

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
January, 2013
830/672-8531



HARWOOD BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM JANUARY 23, 2013 HARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- 8:30 A.M. Registration
- 9:00 A.M. Drought Range Management and Brush Chemical Update
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist
- 10:00 A.M. Managing your Cowherd through the Winter
- Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist
- 11:00 A.M. Spring Weather Forecast for your Ranch
- Bob Rose, LCRA Meteorologist
- 12:00 NOON Catered Meal
- 1:00 P.M. Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations
- Greg Baker, TDA Inspector
- 2:00 P.M. TAHC Cattle Traceability Regulations
- Tommy Barton, TAHC Regional Director

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 13th.

Feral Hog Management Workshop Scheduled for February 5th in Luling

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, in cooperation with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, will host a Feral Hog Management Workshop on February 5, 2013 at the Luling Civic Center in Luling. Registration for the event starts at 8:00 a.m. Five hours have been applied for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide applicator continuing education units at the program (2 General, 2 IPM and 1 Laws and Regulations).

Texas has one of the largest feral hog populations of any state, and AgriLife Extension has estimated that the destructive habits of hogs cause about \$52 million in damages annually to Texas farms, ranches and the agricultural industry. Feral hogs are also significant contributors of pollutants to creeks and rivers across the state.

As feral hogs congregate around water sources to drink and wallow, their fecal matter is deposited directly in streams, adding bacteria and nutrients to the water bodies. Extensive rooting by groups of feral hogs causes extreme erosion and soil loss.

Landowners and other stakeholders in the Plum Creek watershed have identified feral hogs as a contributor to elevated bacteria levels in the creek. Through the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan, landowners have identified management and control of this invasive species as a priority mechanism to restore and protect water quality in Plum Creek.

Topics at the workshop will be: Basic Biology of Feral Swine, Feral Hogs in the Plum Creek Watershed, Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan Implementation, Population Dynamics, Laws and Regulations for Hunting Feral Hogs, Regulations on Movement of Feral Hogs, Feral Hog Control, and Feral Hog Safety and Disease Concerns, Update on Feral Hog Research.

Information about controlling feral hogs is available at both of these websites:

plumcreek.tamu.edu/feralhogs

<http://feralhogs.tamu.edu/>

PLEASE pre-register with the Caldwell County Extension Office by **February 1st** to ensure an accurate count for the meal and handouts. Registration is **\$20** and includes lunch and refreshments. There will be a \$10 late fee at the door for individuals who have not pre-registered. Individuals with disabilities should contact the Extension office at least two days prior to the event so accommodations can be made. For more information or to pre-register contact the Caldwell County Extension office at 1403 Blackjack St., Ste. B in Lockhart, **(512)398-3122** or at *caldwell@ag.tamu.edu*.

This event is provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Forage Field Day

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

Thursday, March 28, 2013
9:00 AM-NOON
At the Luling Foundation Farm
(2 CEU's –\$10 Cost Recovery fee)

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 18, 2013 at 8:30 am at the Fair Street Building located at 623 N. Fair Street, beside the Elementary School in Gonzales. 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.agrilife.org>



Calendar

- 1-23 Harwood CEU Program-Harwood Community Center
 - 2-5 Feral Hog Management Program-Luling Civic Center
 - 2-9 Texas Parks & Wildlife Nesloney WMA Prescribed Burn Workshop-Belmont
 - 3-28 Luling Foundation Forage Field Day-Luling
 - 4-12 Beef Cattle Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm
 - 4-18 Pesticide Applicator Training-Gonzales County Farm Bureau Building
 - 4-19 Nesloney Wildlife Field Day-M.O. Nesloney Wildlife Management Area, Belmont
 - 4-25 Multi-County Pecan Field Day-location to be announced
 - 4-26 Multi County Pond Field Day-location to be announced
 - 5-16 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@ag.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 A&M AgriLife Extension-Gonzales County Office. This information can be sent to you by calling 830/672-8531 or contact via email at <http://gonzales.agrilife.org>

Sincerely,



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

Making a Difference

Drought Response and Recovery

2012 Outcome Summary

Dwight Sexton

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Gonzales County

Relevance

Texas experienced a record drought during the Fall of 2010 and 2011. 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 60,000 head of cows. 2012 rainfall has increased, and land managers have to adjust stocking rates to deal with increased debt, cow expenses, and drought damaged forages.

Following the 2012 Tri-County Beef Symposium, 20 of the 75 attendees reported the drought's impact on their operation. 14.5% of their cow herd were sold or relocated due to drought, 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.

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 25, 2012
- **Forage Grazing Field Day** - March 29, 2012
- **Neasloney Wildlife/Predator Workshop** - April 20, 2012
- **Re-Building the Beef Cow Herd Program** – May 3, 2012
- **Mesquite Suppression Result Demonstration** - May 14, 2012
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 17, 2012
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration** – July 23, 2012
- **Gonzales County Hay Show/Drought Response Program** - Oct 29, 2012
- **Farm Bureau CEU Program** – November 7, 2012
- **Tri-County Beef Cattle Symposium** – November 15, 2012

- 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 19 of 50 (38%) 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
A drought early warning system.	2.06	3.50	1.44
Cow herd nutrient requirements.	2.50	3.72	1.22
The importance of a forage test for a beef cow herd supplementation program.	2.67	3.61	0.94
When it is acceptable to re-stock drought impacted pastures.	2.78	3.67	0.89
Understand the impact the drought will have on your beef and forage program.	2.72	3.50	0.78

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 5 of the 5 statements asked. The most growth was for a drought early warning system, followed by cow herd nutrient requirements.

Adoption of Practices. One hundred percent (17 of 17) of producers indicated they were (8 of 17) or definitely will (7 of 17) or probably will (2 of 17) use recommended supplemental feeding practices to meet nutritional needs. One hundred percent of producers indicated they were (3 of 17) or definitely will (4 of 17) or probably will (10 of 17) use renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought. Ninety-four percent (16 of 17) of the producers indicated they were (7 of 17) or definitely will (6 of 17) or probably will (3 of 17) use soil testing to improve nutrient management. Eighty-two percent (14 of 17) of the producers indicated they were (5 of 17) or definitely will (3 of 17) or probably will (6 of 17) use forage testing techniques to determine hay quality and value. Sixty-one percent (11 of 18) of the producers indicated they were (4 of 18) or probably will (7 of 18) use a drought early warning system.

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 **85 head**.
- Average acres managed were **840 acres**.
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the respondents estimated **more than \$25/acre economic benefit per acre** from participation in this program.

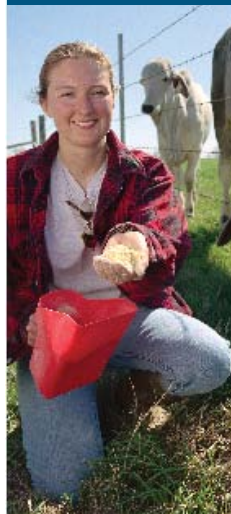
These responses will serve as a guide for the County Extension Agent and the Beef Program Area Committee for next year's program.

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.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

1709 E. Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, TX 78629

PRSRT STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
TCE
Permit No. 25