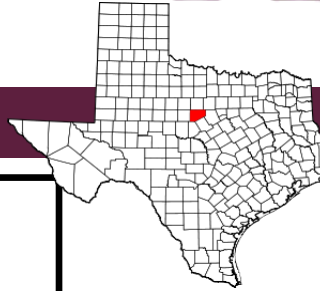


Eastland County

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Newsletter

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

April 2023



Do You Have A VCPR?

I had to “google it” too! Having a good working relationship with your veterinarian is very important in the livestock industry or as a pet owner for many reasons. But the latest reason we need to have a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) in place is to purchase over-the-counter livestock antibiotics, which will require a prescription from your veterinarian, beginning June 11 of this year. Gone will be the days of walking into the feed store for a bottle of penicillin or LA-200 to administer yourself. The Food and Drug Administration has recommended manufacturers of medically important antimicrobial drugs that will continue to be available over-the-counter and are approved for use in animals, both food producing and companion, be brought under veterinarian oversight by prescription. These products will include tylosin, penicillin, oxytetracycline, sulfas, gentamicin, and cepharirin. Don't try to run out before June 11 and stock up for a few years to avoid getting prescriptions from your veterinarian. Animal health products are expensive and have expiration dates that are sensitive to storage time and conditions. Medications administered after the expiration date on the label are less effective, not

effective at all, or could cause adverse reactions. We, as livestock or pet owners, are responsible for their care and well-being in exchange for their companionship, work, or income they generate for us. A good working relation with your veterinarian is both beneficial to you and your animals, and will now be part your route to be able to purchase certain medications to help keep them healthy.



Parasite Prevention

Parasites, whether internal or external, take a heavy toll on livestock producers bottom line, not to mention the agony they cause the livestock themselves. Spring is an optimum time to get a jump on parasite infestations before numbers reach economic thresholds as most livestock are going thru the chute for working anyway. Flies and ticks can wreck havoc in any livestock species. They can transmit disease and easily disrupt feeding patterns. Livestock not eating is livestock got growing, gaining weight, rebreeding, and making money. Studies have shown that heavy infestations of horn flies can reduce gains by as much as 15-20 pounds in yearling cattle for the grazing season. Livestock bunching up in the summer out in the pasture can be an indication of severe fly problems. Animals on the outside of the group are taking the most fly bites but the ones in the inside of the group are also being bitten and can start to suffer heat stress. Again, none are eating well so they are not gaining weight. Livestock in thick stands of brush or access to heavy brush for shade are often subject to heavy loads of ticks. With a warm fairly damp spring shaping up, internal parasites could easily become a problem as well. By deworming in the spring, you could potentially target 90-95% of the parasites that already have or could soon infect your livestock herd. The old saying “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” certainly applies to parasites. The cost and time to apply new fly tags, spraying, pour-on, or dusts more than offsets the possible lost market value in reduced weight gains, open females, or treating sick animals. It is always cheaper to keep them healthy than it is to bring them back to health. Visit with your veterinarian for the herd health program that will fit your specific operation and livestock species.

Cross Timbers Land Management Symposium

April 28, 2023

9:00AM - 2:00PM

Registration @ 8:30AM

AgriLife Research Center

1229 N US HWY 281 Stephenville, TX

\$20 per person (lunch included)

CEUs - 1 General, 1 IPM

RSVP by April 24th @ 254-629-2222

USDA Feral Swine Eradication Pilot Program Update

Many have asked about the status and possibility of another extension to the wild hog program lately. The program is still definitely ongoing so if you would like to sign up, contact Tim O'Donnell at 254-842-4259. Tim is our new Biological Technician with APHIS and is currently on the ground in Eastland County scouting, baiting, and trapping pigs. Helicopter use for aerial hunting by APHIS also continues but will slow as the tree canopy closes due to spring leaves. The program will continue through at least September of this year with the status of program extension unknown at this time. The traps currently being used for the program will remain in Eastland County even after the federal program closes and be available to landowners through a lease type agreement administered by our local NRCS office, as we currently understand.



Saturday, May 13, 2023 1pm - 3pm

\$20 per person

To RSVP, call 254-629-2222

Blue Duck Winery (507 Conrad Hilton Blvd. Cisco, TX)

Presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Eastland County

Topics include:

Texas Viticulture, Oenology, Wine Tastings & Wine Pairings



Keep up to date with program announcements and follow Eastland County AgriLife Extension on Facebook @AgriLife Extension-Eastland County or check our website at eastland.agrilife.org

If you are not on our email list and would like to be, give me a call at

(254) 629-2222 or email tj.cummings@ag.tamu.edu

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension—Eastland County will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in all educational programs with prior notice.