

# ERATH COUNTY AG PRODUCERS NEWS

erath.agrilife.org

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## Grasshopper Management Seminar

### Grasshopper & Bermuda Grass Management in Drought Conditions

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Erath County will host a Grasshopper Management Workshop on June 18th from 1 - 3 pm at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Ext. Center located at 1229 N US Hwy 281 in Stephenville.**

Grasshoppers seem to thrive when we have consecutive years of hot, dry summers, and warm, dry fall conditions. Unfortunately, our weather patterns haven't changed, and it looks like it's going to be another year of dealing with excessive numbers of the pesky pest. I am sure many of you have already noticed the high density of

grasshoppers as you walk through your lawns and pastures. Staying on top of them when they are young and immature is the key to reducing the population, at least in concentrated areas.

Our first speaker, Dr. Sonja Swiger, Extension Entomologist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will discuss grasshopper biology and management strategies and control options to reduce the population and damaged to crops/rangeland.



Next, Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olsen, Extension Forage Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center will join us via internet video to discuss management strategies for Bermuda grass pastures and hayfields. Her discussion will focus on herbicide options and fertility programs in dry conditions as well as making management decisions on stocking rates and haying fields under drought stress.

**TUESDAY**

**18**

**JUNE 2013**

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### 2 hours of CEU's will be offered

for persons that have a current TDA Pesticide Applicator License. 1 hour in IPM (Integrated Pest Management) and 1 hour in General.

**Registration** cost is \$10.00 per person. Please pre-register by contacting the Erath County Extension Office at **254-965-1460** or **erath-tx@tamu.edu**.

*\*We apologize for the short notice on this meeting. It was scheduled last minute due to the emerging need for grasshopper control and the prediction of a severe grasshopper season. If you are unable to attend and would like additional information please contact our office.*

## PASTURE WEED & BRUSH CONTROL FIELD DAY IN MCGREGOR, TEXAS

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is teaming up with DuPont Crop Protection, TSCRA and NRCS to host the Pasture Weed and Brush Control Field Day on

**June 25, 2013.**

Registration will begin at **8:00 am**.  
The program will run from  
**9:00 am to noon**  
with a catered lunch following.

### Location:

McGregor AgriLife Research Center  
773 Ag Farm Road  
McGregor, Texas 76657  
(2 miles west of SH 317 on FM 2671)

### CEU Credits:

3 TDA CEU credits will be offered to those who have a valid TDA Pesticide Applicators License.

Please pre-register with Erath County AgriLife Extension at 254-965-1460 or [erath-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:erath-tx@tamu.edu).

### TOPICS & SPEAKERS:

#### 1. Pasture Management

- Dr. Paul Baumann - Professor & Extension Weed Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Dr. Wayne Hanselka - Professor & Extension Range Specialist Emeritus, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension/Rangeland Consultant

#### 2. Mesquite Control: Aerial Droplet Study and Application Technology

- Dr. Allan McGinty - Professor and Extension Range Specialist Emeritus, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension/Rangeland Consultant
- Dr. Clint Hoffman - Lead Scientist and Agricultural Engineer, USDA, Agricultural Research Service

#### 3. Sprayer Setup, Calibration and Drift Management

- Dr. Robert Lyons - Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- Dr. Megan Clayton - Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

#### 4. Weed Identification and Herbicide Recommendations

- Jack LeClair - Range and Pasture Specialist, DuPont Crop Protection
- Stan Reinke - Range and Pasture Specialist / Rangeland Consultant

#### 5. New Herbicide Technology from DuPont Crop Protection

- Dr. Case Medlin - Field Development Representative, DuPont Crop Protection
- Eric Castner - Field Development Representative, DuPont Crop Protection
- Insect Control in Pastures
- David Stichler - Retail Account Manager, DuPont Crop Protection
- NRCS Field Program Update



*The miracles of science™*



## PESTICIDE PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING & TESTING

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Erath County will host a Private Applicator Training and Testing for persons wishing to receive a Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Private Applicator License. The training consists of a three-hour training following by a TDA administered test. The cost of the training and training materials is \$60.00 payable to Erath Ag Committee.

Once you have completed the training and passed the TDA test you will be

responsible for sending your paperwork and \$60.00 to TDA to begin processing your license. Once your license is issued you will have 5 years to earn 15 hours of Continuing Education Unit's (CEU's). At the end of 5 years you can renew your license if you have completed the required continuing education or if not, it will expire.

To register or for more info contact the Erath County Extension Office at 254-965-1460.

**TDA will not offer testing unless a minimum of 15 people sign up for the training/testing.**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 8th!**

(registration must be paid and training manuals picked up by 5 pm on July 8, 2013 - no exceptions!)

## PRE-BAITING FERAL HOGS FOR TRAPPING

So what is pre-baiting, how is it done and why is it so important when you are planning to trap feral hogs? Pre-baiting is the process of baiting a feral hog trapping area for a few days prior to commencing trapping operations. Pre-baiting serves to condition feral hogs to your trapping area and to accept it as a routine food source.

Ideally you want to begin baiting before your feral hog trap is ever in place. An easy way to accomplish this is to place a feeder filled with shelled corn dispensed by a programmable spin cast motor on the site. Program the feeder to go off at a specific time each morning or evening. A wide variety of other baits can be used but you must ensure that they are consistently

available each day during a particular timeframe. The picture and video recording capabilities of game cameras make them a valuable tool in monitoring feral hog response to pre-baiting. These photographs and videos will also prove useful in helping you to determine the size and style of the trap that should be selected based on the number and size of the feral hogs visiting your bait site. You will know when the feral hogs are conditioned to your bait site by observing the game camera photos or videos captured over a period of several days. When feral hogs are conditioned to a bait site they will consistently visit the bait within a similar timeframe each day.

See *FERAL HOGS*, pg. 5

## -----FREE----- YOUTH REINED COW HORSE CLINIC



**JULY 6 & 7, 2013**

*Special opportunity to learn from the best!*

NRCHA CHAMPIONS & TOP MONEY WINNING TRAINERS:

**Chris Dawson  
CJ Shopbell  
Wade Meador**

**Register by June 28, 2013  
Limited to 1st 30 kids!**

### LOCATION:

Rosenauer Quarter Horses  
7401 CR 518  
Burleson, TX 76028

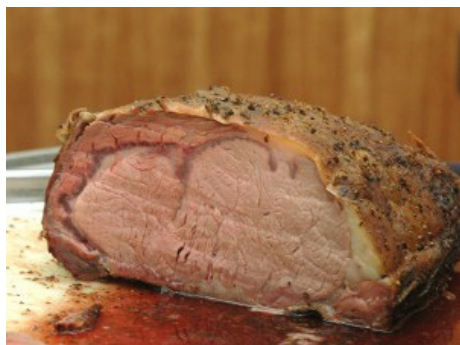
**HOSTED BY: SRCHyA**

### INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

Karen Widler, SRCHyA parent  
(805) 689-5103  
karenwidler@gmail.com  
www.srcha.org

## TEXAS A&M BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE: 22 DIFFERENT CATTLEMAN'S COLLEGE SESSIONS

AT LEAST  
7 CEUs  
OFFERED



The famous Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner will be held as part of the 59th Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course activities. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)

**COLLEGE STATION** – The 59th Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is scheduled Aug. 5-7 at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Weather outlook and a cattle market outlook are two of the featured topics to be discussed during the general session scheduled Aug. 5.

"A lot of producers are wanting to know how long this current market cycle will last and how to go about herd expansion strategies in the future," said Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist in College Station and conference coordinator. "The long-term outlook is one of the many topics that will be featured in the 22 different cattleman's college sessions at the short course."

The short course has become one of the largest and most comprehensive beef cattle educational programs in the U.S., Cleere noted.



The largest beef educational event in the country! Coordinated by Texas AgriLife Extension

The cattleman's college portion provides participants with an opportunity to choose workshops based on their level of production experience and the needs of their ranch, Cleere said.

"These concurrent workshops will feature information on introductory cattle production, retiring to ranching, management practices in the areas of forage, nutrition and reproduction, record keeping, genetics, purebred cattle, landowner issues and much more," he said.

In addition to classroom instruction, participants can attend one of the popular demonstrations on the morning of Aug. 7.

"There will be demonstrations on fence building, chute-side calf working, cattle behavior, penning and Brush Busters," Cleere said. "These provide an opportunity for ranchers to see beef cattle production practices put to use."

"The goal of the short course each year is to provide the most cutting-edge information that is needed by beef cattle producers. We think we have information for everyone to take home and apply to their operations."

Participants can receive a Texas Department of Agriculture private pesticide applicator's license during the short course and can earn at least seven pesticide continuing education units if they are already licensed, Cleere added.

An industry trade show will be held during the event, featuring more than 110 agricultural businesses and service exhibits.

Registration is \$160 per person and includes educational materials, a copy of the 600-page Beef Cattle Short Course proceedings, trade show admittance, admission to the prime rib dinner, lunches, breakfasts and daily refreshments. - by Blair Fannin

**Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is the place to earn BQA and CEU credits all in one spot.**

Producers can register online at <http://beef.tamu.edu> or contact Cleere's office at 979-845-6931 and Youth (ages 13-18) can register for the Youth Track Program.



# TEXAS GRAZINGLAND CONFERENCE

JULY 15 - 17



## TEXAS★GRAZINGLAND CONFERENCE

**SAVE THE  
Date**  **JULY  
15-17  
2013**

**Radisson Hotel Fort Worth Fossil Creek  
2540 Meacham Boulevard  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76106  
Hotel Reservations | (817) 625-9911**

## BE INSPIRED BY KEY SPEAKERS



**TEMPLE GRANDIN**  
Professor of Animal Science,  
Colorado State University



**KIT PHARO**  
Rancher, Pharo Cattle Company  
Cheyenne Wells, Colorado

### CONFERENCE WILL ALSO INCLUDE FOUR CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

- ★ Profitable Grazing Management
- ★ Managing Wildlife with Livestock
- ★ Risk Management
- ★ Marketing Strategies

THROUGH THE CONCURRENT SESSIONS, 16 RANCHERS FROM ACROSS TEXAS WILL PROVIDE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, INSIGHT AND EXPERIENCE REPRESENTING PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME RANCHERS FROM BOTH THE COW-CALF AND STOCKER SECTORS. LEARN SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT WILL HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR LAND AND YOUR BUSINESS. JOIN US TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN FIND SOLUTIONS TO KEEP YOUR RANCH HEALTHY AND PROFITABLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JEFF GOODWIN AT [JEFF.GOODWIN@TX.USDA.GOV](mailto:JEFF.GOODWIN@TX.USDA.GOV)

Registration is  
\$100 per person.

Register online at:  
[http://www.  
regonline.com/  
txgrazland2013](http://www.regonline.com/txgrazland2013)

For more info  
contact:  
Jeff Goodwin at  
[jeff.goodwin@  
tx.usda.gov](mailto:jeff.goodwin@tx.usda.gov)

Or visit the Texas  
GLCI Facebook page  
at:  
[facebook.com/  
texasglci](https://facebook.com/texasglci)

## FERAL HOGS, *continued from pg. 3*

You may even observe other behaviors such as feral hogs resting under your feeder. Once feral hogs are conditioned to your bait site the pre-baiting process is complete you are ready to begin the trapping process. I will cover the trapping process in a future article.

- [Wild Wonderings Blog](#)

## IT IS SPRING TIME TO DEWORM

Spring has arrived and now it is time to deworm your cattle. Parasite burdens will peak during Spring in pastures and again in the Fall.

Many times internal parasites will be overlooked, since cattle do not always show clinical signs (rough coats, anemia, and adema) of an infestation. Many animals will experience reduced weight gain, decreased milk production, lowered conception rates, etc. Most mature cows usually only need to be dewormed once per year, right before calving, if possible. But two treatments in a year might be necessary if there is a large parasite load.

Bulls are naturally more susceptible to parasites and should be treated in the Spring and in the Fall.

Calves need to be treated at 3 - 4 months of age, at weaning, and every 3 - 4 months until they reach 1 year of age. (This will vary based on parasite levels in the pasture.) Yearlings can be dewormed in the Spring and Fall until they reach maturity.

There are two main classes of dewormers; benzimidazoles and avermectins/milbemycins. The latter provides some external parasite control. When choosing a deworming product, keep in mind its spectrum of control, withdrawal time, cost effectiveness, product efficacy, and method of application.

- From the May 2013 Veterinarian Entomology Newsletter by Dr. Sonja Swiger, Extension Entomologist

## THE VALUE OF MORE WEIGHT IS IT WORTH IT?



photo © Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Heavier calves bring in more dollars than light calves. Light calves bring more per pound than heavy calves. So, how much do you receive for extra weight?

During the last week of April, national price/cwt for steers averaged: 450 lb – \$172.70; 550 lb – \$157.74; 750 lb – \$135.79. Going from 450 to 550 got \$90.42 more. That is 52% of the price for 450 pounders. Going from 550 to 750 got \$150.86 but that was for 200 lb. so the increase per/cwt was \$75.43. That is 48% of the price for 550 pounders.

Looking back 20 years ago, price was a little over half what it's been recently. Nevertheless, back then, going from 450 to 550 got you 55% of the 450 lb price. Going from 550 lb to 750 lb got you 56% of the 550 price.

Except for unusual situations, regardless of how good or bad price is, adding 100 lb generally results in getting about 50-60% of the beginning price. Is that profitable? It depends on what it costs to add the weight. But sometimes, we forget that the next 100 pounds is not worth the price for the base weight.

-by Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus (from the May 2013 Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter)

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!**  
June 16





## WALNUT CATERPILLARS ON PECAN TREES

I received an e-mail from Bill Ree, Extension Pecan Entomologist, stating there have been reports across the state of walnut caterpillar activity on pecan trees. These insects will effect both commercial and homeowner trees and you need to be watching for the insect.

According to Bill, the real damage occurs when the larvae reaches the 5th (last) instar, at which time the larvae is black



**The real damage occurs when the larvae reaches the 5th (last) instar at which time the larvae is black with long white hairs (see photo above). This insect has the potential to defoliate a tree in a very short time. - Bill Ree**

with long, white hairs (see photo, above right). This insect has the potential to defoliate a tree in a very short time.

Mr. Ree states that indications of an infestation can include: colonies on branch terminals, a mass of cast skins on the main



trunk or scaffold limbs, a lot of grass on sidewalks or driveways, and branch terminals with missing foliage but leaf rachis still intact.

**Control options:** For homeowners – Bt based insecticides and products with spinosad (ex: Green Light Lawn and Garden with Spinosad); For commercial producers – Intrepid, Confirm, Belt, Delegate would be preferred. For organic producers – Entrust, certified Bt insecticides, Azera and Neemix.....

**For commercial orchard control options:** visit the Pecan IPM website at <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org> which has a searchable insecticide (as well as fungicide and herbicide) data base in the tool box section for additional information on the various insecticides.

## 17-year CICADAS



This year the 17-year cicada will emerge in the eastern United States, just as soon as the soil temperatures reach 64 degrees.

Although I can assume most people will not be as excited as entomologists will when billions of cicadas start singing, this will be an event to remember.

The Magicicadas have red eyes and, in some places, there will be wall-to-wall cicadas.

Their presence will be felt for a few weeks before the adults die off after their offspring enter the soil to grow for another 17 years.

- From the May 2013 Veterinarian Entomology Newsletter by Dr. Sonja Swiger, Extension Entomologist

Texas Agrilife Extension Service programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in Extension activities are encouraged to contact us at 254-965-1460 to determine how reasonable accommodations may be made.

## 2011 NATIONAL BEEF QUALITY AUDIT - INDUSTRY PERCEPTIONS

Cattle feeders, packers, food service/distribution/further processors, retailers, and government and allied industry representatives were asked to assess the status and progress of:

- how and where cattle are raised
- lean, fat, and bone
- weight and size
- cattle genetics
- visual characteristics
- food safety
- eating satisfaction

Food safety was rated as the most important factor affecting the industry, followed by eating satisfaction, for all sectors except feeders. In fact, if food safety could

not be assured, those sectors would not purchase product even at a price discount. Feeders ranked how and where cattle are raised, and weight and size as most important. Visual characteristics were rated lowest in importance by feeders and packers; food service/distributors/further processors and retailers rated cattle genetics lowest. Across sectors, price premiums from 6.8% to 15.7% were willing to be paid, being highest for lean, fat, bone by retailers and lowest for visual characteristics by feeders. (J. Animal Sci. 91:1907; Colorado St. Univ., Oklahoma St. Univ., Texas A&M Univ.)

- by Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus (from the May 2013 Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter)



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**Erath 4-H Pasture to Packer** program made the front cover of the June 2013 issue of Texas Agriculture, along with a 2-page story. Read the full story online at: [www.texasfarmbureau.org](http://www.texasfarmbureau.org)

For participant applications or sponsorship information, contact Whit Weems at 254-965-1460.



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For more information on any of the articles or activities listed in this newsletter, please contact the Erath County Extension Office at 254-965-1460 or visit us on the web at: [erath.agrilife.org](http://erath.agrilife.org)



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