

April 8, 2008

Multi-County Range Education Workshop and Tour Set May 1

Writer: Steve Byrns, 325-653-4576, s-byrns@tamu.edu

Contact: Tom Yeater, 432-264-2236, tlyeater@ag.tamu.edu

BIG SPRING – The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in several West Texas counties are teaming up to present a range education workshop and tour May 1.

The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration and breakfast on the Sterling Ranch, about 25 miles north of Big Spring on State Hwy. 350. A tour on the ranch will follow at 9 a.m.

Six Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be offered: 3 general, 1 drift management, 1 laws and regulations, and 1 integrated pest management.

“This field day is all about optimizing the range resource through proper long-term management,” said Tommy Yeater, AgriLife Extension agent in Howard County. “We’ll start with the tour on the Sterling Ranch and then travel to Dunn at about 12:15 p.m. for the afternoon session and meal.

“The speakers are some of the best in the business, so it would be time well spent for anybody contemplating brush work in the near future.”

Morning tour-stop demonstrations will include: mechanical brush control, Brush Busters, range ripping and seeding, wildlife and grazing management, and using a “range stick” to measure available forage.

Afternoon topics will include: rangeland weed control, chemical laws and regulations, plant identification, aerial application and U.S. Department of Agriculture farm bill programs.

The counties hosting the program are Howard, Borden, Mitchell and Scurry.

The workshop is free of charge and includes breakfast and lunch; however, a response is requested for meal planning purposes. RSVP to the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Big Spring at 432-267-1871, extension 3, or call Yeater at 432-264-2236.