

# Top of the Windmill News

## Spring 2022 Edition

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

Kerr County AgriLife Extension Service  
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By: Justin Klinksiek CEA-Ag/NRAg/

### Calendar of Events

Feb. 18-19 - Land Stewardship  
Blowout (Ozona)

Mar. 3 - The Joys of Gardening  
(Bandera)

Mar. 4 - Plantastic Gardening  
Seminar (Fredericksburg)

April 7-8 - 7th Hill Country Land  
Stewardship Conference  
(Kerrville)

April 9 - Blooms and Barrels Sale  
(Kerrville)

May 24 - Kerr County Ranch Field Day  
(Kerrville)



### Plant of the Month (Texas Bluegrass)

By: Kent Ferguson

A native cool-season perennial, Texas Bluegrass (*Poa arachnifera*) can be found growing on many soil types in well managed pastures. It is, however, rarely found in far West or deep South Texas.

Texas Bluegrass responds well to soil disturbance and often increases following brush management in the Edwards Plateau and adjoining regions where oak/juniper brush is manipulated.



This plant:

- Has a sod-forming, rhizomatous root system.
- Has male and female plants often found growing in separate pasture areas.
- Produces veined eight-inch tall, blue green leaves with folded tips about 1/8 wide.
- Has a narrow, compressed, white-colored seed head two to four inches long, which is produced in April and May. The female seed heads are densely pubescent with long hairs that give the appearance of a spider web.

Texas Bluegrass is a palatable and nutritious forage to all livestock classes. White-tail deer and turkey will graze the green leaves when forage is limited.

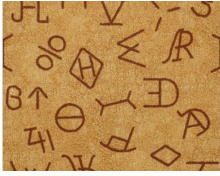
It is also one of the many grasses easily grazed out of the plant community. Proper stocking rates with rotational grazing must be implemented to keep Texas Bluegrass healthy and increasing. Late winter and early spring grazing deferments must be applied to produce seed and increase root mass.

Producing and breeding Texas Bluegrass commercially as a perennial cool-season forage has been a topic of discussion in recent years. If found successful, it could lead to cost savings for stocker cattle producers to replace annual wheat-oat planting expenses.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Commercial products and trade names are used for information purposes only.

## Re-Register Your Cattle Brands, Marks, & Tattoos



All Texas cattle brands, marks and tattoos must be re-registered by Monday February 28, 2022. All brands are registered through the county clerk's office. Brand applications and renewals require a drawing of the brand that notes the location on the animal. The fee varies by county, but the average cost is \$26. The registration is good for 10 years and will expire August 30, 2031. Any previously recorded brands, marks and tattoos that have not been re-registered by the February 28, 2022, deadline will be considered unclaimed and eligible for registration by another. Although Texas does not have a statewide brand registry database, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) keeps a centralized database for the association's law enforcement purposes. For more information, visit [tscrabrands.com](http://tscrabrands.com) or call 1-800-242-7820 to speak with the TSCRA Brand and Inspection Department.



## *The Joys of Gardening*

Grow Your Own Vegetables

Learn about **Integrated Pest Management**

**David Rodriguez**

Horticulture Expert, Lawn & Garden Radio Show Host,  
Multiple Awards for Youth and Master Gardener Programs

**Molly Keck**

Entomologist, Radio/TV Presenter, National and International Speaker,  
Adjunct Professor St. Phillips College

**Thursday, March 3, 2022 10am - 2pm Registration @ 9:30am**

**Bandera County AgriLife Extension Building**

Mansfield Park - 2886 SH-16 N, Bandera, TX

Reservation fee \$10 (includes lunch) Theresa Gossett @ 830-796-7755

[theresa.gossett@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:theresa.gossett@ag.tamu.edu)

**LEARN ABOUT PRESCRIBED FIRE, WILDLIFE/RANGE MANAGEMENT,  
POLLINATORS, COST-SHARE PROGRAMS, DONKEY ADOPTIONS,  
DEVILS RIVER PRESERVATION, PROTECTING NIGHT SKIES,  
HORNED LIZARD HABITAT MANAGEMENT & MORE**

**VISIT  
WWW.OZONA.COM/LSB  
OR CONTACT THE CHAMBER AT  
325-392-3737  
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS!**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 18TH:  
PRESCRIBED FIRE SEMINARS  
AND FUNDRAISER DINNER  
(WITH DONATION)**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 19TH:  
LAND STEWARDSHIP  
SEMINARS AND PRESCRIBED  
FIRE FIELD TRAINING**



**OZONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& WILD SPIRIT WILD PLACES**

*present*

# **LAND STEWARDSHIP BLOWOUT**

**FEBRUARY 18-19, 2022**

**CROCKETT COUNTY FAIR PARK CONVENTION CENTER**

*1303 Avenue AA, Ozona, TX*



**DEVILS RIVER  
CONSERVANCY**  
Treasure. Preserve. Protect.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER



**REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE.COM  
(SEARCH FOR "OZONA")**



**\$35 FOR ALL SEMINARS,  
INCLUDING 2 MEALS**

**ADDITIONAL \$40 TO  
ATTEND THE PRESCRIBED  
FIRE FIELD TRAINING**

**PROUD PARTNER HOTELS: AMERICAS BEST VALUE INN, HAMPTON INN, HILLCREST INN & SUITES, HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, QUALITY INN & TRAVELODGE**

## 2021 Kerr County Pecan Show Results

The 2021 Kerr County Pecan was held on Wednesday, December 8th at the Kerr County Extension Office. Two producers who entered were Fred Speck and Laura Rhodes with a total of sixteen entries in three different divisions. A huge thank you to Dr. Larry Stein for judging the show. The results are as follows:

### Classic & New Division

Variety	Producer	Nuts/Pound	% Kernel	Award	Notes
Mahan	Laura Rhodes	48.09	55.65%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Grand Champion
Other (Sovereign)	Laura Rhodes	60.22	52.34%	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	
Other (Bradley)	Laura Rhodes	64.86	47.12%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	
Other (Pabst)	Laura Rhodes	51.79	48.71%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
Success	Laura Rhodes	49.96	51.16%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Reserve Champion

### Commercial Division

Variety	Producer	Nuts/Pound	% Kernel	Award	Notes
Cheyenne	Fred Speck	46.37	46.42%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
Choctaw	Fred Speck	34.52	52.63	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Reserve Champion
Kiowa	Fred Speck	35.53	58.52	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Grand Champion Highest % Kernel
Pawnee	Fred Speck	42.66	52.15%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
Schley	Laura Rhodes	63.09	53.48%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
Sioux	Fred Speck	55.55	47.11%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
Western	Fred Speck	52.22	56.94%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	
Native	Laura Rhodes	61.44	37.32%	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	
Native	Laura Rhodes	91.90	48.74%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Reserve Champion
Native	Fred Speck	60.32	49.79%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Grand Champion



# Plantastic Gardening. Seminar

March 4th, 2022

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION



**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
MARCH 1ST 2022**

**8:30am - 9:00am Registration**

**9:00am - 10:15am Welcome**

Covercrops for Gardens (Justin Duncan)

**10:30am - 11:45am**

Soil Health in Gardens (Justin Duncan)

**11:45am - 12:30pm Lunch**

**12:30pm - 1:15pm Breakout Session 1**

- Tomatoes (Connie Townsend)
- Basic Gardening 101 (Pat Wolters)
- Vegetable Transplants: Traditional Pots & Soil Blocks (Beth McMahon)

**12:30pm - 1:15pm Breakout Session 2**

- Tomatoes (Connie Townsend)
- Container Gardening (Allen Mace)
- Growing Fruits in the Texas Hill Country (Beth McMahon)

**2:25pm - 1:15pm Breakout Session 3**

- Container Gardening (Allen Mace)
- Gardening 101 (Pat Wolters)
- Growing Fruits in the Texas Hill Country (Beth McMahon)

**3:10pm - 3:30pm Q & A Session**

**\*\*A paper registration copy is available by request \*\***

**DOOR  
PRIZES**

## Location:

38 Business Ct.  
Fredericksburg  
Tx 78624

Please Contact  
the Gillespie  
County  
Extension Office  
for more  
information at  
(830) 997-3452

## Cost:

Pre-Registration  
\$35 lunch included

\$25 no lunch  
included

Day of program:

\$25 no lunch  
included

Please use the  
QR code below  
to register  
online

\*\*A \$2 fee is applied to  
online registration\*\*



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

## 7<sup>th</sup> Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference

YO Ranch Hotel and Conference Center, Kerrville, TX.  
April 7-8, 2022

### Day 1: Fundamentals

<b>7:30 am to 8:00 am</b>	<b>Registration/Breakfast</b>
<b>8:00 am</b>	Welcome-Larry Redmon
<b>8:15 am – 9:15 am</b>	"A Few Things We Can All Agree On"- Keynote Speaker-Tiffany Dowell-Lashmet
<b>9:15 am – 10:15 am</b>	Sheep, Goats and Others - David Anderson
<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45 am - noon</b>	Equipment Show case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stations set up displaying fire tools and herbicide equipment</li> <li>• 2 groups, 35 minutes per station</li> </ul>
<b>Noon – 1:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 pm to 3:00 pm</b>	Key Laws Texas Landowners Need to Know – Tiffany Dowell-Lashmet
<b>3:00 pm to 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:30 pm to 4:30 pm</b>	Changes in Texas Rural Landscapes: People, Places, Perspectives – Roel Lopez
<b>4:30 pm to 5:30 pm</b>	Managing Whitetail Deer – Larry Redmon
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Conclude
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

### Day 2: Hill Country Tour

<b>7:15 pm</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	Tour buses will depart in front of Y.O. Hotel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Legacy Management- Hillingdon Ranch, Kendall County-Hosts: Robin &amp; Carol Giles Family</li> <li>B. Wildlife Tour -Flagler Ranch</li> </ul>
<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Return to Y.O. Hotel, Kerrville</b>



## Here We Grow Again!

Hill Country Master Gardeners  
2022 Blooms and Barrels Sale  
Saturday April 9, 2022  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (or until plants are sold out)

Join the Hill Country Master Gardeners for their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Blooms and Barrels sale on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at the Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Hwy. 27, Kerrville. Free admission opens at 9 a.m. and continues until 1 p.m. or all plants are sold out. Sales are tax exempt and by check or cash (ATM on site) only – NO credit/debit cards are accepted. It is suggested that you bring your own wagon or cart to carry your purchases.



The Hill Country Master Gardeners are already busy growing approximately 1500 native and adapted plants that are specifically selected to do well in our Hill Country soils and environment. Volunteers tend the plants by watering, fertilizing & monitoring for pests and diseases to ensure that healthy mature specimens are ready for spring planting.



In addition, 55-gallon rain barrels will be available for purchase. Recycled food-grade plastic containers are converted into collection barrels that gardeners can use for watering plants.

*The Garden Shed*, a customer favorite, returns this year with a selection of gently used gardening tools, containers, décor and books – all at garage sale prices.

As always, Master Gardeners who have graduated from the Texas A&M training program will be on hand to answer gardening questions and provide advice to all who attend.



*Master Gardener greenhouse volunteers Debbie Bacon and Dee Dunton begin growing plants in January in preparation for their annual Blooms and Barrels sale.*

## Getting Cows Ready for Winter and Calving

By: Craig Belknap (*The Cattleman, December 2021*)

Chilly mornings and brisk weather mean one thing, winter is here. The seasonal struggles include increased feed inputs and gearing up for calving. Here are three steps you can take to get your cow herd ready for winter and calving. All will play a critical role in how successful your calving season, and ultimately your profitability, will be.

### Plan Ahead and Be Prepared

It's one of the simplest and most effective things you can do to reduce future headaches and improve your odds of successful calving. Make sure all aspects of winter preparation are in line. This includes things such as shelter from the elements, bedding, water, feed and supplements, ability to move cows where they can be assisted, if necessary, adequate, and properly working fences and gates, veterinary supplies for calving difficulties, and animal health products (colostrum supplements, electrolytes, antibiotics, etc.). Being prepared and providing a comfortable environment for your cows, calves and you goes a long way toward animal health, as well as peace of mind.

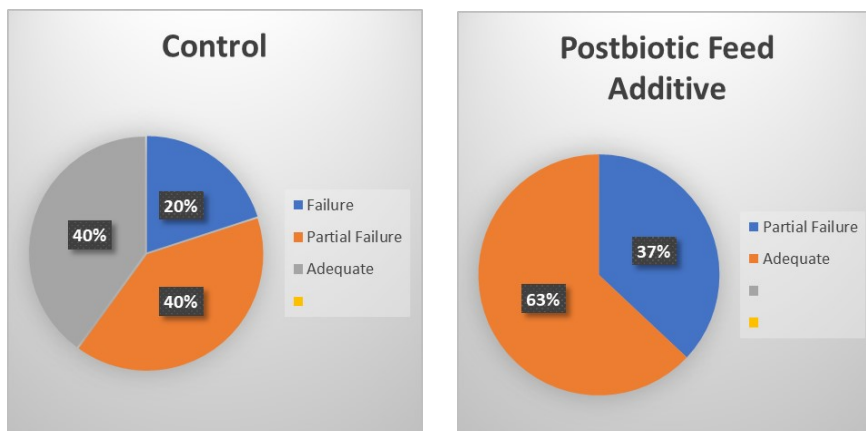
### Make Sure Cows are Carrying Enough Condition

When calves are weaned in the fall. Cows are often at a lower body condition score because of nursing all summer. When cows in poor body condition begin to calve a few months later, they may experience dystocia due to a lack of physical strength. Cows experiencing calving difficulties, or an extended delivery not only pose a greater risk on the health of the cow and calf, but also generally take longer to return to estrus and to get rebred. Therefore, it's important cows enter calving season at an optimal body condition score of 5.5 to 6, so they're better able to withstand the rigors of calving at a time when Mother Nature may not be especially forgiving.

### Provide Cows Proper Nutrition During Gestation

Calving can be a challenging season, with scours being a major contributor. Calf scours are the most common cause of disease and death in calves during the pre-weaning period and may cause more financial loss to cow-calf producers than any other health problem in their herd. As a result, a robust and properly functioning immune system is the most effective strategy in combating calf scours in the first place. As calving approaches, it's critical to get cows on an adequate plan of nutrition; especially in the last six weeks of pregnancy. Cows in good condition, whose nutrient needs are being met, are better able to produce a sufficient amount of high-quality colostrum. Improved colostrum quality means improved immunity in calves. Calves that do not receive adequate, high-quality colostrum shortly after birth typically have lower serum immunoglobulin levels. When this occurs, calves are much more susceptible to disease challenges, including scours.

Data shows when you provide an immune support postbiotic feed additive daily beginning six weeks prior to calving, those cows can produce higher quality colostrum, thereby improving passive immunity in the calves, and reducing failure of passive transfer (see below).



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Incorporating an immune support feed additive can also help supply robust digestive health by balancing rumen microbiota and optimizing the rumen environment. Optimum rumen function translates into better performing cows and calves more capable of reaching their genetic potential.

As colder temperatures creep closer, be sure your cow herd is ready for winter and calving. By planning ahead, making sure cows are in adequate body condition and providing proper nutrition, you'll be taking the right steps to ensure this upcoming calving season goes smoothly, with healthier calves, improved rebreeding and fewer headaches.



## Prevent the Spread of Oak Wilt in Texas this Spring

*By: Leighton Chachere*

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the U.S., killing millions of trees in 76 counties of Central, North and West Texas. Texas A&M Forest Service urges Texans to help stop the spread of oak wilt by avoiding pruning or wounding oak trees through June. "This native fungus has been affecting oaks for decades in Texas; prevention and early detection are vital to stop the spread," said Texas A&M Forest Service regional forest health coordinator, Demian Gomez.

Oak wilt spreads easiest between February and June because of high fungal mat production, high insect populations and the high susceptibility to disease for oaks. In the spring, red oaks that died of the disease last summer and fall may produce spore mats



*Texas Oak Wilt (Texas A&M Forest Service photo)*

under the bark. With a fruity smell, these mats attract small, sap-feeding beetles that can later fly to a fresh wound of any oak tree and infect it, starting a new oak wilt center.

Any new wound can be an entry point for infection including those produced by pruning, construction activities, livestock, land or "cedar" clearing, lawnmowers, string trimmers and storms. To decrease the attractiveness of fresh wounds to insects, always paint wounds on oaks, no matter the time of the year.

### ***Identifying the disease***

Oak wilt is often detected by yellow to brown veins in leaves of infected live oak trees. During the spring, evergreen oak trees will shed their old leaves, while simultaneously growing new leaves. Oak wilt foliar symptoms are different from this seasonal transition in that they affect every leaf. For red oaks, pale young green or brown leaves can be observed during the spring in infected trees.

All oaks are susceptible to oak wilt disease. However, red oaks are most susceptible and can die in as little as one month after being infected. Live oaks show intermediate susceptibility but because of their interconnected root systems, they can move the disease easily. White oaks are the least susceptible, but they are not immune to infection.

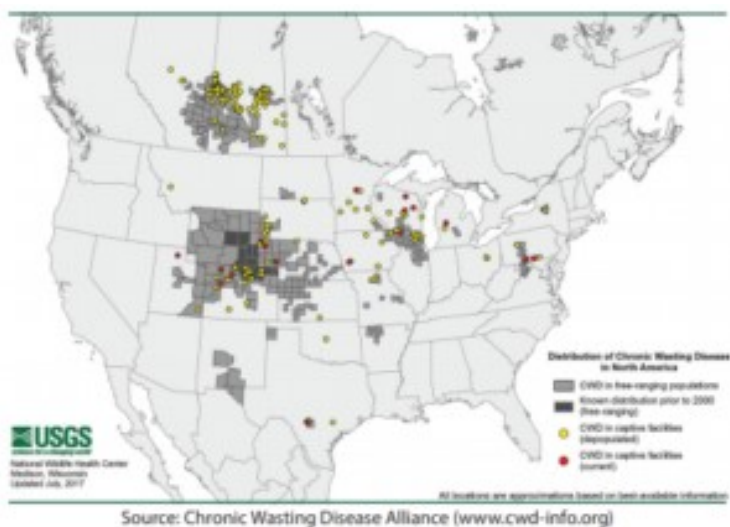
While red oaks play a key role in the establishment of new disease centers, live oaks and white oaks can also move the oak wilt through root grafts. Prevention is key, but early detection is crucial to limiting the spread of oak wilt. It is critical to avoid pruning oaks at this time of year to prevent the spread of oak wilt and should only be considered if there are immediate safety concerns.

# Chronic Wasting Disease

By: John M. Tomeček

## What is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

CWD is a disease that affects the nervous system in some cervids including white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, elk, sika deer, reindeer, and moose. The precise origins of CWD are unknown. The condition was first detected in 1967 in a research mule deer herd in Colorado. Today it is present in 24 US states and 2 Canadian provinces. Chronic Wasting Disease is one in a group of diseases called the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), such as scrapie in domestic sheep and goats, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle. CWD is not thought to be transmitted to humans or livestock. It is caused by a type of misfolded protein (prions) which causes host animals to replicate the misfolded protein. Prions interrupt and degrade nerve cells and ultimately eliminate basic nervous system functions, leading to death.



## What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms appear from 16 to 36 months after infection. These include:

- ◆ Emaciation or generally poor body condition
- ◆ Decreased activity and/or erratic behavior
- ◆ Wide, low stances and blank expressions
- ◆ Excessive drinking and urination
- ◆ Salivation and grinding of teeth
- ◆ Keeping distance from the herd
- ◆ Loss of fear of humans

Because these symptoms are common to a number of diseases, positive diagnosis requires laboratory testing by a trained professional.

## How is it Spread?

Chronic Wasting Disease is spread among susceptible animals by direct and indirect contact with infected tissue and body fluids including saliva, urine, feces, or an infected carcass.

*(continued on page 11)*

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These prion carrying sources are deposited on the ground and in the soil and can be picked up by other animals during foraging. Research indicates that some plants and soil types bind prions. Other inanimate objects like feeders, water containers and possibly rubs and scrapes have been experimentally implicated in CWD transmission. Thus, reservoirs of prions in the environment enable transmission. Prions are capable of persisting in the environment for long periods of time. Though mother offspring transmission is possible, lateral transmission between two animals is thought to be the typical route for infection, primarily by ingestion or inhalation.

### **Can CWD affect Livestock or Humans?**

There is no strong evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans or domestic livestock. However, the CDC and WHO advise that animals known to be infected with a prion disease should not enter the food chain to be consumed by humans or livestock. If hunting in a known CWD area, it is strongly advised to test your harvest and not consume it until the results are complete. Prions accumulate densely in the brain, spinal cord, other nervous tissue, eyes, tonsils, spleen, and lymph nodes of infected animals. These tissues should never be consumed and good personal protection practices such as wearing disposable gloves while field dressing is encouraged. In areas affected by CWD, bone out carcasses in a way that removes all nervous system tissue. Be sure not to cut meat with saws or knives that were used to cut bone. To prevent exposing other susceptible animals to infected material, bury the inedible carcass parts as deeply as possible or dispose of it in an approved landfill.



### **What should I do if I see an animal that might have CWD?**



1. Immediately contact the nearest Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Game Warden or Wildlife Biologist or the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC).
2. If directed to send a sample for testing by TPWD or TAHC, contact your local TPWD biologist for professional assistance in collecting the sample. Follow any instructions given by those agencies for follow-up.

### **What are the Recommended Treatment and Prevention Strategies for CWD?**

There is no vaccine to prevent infection and, once infected, there are no effective treatments. Although researchers are working to develop such tools, the way to prevent the spread of CWD, for now, is to manage susceptible animal populations.

The best management practices are to:

- (1) restrict movement of live animals,
- (2) restrict movement of potentially infected carcass parts,
- (3) manage populations to keep deer densities at or below carrying capacity, and
- (4) minimizing animal to animal contact at areas like feeding stations.

How can I help?

The best way to help is to be vigilant and carefully follow any requests or regulations from Texas Parks and Wildlife or the Texas Animal Health Commission. Preventing CWD provides the best chance to minimizing the spread of the disease. Encourage fellow Texans to remain calm, and work to prevent the spread of misinformation.

# Kerr County Ranch Field Day



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

2  
CEU's

Live  
Cattle  
Handling

Cattle  
Preg  
Test  
Demo

Catered  
Lunch

## TOPICS

Proper Weaning Techniques in  
Cattle, Sheep & Goats

Impacts of Proper Grazing &  
Overgrazing

Benefits of Pregnancy Testing  
Livestock

Parasite Control in Livestock

## Demonstrations

Live Cattle Handling

Morgan Livestock Mobile Corral

Idexx Alertys Preg Test

Rainfall Simulator

HOSTED BY  
**Kerr County  
Agrilife Extension**

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

Tuesday, May 24

Hill Country Youth Event Center

3785 HWY 27 Kerrville Tx

Registration 8:00-8:30

Program 8:30-3:00

Program Cost \$40

RSVP To Extension Office by May 19

830-257-6568

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
JUSTIN KLINGSIEK, CEA-ANR  
830-257-6568  
justin.klingsiek@ag.tamu.edu

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