



Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

March 2015 Edition

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Major Show Packet Handout & Travel Meetings

- ♦ Star of Texas & Houston– March 3rd at the Brazos County Extension office starting at 6PM– We will be drawing for parking passes at this meeting, do not have to be present to receive a pass.

If you are unable to attend the meeting please contact us prior to the meeting so we can include you in the travel plans and get your passes prior to the show.

STATE FAIR OF TEXAS®

State Fair Sheep, Goat & Swine Tag orders

It is time once again to order your tags for the State fair of Texas Sheep, Goat, & Swine show.

Tags are \$12 for sheep and goats & \$10 for swine.

These orders are due to the Extension office by 5PM on April 10th

Tag order forms will be sent via email and will be on the Brazos County webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 979-823-0129

Major Show Steer Tag Orders

It is time once again to order your tags for the 2014-2015 major show steers

Tags are \$12 this year and orders are due to the Extension office by 5PM on April 10th.

Tag order forms will be sent via email and will be on the Brazos County webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 979-823-0129

BCYLS Eligibility Forms

This year all 4H'ers who will be competing in the Brazos County Youth Livestock Show, must submit their eligibility form on or before **March 13th** in order to be eligible to participate in the 2015 show. These forms must be signed by the agent and school to be accepted, then return a colored copy to the Extension office by 5PM on Friday March 13th.

Major Show results for Brazos County

2015 Ft. Worth Livestock Show

Junior Heifer Show

Miranda Skaggs– Reserve Overall Champion Simbrah Heifer

Anna Maulsby– Reserve Division Simmental Heifer

Devon Lockhart– Reserve Division Polled Hereford Heifer

Junior Steer Show

Lauren Hillert– 3rd Place Class 2 Exotic Steer

2015 San Antonio Livestock Show

Market Sheep Show

Kyle Ramsey– Grand Champion Southdown

Jaxson Zimmerman– 9th place Medium wool

Ryan Bouse– 8th place Medium wool

Kendall Bone– 3rd place Southdown

Reagan Thurman– 2nd place Medium Wool

Market Goat Show

Lauren Hillert– 2nd place market goat

Regan Thurman– 3 place market goat

Market Steer Show

Lane Hillert– 1st place light weight Brangus

Kaley Kelley– 3rd place light weight Charolais

Market Swine Show

Cierra Dickerson– Reserve heavyweight division crossbred barrow

2015 San Angelo Livestock Show

Market Sheep Show

Ramzey Zimmerman– 5th place lightweight & 6th place medium weight Southdown

Jaxson Zimmerman– 10th place medium weight Southdown

Kyle Ramsey– Reserve Champion Southdown

Kendall Bone– Champion Hair Sheep

2015 HLSR JUNIOR SHOW UPDATES & REMINDERS

SHOW ARRIVAL:

- Be courteous to other exhibitors and help us to expedite move in. A 40-minute time limit to unload (starting from arrival to the dock) will be strictly enforced.
- **Junior Market Steers and Junior Breeding Beef Heifers:** We will require the person hauling steers and heifers to know the owner of each animal on their trailer before stalling will be assigned at the 288/Airport Rd. staging location.
- Stalls on the north side of NRG Center (rows A, B and C) will be assigned to those **HEIFER** and **STEER** exhibitors arriving first. Get here early to avoid lines and to have a chance to obtain these stalls!

Heifer and steer tie outs will not be made available until all cattle are in the bar.

JUNIOR SHOW DRUG NOTIFICATION REMINDER:

Market Animals

Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Zilmax®)

THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PRESENCE OF ZILPATEROL HYDROCHLORIDE (Zilmax®) IN THE URINE OF MARKET STEERS. Further, the Show will not tolerate the presence of Zilpaterol Hydrochloride (Zilmax®) in any other market species. The use of this compound will be governed by the Junior Show Rules published in the [2015 Exhibitor Handbook](#).

Ractopamine Hydrochloride (Optaflexx™, Paylean®, Topmax™)

The Houston Livestock Show will not be testing for the presence of ractopamine hydrochloride in steers (Optaflexx™), market barrows (Paylean®) or market turkeys (Topmax™). Exhibitors who choose to use these products are expected to follow all label directions. The Show will not tolerate the presence of ractopamine hydrochloride in species, or classes within species, for which they are not FDA approved.

The use of all other drugs in junior market animals, both unapproved and FDA approved, will be governed by the Junior Show Rules published in the [2015 Exhibitor Handbook](#).

Breeding Animals

The Houston Livestock Show will not be testing for the presence of antibiotics/antibacterials that have been FDA approved for the species and class of breeding animal in which they are administered. The use of all other drugs in junior breeding animals, both unapproved and FDA approved, will be governed by the Junior Show Rules published in the [2015 Exhibitor Handbook](#).

OTHER JUNIOR SHOW REMINDERS:

Bagged Shavings: Upon request by exhibitors, Champion Shavings will be sold by the bag for the 2015 show. Shavings can be purchased from the Feed Store for \$11/bag.

Barrow exhibitors are NOT allowed to bring in outside shavings. Shavings will be sold upon arrival to Airport Blvd. for \$11/bale. Sawdust will be available free of charge.

- **Junior Breeding Beef Heifers:** Any exhibitor wishing to substitute a heifer must have validated the heifer thru the Texas Heifer Validation Program. Heifers substituted after Feb. 1 will be charged a \$50 substitution fee.

Breeding beef heifer exhibitors **MUST** bring the original registration paper to the show ring and to keep the original registration paper in their possession while exhibiting the heifer. Papers on top placing heifers will be validated. Brands and tattoos will be checked on the top four placing animals in each class; make sure your brand or tattoo is legible prior to show. Exhibitors will forfeit their placing if heifers do not have matching tattoos or brands

What to Pack in the Showbox

With the livestock show season in full swing it is a great time to take inventory of what is in your Showbox and pack the supplies you might need for the upcoming shows. Below is a list of supplies that are good to have regardless of the species you are showing.

- Water hose
- Soap
- Towels
- Pliers
- Wire or zip ties
- Brushes or combs
- Number harness/clip or safety pins
- Show halter, show stick, show chain, or pig stick
- Skin conditioner

These are just a few key things to bring, there are other things people pack according to their program but in addition to what you pack in the Showbox, you also need to make sure you pack other things in the truck and trailer before you leave for the show, these items are listed below.

- Feed
- Feed pans
- Water buckets
- Shavings (if show allows them)
- Hay- for feeding and bedding cattle in tie-outs
- Extension cords
- Fans (if show allows them)
- Clippers (if show allows them)
- Stall fork, rake, and broom if needed
- Stall dividers, show box rack, fan hangers
- Supplements that might be needed at show
- Trim chute or trim stand (if show allows them)

Again these are just a few important things to remember to check that you have before you head out for the show. Always check the show rules as to what you can and can not bring with you. For example; Ft. Worth does not allow fans, and Houston is not allowing pigs to bring shavings into the barn, so always check before you leave the house.

Another thing to check before you hit the road is the truck and trailer, check the trucks fluids, tires, breaks, and lights. For the trailer check the tires, breaks, make sure all lights work, make sure the gate latches work and have safety chains on the gates, make sure the lugnuts on the trailer and truck are tight, if you haven't done so in awhile it never hurts to repack the bearings and replace any parts that look worn. Make sure you put down plenty of shavings, at most of these shows the animals will be on the trailer for many hours so it is important to have adequate shavings to provide extra comfort for them on those long rides.

Tips for clipping market animals for the county show

Managing a slick steer seems fairly straight forward and it is, however the little things that one does can make a difference and in order to get that velvet looking presentation it still takes a lot of elbow grease and work prior to the show. I encourage all exhibitors to ask those around that have been successful in showing slick shear steers for their opinion and even if they have little tricks of the trade which they would be willing to share. I have always recognized that there is room to learn and that there can be several different methods used to accomplish a goal. I feel like there are three basic steps to pay attention to when slicking and managing a slick shorn show steer.

Step 1: Hair Coat Management Prior to Slicking

Step 2: Slick Shearing (The process of)

Step 3: Hide and Hair Coat Management 10 days prior to the show.

Step 1: Hair Coat Management Prior to Slicking

I am a firm believer that regardless if you have a steer that is going to show with hair or without it you have to take time to rinse and work the hair. This process needs to start from the time you get the calf to the time of the show. This will allow the hide and hair of the calf to be well conditioned, and it also requires the exhibitor to work with the steer on a daily basis which helps with the calf's temperament. If possible rinse the calf daily, and when washing use a gentle soap and conditioner. I suggest washing and conditioning at least two to three times a week if weather and schedule allow. When working hair use a comb, rice root, and or rubber wash brush and a blower when needed and don't forget working hair doesn't mean just brush it one direction and stop; it means brush, brush and brush.

In addition to washing, conditioning, and working hair it is imperative to implement a good vaccination program and utilize topical pour-ons to ensure the calf doesn't get lice. All these things will help in the process of getting that hide and hair coat to look its best.

Step 2: Slick Shearing

The process of actually slick shearing a steer is fairly simple, but timing of it and making sure to get all the hair removed from all locations of the body with the exception of the tail and switch is perhaps the most challenging part. I would suggest shearing the steer for the first time about ten days prior to the show, and use a type of flathead clipper. Go up with the clippers against the grain of the hair with long fluid strokes all over the body. I utilize a smaller type of clipper to get the legs, behind the dew-claws, in and around the ears, and any areas that are more challenging to get to.

After the first time of shearing the steer I would suggest that you make sure the calf stays out of the sun during the day, especially if it is light colored. This will ensure that the calf doesn't get sunburned.

I usually go back over the calf one more time prior to leaving for the show and make sure to check for any hair that might have been missed. The Texas show rules state that the hair coat on the calf cannot be more the 1/4 of an inch anywhere on the body with the exception of the tail and switch, which can not be any longer than 10 inches from the bottom of the tail bone. To make sure you are measuring correctly, you can take the tail and at the base of the tail feel for the end of the bone, and measure 10 inches up from this point, and this is how far down the tail you must slick. This will be monitored by officials at the shows during check in and or classification. If in the event that you are going to show at several slick shows with the same calf you need to make sure and go over the steer prior to each show. The hair will grow back and it may become longer than the allotted 1/4 inch hair length.

Tips for clipping market animals for the county show

Steers Continued

Step 3: Hide and Hair Coat Management 10 days prior to the show.

After shearing the steer it is very important to condition and manage the hide and coat of the steer. At this point you are a week out from the show, and daily management is a must. I would suggest washing the steer daily with a mild soap and utilize a conditioner such as Mane and Tail on the hide.

After washing use a chamois rag to dry the steer off and liberally apply the conditioner on the hide using your hands and a soft brush. Let the conditioner set and rinse that evening and apply some sort of sheen.

I would suggest repeating the process each day prior to leaving for the show. While at the show the same process should occur, but it is important to remember that prior to entering the show ring the steers are towed and therefore no product should be on the hide, as per the rules.

The only thing I would do to the steer on show morning would be to wash the calf, dry with a rag, brush with a soft brush, and hit the ring. The prep work prior to this should give you that sheen and look of a well-managed show steer. The rest is up to the judge and luck.

Whether you win or lose showing a steer, I think it is important to remember that success at anything takes hard work, skill, knowledge, and yes, some luck. This holds true for whatever you do, and showing livestock in 4-H and FFA serves as a great platform and educational tool.

Tips for clipping market animals for the county show

Goats- Steps to shearing:

- 1) Blow out all of the dirt from the body with a blow dryer. Note: Goats do not like water. We do not generally wash the goats unless they are extremely dirty or muddy. We manage skin and hair daily by keeping the goats in a clean pen with a light weight blanket. We catch the goats daily, put them on a table and blow out their hair to clean the hair and hide. Apply a light coat of Show Sheen to condition the hair. Brush the hair with a soft brush to work in the conditioner and train the hair.
- 2) Secure the goat on a trimming table.
- 3) Shear the goat- I like to start at the rear hock and shear up towards the back. Repeat for the front leg- knee up to the back. Shear the back and sides forward from the tail to the neck. Shear the neck from the shoulders and brisket- up and forward towards the head. Shear the inside of the back leg from the hock up. Shear the underline to include between the front legs. Shear the head last. Hair will be left on the legs from the hock/knee down and the tail.
- 4) Trim the hair around the hoof line on each leg.
- 5) Block out the tail.
- 6) Apply a skin conditioner.
- 7) Blanket or sock the goat.
- 8) Return to a clean and dry pen.

Helpful hints:

- Make sure your goat has been on a shearing table and has been sheared several times prior to shearing for the show. Practice makes perfection.
- I like to shear with Lister or Premier covercoat blades the day before the show. Do not shear the day of the show. The goat will get tired and you will normally have clipper tracks in the hair coat.
- Freshly sheared goats can sunburn easily. Put on a sock or blanket or keep the goat out of the sunlight. Animal sun-block products can also be used and are available at your local feed store.

Tips for clipping market animals for the county show

Sheep- Fitting involves preparing the lamb for the show. The first item of importance is to acquire a copy of the rules for the stock show you are planning on attending and read the rules concerning the fitting of the lambs. The majority of the shows require that the lamb be slick sheared from the hocks/knees up.

Shearing- as it may sound simple, shearing methods will differ among exhibitors. I like to experiment ahead of time to find the right procedure to use. For those that show at a lot of prospect shows, practice makes perfect and they will know what works the best.

Helpful hints:

- Lambs do not like water. Take your time and be gentle when washing and do a thorough job of getting the lamb clean and rinsing out all of the soap. Do not get water in the Lamb's ears.
- Make sure your lamb has been on a shearing table and has been sheared several times prior to shearing for the show. Practice makes perfection.
- Do not shear the day of the show. The lamb will get tired and you will normally have clipper tracks in the hide.
- Freshly sheared lambs can sunburn easily. Put on a sock or blanket or keep the lamb out of the sunlight. Animal sun-block products can also be used and are available at your local feed store.
- Shear with both fine blades and surgical blades at home while practicing to see which blade provides the best "handle". Do not wait until the show to determine which blade you should use. All lambs "shear out" different. Do your homework.

Steps to shearing:

- 1) Wash the lamb with a mild livestock shampoo and rinse. Repeat.
- 2) Apply a conditioner, let set and rinse.
- 3) Towel dry the lamb
- 4) Secure the lamb on a trimming table.
- 5) Shear the lamb- I like to start at the rear hock and shear up towards the back. Repeat for the front leg- knee up to the back. Shear the back and sides forward from the tail to the neck. Shear the neck from the shoulders and brisket- up and forward towards the head. Shear the inside of the back leg from the hock up. Shear the underline to include between the front legs. Shear the head last. Wool will be left on the legs from the hock/knee down.
- 6) Block the leg wool
- 7) Rinse the lamb.
- 8) Apply a skin conditioner.
- 9) Blanket or sock the lamb
- 10) Return to a clean and dry pen.

Livestock Project Training Series

As this show season comes to an end, it is time to start considering your project for next year. To assist with this process we are offering a series of trainings that will cover; selection, feeding, housing, health, showmanship, and other pointers to help make you successful in the show ring. Below is a list of dates that are set for the next few months of trainings.

Steers & Heifers– April 18th at the Extension office from 10:30-11:30am

Sheep & Goats– May 30th at the Extension office from 10:30-11:30am

For more information or questions please contact us at the office at 979-823-0129

Tips for clipping market animals for the county show

Swine- First, the pig must be clean to get the most durable use out of a set of clipper blades, and to ensure a clean cut. Use a waterless hand cleaner to wash the pig's body and especially the feet and legs.

The feet and legs can be quite challenging to get clean, so start with a hand cleaner like GoJo, or Fast Orange. We then wash the pig with Mane and Tail, and then apply conditioner leaving it on the pig for 5 – 7 minutes. A white pig, or a pig with white markings such as Hampshires, Polands, or Spots, will need to be washed with a "bluing" shampoo such as Shimmer Lights, or another shampoo that whitens as it cleans. Once the animal is clean, towel dry the pig and then clip. Use only your hands when washing pigs. A brush, or excessive scrubbing can leave a white pig with red skin. This is undesirable, and uncomfortable for the pig.

There are many methods of clipping pigs. Some people prefer to "slick shear" their pigs about 30-45 days prior to showing to have a fresh growth of hair. Some exhibitors prefer to use a clipper with a "plucking" blade. I prefer to use an variable speed clipper with clipper guards. Others may prefer to "snare" the pig and then clip it. I do not use a snare because: 1) the pig's squeal hurts my ears, and 2) usually, our pigs are gentle enough they don't need to be snared.

The object of clipping is to remove old, stale, or unmanageable hair, and clip the hair as short as possible, but yet make the pig look like it has not been clipped. Start with a 0A guard, clipping first down the top. Once the top is done, clip one side at a time moving from the ham, to the side, to the shoulder. Once at the shoulder, if the pig is a Hampshire, we blend the hair into the neck by using a 0 guard. Then once we get to the face, jaw, and jowl areas, we use a 00 guard. The secret is blending the hair to give a fluid appearance, while making the pig's neck look extended and slender.

The areas under the jaw, chest, and belly are clipped without a guard attachment, and are "slick" sheared to provide a cleaner appearance. The long hairs around the pig's nose and mouth are clipped short. The area between the pig's hams (or twist) is clipped without a guard to give a clean, fat free appearance. The belly is clipped up to about the bottom of the elbow, and up to the flank region. In other words, clip all the hair down to the skin from under the chin, through the chest floor, and off the belly. This will initially leave a very apparent line. Use the 00 guard to blend between the pig's side and belly. Clip on top of the line between side and belly to feather or blend the hair.

Do this on both sides. Also use the 00 guard to blend the areas on the hams and twist. The key is blending the hair to remove signs of apparent clipping.

We generally clip the ears and tail with the 0 or 00 guards. Again, the purpose here is to give the pig a fresh appearance, and remove long hair that would give the judge the impression that the pig has been clipped. (Long hairs here and there in contrast to short clipped hair are evidence that the pig has indeed been clipped). Most pigs today have been tail docked. The remaining end of the tail will grow longer hair, much like a switch on an undocked tail. The switch, whether the tail is docked or undocked, should not be clipped as short as the other parts of the body. Again, this is to give the illusion that the pig has not been clipped, but merely has a short, fresh, natural growth of hair.

Generally try to clip down the legs as far as possible. Again, if you leave too much hair on the legs, it will be apparent the pig has been clipped. The area immediately behind the elbow is sometimes difficult to clip. You may have to use different angles with the clippers to properly clip this hair.

During clipping you will need a clean brush to remove clipped hair. Immediately after clipping, the pig's entire body (at least where the hair has been clipped) should be grill bricked. A grill brick is a 3" x 3" x 10" block of pumice used to clean barbecue and other grills. Cut off a piece of grill brick that is approximately 2-3 " thick, and use it as a brush. The secret to clipping is grill bricking. This will prevent split ends and stray unmanageable hairs.

On pigs with pigment (dark colored pigs), start oiling or applying oil to the hair and skin about 2 weeks prior to show. This will condition the hair and skin, but more importantly it will soak into the skin and darken it. Then at the show you may only have to apply water to get a fresh, natural glow and shine out of the skin and hair, while leaving the skin dark. Also use a product called REVIVE, manufactured and sold by Sullivan's Show Supplies. This product is excellent for just what its name implies, reviving dried, stale hair. Once at the show, wash and dry the pig the morning of the show, and apply one coat of REVIVE. Let the REVIVE dry and brush in, and then apply water when going into the show ring. Use a hand sprayer to apply water to the pig. The result is a very eye pleasing hair coat.

2014-2015 Major Show Judges

Ft. Worth Livestock Show-

- Steers– Dan Shike
- Heifers-
- Sheep– Kyle Smith
- Goats– Brad Angus
- Swine– Jamie Sieren

San Antonio Livestock show

- Steers– Mark Hoge
- Heifers—Randy Perry, Ryan Rathmann, Kyle Perez
- Sheep– Brian Reilly
- Goats– Jess Yeaman
- Swine– Willie Kirkpatrick & Ryan Sites

San Angelo Livestock Show

- Steers—Bob May
- Heifers—Jason Cleere
- Sheep– Marvin Ensor
- Goats– Miles Gibbs
- Barrow-Brandon Yantis
- CTBR Gilts-Mike Fischer & Levi Canales

Star of Texas Livestock Show

- Steers– Dan Hoge
- American Heifers– Brandon Callis
- British/Continental Heifers– Mark Core
- Sheep– Tom Strickland
- Goats– Bryan Bernhard
- Swine– Jason Hirschfeld

Houston Livestock Show

- Steers– Dave Duello
- Heifers– Brant Poe, Randy Mullinix, & Scott Greiner
- Sheep– Kelley Bruns
- Goats– Parks Tucker
- Swine– Nick Mauck & Travis Platt

BCYLS

- Steers– Dr. Steve Kennedy
- Heifers– Jacob Tipp
- Sheep– Brad Roeder
- Goats– Brad Roeder
- Swine– Carl Kent

BCYLS Weight Breaks

Market Barrows

Breed	2015	2014	2013	2012
Duroc			230-280-11	230-272-8 280-12
Hampshire		230-242-10 245-254-10 255-265-12 266-276-11 280-280-14	230-12 235-248-14 253-267-14 271-280-13	230-240-11 245-255-11 257-265-12 267-276-12 278-280-12
OPB		230-261-9 269-280-9	242-280-10	265-280-11
Yorkshire		245-280-12	230-258-10 262-280-10	230-258-8 260-277-8 278-280-8
Cross		230-244-13 245-254-15 255-260-11 261-269-12 270-278-15 280-280-15	230-10 230-9 232-242-11 245-254-13 258-265-10 266-275-11 278-280-10	230-13 232-249-16 250-260-16 265-273-14 275-279-17 280-15

Market Goats

2015	2014	2013
	59-83-10 85-93-13 94-98-14 100-108-10 109-133-10	65-80-10 85-93-16 95-101-10 103-108-14 110-123-13

Market Lambs

2015	2014	2013
	<u>SD</u> 133-140 143-152	126-146-10 150-157-6 162-169-7 170-205-7
	<u>MW</u> 116-140-7 147-154-7 156-162-6 164-175-5	

Market Steers

Breed	2015	2014	2013	2012
ABC		1100-1163 1179-1259 1295-1396	1155-1247 1279-1435	1175-1243 1295-1335
British		None	1155-1385	1050-1303
AOB		1050-1125 1130-1249 1255-1325 1335-1480	1050-1149 1153-1210 1225-1280 1298-1475	1105-1180 1195-1255 1265-1310 1325-1390

**Brazos County
Extension Office**

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Wer'e on the Web!

<http://brazos.agrilife.org/>

Upcoming Events:

HLSR & Austin pass
handout & travel
meeting-3/3/15

BCYLS eligibility
forms due 3/13/15

BCYLS- 3/25-28/15

Steer Tag orders
due- 4/10/15

State Fair Sheep,
Goat, & Swine tag
orders due- 4/10/15

Show Steer & Heifer
Project Training-
4/18/15

Commercial heifer
validation-4/25/15

Show Dates

Ft. Worth -January 16- February 7

- Steers- Feb. 3-6
- Heifers- Jan 23- 26
- Swine - Feb. 3-6
- Sheep/Goat- Jan. 30- Feb 1

San Angelo February 13- March 1

- Heifers- Feb 20-21
- Sheep/Goats- Feb 23-24
- Steers- Feb 16-17
- Swine- Feb 17-19

San Antonio-February 12- March 1

- Heifers- Feb 17-20
- Sheep/Goats- Feb 17-20
- Steers- Feb 23-27
- Swine- Feb 20- 26

Star of Texas- March 16-27

- Steers-23-25
- Heifers- 26-27
- Sheep/Goats- 17-18
- Swine- 20-22
- Poultry- 18

Houston-March 3 -22

- Steers-16-20
- Heifers-13-15
- Sheep/Goats- 10-13
- Swine- 13-19

BCYLS- March 24-28

- Steers-27
- Heifers- 27
- Sheep- 25
- Goats -25
- Swine-26

Contacts

Jerod Meurer 4-H & YD Agent	Dusty Tittle AG/NR Agent	Arvita Scott 4-H & Youth Development CEP Agent	Flora Williams Family & Consumer Sci- ence Agent	Ashley Skinner 4-H Program Assistant
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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

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