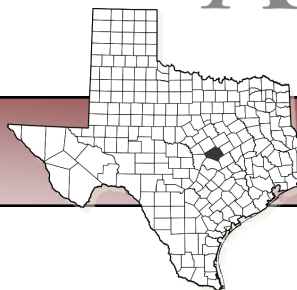


# BELL COUNTY

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

## AG & NATURAL RESOURCES



## NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

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- ◆ CENTRAL TEXAS BEEF SYMPOSIUM

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### FEATURED ARTICLE

#### OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION FOR LANDOWNERS

WHITNEY GRANTHAM  
COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT—NATURAL RESOURCES

Those that call Texas home know that weather conditions can change in the blink of an eye. Being prepared and taking preventative measures to ensure that our land and livestock, and future generations will have sufficient supply is key to weathering dry conditions.

Up to twenty-five percent of water usage in urban areas can be attributed to irrigation, but even up to half of that can be lost to inefficiencies in those systems. Just drive through our communities and see that one goal both large and small land owners in Central Texas have in common is producing healthy, lush grass and doing it in an efficient way. Whether it be for production or simply for an aesthetic look, the number one factor in achieving that goal is making sure that the grass you have planted is receiving enough water. There are different varieties or grasses that can help landowners meet their goals.

Not all grass is created equal. St. Augustine thrives the best in shady moist conditions while Bermuda is a sun loving, drought tolerant variety. The solution is to utilize a variety that not only works for the landowner but is functional and water conscious at the same time.

Two varieties come to mind when I think of grass that fits these low water landscape use categories; Buffalo and Bermuda. Buffalo grass is a native grass and the most drought tolerant choice, but it is not well adapted for use as a lawn grass. It does not make a tight sod, but it grows well in low rain fall areas. If grown for grazing or ground cover, mowed to six inches, Buffalo grass will flourish in full sun with minimal water requirements. Land owners that want to utilize a native pasture grass with water conservation or drought conditions in mind will find that this grass is a highly practical choice.

Bermuda grass is almost as drought tolerant as buffalo grass, but it is much easier to manage as a manicured turf grass. Both tolerant to frequent mowing (1 ½ inches or less) and high traffic areas, Bermuda is a top choice among small land owners. During harsh drought conditions Bermuda tends to green up rapidly after irrigation or a fair rain. Just like the Buffalo grass, it also fairs well in full sun. Bermuda is well known for its use and hardness on golf courses and is the most common warm-season turf grass used in, the U.S.

*Continued on page 4*

**TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION RANCH GATHERING, SALADO  
THURSDAY, JULY 19TH FROM 5:30 PM — 8:00 PM**

Join TSCRA for a Ranch Gathering featuring an update on TSCRA activities! It will be an evening full of fun, food, and fellowship at Tenroc Ranch! A free beef dinner will be served.

**PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://TSCRA.ORG/EVENTS/](http://TSCRA.ORG/EVENTS/) TO REGISTER.**

Become a TSCRA member during the event and you will receive a TSCRA gate sign (\$45 value), courtesy of Bayer! Everyone is welcome! Make sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Tenroc Ranch—5471 Thomas Arnold Road, Salado TX 76571

Directions: From I-35 S, take exit 284 for Robertson Road. After .3 mile, turn right onto Thomas Arnold Road for two miles. From I-35 N, take the exit for S Main Street. Follow S Main Street for one mile. Turn left onto Thomas Arnold Road for two miles. Follow TSCRA signs.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PREMIER SPONSOR!  
ELANCO**

**THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:  
CAPITAL FARM CREDIT AND LIVESTOCK NUTRITION CENTER**

**RANCHERS LEASING WEBINAR  
AUGUST 2ND AT 12:00 PM**

LOGON TO [HTTPS://TEXASRANGECCLASSROOM.ADOBECONNECT.COM/RANGEWEB/](https://TEXASRANGECCLASSROOM.ADOBECONNECT.COM/RANGEWEB/)  
TO VIEW THE WEBINAR.



*Why should leases be in writing?  
What terms should I include?  
How much should I charge?  
Get answers to these questions & more!*

**TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION**

August 2, 2018 at Noon CST  
No registration needed, at meeting time just go to:  
<https://texasrangeclassroom.adobeconnect.com/rangeweb/>



**SOUTHERN  
EXTENSION  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
EDUCATION**

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## 64TH ANNUAL BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE



The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course has a rich tradition and historical place in the programs emanating from the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. Dating as far back as 1942, Professor John K Riggs started the first in a series of Beef Cattle Short Courses held on the campus of Texas A&M College to discuss the results of beef cattle research from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station with Texas beef producers. This historical beginning and purpose is still the standard today for the Beef Cattle Short Course held at Texas A&M University. Today the highly respected TAM Beef Cattle Short Course is nationally and internationally recognized as the largest attended beef cattle educational program of its type in the world. It has gained the respect from organizations, associations,

Land Grant universities and agencies alike as the focal point for beef cattle educational information. The Cattleman's College features more than 20 concurrent sessions. Topics include animal health, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, selection, research, marketing and handling. Management sessions will cover business, forage, range, and purebred cattle. Topics such as landowner issues and fence building will be featured at this BCSC. Sessions are designed for everyone, from the newest member of the industry to the most seasoned producer. A number of pesticide CEUs, veterinarian CECs and BQA credits are available to attendees. Additionally, over 150 agriculture related businesses and trade show exhibitors annually attend the course and attest to the fact that it is the most highly attended activity of its kind anywhere in the United States. Annually over 1,700 participants attend the Beef Cattle Short Course to gain valuable knowledge about beef cattle production.

**DATES** The 64th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course begins at 8:00 am on Monday, August 6th, and ends at noon on Wednesday, August 8th.

**LOCATION** Registration check-in will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Rudder Tower on Joe Routh Boulevard. Registration will begin at 6:00 am with the first general session at 8:00am on Monday, August 6th. You may pick up your badge and materials early on Sunday, August 5th, between 1-5pm if you wish to do so.

**REGISTRATION FEE** The Short Course fee of \$210 per person includes the following: 3 daily breakfasts, Monday and Tuesday lunch, 1 Prime Rib Dinner Monday, 1 proceedings, trade show admittance, refreshments and access to campus shuttle service. There is no need to purchase additional tickets for any of those events since they are included with your registration. The Short Course fee will be \$250 after July 30th and for onsite registration. <https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/>

**PARKING PERMITS** The three day pass for Lot 61 (MSC), and Lot 63 (Pearce Pavilion) can be purchased for a flat event rate of \$15 at: <https://transport2.tamu.edu/account/conference/parkingpermits.aspx> Also, parking is available across the street from the MSC in the University Center Parking Garage and Cain Garage for \$15 per day if you do not prepay.

**ACCOMMODATIONS** A list of accommodations can be found at <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/>

**YOUTH TRACK** A special youth program is available for ages 13-18yrs. Please go to <https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/participant/youth-program/> for the registration and medical release form.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2018 CONSERVATION EXPO THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT THE BELL COUNTY EXPO

The Conservation Expo was developed as a premier educational opportunity for new and small acreage landowners in Bell and surrounding counties. This year, program highlights will include discussions on bees and other pollinators, tree health, livestock options for small acreage landowners, and financial and estate planning. A full list of speakers and topics along with more information will be coming soon through the ag email list and local newspapers. Registration will be made available in August on the Central Texas Conservation Partnership Website at <http://www.texasconservation.org/>.



September

28

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2018 CEN-TEX BEEF SYMPOSIUM

The Marti Charolais Ranch will host the live cattle portion of the Cen-Tex Beef Symposium in Cleburne this year. Join us for great presentations. More information will be provided soon through the ag email list and area newspapers.

### *Continued from page 1*

The money you invest in high quality landscape soil and seeding can be paid back in one drought seasons worth of lawn watering, but changing your practices to conserve water for our future generations is a priceless concept. Whatever the grass you select, six inches of soil is imperative to serve as a reservoir for roots and moisture. When it comes to watering, monitor your grass and watch for wilt. Watering only when needed and watering thoroughly, produces a deep-rooted lawn which is more water efficient and drought enduring.

- Mulching plant beds yearly helps soil retain moisture.
- Weed your flower gardens.
- Plant native species that don't require extra water.
- Use timed devices for watering lawns.
- Water plants and lawns during the coolest parts of the day such as mornings or late evenings.
- Utilize and monitor rain gauges across the lawn so that you don't over water.
- Apply 1 inch of water to the lawn as rapidly as possible without runoff.  
Use stored rain water from rainwater harvesting rather than municipal or well water.

When water is so inexpensive, it's easy to misuse. Municipal water in Belton, Texas costs a home owner \$3.70 for 1,000 gallons. That shakes out to less than half a penny per gallon. If you're pumping from an existing, managed well, the input is the utility cost of pumping. Nevertheless, protecting and conservation Texas' vital water resource is an important job that is in all of our hands. Texas A&M AgriLife provides programming in conservation that focus on reducing household water use and improving irrigation efficiencies in lawns, landscapes, and agricultural production systems. For more information on water wise conservation practices, visit <http://water.tamu.edu/water-conservation/> or contact the Bell County Extension Office at (254) 933-5305.

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.

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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.