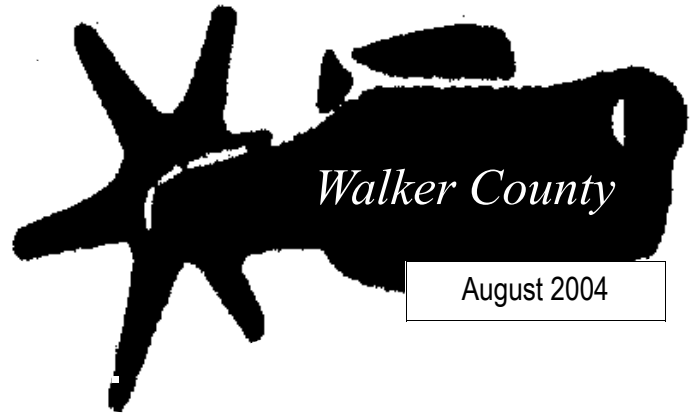


# AGRICULTURAL Program Update



## More educational programs on the 2004 Fall Calendar

Once again we are rapidly approaching the Fall season. For our ranchers, this time of year usually means hay testing, preparation for winter pastures and hopefully an objective evaluation of both the financial and performance records of the cattle operation. I feel safe in saying it has been a good year for cattle prices in the U.S.A. The impact of market restrictions and overall cattle numbers in our nation have had much to do with this. As an example, you may want to look at the market figures for a 6-7 weight steer in Canada and the price for the same Texas calf. These reports are viewable online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Canadian Market Price -Southern Alberta (8-20-04)  
Steers 601-700 lbs. 65.48  
Texas Market -East Central Texas Area (8-21-04)  
Steers 600-700 lbs. 110.00-121.00

We will be hosting a program September 21, 2004 at 7:00 PM to discuss how the Foreign Animal Disease Situation and the National Animal ID program will affect you as a livestock producer. If you own livestock, you need to attend this meeting at the Walker County Fair Grounds – Committeeman's Room (behind the main building). These two topics will impact any livestock operation from the 10 acre or less “weekend ranch” to the 100+ Section sized operation. This meeting will include a 10 oz Ribeye Steak with all the trimmings and is being co-sponsored by Nolan Ryan’s Tender Aged Beef and Merial. Due to the meal preparation requirements for this program we request that you RSVP prior to September 13, 2004 at (936) 435-2426.

### 2004 Fall Educational Programs:

The **Fall Hay Evaluation** program has undergone a transition from the format of previous years. We will be testing hay again; however, we will not hold a dedicated “Hay Show” style program. Producers who submit samples for analysis will receive printed results at our **Winter Cattle Feeding Program** on October 14, 2004. If you are not in attendance at the program, we will mail your results to you with a feeding recommendation if needed. More details on both these activities can be found on the program flyers in this newsletter.

**Cow Country Congress** is scheduled for October 21, 2004. This is an annual event that rotates throughout a seven county area. The 2004 program will be held in Trinity County. Your \$10.00 registration will provide a ribeye steak for lunch. Numerous commercial vendors will be displaying their products. See the program on page 5 for more information

We will be holding a **Pesticide Applicators Training & Testing Session** this Fall. This class is for Ag Producers needing to obtain a Texas Department of Agriculture, Private Pesticide Applicators License. Call (936) 435-2426 to be placed on the waiting list. Cost for this class is \$30.00 per participant (includes study materials). Class size is limited to 30 participants.

### Special points of interest:

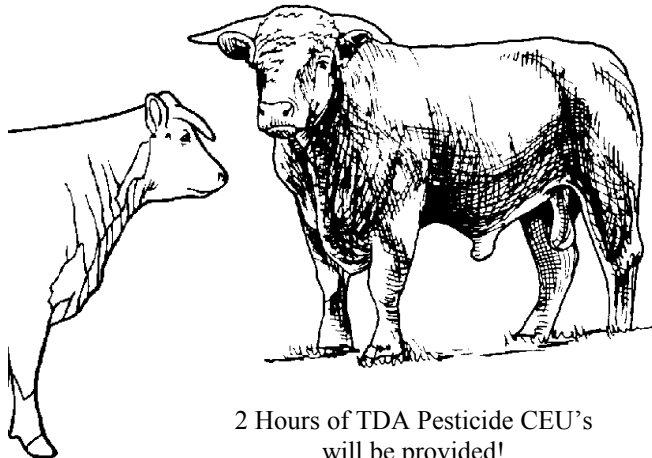
- **Livestock Education Program – Animal ID & Foreign Animal Diseases**
- **Hay Testing Campaign Underway**
- **Winter Beef Cattle Feeding Program**
- **Timber Growers Association Fall Field Day**
- **Master Gardener Fall Expo & Plant Sale**
- **Montgomery Co Beef Health Series**



# Utilize Your Resources For **PROFIT!**

**Sam Houston State  
University,  
Agriculture Center  
East side of I-45  
(Indoor Arena)**

**October 14, 2004  
7:00 PM**



2 Hours of TDA Pesticide CEU's  
will be provided!

PROGRAM  
SPONSORED BY:  
**AMERICAN PLANT FOOD**  
- AND -  
**THE EXTENSION LIVESTOCK &  
PASTURE COMMITTEE OF WALKER  
COUNTY**  
- IN COOPERATION WITH -  
**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT**

## **Winter Cattle Feeding Program**

Economical feeding &  
management of cattle with  
forages, winter pastures and  
supplements.

**Guest Speaker  
Dr. Larry Redmon,  
Extension Forage Specialist**

### **Winter Pasture Management & Utilization**

- Forages for Walker County
- Soil testing
- Fertilization needs & requirements
- Weed control issues
- Grazing management

**Standing Forage Utilization  
Feeding Hay and Supplements**  
Utilize your hay test results

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.



## Fumonisin Contamination in 2004 Texas Corn Crop

Thomas Isakeit,  
Associate Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist  
August 11, 2004

Dept. Plant Pathology, Texas A&M University  
Fumonisin, a fungal-produced toxin that can be deadly to horses, is again a problem in the Texas corn crop. According to the Office of the Texas State Chemist, 27% of 62 samples of the 2004 crop analyzed in early August had levels exceeding 5 parts per million (ppm). Nine counties in the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast production areas had samples that ranged from 6.3 to 88.7 ppm. It is possible that contamination may also be found in corn now being harvested from production areas in other parts of the state. Therefore, all corn should be tested, especially if it is to be fed to sensitive animals such as horses and rabbits.

The fungus that produces fumonisin is *Fusarium verticillioides* (older name is *F. moniliforme*). It is widespread in agricultural soils. It can grow as a saprophyte on crop residue and it is also a plant pathogen, causing an ear rot during periods of wet weather. The symptoms of this ear rot are a white growth on kernels, as well as white streaks on the kernel that have a radiating pattern (known as "starburst"). The fungus can infect and grow down the silks of intact ears, into intact kernels. Insects can aid in infection, by allowing the fungus easier entrance through open wounds, or by moving the fungus around. However, fumonisin can be a problem even in the absence of insect injury. Contamination can also occur in transgenic (*Bt*) hybrids.

The fungus infects the ear during the flowering period. Rainy weather during this time is a predisposing factor because it can disperse spores. Fumonisin can be produced shortly after infection. Contaminated corn may not have visible fungal growth. The highest levels of toxin production have been measured at 20% kernel moisture, while toxin production ceases below 18% kernel moisture. Fumonisin can also be a post-harvest problem if grain is stored at improper moisture contents and/or temperatures.

As is the case with aflatoxin, the level of

contamination with fumonisin can vary from kernel to kernel. This variation can confound subsequent detection of contamination if care is not taken with sample size and sampling technique. Since there is a high association of fumonisin with broken kernels, it may be possible to reduce levels in contaminated grain by removing them.

Grain contaminated with fumonisin may also be contaminated with aflatoxin, even though there are differences between them in factors predisposing grain to contamination. For details on the use of grain exceeding 5 ppm contamination, refer to "Feed Industry Memorandum 5-20" at the Office of the Texas State Chemist web site, [otscweb.tamu.edu](http://otscweb.tamu.edu). For more information on corn contamination with fumonisin, see my article, "Understanding Fumonisin Contamination of Corn: Contrasts and Comparisons With Aflatoxin" at the web site, [ipm.tamu.edu/crops/corn/articles/isakeit\\_1.html](http://ipm.tamu.edu/crops/corn/articles/isakeit_1.html).



### Master Gardener Fall Expo & Plant Sale November 13, 2004 Texas Prison Museum, Huntsville Texas

You are invited to join the Walker County Master Gardeners for a fun day of horticultural education at the first ever Fall Plant Expo and Plant Sale.

#### Scheduled events:

**9:00 AM – Noon** Visit the vendor exhibits & Plant Sale featuring plants utilized to enhance the Vietnam Wall Experience.

**9:00 AM** –Local Propagation Specialists share favorite roses and tips on propagation. Take home a rose cutting for your own garden.

#### 10:00 AM

- -Thad Howard, author of *Bulbs for a Warm Climate* will be on hand for a book signing and to talk about the landscaping aspect of bulbs.

#### 11:00 AM – Noon Bulb Sale

- Bulbs for this area including many unusual and rare types.

# HAY QUALITY TESTING 2004

**Samples due:  
September 27, 2004**

**New Activity Format for 2004:**

- ◆ This event will be held as a Forage Quality Testing Campaign
- ◆ All submitted hay samples will not be displayed publicly

**Testing results will be returned  
during the Winter Cattle  
Feeding Program on**

Thursday  
OCTOBER 14, 2004  
7:00 PM  
SAM HOUSTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
INDOOR ARENA  
Animal Science Classroom

**If the producer is not in  
attendance on October  
14th - testing results  
will be mailed.**

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

Samples must consist of two flakes from square bales or a FULL clean feed sack from round bales. The highest quality samples of producer grown hay will be sent to the Texas State Hay Show. Purchased hay and non-baled hay samples will not be sent to the Texas State Hay Show.

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

**Hay Samples must be submitted to the Walker  
County Extension Office by September 27, 2004**

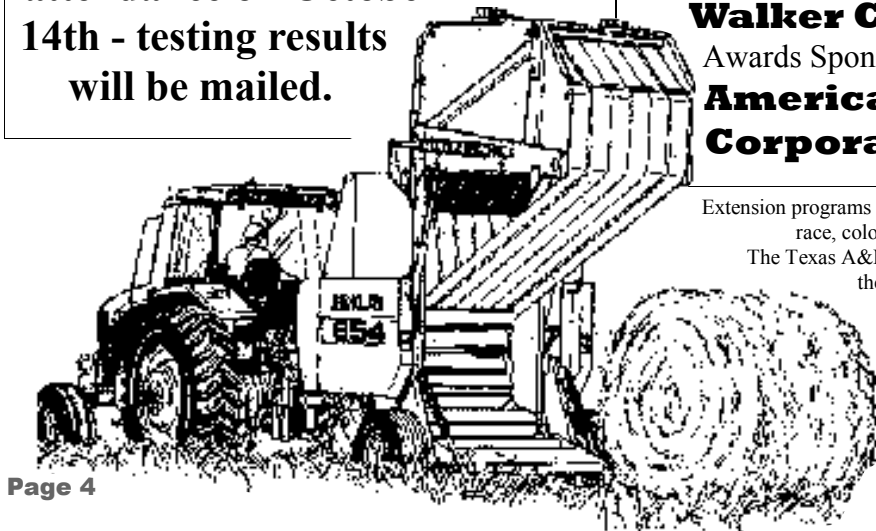
Hay Testing Sponsored by:

**Walker County Farm Bureau**

Awards Sponsored by:

**American Plant Food  
Corporation**

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.



**HAY TESTING  
Application Form**

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

(Sample entry **DEADLINE: September 27, 2004**)

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. Hay sample must be producer grown and processed through a mechanical hay baler 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!**

**2004 COW COUNTRY CONGRESS**

**OCTOBER 21, 2004**

Rising Star Cowboy Church

Trinity Texas

Noon Meal ( **Rib Eye Steak** )

Registration begins at 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Welcome- Crispin Skinner, CEA-AG & NR, Trinity Co.

Program Topics

- ☆ **Winter Forages-** Dr. Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist
- ☆ **Foreign Animal Diseases-** Dr. Buddy Faries, Vet. Medicine TAMU
- ☆ **Beef Market Outlook-** James Sartwell, Extension Program Specialist
- ☆ **Animal I.D.-** Dr. Jason Cleere, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

**TDA Pesticide Applicators will receive CEU Credits for attendance!**

\$10.00 Registration fee provides noon meal. Trade show vendors will be on site. **RSVP required by October 12, 2004. Contact the Walker County Extension Office at (936) 435 2426 to reserve your seat.**

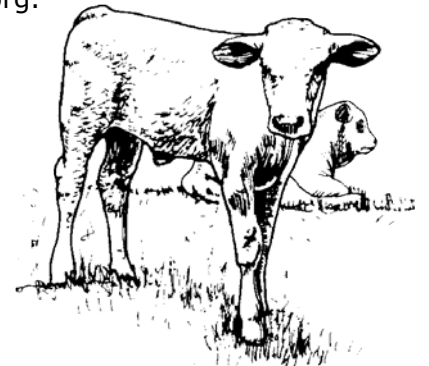
***Texas Beef Quality  
Producer***

***Level I/II Training –  
Franklin, TX***

September 10, 2004  
Camp Cooley Ranch

Registration for Level I will be from 7:30-8:00 a.m. Level I will go until 3:00. Registration for Level II training will be from 2:30-3:00 p.m. It will last until 5:00 p.m.

RSVP to Mark Perrier, TSCRA, 800-242-7820 ext. 118, or mperrier@texascattleraisers.org.





Nolan Ryan's



Walker County  
Fairgrounds—  
Committeemen's Room

(Hwy 30 West, Huntsville, TX)

7:00 PM

September 21, 2004

10 oz. Ribeye Steak Meal  
Co-sponsored by Nolan Ryan's All Natural  
Tender Aged Beef & Merial

\$3.00

REGISTRATION FEE

RSVP required by September 13, 2004 for  
meal planning.  
(936) 435-2426

PROGRAM COORDINATED  
BY:  
THE EXTENSION  
LIVESTOCK & PASTURE  
COMMITTEE OF WALKER  
COUNTY



# Livestock Producer Meeting

National Animal ID  
Foreign Animal Diseases

Topics for this program:

*This meeting will focus on the National Animal ID program & the Foreign Animal Disease situation in the United States.*

**Learn about the regulations & programs currently underway which will affect YOUR livestock enterprises!**

Featured Speakers:

- Shane Sklar, Executive Director, Independent Cattlemen's Assoc.
- Dr. Buddy Faries, Program Leader for Veterinary Medicine, Texas

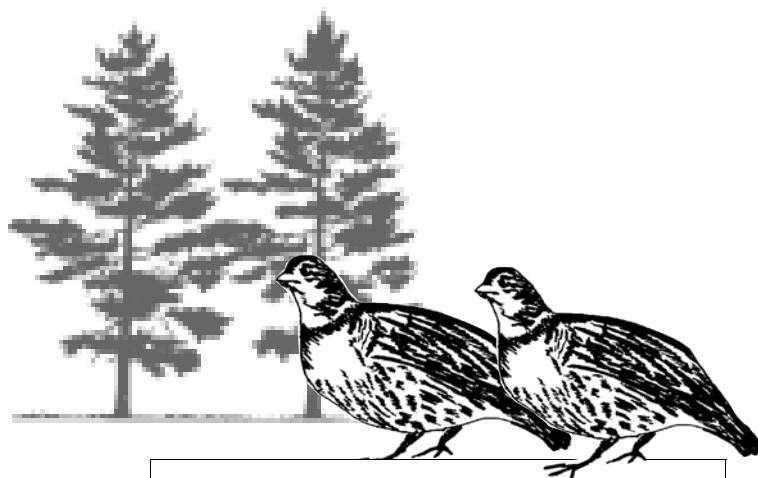
1 Hour of General Pesticide CEU Credit will be provided to TDA applicators

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.

# Wildlife Management Workshop for Absentee Landowners

October 5-6, 2004  
Houston Farm & Ranch Club  
#1 Abercrombie Dr,  
Salt Grass Room  
Houston

Sponsored by  
Texas Cooperative Extension  
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
Sciences  
Texas A&M University System  
Renewable Resources Extension Act



## Oct. 5, 2004

5:30-6:30 PM Registration

- Wildlife Management Planning and Techniques for General Habitat Assessment and Enhancement -Neal Wilkins, Extension Wildlife Specialist
- Legal and Economic Considerations (leasing, liability, etc.) Billy Higginbotham, Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist
- Wildlife Property Tax Valuation -Neal Wilkins, Extension Wildlife Specialist
- Using Remote Cameras in Wildlife Management -Billy Higginbotham, Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist
- Feral Hogs - The Good, The Bad or the Ugly? Billy Higginbotham, Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Specialist
- Q & A, Collection of Pre-tests

9:30 pm - Adjourn

## Oct. 6, 2004

5:30-6:30 PM Registration

- Pond Management From A to Z- Michael Masser, Extension Fisheries Specialist
- Waterfowl Management (ducks, not geese) - Brian Hays, Extension Associate
- Nuts and Bolts of Deer Management – Neal Wilkins, Extension Wildlife Specialist
- Habitat Restoration for Quail – Brian Hays, Extension Associate
- Q & A, Collection of Post-tests

9:45 pm - Adjourn

## Pesticide CEUs

A total of 2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered in the "General" category.

## Registration

Pre-registration \$50 by Sept. 28, 2004. Registration after Sept. 28 and at the door will be \$75 per person.

Contact the County Extension Office at (936) 435 or Register online at [www.peopleware.net/1542](http://www.peopleware.net/1542)

## Proceedings

Each participant will be provided with a copy of the workshop proceedings.



## Quail Workshop

October 15, 2004

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Westside Sporting Grounds  
Katy, Texas

### Topics to be highlighted:

- Quail Biology and Management
- Project Prairie Bird
- Texas Quail Plan
- Grassland Restoration
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Incentive Programs

**\$ 20 REGISTRATION INCLUDES LUNCH**

### \*Sponsoring Organizations:\*

Katy Prairie Conservancy  
Texas Wildlife Association  
Audubon Texas  
Texas Cooperative Extension  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

\*For More Information call Katy Prairie  
Conservancy at 936.931.5564 or Tamara Trail  
at 800.839.9453\*



# Timber Growers Field Day

*Small Acreage Timber Growers and  
Landowners, this Field Day  
will help you...*

If you are interested in learning about  
Forest and Natural Resource  
Management.

**Saturday– October 9, 2004**  
**8:30 AM Carpool Leaves for site**  
**9:00 AM Program**

Lunch Co-Sponsored by  
Walker County Farm Bureau  
And Larson McGowen

RSVP required for program planning by  
October 6, 2006

**2 Hours CEU Credit  
for TDA Pesticide Licensed  
Applicators**

For more information and  
RSVP, please call  
936-295-5688

Walker  
County  
Timber  
Growers  
Association

**T E X A S**  
FOREST SERVICE  
The Texas A&M University System

Texas Cooperative  
**EXTENSION**  
The Texas A&M University System

## Program Topics & Presenters:

 **Development of a Forest Management Plan**

Ryan Witt, Texas Forest Service  
John Swonke, WCTG President

 **How to Estimate the Volume of Your Timber**

Jessie Nichols, Larsen and McGowen

 **Wildlife Management in the East Texas Forest**

Greg Creacy, Texas Parks & Wildlife

 **Pond Management Tips for Walker County**

Reggie Lepley, County Extension Agent

**Program will be held at John Swonke's Farm  
Carpool from the Huntsville Texas Forest Service Office  
(leaves at 8:30 AM)**

**- Or If Driving Own Your Own -**

**Directions: From Crabbs Prairie (Hwy 75) drive 7.4 miles  
north on FM 1696 (toward Bedias), turn left on Scales Ranch  
Road and drive 4.0 miles to Fraizer Lane, turn right and travel  
3/10 mile to gate (on left).**



## Beef Cattle Health Management Series

An in-depth training for beef cattle producers or anyone interested in beef cattle production!

- Class 1. Symptomology  
October 7, 2004 (7:00 PM)  
Montgomery Co. Extension Office  
Dermal, Optical, Hair Coat, Respiratory, Internal Parasites
- Class 2. Symptomology  
October 14, 2004 (7:00 PM)  
Montgomery Co. Extension Office  
Neurological, Laminitis, Foot Problems, External Parasites, Site Injection (BQA)
- Class 3. Symptomology  
October 21, 2004 (7:00 PM)  
Stallwart Ranch  
Reproductive Management Problems, Heifer Selection, Reproductive Anatomy, Reproductive Diseases, Dystocia, Prolapse, Working Facilities

Registration fee of \$25.00 to cover program costs and refreshments. **For more information or to register, call (936) 539-7822 by October 1, 2004.**

Program sponsored by the Montgomery County Beef Improvement Association and Texas Cooperative Extension – Montgomery County.

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 two weeks 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 the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

**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**

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