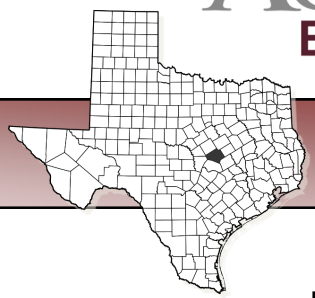
BELL COUNTY

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2018

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LYLE ZOELLER
CEA—AGRICULTURE

WHITNEY GRANTHAM
CEA—NATURAL RESOURCES

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE
EXTENSION SERVICE
BELL COUNTY
1605 N. MAIN STREET
BELTON, TX 76513
(254) 933.5305

FEATURED ARTICLE

BERMUDA PASTURE MANAGEMENT

LYLE ZOELLER, CEA—AG

Bermuda grass is a very important forage source for both livestock and forage (hay) producers in Bell County. "Coastal" is the most widely known "variety" or "selection" of Bermuda grass grown in the county. There are several others gaining in popularity like "Tifton 85" and "Jiggs". The management of the various species is very similar, and will be discussed in general terms to include all species.

ESTABLISHMENT

Generally Coastal is sprigged in February and March, Tifton 85 in March and April, Jiggs in May and June. There has been good success also planting each of these in the fall about September. Before planting, a soil sample (or several) should be submitted to the Lab for a complete analysis of the soil fertility. Phosphorous and Potassium should be applied pre-plant and incorporated into the soil profile.

WEED/GRASS CONTROL

Weed and Grass control for newly planted and established fields can be difficult. For newly planted fields the annual grasses and weeds must be controlled either chemically or mechanically to allow sunlight to reach newly planted spriggs. Some of the common invaders on established fields are Texas Winter Grass, Little Barley, Rescue Grass and Rye Grass in the cool seasons. Those plants are green and actively growing right now and will mature in late Spring and steal nutrients and sunlight from the desired Bermuda grasses. To avoid the unwanted grasses in the 1st cutting, they must be controlled now. It is a common practice to apply a Glyphosate product while Bermuda is dormant to totally eliminate the unwanted winter grasses. Check the label and apply timely. With recent very cold temperatures, all the Bermuda should be dormant. Normally the Glyphosate application is recommended mid-February. Recent years have had warm spells wind causes the Bermuda to sprout and eliminating the window for application. Although we are a bit early now, it may warm up or get wet and eliminate the opportunity.

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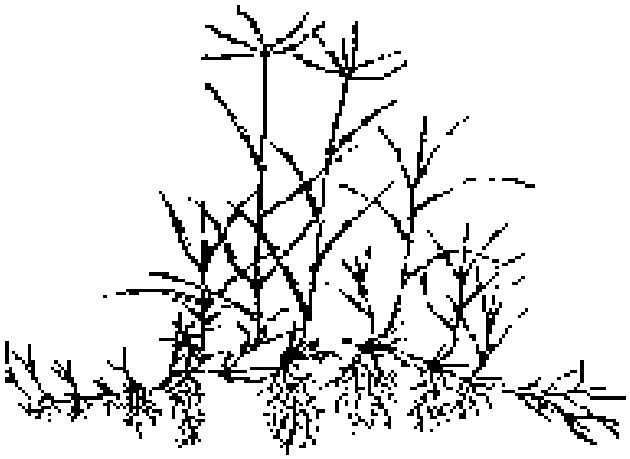
Bermuda Pasture Management Continued



Warm season weed and grass control is a major concern as well if clean Bermuda Hay or pasture is desired. Warm season broad leaf weeds are relatively easily controlled by a wide variety of selective herbicides. The warm season grasses are more difficult. The two main questions I get are related to King Ranch Bluestem and Grass Burr. Each of them can be suppressed with some newly labeled herbicides that are currently on the market.

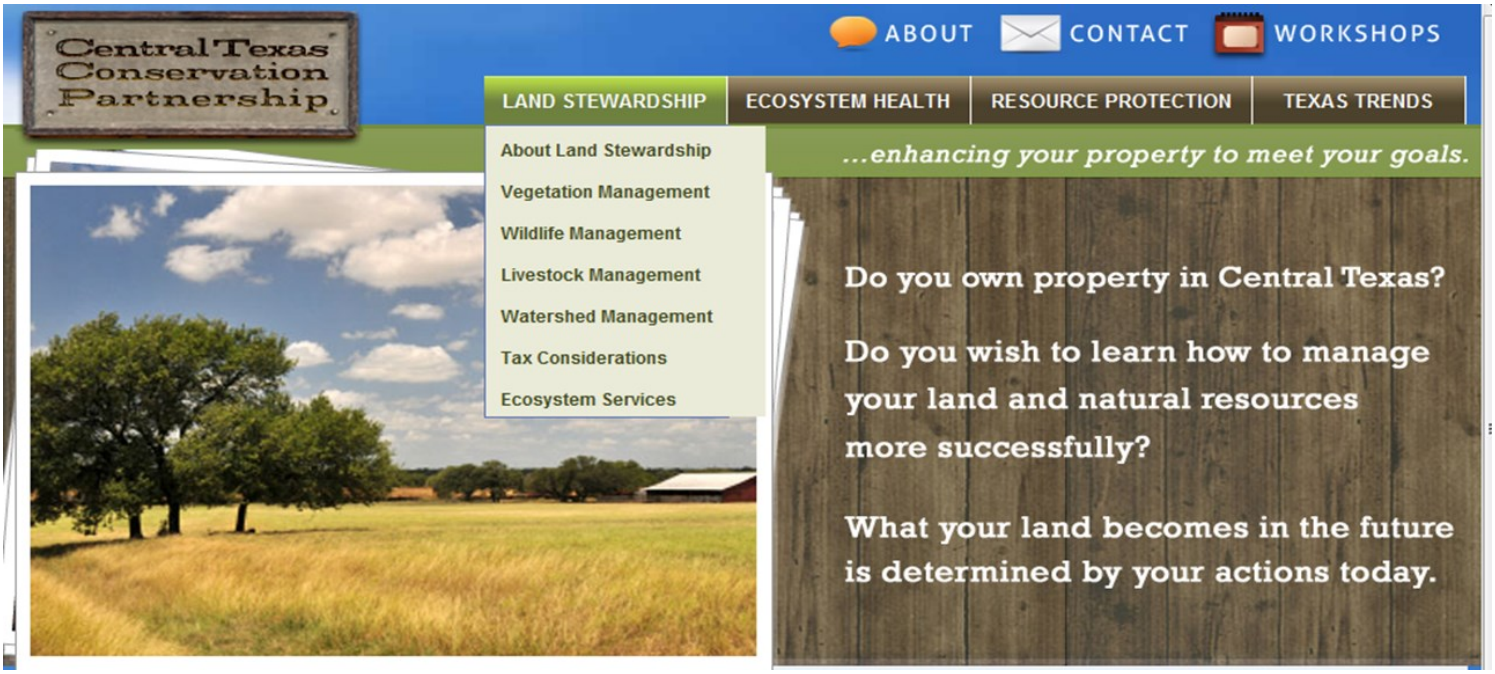
Fertility is the key to success along with ample rainfall. A ton of high quality Bermuda Hay should have 50 pounds of actual Nitrogen, 30 pounds of Phosphorous and 20 pounds of Potassium in it. Consider these numbers as you consult your fertilizer dealers and your soil test.

Website Created for New and Small Acreage Landowners in Central Texas

The Central Texas Conservation Partnership is a collaborative effort of several public and private natural resource organizations. Partners of the page include the U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Soil & Water Board, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the Lower Colorado River Authority. The partnership has created a website to help Central Texas landowners meet their goals by proving information on relevant issues and guiding visitors to prime web resources.

Visit the page:

http://www.texasconservation.org/



2018 Crops Conference

The annual Bell County Crops Conference will be held Tuesday, January 16th at the Bell County Expo Center.

5 CEUs will be available for pesticide applicator licenses. Pre-registration is requested at the Extension Office—$25.00 in advance, $40.00 at the door.

Vendors will be available throughout the day!
Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

7:30 **Registration at the door**

8:15 **Program**

- Corn & Sorghum Production Update, *Dr. Ronnie Schnell*
- Cotton Production Issues & Technologies Update, D*r. Gaylon Morgan*
- Soil Fertility, Nutrient Management, *Dr. Jake Mower*
- Pesticide Laws and Regulations & Worker Protection Standards, *Brandi Kelm - T.D.A. Inspector*
- Educational & Record Keeping Apps for Ag Producers

3:30 **Conclusion**

2018 Professional Grounds Conference

The 2018 Professional Grounds Conference will be held Tuesday, January 23rd at the Bell County Expo Center. Registration and booth exhibits start at 7:30 am. 5 CEUs will be provided for those with pesticide applicator licenses. CEUs will also be provided for Structured Pest Control Operators.

Topics

Pesticide Laws and Regulations

Crape Mertyle Bark Scale—New Pests for Texas

Developing an IPM Program

Lawn and Ornamental Disease Identification and Control

Pest and Ant Control for Turf Grass

Commercial exhibits will be on display. A meal and refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration at the Bell County Extension Office is requested. Program cost is $50.00 in advance and $75.00 at the door.

2018 PROFESSIONAL IRRIGATOR'S CONFRENCE

LICENSED IRRIGATORS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS—

This program will provide CEU credits for licensed irrigators. It will be held on **Wednesday, January 24th in the Bell County Expo, Special Events Room.**
301 West Loop 121
Belton, Texas 76513

Pre-registration is requested at the Bell County Extension Office.
Program costs is $100.00 in advance or $125.00 at the door.

7:55	Welcome & Introduction Lyle Zoeller, Bell County AgriLife Extension
8:00-9:00	Regional Water Plan and Local Water Supply Dirk Aaron, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
9:00-10:00	2018 Weather Outlook and Weather Resources for Irrigation Management Jon Zeitler, National Weather Service
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Central Management of Irrigation Systems Markus Hogue, University of Texas at Austin
11:15-12:15	EarthKind Principles for Landscape Water Management Tim Hartman, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
12:15-12:50	Lunch
12:50-2:20	Operating and Troubleshooting 2 Wire Irrigation Systems Shepard Myers, Hunter Industries
2:20-2:30	Break
2:30-3:30	Updates On TCEQ Landscape Irrigation Rules Petitions John Decell, TCEQ Irrigators Advisory Council
3:30-4:55	Maximizing Use of ET and Soil Moisture Technology Charles Swanson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
4:55-5:00	Closing Remarks and Survey Lyle Zoeller, Bell County AgriLife Extension

*This agenda is the draft agenda as of 12/1/2017. All speakers and topics are confirmed but final speaker order may change before the event.

Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo est. 1896 THIS THING IS LEGENDARY®	**2018 Bell County Youth Fair**	San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo
January 12, 2018 - February 3, 2018	**February 3 - 10, 2018**	**February 2 - 18, 2018**
San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo	Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo	Rodeo Austin
February 8 - 25, 2018	**February 27 - March 18, 2018**	**March 10 - 24, 2018**

Please e-mail us and ask to be added to the Texas A&M AgriLife e-mail list for Bell County. Most information that is sent out from the office will be e-mailed in the future.

Lyle Zoeller
CEA—Agriculture
L-Zoeller@tamu.edu

Whitney Grantham
CEA—Natural Resources
whitney.grantham@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Bell County
1605 N. Main Street, Ste 102
Belton, TX 76513
(254) 933.5305

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Educational programs of the 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.