

1709 E Sarah DeWitt Dr.
Gonzales, Texas 78629
December 12, 2022
830/672-8531

JB Wells Expo CEU PROGRAM January 11, 2023

8:30 A.M.	Registration
9:00-10:00 A.M.	Pesticide Applicator Laws & Regulations -Melissa Barton, Texas Department of Agriculture
10:00-11:00 A.M.	Pond Weed Identification and Management -Brittany Chesser, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Aquatic Vegetation Program Specialist
11:00-12:00 P.M.	Update on Feral Hog Toxicant Research and Development in Texas -Lee Williamson, Texas Parks, and Wildlife Biologist
12:00 NOON	Catered Meal
1:00-2:00 P.M.	Pasture Weed and Brush Management -Rachel Walker, Corteva Range and Pasture Specialist
2:00-3:00 P.M.	Pasture Insect Pests -Noel Troxclair, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, Uvalde County

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 have been applied for.

Please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Gonzales County Office at 830/672-8531 to register for the event.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Gonzales County Extension Office by January 1, 2023, at 830-672-8531 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Pesticide Applicator CEU's

If you need additional continuing educational units (CEU's) for your private, commercial, or non-commercial pesticide applicator license, please contact our office. We are able to schedule clients to watch videos at our office that will meet these requirements for up to 8 CEU's. There is a fee of \$10/CEU for this option.

Individuals may also participate in online training opportunities as well. The following link will take you to a list of online trainings listed with the Texas Department of Agriculture:

<https://ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/CourseList.aspx>

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

If you are interested in obtaining a Private Pesticide Applicators License, 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 with an account number that they will use to schedule the exam with PSI Services. PSI Services has testing centers located in Austin, San Antonio, and 15 other locations across the state.

Clients are able to schedule training to view in person at our office, or the training is available online as well. The cost to view this in our office is \$50 which includes the training materials and the cost of the training. To participate in this training online, the cost is \$75. Information on the online training can be accessed through the following link:

<https://agrilife.org/aes/how-to-obtain-a-private-applicator-license/>

Contact the Gonzales Extension Office at 830-672-8531 for further details and assistance.

Extension Online Courses and Publications Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has combined their Online learning course directory with their publication listing, formerly known as AgriLife Bookstore. This new online information portal is now called AgriLife Learn and can be accessed at: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/>

WE ARE ON THE WEB

This newsletter, as well as other important information and links can be accessed by visiting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Gonzales County website located at:

<http://gonzales.agrilife.org>.



Calendar

1-11 JB Wells Expo CEU Program

5-18 Luling Foundation Field Day

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,



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

RELEVANCE

Beef cattle production is the second largest agriculture industry in Gonzales County and contributes significantly to the local economy. Texas experienced continued periods of severe drought from the Fall of 2010 through 2019. Extreme drought returned again in 2022, and the county received approximately one quarter of its annual rainfall. 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 58,000 head of beef cows. There has been large price volatility in the cattle market in the last few years due to supply and demand as seen through the typical cattle cycle and drought conditions. Production inputs continue to increase from wide-ranging economic fluctuations, and supply and demand market dynamics affect income and profitability for cattle producers.

NUMBERS:

- **\$72,893,000** Estimated value of beef cattle production within the county.
- **298,866** Acres in agriculture production
- **26,112** Acres are used for hay production
- **387** Acres is the average farm size in Gonzales County.

Gonzales County **ranks first** in the state for **total beef cow inventory**.

RESPONSE

The **Gonzales Beef Cattle Committee** has identified multiple educational programs to address drought management decisions for beef cattle production.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- This program was targeted towards approximately **250** cattle producers and land managers in Gonzales County.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS

- The Luling Foundation Farm hosted multiple field days, and result demonstrations to address winter forage production for small grains, legumes, and wildlife food plots. Seed for this demonstration was donated by the Luling Foundation, Pogue Agripartners, and East Texas Seed Company.
- The Gonzales Young Farmers and the Gonzales Chapter of the Independent Cattlemen's Association hosted educational programs on hay production, parasite management, and new technologies to improve ranching efficiency.
- Special thanks to the specialists and speakers who presented at the below mentioned programs.

VALUE STATEMENT

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.

**43% or
 291 THOUSAND**

Acres of Gonzales County
 are pasture.

1st

**Largest Beef Cattle Herd in
 the state.**

58,000

Beef Cows



RESPONSE

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Gonzales County developed the following activities to address these relevant issues:

- **Beef Cattle and Land Management Seminar:** This January 12 program addressed pasture weed management, Invora and Rezilon, which are new brush and sandbur management technologies available, beef cattle fly and tick population management, sprayer calibration, range herbicide updates, and pesticide applicator laws and regulations updates. This program was attended by 123 producers.
- **Luling Foundation Field Day:** Topics addressed at this program included the impact of world events on agriculture, livestock handling, farm safety protocols, and demand driven programs that keeps beef in its strongest state. 250 producers attended this multi-county event intended for Gonzales, Caldwell, and Guadalupe County land managers.
- **Gonzales County Drought Management Program:** Information was presented addressing a fall outlook on weather and beef production dynamics, and management decisions that were available to livestock producers to mitigate losses due to current drought conditions for the year and going into the winter. This educational event held in cooperation with the Gonzales Young Farmers and had 25 producers in attendance.



Evaluation Strategy

To determine the programmatic results of the 2022 Drought Response and Recovery Program a retrospective post evaluation instrument was given to participants following the Beef Cattle and Land Management Seminar to capture program impact on the use of recommended best management practices for livestock and forage producers. A total of 108 (88%) participants completed the retrospective post survey instrument.

RESULTS

Economic Impact

- Respondents (n=106) estimated an average of **\$6,073/participant** or a total **\$643,683** anticipated economic benefit for their operations.
- **78%** of respondents anticipated to benefit economically as a direct result of attending this program.
- Respondents manage a total of **78,753 acres** and **14,689 hd. of beef cattle.**
- Anticipated economic benefit was attributed to improved forage quality (**42%**), increased production (**40%**), and improved efficiency (**14%**).

Application

- **92%** of participants do, probably or definitely will use herbicides as a tool for brush management (n=98).
- **92%** of participants do, probably or definitely will annually calibrate their sprayer (n=98).
- **89%** of participants do, probably or definitely will utilize integrated pest management practices to manage grass and broadleaf weeds (n=39).

Learning

- **76%** of respondents increased their understanding of utilizing Invora herbicide to manage brush species. (n=73).
- **45%** of respondents increased their understanding of management options for fly and tick populations on beef cattle (n=46).

Summary

Programmatic results of this program were valued at **\$643,683** by the 106 program participants. **93%** of participants intended to adopt or had already adopted at least one best management practice and **100%** increased their understanding in at least one subject area presented through this program which is reflected in the economic value participants placed on the program. The results of this program will be interpreted to Gonzales County Beef Program Area Committee and the County Commissioner's Court.

Future Programming

The **Gonzales County Beef Program Area Committee** utilizes this information to evaluate previous programming efforts and plan upcoming effective programs that impact the beef producers and land managers of Gonzales County.



For More Information:

**Dwight
Sexton**

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Gonzales County

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