

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Hopkins Dairy Notes



Learning to manage nutrients and forages

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Texas AgriLife Extension Service– Hopkins County

Special points of interest:

- Opening notes
- East Texas Forage Conference, February 24, 2010.
- Where is your nitrogen going?
- Hoof Trimming Workshop, March 2 and 3, 2010.
- Coming UP!



One of the most important challenges of the dairy industry today is the management of nutrients and forages. Learning what is useful and what is waste can be a complicated issue. With all the rainfall we have got in our county, saturated fields can handle only limited amount of waste water. Also, forage is becoming a serious issue. With this in mind, Texas AgriLife Extension Service is organizing the East

Texas Forage Conference, February 24, 2010 at the Rains County Fairgrounds. If you handle forages some how, make sure to attend. Specialist from Texas A&M University, NRCS and private industry will talk about grazing strategies and potential financial support. Make sure you take a look at the flyer I have included in this mailing and keep the date on you calendar. You will also get 3 educational credits (CEU) for private pesticide applicators. Texas AgriLife Extension Services is

also organizing a Hoof Trimming Workshop for March 2 and 3, 2010 at the Extension office in Sulphur Springs. This workshop will be in Spanish, and is oriented for the Spanish speaking workers in your dairy. The workshop will be free and a meal will be provided. Dr. Jan Shearer (Iowa State University) will teach your workers how to properly trim hoofs in your cows. Space is limited to 20 so call my office and reserve a place now (903-885-3443) please take a look at the included flyer!

Where is your nitrogen going?

With the amount of rain lately, it is important that you keep an eye on where the nitrogen released by the cows gets distributed on your dairy. Ammonia, a nitrogen rich component release by the cow, can be carried over from holding pens into fresh water reservoirs. If you have a cooling pond, make sure it is not holding ammonia-phosphate-rich water. Also, remember to keep the cows off the manure la-

agoon. Cows will get into any water body if you let them, especially on hot days. If you have a cooling pond, you can easily test for ammonia and phosphates using test strips (see photo next page). Those are inexpensive and can last for a while if you maintain them properly. If you use them, take a picture of the strip results next to the cooling pond and save it with your records. It is recommended to handle your

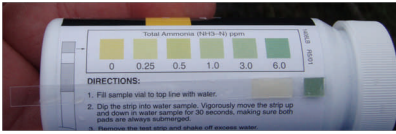
cooling ponds properly. The cooling pond should hold only clean water, have controlled access (fenced) have a concrete liner, have the ability to provide fresh water and the ability to recycle old water into your lagoon. Having a controlled access to the cooling pond is also a good idea, use a concrete ramp. The use of berms to control water overflow is also very important. Maintain them properly.

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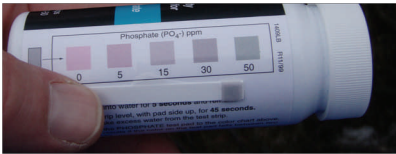
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Test strip for ammonia



Test strip for phosphates

TAD calendar, use it, it might save you money!

The Texas Association of Dairymen mailed your environmental compliance calendar last December. The Environmental Compliance Calendar developed in conjunction with the Texas Association of Dairymen was updated and sent to EPA and TCEQ for review. Both agen-

cies had a very positive response to the calendar and indicated it was a tool for dairy producers in the field and a simplified record keeping. The calendar can be used as proof of your effort to export nutrients properly out of your dairy, field applications and more. If you didn't

receive a calendar in the mail, contact the Texas Association of Dairymen (817-410-4540) and they'll send you one. There are some available at the County Extension Office in Sulphur Springs, in limited amounts.

Hoof trimming, the practical approach

Hoof trimming is very important to maintain proper care of the dairy cow. Many disorders of the hoof can be prevented with proper care. Texas AgriLife Extension Service has organized a Hoof Trimming Workshop for the Dairy Workforce. The training will be delivered by Dr. Jan Shearer, from Iowa State University, completely in Spanish. The workshop is organized by Texas AgriLife Extension Services and is sponsored by ZINPRO.

Pfizer Animal Health is sponsoring the lunch (Fajitas by Andy Wright). The workshop is oriented to provide practical principles to the Hispanic workers. The first day, Dr. Shearer will discuss the fundamentals, followed by a complete day with hoof pieces and a trip to a local dairy to practice in real cows. If you have hispanic workers helping you trimming hoofs, this is your opportunity to provide them with proper training. The training will be held at the County

Extension Office, 1200 B Houston Street, in Sulphur Springs, March 2 and 3, 2010. The workshop is free. Reservation is required. Participants are encouraged to bring their own tools to practice on sample hoofs, and we will travel to a local dairy to experience in real cows. Make sure your workers have transportation to get to the local dairy on March 3rd, 2010. I will be present during the complete workshop to facilitate translations if necessary.

Federal inspections to dairies located in Hopkins County could last three or more years

Coming UP!:

- East Texas Forage Conference, February 24, 2010. Rains County Fairgrounds 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Cost \$10. Call 903-885-3443 to reserve a place.
- Hoof Trimming Workshop for Dairy Workforce. County Extension Office in Hopkins County, March 2 and 3. No cost. Call 903-885-3443 to reserve a place.
- TAD Calendars are available at the County Extension Office (Limited amount) come and get one before they are gone!

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioner Courts of Texas Cooperating.