

## Spring 2016 Ag Newsletter

### Calendar of Events

Apr 19 – Corpus Christi Ag Symposium  
 May 11 – Ag Chemical Collection  
 May 21-22 – Beekeeping Basics  
 June 2 – Private Applicator Training  
 June 9 – The Basics of Home Made Wine  
 June 17 – Tree Disease ID and Mgmt

### Newsletter Online

Be sure to visit our county website periodically at <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu>

### ADA/AA

If you have a disability that will limit or exclude you from participating in one of our events, please notify the Extension Office in advance so reasonable arrangements can be made. Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

### Private Applicator Training

A Private Applicator's Training has been scheduled for Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Street, Suite 208. Registration will begin at 8:00

a.m. with the training to follow at 8:30 a.m. We will conclude by 12 noon. This is for persons who do not have a license or those who had a license that expired at least a year ago. If you plan to attend, please call Angel Torres (210 631-0400) at the Bexar County Extension Office by Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> to sign up. Study



materials are available at the Extension Office and can be picked up in advance. The program registration fee is \$50/person and includes study materials. Participants should plan on bringing a calculator and photo I.D.

### Beef Cattle Committee Members

Volunteers that serve on committees are the heart and soul of a strong Extension program. They are responsible for identifying, planning, implementing and evaluating educational programs. Thanks to the following volunteers for their leadership in 2016.

#### Beef Cattle Committee

David Janszen	Jimmy Echtle
LeRoy Moczygemba	Dr. Albert Fernandez
Pat Ahr	Elma Garza
Dorothy Ahr	Marilyn Magaro
Roger Bippert	Bill Wengler



## **Result Demonstration/Applied Research Projects**

I am interested in working with a few producers on some livestock, brush and forage result demonstration projects. If you have an interest in cooperating on a study, please give me a call.

### **Texas Range/Webinar Series**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has organized a series of natural resource webinars designed to assist producers. Webinars are broadcasted online with most educational programs offering CEU's. Visit <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu> to learn about a variety of rangeland management topics along with upcoming class schedules.

### **Ag News and Views Blog**

Be sure to check out our blog periodically at <http://agrilife.org/agnewsandviews>. If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be informed of updates, please contact Angel at the Extension Office.

### **Tree Disease Program Planned**

Make plans to join us Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a very informative program on Tree Disease Identification and Management. The program will take place at Phil Hardberger Park, 8400 NW Military Hwy. Topics include: Identification and Management of Oak Wilt, Managing Tree Insects, Tips to Minimize Stress and Proper Pruning Techniques, San Antonio Oak Wilt Ordinance, Tree License Requirements and Tree Diversity. In addition, there will be an Air Excavation and Tree Injection Demonstration highlighted. Please RSVP to Angel by Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration is \$40 in advance or \$50 at the door. Registration includes program materials, a catered lunch and CEUs. <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/files/2014/05/06-17-16-Tree-Disease-Ident-Mgmt.pdf>

### **Dow Agro Sciences Releases Graslan L Herbicide**

Graslan L is a new, improved high load formulation of Grazon P+D. As you know, Grazon P+D is being phased out with limited

supplies still available. Graslan includes picloram for better residual control. It's safe for established forages, provides good general weed control at a lower use rate and has no grazing restrictions for livestock. For more information, about Dow Agro Sciences or any of their range and pasture products, visit <http://rangeandpasture.com>

### **Soil Testing**

With spring upon us it's time to start thinking about collecting a soil sample. We can't control fertilizer prices but we can



certainly control how efficiently we use fertilizer. A soil test is the first step in efficient fertilizer use and improved forage production. Samples should be collected annually for hay meadows and every 2 to 3 years for grazing pastures. For soil forms and bags contact the Extension office or visit <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu>.

Scout for warm-season annual weeds and assess whether to control them with recommended herbicides. When pastures contain 50% or more weeds, economic inputs start to increase and net returns drop. To control annual weeds effectively, spray when they are small and growing. Follow the recommendations on the product label. Remember, herbicides that control broadleaf weeds also kill clover.

### **Ranch TV**

Ranch TV.org is a video library of online resources designed to assist cattle producers. Information on [www.ranchtv.org](http://www.ranchtv.org) addresses issues such as drought, nutrition, reproduction, livestock handling, environmental issues and biosecurity. Check it out!

### **Beef Breed Numbers, Then and Now** (Beef Cattle Browsing, March 2016)

The National Pedigreed Livestock Council is an organization of U. S. livestock registries. Most of the more numerous beef breed associations are members of NPLC. Currently, 16 beef breed



association members report registration numbers to NPLC. The table below shows percentages of the total registered in 1965 and 2015 by breed (one-half of the breeds were not yet registered in the U. S. in 1965):

BREED	1965 %	2015 %
Angus	34.6	43.7
Beefmaster		2.5
Brahman	1.5	1.4
Brangus	0.4	3.5
Charolais	2.8	5.2
Chianina		1.0
Gelbvieh		5.2
Hereford	56.0	11.0
Limousin		3.1
Maine-Anjou		1.3
Red Angus	0.2	7.5
Salers		0.7
Santa Gertrudis	1.1	0.8
Shorthorn	3.4	2.1
Simmental		10.3
Texas Longhorn		1.3

Not shown here but for comparison, in 2015 there were about one-third more Holsteins registered than the most numerous beef breed (Angus) and more Jerseys registered than the second most numerous beef breed (Hereford). While registration percentages may not reflect the exact picture, they should give us a good idea of the makeup of the nation's commercial beef herd. In 1965, British breeds made up about 94% of the total, Continentals (all Charolais) 3%, and Brahman and Brahman influenced 3%. In 1990 (not shown above) these percentages were about 49%, 36%, and 15%. In 2015 they were about 65%, 27%, and 8%. The trend toward more Continentals and Brahman/Brahman influenced through the '80s and '90s has been reversed. Who knows where we'll go from here.

### Millennials Not Interested in Ag Careers?

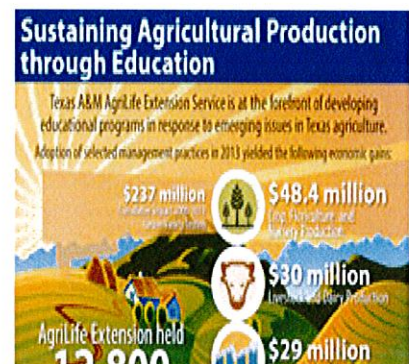
(Southern Livestock.com, March 2016)

Studies indicate that the world's demand for food will surge by 2050 with a projected 10 billion people requiring a 70% increase in food production. A recent survey conducted by ORC

International, on behalf of Land O' Lakes, Inc. shows there is a startling lack of young people planning to work in the agriculture industry. In fact, only 3% of college graduates and 9% of Millennials surveyed have or would consider an Ag career.

When compared to other industries, respondents were least likely to indicate that they have or would consider a career in agriculture (6 percent), with healthcare and technology at the highest career interest (each at 21 percent); followed by education (20 percent); marketing and sales; finance; and manufacturing and engineering (all at 12 percent).

USDA job reports underscore these findings: more than 20,000 agriculture jobs go unfilled each year. Despite this fact, the majority of survey respondents – 54 percent – think it is difficult or very difficult for recent college graduates to get a job in agriculture.



"We will need to produce more food in the next 40 or 50 years than in the previous 500 years combined," said Lydia Botham, executive director, Land O'Lakes Foundation. "Our priorities are clear – we must focus on attracting the next generation of Ag workers to the highly skilled, well-paid career opportunities. Failing to do so may lead to severe consequences."

### Ag Chemical Collection Event

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) has officially opened registration for the Agricultural (Ag)

Chemical Collection event that will be held on



May 11 at the Karnes County Youth Show barn in Karnes City. The event is open to landowners



in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties. Interested landowners will have until Wednesday, April 27, to return their registration form to their local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office.

This is the first time SARA has organized an Ag Chemical Collection Event. SARA's Board budgeted \$100,000 for the event, so staff have determined a first registered first served process will allow for maximum participation while remaining within the allowable budget. Drop off appointments will be based on the order that registration forms are received by the respective county Extension offices. SARA hopes to serve everyone interested in participating; however, there may be a need to cut off registrations to keep within the budget. Once registration is closed, SARA will reach out to individual landowners to notify them of their registration status. SARA will work with landowners to provide a specific time to drop off their agricultural chemical waste the day of the event.

In addition to agricultural chemicals, SARA will also be collecting empty, triple rinsed containers. Containers that are not properly rinsed will not be accepted.

For more information and a registration form, contact Angel at the Bexar County Extension Office at 210-631-0400.

### **Ag Symposium Offered**

The Bexar County Extension office will be serving as a host site for the 2016 Corpus Christi Ag Symposium Tuesday, April 19th.

The program will be held at 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208. Two TDA CEUs (1 Gen, 1 IPM) will be offered in addition to lunch.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program will conclude at 2:00 p.m. The agenda is OUTSTANDING!

Genetic Testing for Qualitative Traits and EPDs, Economics of Herd Rebuilding, Economics of Bull Selection, Preparations for Brush Control Applications, Cattle Market Update, Cotton Technologies Update, Sugarcane Aphid Update

and Pesticide Apps for your Smartphone. Registration fee is \$15/person. Seating is limited so sign up today! For more information, visit <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/files/2014/05/04-19-16-Corpus-Christi-Ag-Symposium.pdf>

### **Beekeeping Basics**

Are you interested in beekeeping and/or learning how to start your own bee hives for pleasure, environmental stewardship or to enhance



pollination in your garden? Molly Keck, AgriLife Entomologist, is having a 2-day event on May 21-22. Call Nick at 210 631-0400 for more information.

### **The Basics of Home Made Wine**

Are you interested in the History of Winemaking, How to Grow Grapes and Know the Necessary Steps in Making your very Own? Drs. Larry Stein and Justin Scheiner are presenting a seminar on June 9<sup>th</sup> at Gardens at Old Town Helotes. Reg is \$40 call Angel at 210 631-0400 or visit



<http://agrilife.org/bexarcountry/files/2014/05/06-09-16-Backyard-Gardening-The-Basics-of-Home-Made-Wine.pdf>

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Womble".

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