

### DID YOU KNOW...

Hogs were first introduced to the New World in Florida in 1539 and subsequently into Texas by the mid-1500's. This source, along with free-ranging hog production practices and purposeful introductions of Eurasian wild boars have contributed to the present status of wild pigs in the state. Today, the wild pig is considered to be an invasive exotic species with a population estimate of 2.6 million head in Texas and > 5 million head nationwide. A 2011 study by A&M AgriLife Extension and the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources-TAMUS estimated that approximately 79% (134 million acres) of the Texas landscape represented suitable habitat for wild pigs. Pigs currently occupy approximately 90% to 95% of Texas counties, 47 other states and 4 Canadian provinces.

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## Rusk County

# Ag News & Views

SPRING 2019

### Restricted Use<sup>1</sup> or State-Limited Use<sup>2</sup> Herbicides

Grazon P+D  
Tordon 22K  
Surmount  
2,4-D  
Weedmaster  
Banvel (Dicamba)  
GrazonNext  
Weedar 64  
Weedone LV6  
Crossbow  
Cimarron Max  
2,4-DB  
GrazonNext HL  
PasturAll HL  
PastureGard HL

### Non-Restricted Use Herbicides

Milestone  
Chaparral  
PastureGard  
Redeem R&P  
Spike 20P  
Spike 80DF  
Vista XLT  
Cimarron Extra  
Remedy Ultra  
Cimarron Plus  
Reclaim  
VelPar L  
Amber  
Pastora

<sup>1</sup>**Restricted use:** for purchase and use only by certified pesticide applicators or persons under their direct supervision. Designation is placed on the product by EPA, and the label will state restricted-use.

<sup>2</sup>**State-limited use:** pesticides containing certain active ingredients, with the potential to cause adverse effects to non-targeted vegetation, are classified as SLU when distributed in containers larger than one quart liquid or 2 pounds dry or solid.

### Rusk County Extension Agent's Radio Report



Tune in to 98.5 FM /  
1470 AM Monday thru  
Friday at 8:00 am or  
12 noon to hear the Rusk County  
Extension Agents Report on KWRD  
radio in Henderson, Texas.

We will be discussing a wide array  
of agricultural, natural resource, 4-H,  
and Family and Consumer related  
issues and events.

[easttexastoday.com/kwrdd](http://easttexastoday.com/kwrdd)

Find us on  
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**Rusk County AgriLife  
Extension Ag**

*Jamie Sugg*

Jamie Sugg  
County Extension Agent-Agriculture  
Rusk County



## Do You Need to Apply Agricultural Limestone to your Pond?

Our ponds here in North East Texas are a lot like our pastures. We need to apply agricultural limestone in order to raise the pH and alkalinity. Our soils here are naturally acidic because how they were derived. Same goes for our ponds. In order to raise the pH and alkalinity, we need to apply agricultural limestone to our ponds just as we do in the pastures. Anytime is ok to apply the agricultural limestone. Ideally, the winter months are the best time to adjust the water pH and increase the total alkalinity of the water. It takes time for the agricultural limestone to work. It can range from a couple of days to more than a month depending on the type and amount used, weather conditions, and on the degree of acidity of the water.

Water pH and alkalinity must be in correct order for a pond fertility program to work properly. Nutrients are added to the pond water to encourage a phytoplankton bloom. These are microscopic plants that feed microscopic animals called zooplankton. The forage fish like bluegill and minnows feed on the zooplankton. Game fish, like largemouth bass feed on the forage fish. This results in better fishing due to a properly managed pond water quality. Nutrients are pH dependent especially phosphorus. Proper pH balance can improve phosphorus availability and enhance the health of the pond.

Applying agricultural limestone can make a difference in the health of the fish even though the land owner does not have a fertility program. Since our soils are natural acidic, therefor our ponds are acidic, a fish kill can occur if the total alkalinity gets too low. Total alkalinity of the pond water needs to be 20.3 ppm or greater. If the total alkalinity gets below 20.3 ppm in the pond water, pH fluctuations occur. These fluctuations cause the fish to stress. If the pH gets below 5, “acid death point” occurs for many fish species. If you are digging a new pond and if the soils are naturally acidic in the area, I would recommend applying agricultural limestone before the pond fills with water.

The best way to determine if your pond water is too low is to have a water test done. We can do that at no charge at the Extension Office. Give us a call.



### TIP:

**If you plan to establish warm-season food plots for deer and other wildlife, now is the time to soil test and order seed and fertilizer. It's best to plant 2% (2 of every 100 acres) of the habitat base.**

# Welcome to the 65th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course



**DATES:** The 65th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course begins at 8:00 am on Monday, August 5th, and ends at noon on Wednesday, August 7th.

**LOCATION:** Registration check-in will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Rudder Tower on Joe Routh Boulevard. Registration will begin at 6:00 am with the first general session at 8:00am on Monday, August 5th. You may pick up your badge and materials early on Sunday, August 4th, between 1-5 p.m. if you wish to do so.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** The Short Course fee of \$210 per person includes the following: 3 daily breakfasts, Monday and Tuesday lunch, 1 Prime Rib Dinner Monday, 1 proceedings, trade show admittance, refreshments and access to campus shuttle service. There is no need to purchase additional tickets for any of those events since they are included with your registration. The Short Course fee will be \$250 after July 29th and for onsite registration.

**PARKING PERMITS:** The three day pass for Lot 61 (MSC) can be purchased for a flat event rate of \$15 at: <https://transport2.tamu.edu/account/conference/parkingpermits.aspx>

Parking is available across the street from the MSC in the University Center Parking Garage or Cain Garage for \$15 per day if you do not prepay. Parking will be enforced by Texas A&M.

**YOUTH TRACK:** A special youth program is available for ages 13-18yrs. Please go to <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/> for the registration and medical release form.

**EXHIBITORS:** Please go to <http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/> to receive the exhibitor packet and registration form. Registration will go directly through Dr. Jason Cleere's office at 979-845-6931

\*Please note that when completing the online registration you will be asked to enter an email address. Please put the e-mail address of the person attending the conference.

**In order to complete the registration you will be asked to enter a password of your choice and confirm. There are no special parameters for creating the password.**

When your registration is complete, you will be directed to check out and pay with a credit card. You will be given an option to register someone else. Click into option to register someone else or submit payment. Once the payment is accepted, you will receive a confirmation receipt. Please print this confirmation for your records.

Please contact Joani Groce at 979-845-8902 regarding any registration questions.



# TRI COUNTY BEEF & FORAGE WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019  
CHEROKEE COUNTY EXPO



8:30 AM Registration

9:00 AM Aquatic Weed Control in Agricultural Ponds  
1 IPM  
Ken Hale, Boatcycle

10:00 AM Herd Health Management from a Veterinarian Perspective  
1 IPM  
Dr. Max Dow, DVM MPH  
TAHC Regional Director- Ft Worth (Retired)

11:00 AM Benefits & Implementation of Planned  
Crossbreeding Programs  
Dusty Pendergrass, Field Rep - Beefmaster Breeders United

Noon LUNCH - Ribeye Steak Sandwiches

12:30 PM External Parasites & Horn Fly Control  
1 IPM  
Lee Dudley, Panola CEA-Ag/NR



611 SE LOOP 456 JACKSONVILLE, TX  
3 TDA CEU HOURS (3 IPM)

RSVP by Monday, April 22nd, for meal planning, to 903-683-5416

Registration Fee: \$10 check/money order made payable to: Cherokee Beef & Forage

Cherokee, Rusk, and Smith Counties Cooperating

Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension Program should contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office of Cherokee County at (903)683-5416 at least one week prior to the program or event.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, 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.



## **Baleage: What is it and do I need it?**

Vanessa Corriher-Olson  
Forage Extension Specialist

**Baleage** involves baling forage with 50 to 65 % moisture content, then wrapping the bales in plastic to create an air tight environment. This reduces the weather risk producers commonly face while waiting for the forage to field cure and harvest. Harvesting the forage at higher moisture levels allows for the forage to more readily retain its nutritive value and digestibility compared to conventional hay.

Aerobic (free oxygen requiring) bacteria consume the oxygen remaining inside the hay within a few hours. Under these conditions, anaerobic (non-free oxygen requiring) bacteria reduce the forage pH and preserve the forage. The low pH inhibits mold and respiration losses that typically occur in high-moisture bales. Baleage does not, however, attain as low a pH as silage so it cannot be stored as long. Forages baled at 40 to 60% moisture levels will maintain feed value for about 12 months as long as the integrity of the plastic is maintained. While baleage reduces leaf shatter loss and allows you to preserve high-moisture forage, it is typically fed on-farm because it cannot be moved easily (bales are considerably heavier).

Bales can be wrapped individually or in a row (in-line wrapping). Bales that have been individually wrapped can be moved off site for storage but they must be moved carefully as to not puncture the plastic. A baleage system requires much the same equipment as a conventional hay system, with some additions. The minimum requirements are a mower, maybe a rake, a baler capable of baling wet forage, a tractor of sufficient horsepower to carry heavier bales, a bale spear, and a wrapper. Some custom operators wrap silage, and many local entities may have wrappers available for rent. Baleage becomes more economical with higher-quality forages such as winter annuals (annual ryegrass, small grains), clovers/other legumes mixed with grass, and high quality summer annuals. For East Texas and Central Texas, winter annuals can be challenging to harvest for dry hay during a wet spring. Baleage is an option for harvesting winter annuals during wetter weather.

As you plan for your forage needs, it is important to produce enough forage (hay, stockpiled forage, baleage, etc.) to meet your livestock's nutrient requirements during periods of limited pasture growth. Forages for harvest (hay or baleage) should be fertilized appropriately and should be harvested at the desired stage of maturity. Plan ahead taking into account weather predictions, forage needs and available resources.

For more information on Baleage, make plans to attend our May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Rusk County Expo Center for a live demonstration!



Ryegrass baleage. Photo courtesy of Dr. Jason Banta.

# ***Beef & Forage Management Program***

**Rusk County Expo Center**

***May 14, 2019***

**5:00 p.m. Registration**

**5:30 p.m. Dinner**

**6:00 p.m. Program begins**

**Discussing New  
Technologies:**



**Wes Chandler, Producer**

**The Advantages and Disadvantages of Baleage**

**Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist**

**Can Blood Pregnancy Testing and DNA Testing Help My Operation?**



**For more information:**

**Jamie Sugg**

**Rusk County Extension Office**

**903-657-0376**

**RSVP by May 9th to  
the Rusk County  
Extension office  
903-657-0376**

**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**



The Rusk County Chapter  
of the Texas Master Gardeners  
is proud to present



# Greg Grant

Smith County Horticulturist  
for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## *Speaking On* **Home Landscaping: Right Plant, Right Place**

Open to the Public  
~~Thursday~~ ~~Tuesday~~, April 18 at 6:00  
at the Rusk County  
AgriLife Extension Office

For More Information, please email  
Jamie Sugg at [Jamie.Sugg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Jamie.Sugg@ag.tamu.edu)

# Stretching Limited Hay Supplies

By Dr. Joe Paschal, [j-paschal@tamu.edu](mailto:j-paschal@tamu.edu), 361-265-9203



*Photo by Dr. Joe Paschal*

It seems counterintuitive that you might need to consider a strategy to stretch your hay supply this winter considering all the moisture we have had recently, but a lot of hay was fed early this past summer and not much made since then.

My colleague in east Texas, where the dry spell was more severe, recently wrote two bulletins about doing just that. Jason Banta, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Cattle Specialist in Overton, sent them to me, and for some of you, they will be worth reading and following. The two bulletins (one covers dry cows and the other wet cows) discuss the nutritional needs based on feeding very low-quality hay (5 percent crude protein, CP, and 45 percent total digestible nutrients, TDN).

Another former colleague of mine, Rick Machen, often said that you can feed “crappy,” i.e. low-quality, hay; you just need to have it tested to know how “crappy” it is.

The dry cow requirements are based on a 1,350-pound cow in late gestation with a body condition score of 5 (no ribs showing) with the goal of maintaining that BCS while reducing hay use (no ad lib feeding). The cows will be allowed either 10 or 20 pounds of hay, and then supplemental feed is used to balance the ration. Banta developed four supplemental feeding programs using only 10 pounds of hay, and four where 20 pounds of hay is fed.

The four supplementation programs using only 10 pounds of hay require either:

- \* 10 pounds of whole corn and 2.4 pounds of soybean meal (SBM),
- \* 7 pounds of soybean hull pellets and 7 pounds of corn gluten feed pellets,
- \* 14.5 pounds of 12 percent CP breeder cubes, no non-protein nitrogen or urea or
- \* 6 pounds of whole cottonseed, 4.75 pounds of corn and 1.25 pounds of cottonseed meal.



## Stretching Limited Hay Supplies (Continued)

If 20 pounds of hay are fed, then the amounts are reduced to:

- \* 6 pounds of corn and
- \* 2.2 pounds of SBM,
- \* 5 pounds each of soybean hull pellets and corn gluten feed pellets,
- \* 9.5 pounds of 20 percent CP (not 12 percent) cubes or
- \* 6 pounds of WCS and 1.5 pounds CSM.

You can see that the hay, even though it is poor-quality, does reduce the need for (and cost of) supplemental feed, but you must know its nutritional value.

Banta also developed a similar set of rations for wet cows (calves less than 100 days of age) but using 12 (instead of 10) and 20 pounds of hay. As you well know, the supplement requirements are much higher for wet cows, and some products, such as the 12 percent CP range cubes, aren't included since they don't provide enough protein. My own personal favorites, whole cottonseed and cottonseed meal, aren't included because they both contain gossypol and Banta is concerned it may affect calves without a functioning rumen (it can be toxic to monogastrics).

Banta also recommends a high- (15 percent or higher) calcium and low- (7 percent or less) phosphorus mineral-free choice for all cows. In addition to the rations, he explains how and why they were developed, including taking into account the balance between protein digested in the rumen and protein that is digested in the abomasum or small intestine (called undigested or "bypass" protein) and precautions on feeding (including the fact that cows eating only 10 pounds of hay will act hungry, but in fact all their nutritional needs are met).

Both bulletins are easily accessed at [beef.tamu.edu](http://beef.tamu.edu). Click on the "Publications" tab and then click on the Nutrition section. Both are at the top of the list. Check them out. If you have any problems, contact me and I'll send them to you.

Joe C. Paschal is a livestock specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Corpus Christi. Contact him at [j-paschal@tamu.edu](mailto:j-paschal@tamu.edu) or 361-265-9203.



# Test Don't Guess: Rethinking a Twice-A-Year Habit

By Becky Mills

Progressive Farmer Contributing Editor

In his role as Texas A&M Extension Veterinarian, Tom Hairgrove visits ranches from one end of Texas to the other. Whether they are Texas-sized or tiny, arid or humid, there's one message he'd like to give all ranchers: Test first, deworm second.

"I'm a proponent of fecal testing before deworming, if possible," he stresses. "Find out what to deworm for and when. The days of treating everything because the grandkids are here that weekend to help work cattle has to change."

Like most things, Hairgrove points out the economic benefits first. Fecal testing, he points out, can save you a pile of money.

"We did a random bunch of fecal tests on one ranch and found out they really didn't have an issue with parasites," he says. Had the rancher just dewormed as a normal course of doing business, he would have spent a lot of unnecessary time and money.

Next, there is the challenge of dewormer resistance. Before the 1960s, Hairgrove says producers had to live with worms. Old treatments were ineffective. First came the phenothiazine dewormers, and parasites became resistant to them. Next were the white dewormers, and, once again, resistance developed. Then in the '70s, levamisole hit the market. And, while Hairgrove describes it as "great," he adds parasites also developed resistance to it.

It took until the 1980s for the true wonder drugs of parasite control, the macrocyclic lactones, to come onto the scene. "We went from nothing to magic," Hairgrove says. "Then, we overused or misused them. We dewormed and re-dewormed, then watched as they didn't work as well."

## SEEK CLARITY

This is the point where fecal testing comes in. "You don't have to do a fecal test on every cow," Hairgrove explains. "Get a baseline. Then, when you add cattle, you can test them to make sure you aren't adding parasites to your herd."

For example, if you buy replacement heifers rather than raising your own, or when you buy bulls, Hairgrove recommends, prior to mixing them in with your herd, do a fecal test. Then, deworm with the product or products you normally use. Retest in two weeks to find out if your dewormers worked on the parasites they carry. If your deworming program was not effective on the new cattle, you could introduce resistant parasites into the herd.

Next, have a sit-down conversation with your local vet. "He or she will understand the county, the soil types, the forages," Hairgrove says. "On dry, sandy soil, for example, you probably don't have to worry about liver flukes. But, if you're in a swampy area with predominately clay soil, there might be a problem."

Management also comes into play, he notes. "Parasites only climb up the grass 2 inches. If the grass isn't grazed down to nothing, there may not be a problem."

CROP	SPRING PLANTING DATE	FALL PLANTING DATE
Asparagus	2/1 – 3/15	N.R. *
Beans, Bush	3/15 – 4/15	8/1 – 9/1
Beans, Pole	3/15 – 4/15	8/1 – 9/1
Beans, Lima	3/15 – 4/1	7/15 – 8/15
Beets	2/1 – 4/1	9/1 – 10/15
Broccoli (plants)	3/1 – 3/15	8/1 – 9/15
Brussels Sprouts	N.R.	8/1 – 10/1
Cabbage (plants)	2/1 – 3/1	8/15 – 9/15
Cabbage, Chinese	2/1 – 2/15	8/15 – 9/15
Carrots	2/1 – 2/15	8/15 – 10/15
Cauliflower (plants)	2/15 – 3/1	8/15 – 9/15
Chard, Swiss	2/15 – 4/1	8/1 – 10/15
Collard/Kale	2/1 – 2/15	8/15 – 10/1
Corn, Sweet	3/15 – 5/1	8/1 – 8/15
Cucumber	3/15 – 4/15	8/1 – 9/1
Eggplant (plants)	4/1 – 4/15	7/15 – 8/1
Garlic	1/15 – 2/15	9/1 – 10/15
Kohlrabi	2/1 – 3/1	8/15 – 9/15
Lettuce (leaf)	2/1 – 3/1	9/15 – 10/15
Muskmelon (Cantaloupe)	3/15 – 5/1	7/15 – 8/1
Mustard	2/1 – 3/1	9/15 – 10/15
Okra	4/15 – 7/1	4/15 – 7/1
Onion (plants)	2/1 – 3/1	N.R.
Parsley	N.R.	8/15 – 10/1
Peas, English	1/15 – 2/15	8/15 – 9/15
Peas, Southern	4/15 – 6/1	7/1 – 8/1
Pepper (plants)	4/1 – 4/15	7/1 – 8/1
Potatoes (Irish)	2/1 – 2/15	8/15 – 9/15
Potatoes (Sweet) (slips)	4/1 – 5/15	N.R.
Pumpkin	4/1 – 5/15	7/1 – 8/1
Radish	2/1 – 4/1	9/15 – 10/15
Spinach	2/1 – 3/1	9/1 – 10/15
Squash, Summer	3/15 – 4/15	7/15 – 8/15
Squash, Winter	4/1 – 4/15	7/1 – 7/15
Tomato (plants)	3/15 – 4/1	7/15 – 8/1
Turnips	2/1 – 3/1	10/1 – 11/1
Watermelon	3/15 – 5/1	7/1 – 8/1
Watermelon (Seedless)	3/25 – 5/1	7/1 – 8/1

\* Not Recommended



## BQA: TIP OF THE MONTH:

### Management of Horns

Management of horns in beef cattle is important for animal welfare, animal handling, handler safety, and animal value. The easiest way to manage horns is using polled genetics; quality polled genetics can be found in all major beef breeds. Using homozygous polled bulls in *Bos taurus* cattle will result in a 100% polled calf crop even if the cows have horns; in *Bos indicus* influenced cattle the expression pattern is sometimes different, but most calves will be polled. Stocker and feeder cattle with horns should be dehorned or tipped as early as possible using methods that minimizes stress.

(From Jason Banta, Ph. D., [jpbanta@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jpbanta@ag.tamu.edu) , Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator)

**TEXAS A&M  
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*Easter Sunday  
April 21*



*Office Closed  
Good Friday  
April 19*

### PRIVATE PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Licensed private applicators are required to re-certify every five years by obtaining 15 continuing education credits, including two credits in laws and regulations and two credits in integrated pest management (IPM), prior to expiration of the license.



**Office Closed  
Monday  
May 27**



**Want your news before everyone else?? Sign up for e-mail delivery!**

If you would prefer to receive the Ag & Natural Resource Newsletter via e-mail, please email me at [jdsugg@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jdsugg@ag.tamu.edu) and I will add you to a mailing list.

The benefit of being on the e-mail list (other than saving us money on postage) is that I will e-mail weekly Livestock Market reports and trends to that list.