

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
January, 2012
830/672-8531



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

HARWOOD BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM JANUARY 25, 2012 HARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- 8:30 A.M. Registration
- 9:00 A.M. Feral Hog Management
- Jared Timmons, Extension Wildlife & Fisheries Assistant
- 10:00 A.M. Managing your Brush during Drought
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist
- 11:00 A.M. Matching Stocking Rate Decisions to Input Cost.
- Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist
- 12:00 NOON Catered Meal
- 1:00 P.M. Emergency Response and Reducing Wildfire Risk
- Keith Schmidt, Gonzales County Fire Marshall
- 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 \$20.00 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 20th.



Land Owner Oil & Gas Industry Workshop

January 12, 2012

First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Gonzales

Hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension-Gonzales County and the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

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|-------|---|
| 8:30 | Registration |
| 9:00 | Overview of the Eagle Ford Shale |
| 10:00 | Negotiating Oil & Gas Leases-Judon Famborough, The Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University |
| Noon | Catered Lunch |
| 1:00 | Negotiating Pipeline Easements-Judon Famborough |

The First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall is located South of Alternate 90 in Gonzales on St. Joseph Street (1206 N. Saint Joseph).

There will be a \$20 registration fee for this program to cover the meal and expenses.

For more information, and to RSVP by Jan 10, 2012 for an accurate lunch count, please contact the Gonzales County AgriLife Extension Office at 830/672-8531.



Forage Field Day

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

Thursday, March 29, 2012
9:00 AM-NOON
At the Luling Foundation Farm
(2 CEU's –\$10 Cost Recovery fee)

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

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 19, 2012 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 \$40 charge for the manual when it is picked up and \$10 for the class participation.

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>



Calendar

- 1-12 Landowner Oil & Gas Information Workshop
 - 1-25 Harwood CEU Program-Harwood Community Center
 - 2-9 Feral Hog Management Program-Luling Civic Center
 - 3-29 Luling Foundation Forage Field Day-Luling
 - 4-13 Beef Cattle Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm
 - 4-19 Pesticide Applicator Training-Gonzales County Farm Bureau Building
 - 4-26 Multi-County Pecan Field Day
 - 5-17 Luling Foundation Field Day-Luling
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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 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.



If you are still in need of Hay you can contact the Texas Department of Agriculture Hay Hotline at 1-877-429-1998 or <http://www.gotexan.org/HayhotlineHome.aspx> to obtain a list of suppliers.

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,



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

Making a Difference 2011

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 placed at 48,000 head of cows, and forage production is the major annual expense associated with beef cattle production. Although forage production is a major expense, beef 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 26, 2011
- **Forage Grazing Field Day** - March 31, 2011
- **Gonzales Young Farmer Brush Shearing Program** - April 28, 2011
- **Brush Shearing Demonstration** - April 28, 2011
- **Mesquite Suppression Result Demonstration** - May 16, 2011
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 19, 2011
- **Drought Management Program** - Oct 20, 2011
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration** – Oct 28, 2011
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration** – December 8, 2011
- **Tri-County Beef Cattle Symposium** – November 17, 2011
- 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. Fifty evaluations were mailed to clientele who had participated in 2 or more Extension programs throughout the year. A total of 12 of 50 (24%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences¹ to reveal practice changes (n = 12).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	Change
Understand the impact the drought will have on your beef and forage program.	3.00	3.58	0.58
Marketing strategies or options for small herd operators.	3.00	3.33	.33
Forage species or varieties adapted to local growing conditions.	2.80	3.10	.30
How to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in Bermuda grass fields.	3.11	3.00	-0.11

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 3 of the 4 statements asked. The most growth was for understanding the impact the drought will have on their beef and forage program, followed by marketing strategies or options for small herd operators.

Adoption of Practices. Eighty-three percent (10 of 12) of producers indicated they were (5 of 12) or definitely will (2 of 12) or probably will (3 of 12) use recommended supplemental feeding practices to meet nutritional needs. Eighty-two percent of producers indicated they were (2 of 11) or definitely will (3 of 11) or probably will (4 of 11) use renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought. Seventy-three percent (8 of 11) of the producers indicated they were (3 of 11) or definitely will (4 of 11) or probably will (1 of 11) use testing techniques to determine hay quality value. Sixty-seven percent (8 of 12) of the producers indicated they were (7 of 12) or probably will (1 of 12) use soil testing to improve nutrient management.

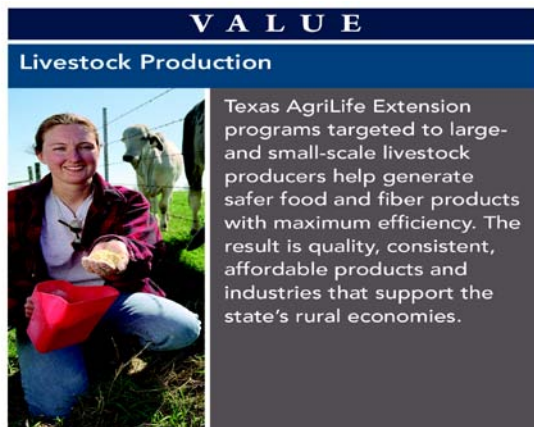
Economic Information. The third section asked questions about the background and economic information of the participants. Listed below are highlights of that section.

- Average cattle managed were 130 head.
- Average acres of forage managed were 881 acres.
- They anticipated an economic benefit from participation in this program of \$6-15 per acre.

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





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