

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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Managing the Consequences of Drought
Page 2-3

Time to Plant those Fall Herbs Page 4

Upcoming events page 5

TCAAA Raffle Page 6

Beef 706 Flier Page 7

Water Screening Flier Page 8



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.

PREPARING FOR HUNTING SEASON

As we move further into the winter months and into the start of Hunting season here, are some helpful tips to prepare for hunting season.

- Take your hunters education course if you haven't already. Hunters born on or after Sept. 2, 1971 are required to complete this course.
- Next buy your hunting license as of August 15th the 2022-2023 hunting and fishing license have gone on sale. A new opportunity this year for Texas residents is to purchase a digital Super Combo License that will authorize for digital tagging of harvested deer, turkey and oversized red drum. The digital license option is available through online purchase only. This license will need to be available while in the field and can be accessed through the TPWD Outdoor Annual and My Texas Hunt Harvest mobile apps. If you are looking for how this new tagging system will work check out this helpful video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_7fFrIMTV4&t=2s
- Last tip is know the rules and regulations there have been some changes for the new season so checkout the Outdoor Annual and get up to date on all the new rules and regulations.

TPWD SEPTEMBER HABITIPS:

- Prepare ground and plant winter food plots.
- Conduct soil tests on food plot sites.
- Shred or disk sunflowers, millet or goat weed for dove feed.
- Fallow disking from previous winter will produce goat weed and other annual weeds that will attract dove.
- Shred around tanks to facilitate doves coming to water.
- Monitor rainfall and range conditions evaluate livestock densities going into fall and winter.
- Begin flooding moist soil units for ducks.

MANAGING THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROUGHT

Reducing Nutrient Demand, Optimizing Feed Use, and Reducing Management Expenses.

Critical Prerequisites

1) Cows (including heifers) have been culled to remove those with faults and those with limited immediate production potential. 2) Some thought has been given to the economics of retaining the “nucleus” herd versus complete cattle liquidation. 3) A range/pasture condition assessment has been performed to determine forage availability. 4) Moving the cows to leased grazing or a confinement feeding operation is not an option.

Reducing Nutrient Demand

It goes without saying that during drought, both the forage resource and livestock performance suffer. Therefore, reduction of the “wear and tear” on both should be a drought management consideration. If forage availability across the ranch is less than adequate to meet grazing animal needs, consider concentration of the cattle in one pasture or trap. By doing so, stockmen can:

1. Minimize the activity (travel) of cattle. The energy required for maintenance is significantly affected by activity as indicated in **Table 1**. The preferred option would be to put cows in a small pasture or trap; the least productive area should be considered so as to minimize damage to the forage resource in the more productive pastures. If small pastures/traps are not available, selected water troughs can be turned off or ponds fenced off and thereby concentrate animals near available water. Caution: Concentration of animals (including wildlife) around water will increase the demand placed on that water supply and can result in increased disease transmission from wildlife to livestock. In addition, as

surface water supplies decline, be conscious of water quality and temperature. Regardless of where cattle are pastured, shade and protection from inclement weather should be provided. Heat and cold stress can increase daily maintenance energy requirements 20-50% depending on severity (CSIRO, 1990).

2. Protect the long term productivity of the forage resource. Complete removal of standing biomass: a) reduces the ability of the soil to capture rainfall when it comes and b) reduces the ability of the grass to respond when soil moisture is available. Grasses often attempt to respond to small, seemingly insignificant rainfall events— if livestock are there to nip off the green growth, plants health and root vitality are impacted. Concentration of wildlife as a result of water management (previously mentioned) could help to alleviate the grazing pressure applied by wildlife on grass regrowth.

Optimizing Purchased Feed Use

1. Sort cows by expected nutrient requirements. As previously mentioned, sorting cows by physiological status can result in a significant improvement in efficiency of feed and hay use. To demonstrate the physiological status x nutrient requirement interaction, a five year old, 1150 lb F1 cow is used as

Table 1. Effect of Activity on Maintenance Energy Requirement

Location	NEm. Mcal/day*
Large Pasture: Low Forage Availability	10.6
Confined	8.9
Energy Saved by confinement	1.7 (16%)
*1150 lb F1 cow, middle 1/3 gestation. Data generated with NUTBAL, 1996	

MANAGING THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROUGH CONT.

an example in **Table 2** . Obviously, attempting to feed these two cows in the same group will probably result in a) an over-fed dry cow (inefficient use of purchased feed/hay) or b) an under-fed lactating cow (accelerated body condition loss and/or restricted milk production, resulting in depressed calf growth rate).

2. Purchase Hay and Supplement to Meet Requirements or Confine and Feed a Complete High Energy Ration. If cattle are left on pasture and for-

Table 2. Nutrient Requirement vs. Physiological Status—F1 Cow, 1150 lb.

	Crude Protein, lb.	Energe (NE _m). Mcal
A. w/ 60 day old calf at side	2.14	13.5
B. 30 days postweaning	1.34	8.6
Difference (A-B)	0.8 (60%)	4.9 (57%)
Data Produced by NRC Model Application, Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, 7th Revised Edition, 1996		

age is severely limited, purchase hay first and then supplement the hay to meet performance goals. If equipment is available to handle round bales, labor cost is minimized when compared to feeding small square bales. Free-choice access to hay frequently results in excessive hay consumption. Consider limiting access to hay by a) unrolling round bales so all cows can eat at the same time or b) restricting access to x hours per day. If offered intact, round bales should always be fed in a hay ring. Otherwise, significant amounts of hay will be wasted.

Cooperative purchasing of hay and/or supplements could result in substantial savings, especially when “non-typical” feedstuffs are considered. If facilities (pens, bunk space, bulk feed storage/handling equipment) are available and a source of high energy, feedlot-type rations is close-by, consider feeding cows. Seldom will sacked feeds be economically feasible. (for additional information see paper by D. Herd).

Reducing Management Expense

Drought is not only mentally taxing but can be physically exhausting as well. If accompanied by extreme temperatures (i.e. summer 1998), any efforts which reduce the time and labor involved in cattle management will prove rewarding. Concentration of livestock as suggested above, will:

- Decrease time and personnel requirements for feeding, evaluating livestock and checking water,
- Decrease vehicle expense (fuel, tires, maintenance)
- Perhaps reduce the number of water delivery systems (pumps, windmills) to be maintained.

Likewise, the least essential, most marketable group of cattle should be kept closet to a shipping facility. In the event liquidation of additional cattle is imperative the next to go are close at hand and can be penned and loaded with fewer personnel and less stress on the animals.

A positive attitude— drought increase its maintenance cost yet, the cattleman’s survival depends on it.

Every day that passes brings the next good rain one day closer.

This article was written by Rick Machen, Ph.D. Extension Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M University

TIME TO PLANT THOSE FALL HERBS

Fall is a prime time for planting the hardiest herbs that grow very well in areas with mild winters. You can put an assortment of your favorite cool-weather fall herbs by the kitchen door—all in one container. You can also plant cilantro and parsley in existing flower beds or containers to serve as green companions for other winter flowers.

Planting—select a sunny, well drained location, and apply a slow release fertilizer.

Watering—water is necessary during dry periods. Generally, herbs need about 1 inch of water per week, either from rainfall or from irrigation.

Harvesting—the leaves of many herbs, such as parsley and chives, can be harvested for fresh seasonings. Gradually remove a few leaves from the plants as you need them. Don't remove all the foliage at one time. With proper care, these plants will produce over a long period.

Drying—after harvest, hang the herbs in loosely tied bundles in a very-ventilated room. You can also spread the branches on a screen, cheesecloth, or hardware cloth. Spread the leaves on flat trays. Cover the herbs with a cloth that will keep dust off but allow moisture to pass through.

Herbs that Grow well in Texas

Basil—this is one of the easiest herbs to grow, even from seed. However, basil is tender, so expect to lose it at the first sign of frost.



Chamomile—makes wonderful herbal tea. There are two varieties English and German chamomile. The dried blossoms of either can be used to make tea.

Mints—there are many mints. The easiest to grow is spearmint. Most mints are tough, hardy plants. All mints appreciate moisture and do best where they get afternoon shade.

Rosemary—there are many forms of rosemary, ranging from a low-growing groundcover to a bush that grows up to 4 feet tall. Rosemary is a hardy plant that thrives in hot, dry climates.

Chive—the smallest member of the onion family chives are easily grown from seeds or transplants.

Coriander—is also known as cilantro or Chinese parsley. It is easily grown from seed and can sometimes be found growing wild.

Dill—is one of the easiest herbs to grow from seed. It will easily become a weed if the seed heads are allowed to dry on the plant. The large green caterpillars that eat dill will turn into swallowtail butterflies, so plant enough for you and them. Is used for pickling. It can also be added to fish, cottage cheese, cream cheese, salad dressings, and most vegetables.

Thyme—is a good ornamental in beds and rock gardens. Along with sage, rosemary, marjoram, and oregano, thyme should be considered a basic of every herb garden.

UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Brush Country Beef 706

The Texas Beef Council and The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension have teamed up to present the Brush Country Beef 706 Program. This is a three part series of hands on sessions, focusing on beef quality management and marketing opportunities., is available for all beef cattle producers, to help maximize profits and have a better understanding of the production process after their cattle enter the feed yard.

This program is being put together by the Atascosa, Live Oak, Wilson, Karnes, Bee, McMullen, Bexar and San Patricio County Extension Programs. The **First Session** will take place **September 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm** at the Live Oak Livestock Market Auction 3795 U.S. 281 Three Rivers, Tx beginning at 6pm with dinner. **Session two** will take place **February 4, 2023 at 9:00 am** at Texana Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, Tx. Lastly **session three** will be held as a 1.5 day program on **May 2-3, 2023** at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9 am on Day 1 and 7:30 am on Day 2 ending at 1pm.

To read more about each session and the Brush Country Beef 706 Program see attached Flyer. If you would like to register call the **Live Oak County Extension Office at 361-449-1703 by Thursday September 8, 2022**

South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Fall Tour

The 2022 South Texas Peanut Growers Fall Day and Tour will be held on Thursday September 22 in Pearsall at the Frio County Extension office 410 S. Pecan St. Pearsall Texas. Registration is scheduled to start at 8:30 the cost is \$10 Cash only. The tour will begin at 9: 00am , covering Peanut Breeding , Variety Trials & Insecticide trials. 3 CEUs will be offered towards your Private Pesticide License. Lunch will be served. RSVP by Wednesday September 21, 2022 with the Frio 830-334-0099 or Atascosa County Extension office at 830-569-0034

Multi County Water Screening

The Water Screening Program, Sponsored by Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, McMullen, LaSalle, and Zavala Counties is scheduled for October 12th to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened. The cost is \$15.00 per sample. Samples will be collected between 8 & 9 am. Well owners may pick up a sample bag and instructions from their Extension Office. Atascosa County AgriLife Extension Office, 25 E. 5th Street, Leming, Tx. Results will be available on October 14, at your local County Extension Office. Samples are screened for fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, salinity, and hydrocarbons.



UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SAVE THE DATE

As we get into September and October be on the look out for some upcoming programs!!

Fall Wildlife Workshop– October 22,2022

The District 12– TCAAA is hosting there raffle in support of the 2024 NCAAA National Conference if you would like to purchase tickets feel free to contact our office at 830-569-0034



DISTRICT 12



TCAAA 2022 RAFFLE

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IN SUPPORT OF THE 2024 NCAAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



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9.



10.



District 12
TCAAA
Gun Raffle

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Donation: \$20/ticket

RAFFLE ITEMS

1. Bergara B14 HMR 6.5 Creedmoor
2. Bergara B-14 Hunter .270 Win
3. Browning Buck Mark Micro Bull .22 LR
4. Rock River Arms ATH V2 Carbine 223 Wylde 18"
5. Weatherby Orion o/u 20 ga. Turkish Walnut
6. Bergara BMR Micro MFR 22 LR
7. CZ 75 P-09 9mm
8. Sig P320XF 9mm 4.7" 17 Rd BLK
9. Remington 700 SPS Tactical AAC-SD .308 Win 20 BBL
10. Remington 870 12 Ga. 26" Walnut

Drawing: Friday, November 18, 2022

Winners must meet minimum age requirements and pass FFL background check.

\$20 PER TICKET

Drawing will be on Facebook live on the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association- TCAAA in District 12 Facebook page at 12:00 noon

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022





Brush Country Beef 706

Series of Three Field Trips/Workshops



The Texas Beef Council and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension have teamed up to present the Brush Country Beef 706 program. This three-part series of hands-on sessions, focusing on beef quality management and marketing opportunities, is available for all beef cattle producers. This checkoff-funded program is designed to help producers maximize profits and have a better understanding of the production process after their cattle enter the feedyard.

Session one will be held Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Live Oak Livestock Market Auction, 3795 U.S. 281, Three Rivers, TX (4 miles south of Three Rivers, TX on Hwy 281 or 6 miles north of George West on Hwy 281, located on the west side of Hwy 281) beginning at 6:00pm with dinner. Speakers will discuss factors affecting feeder calves and the value they receive at auction based on their expected performance in the feedyard. Producers will then choose and bid on a calf for the feedyard and processing sectors. Please RSVP by September 8, 2022 by calling 361-449-1703

Session two will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023 at 9:00 am at Texana Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, TX . During this session, producers will get to review their cattle as nearly-finished market steers and learn about factors that impacted feedyard performance and impact finished steer value. The program will start with a feedyard tour at 9:00 am. Please RSVP by January 27, 2023 by calling 361-449-1703

Session three will be held May 2-3, 2023 9:00 am at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9:00am on Day 1 and 7:30am on Day 2 and ending at 1:00pm. This 1.5-day session will allow producers to participate in a hands-on exercise that takes their chosen feeder calves from session 1, now finished steers, through the harvest, grading and fabrication process. Please RSVP by April 21, 2023 by calling 361-449-1703. There will not be a cost to attend the workshop but individuals must participate in the complete series.

Questions

Dale Rankin
Atascosa County
830-569-0034

Warren Kopplin
Live Oak County
361-449-1703

Atascosa County
Live Oak County
Wilson County
Karnes County
Bee County
McMullen County
Bexar County
San Patricio

To Register call
Live Oak County
361-449-1703

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Multicounty

Water Well Screening Day



HAVE YOU TESTED YOUR PRIVATE WATER WELL?

Private water wells should be tested annually. A water screening program is being held by The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, McMullen, LaSalle, Maverick, and Zavala counties.

The offices are hosting a water well screening on **October 12, 2022** to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened. The cost is \$15.00 per sample.

Samples will be collected on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Well owners may pick up a sample bag and instructions from their County Extension Office.

- Atascosa County AgriLife Extension Office, 25 E. 5th Street, Leming, TX 78050
- Dimmit County AgriLife Extension Office, 539 Industrial Blvd., Carrizo Springs, TX 78834
- Frio County AgriLife Extension Office, 400 S. Pecan Street, Pearsall, TX 78061
- McMullen County AgriLife Extension Office, 604 River Street, Tilden, TX 78072
- Zavala County AgriLife Extension Office, 221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX 78839
- LaSalle County AgriLife Extension Office, 119 S. Front Street, Cotulla TX 78014
- Maverick County AgriLife Extension Office, 2350 East Main Street Eagle Pass, TX 78852-4419

Results will be available on **October 14, 2022** at your Local County Extension Office. The screening is presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Samples screened for:

FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Presence indicates that feces (bodily waste from humans or animals) may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with this bacteria is more likely to have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, or other symptoms.

NITRATES

Levels above 10 ppm may cause infants, pregnant or lactating women, the elderly, and the immune-suppressed to be at risk for methemoglobinemia, a condition which inhibits the ability of blood to sufficiently carry oxygen to tissues and cells.

SALINITY

Measured by Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Water with high TDS levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste. Using water with high TDS for irrigation may damage the soil or plants.

HYDROCARBONS

Presence indicates that oil contamination has occurred.



Education programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Support for the Texas Well Owner Network program is provided through Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source funding from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Agreement No. 10-04.

2022 South Texas Peanut Growers Association Annual Tour



Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022

Time: 8:30 AM (Registration)

Place: Frio County Conference Room

410 S. Pecan Street - Pearsall, Texas

Registration Fee: \$10.00 (*cash only*)

The tour will begin at 9:00 AM. Topics to be covered include: Peanut breeding lines, variety trials, & insecticide trials.

Three (3) continuing education units (CEU's) will be given towards your Private Pesticide Applicator License.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM in the Frio County Conference Room.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 21, 2022 with Brianna Gonzales, Frio County Extension Agent at 830-334-0099 or Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent at 830-569-0034.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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://agriflifeextension.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 Checkout the Texas 4-H Facebook Page for daily activities and videos! Contact Ashlie Stayton at the extension office for even more 4-H resources.

