

# AGRICULTURAL Program Update



**“If you have a new place and would like a little extra direction on how to produce an agricultural crop, raise livestock or manage wildlife - Take a close look at this workshop series.”**

Target Audience:

The goal of this workshop series is to help educate new agricultural landowners. Each workshop will contain information to help the new agricultural producer manage their land to meet their desired goals. The identified audience members are Walker County property owners with 500 acres or less of open space or timber valuation land who purchased property in the past 5 years.

**“These workshops will be held on Friday afternoons to allow both our “out of town” and resident landowners a prime opportunity to participate.”**

*(Continued on page 6)*

## 2009 Educational Programs to Look For!

### New Farmer & Rancher Workshop Series

#### Beef Cattle

Date: (April 17, 2009)

Time: 1:00 PM until..

Location: SHSU Gibbs Ranch, Huntsville, TX

### New Farmer & Rancher Workshop Series

#### Range, Pasture & Forages

Date: (May 15, 2009)

Time: 1:00 PM until..

Location: SHSU Gibbs Ranch, Huntsville, TX

### New Farmer & Rancher Workshop Series

#### Small Ruminants -Sheep & Goats

Date: (May 22, 2009 tentative)

### New Farmer & Rancher Workshop Series

#### Timber Production

Date: (June 5th, 2009 tentative)

### New Farmer & Rancher Workshop Series

#### Aquatics & Wildlife

Date: (June 12, 2009)

Time: 1:00 PM until..

Location: SHSU Gibbs Ranch, Huntsville, TX

- **Timber Growers Meeting**  
Tuesday –January 20, 2009  
(see page 2)
- **5.5 Hour CEU Pesticide Applicator Program**  
Friday - January 16, 2009  
(see page 3)
- **Beef 706 Class**  
Scheduled for two sessions, January 13-14, & 15-16  
(see page 4)
- **Montgomery County Pastures to Ponds Pest Management Program**  
Tuesday –January 20, 2009  
(see page 5)
- **2008 Animals & Emergencies**  
(see page 5)

## 2008 Hay Evaluation Testing Campaign

The 08 Hay Evaluation testing campaign is now complete. One of the main reasons you should have your hay tested is to know the true feeding value of your forage. Participants in the Walker County Hay Evaluation programs receive test results which allow us to utilize the Forage Val program to make feeding recommendations if needed.

Knowing the true quality of hay goes beyond a visual inspection and requires laboratory analysis. If you know the % crude protein and the % acid detergent fiber content of your hay, it is possible to calculate whether the needs of your cattle can be met with hay alone or if a protein supplement is required. By utilizing Forage Val, we can also make recommendations to increase gain by class of animal or milk production for lactating cattle based on the weight of the animal.

I would like to thank Walker County Farm Bureau for their continued support and sponsorship of this educational event. All hay producers and cattle raisers are encouraged to participate in next years program.

## 2009 Master Gardener Class is Forming

Attention Gardeners!! The 2009 Walker County Master Gardener Class is nearing our starting date. Class size is limited due to space here at the Extension Office, but there are still a few seats available. Classes will begin January 15, 2009. There is a \$130.00 fee for the 15 session training class.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer development program which supports the outreach educational efforts of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Since our county program began in 2001, we have trained 187 individuals through the Master Gardener Classes. During 2008 our volunteers reached over 30,000 individuals with an educational message through community programs, tours, manned exhibits, youth activities, community events or mass media efforts.

Each Master Gardener Intern is required to participate in at least 50 hours of Extension Master Gardener training and return 50 hours of volunteer work to the Texas AgriLife Extension program. With the completion of these requirements the Intern is then certified as a Texas Master Gardener. Our classes meet on Thursday afternoons. Call for current class availability and additional information.

## Walker County Timber Growers Association Annual Meeting

The Walker County Timber Growers Association will be holding their annual meeting on January 20th, 2009. The featured speaker at this event will be with the Texas Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. This meeting will be held at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office on Tam Road and will begin at 6:30 PM

Timber owners are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about issues affecting landowners and to network with other timber producers from our county. Additional information is available from the Texas Forest Service office here in Huntsville at (936) 295-5688.

## Texas Forest EXPO Rescheduled Due To Hurricane Ike

Texas Forest Service invites you to the Texas Forest EXPO April 24th through the 26th at the Lone Star Convention Center in Conroe.

Check out interactive booths and workshops and take advantage of free classes, exhibitors and vendors that can help you meet all of your wildfire protection and land management needs.

You've got questions...Texas Forest Service has answers! Come to the Texas Forest EXPO and meet with experts in

- Land management
- Preparing for and preventing wildfires
- Managing pests, invasive species and wildlife.

Ask about timber and estate taxes, tree maintenance and learn how you can make money from alternate uses of your land!

Bring the "Little Texans" too! EXPO will have learning stations and activities for children to discover the wonders of the forest.

EXPO is free! Check out the class schedule and make plans to bring the whole family!

Find out more at  
<http://.texasforestexpo.tamu.edu/>



*Pesticide Applicators with Texas Department of Agriculture Licenses may receive 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours of TDA Continuing Education Credit by participating in this program sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service –Walker County, Livestock & Pasture Committee and the Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District.*

**5.5 Hour CEU  
Pesticide Applicator  
Recertification  
Program**

Topics & Speakers scheduled for the class include:

8:45 AM

**Welcome & Introductions**

Reggie Lepley, County Extension Agent-Agriculture, Walker County

9:00 AM

**Range Management Issues Regarding Weed  
& Brush Control**

Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Range Science

10:00 AM

**Forage Production Management via Weed Control**

Dr. Larry Redmon, Professor & Extension State Forage Specialist

11:00 AM

**Aquatic Weed Control Options & Issues**

Dr. Michael Masser, Professor & Extension Fisheries Specialist

**Lunch (12 Noon –1:00 PM)**

1:00 PM

**Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update  
Pesticide Safety Issues**

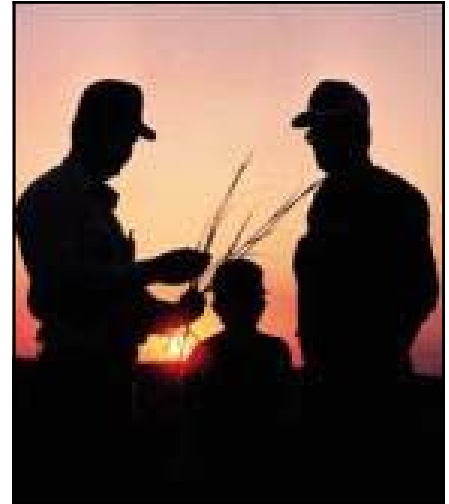
Dr. Don Renchie, Extension Program Leader for Agricultural & Environmental Safety: Coordinator-Pesticide Safety Education

2:30 PM

**External Parasite Control in Beef Cattle Operations**

Dr. Buddy Faries, Professor & Extension Veterinarian Specialist

**Approximately 3:30 PM Adjourn**



**January 16, 2009**

**(Friday)**

**West Hill Mall—  
Community Meeting  
Room**

**Registration 8:15 AM**

**\$ 30.00 Registration Fee  
includes Lunch**

**(\$20.00 without Lunch)**

**RSVP by 1/14/09 to  
291-1901 ext 109**

**TDA Course Number: 0504352**

**CEU's provided:**

**1.0 hr L&R**

**2.0 hr IPM**

**2.5 hr GEN**

# BEEF 706 -*Beef Quality Management*

Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas



Session 1 – January 13-14, 2009

Session 2 – January 15-16, 2009

Kleberg Center & Rosenthal Center



## Day 1

7:45 am

Meet the bus at the Fairfield Inn

8:00 am

Introduction and Purpose

Evaluation Beef Carcasses & Live Cattle

Review Video of the Market Finished Steers & Heifers

Beef Carcass Quality and Yield Grading

10:00 am

Break

Review the Beef Harvest Procedure

Plant Tours: Sam Kane & Cargill/Plainview via Video

Introduction to Meat Cutting

NOON

Lunch

12:45 pm

Suit Up Beef Fabrication & Fabricate the Forequarter

1:30 pm

Fabricate the Hindquarter & Value Added Cuts

4:00 pm

Managing Feeder Calves for Beef Cattle Quality

5:00 pm

Adjourn (bus returns to the Fairfield Inn)

6:00 pm

Buses leave for dinner

## Day 2

7:45 am

Meet the bus at the Fairfield Inn

8:00 am

Genetic Selection Programs & Tools for Beef Cattle Quality

Factors that Impact Marbling

10:00 am

Break

Evaluating Market Cattle Grid Buying & Branded Programs

Evaluating the Eating Appeal of the Beef Meat Products

NOON

Lunch

1:00 pm

Review – Market Value Finished Cattle to Boxed Beef

2:00 pm

Program Adjourn (bus returns to the Fairfield Inn)

Registration – Register online at <http://texasbeef.info/706> or email [jbagley@txbeef.org](mailto:jbagley@txbeef.org) or call the Texas Beef Council at 800-846-4113. The program has no cost for Texas Cattle Producers and Educators. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and hotel cost.

**Deadline is January 6, 2009.**

Hotel – Fairfield Inn by Marriott, 4613 S. Texas Avenue, Bryan, TX 77802. Call 979-268-1552 to reserve a room in the “Beef 706” room block at the special workshop rate of \$87.15 per night, plus applicable taxes. Reservations must be received by January 6, 2009.

## **Animals In Emergencies**

The landfall of Hurricane Ike brought a vivid reminder of how emergencies can affect animals over a large area. The coastal counties of Chambers and Jefferson suffered major loss and disruption to their agricultural crops and livestock. Thousands of cattle were killed due to the flooding of the tidal surge. Operation "No Fences" helped gather & move cattle out of saltwater flooded pastures to areas with fresh water, hay & feed. Additional donations were utilized to purchase fencing, corral materials and other items needed to assist with livestock.

## **Walker County Animal Issues Committee At Work During The 2008 Hurricanes**

Members of the Walker County Animal Issues Committee were hard at work during the 2008 Hurricanes that impacted Texas. We had a busy storm season. Among the list of events this year, our volunteer group was on standby in July for Hurricane Dolly to assist with any evacuees which might have

come North bringing animals looking for shelter. During August we were again on standby during Tropical Storm Edouard. We activated during Hurricane Gustav and housed a variety of animals at one shelter location with a final count of 43 head. During Hurricane Ike the level of intensity went up considerably with three shelter locations housing 296 head of animals. For historical comparison, during Hurricane Rita in 2005, Walker County housed 440 animals at two shelter locations.

- We want to extend a special THANK YOU! to the Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter, Sam Houston State University, Walker County Fair Association and Texas Animal Health Commission for their support and assistance during this past season. Additional thanks need to go out to all the individuals who came in prior to, during, and after the storms to help us with our shelter operations. We could not have accomplished this without these dedicated volunteers –WAY TO GO!!
- We need your help! It takes a special person to dedicate their time during an emergency to assist with the care of someone else's animals. If you are such a person and would like to look into helping out during a future event, you are encouraged to contact the Walker County Extension Office (936) 435-2426 for more information.
  - We need supplies! If you have any small animal or livestock related equipment which could be donated, we would be happy to have it. Water hoses, buckets, ropes, pet kennels/taxis, mops, brooms, general cleaning supplies, extension cords, fans, etc. We can even utilize big ticket items such as portable panels or other such supplies. The Walker County Animal Issues Committee is a totally UNFUNDED effort - we need supplies! Please contact the Walker County Extension Office to discuss our needs or arrange a donation.



## **Pastures to Ponds: Pest Management Techniques!**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2009  
at the**

**Montgomery County Extension Office  
9020 FM 1484, Conroe**

**Program begins at 9:00 AM**

### **Topics to include:**

Pasture Weed Control - Dr. Baumann  
Feral Hog Control - Dr. Cathey  
Ant Control - Dr. Nester  
Pesticide Law Update - Mr. Hinze  
Aquatic Weed Control - Mr. Heimer

**Five CEU's for TDA credit will be given for this program.**

The registration fee will be \$25.00 which includes lunch and program materials.

Early registration ends January 16. \$50.00 after that date.

**To register, Call 936-539-7822 or come by the  
Extension Office at 9020 FM 1484.**

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

## Community Supporters:

The New Farmer & Rancher Workshop Series is being supported by a variety of local agricultural groups and organizations:

- Sam Houston State University –Agricultural Sciences Department
- Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Walker County Farm Bureau
- Walker County Timber Growers Association
- Texas Forest Service
- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
  - Walker County Extension Livestock & Pasture Committee
  - Walker County Extension Leadership Advisory Board
  - Walker County Master Gardener Association

If you are interested in any of the 2009 New Farmers & Ranchers Workshops, please contact the Walker County Texas AgriLife Extension Office to be placed on the workshop list. Seating will be limited.

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 Texas AgriLife 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**

**County Extension Agent – Agriculture**

**Walker County**

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