

Fall 2016 - Ag Newsletter



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Ag Blog and Newsletter Online:

Visit <http://agrilife.org/agnewsandviews>
and our county website periodically at
<http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu>

Calendar of Events

Sep 1 – Private Applicator Pesticide Tng
Sep 17 – Backyard Basics Fall Expo
Sep 20 – Consideration for Landowners
Sep 27 – Hay Testing Campaign Results
Jan 12 – Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Crs
Jan 19 – Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Crs

Private Applicator Pesticide Training

A Private Applicator Pesticide Training program is scheduled for Thursday, September 1st at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Street, Suite 212. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with the training to follow at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will not be provided. This training is for people who do not have a license or those who had a license that expired at least a year ago. If you plan to attend, please call the Bexar County Extension Office to sign up. Study materials are available at the Extension Office and can be picked up in advance. The program registration fee is \$60/person and includes study materials. Participants should plan on bringing a calculator and photo ID.



Considerations for Landowners

The Bexar County Extension Beef Cattle Committee will be sponsoring a program Tuesday, September

20th from 6-8 p.m. entitled *Considerations for Landowners*. The program will be held at the Bexar County Extension office and will cover:

- Transferring Ag Valuation to New Property Owners
- Farm/Ranch Economics 101
- Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service Update/Cost Share Programs

The cost is \$15/person. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP by Friday, Sep 16th to Angel Torres at (210) 631-0400.

Backyard Basics Fall Expo

When - Saturday, September 17th

Where - San Antonio College Oppenheimer Academic Center, 1819 N. Main Ave

Time - 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cost - \$20/person (\$25 onsite)

Workshop sessions include: beekeeping, backyard chickens, composting, urban wildlife, aquaponics, herb gardening and more. Demonstrations will include vermiculture, drip irrigation and rain barrel construction.

Additionally, the Bexar County Master Gardeners will have a plant sale. For more information, call 210-631-0400.



Result Demonstration Cooperator

I am interested in cooperating with a beef cattle producer on a result demonstration project this fall. There are a couple of options I'm considering: internal parasite control on cows and calves, growth implants on calves, mineral supplementation on cows/calves and pregnancy rates in cows after body condition scoring at calving. If you have an interest in such a project, please contact me at 210-631-0400.



Texas Range/Webinar Series

Do you have an interest in natural resource management and access to a computer with internet? If so, be sure to check out the natural resource webinars available at

<http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/series/range/> to learn about a variety of rangeland mgmt topics. CEUs are available, in many of the webinars.

Hay Testing Campaign Results

Make plans to join us for an informative meeting on Tuesday, September 27th from 6-8 p.m. and hear Dr. Larry Redmon, Extension Forage Specialist, share results from the Bexar/Wilson County Hay Testing Campaign. He will explain what the data means and how to use a forage analysis to develop a supplemental feeding program. Additionally, Dr. Redmon will discuss producing and managing for high quality hay. The program will be worth 1.5 hours of CEU credit. Please contact Angel to sign up.

Veterinary Feed Directive

The *Animal Drug Availability Act of 1996* established a new category of drugs, veterinary feed directive (VFD) drugs. The revised VFD rule that went into effect in October of last year addresses the use of drugs in feeds for livestock. Current focus is on antimicrobials that are considered medically important.

1. All changes associated with medically important antimicrobials that are now available over the counter must be implemented by January 1, 2017.
2. Use of VFD drugs now falls under the supervision of licensed veterinarians. Producers must receive signed and written authorization from a licensed veterinarian to purchase and utilize VFD antimicrobials on and in feed.
3. An established Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) is required.

Steps to obtain a VFD Order:

- Contact your veterinarian with whom you have a valid VCPR.
- The veterinarian determines whether conditions warrant use of a VFD drug or feed.

- If warranted, the veterinarian issues a written and signed VFD order containing information specified by regulations.
- The veterinarian retains a copy of the VFD order and gives a copy to the client.
- The client keeps the copy and gives the original signed VFD to the feed mill/feed distributor supplying the VFD feed. The VFD order allows the feed to be released to the client.
- Depending on the specific VFD drug and the conditions outlined by the veterinarian, separate VFD orders may be required for different groups of livestock and new VFD orders may be required to extend the treatment duration.

Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Course

Mark your calendar to attend the Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Course January 12th and 19th at Palo Alto College. Registration will begin each evening at 6:00 p.m. with the program to follow at 6:45 p.m. Topics will include herd health; veterinary feed directive, herbicide update, hands on sprayer calibration and pesticide laws and regulations. Be watching for more information.

Preparing Your Finances for Times of Disaster

If you think your household finances are invulnerable to disaster, think again. Just one flood, fire, earthquake or tornado can wipe out a lifetime of savings. This year, make a resolution to secure your finances from unexpected events of nature. Below are five steps everyone can and should take to protect their home and finances.

1. Get the Right Insurance

Review your insurance policies and find out what they do and do not cover. Learn the difference between replacement cost coverage versus standard coverage, which only pays the actual cash value of insured property. Be sure that you have enough insurance to cover recent home renovations or improvements, and consider other policies, such as earthquake insurance. Know that most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage, so be sure to consider flood insurance for both your structure and its contents.



2. Inventory Your Household Possessions

For insurance purposes, be sure to keep a written and visual (i.e., videotaped or photographed) record of all major household items and valuables, even those stored in basements, attics or garages. Create files that include serial numbers and store receipts for major appliances and electronics. Have jewelry and artwork appraised.

3. Protect Important Financial Documents

Store copies of irreplaceable financial and family documents in a safe place, preferably one that is protected from both fire and water. Documents include: automobile titles, tax records, stock and bond certificates, deeds, wills, trust agreements, birth and marriage certificates, photos, passports and insurance policies. Keep originals in a rented safe deposit box.

4. Keep "Emergency Fund" Cash or Savings Acct

In case of an emergency or sudden evacuation, be sure to keep enough cash or traveler's checks in a safe place; one that can be quickly accessed. ATM's may not be available in the event of a disaster.

5. Safeguard Your Home and Property

Take steps to minimize potential damage to your home. Install smoke detectors on every floor. Consider hurricane shutters for windows or store large sheets of plywood in the event of high winds.

TSCRA Theft Prevention Tips

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) is a 139-year-old trade organization and the largest & oldest livestock association in Texas.



The association represents more than 17,000 beef cattle producers, ranching families and businesses as members. These members represent approximately 50,000 individuals directly involved in ranching and

beef production that manage approximately 4 million head of cattle on 76 million acres of range and pasture land, primarily in Texas and Oklahoma, but throughout the Southwest.

TSCRA provides law enforcement and livestock inspection services, legislative and regulatory advocacy, industry news and information, insurance services and educational opportunities for its members and the industry.

One of the key roles TSCRA special rangers have is educating landowners on how to prevent theft and spoil the plan of thieves. Consider the following tips to keep your livestock and property safe.

1. Display TSCRA member sign on gates and entrances. It is an excellent deterrent.
2. Lock gates.
3. Brand cattle and horses. Make sure the brand is recorded with the county clerk.
4. Put driver's license number on all saddles, tack and equipment.
5. Videotape horses and tack. Keep complete and accurate descriptions on file. Establish an organized, easy-to-find proof of ownership file to save valuable time in recovery process.
6. Count cattle regularly.
7. Don't establish a routine when feeding. Vary the times you feed.
8. Be cautious about who gets keys and combinations.
9. If possible, park trailers and equipment where they are out of view from the roadway.
10. Keep tack rooms and saddle compartments on trailers locked.
11. Don't feed in pens.
12. Participate in neighborhood Crime Watch programs.
13. Don't build pens close to a roadway.
14. Never leave keys in tractors or other equipment.



What YOU Should Know About ZIKA?

Q: What is the Zika virus?

A: A member of the Flavivirus family, the Zika virus is an emerging mosquito-borne virus that was first identified in the **Zika** forest of Uganda in 1947. Until very recently, it was confined to Africa with occasional small outbreaks in Asia. It slowly spread east, with cases on Easter Island off the coast of South America confirmed in 2014 and the first cases in Brazil in spring of 2015, and it has spread further throughout South and Central America since then.

Q: How do you get Zika?

A: Like a number of other diseases such as dengue and chikungunya, which are also spread by mosquitoes, the **Zika** virus is spread through the bite of the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* species of mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they bite a human who has the virus, and are then capable of spreading the virus to other susceptible humans. These mosquito vectors are abundant in many urban environments of Texas and elsewhere and are active during the day and night, increasing the period that humans are at risk of exposure. Between 20 and 25 percent of those persons who become infected will develop symptoms.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: Common symptoms of **Zika** include fever, skin rash, red eyes and joint pain. Some patients report muscle pain, general malaise, headache and vomiting. Symptoms typically last between two and seven days.

Q: Who is at risk?

A: Everyone who hasn't had the virus is potentially at risk. For pregnant women, contracting the virus represents a risk to her unborn baby. Researchers think **Zika** is behind the alarming rise in miscarriages and microcephaly, a birth defect in which the infant has an unusually small head and abnormal brain development. For everyone else, the biggest potential complication is Guillain-Barré syndrome, in which the immune system attacks the body's own nerve cells, causing problems with muscle coordination and breathing.

Q: Where is Zika?

A: A number of countries in the Americas from Mexico to Brazil have active **Zika** transmission. In addition, Cape Verde and three Pacific Islands (American Samoa, Samoa and Tonga) have reported

transmission of the virus. We have also seen the **Zika** virus in travelers returning to the U.S. from places where **Zika** is spreading—but to date, several people are thought to have been infected locally in Florida through the bite of a mosquito.

Inventory Weeds

As you probably know, it's now too late in the summer to spray for most pasture weeds. There are a few exceptions, but most weeds in pastures should be sprayed in the spring when they are young and actively growing.

Now is a good time to inventory your weed situation. One thing is for sure - if you have a lot of weeds in a certain place this year, you'll probably have them again in that place next year. Right now, weeds are large enough to see and most will have seed heads or fruiting parts that make them easier to identify. This greatly aids in inventorying the weeds.

First, identify the species and abundance of each of the weeds you want to control. Mark this information on a field map and highlight areas where



there are hard-to-control weeds or particularly high numbers of weeds. Be sure to accurately identify areas where you might be able to spot spray difficult-to-control weeds and save some money by not spraying the entire pasture.

Next, identify areas on the map you don't want to spray or where you don't want to spray certain herbicides. Examples are areas where you want to maintain clovers or an area with wildlife food plots. In these areas, you may want to avoid herbicides altogether or use herbicides that are not as harsh on the plants you want to keep.

After you have inventoried the situation, sit down and work out a spray plan and budget that includes the correct herbicides to use and when to use them. Many of the weed control failures we see are due to using incorrect products for the targeted weeds or spraying at the wrong time of year.

Creating a spray plan now, when the weeds are easy to identify, can be very valuable in controlling weeds at the least come spring.