



Walker County Agriculture

News Brief:

December 01, 2014



Pesticide Applicator CEU Recertification Program

January 9, 2015

7:00 AM

Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Hwy 75 N, Huntsville, TX)

<http://walker.agrilife.org/>

In This Issue:

Upcoming Events

Pesticide Applicator CEU Recertification

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Walker County and the Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District will be hosting a 5.5 Hour continuing education class for Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators. This C.E.U. recertification class will be held on Friday, January 9, 2015 at the Walker County Storm Shelter, next to the HEARTS Veterans Museum on Highway 75 North in Huntsville. Cost for the program is \$30.00 without lunch or \$40.00 with lunch.

Registration will begin at 7:00 AM and the program will conclude around 2:45 PM. A variety of agricultural topics and speakers are included in this annual educational program. Topics scheduled for the 2015 Pesticide Recertification event include items for landowners in the Walker County area. Specific items to be discussed during the day include the following topics and speakers.

A variety of topics will be covered during this educational activity. Invasive ant species control in Texas will be discussed by Dr. Paul Nester, Extension Program Specialist. This presentation will include results of community wide control efforts and products available for management of the pest. David Smith, Extension Program Specialist, Biological & Ag Engineering will present information on safely utilizing pesticide products and application equipment. Dr. Paul Baumann, Extension Weed Specialist, will present updated information on Weed & Brush Control Research. New products and recommendations for use of available herbicides will be discussed in detail during this presentation. Dr. Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist will discuss Weed Control Efforts Following Dry Years. Making the most of expensive inputs requires planning and knowledge of your crops growth potential. This presentation will help you understand how to make decisions regarding pesticide applications to enhance your forage crop production. Participants will receive a Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update with additional information on Pesticide Issues by Dr. Don Rennie, Extension Program Leader for Agricultural & Environmental Safety.

The program will conclude with the completion of program evaluations, and the C.E.U. Certificate Distribution at approximately 2:45 PM. Participants will be eligible to receive 1.0 hours Laws & Regulations credit, 2.0 hours Integrated Pest Management credit, and 2.5 hours General credit. Class participants are requested to R.S.V.P. for the program by January 6, 2015 to (936) 291-1901 ext 109. Additional program information can be obtained from the Walker County Texas Agrilife Extension office at (936) 435-2426 or <http://walker-tx.tamu> under the events link or on Facebook at WalkerCo TxAgrilife.

Information reprinted from the November Texas A&M Animal Science Beef Cattle Browsing News

Changes to the TAHC Trichomoniasis Control Program

(TAHC Newsletter, 11/6/14)

The Texas Animal Health Commission has adopted some changes to the Trichomoniasis control program as follows:

- If a bull is sold and later found to be infected, other bulls from the herd of origin may be required to be tested if the bull was not exposed to females after its sale and prior to testing by the new owner;
- If a bull has strayed on to property not owned or managed by the bull's caretaker and is found to be infected then other bulls from the unit of origin and bulls on the premises where the bull was last located must all be officially tested;
- The TAHC can evaluate the effectiveness of a herd control plan to monitor progress;
- All premises under a Trich Herd Certification Program must have perimeter fences adequate to control movement in and out of the premises.

Climate Change & Beef Cattle

Extension Agents from several regions across Texas, as well as, other Central Southern States were invited to attend a workshop to learn more about climatic situation(s) affecting beef cattle production. The workshop was hosted at Oklahoma State University and sponsored by the Southwest Region Animal Agriculture & Climate Change Project. I am sure this is not going to be a highly popular topic; however, I wanted to pass along information from the Cattle & Climate Workshop held in Stillwater, Oklahoma this past month. As one of the Agents in attendance, I feel that this information needs to be shared.



I am at this time, still attempting to obtain copies of the actual information presented by individual speakers to pass along to you in expanded detail if so desired, so don't expect any numbers or hard data in this report- just my overall view and impression of what was passed along to us as a group. There were several speakers who piqued my interest, which I will discuss in this brief informational report. *Please keep in mind that this information is my impression of what was presented based on my personal notes.*

The first speaker was Gary McManus, Oklahoma State Climatologist. He presented an informational set of data showing that our climate is indeed changing. Discussion into what is causing this was not broached as he only reviewed the historical data available and the trend that is being documented. Basic information which was provided showed that climatologists are expecting our dry periods to continue to be dryer and hotter than in the recent past with wider swings in extreme weather related conditions to be expected in the future. My version of what was said is that when gets cold or wet in the future it is expected to be much colder or wetter than what we would expect for that (short) period of time in the past. Overall, drought and or extended hot dry conditions are expected to become more of the "norm" in the future. For those of us near the coastal areas of Texas, his predictions on tropical weather events were not good, with increased frequency or numbers of these events to be forecasted. Now the interesting item mentioned related to tropical weather events are that many are expected to move

further north in their impact of the Continental US. This is predicted due to latitude shifts in the La Nina, El Nino phases of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle. As I remember, it was stated that there are a number of oscillation type cycles that occur around the world that affect global weather patterns and the interaction of all in turn affect the individual cycles. The presentation did indicate that polar sea ice is receding faster than in past years with some annual rebuilding being seen; however, the concern is that rebuilding will not keep up with the receding, thus affecting overall temperature gradients globally. This is expected to affect sea levels globally.

The next two speakers whom I found of great interest were Sara Place, Oklahoma State University speaking on “Implications for Sustainable Pasture & Rangeland Operations”, and David Lalman, Oklahoma State University speaking on “Matching Cattle Breeds to Environmental Conditions”. Although two separate presentations, they come together in my review based on the fact that both speakers indicated we will need to develop future management of our beef production systems that fit a changing set of conditions.



With a shift to dryer/hotter weather, forage systems supporting beef cattle will need to adapt. We will ultimately want to develop our forage production to shorter time period windows when we have available moisture to produce stored or harvested forages. This may mean a harder look at annual crops that can produce volume in the shorter production period. My concern is that thought for some crops comes with its own set of detrimental issues when weather fluctuations are occurring. This may also mean an even greater emphasis on crops such as cool season forages to match the seasons with expected moisture. With this thought, it was indicated that we need to look at our beef cattle numbers/animal units per acre to insure that overstocking is not an issue during the dry periods. Reducing total numbers carried on a given range should allow producers to emerge without having to reduce their base herd numbers drastically as we have seen in the past few years. Another related thought is that we will be looking even harder at range management methods to retain received moisture more effectively in the future.

The other side of the beef cattle system to evaluate would be the cattle in our pastures. As all of us who have been around the cattle business for any length of time know well, our industry has swung from one extreme to another with animal size. Selection of breeds and individuals within a breed has often been based on mature size, yearling weight, calving weight, and milk production to name some of the big items evaluated. It was mentioned that moderation will be the desired identifier of many traits to select from in the future. Specifically mentioned were milking ability/production traits as selection criteria for our cows. In evaluating this thought, it makes sense, as moderate milk producing cows require lower amounts of forage to raise and produce a marketable calf. All of the selection criteria mentioned above will need to be combined with an animal’s individual ability to tolerate heat stress.



Information supporting the Animal Agriculture in a Changing Climate project can be found online at <http://animalagclimatechange.org/> This web site features a free online course which will allow individuals to explore the issues and determine means of addressing their individual situations. I recommend a review of the resources section for additional information and/or suggestions on management tools with can be accessed and utilized.

Creative Sausage Making

January 16-17, 2015

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Kleberg Animal Science & Rosenthal Meat Science Centers

\$325.00 registration fee per participant

Creative Sausage Making was developed by the processed meats experts at Texas A&M AgriLife after numerous requests for a basic sausage course that would allow a “first timer” to be successful, or a “seasoned” veteran to pick up some new tips. The hands-on workshop will engage participants in important aspects of sausage making from meat selection, ingredients, casings, stuffing, equipment, processing and final finished product.

Participants will manufacture their own sausages (smoked and fresh sausage) and have an opportunity to take some home for further evaluation.

This workshop is for those who wish to increase their knowledge and/or gain experience in sausage making.

Whether you want to introduce a line of sausage products for your restaurant, or make your own sausage for tailgating parties, this course will help you understand the art and science of sausage making.

For more information on the Creative Sausage Making workshop or for information on how to register (\$325 per person), send an email to dgriff@tamu.edu or check <http://animalscience.tamu.edu> for an on-line link to our registration site (at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>). Hotel reservations can be made at the Ramada Inn, (979-846-0300, Group Code = Meat Workshop).

Earth-Kind Landscape Short Course

January 21-23, 2015

Thomas G. Hildebrand Equine Complex, 3240 F&B Road, College Station, TX

Registration (before 1/09/15 \$375.00)

The Earth-Kind® Landscape Short Course is a continuing education program designed for professionals responsible for managing and maintaining urban green space such as residential landscapes, parks, commercial properties and golf courses. The course will also benefit municipal, schools and city water utility personnel, particularly those interested in developing sustainable urban landscape conservation programs.

Speakers from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension draw upon their expertise to address landscape industry issues, problems and opportunities in a 3-day program.

Register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/horticulture>

Register by phone: 979-845-2604

Before January 9, 2015-- \$375, which includes lunches, breaks and handouts. Single day: \$135.

After January 9, 2015-- \$435. Single day: \$150; Meals and handouts NOT guaranteed.

For further details, Contact: Dr. Mengmeng Gu mgu@tamu.edu, Extension Specialist, Tel: 979-845-8567



Do you have a BIG Tree?

The Walker County Big Tree Registry is being revisited. This project was last done 25 years ago. We lost a large number of trees during and following the dry conditions of 2011. In an effort to determine where our outstanding trees are throughout the county, the Walker County Historical Commission, City of Huntsville, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and Walker County are taking nominations of big trees. Tree nominations are being accepted through the end of 2014. If you have a tree you think is outstanding, please nominate it. For more information, contact Jordan Herrin at (936) 295-5688. Nomination forms are also posted online at www.huntsvilletx.gov



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 one week in advance is needed, so that we may have ample time to acquire resources needed to meet your needs. 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. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

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