

News From Your County Agent
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Zavala County

On Monday(20th) was officially the start of summer because of the longest day light hours, 14 to be exact which means that we had 14 hours of South Texas sun driving temperatures into the high 90's which I guess it is better than the mid 100's. I hope all of you had a very nice, warm father's day weekend and our next big holiday plans will be the 4th of July weekend. For the most part most landscapes and native range and pastures are still in good shape but with our current weather patterns it will not be long until we can use of rainfall. Greetings to all of you and thank you so much for reading this week.

Zavala County Pecan Growers Reminded of Statewide Elections

The Texas Pecan Board will hold elections in August to elect 3 board members where current members' terms are expiring. The Board was established in 1998 after pecan growers throughout Texas voted into effect a one-half-cent-per-pound pecan assessment to provide funds for promotion and research. Nine pecan producers serve on the board. Board members whose terms are expiring in 2016 are: B. Michael Adams of Henderson, David Leonard of Ft. Worth and Kyle Brookshier of Ballinger. Also currently serving on the board are Glenn Honaker of Ft. Stockton, Tami Sorrells of Comanche, Rodney Myers of Brownwood, Larry Don Womack of De Leon, Errol John Dietze of Cuero and Lance Lampman of De Leon.

Nomination forms for candidates who wish to have their names included on the ballot may be obtained from Texas Pecan Board, P.O. Box 5976, Bryan, TX 77805. Nomination forms may also be obtained from county Extension agents. Nomination forms will be available after June 21, 2016. Nomination forms must be filed with TPB no later than July 22, 2016. Any eligible voter-producer may place his or her name in nomination to serve as a director on the TPB. Nomination forms must be signed by the applicant and 10 other eligible voters. Eligible voters are those pecan producers in Texas who are subject to the one-half cent pecan assessment; i.e. pecan producers with at least 500 trees on a minimum of 15 acres.

Ballots containing the names of all persons who have validly filed petitions will be available from TPB on Aug. 10, 2016. Ballots will be mailed to county Extension offices on Aug. 10, 2016, and to all known, eligible voters in Texas on Aug. 10, 2016. Voting will be by mail. Ballots must be postmarked no later than Aug. 24, 2016, in order to be counted. This election is required by the Texas Commodity Referendum Law. The ballots will be counted in early September and results announced shortly thereafter. The pecan assessment went into effect in September 1998. All pecan producers with at least 500 trees on a minimum of 15 acres are required, under the Texas Commodity Referendum Law, to pay the one-half- cent-per-pound assessment. The assessment, which is refundable, is to be collected by the first handler and submitted to the Texas Pecan Board. Current TPB President Michael Adams will outline the ongoing promotional program being funded with the grower assessments in a presentation at the upcoming Texas Pecan Growers Association's annual convention, July 10-13, 2016, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center, San Marcos, TX.

For more information on the election or the assessment program, contact the Texas Pecan Board at P.O. Box 5976, Bryan, Texas 77805-5976 or call toll-free 877-873-2267 or visit the TPB website at www.TexasPecans.org or contact the Zavala County Office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service at 830-374-2883.

District 12 4-H Leadership Lab and Election Convention

This week the District 12 4-H program will hold its annual leadership lab and election convention on the Campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville. I will be assisting with this event along with other county Extension Agents from across the district. The District 12 4-H Leadership Lab is an overnight camping experience for youth ages 12-19. The focus of the event is to provide 4-H members the opportunity to learn valuable leadership and life skills by participating in a variety of educational activities, team-building exercises, and learning sessions.

On Friday, June 24th the district 12 4-H election convention will take place. The District 12 4-H Election Convention is held every summer to elect the Council's executive committee. The event is designed much like a public election, including filing, campaigning, public presentations, and other important features to help 4-H members learn how public officials are elected. Skylar Blalock president of the Zavala County 4-H County Council will be attending the convention and will serve as the voting delegate from Zavala County.

Tip of the Week: Using Implants In Cattle To Add Selling Weight

Implants have been an effective tool to economically improve rate of gain and feed conversion in growing cattle for decades. Generally, implants are expected to increase rate of gain by 10 to 20% for yearling cattle on grass. Because implants are inexpensive, this can create a return on investment exceeding 20 to 1, depending of course on cattle prices relative to implant cost.

Implants contain naturally occurring or synthetic analogs of steroidal hormones, including estradiol, progesterone, and/or testosterone. These hormones in turn cause an increase in growth hormone in the animal, contributing to the improved rate of gain. A variety of implant products are available on the market that contain these active ingredients, either individually or in various combinations. These products also vary in the daily dosage (concentration) as well as the effective lifespan of active ingredients (payout).

Choosing the best implant from the wide array of available products is key to maximizing the "bang for the buck" without any negative side effects. The first consideration is the potency of the implant. In general, implants are grouped as low, moderate, and high potency. This is based on which combination of active ingredients is used and their daily dosage. In general, use only implants that are approved for grazing cattle; these are the low- and moderate-potency implants. The high-potency implants are approved for use only in confined feedlot cattle. A major reason for this is that potency has to correspond with energy level in the diet. High-potency implants are intended for use in cattle on high-energy finishing diets in the feedlot. Grazed forage does not have the energy content to match well these high-potency products.

The major negative side effect attributed to implants is their potential to reduce marbling and therefore USDA Quality Grade in cattle. Research has clearly shown that implants do not reduce

marbling if adequate energy is being consumed that allows intramuscular fat to be deposited at the increased pace of overall gain driven by the implant. On the other hand, green grass from late spring through mid-summer provides adequate energy to support marbling deposition needed for the gain increase expected from moderate-potency implants. This means that a low-potency implant, although approved for use in grazing cattle, may not provide the best bang for the buck during the early portion of the grazing season when forage quality and cattle gains are expected to be highest. However, as summer advances and grass quality decreases as it matures, energy intake may decline to a point that does not support the capacity of a moderate-potency implant.

Based on these options for an implant strategy, consider the potential economic advantage of implanting yearling stocker cattle. For example, assume we start the grazing season with some 600 lbs. yearling steers intended to graze for 130 days. During the first 100 days of the grazing season we would expect 2.5 lb. of average daily gain (ADG) without implants. We choose a moderate-potency implant that is expected to improve ADG by 15% over about 100 days. The enhanced ADG will be 2.88 lb., leading to an additional 38 lb. of growth. Using the beef basis forecasting tool the projected sale value in late September of this additional gain will be \$51.77 per steer. If the implant costs \$1.35 per head, the return on investment is projected at 38:1 (assuming steers are implanted when being worked before turnout to grass so there are no additional costs of implanting).

Remember proper implanting procedures are critical to ensure full effectiveness of the implant to accomplish this economic advantage. First, implant placement is important. The implant should be inserted so it is midway between the base and tip of the ear, and midway between the two main cartilage ribs of the ear. It should be inserted under the skin (subcutaneous) and not buried in the cartilage of the ear. Additionally, the needle on the implant gun should be kept clean and sharp. The needle should be sanitized in a disinfecting solution between using it in each animal. Wiping the needle across a sponge soaked in the disinfectant solution can effectively accomplish this. If microbial contamination is inserted with the implant, an infection can occur that will cause an abscess to form around the implant, walling it off from absorption into the animal's bloodstream. This will render the implant completely ineffective. Using an effective strategy and technique, implanting yearling stocker cattle going to grass can be an effective and nearly guaranteed avenue to add value. Have a great week. M.V.

June 20-24, 2016.

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