

# AG NEWSLETTER

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## Mark Your Calendars

### April

- 4-H Hog Hunt Fundraiser.....5-7
- Water Well Screening.....17
- District 12 4-H Rifle Match.....21

### May

- TLSA Social Fundraiser.....4
- Beef Repro Clinic.....7
- South Texas Beef & Forage Field Day.....8
- Rabies Vaccination Clinic.....18



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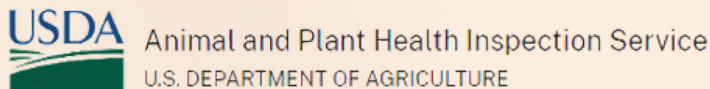
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# Livestock News

## Dairy Cattle and High Path Avian Influenza



There continues to be no concern about the safety of the commercial milk supply because products are pasteurized before entering the market, or that this circumstance poses a risk to consumer health. Dairies are required to send only milk from healthy animals into processing for human consumption; milk from impacted animals is being diverted or destroyed so that it does not enter the human food supply. In addition, pasteurization has continually proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza, in milk.

Pasteurization is required for any milk entering interstate commerce for human consumption. FDA's longstanding position is that unpasteurized, raw milk can harbor dangerous microorganisms that can pose serious health risks to consumers, and FDA is reminding consumers of the risks associated with raw milk consumption in light of the HPAI detections.

Because of the limited information available about the transmission of HPAI in raw milk, the FDA recommends that industry does not manufacture or sell raw milk or raw/unpasteurized milk cheese products made with milk from cows showing symptoms of illness, including those infected with avian influenza or exposed to those infected with avian influenza. At this time, the FDA is not aware that any milk or food product from symptomatic cows is entering interstate commerce. Furthermore, if milk from cows showing symptoms of illness, including those infected with avian influenza or exposed to those infected with avian influenza is intended to be used to feed calves, FDA strongly encourages that it be heat treated to kill harmful bacteria or viruses, such as influenza, before calf feeding. Food safety information from FDA, including information about the sale and consumption of raw milk, can be found [here](#).

Milk loss resulting from symptomatic cattle to date is too limited to have a major impact on supply and there should be no impact on the price of milk or other dairy products. Further, the U.S. typically has a more than sufficient milk supply in the spring months due to seasonally higher production.

### Fundamentals vs. Psychology

by Kevin Good, CattleFax

Fed cattle prices pulled back \$2 this past week in response to negative psychology created in large part by the news of HPAI detected in milk/dairy in the southern plains. The live cattle futures dropped \$8-\$10 before partially recovering. It appears that the HPAI situation is under control and that the markets have absorbed the negative news. Moving forward the fundamentals remain seasonally and historically strong, as fed cattle supplies are manageable and increasing beef demand/usage is expected as the weather warms. That said, with the damage done in the futures markets, the cash will need to show more leadership, especially in the north where front-end fed supplies are the tightest. This will result in a strengthening basis through April and into May. Longer-term, beef prices both at retail and wholesale are at levels that indicate beef demand remains historically strong leaving ample margin in the system for cattle values to continue a cyclical higher trend with tighter beef production forecast through 2024 and beyond.

**Next week:** Offerings are expected to be near even. The beef complex will trade near steady. The fed market is expected to trade firmer, near \$187 in the south, with increasing premiums in the north.

**April-May:** Supplies will remain manageable. Beef prices are expected to strengthen as the weather warms. The cattle feeders' leverage will continue to be price-supportive. Look for prices to remain strong trading in the upper \$180's to the low \$190's, with continued premiums in the north.

**June-July:** Fed cattle supplies although manageable will increase seasonally. The beef complex will move lower into the heat of the summer. Leverage will seasonally improve for the packing segment. This combination will result in a softer trending market with risk back to near \$180 by mid-summer.





## TWO STEP FIRE ANT CONTROL

“This is the time of year when ants begin foraging for food and when spring rains percolate through the soil and destroy underground fire ant tunnels,” said Robert Puckett, Ph.D. AgriLife Extension entomologist in Texas A&M’s Department of Entomology, Bryan-College Station. “This causes them to deposit new tunnel soil as a mound on the surface above, making them much easier to locate.”

### About the Two-Step method

The Two-Step Method is less labor-intensive, less toxic and more environmentally friendly than most other means of do-it-yourself fire ant control. It can be an efficient, effective and safe way to control fire ants for an individual home, large property or entire community.

The first step involves semi-annual broadcast applications of fire ant bait. The second involves follow-up treatments of individual mounds or “nuisance” ant colonies, such as those in sensitive or high-traffic areas.

— **Step two:** Because fire ant mounds are most visible this time of year, especially after a rain, they are easier to locate to do the second step. This involves treating the largest or most troublesome mounds with an individual mound treatment, such as a liquid drench or some form of granular, non-bait insecticide or dust.

“Most contact insecticides applied directly to the mound kill the colony in one-to-two days,” Puckett said. “If the area has just a few mounds, then it may not even be necessary to apply bait as a first step.”

### Proper use of fire ant control products

Puckett provided the following suggestions related to fire ant control:

- Do not use gasoline or other petroleum products to control fire ants. Although these kill fire ants, they are highly flammable and are dangerous to both the user and the environment.
- Don’t leave insecticide granules on streets or sidewalks after application. Sweep up any excess product so it doesn’t wash into gutters or storm sewers and affect the water table.
- Always follow label directions on the proper disposal of pesticides. Do not pour pesticide leftovers down the drain as they are not easily removed by regular wastewater treatment.



(Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

— **Step one:** The use of fire ant bait as the first step is effective as temperatures begin to rise and ants begin to gather forage to feed their new brood.

“Spring and fall are particularly good times to apply baits,” Puckett said. “Once it gets hot and dry, as in the summer months, fire ants become less active, and mounds become less visible as ants go deeper into the soil.” Puckett explained.



Using a handheld spreader to broadcast fire ant bait onto a yard. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

Broadcasting bait across a property is also advantageous in that users don’t have to find the fire ant colonies, he said.

# WILDLIFE CORNER

By Jacob Dykes, Extension Wildlife Specialist

## HABITAT MANAGEMENT

**Habitat** is an area that offers a particular species food, water, cover, and space.

The “particular species” part of that definition is often ignored, and in doing so, can cause a lot of headaches for biologists, land managers, etc. Different species have different needs; habitat for a penguin is not habitat for a Rio Grande turkey. Always have the species in mind when you think of habitat! This doesn’t mean that you can’t manage for multiple species. Habitat management practices often benefit multiple species, but it is best to identify which species you are managing for and, if multiple species, determine an order of priority because there are tradeoffs among management strategies.

Another consideration is timing. For example, we often don’t think about deer habitat until deer season, but habitat should provide the needed resources all year long, regardless of what life history event (e.g., gestation, lactation, antler growth, etc.) the animal is going through. Habitat is 365 days a year!

### What is habitat management?

I have found (in my opinion) some very convoluted definitions of habitat management, but here is mine – habitat management is manipulating the landscape to produce or enhance the resources needed by a specific species.



One can’t hardly speak of management without referencing Aldo Leopold’s famous quote: “... game can be restored by the creative use of the same tools which have heretofore destroyed it - axe, cow, plow, fire, and gun.” We can add herbicides to that list these days.



***Habitat management is wildlife management!***



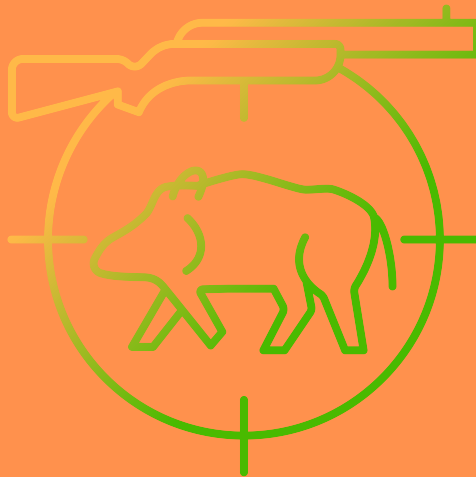
# MCMULLEN COUNTY 4-H HOG HUNT



**APRIL 5-7, 2024**  
**CHECK-IN APRIL 7TH @ 12PM**  
**TILDEN LIONS CLUB**  
**3079 TX-16, TILDEN, TX 78072**

**4 Man Team**  
**\$300**

**Heaviest Stringer**  
*Stringer of 3*  
**1st \$\$ + Buckles**  
**2nd \$\$ +Prize**  
**3rd Prize**



**Side Pots**  
**\$25/each:**

- **Most Hogs**
- **Longest Teeth**
- **Heaviest Boar**
- **Heaviest Sow**

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**\*10 & Under Youth Division**

**Biggest Hog**  
**\$100/ team**

1 Licensed Youth Accompanied  
by a Licensed Adult

(Hogs may be trapped in youth division ONLY)

**Matching  
Buckles to 1st**

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Register here <https://bit.ly/4Hhunt2024>

For questions call 361-274-3323 or 830-570-2065

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## MULTI-COUNTY WATER WELL SCREENING

HOSTED BY: ATASCOSA, DIMMIT, FRIO, LA SALLE, MCMULLEN & ZAVALA COUNTIES

### *Have you tested your private Water well?*

Private water wells should be tested annually. The Multi-County Water Screening Program is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Atascosa, Dimmit, Frio, McMullen, LaSalle, and Zavala counties. The offices are hosting a water well screening on April 17, 2024 to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water tested. The cost is \$15.00 per sample.

Samples will be collected on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Well owners may pick up a sample bag and instructions from their County Extension Office.

- Atascosa County AgriLife Extension Office, 25 E. 5th Street, Leming, TX 78050 | P: (830) 569-0034
- Dimmit County AgriLife Extension Office, 539 Industrial Blvd., Carrizo Springs, TX 78834 | P: (830) 876-4216
- Frio County AgriLife Extension Office, 400 S. Pecan Street, Pearsall, TX 78061 | P: (830) 505-7474
- McMullen County AgriLife Extension Office, 604 River Street, Tilden, TX 78072 | P: (361) 274-3323
- Zavala County AgriLife Extension Office, 221 N 1st Ave, Crystal City, TX 78839 | P: (830) 374-2883
- La Salle County AgriLife Extension Office, 119 S. Front Street, Cotulla, TX 78014 | P: (830) 483-5165

Results will be available on April 18, 2024, at your County Extension Office. There will be a virtual educational program to discuss water quality presented by Extension Specialist Joel Pigg.

#### **Samples will be screened for:**

##### **Fecal Coliform Bacteria**

Presence indicates that feces (bodily waste from humans or animals) may have contaminated the water. Water contaminated with this bacteria is more likely to have pathogens present that can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea or other symptoms.

##### **Nitrates**

Levels above 10 ppm may cause infants, pregnant or lactating women, the elderly, and the immune-suppressed to be at risk for methemoglobinemia, a condition which inhibits the ability of blood to sufficient carry oxygen to tissues and cells.

##### **Salinity**

Measured by Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Water with high TDS levels may leave deposits and have a salty taste. Using water with high TDS for irrigation may damage the soil or plants.

##### **Hydrocarbons**

Presence indicates that oil contamination has occurred





## 2024 MULTI-COUNTY REPRODUCTION

### MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

ATASCOSA, WILSON, FRIO, MEDINA, MCMULLEN, LIVE OAK,  
AND BEXAR COUNTIES

**Location:**

**Tom Brothers Ranch**

770 Co Rd 412 Campbellton,  
TX 78008

**Date/Time:**

May 7th  
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Taught By:**

Bruce Carpenter, Professor & Extension Livestock  
Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Ft. Stockton

Karl Harborth, Assistant Professor and Extension  
Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Center Corpus  
Christi

Yuri Calil, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist,  
Texas A&M AgriLife Center Corpus Christi  
Atascosa, Wilson, Bexar, Frio, Live Oak, McMullen, and

Medina County Extension Agents Ag/NR

**SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP EARLY!!**

**RSVP BY: May 3, 2024 to (830) 569-0034**

## TOPICS

Understanding The  
Bull  
Breeding  
Soundness Exam

Breeding  
Soundness Exam  
Procedural  
Example

A Bull's Value to  
the Calf Crop

Nutritional  
Requirements for  
Bull Maintenance

Bull Selection

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**For more information:**

Texas A&M AgriLife  
Extension

Atascosa County Office

Dale Rankin

(830) 569-0034

# SOUTH TEXAS BEEF AND FORAGE

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EXTENSION

## FIELD DAY

*May 8, 2024*

*3360 U.S. Hwy 59,*

*Beeville, Texas*

*8:15am registration*

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RESEARCH

*Registration Fee: \$40 Request RSVP to 361-621-1552*

### Topics of Discussion:

***Weed Control Options in Pastures and Hay Production (1 CEU)***

**Dr. Josh McGinty**

***Beef and Hay Economic Outlook***

**Dr. Yuri Calil**

**Understanding Wildlife Habitat**

**Dr. Jacob Dykes**

**Panelist Discussion:**

**Adaptability, What Does it Mean to South Texas Production**

**LUNCH**

***Linking Carbon and Water to Forage Production***

**Dr. Jamie Foster**

**Brush Control Techniques (1 CEU)**

**Dr. Stacy Hines**

***Supplementation Strategies for Livestock***

**Dr. Karl Harborth**

***Cow Adaptability and Grazing***

**Dr. Hamad Saad and Dr. David Riley**

Please use QR code for registration or  
payment can be made at the door







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# McMullen County Annual Vaccination Clinic

Tilden Lions Club  
3079 TX-16  
Tilden, TX 78072

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**9am-12pm**



**Questions? Call (361) 274-3323**

