

- 2010 Value Added to the Market Cow Program
- New weed control approved
- Pond weed control
- Know your weeds
- Up-Coming Events.

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

- Value added to the Mar- 1
- New weed control 1
- 2
- Up-Coming events 2

Hopkins County Beef tips

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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Value Added to the Market Cow

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The beginning of our growing season has become

warmer faster than expected. Rain has also become an issues thru out the county and without it, we should expect hay shortage thruout the year. Several producers from nearby counties are looking into stocking hay to avoid getting short over the end of the growing season. It would be wise to get prepared for a dry season if you can. I am conducting two programs for beef producers related to added value to market animals. The cattleman's field day scheduled for June 21,

2010 at noon at the professional agricultural workers in Sulphur Springs, will include topics as BVD testing, how respiratory diseases affect growth and carcass quality and general recommendations in vaccinations and treatments to increase the value of the carcasses harvested from the market cow. IDEXX, Purina, Dow and Boehringer Ingelheim are sponsoring the program and lunch will be provided.

The "Value-Added Market Cow" program is a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) session designed to provide producers information about adding more value to their market cows through proper management and timely marketing practices. The training ses-

sion will last from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and is free to all Texas cattle producers and educators. The day will begin with virtual tour of a local processing plant where producers will learn quality and safety issues that directly relate to their daily management decisions of market cows. Throughout the day experts will discuss humane handling, proper carcass disposal and market cycles. There will be separate dairy and beef value-added market cow programs conducted simultaneously during breakout sessions. The "Value-Added Market Cow" program is scheduled for July 9, 2010 at the Sulphur Springs Livestock Auction and Sale Barn in Sulphur Springs beginning at 10:00 AM. I hope to see you at any of these events.

New options for weed control

GrazonNext (Produced by Dow Chemicals) has been granted permission under FIFRA 2 section to control certain

woody plants at a rate of 2 to 2.6 pints per acre. Acacia, blackberry, blackbrush, honeylocust among other can be controlled using

GrazonNext. Always follow recommendation on the label before application.

HOPKINS COUNTY BEEF TIPS

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Algae control in ponds

Control Options

Mechanical/Physical

Floating, planktonic algae cannot be mechanically or physically controlled, except by replacing the pond water. Exchange of water from a well or other source that does not have an algae bloom will dilute the planktonic algae in the pond. This is not a practical option for most pond owners unless their ponds are very small and they have wells close by. Non-toxic dyes or colorants prevent or

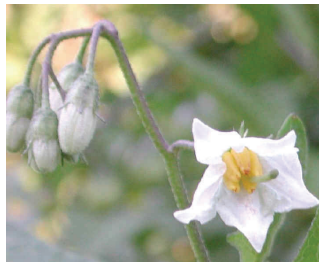
reduce aquatic plant growth by limiting sunlight penetration, similar to fertilization.

Aquashade is an example of non-toxic dye and other products are available. However, dyes do not enhance the natural food chain and may suppress the natural food chain of the pond. The active ingredients that have been successful in treating planktonic algae include copper based compounds (E), sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate (G), and alkylamine salts

of endothall (G). E = excellent, G = good

Copper Sulfate or "blue stone" is probably the most commonly used algae treatments because of its availability and low cost. Copper sulfate comes in several forms depending on how finely it is ground. Smaller crystals will dissolve easier than larger crystals. In very hard water it is difficult to use copper sulfate because it binds with the calcium, precipitates out of solution, and renders the copper ineffective as an algacide.

Know your weeds



The carolina horse nettle is a

member of the nightshade family, and is an upright prickly plant with creeping roots. The prickles on this plant tend to be yellowish color. This plant has become a troublesome plant in places

where it has been introduced and although native to the south it is rather hard to eradicate in cultivated areas of Texas. Horse nettle contain the toxic agent glycoalkaloid which can cause problem in cattle.

Up-Coming Events

- Cattlemen's Field Day, June 21, 2010 at the Professional Agricultural Workers Building. Noon to 4:00 PM. Free. Lunch included. Reserve a place by calling the Hopkins County Extension Office at 903-885-3443
- Value added Market Cow Program. July 9, 2010 at the Sulphur Springs Livestock Auction and Sale Barn 10:00 to 4:00 PM. Free. Reserve a place by calling the Hopkins County Extension Office at 903-885-3443