

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Dec 23, 2015
830/672-8531



HARWOOD BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM JANUARY 15, 2016 HARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 A.M. | Registration |
| 9:00 A.M. | Herbicide Application Stewardship
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist |
| 10:00 A.M. | Beef Cattle Hot Topics (Veterinary Feed Directive, Chronic Wasting Disease, Etc.)
- Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist |
| 11:00 A.M. | Pasture Weed Control
- Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist |
| 12:00 NOON | Catered Meal |
| 1:00 P.M. | Managing Pasture Pests
- Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist |
| 2:00 P.M. | Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations
- Melissa Barton, TDA Inspector |

The Harwood Community Center is located 1 block North of Highway 90 in Harwood on County Road 230. There will be a \$25.00 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 8th.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M 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

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 (\$60) 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 13, 2016 at the Fair Street 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 08, 2016
9:00 AM

At the Luling Foundation Farm
(2 CEU's –\$10 Registration fee)

Topics covered include: **Managing Brush**
Beef Cattle Management
Beef Economics
Pasture Insect 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

- 1-15 Harwood CEU Program-Harwood Community Center

- 1-29 Feral Hog CEU Program – Falls City

- 2-2 Feral Hog Management Program-Luling Foundation Farm

- 4-08 Beef and Forage Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm

- 4-13 Pesticide Applicator Training-Fair Street Building, Gonzales

- 4-15 Nesloney Wildlife Management Field Day

- 4-21 Pond Management Field Day – Luling Foundation Farm

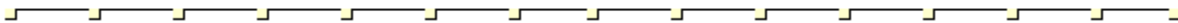
- 4-28 Multi-County Pecan Field Day

- 5-19 Luling Foundation Field Day-Luling

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@ag.tamu.edu so you will receive this information. We will continue to send out 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.



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

Making a Difference

Drought Response and Recovery 2015 Outcome Summary Dwight Sexton 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 62,000 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.

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, 2015
- **Replacing the Cowherd Seminar** – January 30, 2015
- **Beef Field Day** - April 10, 2015
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 14, 2015
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration** – June 29, 2015
- **Mesquite Suppression Result Demonstration** – September 30, 2015
- **Gonzales County Hay Show/Drought Response Program** - Oct 19, 2015
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. Fifty evaluations were mailed to clientele who had participated in 2 or more Extension programs throughout the year. A total of 17 of 50 (34%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences¹ to reveal practice changes (n = 17).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	% Change
How to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.	2.71	3.47	28.3
Hay losses during storage.	3.00	3.82	27.5
The impact drought will have on your beef and forage program.	2.82	3.58	27.1
Forage response to fertility and weed control.	2.88	3.63	26.1
Importance of testing hay and other forages for nutrient content.	2.94	3.63	23.4
Determining proper stocking rate on bermudagrass and other introduced grasses.	2.76	3.41	23.4
When it is acceptable to re-stock drought impacted pastures.	2.75	3.31	20.5
The effect of plant maturity on forage yield and quality.	3.06	3.56	16.3

¹Likert 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 hay losses during storage.

Adoption of Practices. One hundred percent (11 of 11) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt recommended practices to maintain proper stocking rates (6 of 11 probably will and 5 of 11 definitely will). Ninety-two percent (12 of 13) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of recommended practices/technology to manage weeds (3 of 13 probably will and 9 of 13 definitely will). Ninety-two percent of eligible producers (12 of 13) indicated they plan to adopt the use of soil testing to improve nutrient management (7 of 13 probably will, and 5 of 13 definitely will). Ninety-two percent (12 of 13) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought (7 of 13 probably will and 5 of 13 definitely will). Eighty-two percent (9 of 11) of eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of forage testing to help determine supplemental feed needs (5 of 11 probably will and 4 of 11 definitely will). Fifty-five percent (6 of 11) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Program (2 of 11 probably will and 4 of 11 definitely will). Forty-five percent (5 of 11) of eligible producers indicated they plan to restock or expand cowherd numbers to pre-drought levels (3 of 11 probably will and 2 of 11 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 **145 head**.
- Average acres managed were **898 acres**.
- **Eleven percent** (11%) of the respondents estimated **more than \$25/acre economic benefit per acre** from participation in this program.
- **Eighty-three percent** (10 of 12) of the participants anticipated a potential economic benefit from their participation in this Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program.

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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Gonzales County
County Extension Agent-Agriculture
1709 East Sarah Dewitt Drive
Gonzales, TX 78629
Phone: 830/672-8531*

VALUE

Livestock Production



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs targeted to large- and small-scale livestock producers help generate safer food and fiber products with maximum efficiency. The result is quality, consistent, affordable products and industries that support the state's rural economies.



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Address Service
Requested

