Titus County



Ag & Natural Resources Newsletter

January 2020

In This Issue:

- ⇒ Northeast Texas Pesticide Seminar
- ⇒ Titus County Hay Show Results
- \Rightarrow Lawn burweed
- ⇒ Soil & Hay Probes Available
- ⇒ It is time to begin the early evening feeding of the spring-calving cows

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/

2020 Northeast Texas Pesticide Seminar

The annual Northeast Texas Pesticide Seminar will be held Wednesday, January 22 at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center and is hosted by the Titus County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

This program will offer producers 5 CEUs for those individuals with a TDA pesticide applicator license. Pre-registration is <u>required</u> before January 15th. The cost will be \$30 (pre-registered) and \$50 at the door, which does not guarantee a meal.

Trade show vendors will be present throughout the day as well as lunch provided by Crazy Heifer's Café.

Topics include feral hog control techniques, aquatic weed management, laws and regulations update, grazing strategies for weed control and a range and pasture plant identification and weed control update.

There will be several great presenters speaking on topics you won't want to miss. To register, stop by the Titus County Extension Office or complete and mail in the registration form on page 2 along with registration fee.

Attached registration form & agenda on page 2

Agen	<u>ıda</u>				
8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Trade Show					
8:30 Program Begins					
"Range and Pasture Weed ID and Control"					
Brian Hays, Noble Research Institute					
• "Current and Emerging Techniques for Feral Hog Control"					
Josh Gaskamp, Noble Research Institute					
 "Aquatic Vegetation Management Basics" 					
Brittany Chesser, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension					
—Lunch 11:45—					
 "Grazing Strategies for Weed Control" 					
Dr. Jason Banta, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension					
 "Laws and Regulations Update" 					
Dr. Mark Matocha, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension					
2:45 Evaluations	& Certificates				
$\boldsymbol{\boldsymbol{\succ}}$					
TEXAS A&M Nort	theast Texas Pesticide Seminar				
AGRILIFE 5 Ho EXTENSION	our CEU Registration Form				
Name:					
Address:					
City/Zip:					
TDA License #:					
Email:					
Amount Enclosed (\$30.00 per person) \$					
Due NO later than January 15, 2020	Please make checks payable to:				
1708 Industrial Rd. Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455	<u>Titus LAB</u>				

2019 Titus County Hay Show & Forage Program Results

There were 54 samples entered in the Titus County Hay Show & Forage Program held on Friday, October 25th at the Titus County Extension Office.

> Grand Overall-Keith Kridler (Champion Legume) Reserve Overall-Keith Kridler (Res. Champion Legume) Champion Warm Season Perennial Grass-Joseph McKellar Res. Warm Season Perennial Grass-Joseph McKellar Champion Mixed Hay– Joseph McKellar Reserve Mixed Hay-Matthew Terrell Champion Haylage-Mike Thompson Res. Haylage-KRB Farms/Sammy Thomas Champion Legume– Keith Kridler Res. Legume- Keith Kridler

	2017 Thus County They blow Averages					
	Crude Protein Average (%)	Dry Matter Average (%)	Acid Detergent Fiber Average (%)	Neutral Detergent Fiber Average (%)	TDN Average (%)	
Warm Season Perennial Grasses	10.23	88.7	36.7	68.9	54.1	
Mixed Hay	9.3	89.1	39.7	67.2	50.6	
Haylage (Dry basis)	10.23	76.7	46.6	N/A	50.4	
Legumes	27.4	89.5	24.35	35.2	68.3	
Cool Season Annual Grasses	9.3	88.34	47.1	74.5	42.2	
Total	10.3	88.2	38.6	66.7	52.3	

2019 Titus County Hay Show Averages

Lawn burweed

Callie Zoeller-County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources

Lawn burweed (*Soliva sessilis*) is most frequently noticed in the spring when it is mature and produces sharp burs in the leaf axils that get caught on shoes, pets and are quite painful to step on. Lawn burweed is a low-growing winter annual herb that germinates throughout thin turf in the fall as temperatures begin to drop. It remains small during the winter months and begins rapidly growing when temperatures increase in early spring. During early spring is when the burs, or seeds, begin to develop.

Cultural Control

Maintain a healthy, dense lawn by fertilizing and liming based on soil test results and mowing at the proper height and frequency for your specific turfgrass. A healthy and dense turf will outcompete lawn burweed for light, water and nutrients, ultimately reducing the weed population. For a turfgrass management calendar, check out https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ESC-042-bermudagrass-lawn-management-calendar.pdf

Chemical Control

The best time to treat lawn burweed chemically is during the months of December, January and February when the weed is smaller and easier to control and before any burs have developed. A three-way herbicide containing the active ingredients 2,4-D, dicamba, and mecoprop (MCPP) will effectively control lawn burweed. Herbicides containing 2,4-D should be applied at a reduced rate or only on dormant St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass to prevent damage to these lawns as injury may occur. When using herbicides, make sure to always read and follow all label directions to determine which types of turf they may be applied to.



Lawn burweed

More pictures found here: <u>https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-weeds/lawn-burweed/</u>

Soil and Hay Probes at the Titus County Extension Office

The Titus County Extension Office now has soil and hay probes that may be checked out and borrowed. For soil or forage testing forms and bags, stop by the Titus County Extension Office or find them online at <u>http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/</u> webpages/forms.html



It is time to begin the early evening feeding of the springcalving cows

By Glenn Selk

Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Each year in December, it is time for a reminder to change the feeding schedule for part, if not all of the spring-calving cow herd.

It is generally accepted that adequate supervision at calving has a significant impact on reducing calf mortality. Saving every calf is always important to the bottom line, but takes on additional urgency when profit margins are narrow. On most ranching operations, supervision of the first calf heifers will be best accomplished in daylight hours and the poorest observation takes place in the middle of the night.

The easiest and most practical method of inhibiting nighttime calving at present is by feeding cows at night; the physiological mechanism is unknown, but some hormonal effect may be involved. Rumen motility studies indicate the frequency of rumen contractions falls a few hours before parturition. Intraruminal pressure begins to fall in the last 2 weeks of gestation, with a more rapid decline during calving. It has been suggested that night feeding causes intraruminal pressures to rise at night and decline in the daytime.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 5...

The concept is called the Konefal method. A Canadian rancher, Gus Konefal reported his observations in the 1970's. In a follow-up Canadian study of 104 Hereford cows, 38.4% of a group fed at 8:00 am and again at 3:00 pm delivered calves during the day, whereas 79.6% of a group fed at 11:00 am and 9:00 pm actually calved during daylight hours. In a more convincing study, 1331 cows on 15 farms in Iowa were fed once daily at dusk, 85% of the calves were born between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Kansas State University scientists recorded data on 5 consecutive years in a herd of spring calving crossbred cows at the Kansas State University Agricultural Research Center at Hays, Kansas. They recorded the time of calving (to within the nearest one-half hour). Births that could not be estimated within an hour of occurrence were excluded. <u>Cows were fed forage sorghum hay daily between 4:00 and 6:00 pm</u>. For statistical purposes, the day was divided into four-hour periods.

Between 6:00 and 10:00 am, 34.23% of the calves were born;
Between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, 21.23% of the calves were born;
Between 2:00 and 6:00 pm 29.83% of the calves were born;
Between 6:00 and 10:00 pm, 8.41% of the calves were born
Between 10:00 pm and 2:00 am, 4.4% of the calves were born
Between 2:00 am and 6 am, 1.91% of the calves were born

It is interesting to note that 85.28% of the calves were born between 6:00 am. and 6:00 pm. This is very similar to Iowa data when cows were fed at dusk. <u>Feeding the forage in the early evening hours undoubtedly influenced the percentage of cows calving in daylight hours.</u> (Jaeger and co-workers. Abstracts 2002 Western Section of American Society of Animal Science.)

At Oklahoma State University, with cows that had round-the-clock access to big round bales, but the supplement was fed at dusk, 70% of the calves came in daylight hours. Some producers choose to put the big bales of hay inside a fenced pasture or lot. The gate to the hay area is opened in the evening to allow cows access to the hay bale(s), then the cows are herded out of haying area to another pasture the following morning to graze throughout the day.

Although, the Konefal method does not let us completely skip the middle of the night heifer checks, this strategy should help us save more calves that need help at delivery and shortly thereafter.

Article from the Cow Calf Corner Newsletter from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

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 <u>callie.zoeller@ag.tamu.edu</u> or call the Titus County Extension Office at 903.572.5201

Callie Zouler

Callie Zoeller County Extension Agent-Ag & Natural Resources Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—Titus County 1708 Industrial Rd. Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455 <u>callie.zoeller@ag.tamu.edu</u> 903.572.5201 <u>https://titus.agrilife.org/</u>



Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.