

THE AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

JEFFERSON COUNTY

A publication on Agriculture, Land Use, and Natural Resource Conservation

Another New Year

As we move forward into the New Year 2011, I suspect this one will be written down in the books. There are lots of things unstable right now...it's going to be interesting to see the outcome.

Look on the bright side, economists say cattle numbers are down and demand will be up. This is good news, cattle price should be good all the way round. It's our job to make quality products that the consumer will enjoy at the table.

We have to know that every calf and every grain of rice that goes to market will affect the industry. I pray that we have good ground moisture all year long to maintain good numbers through out the Ag industry. I hope fuel doesn't become an issue with the beginning stages of this production year.

I need to inform you of changes being made with our state agency, AgriLife Extension. Like all other State agency's we are under fire for budget cuts. Clearly the budget situation at all levels of government presents tremendous challenges for Texas and AgriLife Extension. Elected officials and leaders need our support and understanding as never before, and our most inventive, resourceful efforts to continue serving the people of Texas.

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*Improving
Agricultural
Production in
Southeast Texas*

Expected reductions in appropriations require us to take steps now to mitigate the negative impacts of this economic downturn. We can either pursue alternative funding sources to offset the loss in general revenue, which supports salaries and agency operations, or make greater cuts to positions and service. This past year we saw reductions lead to cost cutting, job loss, and staffing realignments, all of which will continue to come into play. To what degree, however, depends on how successfully we can alleviate the impact of lost appropriations from any of our state, federal, or county partners.

To build a more sustainable future for Extension education in Texas, I ask you to understand as we make changes in our programs.

You will see an increase in some door/registration fees for Extension programs. The increase portion of fees will go directly to offset the loss in general revenue, which supports salaries and agency operations.

As Extension agents, it is our job to continue providing the highest quality and creative programs for the people of Texas.



Rice Futures Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Hospitality Room

Winnie Stowell Park

Gumbo &
Registration

6 pm



Presentation @ 6:30 pm given by

Dr. Mark Welch

Texas AgriLife Extension Economist

RSVP for the meal to
(409) 374-2123



Topics

► Puts

► Calls

► Commodity

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Chambers County AgriLife Extension Office five (5) working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

16th Annual Southeast Texas ICA Commercial Bull & Heifer Sale

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011
FORD PARK COMPLEX ■ BEAUMONT, TEXAS

SAVE THE DATE AND
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

Offering includes Top Quality Breeding Age Bulls
in addition to Quality Commercial Females-
Pairs, Bred, and Open Heifers.



For additional information,
please call or email:
(409) 296-2127
SETICA-PR@hotmail.com



You are invited to attend a TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Thursday, March 10 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Boyt Ranch
4740 Highway 61 Devers, Texas (409) 790-0249

Come one, Come all! Beef Producers, Family and Friends for an enjoyable evening!!

Theft is on the Rise!! Learn how to protect your property from theft, especially as we enter hurricane season. and Hear what is happening in Austin during this Legislative Session!

FREE Steak Dinner

Please RSVP by March 7: rsvp@tscra.org or 800-242-7820, ext. 192

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

Canada Ranch White Ranch Boyt Ranch Pipkin Ranch Liberty County Farm Bureau Chambers County
Farm Bureau TW Medical Veterinary Supply

If you join TSCRA during the event, you will receive a FREE TSCRA gate sign lease (\$35 value) courtesy of Bayer Animal Health!

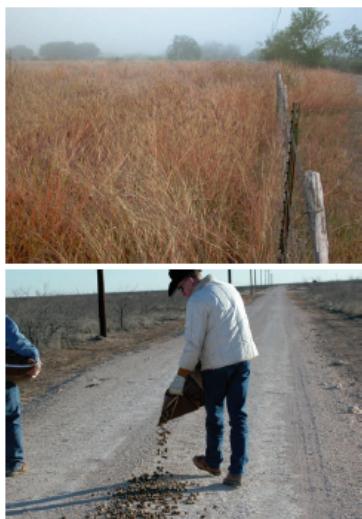
Directions: 4.5 Miles South of Devers on Highway 61. Ranch Entrance is on West Side of Highway.

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

February 4, 2011

Tending Cattle After the Winter Storm

for more information:
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu>



Highlights:

- Inclement (wet and cold) weather takes a toll on the quality of dormant forages
- A beef cow needs 7% crude protein in the diet to maintain rumen function.
- Late winter dormant forages often contain less than 7% crude protein.
- Depending on body condition, additional protein and energy supplementation may be warranted.
- Monitor the strength and condition of first calf heifers closely.

Rick Machen, PhD
Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Uvalde

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Forage Quality Has Changed

It appears the worst of the early February winter blizzard that swept across the state has past. As water sources thaw and leak repairs get underway, cattlemen might give some thought to forage conditions.

Grass leaves contain most of the digestible protein, energy and minerals in the plant. Rain, sleet, snow and freezing temperatures leech these valuable nutrients from the plant. Snow and ice accumulation tends to break leaves from the stems. Likewise, the weight of snow and ice often reduces range for-

age to a mat that may be of lesser palatability than standing forage. With fewer leaves and perhaps a mat-like appearance, the forage has no doubt changed in the past ten days.

Grazing cattle need a minimum of 7% crude protein in the diet to support rumen microbes and maintain rumen function. The protein content of weathered dormant forages may be below this optimum threshold. If so, cattle may be slowly starving on a belly full of grass.

In addition to correcting a potential rumen ni-

rogen [protein] deficiency, protein supplementation will often facilitate greater forage (and hence energy) intake. If cows are in thin body condition (condition score 4 or less), supplemental energy may be warranted to speed their recovery from the cold stress.

Late winter and spring-calving cows are in their final trimester of gestation where 80+ percent of fetal growth occurs. Improvement in body condition is difficult during this time. Remember—the goal is to calve them in at least a BCS=5 to optimize the 2012 calf crop.

How much does a cow need?

1300 lb, 5 year old, heavy bred cow

Current range forage quality (estimated): 5% crude protein, 48% TDN

Predicted forage intake, 24 lb/day

Predicted weight change lose a condition score in 50 days

Supplement required to maintain condition and weight

20% cubes 5 lb/day

Distillers dried grains 3.5 lb/day

(Numerous other supplements are available, these two are offered as references only.)



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Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

*Improving Agricultural
Production in Southeast Texas*



<http://jefferson-tx.tamu.edu/>

Don't Forget the Wildlife

Winter elements brought more than bone chilling temperatures. For livestock and wildlife stewards, the transition from winter to spring ushers in additional chores. Like their domestic counterparts, songbirds, game birds, deer and other wildlife need food and water daily. A dry fall and winter has reduced the quantity and quality of food/forage available for wildlife and dried up some water sources.. So while you're out there tending to livestock, put out a little extra out for the wild critters...

