

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Volume XVI, Issue IV

Jackson County Agri-News

October 2021

Important Dates

- Oct. 5-9—Jackson County Youth Fair—BRC
- Oct. 27-28—South Texas Farm & Ranch Show, Victoria Community Ctr.
- Nov. 10—Private App. Lic. Training—JCSB Kitchen.
- Dec. 2–5 Hour CEU Event—JCSB Auditorium.
- Jan. 13—JCCRA Membership Banquet—JCSB Auditorium.

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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.

5 Hour CEU Event scheduled In-Person for December 2nd

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Jackson County, the Field Crops committee and the Beef Committee are sponsoring a 5 Hour CEU Event to be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021.

9:00 – 9:50

Melissa Barton – “Texas Pesticide Laws and Regulations”, Texas Department of Agriculture. (1 hr. Laws & Regs.)

10:00 – 10:50

Clay Wolter – “Brush Management Control Options and Proper Timing”, Range and Pasture Specialist with Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC. (1 hr. IPM)

11:00 – 11:50

Dr. Robert Puckett, “Control of Fire Ants, Tawny Crazy Ant, Argentine Ants, Ghost Ants and Related Pests”, Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. (1 hr. IPM)

12:00 – 1:00

Lunch break

1:00 - 1:50

Ward Ling – “Watershed & Water Quality”, Texas Water Resources Institute. (1 hr. Gen.)

2:00 - 2:50

Chris Watts – “Methods for controlling Buzzards, Coyotes and Feral Hogs – What’s Legal and What’s Not”.—Texas Wildlife Services, USDA, AgriLife Extension, Wildlife Damage Management Biologist. (1 hr. IPM)

For enrollment in this event and more information contact the Jackson County AgriLife Extension Office at 361-782-3312.

Sponsors: Capital Farm Credit, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, and Jackson County Farm Bureau.

All Texas cattle brands, marks expire after Aug. 30

In case you were not already aware, all county livestock brand registrations in Texas expired on August 31st. The renewal period for re-registration is currently open, and remains open through February 28th, 2022. Following February 28th, within each individual county, any previously registered brands that were not re-registered become available to be registered by someone else. This applies to all brands that were registered within the past 10 years, regardless of when they were registered within that time period.

"Brand owners have a six-month grace period in order to re-register their brands, and that's beginning Aug. 31 through Feb. 28, 2022," said Michelle Carlile, assistant director of Law Enforcement, Brand and Inspection Services for the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA). "If they fail to re-register their brand during those six months, then their brand is open for anyone to take."

All brands are registered through the county clerk's office. "They will need to go directly to the county clerk in the county where their livestock reside," Carlile said. "So, if they have multiple ranches in different counties, then they would need to go to each county clerk's office." Some offices are participating in an online re-registration program. Carlile recommends contacting the county clerk to see if the county is participating. Brand applications and renewals require a drawing of the brand that notes the location on the animal.

"The location of the brand is just as important as the brand itself," she said. "You and I can have the same brand in the same county as long as the location is different. So, I can brand on the left hip. You can brand on the right hip. So, the location is part of the brand itself."

Carlile said the fee varies by county, but the average fee is \$26 per brand. Some counties charge an additional \$5 if the brand is on multiple locations. Although Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database, TSCRA keeps a centralized database for the association's law enforcement purposes.

"A brand is like a return address for the cattle. So, when the cattle are missing, we can find it quickly in our database and find out who that brand or who that cow belongs to," Carlile said. "It also prevents theft. Our Special Rangers have spoke about when they've interviewed suspects and the suspects have actually told us that they will avoid cattle that have brands on them and go for the unbranded livestock. It's a good deterrent for thieves not to take branded cattle."

The registration is good for 10 years and will expire Aug. 30, 2031. Any previously recorded brand, marks and tattoos that have not been re-registered by the Feb. 28 deadline will be considered unclaimed and eligible for registration by another.

In Texas, it's not mandatory to brand livestock. "However, if you do brand your livestock, it is mandatory that you register the brand with the county clerk," Carlile said. "Failure to do so is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$500."

For more information, visit <http://www.tscrabrands.com/register-your-brand.html> or call 1-800-242-7820 to speak with the TSCRA Brand and Inspection Department.

Farm animal liability signs available from Texas Farm Bureau

Earlier this year, Gov. Greg Abbott signed HB 365, which expanded liability protection to farmers and ranchers on their own property under the Texas Farm Animal Liability Act (FALA). Those changes go into effect on Sept. 1 and require additional steps be taken by farm animal owners. Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) actively supported the legislation to make improvements to the act.

FALA is a statute that offers limited liability for routine and customary activities on a farm, handling and managing farm animals, and ranching activities. "The act is a protection for folks who have livestock or animals that are unpredictable by nature," Regan Beck, TFB director of Government Affairs, said. "If somebody gets hurt around these animals, this act helps protect the people who own them—the farmer or rancher—from liability to people who are injured by farm animals on their property."

The meaning of "farm animal activity" now includes owning, raising, transporting or pasturing a farm animal. The bill adds language to ensure it is applied to working farms and ranches, as well as farm and ranch hands.

The statute requires farm animal professionals, farm and ranch owners and lessees to post and maintain a sign on the premises with the new statutory language. The sign must be in a clearly visible location on or near the stable, corral or arena where the farm animal activities are conducted.

"Under these changes to protect themselves, farmers and ranchers need to actually post a sign that shows that they are not liable for these injuries. The sign needs to be in a prominent place, it's clearly seen, wherever the activities may be taking place," Beck said. "If you have some stables or corral or wherever you're actually working with these animals, the sign needs to be there and needs to be visible." The language should be added to any contracts for lessees, employees or independent contractors, Beck noted.

"If there are any written contracts with folks about the animals, this disclaimer needs to be included in that contract to make it effective," he said.

The legislation is a major win for Texas farmers and ranchers. "This legislation is important because a lot of farmers and ranchers thought they had protections before, but they didn't," Beck said. "Farm Bureau had increasing protection for farmers and ranchers as a priority issue this legislative session. We supported HB 365 in the Legislature and worked with the bill author, Rep. Andrew Murr, to make sure this bill was passed."

TFB now offers liability signs that meet the language requirements under FALA. The statutory language reads "Warning: Under Texas Law (Chapter 87, Civil Practice and Remedies Code), a farm animal professional or farm owner or lessee is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in farm animal activities, including an employee or independent contractor, resulting from the inherent risks of farm animal activities." The signs are available for \$12, plus tax and shipping. They are 11 in. x 14 in. and made of a metal composite material.

Signs may be purchased online through the TFB Store at texasfarmbureau.org/store. Signs can also be purchased through your county Farm Bureau office. TFB also has custom gate signs, private property protection signs and agritourism warning signs available. For more information on these member benefits and others, visit texasfarmbureau.org/memberbenefits.

Agriculture Advocacy Highlights 37th Annual Farm and Ranch Show

The South Texas Farm & Ranch Show continues to be the longest running (started in 1982) non-profit regional farm and ranch show in South Texas and this year will enjoy its 37th year of success by providing quality, relevant, education for farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and the general public. Originally, the South Texas Farm and Ranch Show was organized by local volunteers and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Now, the show is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers and AgriLife Extension personnel who serve on the South Texas Farm & Ranch Show Committee. Since its inception, the show has grown and continually provides scholarships to local and area high school students that are pursuing agriculture related degrees. Since 1991, over \$300,000 of scholarship money has been awarded to over 220 students in Victoria and surrounding counties.

"In general, people in America are 2 to 3 generations removed from the family farm. Agricultural illiteracy is at an all-time high. Therefore, this year's show will focus on agricultural advocacy to bring to the surface relevant, factual information about the agricultural industry," said Matt Bochat, County Extension Agent - Agriculture/Natural Resources for Victoria County. The show dates will be October 27-28 and the event will be held at the Victoria Community Center. Both days will feature keynote luncheon speakers including Dr. Jeff Hyde, Director of Texas A&M Agrilife Extension on October 27th and Mr. Bob McCan, Manager of McFaddin Enterprises will speak on October 28th. Dr. Hyde will present "Extension's Changing Dynamics" and Mr. McCan will touch on "Beef Perception through the Eyes of A Cattleman."

One of the biggest draws to the farm and ranch show is the Cattleman's College and it will take place on Wednesday the 27th. Speakers will focus on a variety of topics including grass identification, beef sustainability, pasture & forage management, beef perception, economics and marketing and much more. Day one also offers a row crops segment featuring crops research, integrated pest management, herbicides and more. Finally, day one will conclude with wildlife sessions covering native plants for quail restoration, feral hog control, and managing rangeland for wildlife.

Starting early Thursday, October 28th will be a day dedicated to pesticide applicator recertification. All pesticide applicators including private, non-commercial, and commercial are required to get a certain number of continuing education units (CEU's) to retain their license. Topics for this day will include IPM strategies, ranch management solutions, pesticide compliance, pesticide laws and regulations, and water issues and readiness in agriculture.

Thursday morning, the show will also offer an opportunity for those wishing to obtain a pesticide applicator's license from the Texas Department of Agriculture through the Pesticide Applicator Training program. This training is required before an applicant can sit for testing to receive a private applicators license. Only the training is offered for pesticide applicators. The test is administered by a third-party vendor of the Texas Department of Agriculture with those exams given off site.

The fee for the Pesticide Applicator Training is \$30 and this will include a lunch ticket. Training materials can also be purchased for \$40 at the show or at the Extension office. If you plan to attend this training, the show asks that you call the Victoria County Extension Office to ensure that we have adequate materials.

The South Texas Farm and Ranch Show is also known for a very diverse and informative trade show. This year is no exception. There will be approximately 150 booths displaying all kinds of agricultural information, equipment, and demonstrations. Farm and ranch equipment will be on hand for displays and demonstrations. Antique farm tractors and equipment will be available for viewing and pictures.

Registration for all the educational programs will begin at 6:30 a.m. at the main entrance to the Community Center and will cost \$30/person/day and will include the lunch program. Entrance into the trade show is free! A grand total of 16 CEUs for private, non-commercial, and commercial pesticide applicators will be available in the two day show.

2021 South Texas Farm and Ranch Show Educational Programs October 27-28, 2021

**6:00 AM Early Registration &
Breakfast Both Days**

**All Educational Sessions
Held in Annex**

Victoria Community Center
2905 E. North St.
Victoria, TX 77901

Wednesday, October 27th		Thursday, October 28th		
ANNEX 1 & 2		ANNEX 1 & 2		
7:00 - 10:00 AM CATTLEMEN'S COLLEGE I CEU credit: 2 General, 1 drift *Plant Identification Contest *Pasture & Range Management <i>Dr. Robert Lyons, Professor, Extension Range Specialist, Agrilife Extension</i> *Pasture & Hay Field Weed Management Alternatives <i>Dr. Josh McGinty, Agrilife Extension</i> Moderator - <i>Dr. Robert Lyons</i>	ANNEX 4 CROPS MANAGEMENT CEU credit: 1 General, 2 IPM *Coastal Bend Crops Research Review <i>Dr. Josh McGinty & Mr. Stephen Biles, Agrilife Extension</i> *IPM Update in Crops <i>Dr. Dalton Ludwick, Agrilife Extension</i> Moderator - <i>Mr. Anthony Netardus, Agrilife Extension</i>	7:00 - 10:00 AM TDA LICENSE RECERTIFICATION I CEU credit: 2 General, 1 Laws & Regulations <i>Mrs. Melissa Barton, Texas Department of Agriculture</i> *Innovative Pasture Management Concepts <i>Mr. Rob Brooks, Bayer Range & Pasture Specialist</i> *Texas Water Issues <i>Dr. Allen Berthold, Texas Water Resources Institute</i> Moderator - <i>Mr. Greg Baker, Agrilife Extension</i>	ANNEX 4 *PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING <i>Mr. Brian Yanta, Agrilife Extension</i>	
10:00 AM TRADE SHOW OPENS		10:00 AM TRADE SHOW OPENS		
11:30 AM Luncheon <i>Dr. Jeff Hyde, Director, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension</i>	11:30 AM Luncheon <i>Mr. Bob McCan, Manager, McFaddin Enterprises, Past President, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association</i>			
1:30 - 4:30 PM CATTLEMEN'S COLLEGE II CEU credit: 1 IPM, 1 General *Hot Topics in Beef Herd Management <i>Dr. Joe Paschal, Agrilife Extension</i> *Beef Promotion Quality Program's Update <i>Mr. Mike McCravy, Texas Beef Council</i> *Beef Market Outlook, <i>Dr. David Anderson, Agrilife Extension</i> Moderator - <i>Dr. Joe Paschal</i>	WILDLIFE CEU credit: 2 General *Native Plants for Quail Restoration & Ecology *Whitetail Deer Management & Habitat <i>Dr. Aaron Sumrall, Agrilife Extension</i> *Establishing Wildlife Habitat <i>Mr. Doug Jobs, Texas A&M-Kingsville; Texas Native Seeds</i> Moderator - <i>Dr. Aaron Sumrall</i>	1:30 - 4:30 PM TDA LICENSE RECERTIFICATION II CEU credit: 1 General, 1 IPM, 1 Laws & Regulations *Broadleaf Weed Control in Pastures <i>Ms. Rachel Hinton, Corteva Agri-science</i> *IPM Strategies for Agriculture <i>Mr. Stephen Biles, Agrilife Extension</i> *Pesticide Laws & Regulations <i>Dr. Mark Matocha, Agrilife Extension</i> Moderator - <i>Mr. Stephen Biles</i>		
6:00 PM TRADE SHOW CLOSES		5:00 PM TRADE SHOW CLOSES		

JACKSON COUNTY CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION

ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD!!!

\$100 A Ticket



**Drawing will be held
January 13, 2022
during the
JCCRA Membership
Banquet.**



For Ticket Sales or additional information contact:

Mike Hiller, CEA-AG/NR

#361-782-3312

Lyn Utz, Jackson Co., Beef Committee Chairman

#361-935-1914

Lindsey Lee, Jackson Co., Beef Committee Treasure

#361-781-4334

**TWO PENS OF
3 BRED
COMMERCIAL
BRANGUS HEIFERS
WILL BE RAFFLED.**



**KEEP THE HEIFERS
OR
WE WILL BUY THEM
BACK FOR
\$ 6 GRAND/PEN**



COMMERCIAL SCHOLARSHIP HEIFER RAFFLE

You do not need to be present to win.

CATTLE RAISERS BANQUET SET

The Jackson County Cattle Raisers Association will have their annual Membership Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 13, at the County Services Building. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm with a meal at 6:30 and the program at 7:00.

Dr. Joe Paschal, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Livestock Specialist stationed at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi will be speaking. Paschal serves 37 counties in Extension Districts 11 (Gulf Coast) and 12 (South Texas). Paschal assists County Extension Agents in conducting, developing, and evaluating educational and applied research activities in animal breeding and genetics, reproduction, nutrition, management, and marketing. His interests include applied beef cattle breeding and genetics including applications of genomics, tropical and subtropical cattle production systems, growth and development, and improving carcass beef quality.



In addition to his regional programming responsibilities, Paschal works closely with the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association Bull Gain and Heifer Development Program and is responsible for collecting and compiling the data for the American Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) Carcass Merit Program and the ABBA Bull Gain Test.

Paschal has published several articles, abstracts, and Extension bulletins on the economic value of beef cattle management and is a frequent writer for several weekly and monthly producer publications. He is also a national /international judge of beef breeding and slaughter cattle, especially Brahman and Bos indicus, influenced breeds. Dr. Paschal has traveled extensively internationally, especially in Mexico and Central and South America but also Australia, Africa, and Europe. He is working on beef cattle projects in the Dominican Republic and a beef production project in the Republic of Vietnam.

The winning tickets for the 2021 JCCRA Heifer Raffle will be drawn during the banquet. Two winning tickets will receive 3 bred heifers each. This raffle is to fund the JCCRA Scholarship program.

Members are reminded that annual dues are to be renewed at the banquet or through the mail. Dues are \$20 per individual or \$35 per couple. If you are unable to attend the banquet please send your dues along with your mailing address and phone number to join anyway.

An overview of activities of the JCCRA will be presented to show their involvement with beef production and the youth of Jackson County. Aluminum painted member signs will be available to mount at the entrance of your property to members for \$20.00 each

A drawing will be held for door prizes donated by local merchants and individuals. For more information contact Lynn Utz at 361-935-1914 or Mike Hiller at 361-782-3312. If you are not at the banquet and would like to purchase signs contact, Lynn Utz, or Mike Hiller.

**MEMBER
JACKSON CO.
CATTLE RAISERS
NO TRESPASSING**

A Century of Agricultural Aviation

This month marks 100 years of agricultural aviation in the U.S. U.S. Army pilot John Macready made the first aerial application during an experimental flight on a Curtiss JN-6 "Super Jenny" in 1921.

It was after the end of World War II that the industry really took off. Thousands of pilots returned from the war effort. Airplanes were cheap, and pilots were plentiful, so an industry that had grown slowly before the war began to expand rapidly.

In Texas, the first aerial applicators were likely in the Rio Grande Valley or in the rice belt of the Coastal Bend. The Texas Agricultural Aviation Association launched in the Rio Grande Valley in 1951.

Technology has put aerial applicators at the forefront of precision agriculture. Today's airplanes are safer, faster and able to cover more acres per hour than ever before. Disbursal systems allow for exact placement of the products being applied. A variable rate of product allows pilots to apply only the exact amount of product needed. It's precise, and it's targeted.

The results are increased yields for Texas farmers who battle insects and plant diseases every day.

Aerial applicators are partners with those on the ground. We celebrate their century of contributions in helping to feed a hungry nation.



Fall Armyworms On The March Across Texas

Cooler temperatures and widespread rain events across Texas have forage and crop producers scrambling to fight [armyworms](#). Vanessa Corriher-Olson, AgriLife Extension forage specialist, Overton, said irrigated fields may be especially susceptible to the pest because of forage quality and quantity.

Harvesting forages can be a quick solution to climbing armyworm numbers because they do not consume dry plant matter, she said. They will, however, consume freshly cut grass, and should be treated when armyworm numbers are beyond three or more caterpillars per square foot.

Corriher-Olson said it is critical that producers have pesticides ready for applications as soon as armyworm numbers near the recommended threshold. Armyworms in those numbers should be treated immediately because they consume 85% of their diet in the last two or three days of their larval stage.

“The big question is how long will they be a problem, and the answer is until the first killing frost,” she said. “Armyworms are not a ‘spray once and they won’t be a problem’ kind of thing. This could be a two-, three- or four-spray situation if forage for hay or grazing is valuable to them.”

Armyworms – Know Your Enemy

Armyworms are green, with brown or black colorations and can be identified by the white inverted Y on their head. They can grow up to one inch in length when mature.

The pest got its name because they appear to march across hay fields, consuming the grass in their path. Armyworm caterpillars are the larval form of a moth that migrates by the millions northward in the spring and summer to lay their eggs. Armyworm moths can lay up to 2,000 eggs that hatch in two to three days.

Corriher-Olson said there are four to five generations that move throughout the state per growing season. They typically move north from Mexico and South Texas as temperatures warm in the spring. Generations will push further north into Midwestern states, but moths and larvae remain present throughout the state. Drier, hotter conditions slow their life cycles. Moths lay fewer eggs and caterpillar growth is slowed. But rainfall and cooler temperatures can trigger major infestations when local populations, new hatches and migrating moths descend on areas with quality food sources.

“They are there the whole time, we just may not see them due to their size, numbers or both,” she said. “It just takes the right weather conditions, and you can see an explosion in a matter of days.”

Corriher-Olson said armyworm caterpillars are picky eaters and prefer high-quality, fertilized forage typically found on fields maintained for hay production. They are a common pest of Bermuda grass, sorghum, corn, wheat, rye grass and many other crops throughout Texas.

Producers should scout each morning for armyworms, she said. Armyworms are primarily night feeders unless conditions, such as cooler temperatures with overcast skies, allow, but they try to avoid warmer daytime temperatures. Armyworms are extremely destructive, especially when infestations escalate out of control, Corriher-Olson said.

Dalton Ludwick, AgriLife Extension entomologist, Corpus Christi, estimated two armyworms per square foot can consume 84 pounds of foliage per acre based on U.S. Department of Agriculture data. “It’s important to act immediately because if armyworms are left unchecked, they can devastate a forage crop in a matter of hours,” Corriher-Olson said. “I’ve seen entire hay meadows that were consumed overnight.”

Be Ready, Be Proactive

Pesticides are the only way to prevent armyworms from consuming existing stands or new growth post-harvest, Corriher-Olson said, and available products are directed at controlling armyworms in the larvae stage. Corriher-Olson recommends insecticides labeled for armyworm control in pastures and hayfields, including pyrethroids, which are effective in killing the caterpillars. But a combination of pyrethroid and growth inhibitor is recommended. “The pyrethroid only takes care of the ones that are in the field while the growth inhibitor provides a residual affect that will kill new hatches and any caterpillars that migrate into the field,” she said. Applicators should always follow all label instructions on pesticide use and restrictions.

Ivermectin intended for animals is not a treatment for COVID 19

What started as a quest to learn about the potential use of ivermectin in treating COVID-19 has spiraled into an alarming trend across multiple states. Thinking it can be used as a substitute for ivermectin intended for humans, many people are flocking to farm supply stores to purchase ivermectin meant for animals.

First licensed as a veterinary product in 1981, the drug is approved for use in preventing heartworm disease in small animals like dogs, and for treating certain internal and external parasites in cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and horses. The FDA approved ivermectin for human use to combat a variety of parasitic diseases (both internal and external) in 1996.

While Alvin Bronstein, a member of the AAPCC Board of Directors, says they cannot say with accuracy how the concept of using ivermectin to treat COVID-19 started, many believe a research paper out of Australia may have been the glimmer of hope people were looking for during the pandemic, setting off the ivermectin craze. Released in April 2020, the paper (The FDA-approved drug ivermectin inhibits the replication of SARS-CoV-2 in vitro) documents how the virus that causes COVID-19 responded to ivermectin when exposed in a petri dish. Because it was not given to people or animals, additional testing was needed to determine whether ivermectin might be safe or effective in preventing or treating COVID-19. Yet, it didn't stop the idea from lighting up social media.

"There is still a lot we don't know about how effective a treatment ivermectin really is for COVID-19," says Soren Rodning, an Auburn University associate professor of animal sciences. "Specifically, they have not been proven safe for use by people through clinical drug trials."

What we do know, he adds, is that the concentration of ivermectin in these products or some of the inactive ingredients used in the animal formulations may not be safe for humans. "The bottom line – do not self-medicate with animal ivermectin products," Rodning says. "I cannot emphasize this enough."

Poison Control Centers See a Surge in Calls

From January to August 2019, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) recorded 402 cases of human exposure to ivermectin across the U.S. The following year there was a slight increase for the same time frame, with 435 cases reported. In 2021, the Center saw a sharp spike, with the figure jumping to 1,125 cases. "Cases began increasing in July 2021," Bronstein says. "We assume this is COVID-19 related."

People are purchasing various highly concentrated animal ivermectin drug formulations such as pour-on, injectable, paste, and drench intended for horses, cattle, and sheep. The rise also triggered multiple admonitions from federal agencies and state health officials alike. "You are not a horse or a cow. Seriously, y'all. Stop it," tweeted the FDA on August 21.

The Alabama Poison Information Center – Children's of Alabama has fielded more than two dozen ivermectin exposure calls in recent months. Most of those calls were related to COVID-19. The Arkansas Poison and Drug Information Center says it has received 24 ivermectin calls recently. "Of those 24 cases, 23 are an individual taking a veterinary

product as a prophylactic or as a treatment for COVID-19," says Howell Foster, the center's director. While that number may not seem like a lot, the combined total for the past four years is only 25 calls.

While Ed Boetti says the Iowa Poison Control Center has received a few reports related to ivermectin use, calling is not a requirement. "Even though we cover the entire state, no one is required to give us a call," says Boetti, medical director, Iowa Poison Control Center. The center uses what is called passive surveillance, a system where reports are received from hospitals, clinics, or other sources. "It's possible there are more cases out there that we're just not hearing about," he says. "When we do get a call, one of the questions asked is what product the person affected has taken. In every call we've fielded, the animal version is what has been taken, and he or she has developed symptoms." Some of the symptoms associated with ivermectin toxicity include confusion, decreased consciousness, rash, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea.

Denying Customers

As the department lead in farm for Theisen's, Cole Steenhoek says he can usually tell when someone is trying to purchase ivermectin for personal use. "It's pretty clear by the way they talk about the product and the questions they ask," he says. The Ames, Iowa, location has seen a handful of customers try to buy ivermectin recently. The most requested item – an ivermectin oral paste used to treat worms in horses. The store also sells an injectable liquid as well as a drench, which is like the paste but in liquid form. "I did have one customer try to buy the injectable because we were out of the paste," he says. "I told him definitely not."

To date, Steenhoek has turned away about seven customers. "When I have had to deny selling it to a customer, it's because he told me outright that he plans to use the product to treat COVID-19. At that point, I can no longer sell it to him," he says, adding that the store recently posted a sign warning about the use of animal ivermectin for human consumption.

Fleet Farm has also posted signs in its stores alerting customers. In a statement, the company noted that in recent weeks, it has not seen an increase in sales of ivermectin products. While Steenhoek and Fleet Farm may not be overwhelmed with requests, others like Tractor Supply are reportedly feeling the effects. Aside from people potentially harming themselves, there may also be unintended consequences that could impact the animal industry.

"If shelves are cleared of ivermectin by people using it as a prophylactic against COVID-19, it could impact animal health because it wouldn't be available for animal husbandry practices like deworming," Rodning says. Since it is an ingredient in heartworm tablets for dogs, a shortage could also potentially affect the supply of ivermectin to manufacturers.

The FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine is asking veterinarians and animal caretakers who are having difficulty obtaining ivermectin for animal use to let them know by emailing AnimalDrugShortage@fda.hhs.gov.

"I know people are looking for hope. They want something that will help treat or prevent COVID-19 but taking ivermectin meant for animals is not the answer," Boetti says. "You are not a cow or a horse with an intestinal parasite, so please do not use it."

Agri-News Trivia

Did you know?

- Texas is home to the two largest wind farms in the world- Roscoe Wind Farm, Sweetwater, TX, and Horse Hollow Wind Farm, Wingate TX.
- *Saginaw, Texas is home to three of the largest functioning grain storage elevators in the world.*
- If Texas were a sovereign state, it would have the 10th-largest economy in the world.

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 Wednesday, November 10, 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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