



Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

November 2016 Edition

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Special points of interest:

- Validation Dates
- Southern Classic
- Swine Pen Basics
- VFD
- Keeping Cattle Going while on the road
- Fungus Prevention for sheep & goats
- Major Show Updates
- Major Show Judges
- Quality Counts

Major Show entry night

Brazos County youth wishing to participate in any of the major livestock shows (Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Odessa, Houston, & Star of Texas) must enter on **November 3rd at the Extension Office from 5-7PM**. We will have all entry forms available that evening to fill out. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please make arrangements with us prior to this date so we can get you entered.

For those of you who are able, we will be at the office all day so if you wanted to come in during the day and take care of your entries we will be available for that as well.

BCYLS Rabbit Date Information:

Breed Date – December 27, 2016

Kindle Date – January 26, 2016

Validation – February 27 from 5-6 PM at the Brazos County Expo (note the NEW location)

Major & County Swine Validations

- Majors Show Validation– November 21st @ the Brazos Expo Complex from 5:30-7 PM
- BCYLS only Swine Validation– December 12th @ the Brazos Expo Complex from 5:30-7PM

Packets will be available for pickup the week prior to each validation to allow for most of the paperwork to be filled out and signed prior to arriving at validation.

If you have an issue with the date of validation, please contact us at the Extension office prior to validation.

Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Swine

Major– November 21st at the Brazos Expo Center from 5:30-7:30PM (Tag Orders due September 23)

BCYLS– December 12th at the Brazos Expo Center from 5:30-7:30PM (Tag Orders due September 23)

BCYLS FCS– January 17th at College Station High School

BCYLS Rabbit– February 27th at the Brazos Expo Center

Poultry

Chicken Pickup– TBA

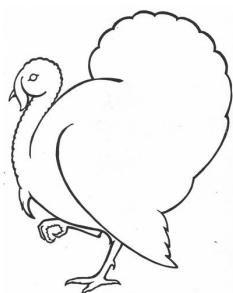
Turkey Pickup– TBA



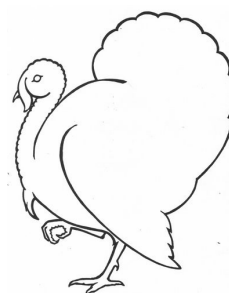
With the upcoming stock show season just around the corner and livestock validation coming up, it is time now to make sure that everyone has taken the quality counts test. There are 2 age divisions, Junior– 13 and under & Senior– 14 and up. These dates are based on the exhibitor's age as of August 31st and become inactive on September 1 each year. Once you become a senior you will only need to take the test one time. Juniors will need to take the test as a junior and again when they become a senior.

For more information or to take the test, visit this link: <http://agrilife.org/qualitycounts/verification/>

Show Turkey Workshop



Producers COOP will host a Show Turkey Workshop on November 12th starting at 11am in the Ag Center. The speaker will be Alisa Hairson. This will be a great workshop to gain knowledge from a certified poultry judge and help you get prepared for your major and county show turkeys that will be arriving in a few weeks.



Livestock Project Site Visits

As the year goes on I will be doing my best to make my rounds and visit each and everyone's projects for this year. I am planning on making project visits on Friday afternoons to various parts of the county each week in order to try and make it by everyone's house at least once every 2-3 months. If you are new to the program or would like for me to come by and check on your project you will need to contact me sometime over the next few months and schedule a visit so I can come by and visit with you about the upcoming show year. You can reach me at 979-823-0129 or via email at Jerod.Meurer@ag.tamu.edu and we can set up a time for me to come out and visit about your projects

Keep Your Cattle on the Go at a Show



By Josh Brockman, Show Products Marketing & Growth Coordinator

Livestock projects are many things: fun, exciting, addicting and an enjoyable family event. Like most any other opportunity in life they are also hard work, expensive, time consuming and competitive. Showing cattle is unique to other species because of the time they spend on feed. Whether it is heifers or steers, an exhibitor typically has this project on feed for a minimum of 10 months before reaching their end point show, and longer if it is a breeding heifer. There is nothing more frustrating than fighting battles at home for nearly a year, doing all that work hanging out on the end of a blower hose, in the wash rack and under a fan, and then getting to the show and animals not cooperating to eat and/or drink.

Due to the stress of hauling, and a change in climate and atmosphere, waiting to boost your cattle's appetite or fight the battle of stress until you arrive at the show can, more often than not, leave you one step behind. These are our tips that will "Keep Your Cattle on the Go at a Show."

1. It all starts at home. Waiting until arriving at the show to start thinking about keeping cattle on feed leaves you a step behind. We recommend administering a Vita Charge product at least three consecutive days prior to loading up for a show. Vita Charge is a great tool for keeping your cattle's appetite and consumption steady and helps battle the stress from hauling. One dose of Vita Charge a day is recommended for preventative use, and two doses a day if your animal is already off feed. Your animal should also be used to drinking out a water bucket and eating out of a feed pan.

2. Have a plan when you arrive. Trailer rides are stressful enough, and now you are unloading your heifer or steer into a brand new environment. Even though a parent may help you unload, make sure you are close by. Your project has a bond with you and will relax knowing that you are with them. Give another dose of Vita Charge as soon as your project has settled into their stall or tie outs to keep digestion stimulated. However, it is extremely important to read and know the rules of each show. Some shows do not allow drenching or even inserting a tube of paste into the mouth unless it is done under veterinarian supervision.

3. Keeping them hydrated. Cattle not wanting to drink is probably one of the most common frustrations. City water can smell and taste a lot different than the water at your house. A water purifier can help with this issue. Many people will also recommend adding a flavoring agent to the water. Vita Charge Liquid Boost has a strong berry flavor that can help mask the odor and taste. It is also going to stimulate the digestive system so intake of water increases. Using Vita Charge Liquid Boost in a water bucket is also an alternative option when the show has rules against drenching. If this is something you are thinking about trying, we recommend getting your cattle used to drinking Liquid Boost water at home prior to trying it at the show.

4. Consistency is Key. Although this tip is very basic, it is extremely important. Always remember to feed the same supplements and feed that you were using at home because your cattle become accustomed to a routine. Also, you should have tested any fill products or other show day supplements at home to gauge the effect they will have and their palatability.

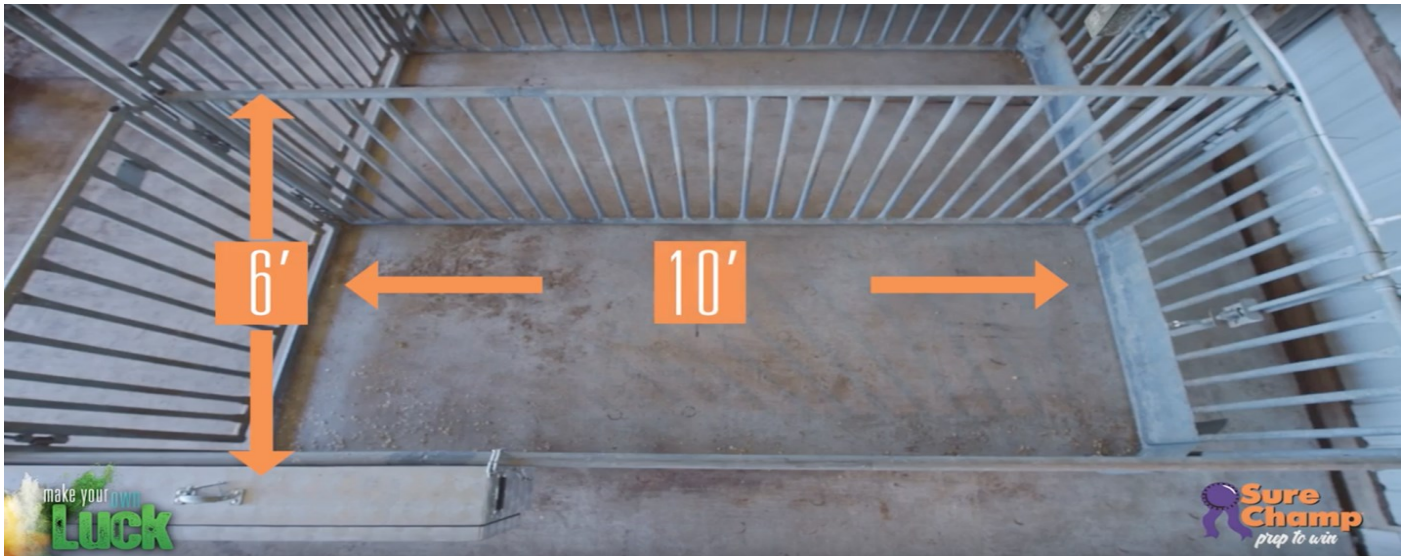


How to Set up a Show Pig Pen

Building the correct pen for your show pig is highly important in ensuring your pig is comfortable and had the necessities to perform throughout the year. In the video below, you'll hear tips from Josh Brockman on how to set up a concrete pen. However, if you have a dirt area or will be building your pen on another surface, this is still how your pen should be set up but the bedding may need to be different.

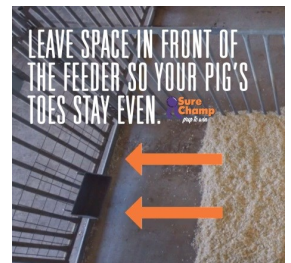
Pen Size

You need to make sure you have enough room for your pig to move around and be comfortable, but an excessively large pen will allow your pig to potentially injure themselves. We suggest pens should be 10'x6' and at least 3' tall. The sides can be made from pig panels, plywood or another similar material. The key is to make sure there aren't gaps where you pig can escape or injure themselves.



Bedding

Comfortable and absorbent bedding are key. White pine shavings work well because they are absorbent and provide the appropriate cushion on a concrete floor. There should be enough shavings that your pig is not walking on bare concrete. However, leaving the space in front of the feeder bare will help keep your pig's toes even.



Feeder Placement

As your pig grows, you are going to need to adjust the height of your feeder so your pig can eat comfortably. To ensure the feeder is always the right height, we like to use hanging clip on feeders. Also, by placing them at the front of the pen, you can easily reach over the panels to feed your pig. A good rule of thumb is the bottom of the feeder should be just below your pig's chest.

Water

Fresh water is the most important nutrient for your pig, so it must be accessible at all times. There are lots of options in terms of the water you selection. The most important fact is that the water is clean and available at all times. Just like your feeder, it is best if you can place the water close to the front of the pen, away from where your pig sleeps so that area stays dry.

Decreasing Disease :: Fungus Prevention for Sheep and Goats

Posted on May 5, 2016 by Sure Champ



If you're showing sheep or goats, you've got to protect them from disease and fungus. Maryland native, and a junior on Oklahoma State University's judging team, Cooper Bounds, says that when an exhibitor goes to a show they are picking up disease and fungus from each of the animals that were in the pen before them. These, invisible, lingering germs will make your show project very sick if you don't take precautions.

Even when the judge handles your animal, Bounds says to think about how he or she is touching every other lamb or goat before handling yours.

"Each time you go to the county fair, a jackpot or a state show, you have a high likelihood of running into fungus," he says. "You also need to protect lambs and goats from fungus to be respectful to other showman. It would be selfish to not try to eliminate fungus and disease because you could be transferring it to another person's animals."

Bounds himself has shown goats around the country. His family showed all four primary livestock species but had the most success with goats. He works for Kedrick Miller, owner of Miller Boer Goats in Indiana.

There are ways to keep lambs and goats healthy by following a disinfecting protocol. Bounds suggests to show off of a trailer at a jackpot or regional show and avoid bedding down in pens inside the facility. After a goat leaves the show ring, it should be taken to the wash rack and shampooed with an anti-fungal soap. For lambs that have been fit, the same protocol applies. Right after breaking down their legs, Bounds says to get to the wash rack and use Sullivan's anti-fungal shampoo or Happy Jack Iodine Shampoo to stop disease or fungus.

Many sheep show families will use a lime dip as well. Goat exhibitors might worry about lime dip, fearing it will turn their animals yellow, but he says it actually absorbs into the skin. The goat doesn't stay yellow, he says, and it is a proven way to kill bacteria.

"Once a sheep or goat is finished showing it's important to break them down, wash with antibacterial soap, spray with lime dip and get them dry," he says. "Then put a blanket on them and you're ready to load up."

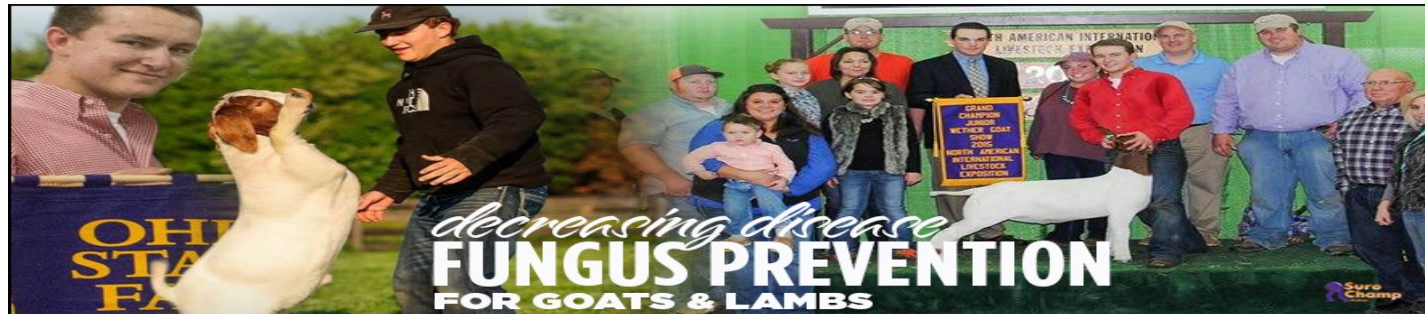
At home, be sure to wash goat blankets and halters right away to eliminate germs and fungus. In contrast, sheep blankets should only be washed once a year because you want the blanket to build up natural lanolin from the sheep hide.

While unloading your animals at home, take them to the wash rack and complete the process of washing with antibacterial soap and a disinfectant to be sure any remaining disease and fungus does not transfer to your home pens. Once the animal has been washed and dried, then put them in their pen at home.

Though an anti-bacterial protocol is essential it is not foolproof. At home pens must be cleaned out weekly and sprayed with anti-fungal solution.

Decreasing Disease :: Fungus Prevention for Sheep and Goats

Posted on May 5, 2016 by Sure Champ



At a major livestock show like the American Royal or the National Western Stock Show, most animals go through a vet check before unloading or in a separate area away from the barns. This means a team of veterinarians will ask exhibitors to remove blankets so they can inspect the animal head to toe. On sheep and goats, fungus will appear like ringworm, as a circle on the back of the neck, behind its head or down the neck to the top of their shoulder. According to Bounds, it looks like a pus-filled pocket, and if a family can catch it at home they should squeeze the pus out and spray a bleach solution directly onto the sore.

"Early detection is always the best bet," he says. "If you don't get it killed right away the hair is going to fall out and the animal will have bald spots that will be very visible. It happened to a goat we showed at the American Royal in 2013. We had jackpotted the goat some and I noticed some of its hair was not sitting quite right on its neck. Sure enough it had the spots so I popped them and cleaned them out to avoid spreading. Thankfully we eliminated the fungus in time because that goat was Reserve Grand Champion overall at the Royal. . "

If there is any question of a fungus issue before an exhibitor heads to a show, leave the animal at home. Trying to pass an infected animal through check-in is not worth the hassle of being sent home or infecting others at the show.

During or after a show it might also be common for an animal to go off feed due to stress. When this happens, Bounds will use a paste like [Vita Charge](#) to relieve stress before the animal gets on the trailer. If the show is a two-day jackpot or a long wait until show day he suggests another dose of Vita Charge the night after the show.

Most importantly, watch each animal for signs it is getting sick. Be sure to consult your veterinarian about what antibiotic you can give if you sheep or goat appears to be getting sick. Changes in climate and weather can make animals sick or stressed and a preventative shot will typically help.

"There is no cookbook recipe that will guarantee you won't have fungus or stress because it does depend on the individual animal," Bounds says. "But if you're taking necessary precautions in terms of disease prevention you'll have a better show season."





TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

**BEEF, LAMB,
GOAT, SWINE &
RABBIT CLINIC
AND PROSPECT
SHOW**

**December 9-11, 2016 @
Brazos County Expo Center
5827 Leonard Rd. Bryan, TX. 77807**

What is the Southern Classic?

The Southern Classic Youth Livestock Project Experience & Prospect Shows are intended to provide an educational opportunity for new families participating in the livestock project area. The main purpose is to teach the basic principles of livestock management as they relate to facility maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, and showmanship.

"Quality Counts" programs are discussed to ensure that safe and legal use of drugs or medications to facilitate the ethical care, development, and exhibition of livestock

Early registration is \$30 by November 22nd

Late registration is \$40 from November 23rd –December 11th

Onsite Registration is \$40

Register at: <http://counties.agrilife.org/walker/southern-classic-registration/>

Friday, December 9th

Barns Open & Check-in - 4-7pm

Saturday, December 10th

7:00am- Barns Open & Check-in

9:30 am- General Session Starts

10:30-Individual Species Sessions Start

12:00- Catered Lunch

1:00pm- All weight cards due

1:15- Afternoon Species Sessions Start
(one set of clippers will be given away at the conclusion of each species session. Must be present to win!)

4:00pm- Adjourn

**<NO ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE>
SATURDAY 10:45 am - 4:00 pm**

Sunday December 11th

9:00am-Beef Prospect show
(heifers and steers will show at the same time)

9:00am-Lamb Prospect Show

9:00am-Goat Prospect Show

9:00am-Swine Prospect Show

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 3-12

NO PEEWEE EXHIBITORS

NO OUTSIDE SHAVINGS

For More Information:

Contact your local County Extension office, the Brazos County Extension office at 979-823-0129 or visit us online at <http://d94-h.tamu.edu/eventsandcontests/southern-classic/>



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) for Youth Livestock Exhibitors

Joe W. Mask, PhD.
Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist
Youth Veterinary Science



How does FDA Classify Drugs?



- There are 3 categories of Veterinary drugs regulated by FDA:
- Over-the-counter (OTC)
- Prescription (Rx)
- Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

VFD Time Line (Final Rule)



January 1, 2017

*Most antibiotics intended for use in **feed** that are currently available “over-the-counter” will become VFD drugs.*

VFD Focus



Current focus is on antibiotics delivered in **feeds and water**.

For example:

Lincomycin-(swine feed)

Tetracycline-(poultry water)

Veterinarian-Livestock Exhibitor-Patient Relationship (VCPR)



For a VFD order to be written by a Veterinarian, the Livestock Exhibitor must establish a working relationship with his or her Veterinarian similar to what one would have with their family doctor. This relationship is referred to as a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR)

When should Livestock Exhibitors begin the VCPR?



Prior to getting their youth livestock project

What are the changes to the VFD rule?



Transitions most antibiotics found in the feed that are currently available “over-the-counter” (OTC) into the VFD drug category.

What are VFD Drugs?



- VFD drugs are FDA-approved for use in animal feeds under veterinarian supervision and under written VFD orders.
- Antibiotics delivered in feeds that have been deemed by FDA to be medically-important to human medicine.
- A label for the feed must state if the additive is a VFD drug or not.

Livestock Exhibitors need written authorization from a licensed veterinarian whom they have an established relationship (VCPR)

As a Livestock Exhibitor can I feed a VFD feed past the VFD expiration date?

No. A VFD feed or combination VFD feed must not be fed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD.

My VFD order is set to expire before I can complete the duration of use on the order, what should I do?

A VFD feed must not be fed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD. You should contact your veterinarian to request a new VFD order.

Medicated feed can ONLY be fed as per the label.

Steps to obtain a VFD order

- (1). Contact your veterinarian with whom you have a working relationship (VCPR). If a Livestock Exhibitor does not have a VCPR with an veterinarian, then the preliminary step is to establish that relationship.
- (2). In consultation the veterinarian and livestock exhibitor determined whether conditions warrant use of a VFD drug.
- (3). If warranted, the veterinarian issues a written and signed VFD order containing information specified by regulations. Verbal orders are not allowed but electronic orders are acceptable. Incomplete and unsigned orders are invalid and cannot be filled.

Once a VFD order is written

The veterinarian retains the original VFD order and gives the completed copies to the Livestock Exhibitor.

The Livestock Exhibitor keeps a copy and gives a copy of the VFD to the feed mill or feed distributor supplying the VFD feed.

The VFD order allows the feed to be released to the Livestock Exhibitor.

The VFD must be retained for 2 years.

Basic Livestock Exhibitor Responsibilities

- Contact your veterinarian for consultation and guidance.
- Establish a **VCPR** with your veterinarian.
- Follow your veterinarian's recommendations.
- Administer the VFD medicated feed according to the directions on the VFD order.

Basic Livestock Exhibitor Responsibilities

- Keep copies of your VFD orders for at **least two years**.
- Keep Accurate Records (not to just have records but to have records that focus on what is necessary)

Major Livestock Show Rule Updates

Ft. Worth Livestock Show

- No cable halters will be allowed
- Gate passes will be barcoded this year
- An animal will be disqualified if it is not being trimmed, fitted, or dressed by anyone other than exhibitors, County Agent, Ag teacher, or other feeders or leaders within the county or school district from which the animal is entered.
- Goats will not be officially weighed this year, all cards must be turned in and there will be a 4lb weigh back
- All goats must be shorn to the skin with a uniform clip
- Heifer Show order– Sat 1/21– (AM)- Maine, Brangus, Shorthorn (PM)- Beefmaster, Polled Hereford, Hereford, Charolais
Sun 1/22- (AM)- Gert, Red Angus (PM)- Limi, Angus Mon. 1/23- (AM)- Brahman, Simi (PM)- ORB, Simbrah

San Antonio

- Breeding sheep will include– Dorper, White Dorper, Hamp, Rambouillet, Southdown, Suffolk
- ORB heifers can now include a % Chianina heifers
- Steer show order– Wed. 2/22– Simi, Limi, Maine, Shorthorn, Red Angus, Hereford, Angus. Thur. 2/23– Char. Simbrah, Gert, Brangus, Brahman, ABC, Red Cross. Friday 2/24– Black Cross, Other Cross
- New trailer staging prior to entering lot to unload at barns. You will now stage at the trailer lot off I35 not on Gembler Rd.

San Angelo

- All barrows must be Texas Bred and have valid CTBR certificate
- All lambs must have TLBA tags
- Sheep show will be 2 day format– Sunday– Finewool, Finewool Cross, & Dorpers. Monday– Southdown & Medium wool.
- Sheep have tooth rule: No more than yearling teeth will be allowed, they will be checked on show day
- Breeding Gilts must be State Validated.
- TX. Star wether dams hair may not exceed 1.25 inches above the hock and knees
- There will be a TX. Star wether dam show– Non-pedigreed wether type lambs; breed divisions include: FW, FWX, SD, MW, & Dorper. No more than yearling teeth, Must Have pink TLBA tag on validation paperwork, all slick shorn

2016-2017 Major Show Judges

Odessa

- Steers– Brady Ragland & John Decleerck
- Heifers– TBA
- Lambs– Robert Scott
- Goats– Taylor Osbourn

Ft. Worth Livestock Show

- Steers– Doug Husfeld
- Heifers–
 - Kyle Perez– Charolais, Red Angus, ORB
 - Kevin Jenson– Beefmaster, Brahman, Brangus, Limousin, Maine, Gert, Simbrah
 - Gerald Young– Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Shorthorn, Simmental
- Sheep– Todd Wise
- Goats– Andy Laughlin
- Swine– Kane Causemaker

San Antonio Livestock show

- Steers– Kevin Jenson
- Heifers–
 - Wes Hudson– Angus, Brahman, Beefmaster, Charolais, Maine, Gert.
 - Mike McGuire– Brangus, Hereford, ORB, Red Brangus, Simmental
 - Cody Sankey– ARB, Chianina, Limousin, Red Angus, Shorthorn, Simbrah
- Sheep– Kelly Bruins
- Goats– Brandon Callis
- Swine– Biran Anderson, Garry Childs
- Turkey– Keith Scott
- Broilers– James Woitaske

San Angelo Livestock Show

- Steers–Mark Hoge
- Heifers–Mark McClintock &
- Sheep– Mark Hoge
- Goats– Jamie Osbourn
- Swine–

Star of Texas Livestock Show

- Steers– Jack Ward
- American Heifers– Chris Cassady
- British/Continental Heifers– Tyler Cates
- Sheep– Chad Coburn
- Goats– Kevin Newsom
- Swine– Miles Toenyes

Houston Livestock Show

- Steers– Shane Bedwell
- Heifers– Tim Fitzgerald, Mark Core, Jary Douglas
- Sheep– Kyle Smith
- Goats– Bryan Bernhard
- Swine– Dan Hoge, Mark Hoge
- Broiler Pullets– Dennis Ellebracht
- Broiler Cockerels–Jacob Coppedge
- Turkey– Mark Vader

BCYLS

- Steers– Rusty Turner
- Heifers– Joe Mask
- Sheep– Josh Blanik
- Goats– Josh Blanik
- Swine– AJ Lewis

**Brazos County
Extension Office**

2619 Highway 21 West
Bryan, Texas 77803

Phone: 979-823-0129
Fax: 979-775-3768

E-mail:
Brazos@ag.tamu.edu

Wer'e on the Web!

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

Upcoming Events:

Validations:

Major Swine-11/21

BCYLS Swine-12/12

Entry Night:

Major Show- 11/3

Show Dates

Sandhills Livestock Show

January 4-14, 2017

Ft. Worth Livestock Show

- Market Swine- 1/31-2/3
- Market Steers- 1/31-2/3
- Sheep & Goat- 1/27-29
- Heifers- 1/19-23

San Antonio Livestock Show

- Market Swine- 2/18-20(wave 1-Dark)
2/21-23 (wave 2-white)
- Market Steers- 2/20-24
- Sheep & Goat- 2/14-16
- Heifers- 2/14-17
- Poultry- 2/22-23
- Gilt- 2/8-11

San Angelo Livestock Show

- Market Swine- 2/14-16
- Market Steers- 2/6-7
- Sheep & Goat- 2/4-6
- Heifers- 2/9-12
- Gilts- 2/10-12
- Breeding Goats- 2/2-4

Houston Livestock Show

- Market Swine- 3/18-20(wave 1)
3/21-23 (wave 2)
- Market Steers- 3/20-24
- Sheep & Goat- 3/15-17
- Heifers- 3/16-19
- Poultry- 3/15-16
- Gilt- 3/9-10

Rodeo Austin Livestock Show

- Market Swine- 3/20-22
- Market Steers- 3/14-16
- Sheep & Goat- 3/18-19
- Heifers- 3/11-13
- Poultry- 3/18

Brazos County Youth Livestock Show

April 4-8

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