

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
Dec 15, 2014
830/672-8531



HARWOOD BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM JANUARY 14, 2015 HARWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

- 8:30 A.M. Registration
- 9:00 A.M. Brush Management and Herbicide Update
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist
- 10:00 A.M. Cow Herd Health-How Valuable is It?
- Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist
- 11:00 A.M. Feral Hog Management
- Josh Helcel, Extension Wildlife Assistant
- 12:00 NOON Catered Meal
- 1:00 P.M. Update on NRCS and FSA Programs
1:15 P.M. Skin Cancer Awareness
- 1:30 P.M. IPM of Pasture Insects
- Robert Bowling, Agrilife Extension Entomologist
- 2:30 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. 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.

**Rebuilding the Cow Herd Program
January 30, 2015
Gonzales Livestock Market
3142 Highway 90-A West in Gonzales**

- 8:30-AM Registration
- 9:00AM Current and Future Cattle Industry Dynamics
- Dr. David Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Livestock and Food Products Marketing Economist
- 10:00AM Replacement Options-What's Available, What's Wise?
- Rick Machen, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Livestock Specialist
- 11:00AM Impact of Breed Type on Breeding Female Prices in South Texas
- Mac Young Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Program Specialist-Risk Management
- 12:00noon Pesticide Applicator Update
- Dwight Sexton, Gonzales County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent.

There will be a \$10 registration fee. One TDA pesticide applicator CEU will be given.

For more information, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Gonzales at 830-672-8531

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 15, 2015 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 10, 2015

9:00 AM-NOON

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

- 1-14 Harwood CEU Program-Harwood Community Center
- 1-30 Rebuilding the Cowherd Program-Gonzales Livestock Market
- 2-3 Feral Hog Management Program-Luling Foundation Farm
- 4-10 Beef and Forage Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm
- 4-15 Pesticide Applicator Training-Fair Street Building, Gonzales
- 4-17 Nesloney Wildlife Management Field Day
- 4-24 Multi-County Pecan Field Day
- 5-21 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dwight Sexton".

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

Making a Difference

Drought Response and Recovery 2014 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. 2014 continued to be dry across much of the county, and land managers have to adjust stocking rates to deal with increased debt, cow expenses, and drought damaged forages. Some producers have been able to re-stock some, and beef prices have increased dramatically.

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 15, 2014
- **Beef Field Day** - April 11, 2014
- **Neasloney Wildlife/Predator Workshop** - April 22, 2014
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 15, 2014
- **Weed and Brush Suppression Program** – September 19, 2014
- **Gonzales County Hay Show/Drought Response Program** - Oct 14, 2014
- **Farm Bureau Ag Information Day Program** – November 12, 2014
- **Huisache Suppression Result Demonstration** – October 29, 2014

- 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 16 of 50 (32%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences¹ to reveal practice changes (n = 16).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	% Change
How to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.	2.33	3.31	42.0
The impact drought will have on your beef and forage program.	2.53	3.31	30.8
When it is acceptable to re-stock drought impacted pastures.	2.53	3.25	28.3
Hay losses during storage.	2.80	3.56	27.23
Determining proper stocking rate on bermudagrass and other introduced grasses.	2.53	3.19	25.8
Forage response to fertility and weed control.	2.73	3.44	25.8
The effect of plant maturity on forage yield and quality.	2.73	3.44	25.8
Importance of testing hay and other forages for nutrient content.	3.00	3.44	14.6

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. Eighty-one percent (9 of 11) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of recommended practices/technology to manage weeds (5 of 11 probably will and 4 of 11 definitely will). Seventy-five percent (9 of 12) eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought (6 of 12 probably will and 3 of 12 definitely will). Seventy-three percent of eligible producers (8 of 11) indicated they plan to adopt the use soil testing to improve nutrient management (5 of 11 probably will, and 3 of 11 definitely will). Sixty-one percent (8 of 13) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt recommended practices to maintain proper stocking rates (4 of 13 probably will and 4 of 13 definitely will). Fifty-four percent (7 of 13) of eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the

use of forage testing to help determine supplemental feed needs (5 of 13 probably will and 2 of 13 definitely will). Fifty-four percent (7 of 13) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt the use of the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Program (4 of 13 probably were and 3 of 13 definitely will). Fifty percent (7 of 14) of eligible producers indicated they plan to use the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance Program (2 of 14 probably will and 5 of 14 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 **116 head**.
- Average acres managed were **973 acres**.
- **Fifty percent** (50%) of the respondents estimated **more than \$25/acre economic benefit per acre** from participation in this program.
- Eighty-two percent (9 of 11) 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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Gonzales, TX 78629

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