

Walker County

August 2010

AGRICULTURAL Program Update

2010 COW COUNTRY CONGRESS

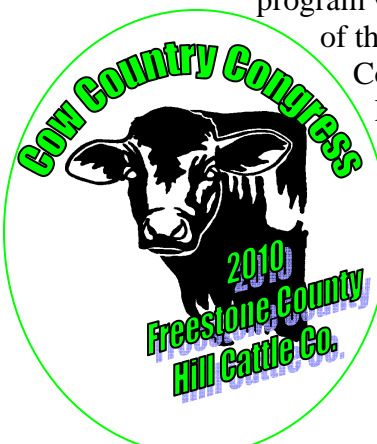
-TO BE HELD IN FREESTONE COUNTY

September 23rd, 2010

Cow Country Congress is an annual multi-county event supported by the Extension Beef & Forage Committees from Walker, Madison, Houston, Trinity, Leon, Freestone and Anderson Counties. This educational program rotates within the group of host counties each year. In addition to the traditional seven county area, beef producers from outside these counties are invited to attend this educational program. Participants in attendance will have the opportunity to visit with a variety of commercial exhibitors several times during the course of the day between presentations, demonstrations, and tours of the host property.

The 2010 Cow Country Congress program will meet at one of the F.E. Hill Company ranch locations located north of Fairfield, Texas. The program is scheduled for Thursday, September 23,

(Continued on page 2)



FYI: The Next Brand Registration will be August 30, 2011 thru February 28, 2012

All Livestock Brands Expire After February 28, 2012 Unless Renewed

Brands registered prior to 8/30/11 must be renewed during the next registration period.

Some interesting facts about brand registration in Walker County:

- There are currently 586 registered brands in the county.
- There are currently 85 tags and ear marks registered.
- Sam Houston's X brand is still registered.
- The State of Texas has a registered brand in Walker County.

- **Pesticide Licensing Class** (page 2)
- **Butterfly Festival, T-Budding Workshop, Fall Plant Sale** (page 3)
- **Fall Hay Evaluation** (page 4 & entry form on page 5)
- **Aerobic Treatment Maintenance Class** (page 5)
- **Pesticide Disposal** (page 5)
- **Ranch Management University** (page 6)

Visit Us on FaceBook!



WalkerCo TxAgriLife

We posted our Facebook page to better inform everyone with current "as it happens" information about ongoing activities, events and happenings here at the office.

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.

(Continued from page 1)

2010. F.E. Hill Company is a multifaceted agricultural enterprise that has been known in Freestone County for extremely high quality hay production, and intensive beef herd management characterized by progressive reproductive practices. The ranch also uses an intense land management program that allows them to decrease production cost. Waterfowl and Whitetail Deer are managed for and are abundant on their property. Topics discussed at this Cow Country Congress will include new methods in feral hog control, wildlife diversification on the ranch, fly control in the cow herd, and genetics and their role at Hill Cattle Company. A live cattle handling demonstration will also be provided along with a discussion by the Luminant Power Big Brown Complex Reclaim Team. The site where the event will be hosted is a reclaim site resulting from coal mining operations in the area. The team will discuss the reclaim process and share some recommendations on land management. This event will also showcase truly outstanding facilities for working cattle.

Program registration will begin at 8:15 AM. The program will begin with introductions at 8:45 AM. Individuals from Walker County interested in attending the 2010 Cow Country Congress should R.S.V.P. prior to September 21st to the Walker County Extension Office (936) 435-2426. A registration fee of \$10.00 per person will provide each participant a Barbeque Lunch with all the trimmings! In addition to the benefits of a catered lunch, on-site commercial vendors, and touring the ranch operation, each participant with a Texas Department of Agriculture- Pesticide Applicators License will be eligible for 2 IPM hours of Continuing Education Credits for renewal of their license. Additional participant credit of 1.5 hours will be given for Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) recertification.

Directions and a printable map may be downloaded from the Freestone County Texas AgriLife Extension Service web page at <http://freestone-tx.tamu.edu>

2010 NEW FARMER & RANCHER WORKSHOP SERIES RECAP!

An enterprising group of agriculturally related organizations joined forces again this spring to reach out to new landowners in Walker County. This effort was made to help assist new landowners who have purchased 1-500 acres of Walker County land within the past five years. Workshops held this spring covered: Beef Cattle Health & Taxation, Vegetable Production, Pesticide & Agricultural Equipment Safety, Grazing Management.

We look forward to continuing this program track in future years.

Special thanks to our program cooperators and sponsors, you made the workshop series a huge success!

Program Cooperators:

- 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 Parks & Wildlife
- Walker County Extension Livestock & Pasture Committee
- Walker County Extension Leadership Advisory Board
- Walker County Extension Master Gardener Association

Call the Extension Office to sign up for the 2011 workshop series or if you have topics which you would like us to cover next year, please contact us at 936 435-2426.

Private Applicator Licensing Class & Testing Session at the Walker Co Extension Office

Agricultural producers needing a Private Applicator License to purchase and apply restricted use or state-limited use pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, etc.) can attend our next class on **Friday, September 10th, 2010**. The class will begin with registration at 8:00 AM and will run until 12:00 PM. At 1:00 PM the Texas Department of Agriculture representative will be on hand to administer the test. RSVP is required and you must purchase and pick up your study material prior to the class. The class fee, including all study material is \$35.00 per person. Following completion of the class and successful testing, the fee for a Private Applicator License is \$60.00 for 5 years. Private Applicators are required to receive 15 hours of continuing education credits during the 5 year period to renew their license.



COMMUNITY HORTICULTURE EDUCATION (LANDSCAPE & GARDEN PROGRAMS)

Upcoming Programs & Events presented by the ,
Texas AgriLife Extension, [Walker County Master
Gardener Association](#):

- September 25, 2010 - 10:00 AM. "**Butterfly Festival**" & **Open House in the Gardens** presented by WCMG's at the Extension Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens (102 Tam Road, Huntsville). The festival will include hands-on projects for children and butterfly programs for adults. **Key Note Speaker: Zachary Stayton.** Zack is a former Walker County Master Gardener, and is currently a horticulturalist at the Houston Museum of Natural Science/ Cockrell Butterfly Center. You may have seen Zack recently on several of the Houston news programs. A variety of other informative educational programs will be offered during the Festival.
- October 7, 2010 - 6:30 PM We will have a special guest speaker teaching a **T-budding Workshop** for those interested in citrus and fruit tree production. **Bonnie Childers, Jefferson County Master Gardener and Southeast Texas Citrus Expert**, will guide participants through the basics of T-budding fruit trees and citrus. Each participant will have the opportunity to learn this form of grafting with help from a true expert. This event will be held at the Walker County Extension Office on Tam Road, Huntsville, Texas.
- October 9, 2010 - 8:00 AM-2:00 PM **Fall Plant Sale** Time to start planning next years landscape projects! Come out and pick up some new additions to your collection.

Be sure and check the *Huntsville Item* for the Walker County Master Gardener column each Sunday! Interested in becoming a Master Gardener, learning more about horticulture and being part of this energetic group? Contact the Walker County Extension office for more info! The 2011 class list is building.

Visit the Walker County Master Gardener Web page at <http://walkercountymastergardener.org>

**1st
Ever!**

Key Note Speaker:
Zach Stayton,
**Houston Museum
of Natural
Science,
Horticulturist**

**Come for the
Color -Stay for
the Day!**
**102 Tam Road
(Hwy 75 North)
Huntsville, TX
(936) 435-2426**

Butterfly Festival!

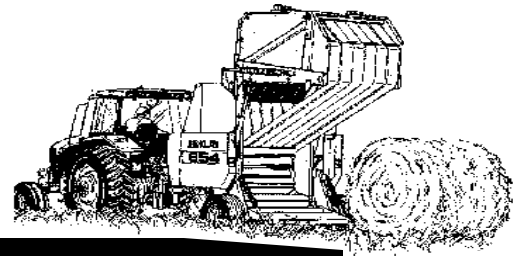
& Open House

Walker County Master Gardeners are proud to present an educational and fun filled day with the butterflies. Come and learn about the butterflies of Texas, what flowers you need to attract them and what they need to survive. We will be offering a tour of our gardens, butterfly projects for the kids and a power point demonstration on attracting butterflies to your garden. In addition, there will be other exciting horticulture presentations & projects!

**September 25th
10:00 AM to 2:00
PM**

**Walker Co Master
Gardeners**





Walker County HAY EVALUATION 2010

Samples due:

October 1, 2010

See entry form enclosed in this
Newsletter

This forage testing event is an educational activity developed by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Walker County and the Walker County Extension Livestock & Pasture Committee.

Testing results will be returned during the Hay Evaluation Program on

Thursday

OCTOBER 21, 2010

6:30 PM

At the

Walker County Storm Shelter

(Hwy 75 N)

If the hay producer is not in attendance on October 21st testing results will be mailed.

Educational Program Topics:

- Farm Service Agency Program Opportunities
- Forage Related Disorders of Cattle
- Winter Cattle Feeding Strategies

**RSVP requested
by 10/15/10 to
(936) 435-2426**

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

Hay Testing
Sponsored by:



Producer
Recognition
Sponsored by:



**6:30 PM Fish Fry!!
\$ 3.00 per person
Program at 7:00 PM**

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.

UNWANTED PESTICIDES?

There are two FREE collection events planned in our general area.

- Tuesday, October 5, 2010 Chambers Co
–Whites Memorial Park contact Tyler Fitzgerald, CEA-Ag at 409-267-8384
- Thursday, October 7, 2010 Fort Bend Co
- Needville Youth Fairgrounds contact Ft. Bend Co Extension Office at 281-342-3034

Items that can be accepted:

Pesticides (Herbicides, Insecticides, Fungicides, Rodenticides, Bactericides, Growth Regulators etc)
Gasoline/diesel fuel
Transmission fluid
Brake fluid
Anti-freeze
Lead-acid batteries
Oil/oil filters (certain amounts)/grease
Info on how to safely transport & handle waste materials visit:
www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/goto/pesticide

MAINTENANCE OF AEROBIC TREATMENT UNITS

October 22, 2010 (9:00 AM - 4:30 PM)

Walker County, Texas AgriLife Extension Office

Course Fee: \$50.00 per person

Interested in learning about homeowner maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units? This course will cover the components of an aerobic treatment unit and spray field onsite wastewater treatment systems. The course presentations discuss the importance of maintaining the treatment system, health and safety considerations, basic concepts about the aerobic treatment processes, testing and reporting on the status of the treatment system, care and feeding of the aerobic treatment unit, maintaining the aerobic treatment system and tools and supplies for evaluating the system. These presentations provide a basic understanding of the operational and maintenance activities for an aerobic treatment unit. The course explains ho activities within the home can impact the operation of an aerobic treatment unit. The participants will leave this class with a better understanding of the practices required to keep their system working and limit interferences with the enjoyment of their property.

Interested individuals should contact Walker County Planning and Development, at (936) 436-4939, prior to taking the course to make sure their system meets the eligibility requirements for participation in this training.

***Register On-Line: <http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu>
(keyword search Homeowner)**

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

(Sample entry DEADLINE: October 1, 2010)

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. Recognition awards for this program are sponsored by American Plant Food. Questions about your entry? Call: (936) 435-2426

CLASS OF HAY ENTERED:

PRODUCER GROWN _____

PURCHASED _____

IMPROVED BERMUDA _____

COMMON BERMUDA _____

BAHIA _____

SORGHUM _____

LEGUME _____

LEGUME GRASS MIX _____

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

Samples Must Consist Of:

**TWO BLOCKS From Square Bales OR
ONE FULL CLEAN FEED SACK from**

HAY TESTING
Application Form

RANCH MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY **5.5 hours CEU**
Credit Total

October 12-15, 2010 in College Station, TX. Are you a new rural landowner? Do you have limited experience in forage establishment, pasture management, and utilization? Are you interested in raising livestock? Are you interested in managing the wildlife on your property? Or, are you simply interested in becoming the best steward of your natural resources that you can be? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are a great candidate for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Ranch Management University. Go to <http://agrilifevents.tamu.edu> and type in the key words "ranch management" for registration information.

Topics will include soils & soil fertility, forage species selection, hay production, weed & brush management, beef cattle breed selection, nutrient requirements and feeding strategies for livestock, grazing management and the popular chute-side live animal handling demonstrations of vaccinations, dehorning, and castration. Additional topics include: white-tailed deer management, dove, turkey, quail, pond management and what to do with feral hogs.

Attendance is limited to the first 75 people who enroll. Class fee is \$450.00 prior to Sept 21st. Additional information is available from Dr. Larry Redmon, State Extension Forage Specialist @ 979-845-4826.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Huntsville, Texas
Permit # 240

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
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Huntsville, Texas 77320