

APRIL 2024

ANGELINA COUNTY - TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICES

2201 S. Medford Dr. Lufkin, TX 75901

www.angelina.agrilife.org



See more inside from our agents



Cary Sims,
Agriculture and
Natural Resources



Ryan Merrel,
4-H and Youth
Development



Joel Redus,
Family and
Community Health



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

HELPING TEXANS THRIVE
The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Strategic Plan builds upon our values and mission to focus on our strengths and utilize innovative technology to serve many Texans in impactful and lasting ways.

MISSION

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service works daily to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, youth and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses and communities through education and service.

VISION STATEMENT

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be the leader in providing science-based information and solutions in agriculture and health to every Texan.

SHARED VALUES

We value People, Programs and Partnerships.



4-H and Youth Development



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES



**Fall Steer, Heifer
validation tag orders
and State Fair
Lambs/Goats**

It is already time to be thinking about ordering major tags for State Fair and Steer/Heifer validation. There are some changes this year so please make note of them.

TAG ORDERS ARE BEING MOVED UP A LITTLE

- Validation fee for Steers and Heifers
\$30 per head March 1-April 1st
\$35 per head April 2nd- For Late orders
- Heifers will be tagged with an ear tag just like Steers so I need an accurate count so we don't get charged for unnecessary tags

STATE FAIR INFORMATION

• Lambs and goats validated during the 2024 State Fair Validation Period WILL BE ELIGIBLE for 2025 Spring Major Shows. Market animals validated for the 2023 State Fair will carryover for 2025 Spring Major Shows. Once validated, the project MUST stay in the care of the exhibitor that project is validated to; if the exhibitor chooses to sell the project to a new exhibitor, the new exhibitor MUST REVALIDATE the project within the next validation period.

- \$20 per head March 1 – April 1, 2024
- \$30 per head April 2nd

County Validation will be held at the Hudson Ag Shop on June 10, 2024. There will be an AM and PM time so we can work around the heat of the day.

Just a reminder: County 4-H Camp: Mark your calendars for Thursday June 27th- Sunday June 30th at Pine Springs Baptist Encampment in Laneville Texas.

- Cost for camp has gone up this year. It is \$140.00 per member if you did not complete a recordbook and \$80 if you do turn in a recordbook.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 19TH - GO TEXAS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: RETURN TO YOUR AG TEACHER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR, 4-H LEADER OR ANY GO TEXAN COMMITTEEMEN BY APRIL 19, 2024 BY 4:00 PM
- APRIL 27TH- D5 4-H 3D ARCHERY CONTEST. REGISTRATION IS DUE ON 4-H ONLINE BETWEEN MARCH 15TH AND APRIL 12TH. EVENT WILL BE HELD AT FAIRWAY FARMS IN SAN AUGUSTINE
- HORSE VALIDATION IS OPEN ON 4-H ONLINE: HORSE VALIDATION WILL BE OPEN FROM MARCH 1ST THROUGH MAY 1ST AND THE COST WILL AGAIN BE \$10 PER HORSE THROUGH APRIL 15TH AND \$20 PER HORSE FROM APRIL 16TH THROUGH MAY 1ST. MAKE SURE THE ENTIRE HORSE IS VISIBLE IN THE PICTURES THAT YOU UPLOAD ON THE WEBSITE.
- MAY 3RD AND 4TH - COME ALIVE IN D5 4-H ROUND UP EVENT REGISTRATION DUE ON 4-H ONLINE APRIL 15TH. ROUND UP WILL BE HELD AT PANOLA COLLEGE.

Not too early to be thinking about 4-H record books and especially taking pictures. Books will be due Friday, May 31st. We will begin County 4-H Camp sign-up on that day as well and will be first come first serve. You must come in and complete the registration form and pay for camp at that time in order to be registered.

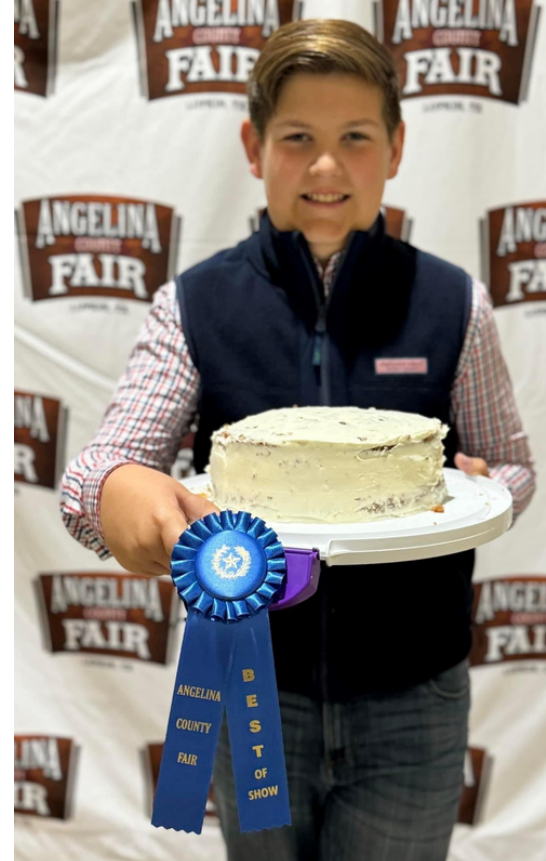


Congratulations to all the hardworking kids who participated in the 2024 Angelina County Fair!



For more information about the Angelina County 4-H program, please contact Ryan Merrel, CEA 4-H & Youth Development at 936-634-6414x4 or remerrel@ag.tamu.edu





CONGRATS!

2024



LUFKIN, TX



Next program will be **APRIL 10TH**

“Growing and Cooking with Herbs” Lunch & Learn

**With Julia Cañas, Angelina County Master Gardener and CEO of Live Well Farms
Wednesday, April 10th**

Prepare to engage all your senses with a show and tell of culinary herbs, including tips on easy-to-grow varieties, to help make your meals healthier and more flavorful year-round.

Lunch served at noon. \$5 donation requested to cover food costs. Presentation and discussion 12:10-12:45pm. RSVP required by Monday, April 8th.
(936) 634-6414



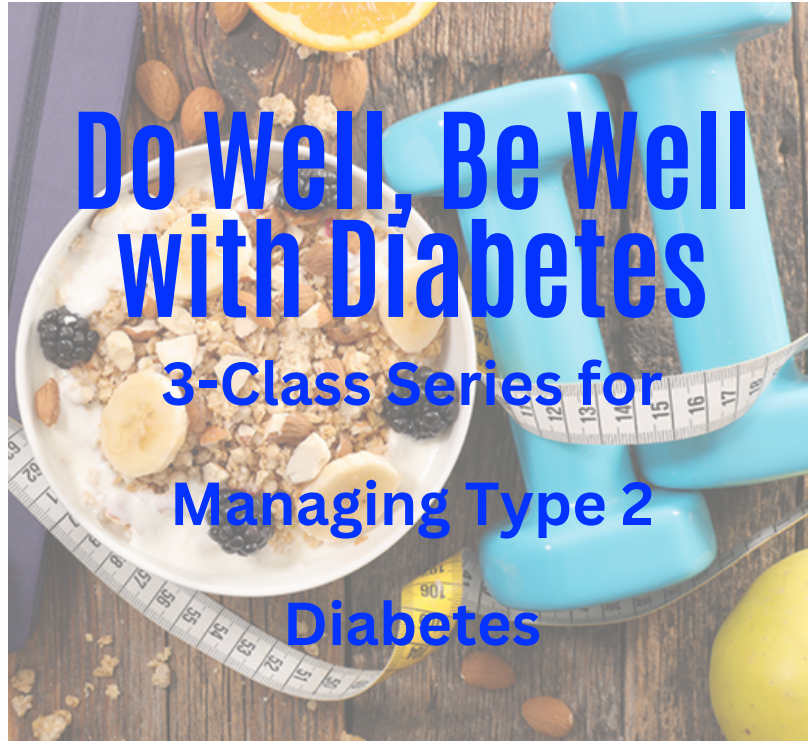
This program is part of the Wellness Lunch & Learn series provided the second Wednesday of select months at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at 2201 S Medford Dr. in Lufkin. All are invited to these short and sweet seminars covering a variety of health and wellness topics. Expect to receive straightforward information to empower you to make wise decisions and live a healthy lifestyle.

Family and Community Health

UPCOMING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH EVENTS



LUNCH & WELLNESS LEARN



Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes

3-Class Series for
Managing Type 2
Diabetes

Wednesday, May 8th

Disaster Preparedness & Safety

**Guest Speaker: Sylvia Balew, Disaster
Assessment and Recovery Agent**

Lunch served at noon. \$5 donation
requested to cover food costs.

Presentation and discussion 12:10-
12:45pm.

RSVP required by Monday, May 6th

**Take Charge of Your
Diabetes!**

- Blood Sugar
- Meals
- Medication
- Lifestyle

Apr 30, May 7, & 14

**Angelina County Extension Office
(2201 S. Medford Dr. in Lufkin)**

***\$20 for all 3 sessions: Must pre-register
to reserve your spot***



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Joel Redus, MS, RDN, LD
County Extension Agent for Family & Community Health
joel.redus@ag.tamu.edu
936-634-6414 x1
Angelina.Agrilife.org/cooking-well-with-diabetes/

Color Me Healthy

Second graders, in the afterschool program at Trout Primary School in Lufkin ISD have been learning about healthy eating and being active through fun activities, games, and taste tests. Everyone enjoyed building their own "Rainbow on a Stick" and tasting raspberries, cantaloupe, pineapple, kiwi fruit, and grapes. With the "Taste Test: Vegetable Adventure" activity, they tasted both raw and sauteed vegetables including yellow squash, sugar snap peas, carrots, red bell peppers, and Swiss chard. Although there were mixed reviews, almost everyone discovered a new vegetable they liked! They have been a fun group and have impressed me with their willingness to try new foods!



Agriculture and Natural Resources

CATTLE AND HAY

Would you rather have large, heavy bales of hay or large, heavy calves to sell? It's kind of a senseless question, but if beef producers wait too late with their hay harvest to increase the amount (or weight) of their hay bales, then they'll be providing a lower quality hay back to their herd. High quality hay means that, weather permitting, you've harvested at the right time to have high quality forage to feed back at a later date. Lowering forage quality will lower performance on your calf crop and lower body condition on the cows you plant to breed back. Poor performing calves mean less pounds at the auction barn. Thin cows mean a lower conception rate for the following calf crop. Poor quality hay is an expense that keeps taking away from profits and productivity over more than one calf crop



channel or Blue catfish, what is best to stock in your pond? Both are certainly suitable for east Texas ponds, but channel catfish are sometimes more readily available to purchase and tolerate low levels of oxygen commonly occurring in our summer better than blue catfish. There is no difference in taste or texture between the two and they should grow to edible size in the same time frame. Cooler weather is the best time to stock catfish as they will be less stressed from being handled, moved around, and placed in a new pond. Check with your favorite, local feed store for when the fish truck is delivering. Many catfish are sold as 4-6-inch fingerlings, and this is about the minimum size to feed out to an edible "eating-size fish" by fall as most growth on catfish happens between April and October.



April 2024 Upcoming Events

April 12 Morning Pasture Discussion
7-8 a.m. at Charlie's in Lufkin. A general credit will be given towards the C.E.U.s needed for pesticide licenses. This is a monthly series held every 2nd Wednesday at Charlies Restaurant, across from Café Del Rio.

April 16 Noon Gardening Seminar –
Horticultural Extension Agent, Kim Benton from Cherokee County will be speaking on landscaping work conducted at the Caddo Indian Mounds just west of Alto.

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PONDS AND CATFISH

LANDSCAPE AND JUNE BUGS

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Those pesky June bugs you are seeing now in the evenings were eating your landscape last year and will do it again. What we know as the “June bug” and is also known June beetle or even May beetle in more northern areas. This is a native insect and boasts over 200 species throughout the US. Remember those C-shaped grubs eating your St. Augustine grass roots? That is the larva of the June bug. In high enough populations under your turfgrass, you’ll see blotchy, discolored patches of lawn that is missing much of its root system as a direct result of these grubworms. The adult June bugs feed on leaves of trees and other ornamentals. While it is uncommon for the adult insect to damage a tree, lawns with a history of grubworm damage will benefit from the proper application of a turf insecticide 4-6 weeks after the last June bug has been seen and the next generation of larvae are easily controlled

For more information about these or other agricultural topics, call 634-6414 ext. 2, e-mail cw-sims@tamu.edu or visit Angelina-co.tamu.edu



April 16 Feral Hog Control Update 6:30 pm.
Free. 1 CEUs. A “new” product containing the blood thinner warfarin is back on the market. Is it any good for your operation? Is it the best choice?? We’ll analyze the research and regulations of controlling our, possible, worst pest.

May 17 The East Texas Piney Woods Cow Congress 8:30 AM TO 2 PM here in Angelina County at Sunnyhill Ranch on Hwy 94 in Hudson. Details coming soon. This is always a quality event put together by multiple counties. Call our office at 936-634-6414 x 2 for details. Topics include:

- Controlling Smutgrass & Vaseygrass
- Long term economic update
- selecting bulls/heifers
- The economics of a cow

May 8 Pasture Breakfast meeting at Charlies- 7 AM 1 C.E.U. for pesticide licenses. Topics will be pasture management, considering high herbicide prices and availability.

Forage is a critical component of most cattle operations. In addition to thinking about the quantity of forage, it is important to be aware of the factors affecting forage quality. Differences in forage quality will have major impacts on animal performance. Energy and protein content are the two portions of forage quality that will be discussed in this article. Energy comes from carbohydrates, fat and even protein compounds. In cattle, energy content of feed is often described in terms of total digestible nutrients (TDN) or calories. It is the component required in the largest quantity for cattle to gain weight. Factors affecting forage quality include :

- Species and cultivar
- Maturity
- Temperature
- Brown midrib trait (BMR)
- Nitrogen fertilizer
- And a few others

Many of the factors listed above are associated with changes in amount, type and location of lignin as well as how lignin is bonded to other components in the plant. Lignin is a polyphenolic compound that helps provide structural support to the plant and has a negative effect on fiber digestibility. Generally, as lignin content increases, plant digestibility decreases. When plant digestibility increases, energy content and TDN values increase.

In general, cool-season forages will be higher in TDN than warm-season forages, and annual forages will be higher in TDN than perennial forages. Additionally, forages grown in arid environments are higher in TDN than forages grown in humid environments. As plants mature, lignin and fiber deposition increase, and digestibility goes down. A great example of this is in research done in bermudagrass showing that digestibility went from about 65% when hay was cut every three weeks to 58% when it was cut every six weeks.

Regardless of rainfall or irrigation, temperature can have a significant effect on TDN content of forages. Lignin deposition increases as temperature increases. Consequently, hay cut during the summer is often lower in TDN than hay cut in the spring or fall.

The BMR trait can be found in corn, sorghum, sudangrass and pearl millet. Varieties with this trait tend to have higher digestibility, and thus animal performance, than similar varieties without the trait. Research in Amarillo showed an increase in average daily gain (ADG) of about 0.32 pound per day for steers grazing sorghum-sudangrass with the BMR trait.

Crude protein content generally goes up with increased nitrogen



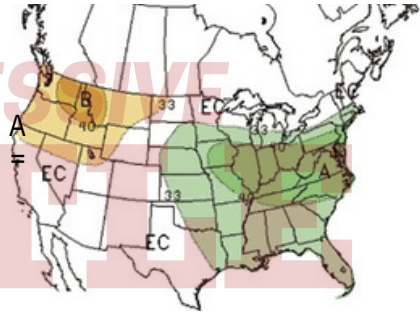
Jason Banta
Associate Professor
and Extension Beef
Cattle Specialist
Texas A&M University

fertilizer and reduced maturity. Additionally, in many situations forage will grow faster and produce more yield as nitrogen fertilizer is increased.

0-to-3-month precipitation outlook as of April 16, 2020

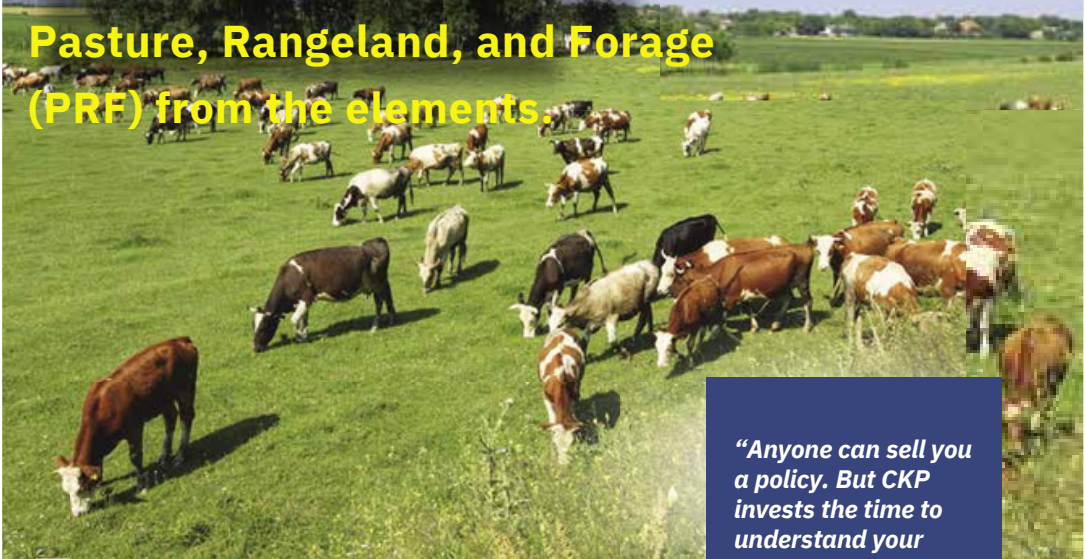
Chance of precipitation:

EC = Equal chance
A = Above normal
B = Below normal



Cover More Ground with CKP

The USDA Risk Management Agency helps protect your Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage (PRF) from the elements.



“Anyone can sell you a policy. But CKP invests the time to understand your individual needs and develop a strategy that will produce the best coverage results.”

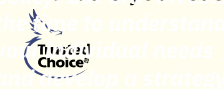
Let CKP Help You Protect Your PRF

Our trusted risk advisors are trained to help you analyze complicated insurance data so you:

- Protect your land and livelihood against potential losses during times of drought.
- Make the most informed decision for your business.
- Never purchase unnecessary coverage and pay more than you need.

Why now?

- Very affordable – Government subsidized
- Premiums are not due until October 1
- No adjusters needed
- No record-keeping
- Protects your cash flow



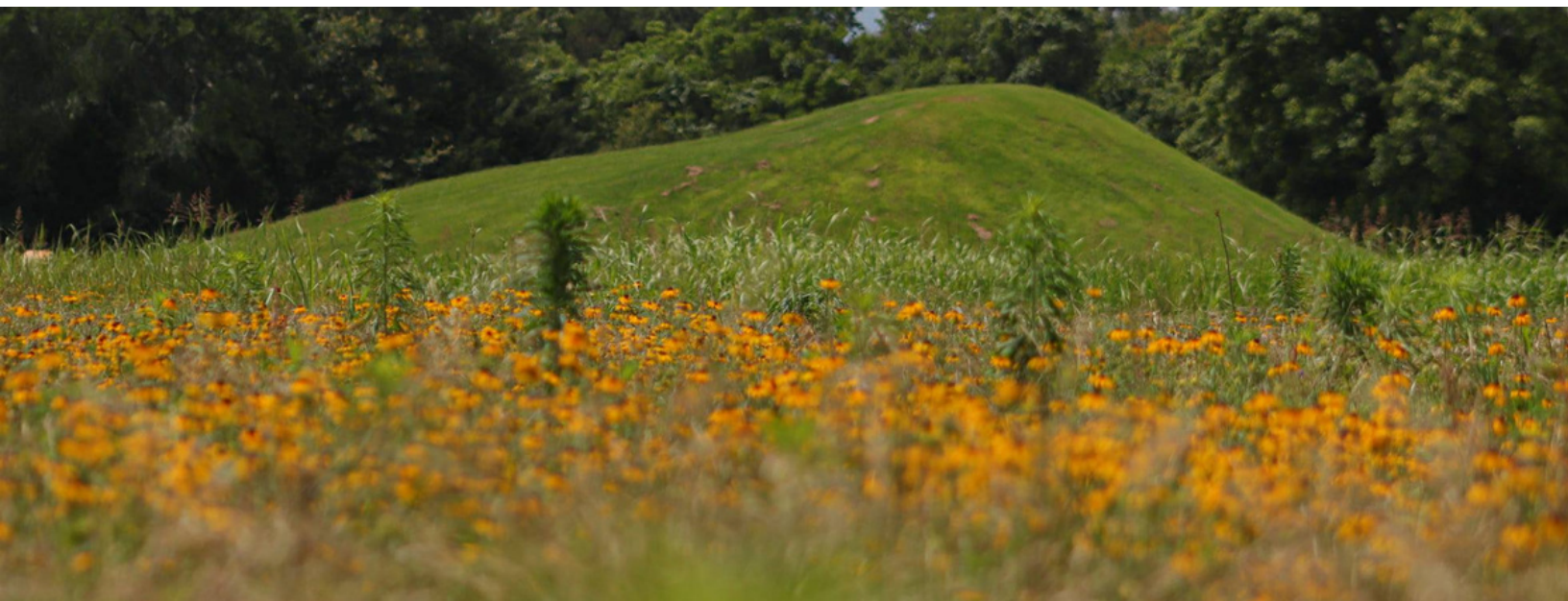
Contact your CKP Trusted Risk Advisor today.

877-CKP-INS1 (877-257-4671) ckpinsurance.com

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TUESDAY
APRIL 16TH

NOON GARDENING SEMINAR



Hear from Horticultural Extension Agent, Kim Benton from Cherokee County. Kim will be speaking on landscaping work conducted at the Caddo Indian Mounds just west of Alto, and sharing her knowledge on the Snake Womens Garden.

At the County Extension Office @ 12pm
(2201 S. Medford Dr. Lufkin)

NO FEE/BRING A SACK LUNCH!



2024 virtual Zoom Educational Series programs brought to you by the
Extension offices of Houston & Gregg Counties



JANUARY 9, 2024

DR. JASON BANTA

CATTLE SELECTION: HOW MUCH GROWTH DO I NEED



FEBRUARY 14, 2024

DR. VANESSA CORRIHER OLSON

FORAGE ESTABLISHMENT & RECOVERY

**NEW
DATE**



MARCH 12, 2024

DR. JASON BANTA

EXTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL



APRIL 9, 2024

DR. VANESSA CORRIHER OLSON

WARM SEASON ANNUAL FORAGES

**AG
IN
THE
EVENING**

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*Click TITLE of each
program to register.*

ALL PROGRAMS START AT



6:00 PM



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension Program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 936.544.7502 at least one week prior to the program or event.

East Texas Pasture Management Program

Hosted by Drs. Vanessa Corriher-Olson and Jason Banta



Soil & Crop Science Department
Department of Animal Science

Friday, April 5, 2024

Virtual Program

5 Pesticide CEUs Available
(1 laws, 1 IPM, and 3 general)
Course #00523396

Morning Session (8:30 - 11:30 am)

- Pest Control in the Pasture
- Pesticide Modes of Action
- External Parasite Control

Afternoon Session (1:00 - 3:00 pm)

- Drift Management and Drone Use in Agriculture
- Weed Control in Pastures and Hay Meadows



Registration Cost: \$35/ person for the program (5 CEUs)

Register online at:

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ereg/index.php?eventid=786170&>

Registration Deadline: Thursday, April 4 at 11:00 AM

Meeting will be conducted with ZOOM

Practice sessions will be offered the week of the meeting for those who want to check out the process of connecting and viewing material

For more information on this program please contact Michelle Sensing @ 903-847-0611.

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Angelina County Master Gardeners had a great Spring Plant Sale back in March. Many Thanks to these Volunteers and to those who came out to support Horticultural Education. Come shop with us again in the Fall, September 28th 2024. Thanks again for your support!