

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Texas A&M  
AgriLife Extension  
Service,  
Walker County



## Agricultural Education Events & News Update (December Edition 2012)

This newsletter is an effort to inform you of upcoming agricultural educational events and related activities in the Walker County area with upcoming preregistration requirements. There are also a couple of programs mentioned in this newsletter which while may be a little outside our immediate geographic area, include topics of interest to numerous landowners.

### In This Issue:

#### Educational Programs –

- ✓ **January 11<sup>th</sup> -5.5 Hour TDA CEU Recertification Program** (at the Walker County Storm Shelter)
- ✓ **January 15<sup>th</sup> –Bull Selection & Breeding Soundness Exam Workshop** (at SHSU Gibb's Ranch)
- ✓ **January 19<sup>th</sup> –Fruit, Nut & Citrus Workshop** (at the Walker County Storm Shelter)
- ✓ **February 8<sup>th</sup> – Conservation Planning for Water Quality Workshop** (at the Walker County Storm Shelter)

#### Also of Note in this edition:

**Texas Cattle Traceability Rule information**

\*See the Walker Co Extension Web Site (events page) for additional program information

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

## 2013 Walker County 5.5 Hour CEU Pesticide Applicator Recertification Program

Event Date: 1/11/2013 Friday (8:15 AM-3:30 PM)

**\*At the Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Highway 75 N. Huntsville TX)**

This event is co-sponsored annually by the Walker County Soil & Water Conservation District #435 & the Extension Livestock & Pasture Committee.

\$40.00 Registration fee includes Lunch,  
\$30.00 without Lunch

**RSVP is required prior to 1/07/12 to (936) 291-1901 ext. 109**

Topics for this program are:

- **Plant Pathology: Control of Diseases & Insect Vectors for Production Agriculture** with Dr. Kevin Ong, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist-Entomology/Plant Pathology
- **Invasive Ant Species in Texas** with Dr. Paul Nester, Extension Program Specialist
- **Herbicide Selection & Control Options for Range & Pasture Lands** with Dr. Paul Baumann, Professor and Extension Weed Specialist
- **Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update, & Pesticide Safety Issues** with Dr. Don Rennie, Extension Program Leader for Agricultural & Environmental Safety

CEU's to be provided through this educational program are: **1.0 hr. L&R, 2.0 hr. IPM, 2.5 hr. GEN**

## Fruit, Nut & Citrus Workshop

Event Date: 1/19/2013 Saturday  
(8:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

**\*At the Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Highway 75 N. Huntsville TX)**

Thinking about home fruit production? Join us to learn about Fruits, Nut production & Citrus Management. Attendance is \$10.00 per person

## **Bull Selection & Breeding Soundness Exam Workshop**

Event Date: 1/15/2013 Tuesday  
(3:00 PM- 7:00 PM)

**\*at SHSU Gibb's Ranch (Highway 75 N. Huntsville TX)**

RSVP is required-seating is limited; contact the Walker Co Extension Office at (936) 435-2426.

Topics for this workshop:

- Management prior to turnout
- Selection, Conformation & Structure
- Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE), what is the cost vs. the return for a thorough and accurate exam

If you depend on your cows having a calf each year to help pay for your cattle enterprise, you should be interested in attending this workshop! We will visually evaluate and collect bulls. The TAMU Vet School will assist with showing how a complete breeding soundness exam is performed. There will be equipment on hand to allow participants to view actual samples collected during the workshop under the microscope with detailed instruction on often overlooked issues. Program speakers from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M, and Sam Houston State University will discuss bull management items of great importance to any cow/calf producer.



## **Conservation Planning for Water Quality Management (2.5 hrs. CEUs)**

Event Date: 2/8/1013 Friday  
(1:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

**\*At the Walker County Storm Shelter (455 Highway 75 N. Huntsville TX)**

RSVP will be required: Contact Blake Alldredge at (979) 845-0916 for more information or register online at <http://nrt.tamu.edu/schedule>

Trinity Waters and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold a second round of water and land management workshop series related to the Trinity River basin. In this second round of workshops, participants will learn in greater detail how different land uses and ownership fragmentation can affect the water resources of the basin, as well as landowner profitability and wildlife habitat. In addition, various tools and strategies will be presented to show landowners the multiple options they have for enhancing land management on their property.

One such management tool is the Trinity River Information Management System, or TRIMS, mapping tool. This tool provides soil, elevation, and hydrology data, plus provides the ability to measure acreage and lengths so landowners may quickly obtain information needed to manage their land. Representatives from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will explain how developing a water quality management plan can benefit agricultural productivity on private lands. In addition, Dr. Don Renchie of AgriLife Extension will present on the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit as it relates to pesticide applicators complying with the Clean Water Act.

At the end of the workshop, landowners will have a greater understanding of the basic principles for managing land for water, which will improve agricultural production by reducing erosion and increasing water infiltration and water-holding capacity in the soil.

## Texas Animal Health Commission Announces Details of New Cattle Traceability Rule

AUSTIN – A requirement for adult cattle in Texas to have an approved form of permanent identification in place at change of ownership will go into effect January 1, 2013 according to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The Commission amended its rules in June of this year to enhance the effective traceability of beef cattle movements in Texas, which is the cornerstone of disease control activities.

Implementation of the changes was delayed by the Commission to ensure cattle producers understand the requirements and can prepare for the changes.

The amended rule permanently cancels the brucellosis test requirement for adult cattle at change of ownership, which was unofficially suspended in the summer of 2011. Although testing of adult cattle is no longer required with the rule change, all sexually intact cattle, parturient or post parturient, or 18 months of age and older changing ownership must still be officially identified with Commission approved permanent identification. This change primarily affects beef cattle, as dairy cattle in Texas have had an even more stringent identification requirement in place since 2008.

Before August of 2011, official identification devices such as eartags were applied automatically at the time a brucellosis test was performed. The inadvertent loss of the identification devices applied to cattle when brucellosis testing stopped has threatened TAHC's ability to effectively trace cattle as part of any ongoing disease investigation.

The TAHC routinely performs cattle health investigations where the identification and location of exposed/infected animals is critical to success. For example, 30 Brucellosis reactors, over 300 Bovine Trichomoniasis affected bulls and 22 bovine tuberculosis cases have been investigated by the TAHC to date in 2012. The new traceability rule will help preserve the TAHC's ability to identify and trace animal movements quickly and effectively, no matter which disease is involved.

A complete list of acceptable identification devices/methods may be found at [www.tahc.state.tx.us](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us) but the most commonly used devices include USDA metal tags, brucellosis calfhood vaccination

tags, US origin 840 series Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), and breed registration tattoos or firebrands. Producers are encouraged to contact their veterinarian or TAHC to determine which method of tagging will be best for their operation.

Free USDA metal tags, and a limited number of free applicator pliers (dependent on available funding) will be provided by the TAHC to producers wishing to use them. The tags and/or pliers may be obtained by contacting local TAHC field staff and USDA APHIS Veterinary Services representatives. The TAHC is developing tag distribution partnerships with interested veterinary practitioners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices. Partner contact information will be published as it becomes available. Producers may locate the closest tag distributor online at [www.tahc.state.tx.us](http://www.tahc.state.tx.us).

**The Walker County, Texas  
A&M AgriLife Extension  
Office does have TAHC  
approved tags available at no  
charge. We also have a  
limited number of tag  
applicators available for  
short duration loan.**

### **FREE! Online Educational Opportunities:**

#### **Feral Hog Webinar**

–Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

On your computer at

<https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/feralhog>

The Feral Hog Community of Practice presents: Current and Future Feral Hog Research by Dr. Tyler Campbell

## Wildlife for Lunch Webinar

–Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

On your computer at

<https://texas-wildlife.webex.com>

**“Forest Management and Wildlife on Private Land in Eastern Texas”** The webinar will cover: methods to manage private forest lands for popular game species (white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, northern bobwhite, etc.), ways to maintain or promote diversity of nongame wildlife on private forest lands while preserving incomes, the role of private landowners in conservation of a forested landscape in eastern Texas, and more!

**Presented by:** Dr. Chris Comer, Professor of Wildlife Management, Stephen F. Austin State University

**Cost: FREE! Plus CEU Credit is Available:** 1 hour of TDA pesticide applicator’s license general CEU credit will be awarded to participants of the live webinar.

## Other Educational Opportunities:

### East Texas Pasture Management Program

Event Date: February 22, 2013 (12:30 PM – 6:00 PM)

**\*At the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1710 N. FM 3053, Overton, TX.** Registration is \$25.00 or \$30.00 on site.

Have you had questions about what the most effective and economical options for controlling weeds and forage insects are? Ever wonder about the different spray tip nozzles available and which ones might be right for your situation? This program will answer these questions and many more and provide you with valuable information, practical suggestions, and the knowledge needed to select economical and effective herbicide and insecticide products. A

herbicide price comparison CD will be provided to help you make more economical choices when it comes to selecting a herbicide.

For more information about the program, please contact Michelle Sensing (903-834-6191 or [amsensing@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:amsensing@ag.tamu.edu)). For questions about registration or payment, please contact Extension Conference Services (979-845-2604 or [agriliferegister@tamu.edu](mailto:agriliferegister@tamu.edu)).



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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 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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

*Reggie Lepley*

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