

Atascosa Ag Newsletter

Courtesy of: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office Atascosa County

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Questions? Call US! 830-569-0034

Check out our website at Atascosa.agrilife.org

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The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunities throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

MANAGING PASTURES WITH HIGH FERTILIZER PRICES AND DROUGHT

As we began to think of all the fertilizers that we used this year our biggest concern is the price so the question we as our self is how are we going to get through this year with the cost and the current drought situations. Well the TSCRA along with Paul Beck, and the Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Nutrition Specialist have given us this information on how to manage our pastures with the high fertilizer prices .

Prices for Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), urea, anhydrous ammonia and Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) have all reached all time high prices. The cost per pound of actual N is over \$1.13/pound for urea and 32% UAN. Last year we were complaining about the increasing cost of fertilizer, and it was only about half the cost it is now.

- Fertilization increases water use efficiency, this may be important in drier than normal conditions, but the high prices still has fertilization out of reach for most production systems.
- Each pound of actual nitrogen applied will add 30-40 pounds of forage production per acre in bermudagrass and Old World Bluestem pastures and hay meadows. The added forage production will cost about 3 to 4¢/pound at the current fertilizer prices, or about \$60 to 80 per ton of increased hay production per acre.
- For stocker steers, we can get an extra 1.5 to 2 pounds of gain for each pound of nitrogen, so the cost of that added gain would be around \$0.55 to \$0.75/pound.
- In cow-calf operations, a calf value to N cost ratio of 2.5 would indicate fertilization is potentially profitable. A weaned calf would need to bring \$2.87 per pound for fertilization to be profitable.

What should you do if you cannot afford fertilizer?

Well we have 2 choices, 1 we can apply fertilizer at a targeted rate or 2 don't use any. In either case, you will need to improve management.

MANAGING PASTURES WITH HIGH FERTILIZER PRICES AND DROUGHT CONT.

If a producer does not normally fertilize pastures and/ or hay fields, then there is little consequence of not fertilizing since his stocker rate should already be matched to the natural productivity of the land. However, if the producer has been fertilizing pastures to support his livestock operation, then cutting back fertilizer will require improved management to increase the utilization of the forage and to allow enough rest between grazing cycles or the grass to remain healthy. Also the fertilizer that is applied must be target to specific times of the year at a rate that match livestock need to prevent excess forage growth and waste of fertilizer value.

For each ton of hay removed from a field about 30 to 40 pounds of nitrogen, 14 pounds of phosphorus, and 45 to 50 pounds of potassium are being removed. When cattle graze or are fed hay most of the nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium are returned to the pasture in excreta. So, improved grazing distribution of grazing and hay feeding will improve the distribution of recycled nutrients.

Weed control increases forage production. For each pound of broadleaf weed production, we see grass production decrease by at least a pound. Controlling weeds is therefore even more important in drought and high fertilizer situations.

In summary, with high fertilizer prices we need to improve forage management, cull the cowherd to reduce stocking rates, practice weed control, and consider seeding legumes in the fall to help out next spring.

MANAGED LAND DEER PROGRAM

If you had the opportunity to attend our Atascosa Wildlife Co-op Annual Meeting in March you had the opportunity to listen to David Veale with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department talk a little about the Managed Land Deer Program. Well the time has come to enroll for the 2022-2023 Season. A Article released on April 11, 2022 by the TPWD states that.

Enrollment in the MLDP is now open for the 2022-2023 hunting season. Open enrollment for the MLDP Conservation option runs from April 2 through June 15 this year while the Harvest Option opens May 1 and runs through Sept. 1. Fees are charged for each enrollment option. Enrollments and fee payments can all be made through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Land Management Assistance online system. Payments can be made by credit card only.

Enrollment fees for each MLDP option are as follows:

Conservation Option:

- Standalone Property: \$300 for the first management unit, \$30 for each additional management unit
- Aggregate Site: \$300
- Wildlife Management Cooperative Member: \$30 Per Management unit

Harvest Option:

- Standalone Property: \$30 per management unit
- Aggregate Site: \$30



MANAGED LAND DEER PROGRAM CONT.

The Land Management Assistance online system will require landowners hoping to enroll to create an account and draw a property boundary. An email address is required for the landowner and any designated agents the landowner may assign to the account.

MLDP is a program intended to foster and support sound management and stewardship of native wildlife and wildlife habits on private lands in Texas. Deer harvest is an important aspect of habitat management and conservation. Landowners enrolled in either the MLDP Harvest Option or the Conservation Option can take advantage of extended season lengths and property– specific customized harvest opportunities.

The Harvest Option is an automated, ‘do-it-yourself’ option for MLDP participation that provides landowners with a deer harvest recommendation, tag issuance and general guidance about wildlife and wildlife habitat management. Participation in the Harvest Option does not require habitat management practices, deer population data or that participant to work directly with a TPWD wildlife biologist.

The Conservation Option offers program participants the opportunity to work with a TPWD biologist to receive customized, ranch– specific habitat and deer harvest recommendations and MLDP tag issuance for white tailed deer or mule deer. This option does require the reporting of certain types of deer data as well as completion of specific habitat management practices each year to participate and remain in the program.

MLDP participation is completely voluntary. Once enrolled, program participants must meet MLDP requirements for the full year of enrollment.

STRAWBERRY TRIALS 2021

As we approach the beginning of may and the last stretch of our strawberry season I wanted to share with you all some of the information from last years strawberry trials that were conducted here in Atascosa County if you would like to read the full article the link is : <https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/03/31/getting-the-most-from-your-strawberry-plants/>

The Texas A&M AgriLife team have spent the last two years completing research to determine the best management practices for growers. Some of the research that was collected included Planting Dates, use of shade cloth to extend the season and reduce plant heat stress, fertilizer rates, irrigation levels for nitrogen leaching in soil, plant spacing and herbicides for weed control.

Russ Wallace was the lead of the research project that conducted a collaborative statewide trials at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Lubbock, Prairie View A&M University and KH Farms here in Atascosa County. The project was funded by a grant sponsored from a 2020 Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Block Grant Program.



STRAWBERRY TRIALS 2021 CONT.

The Strawberry research team consisted of Dr. Russ Wallace, Thayne Montague Ph.D., Associate Professor who is jointly appointed to Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas Tech University Department of Plant and Soil Sciences; Peter Ampim, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View; Larry Stein, Ph.D., Associate department head and AgriLife Extension leader for the Department of Horticulture Sciences, Uvalde; Dale Rankin, AgriLife Extension agent, Atascosa County; Laura Miller, AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent, Tarrant County; and Janet Laminack, AgriLife Extension horticulture agent, Denton County.

Below are two of the 5 trails that were conducted if you would like to read about the other 3 feel free to click the link above.

Strawberry Trail Results—Planting Dates



In Texas, strawberries should be planted in the fall as soon as plants arrive in early to mid-October, Wallace said. However, sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances, growers may not be ready to plant at that time. Therefore, planting may be delayed for up to four weeks. The team planted four varieties—Albion, Camino Real, Fronteras and Merced—on their yield potential when planted during mid-October and then two week intervals through mid-November.

“Our results indicate that delaying planting by two or four weeks can significantly reduce yields in the spring,” Wallace said. “The varieties evaluated in Lubbock lost an average 1.7% berry yield per day if planted as late as mid-November. This may not sound like much, but when evaluated economically delaying planting up to

four weeks could reduce profits by \$550 per acre per day. Growers should have fields ready to plant as soon as their crop arrives.”

Shade

Strawberries are a cool-season crop. They are fall-planted to allow colder temperatures to increase bud and crown formation to enhance flowering and berry production in the spring, Montague said. Excessive heat during may through July can reduce flowering.

Trails were evaluated at Poteet and Lubbock with two levels of shade cloth—30% and 50% shade plus a full sun treatment. Plants were covered with the shade cloth treatments for the entire season from November to June, or only in the Spring from April through June.

Montague said their first year of trails generally showed covering strawberries with shade cloth reduced air and soil temperatures. “our early shaded yields were lower initially compared to those in the full sun,” he said. “However, by the final harvest, strawberries covered with 50% shade cloth had a longer harvest season, improved berry quality and higher yields. While shade cloth improved berry yields, we know shade cloth may be expensive. However, shade cloth may be used for multiple season if properly cared for.”

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Multi-County Reproduction Management Training

The 2022 Multi-County Reproduction Management Workshop will be hosted on May 9th by the Atascosa, Wilson, Frio, Medina, McMullen, Live Oak and Bexar Counties. It will be hosted at the Tom Brothers Ranch 770 Co Rd 412 Campbellton, Tx 78008 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will cover Ins and Outs of Pregnancy Testing, Hands On Anatomy of a Cows Reproductive Tract, Rectal Palpation (Demonstration and Exercise), Estrus Synchronization Made Easy, and Reproductive Diseases. Taught by Dr. Joe C. Paschal Livestock Specialist, as well as the agents. For more information call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Atascosa County Agent Dale Rankin 830-569-0034 RSVP by May 2, 2022 830-569-0034

- Participation in workshop will require attendees to bring 3-5 docile cows that have been exposed to a bull over 90 days and possible one cow that is open.

Multi-County Beef and Forage Management Field Day

The Multi-County Beef Cattle and Forage Management Field Day will be held on Friday May 13th, 2022 hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Atascosa, Bexar, Guadalupe and Wilson Counties. The event is scheduled to be from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. The program will start at 8:30 with registration at the Atascosa County Extension Office followed by Live cattle working and handling and the Slomchinski Farm presented by Dr. Joe Paschal Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Drone Usage in Agriculture and on going research by Dr. Megan Clayton Extension Range Specialist, and Invora/Rezilon Product update by Daniel Miekley Bayer Range Specialist. All followed by Lunch at noon as well as a presentation on Understanding Carbon Credits by Dr. Megan. For questions call the Atascosa Extension office at 830-569-0034 Please RSVP by May 9th also 2 CEU's Will be offered.

Insect and Turf Grass Management Workshop

On June 2, 2022 we will be hosting a Insect and Turf Grass Management Workshop, the topics covered will be, Disease Management, Vector Control, Insect Management, Varieties Updates, Weed Management & Alternate Fertilizer. There will be a 3 CEUS offered at this event. We will have more information on this event as it gets closer if you have any questions feel free call our office.

COMMON CONVERSIONS FOR PRODUCERS

As our local producers began to start spraying for brush. Crops, and miscellaneous things conversions and measurement are important to make sure you are properly applying anything. Remember when applying chemicals the label is the law.

AREA

1 acre = 43,560 square feet, 209 feet x 209 feet, 69.5 x 69.5 yards
1/10acre= 4,356 square feet, 66 feet x 66 feet, 22 yards x 22 yards
1/100acre= 436 square feet, 21 feet x 21 feet, 7 yards x 7 yards
1 section= 640 acres or 1 square mile
1 hectare = 2.471 acres

LENGTH

1 mile = 5,280 feet, 1,760 yards or 1.61 Kilometers
1 rod = 16.5 feet
1 chain = 66 feet
1 kilometer = 0.62 miles
1 roll barded wire = 1/4 mile or 1320 feet
1 roll net wire = 330 feet or 20 rods

WEIGHT

1 short ton = 2,000 pounds
1 long ton = 2,240 pounds
1 pound = 453.6 grams or 16 ounces
1 Kilogram = 2.2 Pounds

LIQUID MEASURE

1 gallon = 128 ounces , 3,785.4 milliliters, 16 cups, 4 quarts, 8.355 pounds or 256 tablespoons
1 quart = 0.946 liters, 2 pints or 32 ounces
1 pint = 16 ounces or 2 cups
1 cup = 8 ounces
1 milliliter = 1 cubic centimeter (CC)
1 tablespoon = 3 teaspoons
1 teaspoons = 5 milliliters
1 cubic foot of water = 62.43 pounds or 7.48 gallons
1 acre inch of water = 27,154 gallons
1 barrel of water = 55 gallons
1 barrel of oil = 44 gallons

WATER STORAGE CAPACITY

Round tank (gallons) = $3.1416 \times \text{radius squared (ft)} \times \text{height (ft)} \times 7.48$
Rectangular tank (gallons) = $\text{height (ft.)} \times \text{Width (ft.)} \times \text{length (ft.)} \times 7.48$

PRESSURE

1 foot lift of water = 0.433 psi
1 psi will lift water 2.31 feet



2022 MULTI-COUNTY REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

ATASCOSA, WILSON, FRIO, MEDINA, MCMULLEN, LIVE OAK AND
BEXAR COUNTIES

Location:

Tom Brothers Ranch
770 Co Rd 412 Campbellton,
TX 78008

Date/Time:

May 9th
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP EARLY!!

RSVP BY: May 2, 2022 (830) 569-0034

*Participation in workshop will require attendees to bring 3-5 docile cows that have been exposed to a bull over 90 days and possibly one cow that is open

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TOPICS

“INS AND OUTS”
OF PREGNANCY
TESTING

“HANDS ON”
ANATOMY OF A COW’S
REPRODUCTIVE TRACT

RECTAL PALPATION
(Demonstration and Exercise)

ESTRUS
SYNCHRONIZATION
MADE EASY

Reproductive Diseases

(Demonstration and Exercise
supplies will be provided)

Taught by:

Dr. Joe C. Paschal
Livestock Specialist
Atascosa, Wilson, Bexar, Frio,
Live Oak, McMullen and
Medina Agent’s

For more information:

Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension
Atascosa County Office
Dale Rankin
830.569.0034

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Beef Cattle & Forage Management Field Day

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Friday, May 13th, 2022

2 CEUs

Beginning at 8:30 AM – 12 Noon

The cost of the program is \$15 per person

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Atascosa, Bexar,

Location:

Atascosa County
Extension Office
25 East 5th Street
Leming Texas
78050/ Slomchinski
Farms

Please RSVP by
**May 9 th to the
Atascosa County
Extension Office**
830-569-0034

For Questions
contact Dale Rankin
at the Atascosa

PROGRAM AGENDA

- 8:30 am — Registration (Atascosa County Extension Office)
- 9:00 am - Live cattle working and handling
(Bill Slomchinski Pens Leming)
Dr. Joe Paschal Extension Beef Cattle
Specialist, Agents Womble, Rankin
- Drone Usage in Agriculture and on-
going research Dr. Megan Clayton
Extension Range Specialist
 - Invora/ Rezilon product update
Daniel Mickle Bayer Range Specialist
- 12:00 Noon Lunch Sponsored by Bayer Environmental
Science
- Understanding Carbon Credits Dr. Megan
Clayton Extension Range Specialist
 - Natural Resource Conservation Service
Opportunities and Programs– Hector Pruneda
District Conservationist

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION COVID-19 UPDATE AND RESOURCES

While more and more face to face events open up we are still upholding our commitment to helping Texans better their lives. Here at the Extension office we deal with three of some of the most important things in your life: Your Food, Your Health, and Your Children. For a complete list of available resources check out <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus/>

Food: Our local farmers and food producers are working hard to ensure a safe wholesome food product from their fields to your table. For our beef producers here in the county <https://beeffax.tamu.edu> is a great resource for cattle market updates.

Health: As we adjust to our new normal our FCH Agent Dru Benavides has some awesome resources on our Facebook page to help stay active, manage stress, adhering to guidelines on social distancing, and how to safely shop at the grocery store. When out shopping for essential items it is important to remember the following tips:

1. If possible go by yourself, the less people out minimizes the chance of exposure and spread
2. Only touch products you will buy
3. Sanitize cart and cart handles before shopping
4. Keep your distance from others, CDC Guidelines say 6 feet apart at all times.
5. Go with a paper grocery list, be prepared so you minimize the amount of time at the store, and throw away your list when you're done shopping
6. After you get home thoroughly wash produce and disinfect items such as boxes and cans with sanitizing wipes, or make your own sanitizing solution with 1/3 of a cup of bleach to a gallon of water
7. Sanitize commonly touched items such as, door knobs, light switches, refrigerator door handle, faucets, car keys, and counter tops. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after using cleaning products.

Children: As home becomes school and school becomes home, 4-H has some amazing educational resources to help facilitate school lessons with agriculture, learn about 4-H projects, and some at home projects to help the community. Join District 12 4-H with 12 at 12. A Facebook Live event every Tuesday and Thursday at noon. There will be quizzes, project exploration, and interaction with other 4-H'ers. Also Check out the Texas 4-H Facebook Page for daily activities and videos! Contact Ashlie Stayton at the extension office for even more 4-H resources.

