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# Hopkins County Beef tips

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## Is intensive grazing a real alternative?

Mario A. Villarino DVM, Ph.D. CEA-Ag/NR



Intensive grazing has been an option for beef producers willing to push forage production to the limit. One of the most important limiting factors is even water availability. This year, the East Texas Forage Conference is focusing in intensive grazing as an option for North East Texas beef producers. The conference, scheduled for February 24, 2010, will be focusing in intensive grazing

management, production cost, and potential support programs from federal and state agency for forage production. There will be also a hands-on demonstration for sprayer calibration. The conference will start at 9:30 AM and will finish at 3:00 PM, at the Rains county fairgrounds. The cost of the conference is \$10 per person and lunch will be included. Three pesticide applicator continue education credits will be given.

### RED MEAT AND CANCER

Reports in the popular press periodically link consumption of red meat with various cancers in humans. A recent summary of research was published, "Red Meat and Processed Meat Consumption and Cancer: A Technical Summary of the Epidemiologic Evidence." The report found no evidence of an independent positive association between red or processed meat consumption and common cancers. The full report can be obtained from the National Cattleman's Beef Association by calling (303) 368-3138.

## New option for weed control

EPA approved and TX & OK have since concurred on the Prowl H2O Dormant Bermuda grass supplemental label. Other states are expected to concur within the next few weeks. Label details to note:  
- Rate: 1.1 - 4.2 qts/ac; maximum of 4.2 qts per

year  
- Timing: Anytime during winter dormancy and prior to weed germination  
- Methods: Ground, chemigation, and air  
- PHI: 60 days prior to harvest for hay; 45 days prior to grazing/harvest for forage  
- Pastures and hay mead-

ows (no rangeland)  
- Bermuda grass varieties: All, but must be an established stand (have gone through at least one cutting)  
- Target: field sandbur; annual grass and broadleaf weeds.  
- Activation: 1" of precipitation ideal prior to weed germination.

**EFFECT OF MAGNESIUM SUPPLEMENTATION ON BEEF QUALITY***Dr. Steve Hammack. Texas A&M University Beef Cattle Browsing Newsletter*

Pre-slaughter stress has been shown to adversely affect beef quality. Some studies in sheep and swine have indicated dietary magnesium supplementation could reduce the effect of stress. Groups of 72 steers and 72 heifers were fed three levels of magnesium for the final 14 days before slaughter. All cattle were commingled 1 day before slaughter to induce stress from mixing unfamiliar animals. Heifers produced carcasses with significantly higher marbling, greater tenderness, and lower incidence of dark cutting carcasses. There was no significant effect on lean quality due to any level of magnesium supplementation. (Colorado State Univ.; J. Animal Sci. 88:349)

**HOPKINS  
COUNTY BEEF  
TIPS***Mario Villarino*

Dr. Mario A.  
Villarino  
CEA- Ag/NR  
Hopkins County  
Texas

## Predator control— Training

We are inquiring for your interest in predator control training. The training is provided by the Texas Department of Agriculture. If you are interested in the training (including chemical control of coyotes) please call the Hopkins County Extension Office at 903-885-3443 and sign-up. Once we have a group of ten students or more, we will request the training to be provided in Hopkins County. The duration of the training is 3-4 hours, and an instructor will provide the test for licensing afterwards. If you decide you do not want to apply for the license, you can also get a 3 CEU (1 law/1 IPM/1 Gen) certificate at the end of the training.

## Up-Coming Events

- East Texas Forage Conference at the Rains County Fairgrounds Scheduled for February 24, 2010. The cost of the conference is \$10.00. 3 CEU for pesticide applicators. Register by calling 903-885-3443.
- If you are interested in predator control, call the Hopkins County Extension Office and sign-up. Once 10 students are registered we will request the training. Call the Hopkins County Extension Office at 903-885-3443.

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