



Brazos County Livestock Newsletter

January 2018 Edition

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BCYLS Rabbit Validation
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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 12th** in order to be eligible to participate in the 2018 show. These forms must be signed by the agent and school to be accepted.

BCYLS Rabbit Date Information:

Breed Date – December 12, 2017

Validation – February 26 from 5-6 PM at the Brazos County Expo
(note the NEW location)

BCYLS Heifer Entries

All Heifers wanting to show at the Brazos County Youth Livestock show must enter by February 2nd. Entries will be made with Larry White at Rudder FFA
Entry Forms can be found at this link: <http://bcyla.net/>



BCYLS Scholarship

It is that time of year again for all the Seniors to begin thinking about starting on their scholarship applications. The BCYLS scholarship is awarded to qualifying senior FFA & 4-H members who complete the application and meet the requirements.

The applications are due to the Brazos County Extension office by February 12th

Applications can be found in the BCYLS Rulebook at this link: <http://bcyla.net/>

2017 Brazos County Validation Dates & Tag Orders

Poultry

San Antonio Broilers Pickup- January 12th @ TAMU Poultry Science Center starting at 8am
Houston & Austin Broilers Pickup- January 26th @ Brazos County VFW Post 4692 starting at 8am
BCYLS Broiler Pickup- February 9th

Rabbits

BCYLS Rabbit Validation- February 26th at the Brazos County Expo from 5-6pm

FCS & AG Mech

Entry night will be January 16th at College Station High School from 5:30-6:30pm

Heifer

Entries must be submitted to Larry White at Rudder High School by February 2nd

All tag/bird order forms can be found at the following link: <http://brazos.agrilife.org/publications/4h-publications/>

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

Brazos County Youth Livestock Show Rule Book

The 2018 Brazos County Rule Book is now online for you to reference. Take some time to look over it and make note of the schedule for the show and sale.

<http://www.bcyla.net/exhibitor-resources/>



You've dedicated a lot of time and effort with your show goat project – feeding, grooming and exercising it. You are 30 days from the show – and when your goat steps on the scale, you realize he's a little further ahead of your goal. A month until the show is a long time, so it is critical to start reining him in. Holding goats' weight is possible, but it is preferable to manage your wether's weight over the duration of the project. .

Kelsey Pfeiffer, Orlando, Okla., is a leading industry expert at raising and showing meat goats. He says holding goats can often lead to limited results. Market wethers, Pfeiffer says, are more successful when they are fed moderately to their endpoint versus feeding hard then putting on the brakes.

"When a feeder gets into a jam there are a few ways to help regulate weight gain on your market wethers," Pfeiffer says.

Decrease the amount of feed on a daily basis. Many times, feeder goats are given 3-5% of their body weight, which is more than necessary. Maintenance levels of 1.5-2% is often plenty if you feed nutrient dense, professional goat feed like "Show Right Advancer Plus."

Add Sure Champ®. Whether you use [Sure Champ Goat](#) or [Sure Champ Spark](#) this supplement will help market wethers maintain muscle shape with minimal weight gain.

Muzzle the goat. A muzzle allows for full water consumption but also eliminates extracurricular snacking. Only unmuzzle the goat when feeding, exercising or practicing showmanship.

Increase exercise. This will help control the weight gain of a goat since exercise and weight gain have an inverse correlation.

"A lot of people may think there is a set amount of exercise for every goat, but it's more about understanding he logistics between weight and exercise," Pfeiffer says. ."

Leave hair long. If feeders will keep from shearing their show wethers too often Pfeiffer says this can be a great way to regulate gain. Allowing hair to stay long will help eliminate surges in body weight. When a person shears a goat's top or bellies a lot they are allowing the animal to get cool or cold, which means they'll also grow fast.

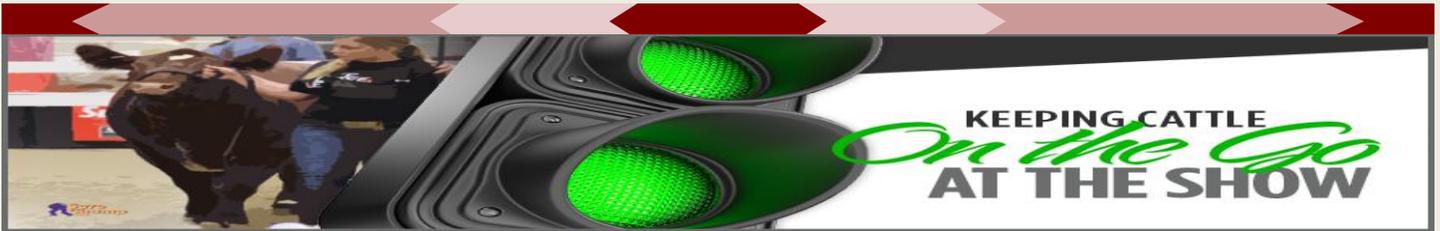
Seasons and geographic regions can also impact weight gain. Pfeiffer says in the summer time a wether is going to grow a bit faster than on a day when the weather is cool or cold. And, he says, goats eat differently depending on if they're in the northern or southern U.S. or in the East or West.

Holding a goat is not the right thing to do, if a person doesn't understand the proper technique. Pfeiffer says holding is something people do to take the belly off of a goat; not to just impact the animal's weight.

"If you have a 120-pounder do you throw the brakes on?" Pfeiffer asks. "Or if he's at 80 pounds there's probably no reason to hold him at any point. It's like when you watch a movie and it says, 'Don't do this at home.' It's critical to really understand what you're doing."

Pfeiffer suggests feeding and exercising in moderation. Does are shown differently than wethers and should not be held. Adding Sure Champ to the feed one month prior helps bring on muscle shape, so the animal can get this trait early rather than trying to rush into it. Sometimes, Pfeiffer says it's just best to stick to the basics.

"It really doesn't matter if you're real close to show," Pfeiffer says. "We may have held goats over from OYE to Tulsa State Fair but we did it slow and steady. Coasting in with one is way better in moderate fashion than to get one there real fast then try to hold them."



Livestock projects are many things: fun, exciting, addicting and an enjoyable a 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."

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.

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.

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.

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 gage the effect they will have and their palatability.





There is no doubt that showmanship can make or break your success in the show ring. One of the main principles of showing well is how and where to use your whip on your show pig. It is important that you focus on these four key points:

1. Keep a firm grip!

It is important to keep a firm grip on your whip. Use your index finger and thumb to apply pressure. Never hold your whip like a pencil.

2. The “Go Button” is on the side.

Judges like to see your pig move at a good steady pace, so it is important to know how to make your pig move. To ask your pig to walk you need to find the go button, which is between their shoulder and flank. Never hit your pig on the butt, hocks or head to get them to ask them to move. The go button is on the side.

3. Use the guidance system to turn.

To get your pig to turn you want to tap on the opposite side that you are asking them to move. Tap on the on the right side of the head to go left, and the left side to go right.

4. Head Up!

Finally, to maximize your pigs presence in the show ring you will want them to keep their head up. Use the quick of your whip underneath their chin to get their head up. All pigs will respond different, and practice makes perfect.



Ft. Worth Livestock Show Weight Breaks

Market Steers				
Breed	2018	2017	2016	2015
Angus		900-1109 1110-1218 1219-1483	900-1119 1120-1223 1224-1515	900-1144 1145-1287 1288-1444
Hereford		900-1157 1158-1265 1266-1490	900-1168 1169-1276 1277-1480	900-1156 1157-1279 1280-1465
Polled Hereford		900-1150 1151-1249 1250-1496	900-1160 1161-1260 1261-1440	900-1168 1169-1270 1271-1477
Shorthorn		900-1099 1100-1220 1221-1449	900-1109 1110-1229 1230-1446	900-1105 1106-1230 1231-1449
America Cross		900-1118 1119-1245 1246-1505	900-1120 1121-1239 1240-1470	900-1128 1129-1250 1251-1482
European		900-967 968-1014 1015-1043 1044-1077 1078-1115 1116-1149 1150-1178 1179-1223 1224-1266 1267-1339 1340-1427 1428-1680	900-978 979-1027 1028-1057 1058-1091 1092-1127 1128-1159 1160-1183 1184-1224 1225-1269 1270-1355 1356-1420 1421-1580	900-986 987-1039 1040-1077 1078-1100 1101-1140 1141-1185 1186-1210 1211-1234 1235-1279 1280-1379 1380-1415 1416-1567

Market Barrows				
Breed	2018	2017	2016	2015
BOPB		230-243 244-264 265-270	230-244 245-265 266-270	230-249 250-267 268-270
Duroc		230-243 245-260 261-269 270	230-251 252-263 264-269 270	230-255 259-269 270 270
Hampshire		230 232-244 245-257 258-268 269-270	230-235 236-250 251-260 261-269 270	230-240 241-252 253-261 262-269 270
WOPB		230-250 251-265 267-270	230-254 255-269 270	230-258 260-269 270
Yorkshire		230-248 250-268 270	230-253 254-268 269-270	230-255 256-269 270
Crossbreed		230 230 232-240 241-248 249-255 256-263 264-269 270 270	230 231-242 243-250 251-254 255-261 262-265 266-269 270 270	230-232 233-244 245-254 255-262 263-267 268-269 270 270 270

Market Lambs				
Breed	2018	2017	2016	2015
Finewool		97-125 127-136 137-167	102-123 124-140 141-170	97-123 124-130 131-163
Finewool Cross		104-134 135-146 147-172	103-137 138-150 151-179	108-135 136-145 146-196
Southdown		90-118 119-129 130-165	101-122 123-130 131-165	93-117 118-128 129-171
Hair		84-102 105-113 115-142	83-102 103-113 114-139	82-102 103-111 112-144
Medium Wool		90-126 127-136 137-143 144-151 152-160 161-195	93-129 130-140 141-147 148-154 155-166 167-205	90-127 128-136 137-145 146-154 155-161 162-201

Market Goats				
2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
	50-63 64-68 69-72 73-75 76-78 79-82 83-86 87-89 90-93 94-98 99-105 106-122	50-65 66-71 72-75 76-78 79-81 82-85 86-88 89-92 93-96 97-100 101-107 108-137	51-64 65-69 70-74 75-77 78-80 81-84 85-87 88-90 91-94 95-97 98-103 104-128	50-66 67-72 73-76 77-79 80-83 84-86 87-89 90-92 93-97 98-101 102-108 109-133

San Antonio Livestock Show Weight Breaks

Market Steers					Market Barrows					Market Lambs				
Breed	2018	2017	2016	2015	Breed	2018	2017	2016	2015	Breed	2018	2017	2016	2015
Charolais		1000-1181	1000-1191	1075-1209	Berkshire		240-247	240-251	240-255	Finewool		108-122	102-117	100-119
		1182-1285	1195-1298	1235-1341			248-264	252-268	256-274			123-130	118-124	120-127
Limousin		1000-1215	1000-1250	1141-1220	Spot		240	240-245	240-249			106-127	101-125	100-127
		1216-1295	1260-1321	1221-1331			241-251	246-258	250-265			128-133	126-132	128-133
Simmental		1000-1230	1028-1244	1020-1245	Hampshire		240	240	240	Fine Wool X		134-139	133-140	134-138
		1231-1329	1250-1369	1247-1305			240	240	241-246			140-145	141-143	139-142
Shorthorn		1000-1157	1020-1168	1050-1169			242-248	241-246	247-252			146-152	144-148	143-148
		1158-1275	1220-1306	1170-1255			249-254	247-252	253-256			153-157	150-159	149-158
Hereford		1000-1219	1050-1274	1078-1225			255-260	253-255	257-261	Southdowns		102-112	100-108	100-109
		1220-1310	1282-1359	1254-1349			261-268	256-260	262-265			113-120	109-116	110-113
Angus		1000-1159	1025-1152	1010-1195	Duroc		269-277	261-265	266-269			121-125	117-123	114-121
		1160-1265	1153-1269	1210-1295			266-271	266-271	270-274			126-130	124-131	122-128
Red Angus		1000-1195	1037-1210	1021-1225			272-276	272-276	275-279			131-138	132-138	129-138
		1196-1500	1214-1397	1245-1500			277-280	277-280	280			140-160	139-175	139-175
Simbrah		1000-1207	1000-1224	1120-1235	Poland China		240	240-244	240-245	Medium Wools		100-120	102-123	100-123
		1208-1303	1225-1319	1239-1349			242-249	245-253	246-257			121-127	124-129	124-129
Santa Gertrudis		1000-1194	1100-1208	1064-1204	Dark Cross		250-255	254-261	258-266			128-131	130-133	130-133
		1195-1296	1255-1307	1259-1305			256-262	262-266	267-272			132-135	134-137	134-137
Brangus		1000-1223	1095-1237	1103-1206			263-269	267-272	273-276			136-139	138-141	138-140
		1224-1315	1275-1349	1254-1341			270-276	273-279	277-280			140-143	142-145	141-144
Brahman		1000-1177	1025-1179	1085-1184	Chester White		277-280	280	277-280			144-145	146-148	145-147
		1178-1309	1190-1279	1195-1286			277-280	277-280	277-280			146-148	149-151	148-150
Maine Anjou		1000-1195	1000-1218	1065-1220	Landrace		240-254	240-263	240-272			149-152	152-154	151-153
		1196-1294	1219-1310	1221-1311			255-280	264-280	273-280			153-156	155-157	154-156
ABC		1000-1169	1000-1195	1000-1127	Yorkshire		240-243	240-243	240-243			157-159	158-160	157-158
		1170-1273	1196-1289	1129-1275			240-243	244-253	244-253			160-162	161-164	159-161
Red Cross		1000-1138					244-250	254-260	254-261			163-166	165-168	162-165
		1139-1275					251-256	261-267	262-267			167-172	169-174	166-172
Black Cross		1000-1149					257-263	268-276	268-276			173-175	175	173-175
		1159-1285					264-270	277-280	277-280					
Other Cross		1000-1046			Crossbred		271-278	277-280	277-280	Market Goats				
		1265-1359					277-280	277-280	277-280	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
		1365-1500					240	240	240-243			60-70	60-70	60-71
							240	240-241	240-243			72-77	71-77	72-76
							240	242-245	240-243			78-81	78-81	77-80
							240	246-248	244-249			82-85	82-84	81-83
							241-243	249-254	250-253			86-88	85-87	84-85
							244-246	255-258	254-256			89-90	88-90	86-88
							247-251	259-262	257-259			91-93	91-93	89-91
							252-255	263-265	260-263			94-96	94-96	92-95
							256-259	266-268	264-266			97-99	97-99	96-98
							260-262	269-271	267-269			100-103	100-103	99-102
							263-265	272-275	270-272			104-110	104-108	105-110
							266-268	276-279	273-275			111-115	109-115	111-115
							269-272	280	276-277					
							273-276	280	278-280					
							277-280	280	278-280					
							277-280	280	278-280					

Major Livestock Show Updates and Rule Changes

Ft Worth Livestock Show

- Steers arrival will begin at Trinity park, it will not be available until 8am on Monday January 29th
- Swine will arrive to Farrington field on January 29th from noon-7pm, it will not open until 8am on the 29th
- Swine must have weight cards submitted by 10am on Tuesday January 30th
- Goats must submit weight cards by noon on January 27th. Minimum weight is 50lbs

San Antonio Livestock Show

- Breeding swine ownership deadline– December 1, 2017
- A Crossbred gilt show and sale was added and will be held February 7-9. 1 entry per exhibitor, gilts must be state validated and weight limits are 230-340
- Sheep & Goats will be allowed to pen together if they arrive together and pre-penning procedures will be outlined in the premium book
- ARB heifer breed additions– Brangus Optimizer, Brangus UltraBlack, Brangus UltraRed have all been added to the ARB division.
- Market Turkey Toms will be added again this year

Rodeo Austin

- Heifers– entries limited to 2 heifers be exhibiter
- Steers– AOB Red Division will be added to the steer show and classes will be determined upon arrival
- Lambs– 2 Dorper Classes will be added to the market lamb show.
- Turkeys– Tom Turkeys will be added back
- Swine– Weight divisions will be added to the crossbred breed. Only division champions will compete in the crossbred breed champion drive.
- Sale lot additions– 11 lots will be added to the Barrows and 12 lots will be added to the Steers

Houston Livestock Show

- Heifers– substitution fees have changed, prior to Feb. 1st= free, Feb. 2nd– March 1st= \$50 per entry, and after March 2nd= \$250
- Scramble Heifers– they will move in on Wednesday March 7th and Show March 8th
- Lambs– Adding 3rd class or Dorpers and increasing them by 6 sale lots
- Goats– adding 12 sale lots
- Turkeys– Tom turkeys will be added back, top 50 toms and top 50 hens will be sold in the Auction
- Barrows– Champion Drive weigh back increased by 5lbs per wave.
- Gilts– Gilts will be given pen assignments at 288 lot just like barrows and will use back and east dock to increase unloading times.

Major Livestock Show Judges

2018 Ft. Worth Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Doug Husfeld
- Market Swine– Ben Moyer
- Market Goats– Kobly Burch
- Market Sheep– Todd Wise
- Heifers– Gerald Young, Kyle Perez, Matt Claeys

2018 San Angelo Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Mark Hoge
- Market Sheep- Clay Burson
- Market Goats– Dr. Mark Hoge
- Heifers- Carl Muntean & Mark McClintock

2018 Sandhills Livestock Show.

- Steers- Bradon Callis & Scott Schaake
- Heifers- Brandon Callis
- Sheep- Ross Stultz
- Goats- TBA

2018 San Antonio Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Dr. Scott Greiner & Brady Jensen
- Market Lambs-- Brad Angus
- Market Goats– Josh Taylor
- Market Swine– Justin Rodibaugh & Seth Swenson
- Turkey Hens- Dale Hyatt
- Turkey Toms- Keith Scott
- Broilers- Jacob Coppedge
- Heifers- Jeff Bedwell, Chris Gabel, & John McCurry

2018 Rodeo Austin

- Market Steers– Blake Nelson
- Market Lambs-- Jake Thorne
- Market Goats– Cody Sloan
- Market Swine– Nick Mauck
- American Heifers- Marcus Arnold
- British & Exotic Heifers- Tim Fitzgerald

2018 Houston Livestock Show

- Market Steers– Jack Ward
- Market Lambs-- Dr. Scott Greiner
- Market Goats– Brandon Callis
- Market Swine– Grant Grebner & Andy Rash
- Broiler Pullets- Jacob Prukop
- Broiler Cockerels- Keith Scott
- Turkey Hens- Brian Lowe
- Turkey Toms- Mallori Williams
- Heifers- Deb Core, Blake Nelson, & Chris Mullinix

**Brazos County
Extension Office**

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Wer'e on the Web!

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

Upcoming Events:

Validations:

BCYLS Rabbit – 2/26

FCS & Ag Mech. 1/16

Show Dates

Ft Worth Livestock show

Market Goats– 1/25-1/28

Market Sheep– 1/25-1/28

Market Barrow– 1/29-2/1

Market Steer– 1/30-2/2

Heifers– 1/19-1/22

San Antonio Livestock Show

Market Goats– 2/13-2/15

Market Sheep– 2/13-2/15

Market Poultry– 2/21-/22

Market Barrow– 2/17-2/22

Market Steer– 2/19-2/23

Heifers– 2/13-2/16

San Angelo Livestock Show

February 2-18, 2018

Houston Livestock Show

Market Goats– 3/7-3/9

Market Sheep– 3/7-3/9

Market Poultry– 3/7-3/8

Market Barrow– 3/10-3/15

Market Steer– 3/12-3/16

Heifers– 3/8-3/11

Rodeo Austin

Market Goats– 3/12-3/13

Market Sheep– 3/12-3/13

Market Poultry– 3/14

Market Barrow– 3/16-3/18

Market Steer– 3/19-21

Heifers– 3/22-3/24

BCYLS- March 20-24, 2018

3/17- Commercial steer Interviews & Queens Dance

3/20- FCS arrival and check in

Commercial Steer Sale

FCS Awards

Stall setup and tack move in

3/21-Rabbit arrival (7-9am)

Barrow arrival (7-9am)

Rabbit final judging (10am)

Lamb weigh in (12-1)

Barrow weight cards due (12pm)

Goat weigh in (1-2pm)

Steer Classification (3:30-5)

Lamb Show- 5pm

Goat Show- 6pm

3/22-Ag Mech. Judging (8am)

Swine Show (2pm)

3/23- Poultry arrival (7-8am)

Poultry Judging (10am)

Heifer Show (2pm)

Steer Show (5pm)

3/24- Sale Meeting (8am)

Premium Auction (6pm)

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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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