

Planning for Pond Success

Springtime in Panola County brings the promise of new beginnings, and for many landowners, that means preparing to stock their ponds with fish. But before you dive in, take note that success in pond establishment requires careful planning and strategy.

AgriLife Extension stresses patience and foresight, highlighting that a well-executed plan can lead to a thriving ecosystem, while rushing can spell trouble for years to come. Before introducing any fish, it's crucial to create the right environment and food chain.

Think of it as a journey—establishing a balanced ecosystem takes time. A meticulous approach, including water sample analyses to ensure the pond's chemistry is just right. Implementing a fertilization program can also enhance productivity, but timing is key.

When it's time to stock fish, take it slow. AgriLife Extension recommends starting with fathead minnows, followed by bluegill and redear sunfish, maintaining a delicate balance to avoid disruptions. Proper pond management is vital too, from regular harvesting to controlling vegetation.

And a word of caution be wary of stocking crappie in ponds smaller than 20 acres in size. Overpopulation can harm the ecosystem. For expert guidance on pond management and more, reach out to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Carthage.

Remember, with careful planning and expert advice, you can create a flourishing ecosystem for years of fishing enjoyment. Contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension at 316 W. Sabine St. Carthage, TX, or call (903) 693-0380.

2024 Mid-Sabine Cattleman's Conference

By Lee Dudley CEA Ag & NR Panola County AgriLife Extension

Carthage, TX – February 23, 2024 – The eagerly anticipated Mid-Sabine Cattleman's Conference is back for another informative year, brought to you by the collaborative efforts of Panola County AgriLife Extension, surrounding County AgriLife Offices, and industry sponsors. Scheduled for April 26th, this event

promises a wealth of knowledge for attendees, with registration starting at 8:30 am and program topics running from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Venue and Registration Details

The Carthage Civic Center Conference Room will once again serve as the host location for the 2024 Mid-Sabine Cattleman's Conference. To secure your spot, RSVPs are requested by April 22nd. The registration fee for this year's program is \$20, offering excellent value for attendees. Moreover, participants will earn Continued Educational Units for private applicators licenses, with 1 General, 1 IPM, 1 Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training units and 1 Laws and Regulations awarded for those in attendance.

Expert Speakers and Program Highlights

Renowned regional experts will grace the stage, sharing their insights and expertise with conference participants. Dr. Vanesa Olson, AgriLife Extension Forage Specialist; Mr. Clint Perkins, County Extension Agent for Smith County; Mr. Rob Brooks, Envu Chemicals Range and Pasture Specialist; and Mr. Darren Rozell, Owner Operator of Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing, are among the distinguished speakers lined up for the event.

Key Program Topics Include:

Dive into key program topics, including Integrated Pest Management Strategies, Feral Hog Stewardship Training featuring Kaput Hog Bait, Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training for Weed Management, and Weed Identification Techniques and Control Options, which even includes a weed identification test with a prize for the highest scorer.

Engagement and Networking Opportunities

The conference promises more than just informative sessions. Doors open at 8:00 am, with attendees treated to coffee and donuts courtesy of the Panola County Beef and Forage Committee. Additionally, agriculture industry vendors will be present, offering educational resources and networking opportunities throughout the day.

Save the Date and Secure Your Spot

Landowners and cattlemen alike are encouraged to mark their calendars for the Mid-Sabine Cattleman's Conference. Early registration is advised to ensure your

participation in this enriching event. For further details and registration, please contact the Panola County AgriLife Extension office at (903) 693-0380 or via email at jldudley@ag.tamu.edu. Remember, RSVPs are required by April 22nd.

Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity to enhance your knowledge and network with industry experts. Secure your place today!