

Texas A&M AgriLife in the North Region



July 6, 2015

Happy Independence Day

I hope every one of you took some time to celebrate our freedom and spend some quality time with family and friends. However, I know a number of you were working and taking advantage of local celebrations and the visibility that brings to your local program. As an agent, I remember the 4-H floats, booths, fund raisers, rodeos, and activities that happened during "my days off" and the value and visibility of these for our local program. Thanks to all of you that spent your holiday working and promoting AgriLife in your communities. Sometimes the only way you are on vacation is if you leave town. I hope you have plans to do that this summer also.

Planning Reminder

I hope you have planning on your mind in the coming weeks. Remember that your **first draft** of youth plans is due **July 17, 2015**. The minimum plans that need to be done are your Youth Ag/NR plan and 4-H Grows Plan (formally 4-H Management). If you need help with these plans, give me a call and I will be glad to work with you on these. I am also planning to spend the afternoon of the 13th (Lubbock) and 17th (Amarillo) at these respective centers helping agents with plans. If you need help, bring your computer and let's work through the process.

Livestock Video Production and Project Clinics

I am very excited to be working with the Regional Swine, Sheep, and Goat Committees on a couple of projects this summer. The first is a series of videos that are targeted for release beginning August 1 for you to use as educational resources at project meetings, recruitment of new members, professional development, and leader resource material. The videos will focus on the 7 basic educational steps of our "Back to Basics" plans (selection, health, facilities, nutrition, daily care, showmanship, and care at the show). These videos will be developed with new families and employees in mind so be thinking about how you can utilize them in your county.

We are also planning educational project clinics in each district and the dates are on the calendar below. These are for you to attend and to bring youth and leaders for supplemental education. Promote these and get them on your calendar. A huge thank you to all of the committee members that have dedicated their time to help improve our visibility and delivery of education to youth and adults involved in livestock projects.

RSVP for Beef/Range/Wildlife Retreat by July 23, 2015

So far I have heard from Dale Dunlap, Katy White, and Andy Holloway about their intentions to attend the retreat in Muncy (Floyd County). Let Jerri and I know if you are coming and in-depth plan area for 2016. If you don't plan to have an in-depth in one of these areas but still plan to attend, just let us know you will be there. These retreats are designed to help educate you, expand ideas and opportunities, share and discuss with specialists and plan and schedule for 2016 programs. You won't want to miss it.

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Cotton Growth and Development Training – July 16 (Lubbock)

Dr. Mark Kelley will be conducting this training on July 16. We will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Lubbock. All new agents (less than 2 years) need to plan to attend this training. All agents with in-depth plans in cotton varieties and pre-plant considerations should plan to attend. All agents with cotton responsibilities are encouraged to be there. You will learn how the cotton plant grows and develops and discuss the crop progress and projections. We should be done with the training early afternoon.

Pictures of YOU

Thanks for the pictures that were sent for our banner development. I still need pictures of agents (you) in a field, scouting, visiting with producers, etc. These banners will be used as promotion at large events such as the Amarillo Farm Show and Cotton Ginners Convention. Get me some pics ASAP if you have the opportunity.

July/August Dates to Remember

- July 1 – Certain Agents turn in plan for Swine, Sheep, and Goat videos
- July 4 – Happy Independence Day
- July 9 – Chronic Wasting Disease Update Webinar 9:00 a.m. Join WebEx meeting
- July 9-11 – Texas Pork Industry Conference
- July 13 – Curriculum Enrichment Opportunity Training in Lubbock (morning)
Program Planning Help Session for Agents in Lubbock (afternoon)
- July 16 – Cotton Growth and Development Training -- Lubbock
- July 17 – Curriculum Enrichment Opportunity Training in Amarillo (morning)
Program Planning Help Session for Agents in Amarillo (afternoon)
4-H Plans are due on-line for first review
- July 18-22 – TCAAA Corpus Christi
- July 23 – RSVP for the Beef/Range/Wildlife Retreat in Muncy
- July 28 – Beef/Range/Wildlife Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling)
- August 1 – District 1 Sheep/Goat Clinic -- Amarillo
- August 3 – Final Plans approved by 5:00 p.m. on line
- August 5 – P-4 Training in Canyon for new agents
- August 7 – Required face to face planning (agents with plans not approved by August 3) in Amarillo
- August 8 – District 1 Swine Training – WTAMU Nance Ranch
- August 15 – District 2 Swine Training – Levelland
- August 24 – Corn/Sorghum/Small Grains/Dairy Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling) Amarillo
- August 27 – Cotton Retreat (Training, Planning, and Scheduling) Lubbock
- August 29 – District 2 Sheep/Goat Clinic -- Lamesa