

Acadiana AgLine

A newsletter for farmers and cattle producers in Lafayette Parish & the Acadiana area.



Volume 9, Issue 3,
FALL 2017

Counting our Blessings

At this time last year our Acadiana area was still recovering from the flood disaster of August 2016. Fast forward one year later and our area here in south Louisiana has been blessed, escaping most of the wrath of two major hurricanes this summer, Harvey to our west and Irma to our east. Still, the near daily summer rains (along w/added rainfall from Harvey) hindered some crops and damaged others. Both rice & soybean crops that looked really good early on suffered from the excessively wet conditions, and made early harvest for both crops difficult. Likewise the wet weather delayed most hay harvest, adversely affected hay quality, and may result in hay shortages for local cattlemen later this winter. Fortunately for most, drier conditions settled in across the region during September and have allowed farmers and hay producers to catch up some. Rice and corn harvest are both now complete. In spite of quality problems as a result of the wet growing season, soybean harvest continues to progress and is approaching completion. Planting of the 2018 sugarcane crop across the area is also nearly complete, harvest of the 2017 sugarcane crop has gotten off to a good start, and in general this year's sugarcane crop appears to be a good one. Hay producers have finally gotten enough dry weather to get some late season hay made and cattlemen are in the midst of their fall cattle working. Yes, when the dust settles 2017 will likely be a "mixed bag" for Louisiana and Louisiana agriculture (as of this writing we have now moved from too wet to too dry) but all things considered, most in our region of the state are "counting their blessings" because things certainly could have been much worse.

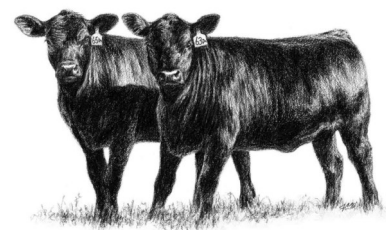
HARVEST SEASON AND HIGHWAY SAFETY



For many of us the "Fall" of each year means pumpkins, bonfires, and football....but for most involved in agriculture the Fall is also "harvest season". That means an increase in tractors, combines, and other farm vehicles on our roadways, and here in south Louisiana a huge increase in truck traffic as sugarcane, soybeans, and other crops are hauled to sugar mills and grain elevators. With this in mind farmers and all drivers in general are reminded about the importance of highway safety and attentive driving. Motorists are reminded to slow down, look out for slow moving vehicles or mud on the road from harvesting, and to have a heightened sense of awareness, especially in times of inclement weather. By working together and staying alert hopefully this year's "harvest season" will be a safe one for all of us here in south Louisiana.

ACADIANA CATTLE PRODUCERS FALL FIELD DAY – Saturday, OCTOBER 21!!

Final Reminder!!!! As mentioned in your last mail out, our annual Acadiana Cattle Producers Fall Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, beginning at 8:00 am at the UL Lafayette Cade Farm. A number of topics that should be of interest to both cattle and hay producers, including a bermuda grass planting methods demonstration, talks on "Dealing with Abnormalities in Newborn Calves" and Understanding Impacts of Management on Shrink in Weanling Calves", hay quality vs. quantity, avoiding spontaneous combustion in hay, along with weed control demonstrations and much more, will be discussed during this event. In addition a sponsored meal will be served. Continued strong turnouts at past Acadiana Field Days has been an indicator that producers appreciate the information being presented and remains the only way to insure that these events will be continued. See the attached flier for further details and please make plans to attend. All Louisiana producers are invited, and as always, contact me (291-7090) or one of the other contacts listed on the flier if you have questions or need further information.



FALL BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM – NOVEMBER 9

For the second year we will work with the St. Landry Parish Cattlemen's Association to conduct a "Fall" Bull Breeding Soundness Exam in addition to the usual one we conduct each Spring. Therefore we have made arrangements with *Dominique's Stockyard in Opelousas* to hold the *Fall Bull Exam* on *Thursday, November 9, 2017*, beginning at *8:00am* at the Stockyard. Just like for the Spring Exam pre-registration is required by calling my office here in Lafayette (291-7090) and getting your name on the list along with the number of bulls you plan to bring. *Please refer to the attached flier and follow the instructions provided.* Cattle producers who annually turn bulls out early are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity.



MASTER FARMER PHASE 1 MEETINGS

We are in the process of scheduling Master Farmer Phase 1 training for those producers currently enrolled in our Master Cattleman program. However, all farmers/cattlemen who have not completed Master Farmer Phase 1 and would like to do so are invited to these upcoming meetings. If you are interested and are not a current Master Cattleman class participant please give me a call at 291-7090 to pre-register so we can get a head count for the meal. Meetings have been scheduled in upcoming weeks/months as follows:



**Monday, November 13* – Lafayette LSU AgCenter Office, 1010 Lafayette St, Lafayette, *6PM*

**Monday, November 27* – Vermilion Farm Bureau Office, 3139 Veterans Memorial Dr, Abbeville, *6PM*

Once again, these Master Farmer Phase 1 Meetings are open to any farmer or cattleman who wants to begin working towards their Master Farmer certification. It is unlikely that another newsletter will be sent out in advance of these two meetings so please call in to pre-register and put this date on your calendar now if you are interested.

LFGC ANNUAL MEETING - DECEMBER 8

The *Louisiana Forage & Grassland Council annual meeting* will be held on the first Friday of December as usual (Friday, *December 8, 2017*) at the Dewitt Facility near LSU-A in Alexandria. Registration and viewing of exhibits begins at 8:00am with the program scheduled at 9:00.

This meeting provides excellent opportunities for Louisiana livestock grazers and hay/forage producers to gain the latest research based information on forage and hay production and livestock grazing management. For further information please contact me (337-291-7090) or LSU AgCenter Pasture/Forage Specialist Dr. Ed Twidwell (225-578-4564).

EARLY CALENDAR DATES FOR 2018

For those who like making early plans for upcoming events below are a few dates for 2018. Some of these are "tentative" but finalized dates and details will be included in future newsletters as events draw nearer. Please put these dates on your calendar and contact me at 291-7090 if you have questions.

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| *January 5-7 | Louisiana Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting – Covington, La. |
| *January TBA | LSU AgCenter Agronomic Crop Production Meetings – various locations |
| *January 26-27 | Lafayette Parish 4-H/FFA Livestock Show & Sale – UL Blackham Coliseum |
| *Jan. 30-Feb. 3 | Acadiana District Livestock Show – UL Blackham Coliseum |
| *February 10-17 | LSU State Livestock Show – Gonzales |
| *February 21 | Lafayette Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting – Scott Event Center (tentative) |
| *February 22 | "Spring" Bull Breeding Soundness Exam – Dominique's Stockyard, Opelousas |
| *March 3 or 10 (TBA) | Acadiana Cattle Producers Spring Field Day – Iberia Research Station |
| *March 22 | Private Pesticide Applicator "Re-Certification" Meeting – Lafayette LSU AgCtr |

TASK FORCE ADDRESSING WEED CONTROL, CROP PROTECTION (from Randy LaBauve)

A special Louisiana task force for new herbicide technology recently met to discuss weed control technologies for crops across the state. This group consists primarily of weed scientists and crop specialists w/the LSU AgCenter, pesticide specialists w/the La. Dept. of Ag and Forestry, crop consultants w/the La. Agricultural Consultants Assn., and commercial pesticide applicators. Their collaborative efforts are designed to provide farmers and applicators with objective, up-to-date information about new herbicide technologies. According to Dr. Rogers Leonard, LSU AgCenter program leader for plants, soils and ag water resources, “This is important for creating awareness. We know there are issues with new herbicides, so we’re establishing communications at the highest levels, and then filtering it down to the applicators.”

For the past two years, concerns with off-target movement of auxin (2,4-D and dicamba) herbicides have gained national attention. The task force, created in response to the introduction of weed control technologies based on these herbicides, was started in 2015 to educate applicators about issues such as weed resistance and potential drift. The new herbicide technologies allow 2,4-D or dicamba to be sprayed over the top of selected crops, such as cotton and soybeans, for weed management, much like Roundup Ready systems.

“These are critically important for producers with weed resistance issues”, said Leonard. The task force has discussed ways to better educate farmers on use of these latest herbicide systems. AgCenter research has shown soybeans, as well as other crops without dicamba resistance, are extremely sensitive to dicamba off-target movement. Glyphosate products can also pose a risk to non-target crops. Therefore the task force has committed itself to stepping up efforts to educate farmers and applicators to become more vigilant with stewardship. Some of the recommendations made by the task force for farmers and pesticide applicators include: —Thoroughly cleaning tanks according to specifications or using only dedicated tanks for specific pesticides to prevent contamination of non-target crops.

—Carefully following product label directions for pesticide applications.

—Recognizing the potential of high winds that may cause the product to drift.

—Awareness of temperature inversions which could facilitate off-target movement and not spraying at those times.

—Using only approved nozzles and proper application rates.

“Collaboration is the only way to make this work,” said Kim Pope Brown, LSU AgCenter pesticide safety education coordinator. “We have to make sure agriculture is on target, protecting human health and the environment”. The LSU AgCenter and the task force will continue working to assist in educating farmers and others on best weed management control systems for Louisiana in moving forward.

For further information on any of the above, or if you have a disability that would limit your participation in any of the above, please contact me here 337-291-7090 or email me at sdutile@agcenter.lsu.edu. As always it is the mission of the LSU AgCenter to provide the people of Louisiana with researched based information that will improve their lives and economic well being. Please call on us if we can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Stan Dutile

Stan Dutile
County Agent
Lafayette Parish



ACADIANA CATTLE PRODUCERS FALL FIELD DAY

DATE: Saturday, OCTOBER 21, 2017

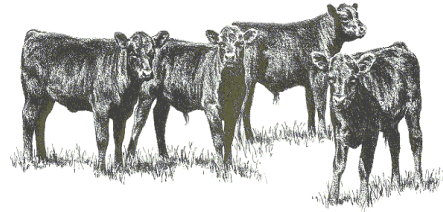
TIME: 8:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: UL CADE FARM

(1234 W J Bernard Rd, St. Martinville, LA 70582)

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:00 AM

Approved for Master Farmer Phase II credit



INDOOR PROGRAM

- ♦ **Dealing with Abnormalities in Newborn Calves** - *Dr. Stuart Gauthier & Dr. Clare Skully*
- ♦ **Hay Production – Quality vs. Quantity** - *Mr. Blair Hebert & Dr. Guillermo Scaglia*
- ♦ **Cattle Market Update** - *Dr. Kurt Guidry*
- ♦ **Master Farmer Program Update** - *Mr. Allen Hogan*

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

- ♦ **Understanding Impacts of Management on Shrink in Weanling Beef Calves**
– *Mr. Stan Dutile & Mr. Andrew Granger*
- ♦ **Bermuda Grass Planting Methods Demo** - *Dr. Ed Twidwell*
- ♦ **Bulrush (needle grass) Control in Pastures** - *Dr. Ron Strahan*
- ♦ **Smutgrass Control Demonstration** - *Mr. Mark Simon & Mr. Brian Kibbe*
- ♦ **Avoiding Spontaneous Combustion in Your Hay** – *S. Gauthier & S. Dutile*

LUNCH PROVIDED— DOOR PRIZES—VENDOR EXHIBITS

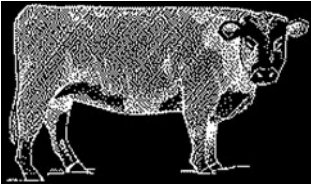


CONTACTS: LCA District VIII Vice President □ James Leleux (337-893-8334); Lafayette & W. St. Mary □ Stan Dutile (337-291-7090 or 337-654-2642); Iberia □ Blair Hebert (337-369-4441); St. Martin □ Stuart Gauthier (337-332-2181); Vermilion & Acadia □ Andrew Granger (337-898-4335); Iberia Research Station □ Guillermo Scaglia (337-276-5527); Louisiana Forage & Grassland Council □ Ed Twidwell (225-578-4564); UL Cade Farm- Mark Simon & Brian Kibbe (337-394-5920).

ATTENTION CATTLEMEN

2nd SPECIAL "FALL"

**BULL BREEDING
SOUNDNESS
EXAM**



THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

**8:00 A.M. – Until completed
DOMINIQUE'S STOCKYARD - OPELOUSAS, LA**

- Cattlemen from throughout the Acadiana area are invited to bring their bulls.
- **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!** (See below)
- All bulls will be semen tested, visually evaluated, and will have scrotal measurements taken with a written soundness report provided to the producer.
- Licensed veterinarians will perform testing at a charge of \$50.00 per bull. Additional vaccinations also available for an additional charge.
- Additional Benefits:
 - *No vet road service charges
 - *Good working facilities
 - *Free help provided to handle & work bulls
 - *Educational information provided
- Bulls will be tentatively scheduled by appointment when producers call to pre-register and tested on a first come first serve basis once they arrive. Bulls may be brought in the afternoon prior but only if special arrangements are made at time of call in. All Trich test bulls must be tested on Thursday morning.
- Call Lafayette County Agent Stan Dutile (291-7090 or 654-2642) or Mike Dominique at Dominique's Stockyard (896-6995 or 654-4030) to sign up bulls and make arrangements.

FIND OUT IF YOUR BULL IS FERTILE BEFORE YOU LOSE A CALF CROP

****ADDITIONAL TEST - Testing for Trichomoniasis ("Trich") will be available at a cost of \$100 per bull. Because Trich testing kits must be ordered in advance, and test kits shipped overnight once test is completed, producers who want to have bulls Trich tested must sign up asap and plan to be tested on Thursday morning.**

Stan Dutile, County Agent—Lafayette Parish

LSU AgCenter

1010 Lafayette St., Suite 325

Lafayette, La 70501

