

# Houston County Summer Agriculture Newsletter

Summer 2014

June 11, 2014



## *Dates of Interest*

**June** Every Saturday  
Farmers Market  
Davy Crockett Park  
8am - 11am

**August 4-6**  
Beef Cattle Short Course  
College Station, Tx

**September 5**  
Houston/Trinity County  
Pesticide CEU and *possible*  
Training

**October 24**  
Cow Country Congress  
Center Ranch, Centerville



## **Inside this issue:**

Marketing Hay	1
Proper Injections	1
BQA training Opport.	3
Beef & Forage Seminar	4
Beef Cattle SC	4
Cattle Shrink Demo	5
Blossom End Rot	5

## **Marketing Hay by Nutritive Value and Weight**

**Dr. Larry Redmon**, Professor and State Forage Specialist

The use of round bales is popular due to reduced labor requirements associated with storing and feeding the hay. Most hay sold for cow-calf production systems is sold on a per round bale basis. There are two major problems associated with this procedure.

The first problem with purchasing hay strictly on a per round bale basis relates to the unknown

nutritive value of the bale. Producers buying hay need to know whether the nutritive value of the forage is high enough to meet the requirements of animals being fed. If the forage is below the nutrient level required by the kind and class of animals being fed, then additional supplementation is required during the hay feeding period. This can add dramatically to

the cost of the feeding program. Many times hay is advertised as "well" or "heavily fertilized", but the meaning of these terms is unclear at best. The actual level of crude protein, digestible energy, and possibly other aspects of the forage should be determined from a forage analysis. This information enables the producer to make sound feeding, and if

**Continued on page 2**

## **Proper injection sites when working calves**

Now is that time of year when producers will schedule the "working" of their calves. Proper injection administration is a critical point in beef

production and animal health. No matter which product is being injected into the calf, there is always a negative relationship between meat ten-

derness and the injection site. In fact, all intramuscular (IM) injections will create permanent damage regardless

**Continued on page 3**

necessary, supplementation decisions. Without a forage analysis, it is difficult to determine which of two bales of similar weight has more value. Many times higher-priced hay may actually prove to be a better bargain if no additional supplement is required. Ask yourself the question: Why should a bale with only 6% crude protein sell for the same as a bale that contains 16% crude protein? In most cases they should not, yet these differences are not obvious from a visual appraisal.

Another problem relates to the amount of dry matter being sold/purchased. Bale size can and does vary tremendously due to differences in (a) baling equipment, (b) experience/skill of the equipment operator, (c) forage species, (d) moisture content of the forage when baled, (e) type of wrap used and (f) storage conditions (inside versus outside).

When hay is sold by the bale rather than weight, someone, either the seller or the purchaser, is getting short changed. Producers may also be feeding less nutrients than required for good animal performance if nutrient content is low or bales weigh less than estimated.

### **The Solution**

The obvious answer to the problem of marketing round bales of unknown weight and nutritive value is to analyze and weigh the hay. Nutritive value of the forage can be determined by sending forage samples of each lot of hay to a forage testing laboratory. The actual weight of a load of hay can be determined by a trip across a set of local scales. Scales likely could be located at the production site. This weight, adjusted for moisture content determined by a moisture probe, results in the actual dry weight of the hay. For the purposes of hay marketing, a lot of hay is defined as: All the forage harvested and baled from one field at one harvest date and stored under similar conditions.

In other words, random forage samples should be obtained representing all harvest

dates for all fields. Samples should be obtained using a hay core inserted into the bale from the curved, not flat, side. Ten percent of the bales should be sampled to obtain one composite sample for analysis. This sample should be representative of the nutritive value for that lot of hay. Sample cost is presently \$10.00 per sample for crude protein analysis, a small price to pay to ensure the potential purchaser of the level of nutrients in that particular lot of hay.

Once the nutritive value and weight of the hay is known, prices per ton based on nutritive value may be established based on another accepted standard feed stuff, such as cottonseed meal. Finally, classifying hay based on nutritive value would provide information to purchasers regarding the kind and class of livestock for which a particular lot of hay is suited. A classification system also allows producers of better hay to be rewarded accordingly. A feed stuff other than cottonseed meal may be used to estimate the value of the hay and these prices will vary with year, but the weight and nutritive value of hay crops must be determined in order to facilitate a fair and equitable hay market. If you currently purchase hay, insist on seeing evidence that the hay has been weighed and has undergone forage analysis. If you currently produce hay, consider providing the customer a forage analysis and demonstrate the value of your efforts in putting up a good product. In the end, both parties will benefit from hay that is marketed by the ton and based on nutritive value.



## Injections continued.....

of the age of the animal at the time of injection. Tenderness is reduced in a 3 inch area surrounding the injection site.

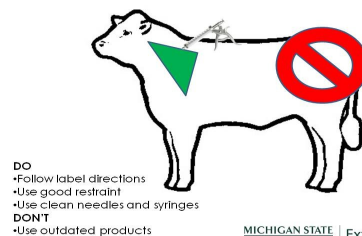
All injections should be given in the neck when possible to stop

damage to expensive steak cuts.

Always give injections according to the label and if there is an option to inject either subcutaneous or intramuscular, **always** choose subcutaneous.



Proper Injection Site in Beef Cattle



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

## BQA Training : Overton, TX - July 29, 2014



### I'll bet the beef is good.

It had better be. The Texas Beef Quality Producer program is all about the food.

The TBQP program was developed to assist cattlemen in producing a safer, more wholesome food product. Better beef management practices help deliver a better meal for the all-important consumer. Get ready to participate in an upcoming Texas Beef Quality Producer training near you.

The TBQP program is built upon a proven system of Best Management Practices. This half-day session allows producers to become BQA trained. You should get your seat reserved now because producers are finding the benefits go well beyond the ranch gate... through the livestock market, to the feedyard and most importantly, all the way to the consumer.

Our nation's Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) programs are vital. They help cattlemen give the consumer a wholesome eating experience – even with market cows and bulls. And a good eating experience with beef brings the consumer back for more.

Call or go online to RSVP for your seat.

Stacy Fox, TSCRA, [sfox@tscra.org](mailto:sfox@tscra.org)

**800-242-7820 • [www.texasbeefquality.com](http://www.texasbeefquality.com)**

**A collaborative effort of:**



**Place: Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center**

**Registration - 9:30 a.m. Program starts at 10:00 - should conclude around 3:30**

**Lunch provided**

**RSVP to TSCRA - 800-242-7820**



Training programs cover Beef Quality Assurance, industry updates, record keeping, environmental stewardship and proper management practices associated with genetic selection, cattle handling, culling, vaccination, drug use and more.

**Can't make the next training?**

**BQA certification is available online! Visit [www.texasbeefquality.com](http://www.texasbeefquality.com)**

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR





## *Beef & Forage Seminar*

**Date:** August 7, 2014

### **Speaker & Topics:**

**Location:**

Rusk County Expo Center  
3303 FM 13 West  
Henderson, Texas 75654

**Registration Starts** at 5 p.m.

**Program Starts** at: 5:30 PM

*"Mineral Supplementation*

*for Cow-Calf Operations"*

Dr. Jason Banta Associate

Professor & Extension Beef

Cattle Specialist

*"Hay Production"*

Dr. Vanessa Corriher Assistant

Professor & Extension Forage

Specialist

### **2 CEUs**

Cost: \$10 This includes a meal.

***Please RSVP to 903-683-5416 by  
Monday, August 4th***



## *2014 TAM Beef Cattle Short Course*

The 2014 TAM Beef Cattle Short Course will be held Monday, August 4 - Wednesday, August 6, 2014 in College Station, Texas on the campus of Texas A&M University.

BCSC is the largest beef educational event in the country. It is a three day seminar that represents the culmination of knowledge from industry leaders and experts. Each year more than 1,300 beef producers and enthusiasts attend the TAM BCSC to expand their knowledge of the beef cattle industry and join in the discussion of the most current issues facing the producer.

This industry gathering features the popular Cattleman's College, a general session with the nation's leading beef cattle experts, seminars, workshops and hands-on demonstrations.



Registration for the upcoming short course will be \$180 per person. Your registration includes the following:

- Three daily breakfasts
- Two lunch tickets
- Famous Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner ticket
- 600+ page proceeding
- Trade show admittance
- Refreshments
- Access to campus shuttle service

Students ages 13 to 18 years old have the opportunity to participate in our BCSC Youth Program.

Early registration will end July 30, 2014. After July 30 at 5:00 p.m. a \$40 late fee will be added

## 2014 Houston County Result Demonstration on Cattle Shrink

I started a result demonstration project in 2013 on studying the effects of shrink on fresh weaned calves brought into the East Texas Livestock Auction.

The objective of this project is to evaluate the percentage shrink and cost associated with it in these times of high cattle prices. The results of this study will provide data to determine the cost shrink plays in the cattle market for

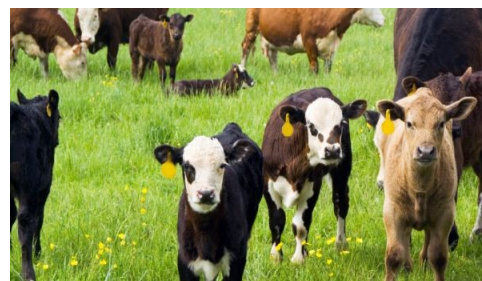
the producers.

Some cattle were put on feed for 4 days, some 3 days and some cattle were brought in the day before sale and placed on water only.

This study will continue into 2014 and in the coming years as it becomes increasingly important to producers to gain more from their cattle if they are replacing these sold calves

bought replacement heifers.

If you have non-creep fed, fresh weaned calves that you would like put into the study, please call me at 544-7502 or Paul Craycraft at 544-2246 to let us know.



## Blossom End Rot on Tomatoes

If you're growing vegetables, you probably have tomatoes. One of the most common tomato disorders is blossom end rot (BER). This is not a disease but a rather physiological problem caused by a lack of calcium and fluctuating soil moisture. BER is most severe on large, flat fruit varieties. Don't let the soil fully dry between watering or rain, but keep the soil more evenly moist. Mulching helps conserve moisture to minimize this problem. Before planting the next crop of tomatoes, lime the soil to provide calcium.

Blossom End Rot usually only affects the first tomatoes to ripen.

Tomatoes, peppers and other garden plants benefit from a side dressing of fertilizer (mainly nitrogen) to keep them vigorous and productive throughout summer. The extra nitrogen stimulates leafy growth on peppers which will help prevent sun scald on the fruit.



*Jo Smith*

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Houston County Extension Office  
716 Wells Street  
Crockett, Texas 75835

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Houston County Extension Office

716 Wells Street

Crockett, Texas 75835

Hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Phone: (936) 544-7502

Fax: (936) 544-5321

Email: [jo.smith@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jo.smith@ag.tamu.edu)

Website: <http://houston.agrilife.org>

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