

Challenges Facing Texas Livestock Producers

- Livestock producers are facing serious threats from pervasive and invasive vector-borne diseases.
- Concerns over variable prices, uncertain weather conditions, and increasing production expenses have spurred demand for sound management practices and decision making that is key to optimizing production efficiency and competitiveness.

AgriLife Extension's Response

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service delivers wide-ranging educational programs focused on research-based livestock production and management practices, evaluation of technologies, improved decision making, water-use efficiency, and job training.

- Programs for livestock operations focus on improved reproduction strategies, animal health, feeds and nutrition, forage production, breeding-stock replacement strategies, livestock marketing, and financial risk management.
- Through 10,900 educational events, planning meetings, and workshops in 2017, AgriLife Extension achieved more than 2.0 million educational and other contacts.



- AgriLife Extension often collaborates with industry groups and with other government entities to deliver educational programs.

Economic Impacts

Selected programs are highlighted below. Impacts were measured by the increase in net returns associated with adoption of certain management practices taught in 2017.

- The increase in net returns resulting from the adoption and implementation of selected beef cattle management practices taught at the Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course and Ranch Management University resulted in a total economic benefit of \$23.8 million.
- For dairy operations, the economic benefits resulting from the adoption of heat abatement and other management strategies was estimated at \$26.8 million.
- The net returns increase resulting from the implementation of selected beef cattle management practices taught at the Cattle Trails Stocker and Wheat Conference, Beef Quality Assurance trainings, and Hemphill County Beef Conference resulted in economic benefits of \$7.9 million.
- Extension programs focusing on managing livestock and crop financial risk led to estimated gains of \$39 million.
- The economic benefits of the Beef Cattle Reproduction Management Schools was estimated at \$622,000.
- Job training and continuing education through Beef Quality Assurance trainings, Feedyard Camp, and the Feedyard Technician Program support 218 Texas jobs, with an annual wage base of \$8.7 million.