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March 9, 2016
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Montgomery County Agricultural Resources Newsletter for Livestock, Equine & Forage Producers

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

The training will be held on Tuesday morning, March 22, 2016 at the Montgomery County Extension Office. The training program will begin at 9:00 AM and last about 4 hours. Study material must be purchased ahead of time to assist with preparation (included in the registration fee). The study guide is actually utilized during the training portion of the program. There is \$50.00 cost for the training to cover program materials, and related costs. The registration fee can be paid when reserving your seat. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office to reserve a seat at the March 22nd training. Documentation will be provided at the conclusion of the training to be used in securing a test date.

Texas Beef Quality Producer Program

The mission of the Texas Beef Quality Producer Program is to promote good management practices for cattle producers in an effort to strengthen consumer confidence in beef as a wholesome food product. As a Texas food producer, your livelihood depends on securing the consumer's trust. It doesn't matter whether your herd is large or small. Meat scientists estimate there are 542 potential consumers just for the steaks and roasts of a single beef animal. Your management at the cow-calf and stocker level makes a big difference in whether or not those 542 consumers have a good, wholesome eating experience. The TBQP is not about spending more money or buying into a here-today, gone tomorrow trend. These proven beef quality practices are just better methods of doing the same jobs you're already doing. The main focus of the program is food safety. Eliminating residues,

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating
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blemishes and foreign objects is critical to maintaining consumer confidence and acceptance of beef as a protein of choice in their diet.

This certification program is a collaborative effort of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, the Texas Beef Council and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

To become a TBQP certified producer, you must attend a training program provided by this joint effort. There is no cost for the certification process and the certification helps strengthen your marketing potential of your product. The Montgomery County Beef Improvement Association and the Montgomery County Extension Service are offering a TBQP certification training on Tuesday evening, April 19, at the Montgomery County Extension Office. The program will begin at 6:30pm. We need folks to RSVP by April 15 to assist the Texas Beef Council with a head count in preparing for the evening steak meal on the 19th. RSVP to 936-539-7822 or m-heimer@tamu.edu This program will be most enlightening and enjoyable.

Sustainable Control of Small Ruminant Parasites

This program is a joint effort with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the TAMU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. The program for sheep and goat producers is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, beginning at 9:00am. The program will discuss worm biology, diagnosis, treatment and management of parasites. The practical session will cover Famancha scoring and body condition scoring. The program will be held at the G. Rollie White Visitor Center. For more information or to RSVP, call 979-823-0129 or email ejbesser@ag.tamu.edu.

Private Pond Management Clinic

Private farm ponds in southeast Texas serve a variety of functions. Many landowners desire to acquire the techniques and skills for managing their ponds to reach their goal expectations. A seminar is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 21, beginning at 6:30pm which will provide the information landowners desire. The program will be held at the Montgomery County Extension Office. Topics will include:

Water Quality Concerns, Aeration and Turbidity, Stocking Rates & Population Ratios, Weed ID & Control Options, Sealing Leaks / Sites Selection, Design & Contours for Productivity

The program will feature the following speakers: Dr. Todd Sink, Extension Fisheries Specialist, & Michael Heimer, TAES.

Contact the Montgomery county Extension Office to reserve your seat for this most educational program, 936-539-7822 or m-heimer@tamu.edu There will be a \$15.00 registration fee to cover program costs and refreshments.

The Art Of Horsemanship

The Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee is presenting a day long clinic on Saturday, April 23, featuring Greg Sokoloski, a Pat Parelli instructor. The clinic will be held at the Lone Star Expo in Conroe. We will accept up to 18 riders and unlimited auditors. No green horses or those just recently started. The clinic will focus on confidence building, obstacles, knowing your horse and the ability to ride a well broke horse. The registration fee is \$75.00 for riders and \$15.00 for auditors. A noon meal and materials will be provided in the registration fee. There will not be any stalls available for the clinic. For more information or to register call 936-539-7822 or email m-heimer@tamu.edu

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TBQP Recertification Field Day

For those producers who received their TBQP certification at the April 19 program or who have a certificate and need recertification credits, a TBQP recertification training will be held on **Saturday, May 14**, at Stalwart Ranch near Willis. This hands-on clinic will demonstrate cattle handling, facilities, cattle scoring, administration of recommended vaccines, and more. To maintain your certification of TBQP, you must obtain 8 hours of credit in a 2 year period. You will receive four hours of credit this day. Don't look at these training opportunities as a challenge but as a chance to learn the latest and best practices to improve your beef cattle operation. The clinic will begin at 9:00am. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Montgomery County Beef Improvement Association and the local Farm Bureau are sponsoring the program. For more information or to register call 936-539-7822 or email m-heimer@tamu.edu

Stock Horse Clinic

The Montgomery County Adult Horse Committee is sponsoring a Stock Horse Clinic on Saturday, May 21, at the Lone Star Expo in Conroe. The day long clinic will feature three different instructors working with participants on working cow, trail, and horsemanship skills to improve reining participants. More information to follow.

Weed Control for Newly Sprigged Bermudagrass

One of the many challenges producers face when establishing a new stand of bermudagrass is initial weed pressure. Prior to land preparation for establishment of sprigs, it is important to eradicate any unwanted vegetation. Annual weeds may be controlled by thorough tillage; however, perennial weeds should be sprayed with a non-soil active herbicide such as glyphosate several weeks prior to tillage. This will allow re-treatment of any weed escapes prior to establishing bermudagrass. Any soil disturbance by plowing or disking promotes germination of weed seed. The use of a pre-emergence herbicide (applied prior to weed emergence) is one of the best defenses against early season competition with the newly established sprigs. Diuron and 2,4-D + dicamba products are labeled for application immediately after sprigging and can provide effective pre-emergence residual control. Post-emergent herbicide treatments may still be necessary after sprig establishment. Newly established sprigs are more sensitive to herbicides than established stands of bermudagrass, therefore, you should observe treatment timings recommended by the label to avoid injury. Herbicide selection, rate, and growing conditions are critical in preventing injury to sprigs. Always read and follow label instructions for any herbicide/pesticide-insecticide.

Calfhood Vaccinations

Newborn calves gain temporary (passive) immunity from disease when they ingest colostrum from the dam, since the first milk contains maternal antibodies. After a few weeks or months this temporary protection begins to wane, however, calves must build their own immunities. Vaccinating calves at the proper time can help them until weaning age.

Vaccinating them too soon, though, may not stimulate much immune response. If the calf still has maternal antibodies in their system, then these tend to interfere with building their own immunities. The body sees no need to respond.

Dr. Hairgrove recommends working with your veterinarian to establish a plan. He said most calves are vaccinated at about 90 days of age, which generally works will to stimulate an immune response. The recommendation includes a Blackleg vaccine which would include other clostridials. Producers need to be aware of wet areas which might provide for flukes. If you might have a problem, include Redwater.

The combination vaccines will have your bases covered, but you need to check and see what's in those specific combinations. An 8-way vaccine may include tetanus or hemolyticum but not both.

It is recommended that we vaccinate whether you plan to keep the calves or not. You don't always know when you might have some other issues. If calves get sick while they are still on the cows, they may pass these pathogens back to the pregnant cows and this may cause abortions and other problems. Common sense tells us to try to keep the disease level down in the herd as much as possible. We can do this by vaccinating the cows, and vaccinating the calves may also help.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Heimer,
County Extension Agent, Agriculture

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