

# Supporting Livestock Production THROUGH EDUCATION

## Challenges

- 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, which is key to optimizing production efficiency and competitiveness.



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## AgriLife Extension 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 4,100 educational events, planning meetings and workshops in 2023, AgriLife Extension **reached more than 1.1 million** educational and other contacts.
- AgriLife Extension often collaborates with industry groups and other government entities to deliver educational programs.

## Economic Impacts

Selected programs are highlighted below, where impacts were measured by the increase in net returns associated with adopting certain management practices taught in 2023.

- 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 resulted in a total economic benefit of **\$20.2 million**.
- For dairy operations, the economic benefits resulting from the adoption of heat abatement and other management strategies were estimated at **\$5.8 million**.
- The net returns increase resulting from the implementation of selected beef cattle management practices taught at Beef Quality Assurance trainings and the Hemphill County Beef Conference, and other extension outreach programs resulted in an economic benefit of **\$61.9 million**.
- Extension programs focusing on managing livestock and crop financial risk and business planning led to estimated gains of **\$32.2 million**.
- Job training and continuing education through Beef Quality Assurance trainings, Feedyard Camp and the Feedyard Technician Program support 517 Texas jobs, with an annual wage base of **\$9.9 million**.

*Since these impacts represent just a selection of livestock educational programs, the economic impacts are considered conservative since they do not reflect all livestock programs.*