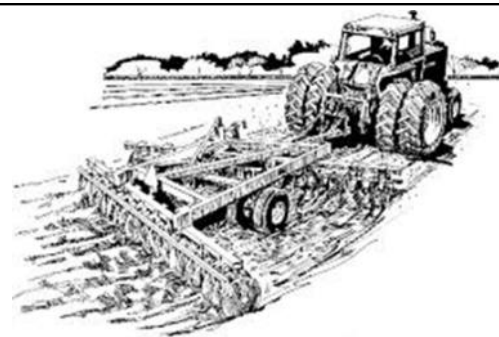


TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Volume XVI, Issue II

Jackson County Agri-News

April 2021

Important Dates

- April 21 & 22—Ag Day @ BRC
- May 5—Texas Watershed Steward Workshop—Auditorium 1-5 p.m.
- May 6—Private App. Lic. Training—JCSB Kitchen.
- June 14—Ag Tour—Ganado
- Aug. 2-4—TAMU Beef Cattle Shortcourse

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Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator License

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has released information pertaining to all commercial, non-commercial, and private applicator licenses pertaining to required CEUs for license renewal. Commercial and Non-Commercial license holders are required to renew their license annually by attaining 5 CEUs.

Previously license holders could not attain those 5 CEUs online in concurrent years. That ruling has been lifted for 2021 allowing license holders to attain all 5 hours online even if they did so in 2020. Private applicator license holders are required to renew by obtaining 15 CEUs in a 5-year period with a maximum of 10 CEUs being obtained online. TDA has relaxed that ruling for 2021 to allow private applicator license holders to obtain all 15 CEUs online.

2021 Ag Tour

The Jackson County Extension Field Crops Committee will attempt to conduct an Ag Tour on, Monday, June 14, 2021. A Corn Hybrid trial has been planted on the Jeff Todish Farm on CR 211. Six corn hybrids were planted in a replicated trial on March 20th. Also replicated Cotton Variety trial was planted on the Chris Hajovsky Farm near Ganado. Ten cotton varieties were included in the trial. A Sorghum Hybrid trial has been planted on the Batchelder Farm on CR 476. Seven sorghum hybrids were planted and replicated on March 10th. Two hours of CEU's for your Pesticide applicators license will be available for \$10. One in IPM, one in General. The tour will start from the American Legion Hall at 4:00 p.m. Certified Crop Advisor hours will also be available.

Tour speakers include: Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Extension Agronomist from College Station; Dr. Josh McGinty, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist, Corpus Christi; Dr. Dalton Ludwick, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomologist, Corpus Christi

After the tour, we will come together at the American Legion Hall in Ganado for a meal and programs. A meal will be catered by Mustang Creek BBQ in the American Legion Hall. Speakers at the auditorium will include: Corina Hutchinson, FSA program director; Jeff Nunley, South Texas Cotton & Grain and Bowen Rose, Hemp Producer from Jackson County. For more information, call Jackson County AgriLife Extension Office @ 361-782-3312.

Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course

August 2 - 4, 2021

Registration coming soon!

The Beef Cattle Short Course, held yearly in College Station, Texas, is one of the largest beef cattle educational event in the country. The three-day event draws more than 2,000 beef cattle producers from Texas and abroad.

The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course has a rich tradition and historical place in the programs emanating from the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. Dating as far back as 1942, Professor John K Riggs started the first in a series of Beef Cattle Short Courses held on the campus of Texas A&M College to discuss the results of beef cattle research from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station with Texas beef producers. This historical beginning and purpose is still the standard today for the Beef Cattle Short Course held at Texas A&M University. Today the highly respected TAM Beef Cattle Short Course is nationally and internationally recognized as the largest attended beef cattle educational program of its type in the world. It has gained the respect from organizations, associations, Land Grant universities and agencies alike as the focal point for beef cattle educational information. The Cattleman's College features more than 20 concurrent sessions. Topics include animal health, nutrition, reproduction, breeding, genetics, selection, research, marketing and handling. Management sessions will cover business, forage, range, and purebred cattle. Topics such as landowner issues and fence building will be featured at this BCSC. Sessions are designed for everyone, from the newest member of the industry to the most seasoned producer. A number of pesticide CEUs and veterinarian CECs are available to attendees. Additionally, over 150 agriculture related businesses and trade show exhibitors annually attend the course and attest to the fact that it is the most highly attended activity of its kind anywhere in the United States. Annually over 1,700 participants attend the Beef Cattle Short Course to gain valuable knowledge about beef cattle production.

The short course, hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University, features over 20 concurrent educational sessions that are designed for varying levels of experience. Topics covered include:

- animal health
- nutrition
- reproduction
- breeding
- genetics
- selection
- research
- marketing
- record keeping
- handling

In addition to the sessions, live demonstrations are provided such as:

- chute-side calf working
- cattle handling
- brush management
- tractor safety
- beef carcass value determination

Participants can also earn Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide continuing education units, or CEU's.

TEXAS Watershed Steward

May 5, 2021:
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Jackson County Extension Office
411 North Wells Street
Edna, TX 77957

In-Person & Virtual Attendance Options Available
Preregistration Required
Free professional continuing education/CEUs!

Edna, TX

Workshop provided through Clean Water Act 319 nonpoint
source grant funding from the TSSWCB and U.S. EPA

This workshop will detail parameters of water quality, watershed & land management, the Lavaca River, and ways to become involved in water restoration & protection activities.

Pre-register for the workshop by going to:
<https://tw.s.tamu.edu/workshops/registration>
or call 979.862.4457

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
Watershed
Steward

TEXAS STATE
Soil & Water
CONSERVATION BOARD

Conduct BSEs on Bulls Prior to the Spring Breeding Season

Following the February winter storm that produced record low temperatures across a large portion of the state, there is concern from producers about the presence of frostbite on some breeding bulls. Others have expressed concern about reduced sperm production and quality even if no frostbite was observed on the scrotum. As testing of bulls for the spring breeding season recently began, there have been reports from Veterinarians and Extension agents of a higher-than-normal prevalence of breeding soundness exam (BSE) failures in bulls. While it is difficult to estimate the extent to which a specific operation's bull battery may (or may not) have been affected by abnormally low temperatures and extended snow and ice cover, one thing remains certain...a pre-breeding BSE is the only way to objectively evaluate a bull's readiness to breed prior to turnout.

Please know that we are working diligently to provide you with the information necessary to make best management recommendations to your producers in order to help mitigate any negative consequences of the recent winter storm on bull fertility. Dr. Tom Hairgrove is actively collecting data from several Veterinarians, which in collaboration with Dr. Ky Pohler, will be analyzed and used to inform those recommendations. Thank you to Andy Holloway for bringing this to our attention by sharing some of the results of BSEs that have been conducted in Hemphill County.

Early observations indicate a higher-than-normal rate of BSE failure or deferment to re-test in bulls that have visual signs of frostbite. However, it appears that a large portion of those are due to morphological sperm abnormalities (physical/structural defects) that can be attributed to damage that occurred during storage. From a conceptual standpoint, the damage most likely occurred due to excessive heating in response to the frostbite. Similar consequences would be expected during times of extreme heat stress, such as is often the case throughout the summer months in Texas. We also (preliminarily) expect younger bulls to have been more resilient to the extreme cold, as they have a greater ability to raise their testes and prevent frostbite. However, we do not yet have the objective data to support that notion.

Nonetheless, many of the bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred to re-test may recover and pass a BSE, without requiring a full 60-day cycle of spermatogenesis to do so. While we do not yet have the objective data to back that up as it relates to this specific scenario, that is the conclusion that the available information points us toward.

It is also important to recognize that even in a normal year the rate of BSE failure is in the realm of 15 to 20% of bulls tested, and therefore approximately 1 out of every 5 bulls would be expected to fail a BSE. While it is likely that there will be a small portion of bulls that will be non-breeders due to physical damage and inability to physically breed cows, those bulls should be quickly identified by a BSE.

This extreme weather event is one of many reasons why working with your Veterinarian to conduct a pre-breeding BSE on all bulls is always advised, and therefore should be recommended, regardless of past performance. This is also true for recently purchased bulls that underwent a BSE prior to the winter storm. For producers that do not routinely conduct pre-breeding BSE's, this would certainly be the year to start, and to start early. The knowledge gained in doing so will provide them with the ability to decide if they need to replace bulls while replacements are still available, or if they need to turn out more bulls than normal.

A key take away from this is to not panic and not immediately cull all bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred for re-test. Once results are known on the initial tests, plans can be made to locate additional sires if needed or a plan can be developed to rotate sires in and out during the breeding season. Following the re-test, we suspect many, or at least several of the deferred bulls

will pass a BSE. Producers should be encouraged to request a complete BSE that includes evaluation for motility, morphology, physical defects and testing for Trichomoniasis. Most often a quick screening for sperm motility constitutes a “fertility test” on bulls. Morphology is as important to a sperm’s ability to fertilize an egg and is often not looked at during routine BSEs conducted in the field. The value of a complete BSE cannot be overemphasized.

Feed-through Fly Control Options Available for Cattle

Flies do more than just bite cattle. They can take a bite out of ranchers’ profits, too. The extra energy spent in constant head-tossing, stomping and overall restlessness translates to lost profits from missed opportunities in weight gain and milk production for beef and dairy cattle.

There are several options for fly control, including mechanical, biological and chemical strategies. But feed-through fly control is one of the most effective and easiest forms.

Central Life Sciences has two products that are approved for use in cattle herds.

“Our first product, Altosid, is targeted to pasture cattle. When you put cattle on pasture, the number one pest is a horn fly, and Altosid has just great action against horn flies,” Mark Upton, director of Feed Additives Sales for Central Life Sciences, said.



Altosid, which has been on the market for more than 40 years, is an insect growth regulator. It should be fed before horn flies appear in early spring and continued through the summer months and into fall. The company’s general advice is to feed 30 days before average daily daytime temperatures reach 65 degrees and end 30 days after the first frost in the fall.

“The horn fly causes \$1 billion a year in economic losses to beef cattle in North America. We need to do something to try to eliminate that,” Upton said in an interview with the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network. “The other problem is these flies carry diseases. Oftentimes a cow that has a bad quarter, so she’s got mastitis or some other issues, those are caused by flies. From an economic standpoint in terms of production, but also disease prevention, fly control is extremely important.”

Central Life Science’s other product, ClariFly, is designed for animals in confinement like dairies or feedyards. Upton noted animals in close quarters tend to have several different species of flies affecting them, including house flies, stable flies and horn flies.

ClariFly stops flies in the larval stage.

“There’s just a lot of reasons that we need to do something to try to keep these flies in check,” Upton said. “Fortunately, we’ve got some products that really work well to do that. Both products have a tremendous amount of benefits, and a very good return on investment.”

For more information, visit <https://www.centrallifesciences.com/markets/livestock>.

Texas Tops all U.S. States in Exports for 19th Consecutive Year

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — For nearly two decades, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis, BEA, has ranked Texas as the No. 1 exporter among U.S. states.

“Texas shipped \$279.3 billion worth of goods around the globe in 2020,” said Luis Ribera, [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) economist, Bryan-College Station. “The state outperformed all other states, with the value of its exports accounting for 19.5% of overall U.S. exported products for 2020.”

Texas’ 2020 exports amounted to more than the sum total of goods exported by the next three largest exporting states.

Mexico and Canada received the largest portion of Texas’ exports, with Mexico accounting for almost 32% of the total and Canada for just over 8.3%. However, goods from the Lone Star State are exported all over the world.

“The COVID-19 pandemic had a detrimental effect on 2020 exports nationwide, but this impact was less on Texas due to the state’s diverse and resilient economy,” Ribera said.

He also noted while the economic impact of Winter Storm Uri had a negative impact on first-quarter 2021 exports, the state is poised for a quick recovery and to provide not only sufficient commodities and consumables for its own residents but to also export to others.

“Texans saw some supply chain disruptions and temporary shortages of food and other needed supplies during the winter storm and in its aftermath,” he said. “But once issues affecting fuel availability, transportation, workforce availability, stymied agricultural production and other challenges normalize once again, the state more than likely will remain ranked as the top exporting state in the country.”

A Resource-full State

Many of the products Texas exports literally come straight out of the ground.

“Natural resources, whether renewable or nonrenewable, are found throughout the world and have been extracted for human use for tens of thousands of years,” said Roel Lopez, Ph.D., director of the [Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute](#), San Antonio. “They are valuable not only in the development of commodities for providing income and revenue, but also for sustaining life and improving the quality of life.”

Texas is a large state with an abundance of natural resources, Ribera said. And from an energy perspective, primary fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas are among the state’s most exportable natural resources.

“Crude petroleum oils account for about 22.2% of total Texas exports,” he said. “Crude oil, along with miscellaneous petroleum-based products and liquified propane, are among the state’s top exports, contributing greatly to our total economic output or real gross domestic product, or GDP.”

“Our energy resources and agricultural production are of great importance — not only to the state, but also to the nation and to people throughout the world. Texas leads the nation in number of farms and ranches. And the fact that it has so much agricultural production, yet agricultural exports are no longer near the top for contributing to the state’s GDP, shows just how diverse and exceptional the Texas economy has become.”

Beyond Oil and Cattle: [Micro]Chips with your Salsa?

When most people think high-tech, they typically think California and, in particular, Silicon Valley.

“But Texas has also been the No. 1 exporting state for technology products for several years in a row,” Ribera said. “In 2020, we had \$44.8 billion in technology-related exports, while California was in second place with \$37.5 billion in those exports.”

He said other top 10 exports include aircraft and computer parts, integrated circuits, modems and other reception and transmission devices, and semi-conductor manufacturing equipment.

“Texas has been growing steadily as an exporter of high-tech-related products and equipment,” Ribera said. “Technology is one sector people don’t often associate with Texas because they tend to associate us primarily with oil and cattle. And while those are important to the state and a source of great pride, we manufacture, produce and export of a wide variety of other products and goods needed and desired by consumers worldwide.”

2021 Ag Day

On April 21 and 22, Jackson County Farm Bureau and Texas AgriLife Extension will coordinate the Youth Ag Day for all Jackson County 4th Graders and 5th Graders. Approximately 275 kids along with 18 teachers each day will come out to enjoy and take part in an Agricultural educational experience like none other. This is taking two days this year because we are going to pick up the 5th graders due to the fact they missed out last year from the COVID. So, we are planning on doing the 4th graders on Wednesday, April 21st and 5th graders on Thursday, April 22nd.



The 2021 Ag Day education focuses on the county's agriculture aspects. Several AgriLife Extension committees, including Beef Cattle, Field Crops, Master Gardeners & EEA along with speakers representing the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Rice Belt Warehouse, B-H Genetics, Lavaca Navidad River Authority, Texas AgriLife Poultry Science, The First State Bank, Crop Production Services, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Safeguard Pest Control, Jackson County 4-H, Healthy South Texas and the Jackson County Farm Bureau will share interesting and informative information with the youth on the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. Approximately 35 volunteer speakers will make up the presenters.

Presentations will include topics such as: types of food made from corn and rice; good, bad and ugly bugs in the garden; 4-H program and projects; beef and beef by-products; cotton; poultry; wildlife; banking; "Rainfall Simulator—The Science of Runoff"; Healthy South Texas and home safety with chemicals.

Southwest Dairy Mobile Classroom instructors will demonstrate how to milk a cow, describe how milk goes from the farm to the consumer, and then answer questions from the audience. Instructors teach audiences about characteristics and anatomy of dairy cows; the importance of dairy foods for good health; the modern milking process; and modern environmental and food safety practices.

April 21 & 22 are Ag Days for Jackson County. If you would like to help out in this exciting event, phone 782-3312.

Jackson County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale

The Jackson County Master Gardener Association will hold its Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 10 from 8 AM to noon at the Jackson County Service Building Auditorium, located at 411 N. Wells Street in Edna, TX. Face masks and social distancing will be required.

Plants offered for sale are those known to flourish in the Texas Coastal Region. Proceeds go toward college scholarships for careers in horticulture or agriculture and the addition of new plants and maintenance of the Texana Educational Garden. This Garden is free and open to all and is located adjacent to the County Service Building.

Birdhouses hand-made by master gardeners will also be available at the sale.

Gardeners who know in advance what plants they hope to purchase can call Judy Marek @ 361-782-0078 to preorder. Please call before April 1st. A deposit will be required. Availability is not guaranteed but we will work with our suppliers to fulfill your desires.

Agri-News Trivia

Did you know?

- **Total U.S. corn yield (tons per acre) has increased more than 360% since 1950.**
- *U.S. farmers and ranchers produce 18% of the world's beef with only 8% of the world's cattle.*
- Sam Houston (1793-1863) was the first president and first governor of Texas. The Cherokee, with whom he lived in Tennessee, called him "the Raven." Though one of the most famous Texans, he was actually born in Virginia and served as governor of Tennessee. The famous battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" is often attributed to Sam Houston.

Private Applicators License Training

If you plan on using a state limited use or state restricted use pesticide, such as Grazon P+D, 2 4-D, Weedmaster, etc., and need a license, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be sponsoring a **Private Applicator Training at 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 6, 2021** at the Jackson County Extension Office. Books and study materials for the course need to be purchased ahead of time for \$50.00 at the Extension Office. The exam can be taken a location of your choice. If you complete the training portion and score a 70 or above on the examination, you will be eligible to apply for your Private Applicator License, which will allow you to purchase all state limited use and restricted use pesticides used in agriculture.

To reserve your spot at the training, contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (361) 782-3312.



Real Learning for Real Life



Newsletter by E-Mail

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Mike Hiller, CEA-Ag/NR

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