

# ***Atascosa County Ag Newsletter***

Courtesy of: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office  
25 E. 5th Street P.O. Box 379 Leming, TX 78050  
830-569-0034      [Atascosa.agrilife.org](http://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.

# ***Deer Shedding***

by Jacob Dykes Extension Wildlife Specialist

Male deer have pedicles, which are permanent growths on the frontal bone that become visible at about 4 months of age. During spring, soft and spongy antler grows rapidly from these due to a hairy covering called velvet, which is dense with blood vessels that carry nutrients to the antler.

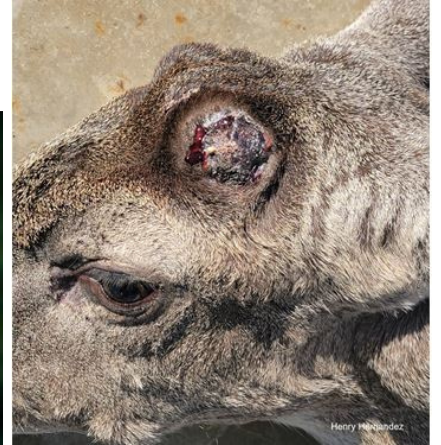
In the late summer, antlers eventually reach their definitive shape, and the outer antler mineralizes into compact bone. Once antler mineralization is complete, the velvet dries and sheds, typically within 24 hours. During this time, deer rub their antlers against trees to speed up the process.



Buck Fawn



Growing antlers covered in velvet



Pedicle after recent antler shedding

After breeding season, the area between the pedicle and antler starts to demineralize, which ultimately leads to the antlers being shed or cast. Antlers shedding leaves an open wound on top of the pedicle, but within a few weeks, the pedicle scabs over, and the process repeats.

## Fun Facts:

1. antlers are the only appendage in mammals that can regenerate
2. white-tailed deer antlers may grow up to 1/4 inch per day
3. antler tissue grows faster than cancer tissue and is used in cancer research

# OVER-THE-COUNTER LIVESTOCK ANTIBIOTICS WILL REQUIRE PRESCRIPTION AFTER JUNE 11

## AGRILIFE EXTENSION EXPERTS ANSWER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS TO PREPARE LIVESTOCK OWNERS

Don't wait. Get to know your local veterinarian now and establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship if you expect to treat livestock in the future, as over-the-counter livestock antibiotics will soon require a prescription.

That is the advice of a team of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts trying to help livestock owners who are used to going to the local feed store to buy some antibiotics and administer treatment themselves.

All of that will change on June 11, when these medically important antimicrobial drugs will require veterinary oversight.

The following experts answer some frequently asked questions to let livestock owners know what to expect:

-Tom Hairgrove, DVM, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension cattle veterinary specialist in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station

-Joe Paschal, Ph.D., former AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, now representing industry as the executive vice president of American Brahman Breeders Association, Corpus Christi.

-Billy Zanolini, Ph.D., assistant professor and 4-H and youth development specialist, Bryan-College Station

### **What is the new rule?**

-The FDA recommends manufactures of medically important antimicrobial drugs that continue to be available over the counter and are approved for use in animals, both companion and food-producing, regardless of delivery mechanism, to voluntarily bring these products under veterinary oversight or prescription marketing status. By June 11, labels of the remaining over-the-counter antibiotics for livestock use will be required to read: "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by on the order of a licensed veterinarian," and the purchaser must have a prescription or drug order to buy it.

### **HOW does this differ from the Veterinary Feed Directive and why are the two confused?**

-Over-the-counter antibiotics used in animal feed were moved to Veterinary Feed Directive, VFD, in 2017, allowing closer veterinarian oversight of antimicrobial use in animal feeds. All over-the-counter antibiotics placed in the drinking water were moved to prescription status at the same time. This new rule concerns the few antibiotics that remained available over the counter in the form of injectables, intramammary tubes and boluses.

# OVER- THE - COUNTER LIVESTOCK ANTIBIOTICS WILL REQUIRE PRESCRIPTION AFTER JUNE 11

## **What does medically important mean?**

-Medically important drugs are essential to human medicine and also used to treat animals.

## **What antibiotics does this affect?**

-Prescription-only items will include injectable tylosin, injectable and intramammary penicillin, injectable and oral oxytetracycline, sulfadimethoxine and sulfamethazine, gentamicin, cephalixin and cephalixin benzathine intramammary tubes.

## **How and where can these items be purchased after the rule goes into effect?**

-Individuals with veterinary-client-patient relationships, VCPR, may purchase antibiotics directly from their veterinarian or from a distributor with the vet's prescription.

## **What's your advice to livestock owners without a VCPR?**

-Producers who already have a VCPR in place and purchase their animal health products through their veterinary office through other distributors under an existing prescription system will likely notice little change. However, this may have significant impacts on how the livestock owners can access antibiotic therapy for their animals, so contact your local veterinarian as soon as possible.

## **What constitutes a VCPR?**

### **Three requirements must be met:**

1. The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgements regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions.
2. The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the animal's medical condition. This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by examining the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept.
3. The veterinarian is readily available or has arranged emergency coverage and follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

## **Why shouldn't I go ahead and stock up on antibiotics now?**

-Do not stock up on these products to avoid needing a prescription once this change takes effect. Animal health products are expensive, have expiration dates and are sensitive to storage time and conditions.

## **Are there any specific instructions that should be given to livestock show exhibitors?**

-Livestock exhibitors, like all producers in animal agriculture, are responsible for understanding animal treatment regulations. For junior shows, students complete the "Quality Counts" quality-assurance curriculum that stresses the importance of VCPR.

## **What health/medical items can livestock owners continue to purchase over the counter?**

-Most vaccines, dewormers, injectable and oral nutritional supplements, ionophores, probiotics and topical nonantibiotic treatments will not require a veterinary prescription. However, there are some exceptions. Always read the label.



# WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Disease a major cause of higher egg prices, poultry population impacts

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, HPAI, specifically, HPAI H5N1, sometimes commonly referred to as "bird flu," is something that has affected everyone, whether they realize it or not. This is the virus that is causing disruptions in the poultry industry, triggering a price increase on eggs and other poultry products in the grocery store not felt since the last time avian influenza outbreak in 2015.

But this time is different according to Texas A&M AgriLife experts.

Martin Ficken, DVM, Ph.D., e=resident director at Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL, Gonzales, is an expert in poultry disease with an emphasis on HPAI. Below, he explains what makes this virus so devastating and what should be done if you think you have an infected flock.

## **What is avian influenza?**

It is a viral infection in the same class as human influenza and can present as a respiratory infection. Avian influenza has a high morbidity and mortality rate, approaching 100%. An infected bird will infect other birds very quickly, with death almost certain with 48 Hours.

## **What symptoms should poultry owners look for in their flock?**

The first thing people will likely notice is dead birds. They may also notice birds that are lethargic, have ruffled feathers or look depressed. Essentially, what you would imagine when you think of a sick bird. If people happen to see an infected bird while still alive, it will very likely die within hours to a day.



## **Where does avian influenza come from and how is it spread?**

The virus has been spread around the country to every state in the U.S. except Hawaii by the wild bird population. They serve as carries and spread it as they migrate. Poultry and other birds can pick up the virus particles via respiratory exposure as well as through feces.

Poultry can pick it up simply by being in the same space where an infected wild bird once stood. While avian influenza is of greater concern to commercial poultry producers, backyard flock owners can have birds become infected.

The virus thrives in cold weather. Previous outbreaks in the U.S. have subsided in summer months due to the heat, however, the most recent outbreak that began in 2021 did not. It diminished, but never completely went away, so it is no longer considered an exotic virus that can be eradicated. It is here to stay.

## **What should you do if you suspect a bird in your flock has avian influenza?**

There really is no treatment for sick birds due to the morbidity and mortality rate of avian influenza. If producers suspect they have infected birds, the best thing to do is contact the Texas animal Health Commission, TVMDL or their local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent. Anyone at those agencies can guide them through the appropriate next steps, which will include submitting samples to TVMDL for testing. A confirmed positive test triggers a series of regulatory processes that could eventually result in facility quarantine and depopulation.

# WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA? CONT

## **What can producers do to protect their flocks against avian influenza?**

The most important thing for anyone raising poultry is to be vigilant and strict with their biosecurity measures. Prevention is really the only treatment for avian influenza. While it would be best not to let others on your poultry premise, if you must, make sure they follow all biosecurity protocols such as a change of clothes and shoes. It would also be best if producers didn't visit other poultry premises and follow strict biosecurity guidelines themselves.

While it may seem harmless to do something as simple as wearing the same pair of shoes into your building as you wore to the grocery store, you don't know where people at the store have been and what you could be carrying back to your flock. Prevention and biosecurity are key factors in protecting flocks.

The same general principles apply to backyard flock owners as well. It is also important not to let your poultry come in contact with wild birds or in areas where wild birds have access, especially ponds that may attract ducks and geese. That is where some of the positive cases in Texas originated.

## **Can I get avian influenza?**

At this time, human contraction is not a concern. Birds and eggs destined for the food supply are tested for avian influenza. If a bird with the virus particles were to inadvertently be consumed, standard cooking protocols would kill the virus.

## **How many positive cases has Texas had?**

Texas has had three poultry premises test positive for birds with the virus, but at this time, none were commercial premises. Additionally, there have been a number of wild birds and zoo animals test positive in the state.

As of the beginning of February, on a nationwide basis, there have been 403 positive commercial poultry premises and 342 positive non-commercial premises in 47 states. Louisiana and West Virginia are the only two states to have only wild bird detections at this time. A total of 49 states have had 5,956 detections in 142 species of wild birds.

## **What Happens Next?**

Regulatory agencies will continue to monitor the spread of avian influenza. Testing will continue to be done on birds and eggs destined for the food supply and regularly mandated testing will continue for commercial premises. No vaccine is currently available, but is being discussed as a possible solution.

The high morbidity and mortality rate of the virus, coupled with depopulations for infected flocks, will continue to influence egg and poultry prices at the grocery store. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at this time, more than 58 million birds have been affected by avian influenza. As of January, the USDA Economic Research Service reports that over 43 million of those losses were in commercial egg-laying operations. When a major laying operation goes down, millions of eggs are no longer being added to the supply chain daily. It will take time for affected premises to repopulate their flocks and time for consumers to feel that affect at the grocery store.

Additional information on avian influenza and biosecurity practices can be found here: [tx.ag.AlandBiosecurity](http://tx.ag.AlandBiosecurity).

Those interested in avian testing should call one of TVDML's poultry laboratories in Gonzales or Center, or one of the agency's full-service laboratories in College Station or Canyon. For more information on TVDML's testing services, visit [tvdml.tamu.edu](http://tvdml.tamu.edu)

# UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## ***Strawberry Fruit & Nut Tree Program***

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Atascosa County will be hosting a Fruit & Nut Tree Program on March 2nd 2023 at the **Stevens Farm** Located **425 McCaughn Road Poteet, TX 78065**. This Program will be starting at **5:30pm** we ask that you **RSVP by Friday 2/24/2023 at 830-569-0034**. **Topics Covered are 2022 Strawberry Results Data, Strawberry Fertility, & New Varieties Updates. 1 General CEU will be offered towards your TDA Private or Commercial Applicator License**

## ***Private Applicator Training***

We will host a private applicator training on **Friday March 31st at 8:00 am at the Atascosa County Extension Office in Leming**. The Cost of the Training will be **\$60 dollars** in Cash or Check. If you are interested in attending please call our office by March 27th at 830-569-0034.

## ***Brush Country Beef 706***

Our Final Session; **Session three** will be held as a 1.5 day program on **May 2-3, 2023** at Texas A&M University Rosental Meat Science Center beginning at 9 am on Day 1 and 7:30am on Day 2 ending at 1pm.

To read more about each session and the Brush Country Beef 706 Program see attached Flyer.

## ***South Texas Peanut Growers Association Annual Meeting***

The 2023 South Texas Peanut Growers Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 7th in Peasal**. **Registration will start at 2:00pm** at the Frio County Extension Office and the **Program will begin at 2:30 pm**. Topics to be covered include: Auxin Training (Cotton), Peanut Variety trials, Herbicide update, Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District Water Outlook Report. Sesajal Update, Texas Peanut Producers update etc. Three (3) continuing education units will be given with a

**\$10.00 Cash only** fee toward your Texas Department of Agriculture Private Pesticide Applicator License. Supper will be served at 6:30pm at the Extension Office Please RSVP by March 3rd with **Brianna Gonzales, Frio County Agent 830-334-0099** or **Dale Rankin Atascosa County Agent at 80-569-0034**

# UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## ***2023 Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife Photography***

Our wildlife photography contest has opened up and will run from October 1, 2022, to April 15, 2023. If you are interested in entering a photo the cost is \$20 per photo for adults and \$10 per photo for the youth. Categories include Wildlife Portraits, Landscape/Scenic, Motion, Game Camera, & Mobile Phone. The Contest is open to all photographers at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Age 8-17 years must obtain verified parental or guardian consent regardless of division entered. 18 years or older are prohibited from entering the youth division. Entries must be submitted as digital files and emailed along with the entry form to [atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com](mailto:atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com)

## ***Save the Dates***

The following dates are for upcoming educational programs we will be releasing more information soon, so mark your calendars.

**April 18th Annual Cattlemans Association Meeting**

**April 5th -6th Spring Water Screening**

**April 24th Atascosa Club Calf Breeders Online Sale**





# 2023 Summer Camp Schedule

JUNE	7-11	ROLLING PLAINS BOBWHITE BRIGADE THE 1687 FOUNDATION	RISING STAR, TX
	11-15	SOUTH TEXAS BUCKSKIN BRIGADE CHAP ARROSA RANCH	LA PRYOR, TX
	24-28	SOUTH TEXAS BOBWHITE BRIGADE BUCK HORN CREEK RANCH	MCCOY, TX
	24-28	SOUTH TEXAS RANCH BRIGADE DUVAL COUNTY RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
JULY	5-9	BASS BRIGADE WARREN RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
	12-16	WATERFOWL BRIGADE PINTAIL HUNTING CLUB	GARWOOD, TX
	17-21	RANCH BRIGADE WARREN RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
	23-27	NORTH TEXAS BUCKSKIN BRIGADE WARREN RANCH	SANTA ANNA, TX
	25-29	COSTAL BRIGADE SEA STAR BASE GALVESTON	GALVESTON, TX

APPLY NOV.1 - MAR.15 • [TEXASBRIGADE.ORG/APPLICATIONS](https://TEXASBRIGADE.ORG/APPLICATIONS)



# 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 feed yard.

**Session two will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9:00 am** at Texaana 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 feed yard 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 at 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.

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 opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

WE REQUEST THAT YOU CONTACT THE ATASCOSA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE EIGHT DAYS (8) PRIOR TO THE EVENT OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ADVISE US OF THE AXILIARY AIR OR SERVICE THAT YOUR REQUIRE 830-569-0034

## Questions

Dale Rankin      Warren Kopplin  
Atascosa County      Live Oak County  
830-569-0034      361-449-1703

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

**To Register Call  
Live Oak County  
361-449-1703**

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



# **Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife! Photography Contest**

Hosted by Atascosa  
Wildlife & Fisheries and  
Atascosa Wildlife Coop



## **Get Started Right Away ...**

Entry Period is open now through  
April 14, 2023

Adult & Youth Categories are

- Wildlife Portraits
- Landscape/Scenic
- Motion
- Game Camera
- Mobile Phone

Photos must be captured in Texas.

For a complete set of rules and  
official entry form visit  
[atascosa.agrilife.org](http://atascosa.agrilife.org) and look at  
upcoming events on the home page.

## **Who is Eligible?**

This contest is open to all photographers who are at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Entrants 8 to 17 years of age MUST obtain verified parental or guardian consent regardless of division entered. Entrants 18 years or older are prohibited from entering the youth division.

## **How to Enter?**

Entries must be submitted as a digital files and emailed along with entry form to [atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com](mailto:atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com)

Entry Fees: Youth \$10/photo or Adults \$20/photo. Youth may compete in the adult division but cannot compete in both divisions.

Payment Methods: Payment and entry form may be submitted via check payable to Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries, PO Box 379, Leming, Texas 78050. Cash is accepted in person at 25 E. 5th Street Leming, Texas 78050. Payment may be submitted online through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/418067329637>. Please note Eventbrite charges an additional fee for their services. Please remember to email us your entry form.

The Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Coop are non-profit organizations created to connect adults and youth with nature, promote responsible stewards of wildlife, and encourage conservation efforts.



# Atascosa Wildlife Photography Contest Entry Form



## Contestant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number : (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Division (check one)      Youth ☐      Adult ☐

Payment Method (check one)    CASH ☐    Check (# \_\_\_\_\_)    Online ☐

Number of Photos Submitting: \_\_\_\_\_      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I AGREE TO THE RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE  
PHOTO CONTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS: ☐

## Photo Information

Photo ID or File Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Category Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

Edits Made: \_\_\_\_\_

## Photo Information

Photo ID or File Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Category Entered: \_\_\_\_\_

Edits Made: \_\_\_\_\_



# STRAWBERRY, FRUIT, & NUT TREE PROGRAM

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*



Thursday, March 2, 2023

Stevens Farms  
425 McCaughn Road  
Poteet, TX 78065

Registration starts at 5:15pm  
Program starts at 5:30pm

Topics include:

2022 Strawberry Results Data,  
Strawberry Fertility ( preplant,  
slow release, foliar),  
New Varieties update

1.0 general continuing education  
units towards your T.D.A. private  
applicator license.

Please RSVP by Friday, 2/24/23 at  
830-569-0034.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Service - Atascosa Co. Office  
25 E. Fifth Street  
Leming, TX 78050

**Phone: 830.569-0034**

**E-mail: [dw-rankin@tamu.edu](mailto:dw-rankin@tamu.edu)**

**web: <http://atascosa.agrilife.org>**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. We will seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact the Atascosa County Extension Service eight days (8) prior to the event at (830)- 569-0034 or as soon as possible to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you require.



# 2023 South Texas Peanut Growers Association Annual Meeting



The 2023 South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 7, 2023** in Pearsal. Registration will start at 2:00 PM at the Frio County Extension Office and the program will begin at 2:30 PM. Topics to be covered include: Auxin Training (Cotton), peanut variety trials, Herbicide update, Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District Water Outlook Report, Sesajal Update, Texas Peanut Producers Update etc. Three (3) continuing education units (CEU's) will be given with a \$10.00 (Cash Only) fee toward your Texas Department of Agriculture Private Pesticide Applicator License. Supper will be served at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office. **Please RSVP by March 3** with Briana Gonzales, Frio County Extension Agent-Ag at (830) 334-0099 or Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent-Ag at (830) 569-0034