TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

DID YOU KNOW...

.....Fall is the perfect time to perform soil tests on your lawn, garden, pasture or hayfield. It is also a good time to apply limestone to raise pH if needed. Soil test kits are available upon request from the Extension Office at 113 East Fordall Street, Henderson, Texas 75652. Call (903) 657-0376 for more details. Most typical soil tests costs around $10 and we are available to assist in interpreting the results once you receive them from the laboratory

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Rusk County

Ag News & Views

FALL 2017

2017 Rusk County Hay Show

We had 84 hay samples submitted and we recognized the top ten hay producers in Rusk County

Here are the results, and the supporters of those ten:

Producer	Buyer
Galan & Patti White	Tri-County Livestock
Curtis Bonds	Steele's Feed
Kenny Floyd	Hunt Livestock
Charles Kinard	Split Hoof Livestock
Rex Neill	Kid Kraze
Glynn Hughes	Steele's Feed
Ozzie Gramling	Whitworth Cattle/Heritage
Robert Harris	Lowe Tractor
Randy Weatherford	Lowe Tractor
Ken Ragle	Kid Kraze/Citizens

Special thanks to additional Hay Show Supporters:

Fish & Still Equipment
Velvin Oil Company
Heritage Land Bank
Lone Star Farm & Home

Lot 1: Tri-County Livestock purchased the high placing hay sample this year produced by Galan and Patti White. Pictured (l-r) are Wesley Davis of Tri-County Livestock, County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Galan and Patti White.

Lot 2: Steele's Feed purchased the hay sample produced by Curtis Bonds. Pictured (l-r) are Chance Steele, County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Clinton and Amanda Bonds, representing Curtis Bonds.

Find us on Facebook

Rusk County AgriLife Extension Ag

Jamie Sugg

Jamie Sugg
County Extension Agent-Agriculture
Rusk County

Lot 3: Kenny Floyd produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Hunt Livestock. Pictured (l-r) are Mark Hunt, County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Kenny Floyd and Rusk County Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett.

Lot 4: Charles Kinard produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Split Hoof Livestock. Pictured (l-r) are County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Rusk County Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett (standing in for Charles Kinard) and Lawrence Filingim, owner of Split Hoof Livestock.

Lot 5: Rex Neill produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Tracie Bowman. Pictured (l-r) are County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Tracie Bowman, Rex Neill and Rusk County Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett.

Lot 6: Glynn Hughes produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Steele's Feed & Fertilizer in Troup. Pictured (l-r) are County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Chance Steele, Glynn Hughes and grandsons Owen and Tucker Hughes.

Lot 7: Ozzie Gramling produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Whitworth Cattle Company and Heritage Land Bank. Pictured (l-r) are Bennie Whitworth and son Baxter, Ozzie Gramling, County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, and Kyndall Burton.

Lot 8: Robert Harris produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Lowe Tractor & Equipment. Pictured (l-r) are County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg, Gyce Butler of Lowe Tractor, Robert Harris and Rusk County Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett. Robert Harris' grandsons, Cason & Jackson Pirtle are also pictured.

Lot 9: Randy Weatherford produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Lowe Tractor & Equipment. Pictured (l-r) are Gyce Butler of Lowe Tractor, Randy Weatherford and County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg.

Lot 10: Ken Ragle produced a "Top Ten" hay sample this year for the Rusk County Hay Show that was purchased by Tracie Bowman and Citizens National Bank. Pictured (l-r) are Rusk County Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett, Ken Ragle, Tracie Bowman and County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg.

R&R Custom Hay Baling purchased the leftover hay samples. Pictured are Rex Neill and Roy Davis of R&R.

Kenny Burton, owner of Burton Dirt Works purchased a brisket prepared by Rusk County Ag and Natural Resource Committee Member Andrew Jordan. Pictured (l-r) are Kenny Burton, Kyndall Burton, County Extension Agent Jamie Sugg and Andrew Jordan.

The winner of the Grand Prize is Ethan Perkins. Ethan won a Henry .22 Rifle. Pictured (l-r) are Rusk County Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett, Ethan Perkins, and Hay Show Auauctioneer Terry Nicholas.

Add-on: Fish & Still Equipment contributed $1000 to the Rusk County Hay Show. Pictured left to right are John Leech of Fish & Still, County Agent Jamie Sugg and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett.

Add-on: Lone Star Farm & Home contributed $300 to the Rusk County Hay Show. Pictured are Keith Brightwell and Shantae Truelock of Lone Star.

Add-on: Velvin Oil contributed $500 to the Rusk County Hay Show. Pictured left to right are County Agent Jamie Sugg, Justin Pirtle of Velvin Oil with daughter Ella and Extension Ag & Natural Resources Committee Chairman Damon Bassett.

Not Pictured ...

Add-on: In addition to splitting the purchase of Lot 7, Heritage Land Bank contributed $500 to the Rusk County Hay Show as an Add-on.

East Texas Beef and Forage Clinic

South Main Church of Christ—Fellowship Hall
402 S Main Street, Henderson, TX
Parking in back on Van Buren Street—Look for Signs
Friday, November 17, 2017
(5 CEU Hours—2 General, 2 IPM, 1 L&R)

Registration 8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

Welcome
Jamie Sugg, County Extension Agent Agriculture, Rusk Co

Controlling Grassy Weeds (1 Gen)
Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Associate Professor and Forage Extension Specialist

Laws & Regulations Update (1 L&R)
Dr. Mark Matocha, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist with the Ag. & Environmental Safety Unit

Break

Herbicide Update (1 Gen)
John Roach, Crop Protection Services

Lunch

Fire Ant Control in Pastures (1 IPM)
Dr. Paul Nester, Extension Program Specialist—IPM

Grasshoppers, Armyworms & Other Pasture Insects (1 IPM)
Erfan Vafaie, Extension Program Specialist—IPM

Registration $30 per person.

Please RSVP to the Rusk Co Extension Office at 903-657-0376 by Nov. 13th to guarantee lunch reservation.

Sponsored By: Heritage Land Bank, El Dorado Chemical , Rozell Sprayers

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Rusk County Extension Office at 903-657-0376 for assistance before November 4, 2016.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Now is the Time to Control Thistle

If left uncontrolled, thick thistle stands can reduce grazing and result in less forage production. A single thistle plant can produce at least 4,000 seeds, which increases the chance for higher thistle populations in the pasture the following year. Consequently, management practices need to be conducted prior to flower formation for effective thistle control. Even if thistles have not infested your pasture in the past, it is ideal that your pastures are scouted in late fall through mid-spring (November to March) to ensure that thistles do not get out of control. New infestations are easier to manage than large-scale populations. Although there are several different species of thistle in Texas, most are closely related and control recommendations will not differ.

Best time to control with a herbicide is when thistles are in the rosette stage. The rosette stage is when the thistle forms a low-growing ring of eaves.

As they mature they are harder to control and may require higher rates of herbicide to have effective control.

Select Herbicide Options:

Weedmaster
2, 4-D
GrazonNext
Remedy
PastureGard
Cimarron Max (for bermudagrass pastures, will control bahiagrass)

REMEMBER: THE LABEL IS THE LAW! Always read the pesticide label before using.

Rosette Stage

Good weaning programs are important to minimize stress on calves and prepare them to perform well as stockers, feeders, and replacements. Fenceline weaning works well because cows and calves can see and hear each other which reduces stress on both. A key to successful fenceline weaning is to separate cows and calves with as little excitement as possible. An ideal weaning pasture would be about 5 to 30 acres in size, with good grass cover, have good shade along the fence line, and have a good water source within a few hundred yards of the fence.

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

Potassium is for Persistence

Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson

We rely heavily on our bermudagrass pastures and hay meadows during the summer in some parts of Texas. Often times we are disappointed with production, see a thinning of our stand and/or see disease like symptoms. This is often times referred to as "Bermudagrass Decline." We quickly blame weather. Granted weather can have an impact on each of those issues. However, there is often a deeper problem that we need to access.

Primary Causes:

Low Potassium (K) Fertility: A deficiency in K will result in poor stress tolerance, reduced winter hardiness, decreased disease resistance, and reduced rhizome and stolon production. To determine if K deficiency is causing the problem, a soil analysis will be imperative. Collect representative soil samples from the affected areas and another from areas nearby that are unaffected or less affected. More soil testing information can be located here: (**http://soiltesting.tamu.edu**). Potassium deficiency may occur during periods of water stress. The plant absorbs K from the soil by drawing in water from the soil that contains K. Therefore, even if the soil test indicates an adequate level of soil test K, a drought can reduce the amount of K available to the plant.

Low Soil pH: There are several ways that soil pH causes a problem. First, toxic levels of soluble Al can occur in soils where the soil pH has dropped too low. This burns back the fine root hairs and prevents root growth. Low soil pH also reduces the availability of other nutrients such as P, K, Mg, Ca, and others. Ultimately, low soil pH starves the plant of water and nutrients. Soil pH (as evaluated by soil test) showed not to be less than 5.5 for Coastal bermudagrass and 5.8 for Tifton 85 bermudagrass. Overseeded forages such as clover and ryegrass need a pH of 6.0 or higher for optimum growth.

Leaf Spot: Helminthosporium leaf spot (Bipolaris spp.) is commonly associated with bermudagrass decline. Helminthosporium leaf spot commonly attacks bermudagrass stands where K levels are low.

Ryegrass: The past two springs have been abundant with rainfall and ryegrass (volunteer or otherwise). In the spring when bermudagrass is breaking dormancy, an abundance of ryegrass can out-compete bermudagrass for water, nutrients and light. Heavy growth of ryegrass and removal as hay can deplete large amounts of K from the soil, thus effectively reducing the amount of K available to the bermudagrass. To avoid this problem, be sure to avoid late applications of N to ryegrass stands and utilize as much ryegrass forage as possible by grazing.

Drought: Bermudagrass is quite drought tolerant. However, if drought is combined with other stressors such as K and pH stress drought can be challenging for bermudagrass to handle. Remember to maintain soil fertility during good growing conditions (periods of rainfall) so if drought does become an issue bermudagrass will be better prepared, so to speak.

Poor Nutrient Management in Hay Production: Bermudagrass can be an excellent hay crop if properly managed. High rates of nitrogen fertilization with no attention to depletion of other plant nutrients (especially K) can lead to low soil potassium and the associated problems as listed above. Annual soil testing and special attention to K levels with help alleviate these problems.

EFFECT OF REVALOR®-G ON GROWTH AND REPRODUCTION OF HEIFERS

Stocker cattle programs often incorporate a growth implant. Revalor-G (which contains 40 mg trenbolone acetate plus 8 mg estradiol) is an implant approved for weaned pasture cattle, steers, and heifers. It is not intended for use in animals intended for subsequent breeding. Research reports indicate effects on reproduction varied in heifers implanted beyond weaning. Additional comprehensive research was conducted to evaluate effects.

Over three locations, 3,342 crossbred beef heifers of approximate 12 months of age, averaging 524 lb were either 1) implanted with Revalor-G or 2) not implanted as controls and both groups grazed together for 164 days. After 82 days grazing, all heifers were synchronized for estrus followed by artificial insemination and then clean-up bulls for 25 days. Pregnancy determination was made 45 days after bulls were removed.

At the end of the trial, implanted heifers were statistically significantly heavier, by 15 lb. However, pregnancy rate of implanted heifers was significantly lower at 46% versus 64% for controls. This effect continued with the next year's breeding; implants had 93% pregnancy and controls 96%. Even this small difference was statistically significant, a reflection of the large number and uniformity of the animals in the study.

These effects on weight gain and reproduction should not be viewed alone. The authors note that increasing numbers of producers are developing more heifers than they need for replacements. In some cases this may involve developing an entire heifer crop and then retaining only early breeders. Those not retained could be marketed as bred heifers or feeder heifers or finished for slaughter by the producer. The authors concluded that "when pregnant heifer value exceeds feeder heifer value it is unlikely that additional weight gain in culled heifers will compensate for the decreased pregnancy rate. However, when pregnant heifer value is comparable to feeder heifer value, the additional weight gain from the implant increases the value and efficiency of stocker heifers".

(Prof. Anim. Sci. 33:92, Univ. of Nebraska)

VALUE AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

A survey was conducted of 425 individuals using AI from 42 states to assess use and value of AI. Most producers (87%) used AI on both heifers and cows. Estrus synchronization was always or usually used by 72%. Insemination after observed estrus was used by 42%, fixed time-AI by 34%, and AI after observed estrus with cleanup timed AI by 24%. The most commonly used synchronization procedure was 7-day CO-Synch + CIDR for both heifers and cows.

Averages for commercial cow-calf producers were 11.4 years of AI experience, semen cost of $22.20/straw, and increased value of $187/calf for AI-sired. For seedstock producers, averages were 16.9 years of experience, $29.70/straw, and $709 increased value. The most important factors contributing to profit from AI were reported to be value of replacements and reduced calving difficulty.

(Cattlemen's Day 2015; Kansas St. Univ.)

EXPORTING BEEF TO CHINA

The People's Republic of China banned imports of beef from the U. S. in 2003 in response to the detection of BSE ("mad cow disease") in Washington state. China has now agreed to accept imports of beef from the U. S. There are some hoops to jump through in order to qualify to export to China, and some of them are rather tight. Because of relatively high cost of meeting requirements, industry officials say the majority of products will probably be high-valued steak and roast cuts and some variety meats not in high demand in the U. S. but valued highly in China and some other counties.

The specified requirements for exports to China include:

- Beef and beef products must be derived from cattle that were born, raised, and slaughtered in the U.S., cattle that were imported from Canada or Mexico and subsequently raised and slaughtered in the U.S., or cattle that were imported from Canada or Mexico for direct slaughter;
- Cattle must be traceable to the U.S. birth farm using a unique identifier, or if imported to the first place of residence or port of entry;
- Beef and beef products must be derived from cattle less than 30 months of age;
- Chilled or frozen bone-in and deboned beef products are eligible for shipment. For a complete listing, refer to the FSIS Export Library; and
- Carcasses, beef, and beef products must be uniquely identified and controlled up until the time of shipment.

Only eligible products may be issued an FSIS Export Certificate. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) verifies that cattle meet the specified product requirements, as outlined in QAD 1030AA Procedure, through an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) or USDA Process Verified Program (PVP). These programs ensure that a company's requirements are supported by a documented quality management system and are verified through audits conducted by AMS.

(USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service; https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/imports-exports/beef-ev-china)

Rusk County Farmers' Market

*****CLOSED FOR THE SEASON*****

Location: Henderson Community Center, Parking Lot at Fair Park

Locally grown vegetables, herbs, fruits, handmade crafts, jewelry, candles, jellies/jams and brown bag mixes.

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.

List of herbicides that do not require a Pesticide Applicators License:

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

Rusk County Extension Agent's Radio Report

Tune in to 100.7 FM Monday thru Friday at 8:00 AM to hear the Rusk County Extension Agents' Report on KPXI 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.

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