

Texas A&M AgriLife in the North Region



June 08, 2015

Summer Fun!!!!

I thought it was a good time to start the ol' blog back and get in the habit of providing you with timely information. I hope it helps keep you informed, provides an avenue for reminders, and helps answer questions along the way. Let me know if you have any questions related to the information provided.

Applied Research/Demonstration Efforts – I appreciate the efforts I have seen from many of you to develop and take ownership in demonstration work this past month. I know it has been challenging with the weather but it is evident many of you made this a priority. Remember that two of these projects (one of which is in your in-depth program area) are to be completed in this program year. Education through demonstration work has been the foundation of Extension since Dr. Knapp (founder of Extension) used it to teach producers about new varieties and technologies. This educational tool is still very effective and even more importantly it engages you with producers in your counties. Thanks for taking this process seriously and working with specialists to develop sound projects that will help your producers learn. Thanks again!

Program Engagement – I attended a few programs in the last month where agents were highly engaged in their programs, asked questions, learned from the presentations, and even taught at their programs. Examples of this were Quail Appreciation Day (Greg Jones), Small Grains Disease Meeting (Jody Bradford), Water Fair (Vikram Baliga), and Water Program (Liz Moore). I also wanted to point out some outstanding efforts related to getting timely information to producers regarding disease in small grains and options for replant decisions. I know many of you also dealt with emergency weather events. These were emerging issues that required swift answers and information transfer. I appreciate and recognize your efforts in truly making a difference.

Youth Plan Development – Just a few deadlines to remember regarding 4-H in-depth and outreach plans for this summer. Each county will need a minimum of these three plans; Youth ANR, Youth FCS, 4-H Grows. Youth in-depth plans that run during the 4-H year or school calendar year should also be completed this summer. Some 4-H In-depth plans will still be more appropriately developed during the January to January cycle such as Back to Basics Livestock Plans. Refer to the 4-H Program Expectations and Plan Expectations in your notebook. If you have any questions, please give me a call or email me because this will save us both time in the process.

Deadlines to remember: Youth Plan Deadline – July 17

Approved – August 3

Face to Face – August 7 (Amarillo) if not approved by the 3rd

Texas A&M AgriLife in the North Region



June 08, 2015

Summer Fun!!!!

Regional Commodity Retreats – I really look forward to developing program plans for 2016 at these specific retreats. The goal is for specialists and agents to do some sharing, planning, and scheduling during this time (Agenda Below). I will be asking for your in-depth area for 2016 prior to these meetings so we can break into specific groups. Be ready to provide this information one week prior to your retreat date. You will also need to make plans to visit with your Ag Program Area Committees prior to these retreats. It is required that you attend the retreat that fits your in-depth area and the other retreats are encouraged but optional depending on your county. The dates are listed below;

Beef/Range/Wildlife – July 28 (Muncy)

Corn/Sorghum/Small Grains/Alternative Crops – August 24 (Amarillo)

Cotton – August 27 (Lubbock)

Tentative Retreat Agenda

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Agent Training/Sharing

10:00 a.m. – Break

10:30 a.m. through Lunch (Lunch on Site)

- In-depth Program Planning (Program Coordination, Professional Development Planning, Review Program Indicators and Evaluation Questions)

1:00 p.m. -- Planning time for Regional/Multi County Conferences

(Beef Conference, Irrigation Conference, Small Grains, Sorghum, Corn)

2:30 p.m. – Break and Set up for Scheduling

3:00 p.m. – Schedule dates for Regional, Multi County, and County Educational Programs

I hope you are having a great summer and good luck at Roundup this week!