



1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
December 18, 2017
830/672-8531

**JB Wells Expo BEEF CATTLE CEU PROGRAM
JANUARY 11, 2018
JB Wells Expo Center**

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| 8:30 A.M. | Registration |
| 9:00 A.M. | KR Bluestem and Brush Suppression
- Bob Lyons, Extension Range Specialist |
| 10:00 A.M. | Beef Cattle Hot Topics (Fever Tick, Veterinary Feed Directive, Etc.)
- Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist |
| 11:00 A.M. | Ag Apps
- Bryan Davis, Wilson County Ag Extension Agent |
| 12:00 NOON | Catered Meal |
| 1:00 P.M. | Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations
- Melissa Barton, Texas Department of Agriculture |
| 2:00 P.M. | Pasture Insect Control
- Robert Bowling, Extension Entomologist |

The JB Wells Expo Center is located at 2301 County Road 197, near the intersection of Highways 183 and 97 south of Gonzales.

There will be a \$30.00 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 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Gonzales County 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 4th.

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

If you are interested 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 (**\$100**) 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 18, 2018** at the PACE 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 06, 2018
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
At the Luling Foundation Farm
(2 CEU's **-\$15** Registration fee)

Topics covered include: **Managing Brush**
Beef Cattle Management
Beef Economics
Forage Management

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

*Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people
without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

AgriLifeExtension.tamu.edu

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

- 1-11 JB Wells Expo Beef Cattle CEU Program-JB Wells Expo Center-Gonzales
 - 4-06 Beef and Forage Field Day-Luling Foundation Farm
 - 4-18 Pesticide Applicator Training-Fair Street Building, Gonzales
 - 5-17 Luling Foundation Field Day-Luling
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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. You may also let us know if you wish to stop receiving information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black 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 2017 In-Depth Summary Dwight Sexton

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Gonzales County

Relevance

Texas experienced continued periods of severe 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 66,000 head of beef cows. Producers have been able to re-stock since 2014 and are now back to pre-drought levels. Since restocking, there have been large price volatility in the cattle market, due to supply and demand as seen through the typical cattle cycle

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 12, 2017
- **Beef Field Day** - April 7, 2017
- **Luling Foundation Field Day** - May 18, 2017
- **Farm Bureau Ag Information Day** – June 12, 2017
- **Gonzales County Hay Show/Drought Response Program** - Oct 19, 2017
- **Luling Foundation Winter Forage Variety Trial Result Demonstration** – November 7, 2017
- 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. One hundred sixty-seven evaluations were mailed to clientele who had participated in Extension programs throughout the year. A total of 35 of 167 (21%) returned the instrument. The following table reveals the perceptual knowledge change for individual topics.

Table 1. Mean score differences¹ to reveal practice changes (n = 35).

Practices	Before Mean	After Mean	% Change
When it is acceptable to re-stock drought impacted pastures.	2.67	3.87	45.0
Importance of testing hay and other forages for nutrient content.	2.71	3.84	41.7
How to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.	2.71	3.81	40.5

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 when it is acceptable to restock drought impacted pastures, followed by how to use legumes to improve nitrogen levels in bermudagrass fields.

Adoption of Practices. One hundred percent (13 of 13) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of recommended practices/technology to manage weeds (5 of 13 probably will and 8 of 13 definitely will). Ninety-eight percent (20 of 21) of the eligible producers indicated they plan to adopt recommended practices to maintain proper stocking rates (12 of 21 probably will and 8 of 21 definitely will). Eighty-one percent of eligible producers (21 of 26) indicated they plan to adopt the use of soil testing to improve nutrient management (15 of 26 probably will, and 6 of 26 definitely will). Seventy-eight percent (21 of 28) of eligible participants indicated they plan to adopt the use of renovation techniques recommended for fields or pastures damaged by drought (14 of 28 probably will and 7 of 28 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 **122 head**.
- Average acres managed were **1194 acres**.
- **Twenty-five percent** (25%) of the respondents estimated **more than \$16/acre economic benefit** from participation in this program.
- **Eighty-two percent** (28 of 34) of the participants anticipated a potential economic benefit from their participation in this Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program.
- The total economic benefit from participating in this program provided by the participants was **\$423,248**.

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

V A L U E

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.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Providing Solutions