

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
January, 2011
830/672-8531



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

HARWOOD BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM JANUARY 26, 2011 HARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 A.M. | Registration |
| 9:00 A.M. | A Unique Window of Opportunity for Beef Producers
- Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist |
| 10:00 A.M. | Brush Busters for Managing your Brush Species
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist |
| 11:00 A.M. | Re-Stocking your Cowherd
- Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist |
| 12:00 NOON | Catered Meal |
| 1:00 P.M. | Managing for Quality Hay Production
- Larry Redmon, State Extension Forage Specialist |
| 2:00 P.M. | Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations
- Greg Baker, TDA Inspector |

The Harwood Community Center is located 1 block North of Highway 90 in Harwood on County Road 230.

There will be a \$10.00 registration fee for this program to cover the meal and expenses. Five CEU's will be given.

For more information, and **to *RSVP for an accurate lunch count***, please contact the Gonzales County Extension Office at 830/672-8531.

"Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 830/672-8531 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made by January 19th.

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



Forage Field Day

Sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension in conjunction with The Luling Foundation

Thursday, March 31, 2011
9:00 AM-NOON
At the Luling Foundation Farm
(2 CEU's –no charge)

Topics covered include: **Cool Season Forage Varieties**
Legumes and Grass Management

For information call the
Gonzales County AgriLife Extension Office at 830/672-8531 or The Luling Foundation at 830/875-
2438

WE ARE ON THE WEB

This newsletter, as well as other important information and links can be accessed by visiting the Gonzales County AgriLife Extension website located at: <http://gonzales-tx.tamu.edu>

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

We will be holding a private pesticide applicator training for anyone wanting the license to apply restricted use pesticides, such as 2,4-D, Grazon P&D, or Weedmaster for example. The training will be held on April 14, 2011 at 8:30 am at the Farm Bureau Office. Following the morning training, the Texas Department of Agriculture inspector will administer the test at 1:00 pm.

If you are interested in attending this course, please contact the AgriLife Extension Office to pick up the training manual for this event. There will be a \$25 charge for this manual.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Due to increasing postage costs and to improve the timeliness of information distributed, we are sending information out via email that we are not able to put into a hard copy newsletter. By doing this, we will be able to get more information to you, assisting you with your agriculture needs. To do this, we need to get your email address so we can continue to build this mailing list. Please send an email to gonzales-tx@tamu.edu so you will receive this information. We will continue to send out an hard copies of this newsletter when able, but will need to go to the email option for most of the newsletters. Thank you for your assistance with creating this mailing list.

Also, if your address has changed or if you wish to no longer receive this newsletter, please call our office at 830/672-8531 or email us at gonzales-tx@tamu.edu so we can update our mailing list.



Calendar

- 1-26 Harwood CEU Program-Harwood Community Center
- 2-22 Feral Hog Management Program-Luling Civic Center
- 3-31 Luling Foundation Forage Field Day-Luling
- 4-8 Beef Cattle Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm
- 4-14 Pesticide Applicator Training-Gonzales County Farm Bureau Building
- 4-21 Multi-County Pecan Field Day
- 5-19 Luling Foundation Field Day-Luling

More information on these programs is available at the Texas AgriLife Extension-Gonzales County Office. This information can be sent to you by calling 830/672-8531 or contact via email at gonzales-tx@tamu.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwight Sexton".

Dwight Sexton
County Extension Agent-Ag
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Gonzales County

Making a Difference 2010

Forage Management Benefitting Beef Cattle Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Gonzales County

Relevance

Forage production benefitting beef cattle is an extremely important economic enterprise in Gonzales County. Gonzales county has historically been the largest cow/calf production county in the state of Texas with the last estimate lowered to 48,000 head of cows. Although forage production is the major annual expense associated with beef cattle production, producers have the ability to greatly improve their output through proper forage management and utilization.

Response

Texas AgriLife Extension in Gonzales County developed several educational programs to improve the forage quality produced and its utilization for beef cattle production.

- **Beef Cattle and Land Management Seminar** January 27, 2010
- **Forage Grazing Field Day** March 25, 2010
- **Gonzales Young Farmer Brush Shearing Program** April 22, 2010
- **Brush Shearing Demonstration** April 14, 2010
- **Grass Burr Management Field Day** May 11, 2010
- **Mesquite Suppression Result Demonstration** May 14, 2010
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** May 20, 2010
- **ICA Brush Management Program** July 20, 2010
- **Forage Legume Program** Sep 30, 2010
- **Hay Show** Oct 21, 2010
- **Legume , Small Grain, and Wildlife Food Plot variety result demonstration,** October, 2010
- Ranch visits, newsletters, and phone calls allowed for the opportunity to inform forage producers on best management practices for their operations.

Results

An evaluation instrument (retrospective post approach) was utilized to measure knowledge gained, practices adopted, and economic impact. A total of 15 of 55 (27%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences¹ to reveal practice changes (n = 15).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	Change ²
Understand testing needed to determine feed and market value of hay.	2.79	3.64	0.86
Understand how to utilize soil testing to improve nutrient management.	2.86	3.57	0.71
Understand how to utilize legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermuda grass fields.	2.71	3.43	0.71
Understand how to take soil samples for nutrient testing.	2.86	3.50	0.64
Understand how to use new technology and multiple herbicides to manage weeds in forage crops.	2.93	3.43	0.50

¹Likert scale = 1 - Poor, 2 -Fair, 3 -Good, and 4 - Excellent.

The interpretation of these data revealed that respondents perceived that their practice changes increased for each of the five statements asked. The most growth was for understanding testing needed to determine feed and market value of hay followed by Understand how to utilize soil testing to improve nutrient management.

One hundred percent (14 of 14) felt like what they learned in the program provided them the ability to analyze land situations and make better land management decisions.

Adoption of Practices. Ninety-three percent (13 of 14) of producers indicated they were (2 of 14) or definitely will (9 of 14) or probably will (2 of 14) utilize testing techniques to determine hay quality and value. Ninety-two percent of producers indicated they were (5 of 13) or definitely will (2 of 13) or probably will (5 of 13) utilize soil testing to determine soil nutrient levels. Fifty percent (6 of 12) of the producers indicated they were (1 of 12) or definitely will (2 of 12) or probably will (3 of 12) utilize legumes to enhance nitrogen levels in bermuda grass fields.

Economic Information. The third section asked questions about the background and economic information of the participants. Listed below are highlights of that section.

- Average cattle managed were 151 head.
- Average acres of forage managed were 506 acres.
- They estimated that if the recommended practices were implemented it will impact their net dollars by **\$27 per acre** or **\$26/head**.

These responses will serve as a guide for the County Extension Agent and the Beef Program Area Committee for next year's program.

If you have any questions on this program or others in Gonzales County, please feel free to contact:

Dwight Sexton
Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Gonzales County
County Extension Agent-Agriculture
1709 East Sarah Dewitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629
Phone: 830/672-8531



1709 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, TX 78629

PRSRT STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
TCE
Permit No. 25