



# AUGUST 2018 BEEF AND FORAGE NEWSLETTER

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION



ROBERTSON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
EDWARD L. SCHNEIDER, AG/NR  
eschneid@ag.tamu.edu

2458 N FM 46, PO BOX 368  
FRANKLIN, TX 77856  
(979) 828-4270

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Robertson County Agricultural News & Events

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*The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

## Upcoming Robertson County Extension Educational Activities

Please call (979) 828-4270 to pre-register for any of these programs.

- **Tuesday, August 28, 2018 -“Summer Beef Cattle Management Program”**  
Registration: 7:30am, Location: Groesbeck Auction Barn on Hwy 164  
1 CEU Credit (IPM) along with BQA Credits
- **Friday, September 21, 2018 -“Managing the Beef Herd”**  
Registration: 7:45am, Location: Circle X Ranch, Camp Cooley Division  
2 CEU’s available (general)
- **Friday, October 12, 2018 -“Women in Agriculture”**  
Location: 9640 FM 979, Cameron, TX. Ranch tour –Pecans, other fruits and wildlife followed by a presentation from Dr. Jason Johnson, Extension Ag Economist.  
Program designed for women with interest in Agriculture.  
More information coming at a later date.
- **Monday, October 29, 2018 -“Beef Cattle and Forage Management Seminar”**  
Registration: 7:00am, Location: Pridgeon Community Center, Franklin  
7 CEU’s available (at least 1 L&R & 1 IPM).
- **Thursday, December 13, 2018 - “District 8 Farm and Ranch Seminar”**  
Registration: 7:00am, Location: Pridgeon Community Center, Franklin  
8 CEU’s available (at least 1 L&R & 1 IPM).
- **Friday, January 4, 2019 -“Central Texas Cow Calf Clinic”**  
Location: Youth Expo Building, Cameron  
3 CEU’s available
- **Friday, May 17, 2019 -“O.D. Butler Field Day”**  
Registration: 8:00am, Location: Circle X Ranch, Camp Cooley Division Sale Facility  
Proposed 3 CEU’s available upon TDA approval.
- **Saturday, June 22, 2019 -“Vegetable Program and Tour”**  
Registration: 8:00am, Location: Sikes Vegetable Farm, New Baden  
Proposed 2 to 3 CEU’s available upon TDA approval.

# Managing The Beef Herd

*Planning... to capture opportunities*

The past ten years has seen many challenges for Beef Producers. We saw fertilizer prices soar to levels never seen before, which caused changes in how we manage our forages. We saw the worst drought in my career. The historic drought of 2011 caused many producers to liquidate cow herds and rethink the way they managed their cattle herds. Following the drought we saw historic low cattle numbers which in turn allowed us to see record high prices for a time. We quickly rebuilt numbers which drove prices back down. The export market and high consumer demand for red meat has helped stabilize prices. We need both to help negate the current cattle numbers. We have other possible negative factors on the horizon as well: threat of tariffs on red meat, looming drought conditions, growing cow numbers, high hay prices.

With all these factors in mind the 2018 version of "Managing the Beef Herd" will focus on managing for profitability. We have put together a topnotch group of Extension Specialist to present cost saving ideas for Beef Producers.



**Date: Friday, September 21, 2018**

**Location: Camp Cooley Ranch Sale Pavilion**

**4297 Camp Cooley Ranch Rd, Franklin, TX 77856**

**Please call to Pre-Register (979)828-4270**

Two CEU's will be given for private applicators needing hours.  
(2 General )

**7:45am –9:00am Registration and Booth Visitation**

**9:00am - 9:10am Introduction and Welcome**

**9:10am – 10:10am** Dr. Jason Johnson will discuss how to design a budget to fit your ranching operation. He will also discuss several changes in the tax law for 2018.

**10:10am – 11:10am** Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson will discuss management strategies to use your fertilizer, weed control and hay dollars wisely.

**1:10am – 12:10pm** Dr. Joe Pascal will discuss management decisions that affect your bottom dollar on a beef cattle ranch. As well as using available beef cattle genetics to positively influence your revenue on the ranch.

**12:10am –1:20pm Lunch, Booth Visitation & some door prizes.**

**1:20pm – 2:20pm** Dr. Jason Cleere will discuss beef cattle nutrition management strategies and cost saving strategies.

**2:20pm –2:30pm** Fill out evaluations, announce contest winners, draw for door prizes, and hand out CEU certificates.

**2:30pm** Adjourn

Continued on next page

We will have twenty plus Ag Industry booths set up for the day's activities. The booth participants will also supply door prizes that will be given away at the conclusion of the program.

We will have a great group of speakers to present the identified topics. These will include: Dr. Jason Johnson –Associate Professor & Extension Economist, Dr. Jason Cleere –Associate Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Associate Professor and Extension Forage Specialist, and Dr. Joe Pascual, Associate Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist.

**Contest** - Test your Beef Cattle and Forage Knowledge. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the day to the highest scores.

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#### Directions to Camp Cooley Ranch from Franklin

From red light on Hwy 79 in Franklin go East on Hwy 79 for 10.8 miles, Turn left on Rolke Ranch Rd (CR 372).

Follow for 4 miles to Camp Cooley entry gate. Continue 1.4 miles on Camp Cooley Rd. Take a right on Sale Barn Rd. Continue about .3 miles to Sale Barn on right. Parking is on the left.

#### Directions to Camp Cooley Ranch from Marquez

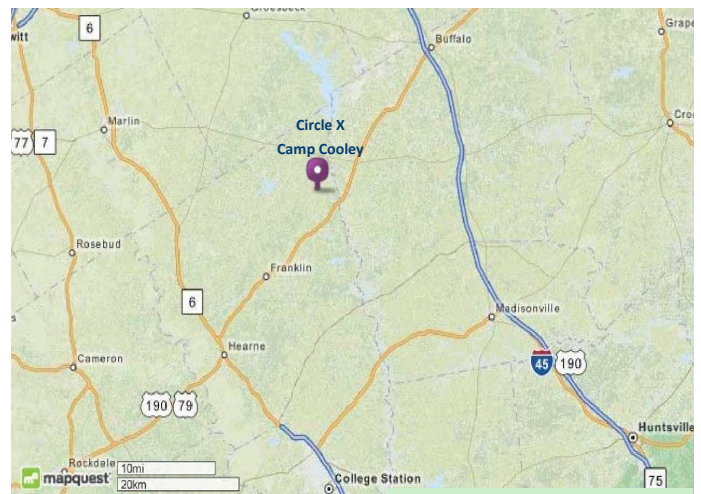
From the intersection of Hwy 7 and Hwy 79 in Marquez, travel West on Hwy 79 for 7.9 miles to Holly Cemetery Road. Take a right on Holly Cemetery Road and continue 1.9 miles to Varvel Road and take a left. Continue

.5 miles to Camp Cooley Rd. Take a right and continue 2 miles on Camp Cooley Road to Sale Barn Rd. Take a right on Sale Barn Road and continue about .3 miles to Sale Barn on the right. Parking is on the left.

#### Directions to Camp Cooley Ranch from North of the Ranch

From the intersection of Hwy 7 and FM 979 continue South on FM 979 3.5 miles to FM 2096. Take a left on FM 2096 and continue for 2.3 miles to Cole Branch Road on the Left. Take a left on Cole Branch Road and continue

.7 miles to Camp Cooley Road. Take a Right on Camp Cooley Road and continue 2.8 miles to Sale Barn Road on the Left. Turn on Sale Barn Road and continue .3 miles. The Sale Barn is on the right and parking is on the left.



# Summer Beef Cattle Management Program

Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Offices in Limestone, Freestone, Falls, Robertson, Leon, Hill and McLennan Counties



**Location: Groesbeck Auction Barn on Hwy 164**

**When: Tuesday, August 28, 2018**

**7:30 am – 8:15 am Registration; Program begins @ 8:30 a.m. & ending at Lunch**

Registration fee: \$10.00 (includes lunch & breakfast)

***\*\*RSVP is recommended for meal planning prior to August 24th\*\**** Contact info below

## Program Topics include:

**Farm Service Agency Update.....**Lisa Everman, FSA Director

**DPS Laws and Regulations with livestock and equipment hauling .....**DPS Troopers

**Short Term and Long Range Weather Outlook.....**Dr. John Nielson-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist

**Are IGR feed products worth the money and what else can I use to control flies/army worms, and grasshoppers.....**Samantha Hays, PhD, Entomology Texas A&M

**Economic perspective to a variety of Alternatives to feeding hay with hay being on short supply .....**Dr. David Anderson – Extension Economist

**12:00 Lunch (Beef tenderloin)**

***\*\*\*1 HOUR TDA CEU CREDIT (1 IPM) along with BQA credits\*\*\****



**For more information and to RSVP by August 24<sup>th</sup>, contact:**

**Limestone County Extension Office – (254) 729-5314**

**Or Contact your local office close to you**

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

## **Armyworm Alert**

The conditions are perfect for an armyworm outbreak, for those lucky enough to have received some of the recent rains. With the recent drought followed by the recent rains we are set up for an armyworm infestation. It is very important to be alert for signs. The armyworm moths will be the first sign to look for and the best time to see them will be late evening and morning. The best place to see the moths will be around hay fields and such. Even if you do not see the moths start scouting for the armyworm caterpillar about a week to 10 days after your first rain received and continue scouting for at least 2 to 3 weeks. The life cycle can be a little unpredictable so keep a vigilant watch. After short hay supplies this spring we cannot afford to let armyworms steal grass we produce this fall. See photos below to help with identification. More detailed information can be found by clicking the following link: <https://robertson.agrilife.org/ag/publications/> the publication Managing Insect Pests of Texas Forage Crops is available as a download from the AgriLife Bookstore.



**Fall Armyworm Lava**



**Distinctive pattern on the  
Fall Armyworm face**



**Fall Armyworm Adult**

## Grassburs

With the recent rains we have received we could see grassburs sprout in areas where grass is short. This is a difficult time of year to fight grassburs. We have seen very mixed reviews using chemical treatment for summer and fall control.

There are currently two herbicides that have a federal label for selectively controlling grassbur. Prowl H2O can be applied as a pre-emergence to grassbur on **dormant** bermudagrass at rates from 1.1 to 4.2 quarts/acre. Prowl H2O requires a **rainfall or irrigation** to activate it against grassbur germination. The second chemical for grassbur control is Pastora. Pastora herbicide can be applied post emergence to small grassbur plants that are 1.5 inches tall or less at the rate of 1.0 to 1.5oz/acre. Refer to product labels for further information. Your only real choice is a post emergence treatment applied at the proper stage. This time of year, with rain the grassbur germinates rapidly and grows rapidly so you have a short window to get out a post emergent chemical treatment. Scouting areas with little to no grass growth and areas of know past grassbur infestation is essential for timing of a treatment.

See photos below of seedling grassburs.

More detailed information can be found by clicking the following link: <https://robertson.agrilife.org/ag/publications/>

