

## Ag Newsletter – Spring 2019

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#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

May 3 – Private Pesticide Applicator Training
May 8 & 9 – Multi-County Reproduction

Management

May 10 – Multi-County Beef Cattle & Forage Field Day June 7 – Ag Law Program

June – September – Urban Wildlife Series August 5 – 7 Beef Cattle Short Course

#### **Ag Blog and Newsletter Online:**

Visit http://agrilife.org/agnewsandviews and our county website periodically at http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu



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### **Private Pesticide Applicator Training**

A Private Applicator Pesticide Training program is scheduled for Friday, May 3<sup>rd</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. Lunch will not be provided. This training is for people 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 contact the Bexar

attend, please contact the Bexar County Extension Office to sign up. The program registration fee is \$50/person and includes study materials. Participants should plan on bringing a calculator and photo ID.



#### **Multi-County Beef Cattle & Forage Field Day**

Make plans to join us Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at Bugg Farms, 1287 CR 314 in Sutherland Springs for an informative beef cattle & forage program. Topics include:

- Brush Management & Proper Timing
- Weed Control & Fertility
- Cattle Market Outlook
- Irrigation System Management

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$20/person, 3 hours of CEU credit will be offered.

RSVP by May 8<sup>th</sup> by contacting the Bexar County Extension Office 210-631-0400.



#### Ag Law Program-Owning Your Piece of Texas: Top Agriculture Laws Landowners Should Know

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 7th – 9:00-3:00 p.m. at Palo Alto College 1400 Villaret Blvd., San Antonio, TX (Ozuna Library). This free program is designed to educate landowners about the legal issues they may face. All participants will receive a copy of the "Owning Your Piece of Texas" Handbook, outlining some of these important laws for landowners to be made aware of. Topics include:

- Landowner Liability
- Water Law
- Eminent Domain
- Fence Law
- Special use Tax Valuation



Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will follow at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be sponsored by AgWorkers Insurance. To register visit: agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Landowners

# **Multi-County Reproduction Management Workshop May 8-9**

The Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Medina, and Wilson County offices of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will once again host a workshop for producers covering several aspects of beef cattle reproduction.



Topics include: Ins and Outs of Pregnancy Testing, "Hands on" Anatomy of a Cow's Reproductive Tract, Rectal Palpation and Estrus Synchronization Made Easy.

What makes this program unique is that attendees will be required to bring 3-5 cows for demonstration purposes. Space is limited and participation will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Attendees are asked to RSVP to the Bexar County Extension Office at 210-631-0400. Cost is \$20/person.

Day 2 will be more advanced and focus on Reproductive Tract Evaluation & Scoring, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer. Cost is \$30/person.

Programs will begin at 9:00 and conclude by 2:00 pm both days and will be held at Tom Brothers Ranch, 770 Co. Rd. 412 Campbellton, TX. Registration fee will include lunch.

#### **Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course**

When: August 5-7, 2019 Where: College Station, TX \*Registration is Open visit:

https://beefcattleshortcourse.com

#### **Urban Wildlife Series**

Last year we had a successful series of wildlife

programs sponsored by the Bexar County Ag and Natural Resources Committee. We are expanding on that effort again this year by offering another Wildlife Series with a particular focus on "Texas Game Species". Programs will begin in June and continue through September. The cost is \$30 for the series or \$10/class. Programs will be held from 10-12 noon at Bexar County Extension Office.



- June 18 Managing Private Lands for Wildlife Habitat Dr. Roel Lopez, Director, Natural Resources Institute
- July 9 Bobwhite Quail Management Dr. Maureen Frank, Extension Wildlife Specialist
- August 8 Rio Grande Wild Turkey Management
   Dr. John Tomecek, Extension Wildlife Specialist
- August 20 White-Tailed Deer Management Dr. Maureen Frank
- September 10 Texas Game Fish
   Dr. Todd Sink, Extension Fisheries Specialist
- September 24 Get Ready to Hunt Dr. Maureen Frank

For more information, contact the Extension Office at 210-631-0400.





#### 7 Things Every Small Cattle Producer Should Know

By Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist – Corpus Christi.

The other day, I was reading a paper written by a former colleague, Rick Machen titled "Seven Things Every Small Producer Should Know," and I thought it was worth covering the points he made here. It can be accessed at <u>beef.tamu.edu</u> under "Publications."

Size is relative in Texas. According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, the most recent survey, almost half of the state's cowherd is in herds of 100 head or more, but they represent less than 10 percent of farms and ranches. The 90 percent of us own the other half of the cows.

There are some important things all of us need to remember in this business. The first is to be good stewards of our land and its resources, namely the soil, grass, water and wildlife. They are the basis of our livelihood. In my opinion, cattle producers don't get enough credit for what they do and have done to improve wildlife habitat in Texas, especially the improvement of access to water and the eradication of the screwworm.

The second important thing is to have a herd health program designed with your veterinarian. They know the disease and parasite issues in your area and what works and what doesn't.

Third is to make sure your cows get enough to eat. Body condition scores, forage cover in your pastures and plant selection and grazing behavior of your cows are good indicators of that. Fat cows are productive, happy cows. Don't forget the water.

Fourth, reproductive performance is the single most important factor in profitability; some say it is 10-20 times more important than growth. The number of calves weaned is more important to profitability than weaning weight. Fertile bulls and cows are required.

Fifth, with winter here, always get the most out of your supplements, including hay. It is expensive to make or purchase and some of you feed a lot of it. Cut it right, store it right and have it tested. Buy it by the ton, not the bale. Feed it to minimize waste.

Next, economy of scale works against us as smaller producers. Purchase products in larger quantities whenever you can if you are going to use them eventually. Consider leasing or renting equipment, bulls or labor rather than purchasing them.

Finally, remember, you never know enough. Producing beef for the world is ever changing. Changes in public policy, property rights, weather, markets, costs, regulations, urban sprawl and land fragmentation all have an effect on the cattle business. Spend some time learning more about the business, support those organizations that look out for your interests and learn to be a good neighbor.

Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend class and need special accommodations or auxiliary aid, please contact the Bexar County Office at (210)631-0400 at least five (5) days prior to the date so appropriate arrangements can be made. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating