

Parker County Ag News

It's time to get ready for a new hay season. Here's what you need to be doing.....



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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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Give us your opinion for what's important to Parker County.

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It's the time of year you should be doing these things.

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Timing is everything.

TEXAS SPEAKS



We need your help please. You have the opportunity to voice your thoughts on what issues you feel are important facing Parker County.

These issues can range from agriculture, family/health, youth, population growth, services to the public and anything else you can think. Data collected from these anonymous surveys will help us develop educational programming to better serve you.

Need to know facts about the survey: Online, Anonymous, Takes about 10 minutes to complete, and includes an open feedback section for issues not listed in the survey. Here is the link to the survey so take a few minutes to help us out. Our goal is at least 10% of Parker County so we need your input. tx.ag/Dy5dvyl

Preparing Your Pastures for 2021

Technically we are still in the winter months but it is time to start planning for this year's growing season. It feels like it has been a warmer than normal winter and soil temps at our office today (Feb. 5) are just above 50° F. This means we are very close to needing to put out our pre-emergent herbicides to help control germinating weed seed like grass bur. There are two products labeled for use in our hay pastures. They are pendimethlin (Prowl®H2O) and indaziflam (Rezilon™) a new product from Bayer that is described more in the next article.

Keep in mind that both products should only be used in established pastures. There could be some damage observed to newly planted grass. Also, these two products should only be applied to dormant grasses. There are several keys to a successful pre-emergent program. The first is timing on application. The herbicide must be in the soil before weed seed germinate. This is closely associated with soil temperatures and can be measured using a soil thermometer at 2 inches deep. Grass bur starts as early as 52°F soil temperature. The next is that the herbicide must contact the soil. If you have a tall, thick stand of last year's growth then it is not likely that the herbicide will contact the soil. In this case it is recommended to give your pastures a mowing to open the canopy. Just as important is timing your pre-emergent application with a good rainfall. This will help move the herbicide into the soil where it can work to stop your weeds. We call this soil activation and typically a minimum half inch rain event is sufficient for this.

The final thing you can do now to help prepare is correctly identifying the winter weeds you have in your pastures and putting together a plan for next fall.

Soil Testing / Fertilization

I know a lot of you roll your eyes or just cringe at the thought of soil testing and putting out fertilizer in you pastures. There is a lot of scientific evidence that supports effective use of fertilizers will increase production, increase quality and decrease weed pressure.

All good things until you have to pay for it. That is where soil testing comes in to play. Why put out 50 lbs. of phosphorus when you only need 25 lbs? Or why put out 30 lbs. of nitrogen and get half the production when just 20 lbs. more is just what you need.

Research has shown that to produce 1 ton of hay it takes 50 lbs of Nitrogen; 14 lbs. of Phosphorus; and 42lbs. of Potassium. At current day pricing of Nitrogen around \$360/ton who can afford to guess? Which brings me to soil testing.

For just \$12 per test you can get an analysis of your soil showing exactly what you need in terms of nutrients. It also provides two other key bits of information, pH levels of the soil and soil conductivity (salinity). Most of our Parker County soils do not have a salinity issue which is usually caused by poor water quality. The ideal soil pH for grass production is around pH neutral of 7. The more acidic a soil becomes the less available fertilizer nutrients become for use by your grasses. Just remember the more you know the better decisions you can make. There's no telling where prices will head to in the coming months.



HERBICIDE UPDATES

I wanted to give you an herbicide update with several newer products on the market that you may find useful in your pastures.

Rezilon* is a new product from Bayer with the active ingredient of indaziflam. This is considered to be a pre-emerge product that will control weed species at seed germination. Some of the more common weeds on the label include grass bur, crabgrass, ryegrass and little barley. The label also shows activity on seed germination of grassy weeds like KR Bluestem and Dallisgrass.

Two different demonstrations with this product were done in Parker County before its release. The first was to see if there would be a negative hay yield impact. Our study showed that this product did not affect hay yield at all. The second demonstration evaluated spray timing and herbicide combinations for control of ryegrass in bermudagrass hay fields. Data collected showed this product to have good control of annual ryegrass as a stand alone product when applied in February.

Invora* is another product released by Bayer. This is a new herbicide for control of woody plants and weeds on NON-HAYED rangeland. Mesquite, yaupon and sumac are woody plants listed on the label for control.

Duracor™ is a post emergence weed control option by Corteva Agriscience. The active ingredients for this product are aminopyralid and florypyrauxifen. This product does not require an applicator's license and is labeled for use in rangeland, grass pastures and CRP acres. We did a study with this product the last two years comparing it to current products while blending it with dry fertilizer. Some of the upsides to this product including the no need for a license are lower usage rates, no 2,4-D and a wider spectrum of weeds controlled.

Gunslinger® AMP is a post emergence weed control option from Alligare. The active ingredients are aminopyralid and 2,4-D. This is a good broadleaf weed option that has some activity on certain woody plants. It is labeled for rangeland, permanent grass pastures and CRP acres. Some of the weeds on the label include annual broomweed, nettles, thistles and nightshade. This herbicide can be impregnated on dry fertilizer for easier application.

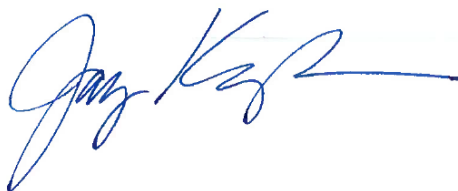
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