

# Making a Difference

## *Jackson County Beef & Forage*

### 2020 In-Depth Program Results

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#### Relevance

Beef cattle production and the utilization of forages for grazing and hay production continue to be in the top two of agricultural income in Jackson County accounting for nearly 35 million. Educational efforts conducted in response to issues identified from our Jackson County AgriLife Extension Beef & Forage Committee and our local Leadership Advisory Board in 2018 have involved a number of teaching methods to provide needed information to producers. Issues included, watershed management, filter strips, grazing management, feral hog control, Zika mosquito control, continuing education units for private applicators and Ag Literacy. Programs include an AgriNews letter, news columns, bi-weekly radio programs, group meetings, and many individual contacts have all been used successfully to address these issues.

#### Response

Working with the Jackson County AgriLife Extension Beef & Forage Committee, Farm Bureau, Capital Farm Credit, KIOX Radio, DuPont Crop Protection, Jackson County Herald Tribune, Victoria Advocate, the following programs were conducted:

#### Programming Efforts:

- **JCCRA Annual Banquet:** Mr. Kaleb McLaurin, Executive Director, Government and Public Affairs, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Austin, TX. Kaleb spoke to us about fence laws, pipelines, eminent domain, shareholder disputes, etc. Over 200 signed up as members.



- **Heifer Raffle:** We sold 250 tickets for \$100 each. Profit from the raffle was over \$14,374. This will be used for scholarships, JCYF, and expenses
- **Mass Media:** Jackson County Agri-News mailed quarterly (310 copies mailed); News Articles in local Jackson County Herald Tribune, Victoria Advocate, Port Lavaca Wave & El Campo Leader News; Radio Program (bi-weekly to 90,000 listening audience); Email List (over 240 subscribers).

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

- **Last Chance Video CEU Program:** Program offered in the office to allow private applicator license holders an opportunity to recertify their license. 4 people watched last chance videos.
- **Ag Day –** Was cancelled this year due to COVID-19.
- **Agricultural Increment Report –** annual summary of the incremental revenue that is generated by crop and/or livestock production for Jackson County for the past production year. This information is used by commodity groups and agribusinesses for the policy making side such as the governor, legislature, senate, county judges, county commissioners, Councils of Government and various Chambers of Commerce.
- **Private Applicator Training & Testing:** Is offered quarterly for those needing their license to apply state limited or state restricted use pesticides. 6 people took training in 2020 to apply and test for their Private Applicators license.
- **Scholarships: Eight \$1000** scholarships were awarded to seniors that participated in beef projects at our local Jackson County Youth Fair.
- **5 Hour CEU Event –** The Field Crops committee and the Beef & Forage Committees sponsored a 5 Hour CEU Event held on December 5, 2019. Topics included: Texas Pesticide Laws and Regulations; Brush and Weed Control; Flies Mosquitos & Ticks; Soils and Soil Fertility; Livestock Diseases, Insects, Parasites and their Control. 96 people were in attendance.

## Results

**5 Hour CEU Event –**We had a 74% response rate (71/96) evaluation.

### Increase in Knowledge:

- 75% of Brush control methods and their timings
- 76% of Best management practices for controlling weeds
- 78% of Mosquito development and behavior
- 82% of Tick biology and control
- 76% of How soil physical conditions influence weed pressure and growth of forages and crops
- 76% of How timing of fertilizer applications can impact pesticide usage and weed competition
- 78% of Recordkeeping requirements for pesticide license
- 65% of TDA license renewal process and CEU requirements
- 69% of Which vaccines are most appropriate, modified live or killed products

### Intentions to Adopt: Definitely and Probably Will:

- 68% Weed and Brush management this winter
- 71% Practice of draining standing water
- 63% Meet storage requirements for pesticides as required by TDA laws and regulations
- 52% Enlist veterinarian to assist with herd health program

V A L U E	
<b>Livestock Production</b>	
	<p>Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Extension programs targeted to large- and small-scale livestock producers help generate safer food and fiber products with maximum efficiency. The result is quality, consistent, affordable products and industries that support the state's rural economies.</p>