1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
December 14, 2016
830/672-8531

BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM
JANUARY 12, 2017
JB Wells Expo Center in Gonzales

8:30 A.M.	Registration
9:00 A.M.	Toxic Plant Management - Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist
10:00 A.M.	Beef Cattle Hot Topics (Veterinary Feed Directive, Chronic Wasting Disease, Etc.) - Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist
11:00 A.M.	Pasture Weed Control - Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist
12:00 NOON	Catered Meal
1:00 P.M.	Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations - Bryan Davis, Wilson County Ag Extension Agent
2:00 P.M.	Feral Hog Management - Josh Helcel, Extension Assistant

The JB Wells Expo Center is located at 2301 County Road 197, near the intersection of Highways 183 and 97 south of Gonzales.

There will be a **$30.00 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 6th.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

If you are interest in obtaining a Private Pesticide Applicators License, the procedure to obtain a license has changed through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Applicants are required to attend a training set through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and then submit the required paperwork and fees **($100)** to the Texas Department of Agriculture. TDA will then provide the client an account number that they will use to schedule to take the exam with PSI services. PSI Services has testing centers located in Austin, San Antonio, and 15 other locations across the state.

A Pesticide Applicator Training will be held **April 12, 2017** at the PACE Building, located at 623 N. Fair Street in Gonzales, beginning at 9:00am. There is a **$40** cost for training materials and a **$10** cost for the training. A RSVP is required by contacting the Gonzales Extension Office at 830-672-8531

Beef and Forage Field Day

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

Friday, April 07, 2017
9:00 AM-NOON
At the Luling Foundation Farm
(2 CEU's **–$15** Registration fee)

Topics covered include:
Managing Brush
Beef Cattle Management
Beef Economics
Forage 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.agrilife.org

Calendar

1-12 JB Wells EXPO Beef Cattle CEU Program-JB Wells EXPO Center-Gonzales

4-07 Beef and Forage Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm

4-12 Pesticide Applicator Training-Fair Street Building, Gonzales

5-18 Luling Foundation Field Day-Luling

More information on these programs is available at the Texas A&M 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,

Dwight Sexton

Dwight Sexton
County Extension Agent-Ag
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Gonzales County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Making a Difference

Drought Response and Recovery

2016 Outcome Summary

Dwight Sexton and Geri Kline
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Gonzales County

Relevance

Texas experienced continued periods of drought from the Fall of 2010 through 2013. Following the 2012 Tri-County Beef Symposium in November, 2012, 20 of the 75 attendees reported the drought's impact on their operation. Producers sold or relocated due to drought 14.5% of their cow herd, with a range of 0-50%. The average cost of the drought on a per cow basis was $108 with a range of $40-$200 per head.

Due to this lack of precipitation and increased heat, pastures and rangeland had to be de-stocked to adjust for less forage availability, and to prevent damage from overgrazing. Gonzales county has historically been the largest cow/calf production county in Texas, with the latest estimate placed at 66,000 head of beef cows. 2014 continued to be dry across much of the county, and land managers have had to adjust stocking rates to deal with increased debt, cow expenses, and drought damaged forages. Producers have been able to re-stock some in 2014 and 2015, and beef prices have increased dramatically. The spring of 2015 had record rainfall and cattle prices, followed by a dry summer. In 2016, there has been ample rainfall, but cattle prices dropped dramatically from that of the previous 2 years.

Response

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Gonzales County developed several educational programs to address drought management decisions for beef cattle production.

- **Beef Cattle and Land Management Seminar** - January 14, 2016
- **Beef Field Day -** April 8, 2016
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 19, 2016
- **Farm Bureau Ag Information Day** – June 10, 2016
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration –** June 21, 2016
- **Gonzales County Hay Show/Drought Response Program** - Oct 24, 2016

- Ranch visits, newsletters, and phone calls allowed for the opportunity to inform land managers 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. One hundred forty-five evaluations were mailed to clientele who had participated in 2 or more Extension programs throughout the year. A total of 32 of 145 (22%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences[1] to reveal practice changes (n = 32).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	% Change
How to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.	**2.23**	**3.32**	**49.3**
When it is acceptable to re-stock drought impacted pastures.	**2.26**	**3.23**	**42.6**
Importance of testing hay and other forages for nutrient content.	**2.32**	**3.16**	**36.1**
Forage response to fertility and weed control.	**2.74**	**3.67**	**34.1**
Determining proper stocking rate on bermudagrass and other introduced grasses.	**2.52**	**3.35**	**33.3**
The impact drought will have on your beef and forage program.	**2.55**	**3.35**	**31.6**
The effect of plant maturity on forage yield and quality.	**2.45**	**3.19**	**30.3**
Hay losses during storage.	**2.58**	**3.32**	**28.8**

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

The interpretation of these data revealed that respondents perceived that their knowledge gain increased for 8 of the 8 statements asked. The most growth was for how to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields, followed by when it is acceptable to restock drought impacted pastures.

Adoption of Practices. One hundred percent (9 of 9) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of recommended practices/technology to manage weeds (5 of 9 probably will and 4 of 9 definitely will). Eighty-three percent of eligible producers (15 of 18) indicated they plan to adopt the use of soil testing to improve nutrient management (11 of 18 probably will, and 4 of 18 definitely will). Eighty-one percent (13 of 16) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt recommended

practices to maintain proper stocking rates (9 of 16 probably will and 4 of 16 definitely will). Seventy-two percent (12 of 18) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought (9 of 18 probably will and 4 of 18 definitely will). Fifty percent (9 of 18) of eligible producers indicated they plan to restock or expand cowherd numbers to pre-drought levels (5 of 18 probably will and 4 of 18 definitely will). Forty-two percent (9 of 24) of eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of forage testing to help determine supplemental feed needs (9 of 24 probably will and 1 of 24 definitely will). Eighteen percent (4 of 22) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Program (2 of 22 probably will and 2 of 22 definitely will).

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

- Average beef cattle managed were **176 head**.
- Average acres managed were **679 acres**.
- **Thirty-six percent** (36%) of the respondents estimated **more than $16/acre economic benefit** from participation in this program.
- **Seventy-four percent** (23 of 31) of the participants anticipated a potential economic benefit from their participation in this Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program.
- The total economic benefit from participating in this program provided by the participants was **$328,247**.

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:

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