

SPRING 2023

AgReview

Mason County Agriculture Newsletter

In This Issue

**Hay Supply Near
50-Year low, Prices
Near Record Highs**

**Online 'Drought
Proofing the Ranch'
Course now Available**

**Land Stewardship
Conference Returns
April 13-14 to
Kerrville**

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Over-the-Counter Livestock Antibiotics will Require Prescription After June 11

Don't wait. Get to know your local veterinarian now and establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship if you expect to treat livestock in the future, as over-the-counter livestock antibiotics will soon require a prescription.

That is the advice of a team of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts trying to help livestock owners who are used to going to the local feed store to buy some of their antibiotics and administer treatment themselves.

All of that will change on June 11, when these medically important antimicrobial drugs will require veterinary oversight.

The following experts answer some frequently asked questions to let livestock owners know what to expect:

— Tom Hairgrove, DVM, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension cattle veterinary specialist in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station.

— Joe Paschal, Ph.D., former AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, now representing industry as the executive vice president of the American Brahman Breeders Association, Corpus Christi.

— Billy Zanolini, Ph.D., assistant professor and 4-H and youth development specialist, Bryan-College Station.

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Hay Supply Near 50-Year low, Prices Near Record Highs

Hay supplies remain short and prices continue to rise as Texas cattle ranchers try to feed herds through winter, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

The 2022 drought and subsequent poor hay production resulted in stressed hay supplies going into winter, according to AgriLife Extension specialists. Those short hay supplies and demand have now pushed hay bale prices toward record high prices.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Jan. 27 Texas Hay Direct Report priced large round bales of good-to-premium Bermuda grass between \$70 and \$175 each with prices for the same quality hay reaching \$410 per ton in the Panhandle. Most counties across the state are reporting decent quality bales above \$100.

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Online 'Drought Proofing the Ranch' Course now Available

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's course Drought Proofing the Ranch is now available online.

The cost is \$100 however, the first 100 registrants will receive the course at no cost. The course is two hours, but participants may view it at their own pace. Register at <https://tx.ag/DroughtProofingRanch>. Arnold shared what he considers to be the key things Texans should be doing now to prepare for the coming seasons.

“Participants will increase their understanding of drought management strategies,” said Morgan Treadwell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension rangeland specialist, San Angelo. “Drought is an ever-present specter for Texas livestock and forage producers, and this course will help producers create plans for managing livestock and rangelands, specifically, brush and weeds with herbicides, during drought.”

With 8.7 million Texans currently impacted by drought, this course offers timely advice and guidance for those ranchers affected as well as for preparing for future occurrences.



“The course will help producers develop risk management strategies, identify the best risk management tools and recognize the importance of advanced preparation for when a drought occurs,” she said. “The goal is for producers to learn to identify drought conditions and to develop a plan to mitigate losses due to drought ahead of time.”

AgriLife Extension Expert Instructors, Topics Covered

The course is taught by Treadwell; Jason Smith, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, Amarillo; Pancho Abello, AgriLife Extension economist, Vernon; and Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., former AgriLife Extension economist, Amarillo.

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Land Stewardship Conference Returns April 13-14 to Kerrville

Registration is open for the seventh Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference April 13-14 in Kerrville. The event is designed to help landowners and managers address the unique management needs of the Hill Country.

The conference is presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Kerr and Gillespie counties. This year's event returns to the Y.O. Ranch Hotel and Conference Center, 2033 Sidney Baker St., after being canceled due to COVID-19 issues for the past three years.

Registration is \$125 and is required online at <https://tx.ag/HillCountryStewardship>. All meals, break refreshment items and charter bus transportation for tours are included. Contact Linda Francis at l-francis@tamu.edu for more information or if you have any food allergies or needs.



The Hill Country is a special part of Texas with an attraction to millions of individuals who ranch and come to vacation, hunt, rest and relax each year, said Larry Redmon, Ph.D., professor and associate head for AgriLife Extension in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.

“Along with the spectacular beauty of the area that attracts all the visitors, we know the Hill Country presents its own particular needs for management by landowners, and we want to help them be better prepared,” Redmon said.

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Sam Spradlin

Mason County Extension Agent
Ag & Natural Resources



505 Moody Street
Mason, TX 76856



(325) 347-6459



sam.spradlin@ag.tamu.edu



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Mason County
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Mason County Agriculture

AgriLife Extension Hires 18 new County Agents

Across the State

***Meet our new Family & Community Health Agent
(FCH) for Mason County, Jessica Holbrook.***

Texas Lamb & Goat Prices Strong Amid Challenges

Calf Prices Strengthen, Cattle Herd Shrinking

Upcoming Events

**SPRING GARDENING LUNCH & LEARN
NACHOS | APRIL 19, 2023**

**LLANO COUNTY BEEF & RANGE FIELD DAY
LLANO | MAY 30, 2023**

**HILL COUNTRY BEEF CONFERENCE
MASON | JULY**

**PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING
MASON | AUGUST**

**VINE TO WINE - VITICULTURE
MASON | SEPTEMBER**

**MASON COUNTY RANGELAND FIELD DAY
MASON | DECEMBER**

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