

## **AGRICULTURAL NEWS**

**BY:**

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**TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE**

**WILSON, COUNTY**

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**JANUARY 2012**

**NEWSLETTER**

### **TOPICS INCLUDE**

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- **"Restarting Your Cattle Operation" Series**
  - **Forage Management - January 11, 2012**
  - **Weed and Brush Management- February 29, 2012**
  - **Fitting Cattle to Their Environment- April 18, 2012**
  - **Managing the Cowherd- May 16, 2012**
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- **Private Applicators License Training/Testing**
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### **FOREWORD**

Drought- a word that is receiving a lot of attention throughout Texas. From agriculture to urban life, from farmers and ranchers to energy producers, water suppliers and consumers- everyone and everything are being affected by drought.

No one has escaped the far-reaching impact of this historical disaster. By the numbers, beef cattle

have the greatest cash loss, followed by cotton, hay, corn and sorghum.

The drought's effects on the agricultural industry are also passed on to consumers, who depend on these products for their daily necessities.

This may have been the worst one-year drought because we had so little rain during the winter (late 2010 to early 2011) followed by an absolutely hot and dry spring and summer.

October 2010- September 2011 was the driest 12 month period ever recorded in Texas. The combined June through August temperature was one of the hottest ever for any state.

Texas AgriLife Extension will continue to address the needs of producers and consumers to make conditions better during these trying times.

### **“RESTARTING YOUR CATTLE OPERATION” SERIES -**

As stated in the foreword, we have been experiencing some tough times. Texas AgriLife Extension will conduct a 5 part series to address the issue of restarting your cattle operation. The programs will focus on all aspects of recovery ranging from forage production to financial considerations.

**Each program will have a \$10.00 participation fee, payable at the door, but there will be a minimum of 2 CEU hours offered at each event.**

### **FORAGE MANAGEMENT- JANUARY 11, 2012**

Dr. Megan Dominguez, Extension Range Specialist will discuss estimating forage, establishing stocking rates and grazing regimes. Dr. Larry Falconer, Extension Economist, will discuss the economics of forage production. The seminar will be held at the Falls City Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. 2 General CEU's will be offered. There will be a \$10.00 participation fee payable at the door.

### **WEED AND BRUSH MANAGEMENT- FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

Dr. Megan Dominguez, Extension Range Specialist, will discuss aspects of weed and brush management. Dr. Larry Falconer, Extension Economist, will discuss the economics of weed and brush control. We will collect weed and brush plants for an I.D. exercise and contest. The seminar will be held at the Falls City Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. 1 General, 1 Laws & Regulations and 1 IPM CEU will be offered. There will be a \$10.00 participation fee payable at the door.

### **FITTING CATTLE TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT-**

**APRIL 18, 2012**

Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist, will discuss fitting cattle to their environment as we begin to rebuild our cowherd. Dr. Larry Falconer, Extension Economist, will discuss the economics of restocking your cattle herd. The seminar will be held at the Falls City Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. 2 General CEU's will be offered. There will be a \$10.00 participation fee payable at the door.

### **MANAGING THE COWHERD-**

**MAY 16, 2012**

Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist, will discuss various nutrition and health practices that are needed for your cattle operation. Dr. Larry Falconer, Extension Economist, will discuss the economics of the cattle practices discussed at the seminar. The seminar will be held at the Falls City Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. 2 General CEU's will be offered. There will be a \$10.00 participation fee payable at the door.

### **MANAGING THE COWHERD-**

**JUNE 6, 2012**

Dr. Joe Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist, will discuss various aspects of handling cattle and numerous ideas on marketing cattle. 1 General, 1 Laws & Regulations and 1 IPM will be offered. The seminar will be held at the Falls City Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. We are planning on conducting a fencing demonstration sponsored by SASCO prior to the seminar. Tentatively, it will begin at 5:00 p.m. and more details will be forthcoming. There will be a \$10.00 participation fee payable at the door.

### **PRIVATE APPLICATORS LICENSE**

#### **TRAINING/TESTING**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

A training and testing for persons interested in acquiring a private applicators license will be offered on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Wilson County Showbarn, which is located on Highway 97 East, approximately 1.5 miles east of Highway 181. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the

training program will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. The test will be administered following the training at 1:00 p.m. A lunch break between the training and testing will be taken. No lunch will be provided, lunch will be on your own.

This program is for persons who do not currently have an applicators certificate or license, for those who have a license which expired at least one year ago and want to retest, and for persons who want to upgrade their certificate to a license.

If you plan to attend, please call the Extension Office by January 27<sup>th</sup> at 830-393-7357 to register. A study manual is available for \$25.00 at the Extension Office. These study materials are very helpful and I strongly encourage you to purchase them if you have not already. Participants should bring a calculator and photo I.D. to the training.

**There will be a \$10.00 registration fee payable at the door.**

This program is being sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Wilson County. If you have any questions, please call our office at 830-393-7357.

### **New Sales Tax Exemption Registration**

Beginning January 1, 2012, farm, ranch and timber operators who produce agricultural and timber products for sale will need a special registration number to claim a sales tax exemption on taxable products used in those businesses.

This registration number can be obtained through either a mail-in application or an online application.

None of the exemption laws have changed, except that you now will need a registration number to qualify for sales tax exemption instead of simply signing an exemption certificate at the time of purchase.

Online applications can be obtained at [GetReadyTexas.org](http://GetReadyTexas.org) or you can download a paper application from the website and mail it in. You can also call 1-800-252-5555 to request a form by mail. The Wilson County Extension Office has information packets and forms available at our office.

If you are an agricultural producer, and have not taken care of this, you should do so immediately.

### **PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY FROM WILDFIRES**

The likelihood of wildfires has increased dramatically over the last few years. The potential of wildfires occurring increases when relative humidity drops below 20% and wind blows over 20 miles per hour.

With more people moving to the country, the interaction between wildfire and people is becoming more frequent. Every year numerous structures and millions of dollars of personal property are lost to wildfire. Many of those losses could be avoided if certain precautions were used.

Landowners can take steps to prevent losses caused by wildfire. By using fire resistant exterior building materials and furnishings, as well as appropriate landscape plants and features, a landowner can greatly decrease the potential of a catastrophic loss. Fuel (grass and tree leaves) management is also an important practice that a landowner can implement to reduce the probability of suffering losses. Following is a list of tips that landowners can use to reduce effects of a wildfire on homes and out buildings.

- ✓ Remove all cedars and native yaupons within 50 yards of any structures.
- ✓ Maintain at least 30 feet between evergreens that are not removed

- ✓ Keep bottom portions of shrubs and trees trimmed 5-10 feet from the ground.
- ✓ Do not have large shrubbery next to a structure
- ✓ Use metal, clay or asphalt shingle roof instead of a wood shingle
- ✓ Construct buildings of fire resistant exterior materials and use fire resistant outdoor furniture
- ✓ Keep leaves from collecting near structures and under decks.
- ✓ Do not stack firewood or other flammable materials within 30 feet of any structure
- ✓ Keep gutters free of leaves
- ✓ Remove limbs that hang over structures.
- ✓ Create fireguards using driveways, sidewalks, flowerbeds and patios
- ✓ Use low growing shrubs and other vegetation adjacent to structures.
- ✓ Maintain irrigated green grass around structures during summer months if grass is present
- ✓ Mow road frontages frequently

### **NEWSLETTER ON LINE**

This newsletter will be on our website in case you lose your copy or want a friend to view it. To get to our website, go to: [wilson-tx.tamu.edu](http://wilson-tx.tamu.edu) and the Ag Newsletter will be listed on the first page. Just click on it and the newsletter will download.

### **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you have a disability that will limit or exclude you from attending one of our events, please notify our office at 830-393-7357 at least one week in advance so that reasonable arrangements can be made to address the situation.

### **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INFORMATION**

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Sincerely,



Dennis Hale  
County Extension Agent, AG/NR  
Texas AgriLife Extension  
Wilson County

# December 2011 - November 2012

## Yearly Planner

Dec 2011						
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### January

*11 Forage Management Meeting on January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. @ The Falls City Community Hall*

### February

*2 Private Applicators License Training/Testing February 2, 2012 @ The Wilson County Showbarn*

*29 Weed and Brush Management-February 29, 2012 at 7:00 @ The Falls City Community Hall*

### April

*18 Fitting Cattle to Their Environment- April 18, 2012 at 7:00 @ The Falls City Community Hall*

### May

*16 Managing the Cowherd- May 16, 2012 at 7:00 @ the Falls City Community Hall*

### June

*6 Managing the Cowherd-June 6, 2012 at 7:00 @ The Falls City Community Hall*

Jun 2012						
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