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Just a Few Notes.. by John Villalba

As we make the push towards the end of summer, we should all feel very blessed by the uncommon moisture we saw in July. As I travel through the county it is nice to notice the pastures getting better, the livestock in better shape, and the vegetation one step closer to rebounding from the drought of the last few years. For the fall of the year, in Extension, we are getting prepared to plan for next year, all the while finishing programs for this year. The busy summer 4H calendar did not help me to get ahead, but as promised there will be some programs coming up in late August and early September that I believe will be beneficial to all of us. On August 22, the TSCRA will be having a Ranch Gathering here in Jacksboro. The information is in this newsletter on how you can attend. We will be addressing topics related to theft prevention and legislative updates will be given. A catered BEEF meal will also be included. This should be a good learning/social activity for those interested. A new program that I am excited to get here is the one concerning legal issues and tax implications for landowners. This will be coming later in September, but it will give you all the opportu-

nity to learn from the newest Agriculture Law Specialist we have in Extension. I will be traveling to the Noble Foundation in late August, and I look forward to relaying the information I receive there to all of you as well. As we move into August, let us all be thankful for how much better shape our land is around us and remember those who weren't as lucky in July.

UP COMING PROGRAMS

- **Pesticide Applicator Training –August 8, Weatherford**
- **Feral Hog Appreciation Day – August 13, Bridgeport**
- **TSCRA Producer Meeting – August 22, Jacksboro**
- **Weed I.D./Management Workshop – September**
- **Legal Issues Affecting Landowners in Jack County – September**

Explore the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension bookstore at the following web address <https://agrilifebookstore.org>

John Villalba,
County Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources.

State Pecan Show Results



Pecans from a local grower, Gary Conner were judged at the State Pecan Show on July 14th in conjunction with the Texas

Pecan Growers Association Conference. Mr. Conner's entries in this year's show were judged at the Central Region Pecan Show earlier in the year to qualify for the State Show. The varieties that he entered and the results were: 1st Place Kanza, 2nd Place Waco, 3rd Place Barton, and 3rd Place Shawnee. Jack County will be having a County Pecan Show in November, to determine entries for the Regional Show. Any citizen or producer is welcome to enter. Further details regarding the show will be in future newsletters.

Kubota Tractor Demo

A representative from Zimmerer Kubota in Decatur is looking for interested individuals to demo a new M135GX tractor for one day (10 hrs.). This tractor is 135 hp at the engine and 118 hp at the PTO. The individual can use it to cultivate, plant, or any other farm activity, and it is equipped with a front end loader, if you want to do some dirt work. There is no obligation after the demo, except for filling out a survey at the end. To sign up, contact John at the Extension Office. Dates available for the demo include early August and September.

Straight Breeding vs. Cross Breeding- Both Can Equal Success, by Troy Marshall

There was been a lot of discussion among animal breeders following this year's [Beef Improvement Federation](#) annual conference where some of the traditional paradigms and thoughts regarding animal breeding were challenged.

For instance, it was argued that straight breeding can compete with [crossbreeding](#) animals in some contexts. That was considered big news in some quarters but shouldn't have been. Just look at the dairy industry, where certain breeds – depending on the marketing target and system – boast genetic advantages that can make them more profitable.

In addition, we're finding that as our genetic evaluations grow in power and our [selection tools](#) improve, some of the genetic antagonisms we thought existed either aren't as strong as they once were or can be overcome by finding and propagating those outliers that defy the genetic antagonisms.

Very few people would have believed in the early 1980s that we could bend the growth curve on cattle to the degree we have today. A large research project in Brazil just looked at cow [stayability](#) and found, not surprisingly, that cow stayability was highly correlated to cow production. But what shocked some people was that the correlations between post-gain, yearling weight, scrotal circumference and the like were all extremely low. They concluded it was possible to select for growth, productivity and stayability all at the same time. Again, most cattlemen likely have seen those trends in their own herds.

In some respects, the [data may seem difficult to interpret](#) at first. But when one takes a step back, the answers likely aren't difficult to decipher; they're just more difficult to achieve than we would like. If you want to improve stayability, longevity and lifetime production of the cow, it can be done – with straightbred animals or with crossbred animals. It's simply easier and more cost effective to do it with a [crossbred female](#).

If you want to have a cow that breeds back year after year, provides little risk, and requires very little supplementation in tough years, just reduce growth, milk and production. Or you can take the more difficult route of increasing stayability, fertility, [longevity](#), production traits, and even quality and product composition simultaneously.

Sometimes the path to the most reward is the simplest approach; sometimes the path to the most profit and long-term sustainability is the more difficult approach. The answers vary greatly depending on where you

Feeders and packers benefit the least from [heterosis](#), the traits that drive their systems for the most part are highly heritable production traits. Of course, the converse is generally true for cow-calf producers, and these differences must be understood and factored into the equation.

A commercial producer can't afford to put the kind of selection pressure on his herd as a seedstock producer does; the economics won't allow it. Thus, they must rely on their [seedstock producers](#) to make those investments and economically provide the type of genetics that will allow the commercial producer to make progress.

The debate shouldn't be about the tools or the principles, which are well known and accepted at this point. Rather, the problem has been in implementing them in an efficient manner for each individual operation, each of which inherently has different priorities based on the uniqueness of its resources, management and marketing opportunities.

Cross Timber Friends of NRA

Once again, the Cross Timbers Friends of NRA Banquet Committee is selling pre-event raffle tickets to gear up for the 2nd Annual Cross Timbers FNRA Banquet on October 19th. The proceeds from this banquet help to assist the Jack County 4-H Shooting Sports program get much needed equipment. Only 400 tickets for this raffle will be sold.

Each ticket is \$10 and it's a "winner take all" raffle for:

Colt LE6900 .223 AR

Springfield XD .40 pistol

Yeti 45 quart cooler



Contact John Villalba, James Taylor, Paul Glidewell, Chad Moore, Kieth Umphress, or Garland Easter for tickets.

Feral Hog Appreciation Day
Tuesday, August 13 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Bridgeport Community Center -
1102 Lawdwin Street in Bridgeport

Agenda

8:00 Registration

8:30 Complete CEU paperwork

8:45 What's Your Feral Hog IQ?

9:00 Appreciating Feral Hogs

9:15 Feral hogs in Texas: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

9:30 Status and Distribution of Feral Hogs in Texas

10:00 Feral Hog Biology

10:30 Break

10:50 Landowner Attitudes on Feral Hogs

11:20 Interactions with Native Wildlife

11:45 Lunch

12:45 Controlling Feral Hogs

1:30 Hunting Feral Hogs

2:00 Local Landowner Panel

2:45 Laws and Regulations Governing Feral Hogs

5 CEUs for Pesticide Applicator License
3 General, 1 IPM, and 1 Laws & Regs

Cost: \$25 if you pre-register, \$35 at the door Lunch included

Speakers

Dale Rollins, Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialists

Todd Vineyard, County Extension Agent, Wise Co., Ag/NR

John Villalba, County Extension Agent, Jack Co., Ag/NR

Randy Smith, District Supervisor, Texas Wildlife Service Texas Parks & Wildlife

Call the Wise County Extension office at 940-627-3341 or the Jack County Extension Office at 940-567-2132 to pre-register or if you have any questions.

Texas Crop Weather, July 16-22

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for the week of July 16 - 22:

Central: The region received from 3.5 to 6 inches of rain. Pastures greened up because of the rain and warm days. Corn and sorghum harvests were delayed by the rains. Prussic acid poisoning was reported from Johnson grass and Sudan grass. Cotton needed the rain badly and improved. Hay producers expected to get another cutting because of the rain.

North: Soil-moisture levels ranged from short to adequate. Most counties received 2 or more inches of rain and cooler weather, with highs in the mid-to-high 80s. Summer grasses were expected to soon green back up. Grasshoppers were a problem in several counties, damaging forage crops. Horn flies in some counties were increasing with the hot weather. Corn, grain, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers and cotton were all doing well. Most sorghum was turning color. Hay yields were good for early season hay, Bermuda grasses and summer annuals. Generally, hay produc-

tion was to date much better this year than last, though a few counties still had weed control issues. Livestock were doing well in most areas.

Panhandle: Temperatures were below normal for much of the reporting period, with most areas receiving rain. Amounts ranged from a trace to 4.5 inches. Corn was doing well, with crop maturities varying greatly, from 2-feet tall to just past pollination. Grain sorghum was progressing well thanks to the rains but was still somewhat behind average maturity. Cotton was progressing too, but needed heat units, particularly after the rains. Insect problems remained low. Rangeland was in very poor to good condition, with most counties reporting poor.

Rolling Plains: The region received from 2 to 6 inches of slow, soaking rain, along with cooler temperatures. Cotton was helped by the rain and doing well. Irrigators were able to turn off pumping for a while and may not have to resume for days. Livestock were in good condition as pastures greened up. Grasshoppers continued to be a problem.

South Plains: Most of the region received much-needed rain and cooler temperatures. During a three-day period, rainfall amounts varied from 1.5 to nearly 6 inches. Even better, no wind or hail accompanied the storms, just slow, gentle rain that had time to soak in and give a great boost to crops. Producers were able to shut off irrigation pumps for a couple of days. The rains were also timely as most crops were moving into the reproductive growth stages. More rainfall was needed for dry-land crops, but the precipitation helped tremendously. Cotton was in early to peak bloom. Early planted grain sorghum was in

bloom. Corn was silking and sunflowers were blooming. Rangeland and pastures improved. Despite the recent rains, annual rainfall totals for many counties remained below average.



JACK COUNTY

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Jacksboro Texas 76458

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940-567-2132 Fax: 940-567-2014

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