Titus County

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Ag & Natural Resources Newsletter April 2019

In This Issue:

Callie Zoeller

County Extension Agent-Ag/NR

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Titus County

1708 Industrial Rd.

Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

903.572.5201

https://titus.agrilife.org/

Buttercup (Ranunculus spp.)

Callie Zoeller, CEA-Ag/NR

Plant identification is an invaluable skill for farmers and ranchers to possess. With proper identification, land managers can make educated and informed management decisions.

Buttercup is a very common weed to see this time of year in pastures and hayfields. Buttercup is a cool season annual plant that thrives in low lying areas with ample water. The plant can be identified by deeply lobed leaves and glossy yellow flowers. It is best to control buttercup in March to early April before blooms appear. Buttercup is often confused with Bitter sneezeweed and Texas groundsel, both having bright yellow flowers.

Buttercup does contain a toxic agent that can be poisonous to livestock. A large amount of plant material is usually required to cause clinical signs of livestock poisoning. Horses that consume buttercup can die from colic.

Control options include Weedmaster, 2,4-D, GrazonNext, Grazon P+D, Milestone, Cimarron Max (will destroy bahiagrass) and Pastora (will destroy bahiagrass). **Remember to always follow pesticide labels.**

Evaluate udder soundness soon after calving to use as culling criteria

Glenn Selk, OSU Professor Emeritus, Oklahoma State University

Every year at "preg" checking time, ranchers evaluate cows and make decisions as which to remove from the herd. One criteria that should be examined to cull cows is udder quality. Beef cattle producers are not as likely to think about udder health and shape as are dairy producers, but this attribute affects cow productivity and should be considered. It may be easier to be accurate in your culling decisions, if you exam the udder soundness of the cows shortly after calving when they are at the peak of lactation and the udder is as large as at any time. Take time now during the peak of lactation to write down which spring-calving cows have unsound udders. Record the cow numbers of those to be culled next fall due to unsound udders. Their heifer calves would be undesirable prospects to become replacement heifers for your herd.

The heritability estimates of udder characteristics are variable. A study done in Brahman cattle for the heritability of udder soundness indicated that progress could be made by selecting for udder soundness. They reported that 25% of the differences in udder soundness was due to genetics. Beef Improvement Federation Guidelines have suggested that the heritability of udder soundness in beef cattle is estimated at .16 to .22 which means that some progress can be made by selecting against unsound udders.

Recent research at Kansas State University (Bradford, 2014 KSU Cattlemen's Day) with large numbers of Hereford data has given even greater hope that improvement in udder quality can be made. They found heritabilities of .32 for overall udder score, .31 for suspension, and .28 for teat size. Plus, genetic correlations between traits were strong (.83). This means that selection for one trait (teat size or suspension) will result in improvement in the other trait.

An experiment conducted at the OSU Range Cow Research Center near Stillwater gives some indication as to the impact of mastitis on beef cow performance. They found that cows with one or two dry quarters had calves with severely reduced weaning weights (50 - 60 pounds) compared to cows with no dry quarters. This represents a sizeable economic loss at weaning time.

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Udder Soundness Continued from page 2...

An evaluation system for udder soundness has been developed and used by some breeds. Teat shape and udder suspension are the two primary characteristics evaluated. Below are photos of unsound udders.

The first photo is an example of a cow with mastitic funnel-shaped teats New born calves will find it difficult to nurse such a teat, and some may be so severely infected that they become unproductive (dry). The second photo is an example of a weakened suspensory ligament. This udder may cause the teats to be very low to the ground and be difficult for the newborn calf to find to receive the colostrum that it needs in a timely manner.

Source: Cow/Calf Corner From the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Glenn Selk

Save the date!

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

CEUs Given

2019 Titus County Hay Show & Program

Friday, October 25, 2019

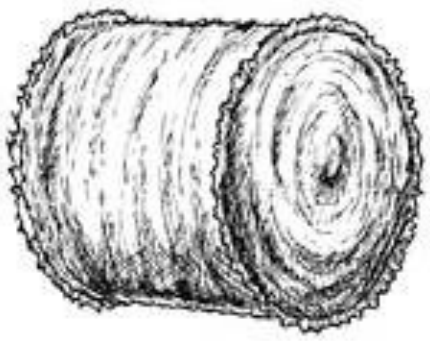
8:00 am -1:00 pm

at the Titus County Extension Office

Judge and Featured Speaker—Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Forage Specialist

Program followed by free lunch and Titus County Hay Show Results

CEUs will be given



More information on registration and full program to come at a later date

Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course

August 5-7, 2019

Registration for the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course is now open. This is a great educational opportunity to gain knowledge from seminars and demonstrations, as well as obtain pesticide license CEUs and BQA credits. With over 150 agricultural businesses, the trade show is a great place to network

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DATES: The 65th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course begins at 8:00 am on Monday, August 5th, and ends at noon on Wednesday, August 7th.

LOCATION: Registration check-in will be on the 1st floor of Rudder Tower on Joe Routt Boulevard. Registration will begin at 6:00 am with the first general session at 8:00am on Monday, August 5th. You may pick up your badge and materials early on Sunday, August 4th, between 1-5 p.m. if you wish to do so.

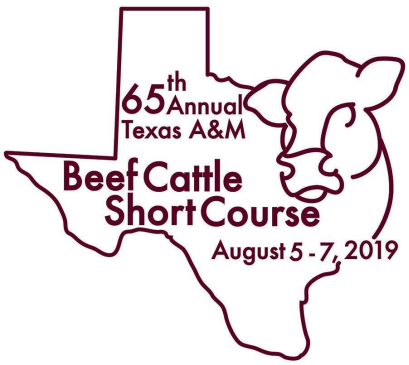
REGISTRATION FEE: The Short Course fee of $210 per person includes the following: 3 daily breakfasts, Monday and Tuesday lunch, 1 Prime Rib Dinner Monday, 1 proceedings, trade show admittance, refreshments and access to campus shuttle service. There is no need to purchase additional tickets for any of those events since they are included with your registration. The Short Course fee will be $250 after July 29th and for onsite registration.

PARKING PERMITS: The three day pass for Lot 61 (MSC) can be purchased for a flat event rate of $15 at:

https://transport2.tamu.edu/account/conference/parkingpermits.aspx

Parking is available across the street from the MSC in the University Center Parking Garage or Cain Garage for $15 per day if you do not pre-pay. Parking will be enforced by Texas A&M.

YOUTH TRACK: A special youth program is available for ages 13-18yrs. Please go to http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/ for the registration and medical release form.



ACCOMADATIONS: All accommodations can be found online at http://beefcattleshortcourse.com/

Register online at https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/

Soil Sampling

Soil sampling is one of the cheapest and most effective tools land managers can utilize. A soil test provides information on what nutrients are available to plants and also determines fertilizer recommendations. It is recommended that soil testing be done annually on hay fields and every 2 -3 years on pastures to determine carryover nutrients and fertilizer rates. You can obtain soil sample bags and forms from the Titus County Extension Office. A routine analysis costs $12/sample.

Hello from the new Ag Agent

My name is Callie Zoeller and I started as the new Titus County Extension Agent on March 1, 2019. I grew up in Gatesville, Texas where I was actively involved in both 4-H and FFA showing cattle and competing in primarily livestock judging and plant identification contests. I attended Oklahoma State University for my bachelor's degree and attended Tarleton State University for my master's degree.

Growing up involved in 4-H and FFA I formed a true passion for helping people and telling others about agriculture. In my free time, I enjoy raising and exhibiting Registered Hereford cattle with my family.

I am very excited to be serving as the Ag Agent here in Titus County and look forward to continue meeting new people. I aim to create and implement new ag programs that are beneficial and educational to community members. At the same time, I am interested in building new opportunities for youth to become involved in and learn about agriculture.

Sincerely,

Callie Zoeller

Pesticide Applicator License Trainings

Anyone who would like to take the Pesticide Applicator training course to obtain a license should contact the Titus County Extension Office to get their name put on a list to receive future notifications when a training date is set.

Follow us on Facebook at

Titus County-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

If you would like to be added on the Ag Email list to receive an electronic version of this newsletter as well as timely ag program updates, please email callie.zoeller@ag.tamu.edu or call the Titus County Extension Office at 903.572.5201

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