

AG NEWSLETTER

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What info would you like to see in the next issue?

Email us!



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Mark Your Calendars

August

- TLSA Annual Meeting 6pm.....14
- 4-H Awards Program 6pm.....19
- Generation Next.....21
- Hunter Safety Certification 8am.....26

September

- **Energy Lease Info Meeting 6pm.....13**
- 4-H Fall Festival/Open House 5pm.....14
- Lions Club Rodeo.....14-16

October

- Well Water Screening.....11
- Heifer, Lamb, Goat Validation.4pm.....20



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Livestock News

FDA implemented changes for use of beef cattle implants

By Shelby Shank, TFB Field Editor



New guidance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine redefines beef cattle production phases, which affects the label and usage of implants.

The changes went into effect in June.

Only implants that are expressly labeled for reimplantation will be allowed for use in cattle more than once per production phase, according to the new guidance.

Cattle will still be allowed to be implanted across different production phases and are allowed to receive more than one implant within that production phase, as long as it is labeled for that use.

"These production phases are important because the new guidance will allow beef cattle to receive one implant for each production phase," Dr. Gerald Stokka, NDSU Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist, said. "Additionally, beef cattle will be allowed to receive more than one implant within a production phase, but only if that implant has a claim for reimplantation on the label."

The production phases are:

- calves nursing their dams less than two months of age;
- calves nursing their dams two months of age or older;
- growing beef steers/heifers on pasture (stockers);
growing beef steers/heifers in a dry lot (backgrounders);
- growing beef steers/heifers fed in confinement for harvest (feedlot cattle);
- and growing beef steers/heifers in a grow yard.

The backgrounding phase is a new production phase. It consists of weaned, growing beef steers and beef and dairy heifers that are maintained in a dry lot, receiving the majority of their diet from harvested forage, possibly with a supplement. There are no current implants approved for this new production phase.

The final two phases of conventional production consist of growing beef steers and heifers confined in group pens or a grow yard and always fed a moderate- to high-roughage diet available as their sole ration. This segment is routinely considered the beef feeding or finishing phase. Cattle feeders and their veterinarians have historically utilized multiple implant strategies to improve efficiencies and maximize beef production. Those beef steers and heifers will only be allowed one implant during the finishing period unless the implant used is approved for multiple administrations or reimplant.

Currently, there are implants approved for reimplant use within a production phase. However, most implants do not have any language on the label addressing reimplantation. "Moving forward, some producers who use implants will need to make some changes to their implant programs," Bill Halfman, University of Wisconsin Extension Beef Outreach, said. "It is important to remember that having a functioning implant in the animal during the last days on feed is the one that will have the greatest return on investment. So, producers will need to take into consideration the approximate sale date of the cattle and the duration of the implant they intend to use to identify the best time to administer them."

Regulations regarding the remaining over-the-counter livestock antibiotics were also implemented in June.

Those antibiotics now require a prescription from a veterinarian licensed in the state where the animals are housed.

HOME AND GARDEN

IS ALL MULCH CREATED EQUAL?



Mulching is a long-established horticultural practice that involves spreading a layer of material on the ground around plants to protect their roots from heat, cold, or drought or to keep the fruit clean. Mulches can be classified as inorganic or organic: ▶ Inorganic mulches include plastic, rocks, rock chips, and other non-plant materials. Plastic is the only inorganic mulch used in vegetable gardens. ▶ Organic mulches include straw, compost, newspaper, sawdust, and similar materials.

SELECTION OF MULCHING MATERIAL When choosing mulch materials, consider these factors: ▶ Cost of the material: Do not buy mulching material when suitable materials are available at little or no cost. ▶ The crop you plan to mulch: Never mulch with material from the crop that is to be protected. For example, do not use potato vines from the spring crop to mulch fall potatoes. This increases the possibility of transmitting diseases to the current crop. ▶ The season when the mulch is to be used: Select light-colored mulch during the summer and early fall to reflect heat. Use dark-colored mulch in early spring to help warm the soil to permit earlier planting and hasten early growth.

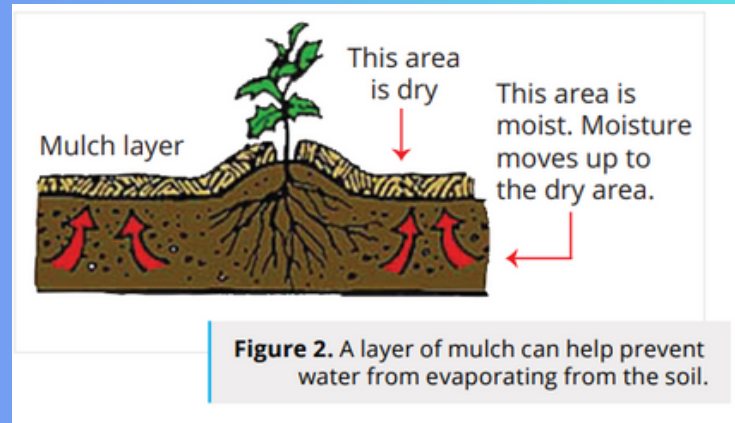


Figure 2. A layer of mulch can help prevent water from evaporating from the soil.

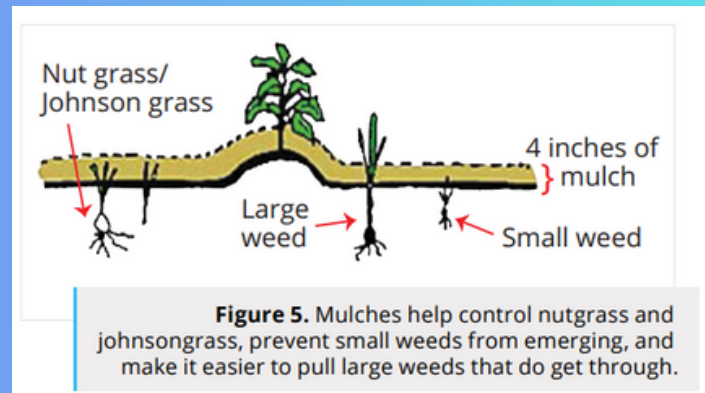


Figure 5. Mulches help control nutgrass and johnsongrass, prevent small weeds from emerging, and make it easier to pull large weeds that do get through.



Figure 6. Fruit rot occurs less in a mulched garden because the fruit do not touch the soil, and soil is not splashed up on the fruit.

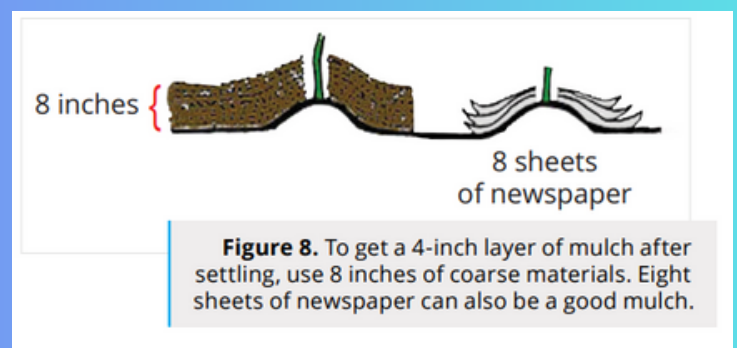


Figure 8. To get a 4-inch layer of mulch after settling, use 8 inches of coarse materials. Eight sheets of newspaper can also be a good mulch.

WILDLIFE CORNER

By Jacob Dykes, Extension Wildlife Specialist

CWD UPDATE

It is hard to keep up with positive cases because they seem to increase daily. We have over 500 positive cases across at least 24 counties in Texas, and these include white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and red deer, with white-tailed deer being over 80% of those cases. More than 80% of those cases have occurred in deer breeding facilities, and since March 2023, 7 new deer breeding facilities have tested positive for the disease.

Due to the drastic increase in positive cases at deer breeding facilities, TPWD enacted the following rules:

The emergency rules require all breeder deer to be tested for CWD (with a test result of “Not Detected”) by means of an approved antemortem (live-animal) test as a condition of transfer to another deer breeding facility and expressly prohibit the removal of an identification tag prescribed by Parks and Wildlife Code, §43.3561, from a breeder deer except to immediately replace it with an identification tag meeting the requirements of Parks and Wildlife Code, §43.3561(c) or (h).

To put the potential consequences of deer movement and disease transmission into perspective, the latest deer breeding facility to test positive has moved over 1,000 deer in the last 5 years, and those deer were sent to 67 different counties across Texas and 3 places in Mexico. This is just one of many deer breeding facilities doing the same thing. This is a problem when trying to contain a disease that is negatively affecting a resource that we all care about.

This is a real disease, and it is bad. There is no question that it will get worse. This is not a disease that is going to wreak havoc on deer populations over night, but the decisions we make now are going to determine the health of the resource decades from now. The key to managing a disease like this is to keep its prevalence low. Lots of people are working hard on managing this disease while gaining nothing but ridicule. There is a lot of misinformation going around. Call Christy at the Extension Office 361-274-3323 if you want to chat.

How Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is Transmitted

CWD can spread to new areas in different ways. Unintentionally transporting infected carcasses is one of the known risks for introducing CWD prions to new areas. Learn how to prevent the spread of CWD by adhering to requirements related to importing deer, elk, moose and caribou carcasses or carcass parts into Florida at MyFWC.com/Deer.

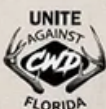
Direct Transmission

CWD may be directly transmitted to members of the deer family via direct contact with infected animals.



Indirect Transmission

Members of the deer family also can become infected when they consume prions present in soil contaminated with the feces, urine, saliva, other bodily fluids, or decomposed tissues of a CWD-infected animal. The abnormal prions that cause CWD persist in the environment and remain contagious for years.



CWD, which has NOT been detected in Florida, is a contagious neurological disease that causes deer to die. The FWC is testing deer in Florida for CWD. If you see a deer that is sick or dead due to unknown causes, call the CWD hotline at 866-293-9282. Learn more at MyFWC.com/CWD.



HEALTHY EATING FOR DIABETES



CONFETTI BEEF TACO SALAD

- 1 lb Ground Beef (95% lean)
- 1 cup shredded carrot (about 1 large carrot)
- ¾ cup salsa
- 1 can (15 oz.) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- 8 cups mixed salad greens
- ½ cup low-fat shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 medium tomato, chopped (about 1 cup)
- ½ cup diced bell pepper
- ¼ cup thinly sliced red onion
- Sliced black olives (optional)
- Salad dressing of choice (optional)

1. Heat a large nonstick skillet over MEDIUM heat until hot. Add Ground Beef; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking into ¾-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally until meat is no longer pink. Pour off drippings, if any.
2. Stir in carrots, salsa, beans, cumin, chili powder and garlic powder; cook for 2 minutes. Remove skillet from heat.
3. Divide salad greens between 4 plates and top each with a quarter of the beef mixture. Top with cheese, tomato, pepper, and onion. Garnish with sliced olives and dressing, if desired.

Nutrition information per serving: 356 Calories; 76 Calories from fat; 8.5g Total Fat (3.9g Saturated Fat; 3.0g Monounsaturated Fat); 74.6 mg Cholesterol; 725.4 mg Sodium; 30.8 g Total Carbohydrate; 10.7 g Dietary Fiber; 37.2 g Protein; 5.9 mg Iron; 781.1 mg Potassium; 0.2 mg Thiamin; 0.4 mg Riboflavin; 11.0 mg Niacin (NE); 0.5 mg Vitamin B6; 2.3 mcg Vitamin B12; 6.6 mg Zinc; 22.3 mcg Selenium; 102.6 mg Choline.



TEXAS BEEF COUNCIL

WHAT IS DIABETES?

Diabetes is a disease associated with high blood sugar levels. In type 1 diabetes, a body doesn't make enough insulin, the hormone that helps control blood sugar. In type 2 diabetes, the body can't use insulin properly.

Over time, high blood sugar can lead to vision loss, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, foot complications and more. If you have diabetes, you can plan meals (including the amount of carbohydrates you eat) to help keep blood sugar levels normalized.

CARBOHYDRATE BASICS

Carbohydrates are a macronutrient, along with protein and fat. **Starch, fiber, and sugar** are all types of carbohydrates. When you look at a food label, you will see Total Carbohydrates, which includes all 3 of these components. Carbohydrates directly impact the level of glucose (sugar) in your blood.

Foods high in starch include:

- Bread, pasta, rice, crackers
- Potatoes, winter squash, corn, peas
- Beans (like pinto, black) and lentils

When looking for grain-based foods like bread, choose products that list "whole grain" as the first ingredient at least half the time.

Fiber can help to prevent blood sugar spikes, along with allowing you to feel full longer and benefit digestion. Choose foods with **at least 3 grams of fiber per serving.**

Sugar is also a source of carbs. Sugar occurs naturally in fruits and dairy products, and is added to foods like candy, beverages, and baked goods.

Be aware of the foods/beverages you eat with added sugars (like soda, cookies, candy). Try to limit these to small portions only eaten once in a while.



MEAL PLANNING WITH DIABETES

Balance carbohydrate-rich foods to keep blood sugar levels in check:



Fill half your plate with non-starchy vegetables. Non-starchy vegetables are rich in nutrients and low in carbohydrates. More colors equal more nutrients.

Make a quarter of your plate lean protein.

Lean protein can help control hunger and stabilize blood sugar levels. Include about 25 grams of protein per meal (for example, 3 oz. of lean beef).



Make a quarter of your plate starches or whole grains.

Starches/grains are sources of carbohydrates. Choose products with at least 3 grams of fiber per serving to limit blood sugar spikes.



***Add fruit and low-fat or non-fat dairy, as your plan allows.** Fruit and dairy have carbohydrates. You can include these in place of starches/grains at meals.

GROCERY SHOPPING IDEAS

NON-STARCHY VEGETABLES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asparagus | <input type="checkbox"/> Eggplant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell peppers | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Beans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brussels sprouts | <input type="checkbox"/> Onions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Tomatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrots | <input type="checkbox"/> Squash (yellow, and zucchini) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cauliflower | <input type="checkbox"/> Salad greens (arugula, kale, lettuce, and spinach) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celery | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cucumber | |

LEAN PROTEINS (aim for 25-30g PROTEIN/meal)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef (choose round, loin, or ground beef) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pork (choose loin) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish (choose unbreaded) | <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken (choose white, skinless) | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-starchy plant proteins (tofu, tempeh) |

GRAINS AND STARCHES (aim for >3g FIBER/serving)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acorn squash | <input type="checkbox"/> Popcorn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beans | <input type="checkbox"/> Potatoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown rice | <input type="checkbox"/> Quinoa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butternut squash | <input type="checkbox"/> Whole grain bread |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corn | <input type="checkbox"/> Whole grain pasta |

FRUITS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apple | <input type="checkbox"/> Grapes | <input type="checkbox"/> Oranges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banana | <input type="checkbox"/> Mango | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berries | <input type="checkbox"/> Melon | <input type="checkbox"/> Pomegranate |

LOW-FAT OR NON-FAT DAIRY (aim for >8g PROTEIN/serving)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced-fat cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortified, unsweetened dairy alternative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced-fat milk | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yogurt or Greek yogurt | |



Congratulations to "The Walk Stars" for winning our Walk Across Texas contest.

They collectively walked 1,068.07 miles! Congratulations team!

Team members included: Chris Turner, Jennifer Turner, Casey Soward, Brenda Springer, Mary Pate, and Amy Kollman



New Show Schedule

- Wednesday- Large Animal Weigh-ins
- Thursday-Show Day
- Friday-Little Britches Show and Sale Day

Annual Meeting

August 14

6pm

Validation Dates

- October 20--Sheep, Goat, Heifer Validation
- November 16--Swine Validation
- December (day TBD)--Rabbit and Poultry Validation

2024 Social Fundraiser

- Headliner is Blackhawk
- May 4, 2024

Congratulations Christy!



Texas 4-H Achievement in Service Award 2023

Christy Lansford, McMullen County Agriculture Agent was honored with the state’s prestigious “Achievement in Service” award during the State 4-H Agent’s Association awards program held in Kema this week.

The award is given to agents with at least two and less than seven years of service and who have shown exceptional programming effectiveness and client engagement.

Lansford came aboard as the agriculture and natural resources agent for McMullen County in June of 2019. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly to grow the county 4-H program (600% increase), represent agriculture in the community, and serve as a strong role model for youth. Christy is passionate about helping youth reach their full potential through leadership, citizenship, and everyday activities that promote life skills and teach responsibility. “Provide opportunities, set your expectations high, and these kids will impress you every time,” said Lansford. “They bless me every day!”

Lansford also volunteers her time with several local community organizations including the Tilden Livestock Scholarship Association, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Fowlerton Water Supply Corporation, and the Tilden Lions Club.

Past awards Christy has earned include State 4-H Gold Clover in 2021, State 4-H Excellence in Club Support in 2021, State 4-H Excellence in Ag Programming in 2022, and Texas County Ag Agents Early Career Award in 2022.

Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch

Online Ag Business Start-up School



The **Generation Next** curriculum targets new landowners, those inheriting land, or those looking to start a new agricultural operation on an existing ranch. It is taught as an online school where participants will work towards developing a business plan with plenty of support from professionals who specialize in each field and topic.

Course Includes: 12 online classes of expert instruction with a complete business plan by the end of the course, and a Generation Next t-shirt and certificate.

Topics covered:

- How to start an agricultural business
- Understanding business taxes
- Insurance needs for your ranch
- Tracking your finances
- Evaluating your land resources
- How to set up grazing and wildlife management leases
- Basic ranch laws – fencing, water, etc.
- Land management techniques
- Alternative operations & direct marketing
- Setting goals with measurable objectives for success

To read what graduates are saying about the course, visit generationnext.tamu.edu.

**NEXT ONLINE CLASS:
AUG. 21 - Nov. 12, 2023**

The course will require approximately 2 hours of your time (at any time!) per week, for 12 weeks. You only need access to a computer with internet capabilities.

For more information contact:
Dr. Megan Clayton
megan.clayton@ag.tamu.edu
830-988-6123
generationnext.tamu.edu

Registration Fee: \$300
Enrollment is limited to the first 100 people who register.

Registration Link:

[Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch - Fall 2023 | Courses | AgriLife Learn \(tamu.edu\)](http://generationnext.tamu.edu)



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

GENERATION
NEXT
Our Turn to Ranch

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.



Hunter Safety Course

AUGUST 26, 2023

EOC

8:00 AM- 2:00 PM
306 Live Oak Street
Tilden, TX 78072

Get ready for Hunting Season

Register at

<https://bit.ly/MCHunter>



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

73rd ANNUAL TILDEN LIONS CLUB RODEO

TILDEN LIONS CLUB ARENA
LESTER MEIER RODEO COMPANY PRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 15th & 16th

8 PM NIGHTLY

FREE ADMISSION

*\$6,000
Added*



CONCESSIONS
BRING YOUR OWN ICE CHEST

CALF SCRAMBLE

BICYCLES NIGHTLY

MUTTON BUSTIN'

TROPHIES & BUCKLES

NIGHTLY

**SATURDAY NIGHT
GOAT ROPING****

****See flyer for details****

**SATURDAY
NIGHT
DANCE**

**ISAAC
&
JACOB**

9-1

FREE



**CORN HOLE
TOURNAMENT****

**DUMMY
ROPING**

****See flyer for details****

**McMULLEN COUNTY
4D OPEN BARREL RACE**

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13th

18 AND UNDER SIDE POT

ADDED MONEY

BUCKLES TO

COUNTY D WINNERS

BOOKS OPEN 6:15

RACE @ 7:00

EXHIBITIONS BEFORE

**McMULLEN & SURROUNDING
COUNTIES TEAM ROPING**

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14th

#13 SLIDE

#10.5 ROPING CAPPED @ #6

4 FOR \$60/TEAM

ENTER 5 TIMES MAX

CASH ONLY

BOOKS OPEN 6:30 ROPE @7:00

RODEO BOOKS: 830-997-5351 OR VISIT www.lmrodeo.com