

Making a Difference

2014 Brown County Range/Pasture

Relevance-

Over 470,000 acres in Brown County are used for rangeland and pasture. 75 % of the total acres in the county are utilized primarily for livestock production. Emphasis on feasible land use and brush control is imperative to maintaining the agricultural sector. Range and pasture management has been identified as a long term issue here in Brown County by the Leadership Advisory Board. It is an issue that the Extension Ag Committee addresses each year. Specific methods of controlling brush encroachment and herbicide selection / use are two key components of the range and pasture management educational program.

Drought continues to negatively impact range/pasture forage production. Reduced stocking rates/carrying capacity on all range areas continue to negatively impact livestock production income.

This program was targeted towards landowners/livestock producers.

Response -

Based on input from key Extension Supporters Ag Committee members, Ag Producers, and clientele needs the following group educational programs addressed range / pasture management:

January – Multi-County Forage Workshop, Cross Plains (Callahan County)

March – Brown County Ag Day

May – Cluster County Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing

July - Range/Pasture CEU Program (Multi-County)

September – Range/Wildlife Field Day (Multi County)

A radio program series with listening audience of 30,000+ was presented in March on Range/Pasture drought management, pasture reseeding and timing.

A radio program with a listening audience of 30,000+ was presented in June on mixing herbicide sprays for brush control.

A news column series with circulation audience of 6,000+ was prepared and utilized in October addressing mixing herbicide sprays for brush control.

Individual training was provided to land owners / ag producers on brush control methods and timing of applications, pesticide laws and regulations, brush / range plant identification, herbicide selection and use, range re-seeding, proper stocking rates and preparing multi-year grazing leases. To date, over 375 telephone calls, 180 office contacts, and over 370 site contacts have been made this year to address clientele needs in range / pasture management.

Currently, research demonstrations are on-going concerning herbicides for mesquite control and herbicide formulations for brush, fence line brush control, herbicides, and individual plant treatment methods for prickly pear control. New research demonstrations will be implemented in 2015 on herbicide formulations and timing of application for prickly pear control and greenbriar control.

Making a Difference

Results –

As a result of Extension Educational Efforts:

100% of respondents indicated that information presented in the extension programs would help them make better decisions concerning brush control practices.

90% of respondents indicated brush encroachment has decreased stocking rates 10%-30% +

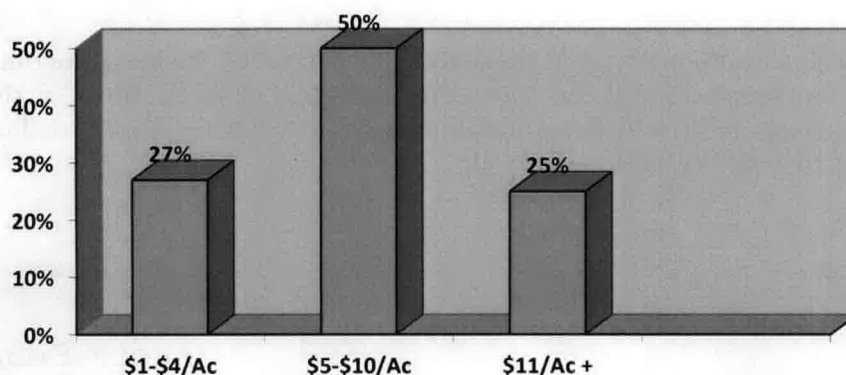
Understanding Of	Percent Before	Percent After	Percent With Any Increase
Recommended chemical applications for control of invasive/noxious weed and brush species	37%	100%	82%
Which herbicide to use on specific brush species	55%	100%	82%
Herbicide application techniques and recommended timing of applications	63%	96%	70%
How to determine stocking rates			89%

Practice To Be Adopted	Percent of Participants Who Probably/Definitely Will Adopt
Use recommended brush/weed management practices to improve rangeland	100%
Increased use of herbicides for brush control	92%
Individual plant treatment methods applied at recommended	92%

81% of respondents anticipate an economic benefit due to increased production.

\$5.14/acre = Average economic benefit to Extension Program participants

Estimated Economic Value



2014 AG/NATURAL RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

MONTH	EVENT	NEWS	RADIO
January	Youth Fair, Ft. Worth Stock Show		
	Brown County Livestock Producers Meeting		
	Forage Field Day, Cross Plains		
February	San Angelo Stock Show	Fruit Tree Reseeding	Farm Bill Landscape Management
	Farm Bureau Meeting		
March	Houston Stock Show	Cattle Parturition	Range/Pasture Reseeding
	Austin Stock Show		
	Low Water Use Landscape Program – Kiwanis		
	Brown County Ag Day		
April	Lunch-N-Learn Horticulture Program		Spring Watering
	Ag Leases Program		
	Pecan Shortcourse, Goldthwaite		
May	Cow/Calf Clinic		
	Lunch-N-Learn Horticulture Program		
	Pesticide Applicator Training/Testing, Goldthwaite		
	Pecan Field Day, San Saba		
June	Farm Bureau Meeting	Mixing Herbicides	Low Water Use Landscaping
	Lunch-N-Learn Horticulture Program		
	State 4-H Roping School, Stephenville		
	Show Steer Validation		
July	Range/Pasture Program	Proper Landscape Watering	Farm Pond Oxygen Depletion
	State 4-H Horse Show	Preventing Livestock Toxicity	
	Cattle Program		

2014 AG/NATURAL RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

August	Regional 4-H Livestock Mentor Training	Natural Resource Management	Prussic Acid Toxicity
	Beef Shortcourse, College Station		Fall Forage Varieties
	Farm Bureau Meeting		
September	West Texas Fair	TV- Rainwater Harvesting	
	Range/Wildlife Program		
	Lunch-N-Learn Horticulture Program		
October	Tax Appraisal District Ag Committee Meeting	Oak Wilt	Small Grain Planting
		Deer Expectations	Rainwater Harvesting
November	State Heifer Validation	Winter Cattle Feeding	Fall Landscape Plants
	Stock Show Entries		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

93% increase in understanding of Ag Leasing

88% intend to develop Ag Lease agreements using information presented

Estimated economic benefit \$24/acre, \$634,085

82% increase in understanding cattle handling/marketing

Estimated economic benefit \$24/head

100% increase in knowledge gained of pond management

Result Demonstrations (Research Projects) mesquite control, prickly pear control, greenbriar control, fence-line brush control

2595 Phone Calls

5350 Contacts