00 PM

Lone Star Convention Center

9055 Airport Road

Conroe, TX 77303

\$50.00/participant before Dec 2; or \$70.00/participant after Dec 2. (The registration form is enclosed in this newsletter)

We invite you to join us for this first annual Southeast Texas Town and Country Recertification Seminar. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension strives to provide programs based on producer/ applicator needs. This year we have produced an educational program to provide a cross-section of information to assist producers/ applicators to gain valuable skills and techniques.

We have included special sessions for PCOs (ants update, landscape disease problems, herbicides, turfgrass selection). We hope you can join us for this top notch, intensive day of training, specially designed to serve the diverse needs of the residents of Southeast Texas.

Participants are not required to attend the entire conference to receive CEU credits for the sessions they attend.

Continuing Education Credits pending:

TDA-2 IPM, 1 Laws and Regs, 4 General

SPCB-1 Weed, 1 Pest, 1 IPM, 1 Laws and Regs, 1 L&O

**TDA & Structural
License CEU's**

Veterinary Feed Directive

The veterinary feed directive (VFD) became effective October 1, 2015 and all changes associated with medically important antimicrobials that are now available over-the-counter (OTC) must be implemented by January 1, 2017.

Animal feeds containing antibiotics medically important to humans and sold OTC at the feed store will require a VFD from an accredited veterinarian before the producer will be able to purchase that medicated feed. It is advisable that the producer get with their veterinarian well in advance of the date they need the feed to obtain the VFD since some feed dealers may not have the feed in stock and need to make it or order it. The maximum length of a VFD is 6 months. A new VFD is required after that.

The VFD will require a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) meaning that the veterinarian must know something about what the producer raises and can trust them to follow directions. Also, the veterinarian is responsible for filling out the VFD form and for sending it (in person or by mail, email or fax, NOT verbally) to the feed dealer. All three parties will need to keep these records for at least 2 years.

Additional information which should answer questions you may have on this subject is attached to this newsletter. Please see the attachment: [The Veterinary Feed Directive \(VFD\) and Related Information for Livestock Producers](#), by Dr. Ted McCollum, TX A&M AgriLife Extension, Beef Specialist.

In This Issue:

FREE ENTERPRISE IS THE AMERICAN DREAM.

Building for the future..

Timeliness of subject is always important. We all know how topic specific information can produce impacts when delivered at just the right moment. Those of us who attempt to plan our topics sometimes find this extremely frustrating, to say the least. I tend to liken this to organizing my tool box.

Almost all of us initially start with a fairly empty tool box stocked with only the basics, if we are lucky. Beyond that, it is not uncommon to have to run up to the store to buy a badly needed tool, or dig out another set of tools to modify or even build one to do the job at hand. After you work on enough projects, oftentimes it just happens that you have the tools needed for the job sitting there in the box just waiting for the correct situation.

For what it is worth, I have reached the point when I can't find a badly needed tool, I often think it is because someone else removed it from the box and didn't put it back. I would bet a number of you may also understand

the concept. As a bit of payback, I am utilizing a tool in this newsletter built by one of the very culprits included in the top two of my tool removal list.

As you read the following information, please keep in mind that it developed as an orally delivered speech which often requires a bit different cadence and outline than documents intended only for reading. The original versions, edited for a specific time limit included much more detail.

By the way, when you get through digging around in that toolbox, remember to **“Close the lid!”**

FREE ENTERPRISE IS THE AMERICAN DREAM.

By Shelby Lepley

Is the American Dream still achievable? When I think of free enterprise, I think of being able to reach out and touch the American Dream...you know the dream that we can do anything, be anything, and accomplish anything. The concept of grasping the American Dream is only obtainable when we embrace free enterprise. Let me explain, the small business owner hoping to make an impact on his or her community (in other words...trying to grasp his dream) cannot be successful without free enterprise or the American workers who dream of providing for their families, or even the child who dreams of becoming a cattle rancher. Have you ever stopped to think what free enterprise is and why it is so important to the people of the United States as well as others around the world? As part of a generation which continues to see government become more deeply involved in our daily lives, it is great to know that free enterprise restrains government from excessive interfering, disturbing or over regulation of our businesses.



If you remember the “Soda Ban” of 2013, where a city mayor banned soft drinks larger than 16 ounces only at certain businesses on the premise of community health, you can see how easily free enterprise of both small and large entrepreneurs can suffer a direct negative impact when the government tries to get involved. Because of a series of checks set in place, this ruling which would not have affected all businesses equally, was effectively halted before being implemented. Thankfully our system protected many shop owners’ free enterprise and their American Dream in this case.

As a future leader in the United States, it is my responsibility for being knowledgeable about our constitutional rights set by our founders, and make sure that those who would take these rights away find active resistance as all should have opportunity to realize their own dreams. Instead of being governed by big government, free enterprise is more effectively governed through laws of supply and demand. What does this mean? Well, years ago it meant that the family unit served at the base of our production. The hardworking group of people who developed our great country grew their own crops and raised their own animals. If and when they had extra, it could be sold or traded. These small entrepreneurs preserved meat products, canned vegetables, and stored grain for later use. They built whatever they needed with their own hands, skill, and knowledge. Although modern mass production provides us with much more product diversity obtained by less labor, the free enterprise system based on supply and demand is as practical as ever. Supply and demand determines the value a buyer will pay vs. the price a seller will accept, thus creating environments of competition allowing the buyer to seek options of possessing the item and the seller to develop added income for their family.

The ability to choose what we sell, buy, and how we provide for our family is still obtainable. When writing this speech I wondered; why, with such a great system in our country, why are there people who are always so negative about our country and their future? It is simple to me...they don’t understand that everyone takes part in the free enterprise system thus creating, building or impacting their own American Dream. Whether we buy products, make products, or distribute items, we all have a role to play in the process. This became very clear to

me when I attended the Farm Bureau, Youth Leadership Conference where guest speakers talked about our responsibilities as members of a free enterprise system.

As I traveled home from the conference I realized the role I play in our free enterprise system and what I hope will be my future role. I have always dreamed of starting a ranch and raising cattle. My parents told me this dream would require income and good money management to carry out this goal as an adult. What my parents didn't know was that livestock judging at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo would offer my first opportunity long before I would become a self-sufficient adult. With a system of bartering and hard work, I am able to raise cattle and sell the offspring for profit. I am able to do this because of the idea of free enterprise and my ability to develop my education toward supporting my American Dream.

As a budding rancher, I am aware of how the cattle market ebbs and flows. I understand the basics of these cycles formed on supply and demand. It is my responsibility to develop my understanding of free enterprise, my government, and how to make my world a better place; however, it is my goal to educate others in these United States that free enterprise is truly the American Dream. And the American Dream IS still alive.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding Extension Educational Programs, call us at (936) 435-2426.



Provisions from the American Disability Act will be considered when planning educational programs and activities. Please notify the Walker County Extension Office if you plan on attending an Extension Educational program and need specialized services. Notification of at least three to five days in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Reggie Lepley



Reggie Lepley,
County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources
Walker County
(936) 435-2426

Please check area(s) of the agricultural production, landscape maintenance, or other area industry in which you are involved that utilize pesticides:

- _____ Golf Course Maintenance
- _____ School Maintenance
- _____ Landscape Maintenance Company
- _____ Parks & Recreation Department
- _____ Agricultural Forages
- _____ Agriculture Crops
- _____ Other (specify)

Registration Information:

Before December 2- \$50 per person
After December 2- \$70 per person

Make checks payable to:

Montgomery County Horticulture Committee

For more information call:

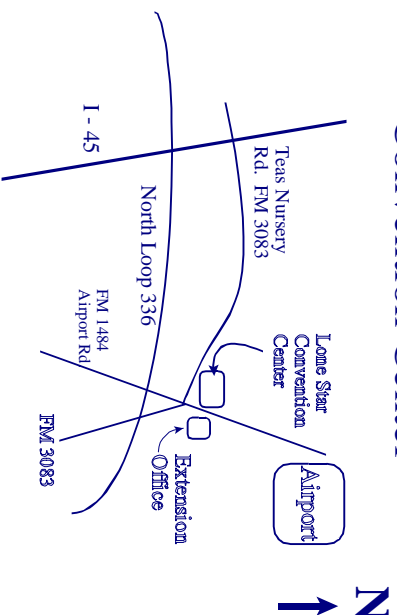
April Fagan, Conference Secretary
Montgomery County Extension Office
(936)539-7822

OR:

Reggie Lepley, CEA-Ag/NR, Walker County (936) 435-2426.

Programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

Map to the Lone Star Convention Center



Area Motels:

- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
(3010 I-45 North, Conroe)
(936)756-3040
- LaQuinta Inn (4006 Sprayberry Lane, Conroe)
(936)228-0790
- Holiday Inn Express (2240 Stoneside Drive, Conroe)
(936)788-5200

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

1st Annual

Southeast Texas



Town & Country CEU

December 15, 2016

Sponsored by the:

District 9 Southeast Texas

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension

Service

Montgomery & Walker Counties

We invite you to join us for this first annual Southeast Texas Town and County Recertification Seminar. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension strives to provide programs based on producer/ applicator needs. This year we have produced an educational program to provide a cross-section of information to assist producers/ applicators to gain valuable skills and techniques.

We have included special sessions for PCOs (ants update, landscape disease problems, herbicides, turfgrass selection.) We hope you can join us for this top notch, intensive day of training, specially designed to serve the diverse needs of the residents of Southeast Texas.

Participants are not required to attend the entire conference to receive CEU credits for the sessions they attend.

Continuing Education Credits pending:

TDA-2 IPM, 1 Laws and Regs, 4 General
 SPCB-1 Weed, 1 Pest, 1 IPM, 1 Laws and
 Regs, 1 L&O

Conference Schedule:

7:00-7:45 Registration & Refreshments

7:45-8:00 Welcome and Conference Instructions
 County Extension Agent-Agriculture
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

8:00-9:00 Update on Laws and Regulations

SPCS-GEN Dr. Janet Hurley
 TDA-L&R Asst. Professor & Extension Specialist
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

9:00-10:00 Forage Systems for the Southern Great Plains

TDA-IPM Dr. Twain Butler
 Extension Program Specialist
 Noble Foundation

10:00-11:00 SPCS-L&O
 TDA-IPM

Turf Management Techniques
 Dr. Casey Reynolds
 Extension Program Specialist
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

11:00-12:00 SPCS-Weed
 TDA-Gen

Aquatic Weed Control Techniques
 Dr. Todd Sink
 Asst. Professor & Extension
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

12:00-1:00

Catered Lunch: Included in
 Registration Fee (Visit with vendors)

1:00-2:00

Weed Control Techniques
 Ms. Mari Palacio
 Range Program Specialist
 Dow Agro Sciences

TDA-Gen

2:00-3:00 SPCS-Pest

Ants Impacting our Lives
 Dr. Robert Puckett
 Extension Program Specialist
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

TDA-Gen

3:00-4:00

Herbicides and Soil Fertility Interactions
 Dr. Jake Mowrer
 Extension Program Specialist
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

SPCB - IPM

TDA - Gen

(Please Tear Along Perforation)

(ATTENTION: 1 REGISTRATION FORM PER PARTICIPANT: COPY IF NECESSARY)

Registration Form

T.D.A. License #: _____

S.P.C.B. License # _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Company, School or Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(\$50/participant before Dec. 2; \$70/participant after Dec. 2) Check# _____ Purchase Order# _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to: Walker County Extension Office, 102 Tam Road, Suite B, Huntsville, TX 77320

(Make check payable to *Livestock & Pasture Committee*)

**Registration form will serve as invoice. No invoices will be mailed.*



The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) and Related Information for Livestock Producers

F.T. McCollum III, PhD, PAS-ACAN
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Amarillo

The Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996 (ADAA) established a new category of drugs, veterinary feed directive (VFD) drugs. The revised Veterinary Feed Directive rule that goes into effect October 1, 2015 addresses the use of drugs in feeds for livestock. Current focus is on antimicrobials that are considered *medically-important* (human medicine applications).

What does the VFD rule and associated guidance do?

The VFD rule and associated FDA Guidance documents -

- (1). ends the use of medically-important antimicrobials to enhance livestock performance,*
- (2). transitions many of the feed medications that are currently available "over-the-counter" into the VFD drug category,*
- (3). places the use of VFD animal drugs in or on animal feed under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian,*
- (4). requires producers to obtain written VFD orders from a licensed veterinarian to purchase and utilize the VFD antimicrobials on or in feed.*

When does the VFD rule become effective?

This rule becomes *effective October 1, 2015*. All changes associated with medically important antimicrobials that are now available over-the-counter must be implemented *by January 1, 2017*.

What are VFD Drugs?

VFD drugs are FDA-approved for use in animal feeds under veterinarian supervision and under written VFD orders. Current focus is on antimicrobials delivered in feeds that are deemed to be medically-important. This does not preclude a broadened approach in the future. The label for the additive, or the label for the medicated feed item containing the additives, must state whether the additive is a VFD drug or not.

As of September 2015 there are three VFD drugs - florfenicol (Nuflor - swine; Aquaflo - aquaculture), avilamycin (Kavault; swine), and tilmicosin (Pulmotil; swine, beef, dairy).

By January 1, 2017, all medically-important antimicrobials intended for use in feed that are currently available "over-the-counter" will become VFD drugs. Additives such as lasalocid (Bovatec-cattle, Avatec-poultry), monensin (Rumensin-cattle, Coban-poultry), bacitracin, bambermycins (Flavomycin - swine, Gainpro - cattle), and amprolium are not "medically-important" and will not fall under the VFD unless they are used in combination with a VFD drug.

Producers need written authorization from a licensed veterinarian

Use of VFD drugs now falls under the supervision of licensed veterinarians. *Producers must receive signed and written (not verbal) authorization from a licensed veterinarian to purchase and utilize VFD antimicrobials on and in feed.* This authorization is referred to as a VFD Order.

An established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) is required

To write the VFD order, the licensed veterinarian must have an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with the producer. Based on the Texas Veterinary Licensing Act, a valid VCPR is present if:

- (1). The veterinarian assumes responsibility for medical judgments regarding the health of the livestock, and the client (the owner or caretaker of the livestock), agrees to follow the veterinarian's instructions.*
- (2). The veterinarian possesses *sufficient knowledge* of the livestock to initiate a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the livestock. *Sufficient knowledge* exists if the veterinarian has recently seen, or is personally acquainted with, the keeping and care of the livestock as a result of (a) examining the animal, or (b) making medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the livestock are kept. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship *may not* be established solely by telephone or electronic means.*
- (3). The veterinarian is readily available to provide follow-up medical care in the event of an adverse reaction, or failure of the regimen of therapy.*

Steps to obtain a VFD Order

- (1). Contact your veterinarian with whom you have a valid VCPR. If a producer does not have a valid VCPR with an appropriate veterinarian, then the preliminary step is to establish a VCPR.*
- (2). The veterinarian determines whether conditions warrant use of a VFD drug or feed.*
- (3). If warranted, the veterinarian issues a written and signed VFD order containing information specified by regulations. Verbal orders are not allowed but electronic orders are acceptable. Incomplete and unsigned orders are invalid and cannot be filled.*
- (4). The veterinarian retains a copy of the VFD order and gives the completed, signed original and a copy to the client.*
- (5). The client keeps the copy and gives the original signed VFD to the feed mill/feed distributor supplying the VFD feed. The VFD order allows the feed to be released to the client.*
- (6). Depending on the specific VFD drug, and the conditions outlined by the veterinarian, separate VFD orders may be required for different groups of livestock and, new VFD orders may be required to extend the treatment duration (depends on "refill" specifications).*

Information required on a lawful VFD order

Veterinarian's name, address, and telephone number

Client's name, business or home address, and telephone number

Premises where the livestock specified in the VFD are located

Date the VFD was issued

Expiration date of the VFD (this is the date the VFD is no longer valid and use of the VFD feed is illegal)

Name of the VFD drug(s) in the order

Species and production class of livestock to receive the VFD feed

Approximate number of livestock to receive the VFD feed by the expiration date

Health indication for which the VFD was issued

Concentration of VFD drug in the feed

Duration of use (length of time the livestock will receive the treatment)

Withdrawal time, special instructions, and cautionary statements necessary for use of the drug to conform with the approval

Information required on a lawful VFD order (cont'd)

Number of reorders (refills) authorized, if permitted

Statement: “Use of feed containing this veterinary feed directive (VFD) drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling (extralabel use), is not permitted”;

Veterinarian’s electronic or written signature

Optional information on the VFD order

More specific description of the location (i.e. pen, barn, pasture or other)

Approximate age range of the animals

Approximate weight range of the animals

Any other information the veterinarian deems appropriate to identify the animals involved

Basic Producer Responsibilities

Establish a VCPR with an appropriate veterinarian.

Contact your veterinarian for consultation and guidance.

Follow your veterinarian's recommendations.

Administer the VFD medicated feed according to the directions on the VFD order.

Keep copies of your VFD orders for at least two years.

Provide your VFD order copies for FDA inspectors to copy and review, if requested.