

LUBBOCK COUNTY SMALL ACREAGE LANDOWNER NEWS

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The purpose of this newsletter is to assist and educate small acreage landowners to make the best decision for their production needs and keep them updated on educational opportunities. If there is a topic you would like me to address please email me at rj-scott@tamu.edu and I will try to address your request. If you would like to be on the newsletter email list let me know and I will be glad to add you to the list. The Lubbock county Extension website is <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/>.

BEEF PARASITE EVALUATION CLINIC

Tuesday, May 12th a Beef Parasite Evaluation Clinic will be held at the Lubbock AgriLife Extension Service. The lab will give you an opportunity to test your cattle for internal parasites. Dr. Don Bliss, a Veterinary Parasitologist from MidAmerica Agricultural Research will be viewing fecal samples for egg types and counts under the microscope.

If you would like to have your herd tested for internal parasites, please have samples delivered to the **Lubbock County Extension offices by 4:00 pm on Monday, May 11th**. Dr. Bliss will test the fecal samples parasite content on Tuesday morning. You are invited to hear the results of the parasite evaluation in a presentation given by Dr. Bliss and enjoy a **free meal Tuesday, May 12th at 12:00 noon**.

How to collect samples: These samples need to be fresh and not be larger than a golf ball in size. Each animal's feces needs to be in an individual plastic (Ziploc) bag. Invert the bag and grab a golf ball sized sample. Samples should be fresh, not old, dry, or frozen. They can be kept refrigerated up to 1 week prior to the exam. Please do not freeze samples, as they will be of no value. Please make sure each sample is identified and labeled properly. To get an accurate reading on a herd, collect 10-20 individual

samples from each pen/pasture tested. Samples can be collected from lactating cows, dry cows, developing heifers, calves, growing calves or finishing cattle. (To get an accurate reading for only a few calves collect several fresh samples from around the pen.)

For more information on **The Beef Parasite Evaluation Clinic** click on **2009 Educational Programs** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/newsletters.cfm> then click on **F. May 12-- Beef Parasite Evaluation Clinic**

CONTROLLING POCKET GOPHER DAMAGE

Under natural conditions, gophers are beneficial to the soil. It is estimated that in a year, one gopher transports 21/2 tons of soil to the ground surface. By bringing subsoil to the surface where it weathers more quickly, gophers contribute to the soil building process. The loosened soil makes the ground more fertile. Air and water can easily pass through porous soil to plant roots. Gophers can cause serious damage when they establish tunnel systems in cultivated farming areas, rangelands, orchards, tree farms and lawns. When there are many gophers they can damage field and pasture crops by eating the crops and by forming mounds which interfere with farm machinery. Gophers reduce the amount of livestock forage available on rangeland by harvesting and burying vegetation. They gnaw or clip the roots of trees, which may kill seedlings or small trees and reduce the vigor of large trees. Pocket gophers in a lawn, garden or flower bed can destroy plants and produce unsightly mounds. Gophers gnaw through underground plastic water pipes and electrical and communications cables, and interfere with irrigation dikes. A tunnel system in a dam can cause it to erode and wash out. Tunnels under paved highways may cause the pavement to sink. Controlling Pocket Gophers Control operations should be conducted during the spring and fall when pocket gophers are most active near the surface. Their activity is usually indicated by the presence of fresh mounds of dirt. Control operations in the

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fall interfere the least with growing crops. Methods of control include mechanical and chemical means.

For more information on **Controlling Pocket Gopher Damage L-1904** click on **Small Acreage Landowner Info.** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/publications>



CREATING A RESOURCE INVENTORY

Producers use resources such as land, labor, machinery, breeding stock, management and financial capital to produce commodities for sale. An accurate inventory of these resources is important for the evaluation of the current health of the operation and planning for the future. The use of an up to date resource inventory can help to:

- Complete a balance sheet;
- Provide a summary of collateral that can be used for a loan;
- Identify problems with the condition of your assets; and
- Provide information that can be used to evaluate options for growth and diversification.

Problems such as soil erosion in fields, or livestock manure stored too close to water sources may not be identified until a resource inventory is completed. Weakness in the financial situation of the business, due to excessive debt, large variable costs, or depreciation may also be found when completing a resource inventory. Furthermore, inefficiencies in human resources, labor, or time may also be found. Values should be assigned to these resources and current inventories should be maintained to make sure the operating foundation is known. Only after a resource inventory is completed can the current health and the future direction of operation be determined.

How do I develop a resource inventory?

The resource inventory of a farming operation should include all resources available and needed to carry out the goals of the operation. This list can be broken down into five areas. These five are: physical/natural, human/personnel, equipment, animal/crop, and financial resources and are discussed below.

For the complete **Creating a Resource Inventory Guide**

click on **2009 Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter** tab at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/newsletters.cfm> then click on **G. June 18 -- After CRP Program**

HAS ANYONE THOUGHT ABOUT THE SWINE PRODUCERS?

Labeling the **H1N1** disease as Swine flu is misleading, Dr. David Anderson Extension Economist said, adding that there's no evidence that this particular strain originated from swine. People also can't get the illness from eating pork, which is another misconception. Hog prices nationwide had dropped to an average of about \$59 per 100 pounds of carcass weight Tuesday morning, down from about \$62 last Thursday, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Seasonal prices for this time of year typically climb past \$70 in late April and May. The following are some key facts about U.S. pork production, according to Anderson:

- ◆ The U.S. had 67.22 million hogs and pigs on feed as of March 1.
- ◆ Approximately 116.5 million hogs were processed in the U.S. in 2008.
- ◆ 23.4 billion pounds of pork were produced in the U.S. in 2008.
- ◆ U.S. per capita consumption in 2008 was an estimated 46.5 pounds, retail weight.
- ◆ Texas had a population of 1.1 million hogs and pigs as of Dec. 1, 2008.
- ◆ The U.S. is the world's largest pork exporter, with a 39 percent market share in 2008.
- ◆ In 2008 the largest export markets for U.S. pork were Japan, China, Mexico and Russia in 2008.
- ◆ The U.S. also exported the equivalent of 20 percent of production in 2008.

The pork industry has already had to endure record-high feed costs in 2008," Anderson said. The industry has had to adjust to those added expenses by reducing production. Rapid, uninformed reaction to (recent reports of) influenza caused sharp declines in hog futures prices and the stock prices of pork-producing companies on Monday.

To view the entire article online, visit <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=1164>

AFTER CRP PROGRAM

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Thursday June 18th we will be holding a “After CRP Program” discussing what to do with you CRP land once it comes out of the CRP Program. The Program will be held at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center located 3 miles north of Lubbock on East FM 1294 Registration will begin at 8 am followed by topics such as:

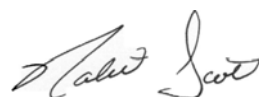
CRP Overview, CRP Origin and Extent, CRP Management Plans and Mid-Contract Practices, After CRP: Land Management Alternatives, Wildlife Management, Grazing Management, Economic Considerations for Wildlife Management, Economic Considerations for Farming and Grazing, ending with a Panel Discussion from Landowners who have post-CRP experience .

For more information about the **After CRP Program** click on **2009 Educational Programs** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/newsletters.cfm> then click on **G. June 18th – After CRP Program**

BEEF 706 YOUTH PROGRAM

Texas Tech and Texas AgriLIFE Extension has teamed up to offer a Beef 706 Youth Program. Two sessions will be offered June 2-3 or June 4-5. The program will be held at Tech. Registration Fee for the program will be covered through the generosity of the Texas Beef Council. Participants will be expected to cover their own expense for travel to the program, lodging and extra food costs.

For more information on the **Beef 706 Youth Program** click on **2009 Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter** at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu/newsletters.cfm> then click on **B2. Beef 706 Youth Program**



Robert Scott
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Lubbock County

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