



# Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

May 2018 Edition

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## Special points of interest:

Major Show updates  
Major Show Dates  
Major Show Judges  
Commercial Heifer Show dates  
Air Flow tips  
Sheep Nutrition 101  
Fly Control tips  
Sheep & Goat Selection  
Validation Dates  
Poultry Order Dates

### **State Fair Sheep, Goat & Swine Validation**

This year we will validate all State Fair animals at once at the same location.

- Date- June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Time- 7:30am-8:30am
- Location—Pearce Pavilion

Packets will be ready to pick up the week prior to validation. If you have a conflict with this date please contact us in writing prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup> in order for the validation committee to make considerations for getting your projects validated.

### **Steer & Heifer Validation**

This year there will be 2 steer and heifer validations conducted, you must attend one of the two validations for your animals to get validated.

If you are unable to attend one of these dates you must submit, in writing, a request to the validation committee and they will decide on how to proceed.

- Validation 1- June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Bryan Sale Barn from 7:30-9am steers followed by heifers. Heifers need to be at the sale barn by 8:30am
- Validation 2- June 25<sup>th</sup> at TAMU Beef Center from 5:30-6:30pm steers followed by heifers. Heifers need to be there by 6pm.

Validation Packets will be ready to pick up the week prior to validation. If you have a conflict with this date please contact us in writing prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup> in order for the validation committee to make considerations for getting your projects validated.

### **Major Show & BCYLS Turkey Orders**

It is time once again to order your turkeys for the 2019 major shows and BCYLS.

These turkeys will be eligible for all the major shows as well as BCYLS.

Orders are due by August 7<sup>th</sup> to the Extension office by 5PM

Order forms can be found at this link:

<http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

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

### **State Fair Broiler Orders**

State Fair Broiler orders are due to the Extension office by June 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.

You must order in groups of 25 and a max of 75 birds

You can order as a family or as an individual.

Order forms can be found at this link:

<http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

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

## **2018-2019 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders**

### **Steers**

Major Show & County Validation- June 16<sup>th</sup> at Auction Barn from 7:30-9am/ June 25<sup>th</sup> at TAMU Beef Center from 5:30-6:30  
County Only Steer tag orders due September 11<sup>th</sup>- tags will be \$5 per tag  
County Only Steer Validation will be October TBA (same as Commercial Steers)

### **Heifers**

Summer Heifer Validation will be Validation- June 16<sup>th</sup> at Auction Barn from 7:30-9am/ June 25<sup>th</sup> at TAMU Beef Center from 5:30-6:30  
Fall Heifer Validation tag orders due September 11<sup>th</sup>- tags will be \$20  
Fall Heifer Validation will be October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Brazos County Extension office  
BCYLS Heifer Entries will be February TBA

### **Sheep & Goat**

State Fair Sheep & Goat Validation will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Pearce Pavilion from 7-9am  
Major Show & County tag orders will be August 15<sup>th</sup>- tags will be \$20 per tag  
Major Show & County Validation will be October 29<sup>th</sup> at Expo from 5:30-7pm

### **Swine**

State Fair Swine Validation will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Pearce Pavilion from 7-9am  
Major Show & County tag orders will be September 20<sup>th</sup>- tags will be \$20 per tag for major and \$5 for county only  
Major Show Validation will be November 19<sup>th</sup> at Expo from 5:30-7pm  
County Only Validation will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at Expo from 5:30-7pm

### **Broilers**

State Fair Broiler Orders are due June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Major Show Broiler Orders due September 11<sup>th</sup>  
BCYLS Broiler Orders- TBA

### **Turkeys**

Major Show Turkey Orders due August 7<sup>th</sup>

*4-H Major Show Entry Nights- State Fair & HOT- August 2<sup>nd</sup>/ Spring Major Shows- November 1<sup>st</sup>*

*All tag order forms can be found on the Brazos County Extension Website:*

<https://brazos.aqrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

## **Poultry Institute for Youth – June 11-13, 2017**

The TAMU Poultry Institute for Youth is held on the Texas A&M campus once a year. The Institute is a 3 day camp for students with an interest in the poultry industry. Students will attend mini lectures taught by Texas A&M University staff on topics such as anatomy, embryology, immunology, nutrition and processing. Students will also participate in field trips to a commercial layer facility and a local processing facility.

Registration is open students who will be enrolled in the fall as high school juniors, seniors or college freshmen.

For any questions about the Poultry Institute for Youth, please contact the Poultry Science Department at 979-845-1654.

**2016 TAMU Poultry Institute for Youth Application** -(due by Wednesday May 10, 2017)

<http://posc.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2017/01/2017-TAMU-Poultry-Institute-for-Youth-Application.pdf>

## **Brazos County Commercial Heifer Show & Sale**

IMPORTANT DATES:

TAG-IN: 8 am, Saturday, April 21st

PALPATION: 5 pm, Thursday, October 11th

HEIFER ARRIVAL / CHECK-IN: 5 pm, Thursday, October 25th

JUDGING RESULTS and AWARDS: 5 pm, Friday, October 26th

EXHIBITOR INTERVIEWS: Saturday, October 27th

AUCTION: 6 pm, Saturday, October 27th (meal @ 5:00)



## Beat the Heat: Airflow in Livestock Barns

Livestock barns vary in shapes, sizes and material, but it is always important to take airflow and circulation into consideration when creating an environment for your animals to thrive.

During hot weather, getting the air moving is one of the simplest and most effective ways to keep livestock and exhibitors cool. Livestock facilities require both ventilation and circulation of air year-round. Ventilation is the exchange of interior and exterior air, whereas circulation is the mixing of air within a space to prevent stagnant conditions.

### Why is Air Circulation Important?

- Consistent circulation helps reduce temperatures, less stress on animals and keeps their performance levels steady
- Dry, cool environments are less likely to attract pests and will reduce the risk or spread of fungus
- Control heat & humidity and reduce odor

Ways to achieve optimal airflow:

• **Ventilation:** ventilation system ensures that the warm, dusty, humid and odiferous barn air is continually replaced by fresh outside air. A well-ventilated barn should not have issues with humidity or odors. Ventilation systems can include natural elements, such as operable windows and ridge vents, along with mechanized elements, such as exhaust fans.

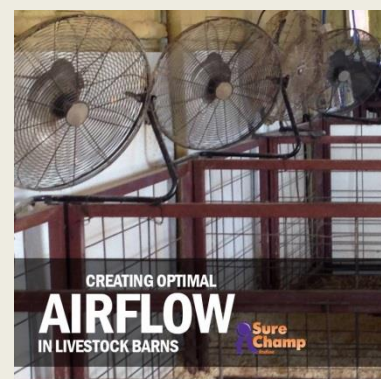
• **Circulation:** Within the barn, air circulation is equally important. Allowing air to become stagnant can lead to issues with ammonia and condensation, as well as it feeling stuffy, making it more difficult to breathe. Large-diameter, low-speed overhead fans slowly and gently mix the air throughout a space, creating consistent temperatures from ceiling to floor. Because these fans use their large size—up to 24 feet in diameter—rather than speed to move massive amounts of air, they are an energy-efficient approach to comprehensive air movement. For smaller barns needing more budget friendly solutions, small box fans or oscillating fans placed slightly above each pen or animal is also a great way to ensure good circulation.

• **Insulation.** While this is not a way to create airflow, it is certainly a way to make the most of your efforts in creating the perfect environment for your livestock. Insulating both the ceiling and walls will keep your barn warmer in the winter months and cooler in the summer heat. Depending on your barn and materials, there are multitudes of ways to achieve insulating your facilities.

Learn more about options to cool your barn:

[https://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1a;ft\\_cooling\\_fans.html](https://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1a;ft_cooling_fans.html)

<http://www.bigassfans.com/for-business/agriculture/dairy-livestock/>







## Getting Your Show Calf Off to the Right Start

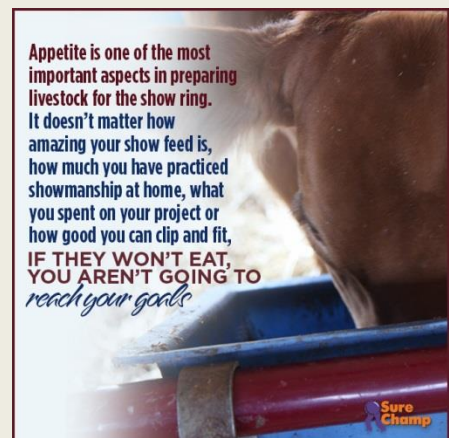
Every year about this time I get a little anxious. I recall my experience as a junior, and how the old show heifers were out to pasture, curious why they didn't get to come in the barn every day. At the same time every afternoon, the mail carrier would deliver a brand new pile of sale catalogs to sort through, all in an effort to find our next show heifer. Today, sale catalogs still fill our mailbox, but there is also the constant ding from our smartphone as e-blasts and online sale notifications roll in.

As you prepare to purchase your next show calf there are lots of factors to consider – who you will purchase your calf from, its genetics and phenotype. The other part of the equation is getting your calf off to the best start nutritionally. There is so much performance bred into show cattle that it can take a pretty high plane of nutrition to ensure your calf is reaching its full potential. On the other hand, you might realize your calf has some areas of weakness that a feeding program can potentially repair or conceal. Regardless of the path you are on there is one constant: if they aren't eating, you aren't winning.

Appetite is one of the most important aspects in preparing livestock for the show ring. It doesn't matter how amazing your show feed is, how much you have practiced showmanship at home, what you spent on your project or how good you can clip and fit, if they won't eat you aren't going to reach your goals.

**Sure Champ®Original** on digestive health and stimulating appetite. By using Sure Champ Original as your daily top-dress, you are providing the combination of Amaferm®elevated levels of highly bioavailable vitamins and minerals to achieve maximum performance potential. Amaferm is a natural feed additive that acts as a prebiotic increasing digestibility to maximize the energy value of feed. It is research-proven to increase water and feed intake, which are two important goals with your show prospect. Many people don't realize that Sure Champ Original is a complete vitamin and mineral supplement so additional mineral and vitamin sources are not necessary.

Your new show calf is going to experience some stressful periods. Transporting your new calf from the sale location to its new home and changing its environment is stressful. Sure Champ Original works to keep that appetite consistent, but you also need to protect that calf from additional stress. To reduce future stress and protect their overall health, introduce Vita Charge®to the diet. Whether you give you calf a dose of **Vita Charge PasteLiquid Boost®** to loading them on the trailer or you have a **Vita Charge Stress Tub** their pen upon arrival, Sure Champ and Vita Charge will work together to get your new calf on the right track. By doing the little things right every day we can put ourselves on the path to success.



## Livestock Nutrition 101: Sheep

### 1. What makes up a 'balanced' feed ration?

A balanced feed ration supplies the proper amounts and proportions of nutrients needed for a specific purpose or stage of an animal's life. While a show lamb diet might have different specs than a lactating ewe ration, all diets should be balanced to achieve the desired goal. We generally use a balanced "base" feed ration and make adjustments using supplements and additional forage depending on what our goal is or what we need to try to correct with the lamb.

### 2. On average, how much should a sheep consume in a day?

Show lambs should consume on average around 3-3.5% of their body weight. This should include grain as well as hay. Depending on what the current goal of your animal is, this should be adjusted if you are trying to push or hold an animal based on weight or body condition. I generally try to get a lamb up to around 3-3.5 pounds of grain per day and stay there for the majority of the feeding time. It is important to make adjustments slowly and gradually. We will generally bump a lambs feed 0.25 lb. per day and make sure they are cleaning up their feed completely for approximately 10 days before making another increase.

### 3. Why is forage important when feeding sheep?

Forage is extremely important when feeding sheep simply because they are ruminant animals. Ruminant animals are designed by nature to graze or browse forages. Since we don't recommend allowing show lambs to graze on pasture, it is extremely important to provide an additional source of fiber in their diets. Long stemmed forages (alfalfa or grass hay) are a vital part of keeping the rumen microbes alive and healthy. From a show lamb perspective, we use hay to adjust middles and flank lines as we get closer to show day. Don't forget that hay also contributes nutritionally to a ration. For example, if we have a large framed lamb that we are trying to slow the growth on, we will use a lower protein forage type hay rather than high quality alfalfa.

### 4. How do you identify which feed is best for your project?

There are many different brands of feed out there and most of them will be similar in terms of ingredients and specs. I think it is important to find a feed that you can get fresh and readily available. Most importantly, learn how to feed it. Figuring out how an animal will respond to the feed based on its body type and learning how and when to make adjustments is probably as important as any ingredient. When making adjustments or adding supplements, give them adequate time to work. Changes won't be made overnight. I also believe that it's important to understand that not all lambs will be fed the same diet. Larger framed, leaner designed lambs will generally need a lower protein, higher fat diet. Smaller framed, quicker lambs will need a higher protein, lower fat diet.

### 5. Why is it important to watch/monitor your sheep while they eat?

Feeding time is not simply just about putting the feed in the feeder! Take the time to watch and observe your animal as it eats. A lamb not eating or drinking normally can be the first sign of sickness. However, if you don't know how your lamb acts normally it will be hard to see these changes. Keeping an eye out for choking or bloat is also an important reason to monitor your lamb as it eats.

### 6. What are the most important ingredients to identify on a feed tag? Why?

Knowing how to read and interpret a feed tag can be a very valuable part of your success with a lamb project. While some things on a tag such as micro and macro minerals are important, they aren't something I necessarily worry about as long as I'm using a high-quality show feed and **Sure Champ®**. I do however, pay attention to protein, fat and fiber levels. These are the basic categories that can be changed or adjusted throughout the duration of your project. Depending on the age, frame size or body type of your lamb, adjustments will most likely need to be made in the protein and fat levels of your lamb's diet.

### 7. What about fresh water?

Water is the most critical nutrient. Water is also directly related to feed intake. Make sure that your lambs always have access to clean, fresh water that is neither too hot nor too cold.

## Sheep and Goat Selection

It is about that time of year again to begin looking and purchasing your goats and sheep for next years stock shows. There are many things to consider when purchasing your next animal, like what age does it need to be, where can I look for these animals, and what do I need to do to be prepared for the project once I get it home. Well here are a few tips to help you prepare for your next project.

- Make sure your pen is clean and ready for new animals
- Decide which shows you would like to attend
- Decide on a budget for your animals
- Make sure you have fresh feed and water available for the project once you get it home
- Decide where you would like to purchase your project, whether it be from a sale, or an individual. We can give you some names of people or sales that may fit your needs. We are also more than happy to help you select or find a project for you. Just allow us enough time to locate one in your price range.
- What to look for when purchasing your project.

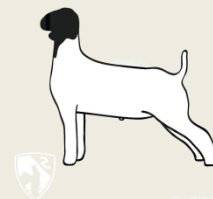
**Structural Correctness-** this includes the skeletal system/ bone structure of the animal. Look for a project that is heavy boned, level topped and level in his hip. Note the animals movement as he walks and look for the project that stands and walks out wide off of his front legs and back legs. Pay attention to the rear legs and avoid any lambs that might walk with their back hocks pointing in or out. Check the pasterns, making sure that they do not flex excessively in their pasterns.

**Muscle-** muscle will always be one of the primary factors for success. The purpose of a market wether is to provide meat for consumption. Consequently, judges will prioritize muscle as a major factor in placing. A wether that is wide based in structure is going to be heavier muscled than a narrow based one. Have someone hold the project in a driving position and handle the top right behind the shoulder and across the loin. You want as much width as you can get. Analyze the rear leg muscle by watching the wether walk away from you. Look for the width and depth of the leg muscle to compare.

**Volume and capacity-** this refers to the width of the body and rib shape. Wethers that are shallow in their body with a tight rib shape are not going to eat, gain and grow as well as one that is deeper bodied with more spring of rib. On the reverse side, wethers with excessive middle are not desirable because of the waste in dressing percentage when they are processed. "Show wethers" have to have enough rib shape and capacity to be productive, but they also have to be shallow enough in their depth of rib to have that "show" look that the judges are looking for.

**Style and balance-** this refers to the combination of muscle and structure that gives the project that "show" look. You might own a project with a lot of muscle and capacity, but if they do not have the right "look", you probably will not win the class. This factor in selection takes time to learn. Generally, look for the wether with a long neck that blends smoothly into the shoulders with a smooth and level top and level hip (few weathers are perfectly level in their hip/ avoid excessive steepness). The project should be "smooth" shouldered with a trim middle section. The underline should be level. Balance refers to the length of body in relationship to the height. I also try to avoid excessively long bodied animals as well as short bodied ones. The longer bodied wethers will usually break in their top where the short bodied ones do not balance well from the side view.

**Size potential-** all animals will mature at different weights depending on genetics. Most shows have many classes broken into weight ranges. Each class has a winner. I believe that you should feed your project to his full potential and manage his weight at the end to fit into a desirable weight class. It is also important to match the size of the project to the size of the exhibitor. Younger exhibitors are better off showing smaller projects while tall exhibitors are better off showing heavier projects. .





## How to Effectively Control Flies Around Your Livestock

It doesn't matter which species of livestock you show, it seems like the smallest creatures can be the biggest nuisance. Yes, those pesky flies like to invade our barns, bite at our animals and can carry diseases. With proper prevention including good nutrition, you can inhibit those little pests from invading your space.

Flies breed and thrive in manure, so keeping your barns or outside pens as clean as possible is the first step to fly control. If you tie your cattle in, make sure you clean their stalls regularly. For smaller species like pigs, sheep and goats, be sure to pick the pens throughout the day to keep fresh waste away from the animals. The closer the animal feces and urine is to the animals, the closer the flies will be. Haul the waste, including any wet bedding out of the barn so flies don't have a breeding ground in the same area your animals are housed in. Spray your premises. Depending on your location and the humidity in the air, you might want to spray an insecticide around your premises to keep flies and other insects from making themselves at home. If you have the means, and flies are big problem, consider investing in a fly control system that mists insecticide throughout the barn on a timed system. These will eliminate flies and are common in pig and horse barns.

Use a livestock spray. There are a variety of livestock sprays available on market that are safe and effective to use with a variety of animals. Be sure to read and follow the label directions and use accordingly.

Finally, did you know you can help control flies in your cattle, sheep and goats while you feed your animals? The new [Sure Champ® Extreme with Climate Control](#) is a pelleted, daily supplement with the Amaferm® advantage to promote appetite and digestive health. Extreme includes ingredients designed to help support animals during extreme temperatures and support hoof and coat care. And, it also contains garlic, a natural insect repellent. By feeding Extreme, you should see fewer flies landing on and biting your animals, all while keeping their digestive system healthy.

If you have livestock, you're going to have flies. And unfortunately, there is no one way to eliminate every one of them. But using some precautionary measures mentioned above will help control the flies around your barn and on your animals, keeping your animals healthier and happier.

## **2018 HOT Fair Updates**

The 2018 HOT Fair has a new schedule for livestock so please take a few minutes to look over it and make note of the changes. The biggest change is all heifers will show on the same weekend and steers will be on a separate weekend. Sheep and Goat days have changed to end over the weekend.

More details can be found at the following link: <https://www.hotfair.com/events/2017/livestock-show>

## **2018 State Fair of Texas Updates**

Gilts- September 27<sup>th</sup>-September 30<sup>th</sup>

Market Goats- September 28<sup>th</sup>- September 29<sup>th</sup>

Market Lambs- September 28<sup>th</sup>- September 30<sup>th</sup>

Market Steers- October 1<sup>st</sup>- October 4<sup>th</sup>

Market Swine- Wave 1 October 1<sup>st</sup>-October 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave 2- October 3<sup>rd</sup>- October 4<sup>th</sup>

Sale of Champions- Friday October 5<sup>th</sup>

Heifers (Beefmaster, Brangus, Red Brangus, Gerts, Simbrah, Simmental, Star 5 & ARB)- October 10<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>

Heifers (Angus, Char, Chi, Hereford, Limi, Maine, Polled Hereford, Red Angus, Shorthorn, ORB)- October 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>

For a more detailed schedule please visit the following website: <https://bigtex.com/livestock/livestockshow/>

Market steer show will add a black cross division to their show

### **State Fair of Texas**

Market Steers- Dan Hoge

Prospect Steers- Nick Fitzsimmons

Market Goats- Brandon Morgan

Market Sheep- Brian Riley

Market Swine- Bryan Arnold

Market Poultry- Keith Scott

### **HOT Fair**

### **Ft. Worth Livestock Show**

Market Steers-Chris Mullinix

Market Goats- Kurt Henry

Market Sheep- Steve Sturtz

Market Swine- Ben Moyer

Heifers- Matt Leo, Jim Bloomberg, & Jirl Buck

### **San Angelo Livestock Show**

Market Steers-TBA

Market Goats- Dr. Mark Hoge

Market Sheep- Dr. Clay Burson

Market Swine- TBA

Heifers- TBA

### **San Antonio Livestock Show**

### **Rodeo Austin**

### **Houston**

Market Steers-Kevin Jensen

Market Marvin Ensor

Market Sheep- Todd Wise

Market Kade Hummel & James Backman

Heifers- TBA

Poultry- TBA



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Extension Office**

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*Wer'e on the Web!*

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**Tag order Deadline:**

State Fair Broilers-  
June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Validation Dates:**

State Fair Sheep, Goats, &  
Swine- June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Steers- June 16<sup>th</sup> & June 25<sup>th</sup>

Heifers- June 16<sup>th</sup> & June 25<sup>th</sup>

**Entry Nights:**

State Fair & HOT entry day-  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Show Dates

**State Fair of Texas**

- Gilts- 9/27-9/30
- Mkt Swine- 10/1-10/4
- Mkt Goat -9/28-9/29
- Mkt Sheep-9/28-9/30
- Mkt Steers-10/1-10/4
- Boilers-10/1
- Heifers

**Heart of Texas Fair**

- Heifers – 10/4-10/7
- Steers- 10/11-10/13
- Sheep 10/11-10/13
- Goats 10/11-10/13
- Swine 10/9-10/10

**Brazos Valley Fair**

October 19-21

**Sandhills**

TBA

**Ft. Worth**

January 18-February 9<sup>th</sup>

**San Antonio**

February 7-24, 2019

**San Angelo**

- Steers- 2/12-2/13
- Mkt Swine- 2/12-2/14
- Mkt Sheep- 2/1-2/4
- Mkt Goat- 2/1-2/3
- Heifers- 2/7-2/10
- Gilts- 2/8-2/10
- Breeding Does- 2/1-2/2

**Rodeo Austin**

TBA

**Houston**

February 26-March 17

**BCYLS**

March 19-23

## Contacts

Jerod Meurer 4-H & YD Agent	Dusty Tittle AG/NR Agent	Arvita Scott 4-H & Youth Development CEP Agent	Flora Williams Family & Consumer Science Agent	Ashley Skinner 4-H Program Assistant
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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating