



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2023 CCJLS EXHIBITORS

CHEROKEE CO AGRILIFE NEWS



4-H Headlines

Kaitlyn Slover, Cherokee CEA-4-H/YD

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Happy Spring!

Between Cherokee County Junior Livestock Show, major livestock shows wrapping up, and many other 4-H contests going on, it is definitely the busiest time of year! Our members have been hard at work getting all their projects done and have had a lot of success so far. Keep up the good work and don't forget to document everything in your record books!

Kaitlyn

IMPORTANT DATES

March-April 5 - Tag Ordering for Major Livestock Validation

March 1-April 15 - Horse Validation

April 10 - D5 Horse Judging, Tyler

April 14/15 - Come Alive in D5, Tyler

April 22 - D5 Livestock Judging, College Station

May 10 - Record Book Drafts Due to County Extension Office

June TBD - Major Livestock Validation - Steers, Heifers, Lambs, Goats, Hogs

Texas Q&M Livestock Judging Camp

Reasons Camp

This year's camps are designed for 4-H and FFA members interested in building their knowledge of evaluating market and breeding animals, including beef, swine, sheep, and goats. The reasons camp focuses on selection principles, oral reasons, live market evaluation, and breeding animal performance data. Any 4-H and FFA member is welcome to attend. Instructors include Texas A&M faculty and staff, and members of the 2023 livestock judging team.



- Camp 1: June 11-13, 2023
- Camp 2: June 18-20, 2023
- Location: Louis Pearce Pavilion
- Cost: \$325 Include meals, literature, t-shirt and hotel lodging
- Ages: 11-18 years old
- Registration: Coming soon, April 3 May 10

Since 2010, Tractor Supply has partnered with 4-H to help create Opportunity4All and raise more than \$14 million through the Paper Clover campaign. The success of these campaigns has impacted over 81,500 youth by providing them with the tools and resources they need to move forward and reach their full potential. 100% of funds raised through the bi-annual Paper Clover campaign directly benefit 4-H youth. 90% of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state where the funds were raised, and the remaining 10% supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally. Dates for the 2023 Paper Clover campaign are April 26th through May 5th.





Texas 4-H Horse Validation for the 2023 season <u>will be open in 4H</u>

<u>Online from March 1st – May 1st, 2023</u>. Please see the attached guidelines for families and County Extension Agents.

A few important reminders:

- ALL horses must be validated/re-validated each year. There is no limit to the number of horses that can be validated. You are encouraged to validate all horses that may possibly be shown at district and/or state shows. Only state validated horses can be substituted in the event that a validated horse becomes unusable due to lameness, sickness, etc.
- The family can submit payment of \$10.00 per horse (\$20.00 after April 15th, or \$250 from May 1st to May 5th), in the form of a **credit card ONLY**.
- o From March 1st April 15th, the validation cost for each horse is \$10.00. The \$10.00 cost is only guaranteed if the animal validation is approved by the county office by the April 15th deadline and the payment is processed.
- o From April 16th May 1st, the validation cost for each horse is \$20.00. The \$20.00 cost is only guaranteed if the animal validation is approved by the county office by the May 1st deadline and the payment is processed.
- o Each validation must include front view, right side view, and left side view images. The entire horse should be included in the photo and markings should be clearly visible.
- o If the horse is registered, a copy of the registration papers must be uploaded. These papers must list the 4-Her, sibling, parent, stepparent, grandparent or legal guardian as the current owner. If the ownership is in the process of being transferred, please list "pending" in the registration number area. Once the updated registration papers have been received, please email me a copy of the new papers and I will add it to the validation.
- *NEW IN 2023* Lease horses are now eligible to be validated and shown at District and State 4-H Horse Shows. An official Texas 4-H Horse Lease Agreement must be signed by the exhibitor, horse owner, and the supervising County Extension Agent. The lease period must include, at minimum, May 1st to August 31st of the current 4-H year. The lease agreement form can be found at https://texasyouthlivestock.com/horse-validation/ and must be uploaded to 4H Online at the time of validation.
- o Image uploads in 4H Online must be in the form of a .jpg, .gif or .png file.
- o Families should validate each horse only one time. Once the horse is validated, any sibling within that family is eligible to show the horse at their district show and/or the State 4-H Horse Show.
- \circ Youth validating a futurity horse must be at least 12 years of age (as of Sept. 1, 2022) and at least in the 6th grade.



CORE Academy provides high school youth an opportunity to explore career and leadership opportunities in a diverse global economy, as well as learn about post-secondary degree institutions across Texas. The traveling Academy will be held June 26-30, 2023, in Central Texas. Interested 4-H members should apply by April 15. Click here to access the application.





Breakfast CEU Series

Those in need of CEUs for their TDA Pesticide License can join us each month for our Breakfast CEU Meetings. Each meeting will be a "Dutch treat" breakfast and those in

attendance will receive one hour of pesticide CEU credit.

There will be a one-time \$10 fee for attending the yearlong Breakfast CEU Series.

The following dates, times and locations have been set. (Please note the 7 a.m. start time for the May meeting.)

April 18th 6:30 a.m. Cherokee Co Ext Office, Rusk May 16th 7:00 a.m. Miss Mollie's Diner, Alto June 20th 6:30 a.m. Beverly's Café, Jacksonville

NO JULY MEETING

Tri County Beef & Forage Workshop

Friday, April 28, 2023

Cherokee Co Expo | 611 SE Loop 456 | Jacksonville 3 TDA CEU Credits (1 IPM & 2 General) Presented by Cherokee, Smith & Rusk Counties

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Reproductive Management of your Cow Herd Dr. Perry, Associate Research Professor Beef Cattle Reproductive Physiology

10:00 a.m. Herbicide Result Demonstration Review (1 IPM) Clint Perkins, Smith CEA-Ag/NR

11:00 a.m. Farm Pond Weed Management (1 General) Garrett Stamport, Pond Management Program Specialist

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

12:30 p.m. Using Drones for Herbicide Applications (1 General) Darren Rozell, Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing

1:30 p.m. Adjourn

RSVP by April 24th to 903.683.5416

Registration Fee \$10 payable at the door cash or check only. TDA license holders must have a valid copy of their applicator license at the meeting to receive CEU credits.

Program Sponsors Include: Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing Co, Heritage Land Bank, Shelby Savings Bank, El Dorado Chemical Co, Azelis Agricultural & Environmental Solutions, Cherokee County Farm Bureau, East Texas Seed Co & Vitazyme

Prepare for Horn Fly Control Now

Treatment of horn flies is important from both an economic and animal welfare standpoint. On average, horn flies have been shown to reduce average daily gain (ADG) in stocker cattle and replacement heifers by 13.6 percent or about 0.2 pound per day. In nursing calves, ADG is reduced by about 4.3 percent on average or about 0.09 pound per day.

The economic treatment level for horn flies is estimated at 250 flies per animal. Control strategies may include topical insecticides, feed additives, pasture rotation, special traps or something else. Topical insecticides will be the focus of this month's column. Numerous application methods can be used to apply topical insecticides. These include eartags, pour-ons, sprays, rubs, dust bags and a gel cap applicator. When using topical insecticides, it is important to rotate chemical classes each year (pyrethroids, organophosphates and macrocyclic lactones) to help manage horn fly resistance. Below is a list of common active ingredients in each class. When selecting topical insecticides, it is actually easier to look at the active ingredient before looking at the brand name. This is because numerous products contain the same active ingredient. There are over 10 products labeled for pour-on use that all contain permethrin.

- Pyrethroids: cyfluthrin, permethrin, zeta-cypermethrin, lambda[1]cyhalothrin, and gamma-cyhalothrin
- Organophosphates: coumaphos, phosmet, diazinon, chlorpyrifos and pirimiphos-methyl
- Macrocyclic lactones: abamectin, pour-on dewormers would also fall in this class.

If insecticide eartags are used, they should be applied on the front side of the ear toward the bottom. This will allow for maximum transfer of the insecticide from the tag to the back, side and belly of the animal, where horn flies are most often found. Eartags will provide longer control than other topical applications. Additionally, using two eartags will provide longer control than using just one tag; this can be especially valuable in situations where gathering cattle is laborintensive. One advantage of pour-ons, sprays and the gel cap applicator is: They are easier to apply than eartags. Length of control will generally be one to two weeks, depending on weather conditions. Rubs and dust bags are only effective if cattle will use them; in open pastures, this can be challenging. When using rubs, never mix the insecticide with diesel; diesel can be absorbed into the animal, creating residue concerns. Mineral oil and vegetable oil are safe alternatives.

Article by Jason Banta Associate Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Texas A&M University jpbanta@ag.tamu.edu

Clearing Muddy Ponds

It's a common complaint, "My farm pond is muddy, and we'd like to enjoy clearer water. Do you have a solution?" Indeed, we do, but it may require habitat management or a bit of chemistry.

Muddy water is often a problem in Texas farm ponds because it inhibits the growth of natural fish food and is just not aesthetically pleasing. Additionally, the reduced visibility in ponds limits feeding of sight-feeding predators such as largemouth bass.

If heavy rainfall causes your pond to get muddy but then clears up in a few days, you may simply need to alter the habitat surrounding the runoff that empties into your pond. The first step is to inspect the watershed and shoreline for signs of erosion. Grass should be established upstream of the pond on any exposed, bare soil. In our area, it is hard to beat using common bahiagrass. If you want a more attractive grass, try using common bermudagrass. Both seeds can be found easily (for a very reasonable cost) at your favorite local feed store.

If it is not the erosion of soil into your pond or heavy rainfall or unwanted fish causing the muddy pond water, the root cause is negatively charged clay particles. Much like when you couldn't get the negative ends of two magnets to touch when you were a kid, the same charged soil particles don't want to touch and therefore will not settle out of a pond. We can easily remedy this with the addition of positively charged particles that will bind with the opposite charged soil and settle out.

Pond owners have a couple of options to help: agricultural limestone, gypsum, and alum. Our East Texas ponds are typically a little on the acidic side of the pH scale, so I always recommend starting off with the addition of agricultural limestone. Liming a pond, just like liming a garden or hay meadow, raises the pH (lowers the acidity), and can often help to clear up muddy water.

Be sure to add agricultural limestone as it works slowly and will not kill the fish. There are several forms of lime available, and they certainly work much faster than agricultural lime. However, changing the pH too quickly will cause tremendous stress on the fish in your pond and likely kill them. Go slow and use agricultural limestone.

Now if the agricultural limestone did not clear up the muddy water to your satisfaction, I next recommend using gypsum. Gypsum is a naturally occurring soft mineral and is the major component in the sheetrock that covers the interior walls of most buildings.

Available in bulk, gypsum does a tremendous job of binding with the negatively charged, suspended clay particles in your water. Once bound with the clay particle, it precipitates out onto the bottom of your pond.

To determine exactly how much gypsum you would need, you need to take some measurements. First, you need to determine the volume of water in your pond. We measure this in "acre-feet". One acre-foot of water can be visualized as 1 acre (think of a football field) that has one foot of water on it. To determine this on your pond, multiply your pond's surface area by the average depth.

Next, in several 1-gallon containers of your muddy pond water, add 1 tablespoon of gypsum to one, then continue incrementally adding gypsum until you find the minimum tablespoons of gypsum it takes to clear up a gallon of your muddy pond water in 12 hours. For every tablespoon of gypsum to a 1-gallon container, add 80 lbs. of gypsum for each acre-foot of water in your pond.





Garden of Learning

Cherokee County Horticulture Newsletter

Kimberly Benton, County Extension Agent—Horticulture kim.benton@ag.tamu.edu



Things to consider as your garden in growing:

April

- Now is the time to select and plant out large vines for use in the landscape. These might include the blue, season-long blooming Skyflower (Thunbergia grandiflora); Wisteria either Chinese, Japanese or American varieties in blue, rose or white; Crossvine (Bignonia capreolata) in shades of tangerine, dark reddish orange with yellow highlights); Trumpet Creeper (Campsis radicans) in orange-red or clear gold) or Cat-Claw Vine (Macfadyena unguis-cati) in yellow.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs soon after flowering. Keep the natural shape of the plant in mind as you prune, and avoid excessive cutting except where necessary to control size.
- Seeds of amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, zinnia, and other warm-season annuals can be sown directly in the beds where they are to grow. Keep seeded areas moist until seeds germinate. Thin out as soon as they are large enough to transplant. Surplus plants can be transplanted to other areas.
- Start weeding early in the flower garden. Early competition with small plants can delay flowering. A mulch will discourage weed growth and make those that do come through easier to pull.
- It will soon be time for bagworms to attack junipers and other narrow-leafed evergreens. Light infestations may be controlled by hand picking and burning. Control measures such as Sevin dust or spray, should be applied while the insects and the bags are about one-half inch in length.

May

- Cut off old blossoms on spring flowering annuals, such as pansies, snapdragons, stock and calendulas, to prolong the flowering season.
- Make cuttings of your favorite chrysanthemums and root them in a mixture of sand and peat moss. Cover cutting box with plastic and place in shaded area for 5 to 6 days to prevent wilting.
- Pinch back the terminal growth on newly planted annual and perennial plants. This will result in shorter, more compact, better branched plants with more flowers.
- Check for insects and diseases. Destroy badly infested plants. Spider mites can be especially troublesome at this time. Select a chemical or organic control, or use insecticidal soap.

June

- Supplemental irrigation is essential for all but the hardiest plants in times of extended drought. Water lawn and garden thoroughly, but not too frequently. As a general rule, soak to a depth of 8 inches. Finish watering by early afternoon, to lessen the chance of disease.
- Especially during dry summers, soil moisture becomes extremely important and essential for good plant production. Because continual watering is oftentimes costly and time consuming, it pays to conserve the moisture around plants. This is best done by mulching. A good mulch will retain valuable moisture needed for plant growth, and improve overall gardening success.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

April 22, 2023, Ruth B Nichols Arboretum, Jacksonville



CCJLS Horticulture



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Reserve Grand Individual: Shelby Gray, Iron Rails



Grand Champion Group—Rusk FFA

CCMGA volunteer Carol McWhorter giving a helping hand to the contest

Judge Keith Hansen with Senior Showmanship contestants

It is always a pleasure to see the kids come out and share their growing experiences with these projects. Thanks so much to the Cherokee County 4H clubs and FFA chapters for encouraging your kids to grow.

We are looking forward to making a few changes to next year's contest to make it even better.

DICCING DEEPER INTO CARDENING

- ⇒ **April 17th 6:30pm:** Landscaping with Natives; Border Plantings and Pollinators
- ⇒ July 16th 2pm: Seed Saving—Hands-on Fun
- ⇒ September 18th 6:30pm: Juicy news on pre-planting and who needs a pollinator; focus on blueberries and other East Texas gems
- ⇒ October 16th 6:30pm: Fall Fun—Wildflowers (When & How to Plant) Amaryllis, Poinsettias & Christmas Cactus.
- ⇒ November 20th 6:30pm: Pruning: When, How, and Why

Programs will be held via zoom (except seed saving—no zoom for it). To register each month for the zoom, please click here: https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkcumgpzwoGdwpWR4zzarADnsC-JsoVxiL

Prior zoom recordings are available on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channeltLDiejSMklRiygECJiLig





Stephanie "Amy" Walley

Cherokee Family & Community Health Agent stephanie.walley@ag.tamu.edu



Hello Spring! What a wonderful time of year to change up the way your dinner looks. Add foods fresh from the gardens. Try using one less can from the pantry and add something fresh. Make half your plate fruits and vegetables, not only is it good for you it also makes a pretty plate.

Eat a variety of foods from all food groups.

Try to eat a variety of foods which include fresh, frozen, canned, and dried options. Avoid fad diets and practice gratitude for your body by giving it the fuel it needs. 'Get the Facts' is a program series that provides information to support a healthy and balanced diet.

Make tasty foods at home.

Continue practicing cooking and meal preparation skills and look for creative ways to use

leftovers rather than throwing them away. Share foods you have in excess with family and friends while creating happy memories by eating together.

20-Minute Chicken Creole

This Creole-inspired dish uses chili sauce and cayenne pepper to spice it up. Tomatoes, green pepper, celery, onions and garlic spices also surround the chicken with delicious color. This main dish can be cooked on the stovetop or with an electric skillet.



Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable oil 1 cup chili sauce 2 garlic cloves (minced)
2 chicken breasts (whole, skin- 1 green pepper (chopped, 1 teaspoon dried basil less, boneless) 1 teaspoon parsley (dried)
1 can diced tomatoes (14 1/2 2 celery stalks (chopped) 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper oz., with juice) 1 onion (chopped) 1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions

- 1. Heat pan over medium-high heat (350 °F in an electric skillet). Add vegetable oil and chicken and cook until the chicken reaches an internal temperature of 165 °F (3-5 minutes).
- 2. Reduce heat to medium (300 °F in electric skillet).
- 3. Add tomatoes with juice, chili sauce, green pepper, celery, onion, garlic, basil, parsley, cayenne pepper, and salt.
- 4. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low and simmer, covered for 10-15 minutes.
- 5. Serve over hot, cooked rice or whole wheat pasta.
- 6. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.





2023 District 5 TEEA Spring Conference

Judge Davis welcomed the seven counties that were represented at the "What's Cooking In Your County" District Meeting . The guests shared stories of their favorite aprons, as well as what is going on in their counties. They enjoyed a chicken spaghetti lunch that was prepared and served by the Cherokee 4-H CVLA.

Fun in the Kitchen!

We meet the second
Thursday of every month at
11:00 a.m. at the Rusk First
United Methodist Church.
This is a food pantry cooking
class. Everyone is invited to
attend.



What's Happening on School Campuses in Cherokee County:



New Summerfield ISD

ACE PreK and 3rd graders

are in the process of

building a Monarch

Waystation.





Westside Elementary has been doing a little early childhood Learn Grow Eat and Go.



Joe Wright Elementary, **Jacksonville** met **"Buckle Bear"** a member of Texas A&M AgriLife Passenger Safety.

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- **CCMGA Meeting** 10
- 13 Fun in the Kitchen!, First United Methodist Church—Rusk
- Texas 4-H Horse Validation Increases to \$20 through May 1st 16
- 17 Digger Deeper Series, Zoom
- Breakfast CEU Series, Cherokee Co Extension Office—Rusk 18
- 21 Fruit Grafting & Budding Workshop, Cherokee Co Expo—Jacksonville
- 22 Cherokee County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale, Ruth B Nichols Arboretum—Jacksonville
- 26 Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign Begins
- 28 Tri County Beef & Forage Workshop, Cherokee Co Expo—Jacksonville

May

- Texas 4-H Horse Validation \$250 Late Fee Begins 1
- 5 Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign Ends
- 8 **CCMGA Meeting**
- 4-H Record Book Drafts Due to CEO 10
- 11 Fun in the Kitchen!, First United Methodist Church—Rusk
- 12 Upper Neches Pesticide Conference, First United Methodist Church—Chandler
- 16 Breakfast CEU Series, Miss Mollie's Diner—Alto
- 29 County Holiday

June

- 8 Fun in the Kitchen!, First United Methodist Church—Rusk
- 10 Tomato Fest, Jacksonville
- 12 **CCMGA Meeting**
- 19 County Holiday
- 20 Breakfast CEU Series, Beverly's Café, Jacksonville

Cherokee County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office | PO Drawer B | 165 East 6th Street #104 | Rusk, TX 75785 903.683.5416 | cherokee.agrilife.org | facebook.com/cherokeecotxext



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 204 HWY 31 WEST CHANDLER, TEXAS 75758 FRIDAY MAY 12, 2023

5 CEU'S 2 IPM 2 GENERAL 1 LAW & REGS

8:00 am Registration

8:45 am Welcome - Spencer Perkins, CEA - AG/NR, Henderson County

8:50 am

Pond Management Using IPM Strategies - Garrett Stamport, Pond
Management Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research &
Extension Center - Overton

9:50 am Brea

10:00 am Integrated Pest Management Strategies for Controlling Insects in Forage Systems- Lee Dudley, CEA - AG, Panola County

11:00 am Identification & Control Measures for Weed & Bush Control in Warm - Season Forage - Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Benefits of Using Prescribed Fire as a Weed Control Mechanism -

Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist

2:00 pm Break

2:15 pm Reading & Understanding the Pesticide Label -Mr. Stephen Gowin, CEA - AG, Rains County \$ 30.00 per person

Please RSVP to your county office by 5/08/2023 to guarantee lunch

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate encouraged to contact the Henderson County Extension office at 903-675-6130 for assistance by May 6, 2021. E of the Texas A&M Agrillife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, both, religion, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

TEXAS 4-H LANDSCAPE DESIGN

JUNE 5, 2023

College Station, TX

Hosted by the Texas A&M University Horticulture Department

OBJECTIVE

- Enhance 4-H members landscape design knowledge
- Promote professionalism to 4-H students by simulating a real-life interaction between customer and landcape professionals
- Expose 4-H members to career opportunities in horticulture related fields
- Highlight a degree in a horticultural related field





CONTACT INFORMATION

Jayla Fry, Superintendent jayla.fry@ag.tamu.edu 979-845-3308

CONTEST INFORMATION https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/horticulture



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