TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Rusk County Ag News & Views

SPRING 2018

DID YOU KNOW...

...that the pecan tree is the official state tree of Texas. Native pecan trees have shown to be an estimated 150 years old and can grow an average of 70-100 feet tall!
...and the state pepper is the jalapeño.
...the state grass is the sideoats grama.
...the state motto is "friendship".
...the state vegetable is the 1015 sweet onion
...the state fruit is the Texas red grapefruit.
...and the official dish of Texas is chili.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Horticultural Crop Webinars

Don't miss these special educational webinars focusing on Small Acreage Horticultural Crops. The 2018 schedule is as follows: (date – topic)

- February 9 Home Remedies
- March 9 Eggshell Expt + Home Composting
- April 13 Soil Moisture Meters + Light Measurements
- May 11 Hay Bale Gardening
- June 8 Tomato Variety Trial
- July 13 Soil Depth in a Raised Bed
- August 10 Rotation
- September 7 Neem Oil Project
- October 12 Bio Intensive Planting
- November 9 Evaluating Various Soil Types
- December 7 Collapsible Beds

All webinars are held between noon and 1 p.m. To participate in a webinar, click on the appropriate link on the date of the webinar at 11:30 am to test the connection and make sure audio and video are working properly. Webinars will start promptly at noon.

NOTE: The password for all webinar meetings is "online" (without quotes)

Website: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/smallacreage/webinars/

All webinars will be presented by Dr. Joe Masabni

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.

Find us on Facebook

Rusk County AgriLife Extension Ag

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, therefore 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.

SAVE THE DATE

August 6—8, 2018

64th Annual Event
College Station, TX

Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course

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.

Winter Weeds: Do they matter?

As forage producers, we focus most of our energy on our warm season perennial pastures and hay meadows (bermudagrass, bahiagrass, etc.). That means most of our weed control efforts are also focused on warm season weeds (such as Carolina horse nettle, blackberry, etc). Unfortunately, cool season weeds can be just as detrimental to our warm season perennial forages.

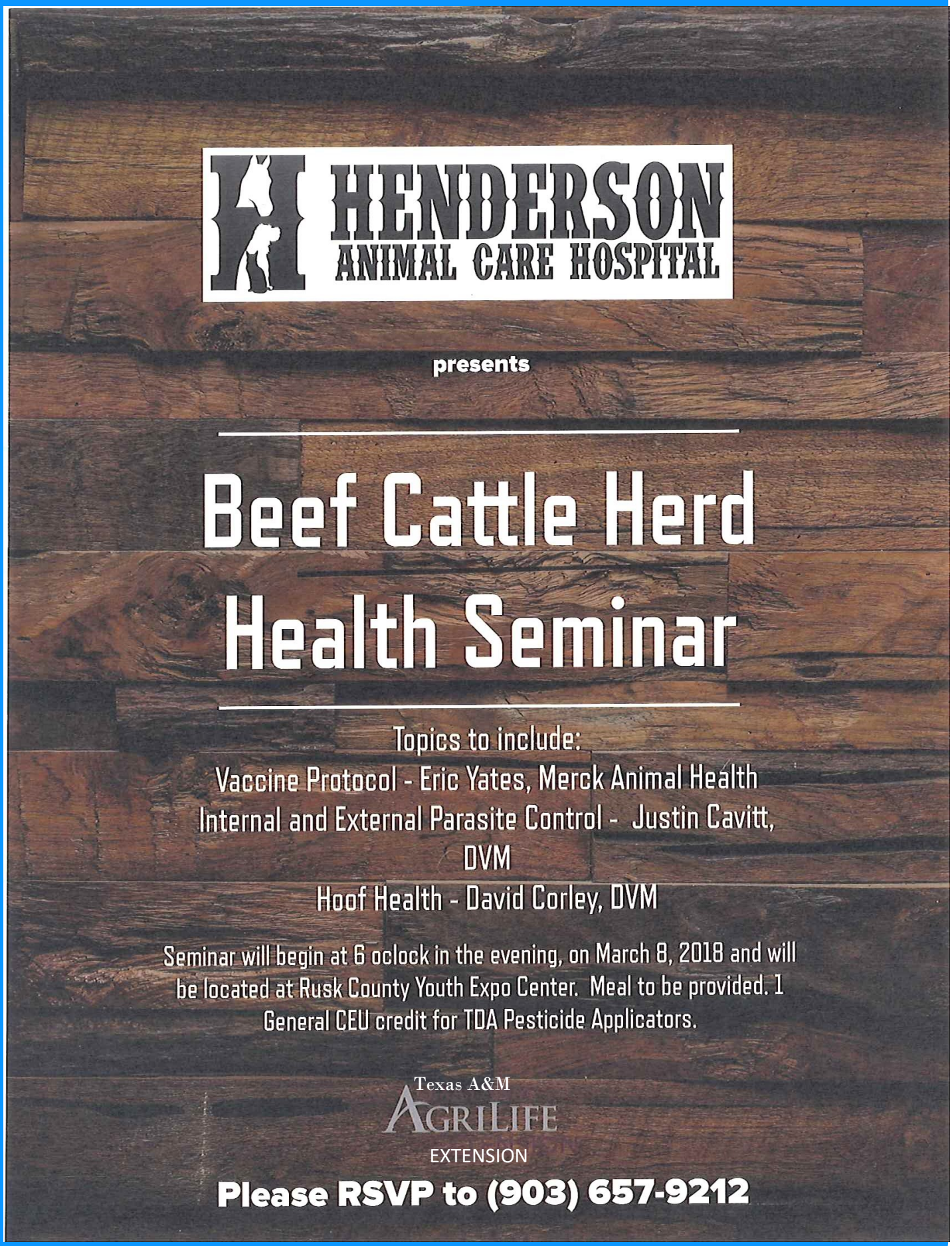
Annual ryegrass...a cool season annual forage often utilized by livestock producers for winter grazing. However, it's often deemed an enemy of many a hay producer in East Texas. Later maturity of annual ryegrass can delay or prevent our warm season perennial forages from breaking dormancy in April/May therefore delaying our initial hay cutting. There are multiple ways to manage unwanted ryegrass (see ForageFax article for more details). Use of herbicides to control annual ryegrass is probably the most common method practiced. Pendimethalin can be used as a pre-emergent herbicide for dormant bermudagrass and bahiagrass pastures and hay meadows. Glyphosate; metsulfuron and nicosulfuron are post emergent herbicide options.

Henbit is a plant that is not generally considered a pasture weed. It can become a major competitor with bermudagrass in the early spring for moisture and nutrients. 2,4-D alone is not highly effective against henbit. However, glyhphosate in the dormant season; mixtures of 2,4-D and glyphosate; and mixtures of 2,4-D and dicamba, picloram, aminopyralid, and metsulfuron; are quite effective against henbit. Henbit is a cool season annual and should be sprayed when it is small for best results.

If left uncontrolled, thick **thistle** stands can reduce grazing and result in less forage production. 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 leaves (November – March). If thistles have bolted or developed seed heads, they are much more difficult to control. Several broadleaf herbicides are effective against thistles if they are in the rosette stage (2,4-D alone; 2,4-D with picloram; dicamba or aminopyralid; metsulfuron methyl; or a combination of metsulfuron methyl with 2,4-D and dicamba).

Texas Groundsel or Texas squaw-weed is another common cool season annual weed. Control is less expensive and more likely if plants are treated while still in the rosette stage. Once the plant begins to bolt, more herbicide is required. 2,4-D alone can be effective if applied in the rosette stage. Other effective products include: 2,4-D and dicamba, 2,4-D and aminopyralid, aminopyralid, metsulfuron, metsulfuron and nicosulfuron, metsulfuron with 2,4-D and dicamba. For more details on Texas groundsel see ForageFax article.

Winter weeds are not a problem in all perennial warm-season pastures and hay meadows. Fields should be scouted to determine if treatment is warranted. In most cases, controlling winter weeds in summer perennial pastures involved an additional application since it is unlikely that an application during the dormant season will control summer weeds.


HENDERSON
ANIMAL CARE HOSPITAL
presents
Beef Cattle Herd Health Seminar
Topics to include:
Vaccine Protocol - Eric Yates, Merck Animal Health
Internal and External Parasite Control - Justin Cavitt, DVM
Hoof Health - David Corley, DVM
Seminar will begin at 6 oclock in the evening, on March 8, 2018 and will be located at Rusk County Youth Expo Center. Meal to be provided. 1 General CEU credit for TDA Pesticide Applicators.
Texas A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION
Please RSVP to (903) 657-9212

Rusk County Extension Spring Program
April 9, 2018

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Supper served starting at 5:30 p.m.
RSVP by April 3rd to 903-657-0376

Speakers:

6:00 p.m. Dr. Jason Banta—Associate Professor, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist
Spring Herd Health Issues

7:00 p.m. Sgt. Matt McGinnis—Texas DPS
What you need to know: Transporting Hay & Equipment and the new ELD/CDL Laws

2 CEU - General

FREE to attend

LOCATION: Bar None Cowboy Church

9162 State Highway 43 E

(1/2 way between Henderson and Tatum)

For demonstration and/or test drive: Fish & Still, Lowe Tractor, and possibly others, will have equipment on hand starting at 4pm.

Rusk County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

TEXAS FARM BUREAU
Rusk County

Tri-County Beef & Forage Workshop

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Friday, April 27, 2018
Cherokee County Showbarn
611 SE Loop 456 Jacksonville, TX 75766

3 CEU Hours for Texas Dept. of Agriculture (2 General and 1 Laws & Regulations)
Please RSVP by Monday, April 23rd, for meal planning, to 903-683-5416
Registration fee of $10.00 with checks/money orders made payable to:
Cherokee Beef and Forage

8:00	**Registration**
8:30	**Restricted and Non-Restricted Herbicides** (1 Laws & Regs)
	Clint Perkins
9:30	**Common Health Problems in Cow Herds** (1 General)
	Dr. Jason Cleere
11:00	**Keep vs. Cull vs. Value Added**
	Dr. Jason Cleere
12:00	**Lunch**
12:30	**Weed Identification and Control** (1 General)
	Clint Perkins
1:30	**Adjourn**

PROGRAM SPONSORS:

HERITAGE LAND BANK — Your Partner in Rural Lending

RED RIVER SPECIALTIES

East Texas Seed Company

ROZELL SPRAYER MANUFACTURING CO. — CUSTOM MADE SPRAYERS · REPAIRS

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.

Mineral Consumption and Performance of Stocker Cattle

Mineral supplements are typically provided to growing cattle to correct forage deficiencies and as a carrier for additives to enhance weight gain and/or prevent diseases. In this study, Angus-Red Angus crossbred steers averaging 565 lb initial weight were grazed on wheat pasture for 90 days (late November to late February). Mineral consumption was randomly measured on 53 days using radio-frequency ear tags and a computer-monitored mineral feeder.

ADG averaged 2.27 lb, ranging from 1.54 to 2.77. Individual steers averaged visiting the feeder on 44% of the days, ranging from 24% to 70%. Mineral consumption increased as weight increased, averaging 0.16 lb/day. ADG was 0.15 lb/day greater for steers visiting the feeder more often than average, compared to those visiting less than average. The authors indicated this higher ADG may have been due to the increased frequency of consumption of lasalocid contained in the supplement. They also indicated daily hand feeding of such mineral-additive mixes could reduce variation in consumption and therefore might reduce health problems. However, cost of providing the mix would increase.

(Prof. Anim. Sci. 32:106; Oklahoma St. Univ.)

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 -

Recommended Type and Location of Injections

Always follow product labels when giving injections. If the label allows for either intramuscular or subcutaneous injection, then the subcutaneous route should be used regardless of animal age. If the label requires intramuscular use, give all intramuscular injections in the neck. When given in the muscle, all products have the potential to create injection site lesions and impact the tenderness of meat for a few inches around the injection. Give subcutaneous injections in the neck, dewlap, or elbow pocket. When given properly, any knots that result from subcutaneous injections will not impact meat quality and will be removed with the hide.

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

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Rusk County
113 East Fordall Street
Henderson, Texas 75652

Phone: 903-657-0376
E-mail: jdsugg@ag.tamu.edu

We are on the web:
rusk.agrilife.org

Restricted Use[1] or State-Limited Use[2] Herbicides	Non-Restricted Use Herbicides
Grazon P+D	Milestone
Tordon 22K	Chaparral
Surmount	PastureGard
2,4-D	Redeem R&P
Weedmaster	Spike 20P
Banvel (Dicamba)	Spike 80DF
GrazonNext	Vista XLT
Weedar 64	Cimarron Extra
Weedone LV6	Remedy Ultra
Crossbow	Cimarron Plus
Cimarron Max	Reclaim
2,4-DB	VelPar L
GrazonNext HL	Amber
PasturAll HL	Pastora
PastureGard HL	

[1]**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.

[2]**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.

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.

March 11, 2018

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 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.