

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Dec 17, 2013
830/672-8531



HARWOOD BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM JANUARY 15, 2014 HARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- 8:30 A.M. Registration
- 9:00 A.M. Feral Hog Control: Selecting the most effective method for your dilemma
- Jared Timmons, Extension Wildlife & Fisheries Assistant
- 10:00 A.M. Stocking Rate Management
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist
- 11:00 A.M. Herd Bull Management and selection
- Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist
- 12:00 NOON Catered Meal
- 1:00 P.M. Pesticide options for Grassburrs, Grasshoppers, and Armyworms
- Charlie Grymes, DuPont Crop Protection
- 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 (101 CR 230 North).

There will be a \$20.00 registration fee for this program to cover expenses. Lunch will be sponsored by Agri Mart Animal Health. Five CEU's have been applied for..

For more information, and **to *RSVP for an accurate lunch count***, please contact the Gonzales County AgriLife 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 7th.



Beef and Forage Field Day

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

Friday, April 11, 2014

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
Beef Cattle Management
Beef Economics

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

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

If you are interest in obtaining a Private Pesticide Applicators License, please contact our office to be notified of Spring Training opportunities. The procedure to obtain a license is changing through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Once they are set, we will notify you with the information required for you to obtain the license.

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
 - 2-4 Feral Hog Management Program-Luling Foundation Farm
 - 4-11 Beef and Forage Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm
 - 4-17 Nesloney Wildlife Management Field Day
 - 4-25 Multi-County Pecan Field Day
 - 5-15 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

Drought Response and Recovery 2013 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. 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 57,000 head of beef cows. 2013 continued to be very dry until Fall, 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 in November, 2012, 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 23, 2013
- **Beef Field Day** - April 12, 2013
- **Neasloney Wildlife/Predator Workshop** - April 19, 2013
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 16, 2013
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration** – August 13, 2013
- **Weed and Brush Suppression Program** – September 13, 2013
- **Gonzales County Hay Show/Drought Response Program** - Oct 15, 2013
- **Farm Bureau Ag Information Day Program** – November 6, 2013
- **Tri-County Beef Cattle Symposium** – November 14, 2013
- 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 13 of 50 (26%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences¹ to reveal practice changes (n = 13).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	% Change
Hay losses during storage.	2.38	3.69	43.6
How to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.	2.31	3.54	41.0
The effect of plant maturity on forage yield and quality.	2.54	3.54	33.3
When it is acceptable to re-stock drought impacted pastures.	2.38	3.31	30.8
Forage response to fertility and weed control.	2.77	3.46	23.1
Determining proper stocking rate on bermudagrass and other introduced grasses.	2.69	3.38	23.1
Importance of testing hay and other forages for nutrient content.	3.08	3.69	20.5
The impact drought will have on your beef and forage program.	2.92	3.46	17.9

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 hay losses during storage, followed by how to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.

Adoption of Practices. One hundred percent (9 of 9) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use soil testing to improve nutrient management (1 of 9 probably will and 8 of 9 definitely will). One hundred percent (9 of 9) eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought (4 of 9 probably will and 5 of 9 definitely will). One hundred percent of eligible producers (6 of 6 definitely will) indicated they plan to adopt the use of recommended practices/technology to manage weeds. Ninety-one percent (11 of 12) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt recommended practices to maintain proper stocking rates (5 of 12 probably will and 6 of 12 definitely will). Seventy percent (7 of 10) of eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of forage testing to help determine supplemental feed needs (5 of 10 probably will and 2 of 10 definitely will). Fifty percent (6 of 12) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Program (2 of 12 probably were and 4 of 12 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 **89 head**.
- Average acres managed were **580 acres**.
- **Fifteen percent** (15%) of the respondents estimated **more than \$25/acre economic benefit per acre** from participation in this program.
- Ninety-two percent (12 of 13) of the participant 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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