



BarnTALK

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UPDATE ON INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

Much discussion and effort has gone into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and it is certain much more will be needed to achieve implementation. It has been a work in progress over several years now and while various implementation dates have been set, reset and/or delayed many times, it is nevertheless, a program of which some or all aspects will eventually become mandatory law. The State Fair of Texas®, the other major Texas livestock shows, and the Texas steer and swine validation programs have supported early efforts to utilize radio frequency identification (RFID) tags to test technology options available for identification and tracking of individual animals.

The goal of the NAIS is to protect U. S. animal agriculture from domestic or foreign diseases by enabling animal health officials to identify where infected or exposed animals have been and to track their movement. The three main components of the NAIS consist of: (1) premises identification, (2) animal identification and (3) animal tracking. Premises identification will be used to define a geographic site where animals are handled. The Texas Animal Health Commission has established a voluntary premise registration program in Texas and has proposed it become compulsory on July 1, 2006. It has been estimated



that the state of Texas will have as many as 200,000 premises to identify. The animal identification component involves the individual identification of each animal, when they are moved from their herd of origin or are commingled with animals from other premises. In the show steers and swine, this has been tested using a RFID tag with a 15-digit electronic identification number. The final component, animal tracking, will involve recording and reporting those animals sold, commingled or slaughtered. The plan is to correlate the individual animal identification number to the premises identification number in a record keeping system to easily track historical movement of animals. These components are certain to evolve to meet the disease surveillance goals as the phase in of the NAIS continues. ★

WELCOME

It's a delight to welcome each of you to the 2006 State Fair of Texas®. Although many of you are just now getting in your rest after the spring stock shows, we are hard at work in Dallas to make this year's fair bigger and better.



As you know, 2005 was a banner year at the State Fair, setting new records, making new memories, and meeting new people. Just a few of our accomplishments include:

- A 20% increase at the Youth Livestock Auction with more dollars paid to youth than ever before
- Two new successful livestock judging contests
- A regional junior breeding gilt show
- The addition of a donkey and mule show
- New livestock shows & sales
- More premium dollars to more entries throughout the entire show

Some new goals for 2006 include: another 20% increase in the Youth Livestock Auction, a 4-H/FFA Dairy Judging Contest, an Agricultural Mechanics Contest, a new Rabbit Show, and improving our communications and public relations approach. Although, lofty in their reach, we hope these tasks will be welcomed by our most important asset – our exhibitors.

As opening day approaches, September 29, 2006, we hope that each of you look forward to participating in the great tradition, The State Fair of Texas®. ★

State Fair of Texas® Volunteers Take Control

For the past 19 years Dana and Dal Woodruff have looked forward to working with participants of the State Fair of Texas®.

The Woodruff family began doing volunteer work for the fair livestock committee after Dana was offered a general fair pass from a livestock committee member. Dana immediately began thinking of ways she and her family could give something back to the fair. She chose to take things to the next level by making a request to Benny Clark, former Vice President of Livestock, to see what she could do to get more involved with the livestock show committee.

“We just love working with everyone at the State Fair, we look forward to it every year”

Dana’s husband Dal, who is a pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Mesquite, decided that he would like to get involved with the State Fair as well. He began his participation by encouraging his church members to be involved in volunteer work with the livestock department.

After the Woodruff’s began their involvement, they developed a special love

for the State Fair. Dal soon found himself in charge of the steer branding and was glad to accept the position because he felt it was a great opportunity to work with youth exhibitors.

Dal and Dana are now in charge of 85 volunteers at the fair, where 90% of those volunteers come from FBC. The church group assists everyone from the committee to the judges and participants throughout a variety of events.

The State Fair “pig day” is one of the many events that the volunteers look forward to working each year. For pig exhibitors at the fair, the line of trailers is never ending and dreaded by most. However, the volunteers from FBC view the event as a privilege. The group works all year to plan and get things organized for their work at the state fair.

“The work that they do is second to none; they are amazing,” says Karla Sikes, Director of Livestock for the State Fair.

Dana says that “pig day” is exciting for the volunteers who work with exhibitors to help them unload trailers throughout the day. In the eyes of the majority of the livestock industry, unloading trailers in



steaming weather is the last thing they want to do. The volunteers on the other hand, never think twice about jumping in and working hard.

Dana says “We love to do the work because it rewards us in the end, and we do whatever it takes to make things easier on the officials as well as exhibitors, because that’s what the State Fair is all about.”

“The appreciation that we receive from livestock officials as well as the participants makes our work very enjoyable and worth the effort,” says Dana. ★

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DAY

Youth Leadership Day will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2006. We are in the process of selecting a speaker for our event. Mailings to individual schools and county extension agents will be sent the week of August 14 to ensure that you will be able to meet with your groups and get cards returned prior to the mid-September deadline.

Schedule and speaker information will be listed on our Web site as it becomes available. You can also make requests at our Web site, www.bigtex.com and click on livestock. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at livestock@bigtex.com. ★



NEW WEB SITE & ONLINE ENTRIES



In striving to simplify the entry process for State Fair exhibitors and officials, the online entry system has been a huge success. In 2005, exhibitors began submitting entries for the first time by using the Big Tex Livestock Web site.

As we continue to create ways to simplify the online entry process for our exhibitors, the usage of the system continues to expand. The online program now allows entry forms to be more accurate than ever before. The program allows us to easily catch mistakes and make any necessary corrections. Once entries have been submitted online they are compiled into a data system. The online system also decreases the risks of lost entries because the submitted forms are sent directly to the database.

Thanks to computer technology it is as simple as typing in the information and the click of a button. Everything you need to become a part of the livestock show is at your fingertips.

Online entries will close at midnight on August 25th for all Youth competitions. For instructions on how to use the online entry system please visit our Web site. For additional issues, you may contact the livestock department at (214) 421-8273 and we will be glad to assist you. ★

NEW E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

In order to keep you updated on The State Fair of Texas® Livestock Show we will be launching our new e-newsletter in June. Your source for all of the latest livestock information is just a click away. Be the first to know and sign up for the newsletter now on our Web site at www.bigtex.com.

Sign Up Now



LIVESTOCK UPDATES AND REMINDERS

New in 2006

- ★ Ag Mechanics contest
- ★ 4-H/ FFA Dairy Judging contest
- ★ National Brahman Show
- ★ National Pinzgauer Show
- ★ AHA Regional Hereford Show
- ★ Breeding Swine show arrival dates and show times have changed, please see schedule.
- ★ Donkey and Mule Halter Show moves to the Livestock Judging Pavilion.
- ★ The State Fair of Texas® welcomes Rabbit Show exhibitors.
- ★ Dairy Goat breed breakdown has been modified

Exhibitor Reminders

- ★ Youth Cattle Shows offering over \$95,000 in premiums.
- ★ Open Cattle Shows offering over \$250,000 in premiums.
- ★ \$25,000 Autobahn Youth Longhorn Scholarship Show.
- ★ Prospect Steer Show offers over \$15,000 in premiums.
- ★ Pan-American Exhibitor Appreciation Dinner for cattle, swine, sheep and goats.
- ★ AMGA 6th Annual Meat Goat Evaluation .
- ★ Market livestock exhibitors weigh and turn in your own weight cards.
- ★ Market steers and lambs must be classified by breed.
- ★ Market barrows turn in your own classification. Barrows that are incorrectly classified will be disqualified.
- ★ Participate in the 4-H/FFA and Collegiate Judging Contests.
- ★ ALL animals are required to have health papers.
- ★ ALL market animals are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
- ★ All exhibitors should check the Animal Health Regulations on our Web site for necessary requirements.
- ★ Many Junior and Open Heifer Show breeds have the same dates making it simple for exhibitors to participate in both shows.
Breeds Include:
Brahman, Simmental, Simbrah, Hereford, Polled Hereford, Santa Gertrudis, Brangus, Red Brangus, Angus, Red Angus
- ★ Swine validation tags should be ordered from www.texasffa.org
- ★ Steer validation tags should be ordered from:
Dr. Kyle Smith, Texas Cooperative Extension
104 Administration Bldg., 7101 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-7101
- ★ Lamb and Goat validation tags should be ordered from:
Dr. Frank Craddock
Extension Sheep and Goat Specialist
7887 US Highway 87 North,
San Angelo, TX 76901-9714

NEW WEB SITE AND SIMPLIFIED ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM



PIG DAY VOLUNTEERS



NEW GOALS FOR 2006



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DAY



SHOW DATES, FEES & DEADLINES



NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

State Fair of Texas® Livestock
P.O. Box 150009
Dallas, TX 75315
Phone: 214-421-8723
Fax: 214-421-8792
www.bigtex.com

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P.O. Box 150009
Dallas, TX 75315

JUDGING CONTESTS

A Tremendous Success

In 2005, State Fair of Texas® hosted what will soon become one of the most prestigious livestock judging contests for collegiate judging teams as well as 4-H and FFA exhibitors. Last year's contest was a huge success and we look forward to 2006 by expanding and continuing to make the contest a learning experience for all exhibitors. New for 2006, a 4-H/FFA Dairy Judging Contest will be added. You can find more information about the judging contests and other events on our Web site at www.bigtex.com. ★

2006 CONFIRMED JUDGES

YOUTH JUDGES

MARKET STEERS
- Steve Reimer, Chamberlain, SD

MARKET BARROWS - Shane Brinning, Keota, IA

MARKET GOATS - Vance Christie, Big Spring, TX

MARKET LAMBS - Gene Winn, Estancia, NM

BEEFMASTER, BRANGUS, CHAROLAIS, LIMOUSIN, MAINE ANJOU, ORAB, ORB, SHORTHORN BEEF HEIFERS
- Chance Farmer, New Braunfels, TX

YOUTH ANGUS, RED ANGUS, HEREFORD AND POLLED HEREFORD HEIFERS
- Ryan Rathman, Lubbock, TX

SIMBRAH, SIMMENTAL, AND BRAHMAN HEIFERS, OPEN RED BRANGUS
- Gerald Young, Katy, TX

RED BRANGUS AND SANTA GERTRUDIS HEIFERS - Lee Pritchard, Bells, TX

LONGHORNS - Dr. Bill Able, Miami, OK

DAIRY GOATS - Melinda Butler, Gainesville, TX

BREEDING SWINE - JR Reid, Sweet Springs, MO

DAIRY HEIFERS - Leo Hoff, Jr., Windthorst, TX

PAN-AMERICAN JUDGES

BRAHMAN - Randall Tipp, Sealy, TX

LONGHORNS - Ray Rice, Wilburton, OK

SIMBRAH & SIMMENTAL
- Judd Cullers, Hungerford, TX

SANTA GERTRUDIS - Jim Williams, Boling, TX

DAIRY CATTLE - Ronnie Rider, Upton, KY

WOOL AND NATURAL COLORED SHEEP
- Brad Roeder, Fredericksburg, TX

BREEDING SWINE
- Cody McCleery, Weatherford, TX

DAIRY GOATS
- Yvonne Blosser, Mark Center, OH

NIGERIAN DWARF GOATS
- Suzy Way, Nashville, TN

RABBITS - Conall Addison, Garden City, KS

RABBITS - Joey Shults, Oak Hills, CA

Check out our web site for the latest additions.