

Making a Difference 2010

“Beef Cattle Management”

Developed by Chad Gulley, County Extension Agent—Agriculture & Natural Resources Nacogdoches County, with support of the Organizational Development Unit, Department of Agriculture Leadership Education, and Communications, Texas A&M University.

Relevance: Nacogdoches County ranks in the top fifteen counties annually in total Agriculture Income. Beef cattle are the number two Agriculture commodity in Nacogdoches County, preceded only by poultry. Many of these poultry producers also raise beef cattle as well. Beef cattle production and management is a large portion of many producers livelihood in Nacogdoches County. Programming efforts will assist producers in making important management decisions for their beef herds in order to improve profitability, environmental stewardship, and best management skills to their beef operations. The Beef Committee will plan, implement, and evaluate the programs for clientele of Nacogdoches County. The Nacogdoches Beef Committee as well as the Leadership Advisory Board identified beef as a programming need for Nacogdoches County. The goal is to reach 400 beef cattle producers with programs and services to help them make better management decisions for their operations.

Response: The Nacogdoches Beef Committee provides leadership and guidance to offer programming to assist producers in making sound, economical decisions for their beef operations. Our goal is to keep producers up to date on emerging needs and updates on new management tools. The committee meets three times a year and looks at issues affecting beef producers in East Texas.

- Weekly Beef Cattle Price Trends Livestock Market Reports, e-mailed 150 producers (weekly)
- Annual Herbicide Field Day, 64 attendees (April 22, 2010)
- Morning Breakfast CEU Program (monthly)
- Quarterly Ag Newsletter, 550 e-mailed and mailed (quarterly)
- District 5 Beef Tour, 43 attendees (May 12-13, 2010)
- Pineywoods Cow Congress, 75 attendees (May 22, 2010)
- Effective Stockmanship Program, 46 attendees (November 2, 2010)
- Hay Evaluation Workshop, 47 attendees (November 9, 2010)
- Beefmaster, E6 Program, 59 attendees (November 16, 2010)

Results:

- **100%** of the respondents of the District 5 Beef Tour stated they understand that castrating bull calves increases their value.
- **100%** of the respondents of the District 5 Beef Tour stated they understand the changes needed to make a profit in the beef industry.
- **22 of 42 (52%)** respondents of the Pineywoods Cow Congress stated they probably will or definitely will handle cattle using low stress techniques. **19** responded stating they have already adopted this practice.
- **31 of 42 (74%)** respondents of the Pineywoods Cow Congress stated they will utilize low inputs in their forage program. **9** responded stating they have already adopted this practice.

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- **30 of 38 (79%)** respondents of the Annual Herbicide Field Day stated they probably will or definitely will adopt practices associated with properly identifying weeds to insure better control. **8** responded stating they have already adopted this practice.
- **29 of 38 (76%)** respondents of the Annual Herbicide Field Day stated they probably will or definitely will adopt practices associated with examining ways to control invasive weed and brush species. **9** responded stating they have already adopted this practice.
- **32 of 28 (84%)** respondents of the Annual Herbicide Field Day stated they probably will or definitely will adopt practices associated with looking at different methods of herbicide application in weed control. **5** responded stating they have already adopted this practice.
- **18 of 22 (82%)** respondents of the Effective Stockmanship Program stated they probably will or definitely will adopt practices associated with improving public perception of cattle handling techniques. **4** respondents stated they have already adopted this practice.
- **17 of 22 (77%)** respondents of the Effective Stockmanship Program stated they probably will or definitely will adopt practices associated with improving performance of cattle using effective stockmanship principles. **5** respondents stated they have already adopted this practice.
- **18 of 22 (82%)** respondents of the Effective Stockmanship Program stated they probably will or definitely will adopt practices associated with Beef Quality Assurance techniques. **4** respondents stated they have already adopted these practices.

Economic Impact:

- **65%** of the respondents of the **Pineywoods Cow Congress** anticipate knowledge learned at the program would benefit their economic return from ***\$1 to \$20 per head.***
- **14%** of the respondents of the **Pineywoods Cow Congress** anticipate knowledge learned at the program would benefit their economic return from ***Over \$20 per head.***
- **63%** of the respondents of the **Annual Herbicide Field Day** anticipate the knowledge learned at this program would benefit their economic return from ***\$1 to \$20 per head.***
- **21%** of the respondents of the **Annual Herbicide Field Day** anticipate the knowledge learned at this program would benefit their economic return from ***Over \$20 per head.***
- **73%** of the respondents of the **Effective Stockmanship Program** anticipate the knowledge learned at this program would benefit their economic return from ***\$1 to \$20 per head.***
- **18%** of the respondents of the **Effective Stockmanship Program** anticipate the knowledge learned at this program would benefit their economic return from ***Over \$20 per head.***
- **62%** of the respondents of the **District 5 Beef Tour** anticipate knowledge learned at the program would benefit their economic return from ***\$1 to \$20 per head.***
- **27%** of the respondents of the **District 5 Beef Tour** anticipate knowledge learned at the program would benefit their economic return from ***Over \$20 per head.***

Testimonial:

“This program (Effective Stockmanship) completely changed my views of handling cattle.”

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