

PREGNANCY TESTING IS A VALUABLE TOOL

by: Joe Paschal, Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The NAHMS, conducted by USDA, reported that about 15% of US beef cattle producers regularly pregnancy test their cows after breeding season ends. Pregnancy testing is inexpensive, eliminates open or unbred cows, increases the number of weaned calves, and increases profitability. It only requires a little skill and a chute.



The most often used method of pregnancy diagnosis is rectal palpation which can be conducted by an experienced veterinarian as early as 45 days after breeding. Palpation can also determine if the calf is alive or dead, or if the cow has twins, or why she isn't bred if the cow is open. Having your veterinarian palpate gives you an extra pair of hands and eyes for other things.

The other methods of pregnancy testing are the use of ultrasound and two blood tests, BioPRYN and IDEXX. With ultrasound, you can detect pregnancy around 35 days, and you can also detect the sex of the calf and twins. The blood tests are similar in that they both detect a placenta-forming hormone. A minimum of 2 ml of whole blood is collected in a red-top tube and is sent unrefrigerated to a laboratory (BioPryn) or veterinarian (IDEXX) for analysis. These tests are very accurate in heifers (they will only have the hormone if they are pregnant) but slightly less so in cows. It is recommended that testing be done 28 days post breeding (60 days after calving) for best results. Depending on your costs, usually less than \$10 per result.

At the cost of about \$1.50-2.00 per day to run cows, spending a few dollars to detect pregnancy is inexpensive insurance! For more information on pregnancy testing contact your local county extension agent or beef cattle veterinarian.

Private Applicator Trainings

If you plan on using a state limited use or state restricted use pesticide, such as Grazon P+D, 2 4- D, Weedmaster, etc., and need a license, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service will be sponsoring a Private Applicator Training and Testing throughout 2021 at the Austin County Extension office. Books and study materials for the course can be purchased from the Extension office ahead of time or the day of for \$40. Registration is \$10 for the training. The registration fee will include the training and additional study materials. The training will begin at 1:00 pm and conclude by 5:00 pm. The Texas Department of Agriculture, who oversees the testing and administration of Applicator Licensing, has contracted with PSI Services to administer the exam for agriculture pesticide applicator licensing. Applicants will coordinate testing with PSI at one of their 22 locations around Texas. Details on the process, locations, cost, and other pertinent information will be provided at the training to help applicants complete the licensing process. *See Flyer for details on Page 7.*

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- June 18th: New Landowners Series– Pond Management - (2 Hr CEU), Fayette County, 1:30 pm
- June 24-25: Grass-fed Beef Conference– Texas A&M Rosenthal Meat Center, 8am
- June 28th: Pecan Growers Webinar– Virtual
- July 9th: Feathers, Furs, & Farming– Hunting Leases and Ask the Game Warden, Austin County, 1:00 pm
- July 29th: Ft. Bend Vegetable Conference-Virtual, more information on to come
- July 30th: Private Applicators Training, Austin County Extension Office, 12:45 pm
- August 2nd-4th: Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course– College Station
- August 20th: New Landowners Series– Bees & Trees for Homeowners, Washington County, 1:30pm
- August 27th: Austin County Fall Horticulture Conference, American Legion, Sealy, 1pm
- September 17th: New Landowners Series- Fruit Trees, Pecans, Grapes for Landowners, Austin County, 1:30pm

MULTI-COUNTY NEW LANDOWNERS SEMINAR SERIES

The fourth meeting for the 2021 series will take place on **Friday, June 18, 2021** at the Fayette County Fairgrounds Event center located in La Grange, Texas. The goal of this session is to help landowners with aquatic vegetation and management, so please bring a pond weed you would like to be identified. There will also be discussion on pond ecology and pond construction. Two CEUs (1 Gen & 1 IPM) will be available for licensed pesticide applicators. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

The meetings begin at 1:30 pm and will last between 4 and 5 hours depending on the topic. The cost for the program is \$20.00 per person. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for pesticide applicators will be offered as they are applicable.

- **August 20th** – Bees and Trees for Homeowners
- **September 17th** – Horticulture Production – Fruit Trees, Pecans, and Grapes for Landowners
- **October 15th** – Wildlife Management and Native Prairie Restoration
- **November 19th** – Emerging Issues for Rural Landowners

For more information, please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Austin County (979-865-2072), Colorado County (979-732-2082), Fayette County (979-968-5831), or Washington County (979-277-6212).

Registration materials and more information can also be found on our website, <https://washington.agrilife.org/ag/nlo/>



Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch is now open for registration, course runs for 12 weeks, August 16-November 7, 2021.

A Little About the Course

This is a completely online course. You will log in each week to a user-friendly website and view videos covering that week's lesson. At the end of the lesson, a short activity is provided to help you apply that week's information to your situation. By the end of the course, all your hard work will come together as a basic business plan! Your work can be completed from any computer that has access to the internet. Estimate about 2 hours a week to complete the lesson and activity, but this 2 hours could be at ANY time, day or night, during that week. You can always go back to past lessons, but a new topic will open up each week.

Generation Next is an instructor-led course, in that the instructor will be right there to answer questions and guide you. They do not teach every lesson, but will be in contact with you weekly and reviewing your activity submissions. There is a team of topic-based specialists who are providing you with up-to-date information to make your agricultural land and business a success.

How to Register

Registration for the 12-week course is \$300, which also includes a certificate and Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch t-shirt upon completion! To register, simply go to <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/product?catalog=ESSM-001> to sign up!

What Will You Learn?

- How to start an agricultural business
- Understanding business taxes and ag exemptions
- Ranch insurance
- Tracking your finances
- Evaluating your land's resources
- How to set up livestock grazing and wildlife management leases
- Basic ranching laws – fencing, water rights, etc.
- Land management techniques
- Alternative operations to add to the business
- Setting goals with measurable objectives for success

Pond Management

2021 Multi-County New Landowner Educational Series



June 18, 2021

**Fayette County Fairgrounds
Event Center**

1899 N. Jefferson Street
La Grange, Texas 78945

Registration 1:00-1:30 pm
Program 1:30-5:00 pm
\$20 / person

To register online visit:

<https://washington.agrilife.org/nlo>

Topics to be covered:

**Aquatic Vegetation and Management
Pond Ecology
Pond Construction**

*If you have a pond weed you would like
identified bring a FRESH sample with you;
include leaves, flowers, stem if possible.

2 CEUs
(1 IPM; 1 Gen)

**For More
Information
Please Contact:**

Stacie Villarreal
Austin County
(979) 865-2072
Austin.AgrLife.org

Laramie Kettler
Colorado County
(979) 732-2082
Colorado.AgrLife.org

Scott Willey
Fayette County
(979) 968-5831
Fayette.AgrLife.org

Kara Matheney
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Join us for the eighth Grass-fed Beef Conference
on June 24 - 25 at the
Texas A&M Rosenthal Meat Center

Producers can attend the event in-person and virtually. Meals will be provided for in-person attendees. The program will run from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on June 24 and 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 25.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION :

Before June 18, 2021:

- In-person event cost: \$275
- Virtual event cost: \$200

After June 18, 2021:

- In-person event cost: \$325
- Virtual event cost: \$250

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE, VISIT:

[TX.AG/REGISTERGRASSFEDBEEFCONFERENCE](https://tx.ag/registergrassfedbeefconference)



LAMAR COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION

PECAN GROWERS WEBINAR

Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension Pecan/Fruit/Vegetable Specialist, will discuss everything you need to know about Pecan Tree care and management in this **FREE** webinar!

**JUNE 28, 2021
6 PM - 8 PM
VIA ZOOM**

REGISTRATION LINK:
[HTTPS://AGRILIFE.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TJCPCO6TR
TKQGTRW2QFIMNLM0WWLBOH8WZGW](https://agrilife.zoom.us/join/REGISTER/TJCPCO6TRTKQGTRW2QFIMNLM0WWLBOH8WZGW)

Contact Jessica Humphrey- Ag/NR County Extension Agent for more info:

Email: jessica.humphrey@ag.tamu.edu

Office Phone: 903-737-2443

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**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

2021 BCSC Sessions

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

8:00 A.M.

- Veterinarian Continuing Education Training
- Managing the Ranch Horse

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

8:00 A.M.

- General Assembly for Instructions and Orientation

8:30 A.M.

- Nutritional Management: "How Much Should I Feed my Cows?"
- Introduction to Cattle Production I
- Forages Management I
- Cattle Breeds and Breeding
- Pesticide Applicator Re-certification
- Advanced Animal Health

12:00 P.M.

Lunch

1:30 P.M.

- General Session

4:15 P.M.

Trade Show Social Hour

5:30 P.M.

Texas Aggie Prime Rib Dinner



TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

8:30 A.M.

- Beef Cattle Health Management
- Ranching Around the World
- Forages Management II
- Nutritional Management: "How Much Should I Feed my Cows?"
- Reproductive Management
- Cattle Marketing – Marketing Commercial Calves
- Introduction to Cattle Production II

12:00 P.M.

Lunch

1:30 P.M.

- Landowner Rights: Ask an Ag Lawyer
- Ranch Management: Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together
- Vector Borne Disease Session: Flies, Gnats, Ticks
- Purebred Cattle Marketing
- Range Management Workshop: Balancing Rangeland Opportunities and Challenges
- Farm to Fork – Finishing/Marketing Cattle on the Ranch
- Beef Cattle Research in Texas

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

8:30 A.M.

- Tractor Safety, Hay Production and Sprayer Calibration
- Cattle Handling Demonstrations
- Beef Cattle Chute Side Demonstration
- Beef Cattle Business Management Workshop
- Beef Carcass Value Determination Workshop
- Brush Busters Demonstration

[Click Here to Register](#)

Private Applicator Licenses Trainings for 2021

Friday, April 30, 2021

Friday, July 30, 2021

Friday, November 30, 2021

Training is from 1pm to 5pm

Check in/Registration starts 15 mins prior

Date & Time are subject to change

Trainings will be conducted at

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of
Austin County located at 800 E Wendt St.,
Bellville, TX 77418

Prices:

Training-\$10

Books-\$40

(2 manuals)

**Checks payable to:
Extension Program
Council (EPC)**

Nonrefundable

***Please RSVP to reserve
your spot, space is limited***

Phone: 979-865-2072

<http://austin.agrilife.org>

The purpose of this training is to obtain a Private Applicator License from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). This license will enable the applicator to purchase and apply state limited use and federally restricted chemicals on his land or land he has control of for the purpose of production of agricultural commodities. All farm and ranch operators who do not have a Private Applicator's License to purchase "restricted use" pesticides (such as 2, 4-D, Grazon P+D, Tordon 22K, etc.) will need to attend this training.

If you are interested in obtaining a Private Applicator License Training, please contact the Austin County Extension office at (979) 865-2072 to RSVP and to purchase the manuals. You can also RSVP on <https://austin.agrilife.org/event-registrations/>

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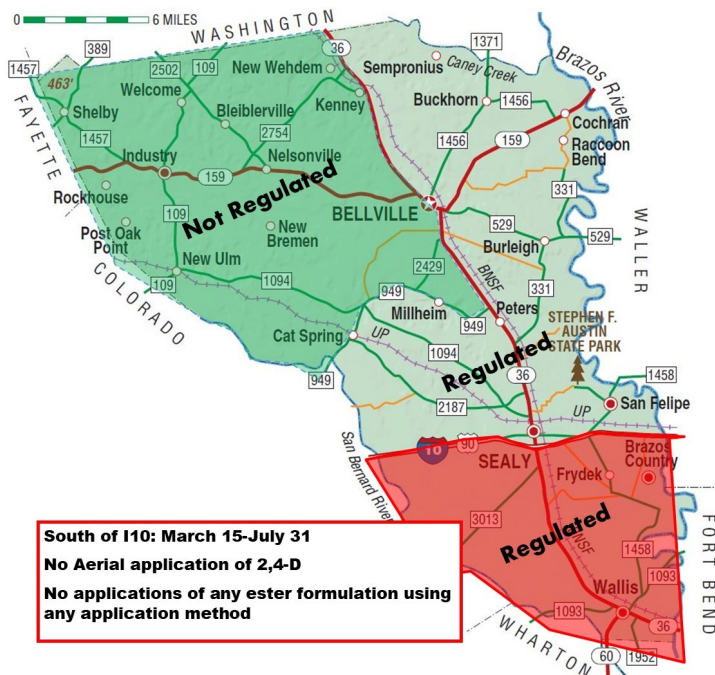
TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

SPRAY PERMITS REQUIRED FOR A PORTION OF AUSTIN COUNTY

As a reminder to anyone that will be using state limited use or state restricted use herbicides in Austin County, a permit to apply these herbicides must be obtained through the Texas Department of Agriculture if you plan on spraying in certain portions of the county. The following areas of Austin County must acquire a permit as is specified in the Texas Agricultural code, chapter 75,

- 1) Only that portion of Austin County lying east and south of the line beginning at the point where State Highway 36 crosses the north county line, thence southerly along Highway 36 to FM 949; thence westwardly along FM 949 to the San Bernard River is regulated by the Act, Subchapter G and regulations adopted thereunder.
- 2) Between March 15 and July 31, in that portion of Austin County lying south of Interstate Highway 10, the following restrictions on the use of 2,4-D formulations shall apply:
 - (A) the application by aircraft is prohibited
 - (B) the use of all ester formulations by any method is prohibited.

Permits may be obtained from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Austin County at (979) 865-2072. Forms can also be obtained by contacting the Texas Department of Agriculture Gulf Coast Regional Office in Houston at (713) 921-8200.



REGISTERING FOR A COUNTY PROGRAM?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve M. Villan

Stacie M. Villarreal

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

County Extension Agent- Agriculture & Natural Resource-Austin County

1 East Main, Bellville, TX 77418 (*Mailing Address*)

800 E Wendt St, Bellville, TX 77418 (*Physical Address*)

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Austin.agrilife.org

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 865-2072 ten (10) days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.