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KIMBLE COUNTY AG/NR NEWSLETTER

Sam Silvers, CEA Kimble County

PO Box 427/501 Main Street, Junction TX 76849

325-446-2620/Email: gssilvers@ag.tamu.edu

Hello and Happy New Year from the Kimble County Extension Office! I hope this letter finds each of you well and in good spirits. Its an exciting New Year here for us as we are soon off to the races at the Major Livestock shows. I've made a resolution this year to keep you more informed of what is happening around the state as far as ag and wildlife goes. So, be checking the mail every month!

I received an email a few days ago from Dr. Maureen Fink, Extension Wildlife Specialist out of Uvalde which contains information on the New World Screw Worm outbreak that began last fall in Florida. I thought this was an interesting read due to the fact we have combated screw worms here in the past and we also have a high deer population. This screw worm outbreak was limited to "Key" deer in Florida and since its discovery the death rates have slowed, thanks to efforts made by the USDA. The USDA released nearly 60 million sterile screwworm flies. The sterilized screwworms mate and lay eggs, but their offspring cannot mate. To provide deer with immediate protection, the USDA has also been administering the anti-parasitic medication "doramectin". This outbreak marks the first time screwworms have been present in the United States for more than 30 years.

The new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) has been on the minds of many of us over the past year and, if you are like me, you are still trying to sift through the muddy water to get a clear picture of how this directive is going to affect us. I have had several visits with Dr. Brooks here in town over this matter trying to figure out exactly what is on the list. To the best of my knowledge, this will directly affect antibiotics that are mixed in feed rations. From now on, I would encourage you to establish a good relationship with your veterinarian. The Texas Agrilife Extension Service has a great fact sheet that sums up all of this. Here is the link to the PDF, <http://agrilifecdn.tamu.edu/texasaglaw/files/2016/01/just-click-here..pdf>. If you can't access the link from home, please feel free to call the office and we would be glad to print one for you and mail it.

Lastly, we will have many great opportunities for CEU'S during 2017. I would encourage you to make sure to attend these workshops and keep up with your CEU hours. It has become somewhat of a pain to obtain a license now. If you do not have a license and would like to obtain one, please contact the office and we would be glad to help you. Also, be sure to ask us about the new B-1466, "Chemical Weed and Brush Control Guide". This guide gets updated each year with new recommendations on brush species, application rates, and new chemicals. This is an all-in-one guide to help you.

Don't forget to check out our website: <http://kimble.agrilife.org/> for a copy of this newsletter