



## Seminar on Marketing Strategy & Animal Health: Fighting Pasteurella Pneumonia in Livestock, October 2, 2008

A huge crowd of over 500 people attended the Livestock Marketing Seminar for Sheep & Goats on Oct. 2 at the Gillespie Co. Fairgrounds. The program was organized by the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Gillespie County Farm Bureau, Gillespie Livestock Company, Laird Laurence, DVM, and Brad Roeder, Texas Dept. of Agriculture-Marketing Specialist. Over 20 businesses joined forces to sponsor the event. Speakers were Wayne Geistweidt, Brad Roeder, Laird Laurence, DVM, and Dr. Rick Machen, Texas AgriLIFE Extension Livestock Specialist.

Before the program, local organizations and veterinary suppliers manned informational booths. The program was packed with useful marketing insights and helpful medical information about sheep & goats. A handout prepared by Laird Laurence summarized presentations on Internal Parasites, Caseous Lymphadenitis (C.L. Disease), Pasteurella Pneumonia, and Obstructive Urolithiasis. The handout describes what causes each disease, and how each disease is transmitted, diagnosed, and treated. Copies of the handout are available through Dr. Laurence, the Texas AgriLIFE Extension, and the SWCD office, at no charge.



The goal of this newsletter article is to help you recognize **Pasteurella Pneumonia**, and to describe possible treatments and a new vaccine. The disease was rampant in 2008; calves, lambs and goat kids died because of it. This article can't replace a trip to your veterinarian, but may give you insight into raising your next healthy crop of calves, lambs, and

goat kids. These paragraphs are based on Dr. Laurence's handout, with additional text about the vaccine that was mentioned in the seminar. If you have any questions, visit with your veterinarian for more details.

**Pasteurella Pneumonia** is an inflammation of the lungs, caused by two bacteria - Pasteurella Multocida and Mannheimia Haemolytica. *The acute form* of the disease is where the animal is breathing fast - "pumping"- and has a temperature above 106° (normal is 100° to 103°) - and is dead in 6 hours or less. *The chronic form* damages the lower 1/3 of the lungs but does not kill the animal. The animal breathes hard when stressed and won't gain weight normally. No other diseases look like Pasteurella Pneumonia.

Pasteurella Pneumonia is not passed from animal to animal. Both bacteria that cause it are normal inhabitants of the upper respiratory passages of sheep, goats, and cattle. They are picked up at birth or soon afterward. Pasteurella Pneumonia's incubation period is 2 to 12 hours.

Any stress can cause animals to get Pasteurella Pneumonia, like extreme changes of temperature in a single day - for example from 40° in the morning to 70° in the afternoon. Parasites, malnutrition, shipping, dust, and overcrowding can all be stress factors that contribute to the critical signs of Pasteurella Pneumonia. A live animal with the disease has a temperature of 106° or more, with no lung sounds in the bottom 1/3 of the lungs. The disease is diagnosed in a dead animal when the lower 1/3 of the lungs looks like liver, while the upper 2/3 looks normal.





## Seminar on Marketing Strategy & Animal Health, continued

Because the incubation period is so short, animals with *Pasteurella Pneumonia* need to be treated within 6 to 12 hours of the first symptoms. Sheep, goats or cattle with *Pasteurella Pneumonia* can be treated with antibiotics. Dr. Laurence's preferences of antibiotics are to mix 20 cc's of Lincomix 100 (instead of sterile water) into a 1 gram bottle of Naxcel. Inject 2 cc's of this mixture per 100 pounds of body weight under the animal's skin. In addition, he uses a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, Banamine® (FluxinMeglumin), at a rate of 2 cc's per 100 pounds injected under the skin. Treatment is continued for 3 to 5 days. It's also important to try to eliminate any kind of stress in the sick animal. If the illness is caught soon enough & treated, i.e. in the first 2 to 4 hours, chances for recovery are good.

**The Vaccine.** The really good news is that a vaccine is available to prevent *Pasteurella Pneumonia*. It was developed for cattle, but was tested on sheep; it is effective for cattle, sheep and goats. The vaccine is only approved for cattle, given under the skin. The vaccine discussed at the Oct. 2 seminar is called Once® PMH, made by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health. According to Dr. Laurence, Once® PMH, given intranasally, is safe and effective for new lambs and goat kids, from birth to adult. (It's better to vaccinate lambs and kids before they are weaned.) It's even safe to give Once® PMH to pregnant livestock, according to Dr. Laurence.

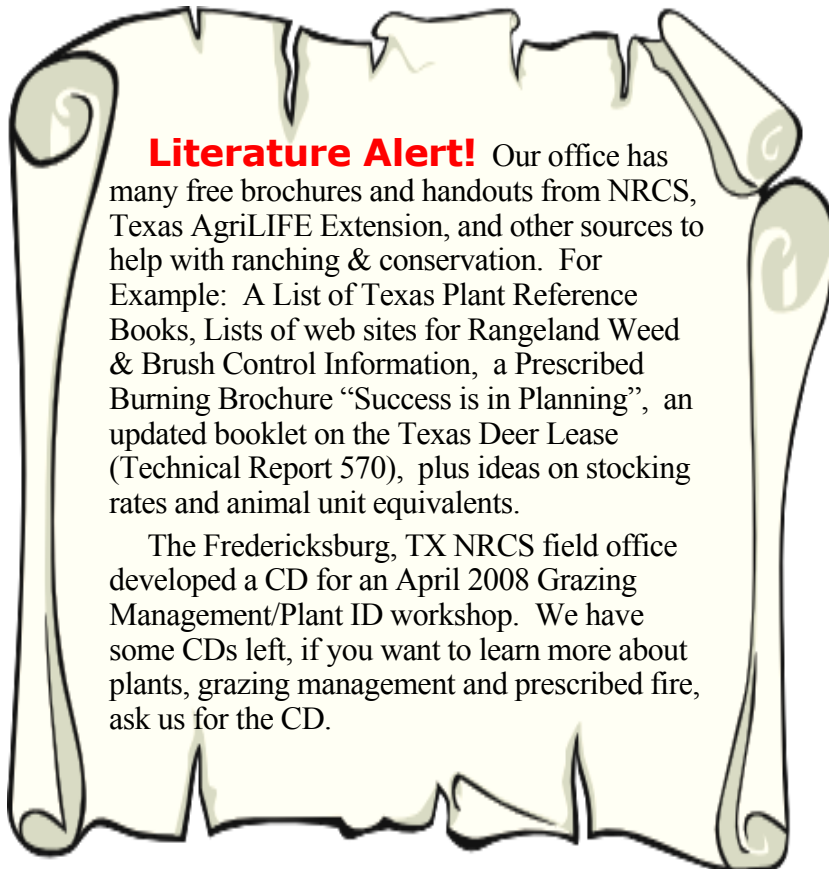


For sheep and goats, Dr. Laurence's protocol is to give the vaccine as a mist of 2 cc's into one side of the nose; not as an injection. With an injection, you only reach one lymph node to distribute the vaccine, but each side of the nasal passage has 6 lymph nodes, giving a total of 12, so the vaccine is distributed more thoroughly and effectively, allowing a quicker immune response. It's also easier to administer an intranasal vaccine than an injection, so it's less stressful for the patient and the rancher.

You can buy Once® PMH from a veterinarian or your animal health supplier. The cost is roughly  $\pm$  \$2.37 per dose. It comes in packages of 10 to 50 doses. Once the vaccine is mixed, it needs to be used within 6 hours. It's a one-time vaccination with very minimal risk. A simple plastic catheter adapter comes with the vaccine, to slip over a syringe to make a mist.

In summary, the incubation period for the *acute* form of *Pasteurella Pneumonia* can be so short, an animal might not live long enough for you to see the symptoms. Don't underestimate the contributing factor of extreme temperature changes between very early morning and late afternoon. For example, if your lambs seemed fine one evening—but the next morning, one or two apparently died overnight in their sleep, it's possible they died from *Pasteurella Pneumonia*. If you can confirm that was the culprit, you might vaccinate your remaining lambs as a preventive measure.

Pat Kroll, Gillespie Co. SWCD  
Laird Laurence, DVM



**Literature Alert!** Our office has many free brochures and handouts from NRCS, Texas AgriLIFE Extension, and other sources to help with ranching & conservation. For Example: A List of Texas Plant Reference Books, Lists of web sites for Rangeland Weed & Brush Control Information, a Prescribed Burning Brochure “Success is in Planning”, an updated booklet on the Texas Deer Lease (Technical Report 570), plus ideas on stocking rates and animal unit equivalents.

The Fredericksburg, TX NRCS field office developed a CD for an April 2008 Grazing Management/Plant ID workshop. We have some CDs left, if you want to learn more about plants, grazing management and prescribed fire, ask us for the CD.

## Conservation Video Library



200 conservation-related videos are available, with 19 new titles in DVD format. A 66 page catalog about them can be requested from Gillespie Co. SWCD or downloaded from the internet. Topics include Agriculture, Conservation, Ecology, Plants, Pollution, Water, Soil/Land, & Wildlife.

Order Videos/DVDs through us, or contact the Information/ Education Dept. of the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board at:

(254) 773-2250 ext. 248  
or (800) 792-3485 ext. 248  
or Fax (254) 773-3311

### Video Library Usage Policy

No rental fees are assessed to schools or soil and water conservation districts borrowing videos from the library. Videos and DVDs have a two week period of use. Borrowed videos must be returned to the library upon date specified by the librarian. The Public Information/Education Committee will pay first transit postage costs to mail the video(s). Postage to return the video(s) to the library will be at the expense of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

### Utilities Inventory “Call Before You Dig”

The construction of conservation practices on your property could endanger life and property involvement of utilities located in the construction area. Because of this, NRCS is required to inform you of the state law requiring you and/or your contractor to notify

### One Call Board of Texas at 1-800-545-6005

no more than 14 days nor less than 48 hours excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, prior to starting construction/excavation activities.

You and/or your contractor are also responsible for notifying utilities who are non-members of the Texas One-Call System. Some local utilities including water, waste water, slurry and overhead utilities are not required to join a notification or one-call center. NRCS can provide the form to use for Cooperator Confirmation of the One-Call Utility Safety System; people with EQIP contracts are required to have the completed One-Call form on file.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) UPDATE**

Gillespie County SWCD hosted a meeting on October 20, 2008 with NRCS, local agencies interested in conservation, and the public, to get input for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Based on laws passed, EQIP could get \$1.2 billion for all 2008 nationwide, and \$1.337 billion for 2009. Gillespie Co. could get an average of the past 3 years' appropriations, or roughly \$218,000. However, money is not appropriated yet for 2009, and current economic conditions may reduce funding. No EQIP contracts will be signed until the program is funded, probably in May, 2009.

NRCS has a continuous sign-up for EQIP applications, and all applications are worked on a first-come, first-served basis. Blank applications are at the NRCS office at 1906 North Llano, #106, in Fredericksburg. EQIP applicants must also visit with Farm Service Agency (FSA) next door at #107, to verify that all their records are current and to report any land ownership changes. FSA will now use tax ID numbers, not social security numbers, for entities.

### ***EQIP Requirements for Producers***

Landowners/operators must be engaged in livestock or agricultural production to be eligible for EQIP. At least one contract item must be done within the contract's first year. Participants must wait to start the work through EQIP until their EQIP contract is signed & approved. Then participants can either hire their own contractor, or do the work themselves. The SWCD office can assist you in locating contractors.

### ***Improvements Covered Under EQIP***

There are 8 resource concerns, and each concern has a group of eligible conservation practices. The most emphasis is on water quantity and water quality. Brush management is still a large part of EQIP. (Since 2002, only 13% of the Pedernales Watershed was cleared of brush, so there's a lot more work to do.) Any practice in the NRCS payment schedule that addresses the 8 resource concerns is eligible.

### **Resource Concerns and their priorities are :**

Water Quantity	1	Domestic Animals	5
Water Quality	2	Plant condition	6
Soil Erosion	3	Fish & Wildlife	7
Soil condition	4	Air Quality	8

A complete list of eligible practices is available through NRCS. Some practices, like prescribed burning, are listed under multiple resource concerns. Brush management is listed under all resource concerns, but cross-fencing is only listed under Domestic Animals. If an applicant is willing to do several practices that span more than one resource concern, the application has a higher priority than if only one concern is affected.

A few practices, like building ponds or waterlines, require engineering expertise, so they will be more expensive to carry out through NRCS than you might expect. All work done under an EQIP contract has to meet NRCS specifications in order to be eligible for the payment schedule. Producers shouldn't sign-up for more work than they can afford to do within one or two years' time, due to expected inflation. Work agreed to under an EQIP contract has to be done on schedule, or there may be penalties of up to 20% of the contract amount.

### ***What Will EQIP Pay?***

Preliminary payment schedules are based on statewide costs. Actual costs in a specific part of Texas will vary. NRCS would reimburse a producer for a portion of the cost of work performed under his EQIP contract. However, if a producer spends less than the average cost, he/she gets a maximum payment of 70% of the actual expense. For brush management, contract amounts per acre depend on brush density and type, and on what method is used to clear the brush. As part of contract documentation, NRCS will need copies of the receipts for the work done under EQIP.

### ***NRCS Will Rank or Prioritize EQIP Applications***

Screening is based on a participant's willingness to develop a conservation plan that will sort applications based on priority (i.e. high, medium, low and none). Applications with a "high" priority are to be evaluated and scored first. If you don't already have a current conservation plan, the first step is for NRCS staff to visit with you at your ranch to evaluate existing conditions. Landowners should determine with NRCS what work they'd like to do under an EQIP contract and what work they could exclude from EQIP.



**High Priority** – Applications that contain EQIP practice(s) that are part of a higher level of land treatment plan that will address all resource concerns on the entire operating unit at a Resource Management System (RMS) level will be ranked high priority, regardless of points scored on the balance of the ranking form. The Conservation Plan must have been developed before October 1, 2008 for applications to be considered as high priority for funding through EQIP 2009.

**Medium Priority** – If the participant has a progressive plan on October 1, 2008 and is willing to improve its quality by installing practices on part of the operating unit, the application will be considered a “medium” priority, regardless of points scored on the balance of the ranking form. The plan has to be in the applicant’s name and they have to be implementing it.

**Low Priority** – If a potential participant does not have a conservation plan but is willing to develop one on part of the operating unit where the desired conservation practices are to be

installed to a progressive level or RMS level, it will be considered a “**low**” priority.

**None** – Practices requested by participants, but not included in the 2009 payment schedule.

***Other Considerations***

EQIP requires deferring land for one growing season following brush clearing (from April 1st to Nov. 15th). Brush re-growth on land cleared through EQIP contracts needs to be controlled for 10 years. Gillespie Prescribed Burn Association (GPBA) helps its members control re-growth through prescribed burning.

The new EQIP payment limit is \$300,000 over a 6-year period. The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limit to be eligible is reduced to \$1 million from \$2.5 million, unless 2/3 of the income is from farming or ranching.

Keep in mind that this is a preliminary update. The US government could cause these numbers to change, and if NRCS gets new or additional information, the program priorities could change.

by Pat Kroll, Gillespie Co. SWCD, with help from NRCS Fbg. field office.

## **Soil & Water Conservation District Directors Attended Annual State Meeting in Bastrop**

Royce Herbort, Guenther Ottmers, Clayton Grona, and James Wahrmond, directors from Gillespie County SWCD and Tom Hammer, District Conservationist with the NRCS Fredericksburg Field Office attended the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. More than 650 agricultural and natural

resource conservation leaders attended. The meeting was held at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop on October 27-28.

The annual meeting gives soil and water conservation district directors, their spouses, district employees, employees of the NRCS and other state and federal agencies an opportunity for an in-depth look at the issues

facing them in their quest to strengthen soil and water conservation programs in Texas.

Texas has 217 different SWCDs, which are governed by a locally elected board of directors that establish natural resource conservation goals and agricultural objectives, and provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers.





## Pedernales Water Enhancement Project

The Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board began the Water Enhancement Project in the Pedernales River Watershed in 2002, working through the Gillespie Co. SWCD. The Project's overall goal is to use selective removal of Cedar (Ashe Juniper) and or Mesquite to enhance the stream flow and water availability of the Pedernales River, which flows into Lake Travis. Participants must own or lease property in the Pedernales River Watershed, which includes parts of five Texas counties. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis, and any application backlogs are rolled into the next year's funding. The project's fiscal year runs from September – August, and additional funding is usually approved at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Participants can hire a contractor or do the work themselves. Landowners can only be reimbursed for work that has been done after the landowner has a signed approved contract with the local soil & water conservation district. Once brush removal is completed following NRCS technical guidelines, the landowner is reimbursed for a portion of their cost for removal. The amount reimbursed depends on brush density and on the method used for clearing.

All persons interested in participating in the project or who need more information may contact the Pedernales Water Enhancement Project at: 830-868-7237 x 3, or the Gillespie Co. SWCD at 830-997-3349 x 3.

The Gillespie County SWCD #220 prohibits discrimination in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply in all programs.) "An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"

## Wildlife Management Associations

Wildlife Management Association members are private landowners who work with Texas Parks & Wildlife, and the Texas AgriLIFE Extension to help manage their land and wildlife population, and to improve wildlife habitat. Over 250 wildlife management associations are active in Texas. We're happy to report that their numbers are growing and we support their efforts. Wildlife Associations in our area:

Cave Creek Wildlife Management Association  
President: Sammy Segner, 830-997-2559

Cherry Spring Wildlife Management Association  
President: Nathan Crenwelge, 830-997-7247

Doss Wildlife Management Association  
President: David Kesler, 830-669-2186

Harper Wildlife Management Association  
President: Bob Dittmar, DVM, 830-257-6885

Pedernales Wildlife Management Coop (Blanco Co.) Contact: Harris Greenwood, 830-868-4528

Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Hunt, TX, (830) 238-4483

*This list was current as of 11/20/2008.*

## NRCS and District Staff

Gillespie County SWCD provides technical assistance to land users in the county through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Fredericksburg, TX field office. NRCS staff ready to assist you with your conservation concerns are: District Conservationist **Tom Hammer**, & Rangeland Management Specialists **B. J. Lange** and **Amanda Kirchner**. Gillespie County SWCD's District Manager and Webmaster is **Pat Kroll**. We share office space at 1906 North Llano Street, #106, Fredericksburg, TX 78624. (This is also home to Gillespie Chapter of the Edwards Plateau Prescribed Burn Association.)

The phone # is 830-997-3349 ext.3. Regular office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m, central daylight time.