

Distribution of this newsletter is limited strictly to e-mail.  
To receive this newsletter, please send your e-mail address to: [lee.county@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lee.county@ag.tamu.edu)

## 2014 TEXAS PECAN SHORT COURSE

The Pecan Short Course will be held January 27–31 at Texas A&M University in Rudder Tower, Room 601, located on Joe Routh Boulevard, College Station, TX 77843. Registration check-in will begin at 7:30 am on the 1st floor lobby area of Rudder Tower.

The registration fee of \$150 includes various speakers and topics regarding pecans and the industry. Spouses may register at \$50. The workshop will begin each day at

8:00 am and go until 5:00 pm. There is an hour for lunch each day; there are several eating establishments located in the Memorial Student Center, located next to Rudder Tower. The Short Course will conclude at noon on Friday

A new updated pecan handbook will be provided with registration. Following a tour of the pecan orchard at Texas A&M on Thursday afternoon, guests will be treated to a steak dinner.

On-line registration can be completed at <https://events.tamu.edu/EmsRegics/TexasPecanShortCourse2014>

Or contact Kay Sanders at [979] 845-7694, or via e-mail [k-sanders@tamu.edu](mailto:k-sanders@tamu.edu).

Speakers and topics can be viewed at: <http://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/programs/2014%20Texas%20Pecan%20Shortcourse%20Agenda.pdf>



## WHAT IS THE RIGHT COW SIZE?

What is the right cow size? A recent article in the popular press indicated it's 1,350 lb. How was that determined? By working back from an "ideal" carcass weight. A large cattle feeding company said 850 lb. carcasses have the largest potential profit.

Assuming typical dressing percent, that equates to a live slaughter weight of about 1,350 lb. In general, slaughter weight of steers at ½ inch fat cover is thought to be about the same weight

as that of the cow used to produce that steer, if the sire and dam are genetically equivalent.

What if 1,350 lb. cows are too large for the production conditions? Maybe 1,200 lb. cows fit best. If their steers are fed to 1,350 lb., they will probably be less efficient and fatter than desired. But, if fed to 1,200 lb. those steers efficiency and fatness should be about the same as the 1,350 lb. steer out of the 1,350 lb. cow. The 1,200 lb. steer should yield a carcass

of about 750 lb, certainly acceptable and even preferred for some uses.

In short, for the cow/calf producer, even one retaining ownership through carcass grid marketing, there are more things that should determine optimum cow size than the desires of a feeder.

[Beef Cattle Browsing  
December 2013  
<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/browsing/>]

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2014

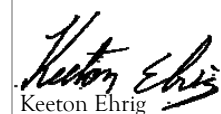
Lee County Extension News is a service of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Lee County.

Lee County Extension Office  
310 South Grimes  
Giddings, Texas 78942

979.542.2753; office  
979.542.2362; fax

<http://Lee.AgriLife.org>

e-mail: [lee.county@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lee.county@ag.tamu.edu)

  
Keeton Ehrig

Extension Agent  
Agriculture/Natural Resources

Portions of this newsletter are cited from the Texas A&M University Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter, Dr. Steve Hammack.

  
Tonya Ponicik

Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences

Education 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. The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperating.

## EFFECT OF BODY CONDITION AND SUPPLEMENTATION ON COW AND CALF PERFORMANCE

A study was conducted over two years, using 120 mature Angus X Hereford cows. Cows were managed to start the last trimester of pregnancy at different target Body Condition Score.

All cows were provided 28 lb. of 6.4% CP meadow hay. Half of the cows

also received 14 lb. weekly (fed three times a week) of 31% CP dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS). After calving in March, cows were managed together.

Results for cows were:

Of calves born, calves from the high BCS cows were significantly higher in percent live calves at birth (100% vs. 90%) and at weaning (99% vs. 88%); and birth weight (91 lb. vs. 85 lb.). The only calf trait that differed significantly for the supplementation treatment was that calves from cows supplemented during late pregnancy were 18 lb. heavier at weaning. There were no significant differences in growing after weaning, finishing or carcass. As most other studies have shown, maintaining cows in adequate body condition positively affects cow performance and profit, if it can be done economically. Supplementation can be of benefit, depending on the conditions, but is not always.

[J. Animal Sci. 91:5485; Oregon St. Univ., Univ. of Nebraska]

Trait/Group	Low BCS	High BCS	No Supplement	Supplement
Initial wt.	1107 *	1243	1177	1173
Calving wt.	1129 *	1219	1135 *	1210
Weaning wt.	1140 *	1203	1162	1181
Initial BCS	4.4 *	5.7	5.1	5.0
Calving BCS	4.4 *	5.3	4.8 *	5.0
Weaning BCS	4.7 *	5.2	4.9	5.0
Pregnancy %	79.3 *	91.6	85.2	85.6

\*=Significantly different within type of treatment

## HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

Proper use of animal health products is essential in order to obtain maximum benefit. A study was conducted of 129 producers' and 47 retailers' refrigerators used to store products. Temperatures were recorded every 10 minutes for at least 48 hours; 31% of producers' and 34% of retailers' refrigerators maintained recommended temperatures in the recommended range of 2° to 7° C greater than 95% of the time.

But 33% of producers' and 17% of retailers' refrigerators were in the correct temperature range less than 5% of the time. These results were similar to some other studies, but showed slightly lower compliance with temperature recommendations.

### Among producers:

- 94% gave injections in the neck
- 88% mixed modified-live vaccines only as needed and protected them from sunlight
- 94% kept vaccines in a cooler
- 88% read and followed labels
- 72% kept vaccination records at least one year
- 72% disassembled syringes to clean
- 64% cleaned syringes with hot water only
- 46% changed needles at least every 20 animals
- 44% changed needles as needed

### Among retailers:

- 67% trained employees to answer questions regarding products
- 66% offered customers ice packs
- 60% trained employees to handle products
- 49% provided product information
- 44% monitored refrigerator temperature with a thermometer but 41% did not
- 40% provided ice to purchasers routinely
- 29% provided ice and a Styrofoam cooler
- 26% said ice and product information was the producers' responsibility

[Prof. Anim. Sci. 29:313; Univ. of Idaho]

## GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR JANUARY

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offers the following checklist for January.

- Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.

- Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.

- Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias, and impatiens should be sown in early January. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.

- Apply a light application of fertilizer to established pansy plantings. Use

one-half pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of bed area. Repeat the application every 4 to 6 weeks, depending on rainfall. Dried blood meal is also an excellent source of fertilizer for pansies.

- Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.



- Select and order gladiolus corms for February/March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.

- Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.

- The life of the plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist, but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60° to 65° F.

- Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.

[Aggie Horticulture — <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2013/jan-feb/garden-checklist.html>]

## ONE OR TWO IMPLANTS FOR FINISHING STEERS

According to a USDA study, 96% of finishing cattle receive a growth implant at least once. Five studies, totaling 6,552 steers, were conducted in five commercial feedyards in five states.

Yard-average initial weights ranged from 700–836 lb. and days on feed was 138–200. Treatments in all five yards were:

- initial implant of 14 mg estradiol and 100 mg TBA, followed on day 52 to 92 by implant of 28 mg estradiol and 200 mg TBA

- initial implant of 200-day slow-release 40 mg estradiol and 200 mg TBA

In four of the five studies, final weight, total weight gain, ADG and carcass weight were higher for the two-implant treatment; feed efficiency was higher in all five studies for two implants.

In four of the five studies, percent Choice and Prime was higher for the single implant; in three studies percent Yield Grade 1 and 2 was lower for the single implant. As has generally been

found in other research, more aggressive implants result in better performance and carcass leanness, but lower carcass quality.

Choice of an implant program depends on how those variables balance for a particular situation, and how cattle are marketed.

[Prof. Anim. Sci. 29:219; Pfizer Anim. Health, Larson Nutrition Service, Univ. of Minnesota, Cactus Research, Innovative Livestock Services, Summit Research.]

## GROWING HEIFER RFI EFFICIENCY VS. BREEDING PERFORMANCE

Residual Feed Intake (RFI) is being increasingly used as a measure of feed efficiency. Over two years, 115 Bonsmara heifers (a tropically-adapted *Bos taurus* breed of 5/8 Africander, 3/16 each Hereford and Shorthorn) were weaned at average of 202 days of age, backgrounded and placed in drylot at average 280 days of age and 642 lb. on a 70%-roughage ration for a 70-day growing period. During that time, individual feed consumption and performance traits were measured.

Based on that 70-day period, 24 heifers with the lowest RFI (more efficient) and 24 heifers with the highest RFI (less efficient) were retained for breeding. Heifers diagnosed pregnant (20 low RFI and 22 high RFI) were then adapted to an all-roughage ration starting at 155 days of gestation and then feed consumption, weight gain and condition scores were measured during a 77-day post-breeding period.

High efficiency heifers (low RFI) were heavier at weaning by 44 lb. During the post-weaning growing trial, high efficiency heifers (low RFI) were significantly different from low efficiency (high RFI) heifers as follows:

- ate 19% less (4.4 lb/day);
- had similar weight gain;
- had higher gain:feed (23%);
- had smaller (0.4 sq in) ribeye area at end of trial.

During the post-breeding trial, pregnant females that had low RFI (more efficient) during the post-weaning trial were significantly different from those with high post-weaning RFI (less efficient) as follows:

- ate less 17% less (5.1 lb/day);
- spent less time (26%) at the feeder;
- had lower RFI (more efficient);
- had lower heart rates (7%);

- had similar initial and final body weight and body condition.

No other traits differed significantly except there were tendencies for high efficiency heifers to have more fat cover at the start of growing, but increase less in fat cover during growing, and have higher intramuscular fat after growing. There was no significant difference in calving date between the two efficiency groups.

Based on phenotypic correlations, the lower feed-consuming, high efficiency (low RFI) heifers during growing continued to exhibit those characteristics during gestation. The authors concluded that heifers of high efficiency during growing are also more efficient as bred heifers, with little effect on growth, body composition, calving date, or calf birth date.

[J. Animal Sci. 91:5353; Texas A&M University]

## ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Resistance of disease-causing organisms to antibiotics continues to increase. A recent report in the British medical journal *The Lancet* addressed this topic.

The report was the result of a review conducted by a panel of 26 international experts in the field; 386 literature references were included. The conclusion was that antibiotic resistance at this point is largely due to: 1) unnecessary ineffective prescriptions by physicians for self-limiting bacterial and viral infections, 2) patients expecting to receive antibiotics for such things as simple colds, 3) lack of prescriptions required for human use in

some parts of the world, and 4) use in livestock for growth promotion.

The report indicates that, even though on a volume basis the largest amount of antibiotics is used in livestock production, the exact contribution to resistance from that use is not known. However, recent research has found transfer can occur of resistant genes from animals to humans. As more research is done more will be understood about coping with antibiotic resistance, from all sources. Some in the livestock industry foresee at least the limitation, if not elimination, of antibiotics for promoting growth.

[The Lancet online, published 11/17/13]

### THERE'S MORE TO A STEER THAN MEAT

Based on current average carcass weight and price, a steer carcass is valued at roughly \$1750. We sometimes forget there is some value in what is removed to produce a dressed carcass. Current value of hide and offal from that average steer is close to \$200. That is an important part of the value of a slaughter steer to a packer, and is often the difference between profit and loss.

## EFFECT OF WEANING AGE AND FEED SOURCE ON PERFORMANCE, CARCASS AND ECONOMICS

200 Angus and Angus X Simmental calves were either early weaned (average = 133 days of age) or normal weaned (average = 233 days of age). Calves were randomly assigned to five treatment groups:

- early weaned, drylotted on high-starch (67% corn) ration;
- early weaned, drylotted on high-fiber (50% corn bran–25% soy-hulls) ration;
- normal weaned, creepfed high-starch (82% corn);
- normal weaned, creepfed high-fiber (60% corn bran–30% soyhulls);
- controls, normal weaned, no creep.

All calves were then finished on 28% corn, 25% corn gluten feed, 45% corn husklage to approximately ½ inch fat cover. Carcasses were priced on a value-based grid.

During the calf phase, early-weaned on the starch ration ate less and were more efficient than those on the fiber ration. Early-weaned gained slightly more than creepfed and both gained

considerably more than controls. In the finishing phase, early-weaned consumed the most feed and creepfed the least. Early-weaned gained less and were less efficient. Early-weaned had highest degrees of marbling, highest USDA Quality Grade, and highest percent qualifying for Certified Angus Beef; controls were lowest in those traits. Yield Grade differed little between the five treatments.

If marketed at normal weaning time, nutritional cost and total cost was highest for early weaned and lowest for controls. The corn-based creep and finishing ration cost more than fiber-based. If fed and marketed on a carcass value-based grid, cost of gain and total cost was highest for early-weaned and lowest for controls. Profit per head was:

As this study shows, ethanol co-products can yield performance and carcass results similar to high-grain feeding but with lower cost and high-

er profit, depending on availability and price of co-products.

As has been found in some other studies, early weaning can increase calf gain and final carcass quality grade. Also, early weaning may improve reproductive performance during periods of restricted feed supply and could possibly allow more cows to be maintained on the same forage resource. However, in this study the advantages of early weaning were more than offset by increased cost, resulting in lower profit at both weaning and with retained ownership.

[Prof. Anim Sci. 29:469; Univ. of Illinois]

GROUP	MARKET @ WEANING	MARKET @ CARCASS
Early wean, corn	\$86	\$148
Early wean, fiber	\$101	\$187
Creepfed, corn	\$115	\$222
Creepfed, fiber	\$131	\$236
Control	\$136	\$239

## DNA TESTING FOR GAIN AND MARBLING

American Angus Association-Certified Angus Beef® has available the GeneMax™ test to predict post-weaning weight gain and marbling, applicable in ≥ 75% commercial Angus cattle only. Results have been reported of a field study on 173 steers fed for 143 days. Steers were DNA-sampled at the start of feeding. In the GeneMax test, calculations are made for GMX gain, GMX marbling, and overall GMX score, combining weight and marbling. The report

divided the results into four groups based on GMX score: HI, Mid-HI, Mid-LO, and LO.

GMX gain score predicted wide range between groups, but actual ADG did not differ significantly. GMX marbling score also predicted wide range between groups, and the HI GMX group proved to be significantly higher in actual marbling score than Mid-LO and LO groups.

Carcass value per head was:

HI = \$1924

Mid-HI = \$1926

Mid-LO = \$1893

LO = \$1894.

Cost of the test is \$17/hd, a little over half of the difference in carcass value in this study for the top two GMX groups over the bottom two GMX groups.

[[www.cabpartners.com/genemax/results.php](http://www.cabpartners.com/genemax/results.php)]

## AVOID THE FLU AT SCHOOL AND WORK

Stay healthy at work and school this flu season by practicing these flu-fighting techniques.

### MAKE A PLAN

- Plan for an extended stay at home.
- Determine how you will care for your children and other dependent relatives.
- Make alternative work arrangements, such as telecommuting.
- Ask your employer –
  - ⇒ about their business continuity plan and sick leave policy
  - ⇒ to encourage employees to stay home when sick.

### WASH YOUR HANDS

- Wash often—for at least 20 seconds—with soap and warm water.
- Rub vigorously, making sure to get in between fingers, under the fingernails, and on the backs of your hands.
- Use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol when water is not available. Keep one at your workstation for easy use. (Hand sanitizers do not remove surface dirt or other debris; therefore, wash hands as soon as running water is available.)

### COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE

- Cough or sneeze into the sleeve of your upper arm or the crook of your elbow.
- Use disposable tissues when available, and wash your hands after sneezing into a tissue or blowing your nose.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.

### DO NOT SHARE

- Avoid using others' personal items (drinks, phones, glasses, makeup, etc.) or work equipment (phones, desks, tools, or keyboard/mouse).
- Clean work equipment before using it if you must borrow it.

### CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- First, clean surfaces with detergent and water to remove dirt and other debris.
- Then, disinfect common areas (break rooms, waiting rooms, restrooms, door knobs, etc.) with an EPA-registered disinfectant to kill germs.

### BUILD YOUR IMMUNITY

- Get your annual flu shot.
- Practice healthy lifestyle habits.
  - ⇒ Eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables.
  - ⇒ Get plenty of rest. Sleep at least 7 to 8 hours a night.
  - ⇒ Exercise regularly—at least 30 minutes of activity most days of the week.
  - ⇒ Reduce your daily stress level—plan ahead, start projects early, prioritize activities, and delegate tasks.

### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

- Stay home when you are sick.
  - ⇒ Take care of yourself to heal properly.
  - ⇒ Reduce the spread of flu to others who may get complications.
  - ⇒ Children should stay home from school or daycare when they have a fever of 100°F or more or a fever with a combination of sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, or earache.

⇒ Adults should stay home when they have a fever of 100°F or more.

- Stay 3 to 6 feet away from others who are sick or if you are sick yourself.
- Avoid kissing and hugging others while ill.
- Telecommute or rotate schedules, if necessary.

### RETURN TO SCHOOL OR WORK

- When a fever is below 100°F for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medicine.\*

\*Fever-reducing medicines include Acetaminophen (Tylenol, generic brand), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, generic brand), and aspirin. Do not give aspirin to anyone younger than 20 years old because of the risk of Reye's syndrome, a rare but serious illness.

### SYMPTOMS AND POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

The Flu Influenza, more commonly known as the flu, is a contagious illness caused by a virus that affects the upper respiratory system (nose, mouth, sinuses and throat). The flu virus spreads easily from person to person and can live on surfaces for hours. The flu season occurs every year from October to May and affects up to 20 percent of the U.S. population.

#### Symptoms:

- High fever (100°F and above)
- Dry cough
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches or pain
- Runny or stuffy nose



**FLU - CONTINUED FROM PG. 6**

- Headache
- Lack of energy
- May cause diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting

**Possible Complications:**

- Ear infection
- Sinus infection
- Dehydration
- Pneumonia

You may get dehydrated if you are not able to drink enough liquids to replace the fluids lost from vomiting

or having diarrhea many times a day. Symptoms of dehydration include a decrease in urination, a dry mouth and throat, and feeling dizzy when standing up. Children who are dehydrated may also cry with few or no tears and be unusually sleepy or fussy. To prevent dehydration it is important to drink clear fluids such as water, broth, sports drink or using the rehydration drink recipe include in this article.

[Texas Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) website at <http://texashelp.tamu.edu/004-natural/disease-and-epidemic.php#fluHuman>]

**REHYDRATION DRINK RECIPE**

Measure all ingredients exactly. Small variations can make the drink less effective or even harmful.

Mix the following:

- 1 quart water
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon table salt, or ¼ teaspoon salt substitute (such as “Lite Salt”, which is potassium-based)
- 3 to 4 tablespoons sugar

Do not give this homemade drink to children younger than 12.

**ADD MORE VEGETABLES TO YOUR DAY***Ten tips to help you eat more vegetables*

It's easy to eat more vegetables! Eating vegetables is important because they provide vitamins and minerals and most are low in calories. To fit more vegetables in your meals, follow these simple tips. It is easier than you may think.

1. ***Discover fast ways to cook:*** Cook fresh or frozen vegetables in the microwave for a quick-and-easy dish to add to any meal. Steam green beans, carrots, or broccoli in a bowl with a small amount of water in the microwave for a quick side dish.
2. ***Be ahead of the game:*** Cut up a batch of bell peppers, carrots, or broccoli. Pre-package them to use when time is limited. You can enjoy them on a salad, with hummus, or in a veggie wrap.
3. ***Choose vegetables rich in color:*** Brighten your plate with vegetables that are red, orange, or dark green. They are full of vitamins and min-

erals. Try acorn squash, cherry tomatoes, sweet potatoes, or collard greens. They not only taste great but also are good for you, too.

4. ***Check the freezer aisle:*** Frozen vegetables are quick and easy to use and are just as nutritious as fresh veggies. Try adding frozen corn, peas, green beans, spinach, or sugar snap peas to some of your favorite dishes or eat as a side dish.
5. ***Stock up on veggies:*** Canned vegetables are a great addition to any meal, so keep on hand canned tomatoes, kidney beans, garbanzo beans, mushrooms, and beets. Select those labeled as “reduced sodium”, “low sodium” or “no salt added.”
6. ***Make your garden salad glow with color:*** Brighten your salad by using colorful vegetables such as black beans, sliced red bell peppers, shredded radishes, chopped red cabbage, or watercress. Your salad will not only look good but taste good, too.
7. ***Sip on some vegetable soup:*** Heat it and eat it. Try tomato, butternut squash, or garden vegetable soup. Look for reduced- or low-sodium soups.
8. ***While you're out:*** If dinner is away from home, no need to worry. When ordering, ask for an extra side of vegetables or side salad instead of the typical fried side dish.
9. ***Savor the flavor of seasonal vegetables:*** Buy vegetables that are in season for maximum flavor at a lower cost. Check your local supermarket specials for the best-in-season buys. Or visit your local farmer's market.



## SLOW COOKING

Do you remember when you were younger and coming home to the smell of a home-cooked meal? Was it cooked in a slower cooker?

Slow cookers are a great way to prepare food and can be used throughout the year. Using a slower cooker saves on electricity and could avoid unwanted heat from the oven in the kitchen. Another advantage to using a slower cooker is that it can save time, allowing you more time to enjoy your family. Let's look at how to properly use a slow cooker.

First, you want to make sure your cooker, utensils and work area are cleaned and sanitized. Be sure to keep all perishable foods refrigerated until right before you need them to be placed in the cooker. If you have previously cut up foods, keep those foods stored separately in the refrigerator, as well. Keeping foods cold prior to using them assures that bacteria will not be growing on the foods, thus not having a "head start" if they are left out at room temperature.

It's important to remember slow cookers come in a variety of sizes, so the amount of food you place in them will vary depending on the size of the cooker. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines on the sizes and amounts of food that should be placed in your specific cooker. Keeping the lid closed at all times helps to keep the steam/moisture in and ensures the food is cooking properly.

The majority of cookers now have numerous settings. Different foods will take different amounts of time to cook. If you're leaving for the day, it is recommended that foods be cooked



on the low setting; however, if you're at home and wish to cook it quickly, the high setting might be more appropriate for the meal you have selected. When possible, turn the cooker on high for an hour or so and then turn it down to a lower setting. If you do not have time for this step, set the cooker on low, go to work, and come home to a deliciously cooked meal! Cooking less tender or larger cuts of meats on low heat for longer periods will allow the meat to become more tender.

Should the power go out while cooking in a slow cooker, it is important to remember a few things. If you are home, immediately pull the food out and continue cooking it by another method. If you are not home and the power goes out, throw away the food, even if it looks done.

Food safety should always be a top priority in your kitchen. Remember to always cook foods to proper internal

temperatures, follow good personal hygiene and clean and sanitize all food contact surfaces.

For more information on cooking with slow cookers or food safety, contact your local county AgriLife Extension agent, Tonya Poncik at [979] 542-2753.

### Crock Pot Beef Stew

#### Ingredients:

- no-stick cooking spray
- 1 med. onion, chopped (about ½ c.)
- 1 cup baby carrots
- 2 cups sliced celery
- 1 lb. red potatoes, scrubbed/cubed
- 2 lb. beef stew meat, cut into chunks
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme leaves
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
- ¾ cup water
- 1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste
- Spray inside of 3½-quart slow cooker with cooking spray.
- Place onion over the bottom of slow cooker. Add the following ingredients in this order: carrots, celery, potatoes and beef.
- Sprinkle with thyme.
- Pour undrained tomatoes and water over the top of the beef.
- Cover; cook on LOW 8 to 10 hours or until meat is tender.
- Stir in tomato paste. Cover; cook 10 minutes more on HIGH.





## Texas Department of State Health Services

David L. Lakey, M.D.  
Commissioner

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region7/default.shtm>

Sharon K. Melville, M.D., M.P.H.  
Regional Medical Director

2408 S. 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Temple, Texas 76504  
(254) 778-6744

### **Information for Health Care Professionals about the Oral Rabies Vaccine Baits for Skunks October 17, 2013**

#### **What is the goal of the Skunk Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Pilot Project Expansion?**

This is an expansion of the skunk ORV study area that was initiated in 2012 in Fort Bend County. The skunk vaccination program is still in its trial phase. While results from the first year are encouraging, DSHS is still gathering information about the effectiveness of the vaccine in skunks and the ideal concentration of baits to create immunity in the skunk population. The trial is part of Texas' very successful oral rabies vaccination program. Begun in 1995, the program has eliminated the canine strain of rabies and virtually eliminated the gray fox strain of rabies from the state. Additional information on the history of the Texas ORV Program can be found at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/orvp/>

#### **What type of vaccine is used in the ORVP?**

An oral rabies vaccine, Raboral V-RG, is distributed with a bait attractant for uptake by skunks. Although the vaccine is not harmful if ingested, it is not approved for protection against rabies in domestic animals.

The vaccine combines a non-pathogenic (non-pathogenic in most immune-competent individuals) virus (vaccinia) with a small portion of the RNA from the rabies virus. This RNA codes for the G-protein of the rabies virus which stimulates an immune response in the vaccinated animal without the usual exposure to the entire rabies virus.

#### **What are the dangers of the Raboral V-RG vaccine to humans and other animals?**

Extensive research in a wide variety of species has shown the vaccine to be very safe. The vaccine is made by utilizing the most current technology, and only non-infectious portions of the rabies virus are used. Therefore, neither humans nor animals are in danger of developing rabies if they are exposed to the vaccine.

However, it is advised that physicians consider the possibility of complications due to exposure to vaccinia, particularly if the person is immunocompromised or has dermatological conditions such as eczema. Although it is unlikely for any illness to occur, the DSHS can assist in obtaining vaccinia immune globulin if necessary.

A domestic animal's annual rabies vaccination can be safely administered even if it recently ingested a dose of oral rabies vaccine. The oral rabies vaccine cannot be used in domestic animals as a substitute

for injectable rabies vaccine.

**What does the bait look like?**

The baits are coated sachets 2" x 0.75" x 0.12". Two milliliters of vaccine is contained in each sachet. Printed on each bait is a warning (in English) that states:

**RABIES VACCINE  
LIVE VACCINIA VECTOR  
DO NOT DISTURB  
1-877-722-6725**



**Where is the vaccine placed?**

The vaccine will be distributed by low-flying twin turboprop Beechcraft King Airls in wildlife habitat and rural areas in eight (8) counties within Health Service Region 7 (Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Madison, and Washington) and six (6) counties of Health Service Region 6/5 South (Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Walker, Waller, and Wharton). Planes will fly on ½ mile grid intervals.

Maps of the bait zones for the current and previous years are posted at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/orvp/>.

**When will the vaccine be distributed?**

The skunk ORV program in East Central Texas will begin the latter part of January 2014 as flights for the South Texas coyote and West-Central Texas fox ORV programs are completed.

**Should health care providers alert DSHS about patients who had contact with the Raboral V-RG bait?**

The DSHS Zoonosis Control Branch would appreciate health care providers notifying the ORVP Director at (512) 776-7111 of any potential exposures, including the name and phone number of the person who had contact with or ingested the vaccine.

For questions regarding the ORV program in East Central Texas, call 254-778-6744 or email [DSHS.HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:DSHS.HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us).

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Health Service Region 7  
Skunk Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Study Area  
January 2014 At-a-Glance  
As of October 15, 2013

What	Airdrop of baits containing rabies vaccine expanded to include skunks in Texas.
Start Dates	Flights are projected to begin in late January in East-Central Texas.
Places	Fayette Regional Air Center, La Grange
Duration	Project is expected to take approximately one week (weather-permitting)
Vaccine	Oral rabies vaccine manufactured by Merial Limited, Athens, Georgia. Vaccine is enclosed in a small sachet (plastic bag like ketchup package).
Baits	Bait is a sachet coated with fish-meal crumbles (size of a ketchup package). The vaccine sachet contains 2 ml of oral rabies vaccine. Each unit has the following warning label printed on the outside of the sachet: RABIES VACCINE LIVE VACCINIA VECTOR DO NOT DISTURB 1-877-722-6725
Drop Density	150 baits per square mile in the skunk zone
# Counties Included	Eight (8) in Health Service Region 7 (Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Madison, and Washington)
Flights per Day	12 to 16
Airplanes	Five specially equipped white with blue and red trim twin turboprop Beechcraft King Airs from Dynamic Aviation Group, Inc.
Source of Funds	State of Texas and the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services
Operational Altitude	500 to 1000 feet with flight lines on ½ mile grid intervals
Results	This is an expansion of the skunk ORV study area that was initiated in 2012. The skunk vaccination program is still in its trial phase. While results from the first year are encouraging, DSHS is still gathering information about the effectiveness of the vaccine in skunks and the ideal concentration of baits to create immunity in the skunk population. The trial is part of Texas' very successful oral rabies vaccination program. Begun in 1995, the program has eliminated the canine strain of rabies and virtually eliminated the gray fox strain of rabies from the state. Additional information on the history of the Texas ORV Program can be found at: <a href="http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/orvp/">http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/orvp/</a> .

For more information call the Zoonosis Control Program at 254-778-6744 or email [DSHS.HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:DSHS.HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us).



## Private Applicator Training & Testing

**February 25**

8 am - 5 pm

Lee County Extension office  
310 South Grimes • Giddings

7:30 am — check-in  
8:00 am — training begins  
12 noon — lunch  
1:00 pm — testing begins

**\$60 Registration**

**Class size limited; pre-registration is required.**

### REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Study Materials
- Refreshments & Drinks
- Catered Lunch & Dessert

### WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU:

- Photo ID
- #2 pencil
- Calculator  
(*cell phone calculators NOT permitted*)

### STUDY MATERIALS:

- Available prior to class date.

### CLASS SIZE:

- Limited to 30.

*Once training is completed and the test passed, application for license is then made to TDA. Application fee is \$60.*

*Chemicals can not be purchased until applicant receives license from TDA.*

### **CALL TO REGISTER:**

**979.542.2753**

**KEETON EHRIG**

**Lee County Extension Agent**

Agriculture & Natural Resources

310 South Grimes  
Giddings, Texas 78942

lee.agrilife.org

# Brazos Valley CEU Conference

## January 31

**Burleson County Expo Center**  
located on fairgrounds, State Hwy 36 South, Caldwell

- 7:30 am Registration
- 8:30 am Nikki Dickson — **Reducing Pests & Pesticides through Stream & Riparian Management** (1.0 - General)
- 9:30 am Brad Tullis — **Laws and Regulations-Complaint Process** (1.0 - L&R)
- 10:30 am Mark A. Tyson — **Feral Hog Management** (1.0 - IPM)
- 11:30 am catered lunch
- 12:30 pm Dr. Mark A. Matocha — **Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update** (1.0 L&R)
- 1:30 pm Dr. Paul A. Baumann — **Weed Pests-ID/Mgmt/Control** (1.0 - General)
- 2:30 pm evaluation and conclusion

Refreshments sponsored by: Burleson County Soil & Water Conservation District #358

**Pre-Register by January 24**

**\$35 per person**  
(late registration \$45/person)

**To register, call 979-542-2753.**  
(have TDA license # available)

**Keeton Ehrig**  
Lee County Extension Agent  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Lee County Extension  
310 S Grimes  
Giddings TX 78942