

SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

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Beware of brush and weeds

By Caitlin Richards

Texas rangelands look drastically different today compared to the early days when Stephen F. Austin and the first settlers of Texas arrived. Aside from urban sprawl, over the years invasive weeds and brush have increasingly encroached the remaining Texas rangelands.

Morgan Treadwell,

Ph.D., Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service range specialist in San Angelo says Texas is losing grassland savannahs at an alarming rate to brush encroachment in West Texas, where she consults producers and extension agents and conducts research.

“There’s a general rule of thumb that states every three generations, you have to buy the ranch back from brush,” says Treadwell. “I think it is closer to every other or even every generation, it seems. We fight [invasive brush] so much. We fail to be creative and integrated enough in our approach to really have an efficient and sustainable approach. We are treating symptoms and we’re not treating the problem.”

Brush and weeds threaten the overall biodiversity fabric and productivity of Texas rangelands, Treadwell explains. Brush and weeds can easily form a monoculture, where there is primarily only one thriving plant species in a rangeland. Using mesquite as an example, she explains how a brush species like mesquite overtakes a rangeland and creates a major loss in herbaceous biodiversity.

“Typically, under mesquite you will find a lot more Texas winter grass, which is a cool season grass” Treadwell says. “Before you know, if you have monocultures of Texas winter grass in your pastures and you’ve lost biodiversity from your warm season grasses and definitely from a structural diversity perspective, as well. So, minimal variety of shortgrasses, mid-grasses and tallgrasses.”

Producers can expect to see a direct loss in profits when a situation like this occurs. The loss in forage production and biodiversity, Treadwell states, could

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ROUND-UP REVIEW
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Just Your Standard Bull

By Michael Sturgess

TEXAS Trails...

By Clay Coppedge

In my opinion, one of the best additions to our newspaper these past years has been the addition of Brian Bledsoe's weather column. Yes, we are also in the business of offering Pasture Rangeland Forage (PRF) insurance, so we no doubt had underlying goals in doing so.

Long range weather forecasting is an art unto itself. Now, sometimes its abstract art and you can't interpret its meaning. Other times it is landscape art and clearly depicts a picture that we understand fully. Sometimes it inspires its intended audience. Other times it misses the

target altogether.

OK, so I went back to the October 2nd issue of last year to run a little test. As I studied Brian's column and charts, my focus was on what his forecast showed for precipitation for Jan-March of this year. The composite map he used of past analog years where similar conditions prevailed was showing for the eastern two-thirds of Texas, most of Louisiana, southern Arkansas, southern Mississippi, southern Alabama and northern Georgia and Florida to be drier than normal.

So, how did it turn out? From January through

March of this year, most of South Texas and the coastal plains was indeed dry. However, as we migrated further north into central, north and East Texas, conditions were closer to normal or average rainfall. Southern Arkansas, northern Louisiana, northern Mississippi and northern Alabama and northern Georgia were above normal on precip. However, Southern Alabama and parts of Florida were below normal rainfall.

Interpretation? Perhaps the La Nina episode that was present last fall wasn't as strong as predicted? Brian always says that just because a La Nina is present, that doesn't mean you won't have storms or rainfall. But what he does say that as a general rule as weather tracks across the US that the heavier rainfall tracks north of Interstate 80, or the northern half of the US.

So, were his predictions correct? Well, the further south you live the more the predictions proved to be on target. As far as temperatures were, he was pretty much right there too until the big February Storm came through. I don't think anyone predicted that!

So, as Brian has indicated, we have another La Nina episode now developing. How weak or how strong will this one be? Read Brain's column for the answers!

Country Music's First Superstar

A popular joke during the Depression was that the typical shopping list for Southerners was a pound of butter, a slab of bacon, a sack of flour and the new Jimmie Rodgers record. It was more of an observation than a joke.

Rodgers was country music's first superstar, though he owed more to the blues than what was then called "hillbilly music." Between 1927 and 1933 he recorded more than 100 songs, including classics like "In the Jailhouse Now," "Frankie and Johnny" and "Waiting for a Train." He sold more than 20 million records in his lifetime, more than any Victor (now RCA Victor) artist pre-Elvis. His music has inspired generations of performers across all musical genres, including Gene Autry, Merle Haggard, Lefty Frizzell, and Mississippi John Hurt.

Born in Mississippi in 1897, Rodgers spent much of his life on the road as a traveling troubadour and vagabond. One of his favorite places was Texas, describing it as "a state I dearly love" in his song "Waiting for a Train." He arrived here as early as 1916, when he was in El Paso looking for a job with the Texas and Pacific Railroad. He returned to the state many times and settled here in what would

turn out to be his old age. He was even named an honorary member of the Texas Rangers in 1931.

Nearly every town in Texas has, somewhere in its history, a verified Jimmie Rodgers sighting or two, and more than a few stories. Like the time after a performance in Temple when he returned to his motel and commenced singing from the window of his room, drawing such a crowd that the cops had to break up an ensuing traffic

jam.

Rodgers took a circuitous route to Texas. He quit school when he was 14 and went to work for the railroad where his father was a foreman. Jimmie started out as a water boy and worked his way up to brakeman, learning how to play banjo and guitar from Black railroad workers all over the South. When railroad work became too strenuous for him after a TB diagnosis in 1924, he

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Livestock guardian dog field day set

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service event will run from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Roeder Ranch, 6918 White Oak Road. The cost, if registered by Oct. 1, is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. After that date, the cost is \$30 and \$50, respectively.

Contact the AgriLife Extension office of Gillespie County to register at 830-997-3452 or via email at donna.maxwell@ag.tamu.edu.

The field day is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at San Angelo's ongoing effort to help producers.

"We want to help them adopt the practice of using specially bred and trained dogs with livestock as a deterrent to predation," said Bill Costanzo, Texas A&M AgriLife Research LGD specialist, San Angelo.

Livestock guardian dog protection

The field day will include a ranch tour of Fritz Southdowns. There will also be LGD breeders with LGDs for sale, exhibitors and a producer panel.

Topics and speakers include:

- LGD Fact vs Fiction — Reid Redden, Ph.D., Agri-

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USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 9-23-21			
SPECIES:	9-18-2021:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	704	1,386	37,713
b. Breeding Males	43	5	1,341
c. Breeding Females	0	0	1,123
Total	747	1,391	40,177
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	81	2,300
c. Breeding Females	0	0	3,952
Total	0	81	6,252
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	9
b. Breeding Females	40	80	2,808
Total	40	80	2,817
5) GOATS			
a. Angora	0	0	0
b. Spanish	0	0	0
c. Other	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
6) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	179	396	12,129
b. Breeding Males	16	31	1,059
c. Breeding Females	25	63	1,750
d. Geldings	18	18	609
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	50
Total	0	24	29
7) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	5
MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS			
SPECIES:	9-25-2021:	1-1-2021 - Present:	
FEEDER CATTLE	7,585	446,301	
MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS			
FEEDER CATTLE	1,274	136,431	

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SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

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If registered, what breed? _____
Type of business: ☐ FARMER ☐ RANCHER ☐ AGRI-BUSINESS
☐ OTHER: _____

SUBSCRIPTION WILL START UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

DC News...

USDA urged to address supply chain issues

Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has sent Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack a letter, detailing a list of solutions to address critical supply chain issues facing America's farmers and ranchers. AFBF details seven priorities for USDA to consider in response to President Joe Biden's Executive Order on America's Supply Chains.

"We are now in our 18th month of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this period, our nation has witnessed vulnerabilities throughout the supply chain that haven't been seen before," wrote AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Supplies of farm inputs like crop protectants, fertilizers, and seeds have been difficult to obtain, and expensive to purchase. Highway transportation of farm products and supplies is more expensive and less available today than pre-pandemic levels, and timely maritime transport of value-added agricultural exports is frustrated, at best. All the while, agricultural labor, both domestic and foreign, is increasingly difficult to access and expensive, making already small margins even tighter."

Among the recommendations, AFBF asks USDA to consider action on:

•**Livestock markets and processing capacity.** AFBF supports USDA's commitments and efforts to bolster the role of small capacity meat packers in the supply chain. We also support the grant program, under development, to assist those small plants in becoming FSIS inspected;

•**Farm inputs.** Farm Bureau urges USDA to work with other agencies to ensure increased costs to farmers are considered in tariff rulings and scientific data is used during the pesticide registration process;

•**Transportation.** Farm Bureau recommends that USDA and USDOT continue to coordinate to ensure agricultural haulers and the rest of the trucking

nation's rail and port systems;

•**Labor.** AFBF urges USDA to work across the federal government to streamline the application process and ensure timely arrivals of guest workers while ensuring personal protective equipment is readily available for farm workers;

•**Trade.** Farm Bureau asks USDA to consider the impacts of trade actions on agricultural exports and resolve outstanding issues with the U.S.-China Phase 1 Agreement.

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industry have the flexibilities needed to provide timely delivery of essential products. USDA should also work with relevant authorities to improve the

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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, September 23, 2021: Total receipts: 1,270, last reported (9-16-21) 2,128, last year 2,255. Feeder cattle: 978 (77.0%), last reported (9-16-21) 1,873 (88.0%), last year 1,579 (70.0%). Slaughter cattle: 190 (15.0%), last reported (9-16-21) 149 (7.0%), last year 496 (22.0%). Replacement cattle 102 (8.0%), last reported (9-16-21) 106 (5.0%), last year 180 (8.0%). Compared to last week steer and heifer calves and yearlings 5.00-7.00 lower. Slaughter cows 1.00-3.00 lower with most decline on thin light cows; slaughter bulls steady. Stock cows and pairs steady. Trading and demand only moderate at best. Supply included: 77% Feeder Cattle (42% Steers, 50% Heifers, 9% Bulls); 15% Slaughter Cattle (92% Cows, 8% Bulls); 8% Replacement Cattle (49% Stock Cows, 37% Bred Cows, 12% Bred Heifers, 3% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 45%.

Amarillo Livestock Auction, Amarillo, Texas, September 27, 2021: Total receipts: 536, last reported (9-20-21) 705, last year 434. Feeder cattle: 451 (84.1%), last reported (9-20-21) 625 (88.7%), last year 401 (92.4%). Slaughter cattle: 40 (7.5%), last reported (9-20-21) 50 (7.1%), last year 25 (5.8%). Replacement cattle: 45 (8.4%), last reported

(9-20-21) 30 (4.3%), last year: 8 (1.8%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers were steady to 3.00 higher on limited comparable sales. Trade activity was moderate on good demand. Slaughter cows and bulls were steady to 3.00 higher. Supply included: 84% Feeder Cattle (14% Steers, 19% Dairy Steers, 55% Heifers, 9% Bulls, 4% Dairy Heifers); 7% Slaughter Cattle (91% Cows, 9% Bulls); 8% Replacement Cattle (98% Bred Cows, 3% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 63%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 28, 2021: Total receipts: 5,874, last reported (9-20-21) 6,687, last year 5,767. Feeder cattle: 5,874 (100.0%), last reported (9-20-21) 6,687 (100.0%), last year 5,767 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers unevenly steady. Feeder heifers 2.00 - 5.00 higher. Steer and heifer calves unevenly steady. Demand moderate to good. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (64% Steers, 34% Heifers, 2% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 64%.

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.
Beeville, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-24-21

VOLUME: 440
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	97-193	90-137
300-400 lbs.	98-185	92-142
400-500 lbs.	90-161	97-131
500-600 lbs.	105-147	100-139
600-700 lbs.	104-138	100-137
700-800 lbs.	103-130	80-107
Slaughter cows	30-65	
Slaughter Bulls	65-90	
Stocker cows	475-1150	
Pairs	310-1210	

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission
Bryan, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-28-21

VOLUME: 979
TREND: Steady.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	185-205	170-180
300-400 lbs.	175-185	160-170
400-500 lbs.	160-186	145-155
500-600 lbs.	142-155	130-140
600-700 lbs.	135-149	125-132
700-800 lbs.	125-132	—
Slaughter cows	47-70	
Slaughter bulls	75-86	
Stocker cows	750-1190	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.
Three Rivers, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-27-21

VOLUME: 1852
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	139-192	120-164
300-400 lbs.	128-190	110-146
400-500 lbs.	114-164	108-142
500-600 lbs.	110-154	104-136
600-700 lbs.	106-144	100-128
700-800 lbs.	92-132	88-122
Slaughter cows	24-68	
Slaughter bulls	62-86	
Stocker cows	550-1125	
Pairs	1100-1375	

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.
Nixon, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-27-21

VOLUME: 1800
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	117-187	122-190
300-400 lbs.	140-203	122-225
400-500 lbs.	129-198	116-200
500-600 lbs.	118-158	109-190
600-700 lbs.	113-139	103-130
700-800 lbs.	109-130	100-135
Slaughter cows	22-70	
Slaughter bulls	72-95	
Stocker cows	650-1200	
Pairs	825-1010	

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC
Alice, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-21-21

VOLUME: 639
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	150-175	135-160
300-400 lbs.	145-170	130-155
400-500 lbs.	140-165	125-135
500-600 lbs.	125-166	122-140
600-700 lbs.	120-135	115-135
700-800 lbs.	115-130	100-110
Slaughter cows	46-75	
Slaughter bulls	80-90	
Stocker cows	750-1100	
Pairs	875-1300	

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company
Fredericksburg, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-22-21

VOLUME: 1293
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-200	160-187.5
300-400 lbs.	160-210.5	150-160
400-500 lbs.	150-190	130-150
500-600 lbs.	140-170	125-140
600-700 lbs.	140-145	115-135
700-800 lbs.	130-141	96-130
Slaughter cows	40-76	
Slaughter Bulls	80-97	
Stocker cows	700-1125	
Pairs	900-1625	

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC
Groesbeck, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-23-21

VOLUME: 1320
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	145-210	140-160
400-500 lbs.	135-205	135-157
500-600 lbs.	120-161	120-145
600-700 lbs.	110-152.5	110-140
700-800 lbs.	115-135	110-130
Slaughter cows	45-74	
Slaughter bulls	76-92	
Stocker cows	800-1500	
Pairs	1050-1750	

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction
San Saba & Mason, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-23-21

VOLUME: 2669
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-180	140-160
300-400 lbs.	160-190	140-160
400-500 lbs.	150-180	133-153
500-600 lbs.	140-163	125-160
600-700 lbs.	128-144	118-188
700-800 lbs.	120-135	108-126
Slaughter cows	20-75	
Slaughter bulls	72-90	
Stocker cows	610-1200	
Pairs	920-1900	

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission
Giddings, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-22-21

VOLUME: 1293
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-200	160-187.5
300-400 lbs.	160-210.5	150-160
400-500 lbs.	150-190	130-150
500-600 lbs.	140-170	125-140
600-700 lbs.	140-145	115-135
700-800 lbs.	130-141	96-130
Slaughter cows	40-76	
Slaughter bulls	80-97	
Stocker cows	700-1125	
Pairs	900-1625	

SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction
Lampasas, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-22-21

VOLUME: 725
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	143-190	125-140
300-400 lbs.	158-192	122-164
400-500 lbs.	141-182	128-170
500-600 lbs.	128-155	123-138
600-700 lbs.	121-142	121-132
700-800 lbs.	115-141	116-129
Slaughter cows	15-71	
Slaughter bulls	64-92	
Stocker cows	500-1200	
Pairs	—	

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.
Crockett, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-28-21

VOLUME: 3247
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	171-178	151-171
300-400 lbs.	168-194	145-172
400-500 lbs.	151-194	138-159
500-600 lbs.	138-168	131-147
600-700 lbs.	130-156	119-144
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	48-71	
Slaughter Bulls	83-92	
Stocker cows	590-1225	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Caldwell, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-22-21

VOLUME: 893
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	150-200	140-175
300-400 lbs.	150-200	130-200
400-500 lbs.	145-185	127-195
500-600 lbs.	135-157	130-185
600-700 lbs.	125-143	125-147
700-800 lbs.	124-130	115-127
Slaughter cows	30-69	
Slaughter bulls	65-91	
Stocker cows	550-1050	
Pairs	800-1250	

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Buffalo, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-18-21

VOLUME: 1323
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	150-217	130-160
400-500 lbs.	145-174	126-154
500-600 lbs.	140-164	127-142
600-700 lbs.	130-156.5	125-146
700-800 lbs.	130-153	130-145
Slaughter cows	50-77.5	
Slaughter bulls	74-103	
Stocker cows	850-1225	
Pairs	830-1330	

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.
Navasota, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-25-21

VOLUME: 2056
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	110-210	110-190
300-400 lbs.	110-205	105-160
400-500 lbs.	110-200	100-145
500-600 lbs.	110-160	100-140
600-700 lbs.	100-136	100-130
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	25-67	
Slaughter bulls	60-94	
Stocker cows	750-1300	
Pairs	1000-1200	

SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock
Brenham, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-24-21

VOLUME: 1758
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	122-185	111-154
300-400 lbs.	135-210	128-217
400-500 lbs.	137-192	126-210
500-600 lbs.	127-176	121-205
600-700 lbs.	124-142	118-152
700-800 lbs.	121-134	112-129
Slaughter cows	22-80	
Slaughter bulls	60-97	
Stocker cows	850	
Pairs	850-1250	

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets
Cuero & Victoria, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-24-21

VOLUME: 2027
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	112-186	119-190
300-400 lbs.	140-224	114-142
400-500 lbs.	125-185	120-170
500-600 lbs.	132-160	118-168
600-700 lbs.	128-151	118-168
700-800 lbs.	121-138	110-132
Slaughter cows	28-72	
Slaughter Bulls	62-96	
Stocker cows	64-72	
Pairs	950-1030	

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.
Gonzales, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-25-21

VOLUME: 1448
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	210-225	150-165
300-400 lbs.	195-200	135-145
400-500 lbs.	152-185	130-132
500-600 lbs.	140-150	121-127
600-700 lbs.	130-137	116-119
700-800 lbs.	122-126	—
Slaughter cows	36-73	
Slaughter bulls	81-93	
Stocker cows	600-1025	
Pairs	750-1200	

SALE: Columbus Livestock Co.
Columbus, Texas

DATE OF SALE: 9-23-21

VOLUME: 1323
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	125-215	120-205
300-400 lbs.	100-210	100-197
400-500 lbs.	110-202.5	100-162
500-600 lbs.	105-160	100-142
600-700 lbs.	110-148	95-140
700-800 lbs.	100-131	90-121
Slaughter cows	25-75	
Slaughter bulls	58-90	
Stocker cows	550-1250	
Pairs	750-1410	

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction
Industry, Texas

DATE OF SALE

Eliminating beef cattle pregnancy loss with CRISPR/Cas9 technology

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Calves on the ground eventually mean dollars in the pocket and steaks in the meat case. It's the basics of the beef industry.

However, reproductive inefficiency costs the beef industry billions every year. Most of that is driven by embryonic mortality and pregnancy loss, said Ky Pohler, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science and chair of the Pregnancy and Developmental Programming Area of Excellence at the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"We're conducting a series of studies to evaluate what's really important to the developing pregnancy," Pohler said. "We want to determine how much of the loss is coming from the physiology of the animal vs. how much is genetic."

When a cow loses a pregnancy or undergoes embryonic mortality, the cow may not get pregnant again in that breeding season.

"Beef producers are paid on pounds of calf weaned or a live calf," Pohler said. "If there is no calf born, then there's no profit. And the producer's input costs continue to increase. Our cow-calf operations must get more efficient, or we won't be able to maintain them."

A recent \$500,000 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture will fund Pohler's project to advance understanding of embryonic mortality and pregnancy loss in the cow.

The project, Physiological Function of Prostaglandins and Pregnancy Associated Glycoproteins in Late Embryonic Mortality in Cattle, is part of a series of studies Pohler is conducting to evaluate various aspects of a developing pregnancy.

Successful completion of the study is expected to provide foundational information on the physiological and molecular mechanisms associated with embryonic survival and mortality in beef cattle. This knowledge will lead to

a better understanding of the causes and potential strategies to prevent such reproductive loss, which is causing major economic problems for the beef and dairy industries.

Applying genetic knockout technology

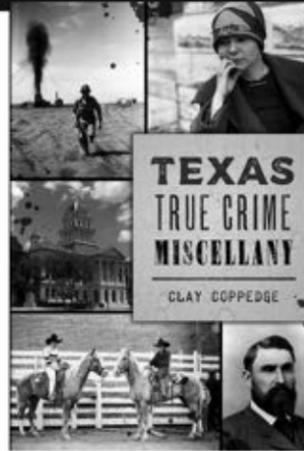
The new grant allows Pohler's team to study gene

knockouts, utilizing the CRISPR/Cas9 technology in cattle.

"You basically knock out a single gene and see what happens with the developing embryo when you do that. Does the pregnancy develop forward, or does it terminate right

(Continued on page 12)

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From the author of the "Texas Trails" column in Southern Livestock Standard!

Outrageous acts of villainy have slowly drifted out of the national limelight and into the dustbin of Texas history. Consider the uproar over the 1879 shooting of actor Drew Barrymore in Marshall and the 1949 murder of oil field legend Tex Thornton in Amarillo. The 1909 Coryell County Courthouse massacre committed by a sixteen-year-old girl remains just as shocking today. For the long-suffering associates of repeat offenders like Fort Worth's Flapper Bandit or Temple's International Man of Mystery, notoriety couldn't fade quickly enough. From the lawless days of the frontier to the rise of organized crime, Clay Coppedge sifts through eighteen obscure case files to chart the evolution of illegal activity in the Lone Star State.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021
2:00 PM Cattle Viewing
6:30 PM Dinner/Entertainment

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021
8:00 AM Cattle Viewing
8:00-10:00 AM Breakfast
11:00 AM TRIED & TRUE PRODUCTION SALE
Lunch will be served after sale.



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Beware...

(Continued from page 1)

decrease by half and producers no longer have those grazeable acres and could be forced to decrease

their herd size.

“The Noble Research Institute out of Ardmore, Oklahoma published an article that stated over the course of 30 years an operation on a thousand acres

can dwindle from supporting 41 cows easily, down to [only supporting] maybe 14 cows or so, if there is zero brush management in place during the 30-year period. So, that is not even a generation. It is just a third of our lifetimes.”

If the cows weigh 1,100 pounds, on average the 1,000 acres will support 41 cows total, which is 24 acres per cow, she explains. With an 85% weaning rate, there would be 35 calves to market each fall. As discussed previously, Treadwell says this herd size could be supported for the first 15 years

or so. Therefore, at year 18 it is assumed the operation can support 33 cows with 28 calves to market; at year 23, 22 cows and 18 calves; at year 28, 16 cows and 13 calves; and finally, at year 30, 14 cows and 11 calves.

Particularly, brush, but weeds too, are difficult to manage once it takes a hold in a rangeland. Treadwell says the longer a producer waits to control brush and weeds the more expensive it gets and management strategies have to change.

“As brush gets denser and the canopy closes, you are only left with a few

options and those are pretty nuclear options,” says Treadwell. “You start having cascading effects that now affect your soil health and overall grass cover because you may potentially need to bring in a dozer and blade, which impacts the top soil.”

Something that may not be at the forefront of producers’ minds is the carbon and energy stored in the soil profile, shares Treadwell. There is a lot of power, she says, in understanding soil health and how important biodiversity in the soil is. She says these

impacts probably won’t be seen until our children’s children are taking care of the rangelands.

A species of grass Treadwell sees a lot of concern with here lately is Mexican needlegrass. West Texas is dealing with this specific species because of oil and gas production. While it is not a new grass, it is novel to Texas and producers are unaware of how threatening it is. With minimal herbicide options, she tells her producers and agents to get out there with a shovel to manually harvest it.

“Those are species that scare me the most, because nobody knows how to identify them,” says Treadwell. “They are so new nobody knows how to manage it and before you know it the species has a niche to hold onto and it magnifies in intensity in a relative shorter period of time.

Other species of concern Treadwell shares are mesquite, redberry junipers, ashe juniper or blueberry juniper. With blueberry juniper, she says it is easy to manage but producers choose not to and then indirect negative effects come into play on rangeland processes. Huisache is also another species of concern according to Treadwell.

“If you asked rangeland managers what the worst or most threatening plant is people work with, you would hear a thousand different answers,” sates Treadwell. “The word threatening is key since a threat can take on many

(Continued on page 28)

D.C. News...

(Continued from page 3)

AFBF stands ready to work with USDA and the Biden administration on finding solutions to these pressing issues. President Duvall wrote, “As our country moves through what we hope are the final chapters of the COVID-19 pandemic and turns its focus to growth and recovery, we ask that USDA continue to engage with Farm Bureau leaders and staff on matters of critical importance to American agriculture.”

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Executive Director's Report...

By: Bill Hyman

The annual South Central Texas ICABull & Female Sale is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 15 at the J.B. Wells Complex in Gonzales. The complex is one mile south of Gonzales just off U.S. Hwy. 183. We will be receiving cattle on Wednesday and Thursday. Cattle will be available for viewing Thursday evening and Friday morning. This year's lineup of females features both outstanding front pasture cattle and many solid commercial heifers and cows. We will have both bred and open heifers, along with several pens of cow/calf pairs. There will be several pens of registered heifers along with quite a few pens of gray Brahman, Brangus and Brahman cross (Tiger Stripes) females. Whether you are looking for a truck load or just one pen for a 4-H project, the selection should meet your needs. The sale will start at 11:00 a.m. with the bull sale. We have a great variety of bulls the year featur-

ing Charolais, Brangus, Red Brangus, Hereford, Simbrah, Brahman and Angus bulls. These bulls will be ready to go to work in your pastures and in ranch condition. All bulls will have a current breeding soundness exams and current Trich tests. All registered bulls will come with registration papers. Hauling will be available for delivery to your ranch.

Lunch will be served Saturday and many of the sellers will be on hand Thursday and Friday representing their cattle and answering your questions. These sellers are ICA members who are proud of their stock. Most have had cattle at the sale each year for over a decade.

The sale is open to all. Make plans to join us, make new friends and watch some cattle you would be proud to take home. If you have questions please call myself at 830/857-3500 or Brian Malaer at 830/203-1030. See you there.



By Joe C. Paschal,
Livestock Specialist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Cow body size thoughts

Cow body size and milk and composition. The USDA feeder cattle grades also use measures of size (Large, Medium and Small) to predict slaughter weights to USDA Choice grade. Genetic potential for milk production also varies widely and should be considered in relation to body size. Generally, bigger cows produce more milk and have higher nutrient requirements.

A standard measure of size are frame scores based on height of the animal at the hip and adjusted for sex and age, however even animals of the same height can differ in body length, depth

and composition. The USDA feeder cattle grades also use measures of size (Large, Medium and Small) to predict slaughter weights to USDA Choice grade. Genetic potential for milk production also varies widely and should be considered in relation to body size. Generally, bigger cows produce more milk and have higher nutrient requirements.

In general, larger cattle have greater gains and convert feed to weight more efficiently if fed for the

(Continued on page 8)



President's Address...

By: Brad Cotton

Howdy friends, I hope all is well with everyone. Hard to believe we are at the beginning of October already. Fall is here and most of us saw a nice change in the weather. It's about that time where we are hoping for some more rain.

If you have haven't heard, Senator John Tester is working on legislation once again for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). It is simply a requirement that would force retailers to disclose where the beef they are selling was born and raised. It is much more complicated than that but this gives you an understanding of what COOL means to you the producer. He is hoping to have it drafted in such a way where it meets the approval of the WTO. I have never understood why beef has to be the only product a consumer purchases that has to have its origin kept a secret. Just my opinion, but I don't believe the consumer should be kept in the dark about any product he/she purchases. Anyhow, keep your fingers crossed and we will see where this leads.

I mentioned before that along with the Independent Cattleman's Association (ICA) representing cow/calf producers and property owners, we work to preserve the rural way of life. This week really had me thinking about the positive aspects of the rural lifestyle. This week I made plans to head over to

Gonzales and Lockhart to visit some local businesses about sponsorships for our upcoming cattle sale. Having worked in retail management in San Antonio for 20 years, I am well aware of the differences in operating a rural business versus that of those in the city. Retail businesses in the city spend thousands of dollars per month trying to gain market share. Community involvement is minimal due to the large population. Not saying it is bad but that is just the way it is. Upon arriving in Gonzales this week with my good friend and fellow ICA member, Dr. Glen Tate, we began visiting some of the local businesses. We had a great day and results were very positive. Unlike in most big city businesses the owner was present, shook your hand and had a great conversation about ICA, their business and other community involvements. Most of the people we spoke with we had never met before, but after leaving I felt I had a new friend. As we complete our fall sale, you will hear more about these folks who believe enough in our efforts to donate time and money to our cause. The rural way of life and the people involved is just another reason to be a member of the ICA.

I hope everyone gets the rain they need this fall. Until next month, stay safe and God bless.

ICA

Chapter Happenings... Around The Lone Star State

Southeast Texas ICA (SETICA) Chapter

Hello from Southeast Texas. I just thought I was ready to say goodbye to 2020 then 2021 came into our lives. What a nightmare! I have decided I am not going to say how ready I am for 2021 to be gone so maybe, just maybe, Mother Nature and COVID can leave all their drama here.

The executive board met and decided the best plan for our indoor 2021 Drawdown Fundraiser event will be postponed until Jan. 29, 2022 and also the event will return home

to the Winnie Stowell Community Building. Past ticket holders should have received a letter asking if they would like to continue purchasing their ticket and to respond by Nov.30th. If you have not received your letter or no longer want your ticket, we are asking you to please email or call Debbie Riley riley ranch@sbcglobal.net or 409/454-6961 so we can call someone on the waiting list.

SETICA Upperclassmen Memorial Scholarship applications are available to our past SETICA High (Continued on page 10)

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
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Dues to Independent Cattlemen's Association are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. A portion of dues, however, is not a necessary business expense to the extent that Independent Cattlemen's engages in lobbying. The nondeductible portion of dues is 15%.

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Thoughts...

(Continued from page 7)

same amount of time as smaller cattle. However, when fed to similar degrees of fatness, this advantage decreases or disappears. To better conform to current industry preferences for weight and fatness, genetically smaller cattle should be grown on grass prior to finishing, larger cattle should go from weaning to the feedyard for finishing and medium sized cattle can go either way depending on marketing condi-

tions. However, smaller cattle should be slaughtered at lighter weights than larger cattle.

Smaller cattle are more efficient if fed to optimum levels of body composition (muscle and fat) and more smaller cows than larger cows can be run on the same forage resource, reducing unit cost of production (for pounds of weight). However, feedyards and packers prefer medium to large sized cattle due to their efficiencies of scale.

Although there are no

differences in efficiency among cattle of various sizes if fed to the same body composition (fatness level) there are still individual differences among individual animals. Also, there is little difference in efficiency among cows of varying body size if nutrient requirements are met. If forage supplies are adequate, large cows can consume enough to meet their nutrient requirements. However, if forage is sparse (or a drought occurs), they may cost more to run due to

(Continued on page 10)



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Happenings...
(Continued from page 7)

School Scholarship Recipients only once they have reached 60 college hours. The scholarship is awarded

at our Drawdown Fund-raiser Event. The deadline for the applications to be submitted is Nov.30, 2021. Call or e-mail Debbie Riley for an application at rileyranch@sbcglobal.net

409/454-6961.

Mark your calendars now: Oct. 21-Producer Meeting & Annual Meeting 6 p.m., Winnie Stowell Park Community Building.

Oct. 28-Southeast Texas Beef Symposium Whites Park. Anahuac (see Jefferson County Extension Service).

Jan. 29-2022 SETICA Drawdown, Winnie Stowell Park Community Building.

March 12-SETICA Commercial Bull & Heifer Sale at Ford Park.

Oct. 22-2022 SETICA 2022 Drawdown

I will close with a plea for money. Please make sure your dues are current. Today, more than ever, we have to stand together to keep the positive word out about our product. It is a phrase I say to my children and grandchildren all the time, "BEEF..it's what's for dinner". Yes, there are other meats in my freezer, but they are not from a lab or plant based. So, have you looked around your grocery store lately? It is getting scary with all the FAKE stuff there. We have to take a stand now. Talk to your friends and family and

be sure to educate them. Don't assume they will understand and steer clear of those products.

Stay safe my peeps and happy trails.

South Central Texas ICA (SCTICA)

Hello SCTICA/ICA members!

Thank you to all the members that attended our August meeting. We were very pleased with the turnout and appreciate the ongoing support. The Wilson County Sheriff, Jim Stewart, gave an update for Wilson County and reaffirmed that he needs the

help of the residents to report things they see that are out of the ordinary. He reiterated that the community and the sheriff's office need to work together to keep all safe in the county. He also has added a presence on the internet and invited all to follow their Facebook page. The next speaker was County Extension Agent Samantha Shannon, who reviewed the subject of "Preparing your Herd for the Fall" for one CEU general credit.

Our SCTICA Directors are gearing up for our 16th annual SCTICA Windy Miller Memorial Team Roping to be held on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021, at Cowboy Fellowship in Jourdanton, Texas. Letters have gone out to sponsors and we thank those who have already responded with their generous donation. This is our annual fundraiser that helps keep our chapter moving forward and staying active to keep our members informed.

The roping begins with the #13 slide at 10:30 a.m. sharp. Roping #10 and #8 will not start before 1:00 p.m. Sign-up is from 9:00-10:00 am. We hope to see you there and hope you win. The prize is \$2,000 cash for high point #13; prizes for #10 and #8 include high point cash prize of \$1,000; first and second place trophy buckles; 3rd place boot jacks and 4th place Jiffy Lube Floresville/LaVernia oil changes.

For questions about the team roping please contact S Productions at valram24@yahoo.com.

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Thoughts...

(Continued from page 8)

supplementation costs.

The upper limit to larger cow size depends on the nutrient availability relative to animal requirements and the maximum acceptable weight of finished progeny. On the other hand, the smallest productive cow size is influenced mostly by financial costs and returns (per cow) and the lightest acceptable weight of the finished progeny.

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Assessing global market potential for Texas agricultural commodities

By Paul Schattenberg, Texas AgriLife Today

The Center for North American Studies, CNAS, part of Texas A&M AgriLife, in collaboration with the Texas Department of Agriculture, TDA, is making global market assessments for a number of the state's agricultural commodities.

"The U.S. is the largest agricultural exporter in the world, and 95% of the world's population is outside the U.S., so we are helping feed the world," said CNAS director Luis Ribera, Ph.D., Department of Agricultural Economics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bryan-College Station. "Opening new markets and/or expanding our export share in the world is important to U.S. and Texas producers in that about one-third of U.S. farm income comes from exports."

The Center for North American Studies meets high-priority national needs to provide objective analyses for rapid, precise responses to emerging trade and international policy issues, Ribera said.

"We have been doing this kind of work for a long time and we are recognized at the state, national and international level for it. We also have a long history of collaboration with TDA and currently have three trade-related projects with them."

About the commodity assessments

Ribera said the demand for Texas-grown agricultural commodities continues to increase throughout the U.S. and globally.

"To keep up with and further anticipate this growing demand, Texas farmers and ranchers need to be able to understand and adjust to variations in market conditions in an ever-changing world," he said. "These assessments will provide them with the information they need to be more successful in the global marketplace."

The commodities for which the CNAS is providing assessments are cabbage, catfish, forest products, grapefruit, melons, mohair, oranges, onions, peanuts, pecans, potatoes, rice, shrimp, spinach and wool. These were chosen by TDA based on their potential for growth and the dearth of global market

information currently available on them.

Ribera said the center has completed assessments on 13 of the 15 selected commodities, and assessments for each commodity should be available on the CNAS website by the end of September.

What the assessments provide

Ribera said the assessments offer detailed insights on U.S. export mar-

ket activity, which can provide Texas producers with a competitive trade advantage.

"This information will not only help Texas producers but could also be of benefit to all U.S. produc-

ers of these commodities," he said. "However, the information in these assessments will particularly help

Texas producers take advantage and go after those overseas markets first, giving them an edge on both domestic and international competition."

(Continued on page 15)



More than a third of typical U.S. farm income is derived from exporting agricultural and food products. (Texas A&M AgriLife infographic)

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CARR and OTHERS FALL PROGRAM and SALE

OCTOBER 15 & 16, 2021

AGENDA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15
12:00 Noon - 10:30 PM
 Viewing of sale cattle and donation lots
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM
 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

TOPICS & SPEAKERS

- Dr. Joe Outlaw** - Professor & Extension Economist - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 Title: Minimizing Adverse Impacts from New Government Regulations, Taxes and Policies
 Scope: Identification of the more important new regulations, taxes and fee changes and policies and advise how cattle raisers can minimize adverse impact from them.
- Dr. Dan Hale** - Associate Director of Ag & Natural Resources - Texas A&M University
 Title: Beef Production Sustainability
 Scope: Beef sustainability with particular attention given to the cow/calf section and some consideration given to the impact of late meat or manufactured meat and new governmental regulations, taxes and policies.

BREAK

- Dr. Joe Paschal** - Professor & Extension Livestock Specialist - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
 Title: Achieving and Retaining More Pregnancies
 Scope: For each heifer, cow and bull discuss body scores, nutrition, all medications, tract evaluations of females, BSA's and BSA's of bulls and short- and long-term impacts of the long February hears. Once pregnancies achieved discuss everything that should be done to avoid abortions during all parts of the pregnancy period.
- Benny Marline** - Range & Pasture Specialist - Delta Agri Science
 Title/Scope: New Products and Techniques for Control of Unwanted Vegetation, including Cutaway's new CutAway technology to better determine if and when to spray herbicide. (2 CLUs)
- Lance Bauer** - Director of Breed Improvement and Western Field Representative - Benchmark Breeders United
 Title: Trait Selection Prioritization for Beefmaster Cattle
 Scope: List and elaborate

5:45 PM - 6:30 PM
 Mariachi music and refreshments
6:30 PM
 Dinner
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
 Traditional Country music by Daniel McCall & Justin Trevino

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
 Breakfast tacos, milk, etc.
10:00 AM
 Sale
 Lunch following sale

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Eliminating...

(Continued from page 5)

there?" he said. "We're excited to start using this technology in our projects to really understand pregnancy and developmental

programming."

Pohler said their study aims to show the impact of a gene family called pregnancy associated glycoproteins or PAGS. These proteins have been known for years; they are the founda-

tion for blood and milk-based pregnancy testing in cattle. The team will remove those genes one by one to determine if they are important to the developing pregnancy.

"We know ways to minimize pregnancy loss," he said. "But we don't know how to eliminate it, because we don't know what the true causes are. This is an opportunity to understand the causes and then develop management strategies specific to those causes."

Developing more than a band-aid for beef

cattle pregnancy loss

The No. 1 economically important thing on a cow-calf operation is pregnancy.

"All the other things we do are important, but pregnancy is 20 times more financially important than any other production trait," Pohler said. "If you take it all the way to the consumer level, if you don't have the pregnancy, you will never realize the potential of that animal to generate a steak for the consumer."

That is why he is concentrating on ending embryonic mortality.

Pohler said he tells people the industry's current practices are like putting a band-aid on the situation – "like, I know if I do this, it will help me decrease it, but it doesn't help me eliminate it. So, we want to understand what the real mechanisms are and how do you eliminate it."

Will pregnancy loss ever be completely eliminated? No, Pohler said.

"But we can develop genetic tests. We can develop other types of tools to help minimize that loss. I think what we will be able to do is develop better

management strategies."

One of the other projects Pohler and his team are working on is to determine how much contribution to embryonic mortality comes from the bull and how much from the cow.

"We're studying all sides of it," he said. "This project is really female-focused. But there is a whole opportunity on the bull side as well. And I think understanding both sides is going to be critical. If it ends up being on the bull side, and you can develop a genetic test, there are a lot fewer bulls than there are cows. So, you can make a lot bigger impact in a shorter time. If it ends up being on the cow side, it will take a lot longer time to make that impact."

Successful completion of the study is expected to provide foundational information on the physiological and molecular mechanisms associated with embryonic survival and mortality in beef cattle.

Utilizing technology at the ranch level

Currently, Pohler estimates only about 25% of beef producers utilize pregnancy diagnosis in their herds, even though the technology has been around for years.

Utilizing pregnancy diagnosis can help determine when an animal loses a pregnancy. With technology and better management practices, that producer can be more efficient in generating calves, have animals with better genetics than the previous year, and produce a more uniform calf crop. All these things work toward making a producer's beef cattle operation more financially sustainable.

"Don't adopt technology for the sake of adopting technology," Pohler said. "Use the technology you need to get where you need to go. You have to capture the value on it."

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Open heifer options – making lemonade out of lemons

By Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

There are many events or moments throughout the year that we as beef producers look forward to with great anticipation, excitement and frankly some degree of worry. It could be the daily checks during calving season or finding out your pay weight and price for a load of yearlings you delivered to the sale barn. I think most of us would agree that the annual preg checking of the cow herd is right there towards the top of the list of management activities that can have us on pins and needles.

Open cows and open heifers are part of the business. What we choose to do with open females can affect our bottom line. For the sake of brevity, I would like to limit this discussion to replacement heifers and what options we have when the vet finds her empty.

Give her another chance or cull her? It may be tempting to give open heifers another chance, especially if you have both a fall and spring calving season. The problem with this option is research shows that there may be upwards of 20% reduction in conception rates on heifers that failed to conceive in the first breeding season. Ask yourself, if she was a slow breeder as a yearling, what will her chances be of breeding back as a 2 year old? If we choose to cull her, what is the best way to market a 900-1100 lb. open heifer?

Option 1: Sell at the sale barn. Obviously, the easiest option, but be prepared for a pretty severe discount mainly because there are simply not that many heifers of that weight class at the sale barn on any given day. Remember, the cattle market moves in load lots of 48-50,000 pounds. It may take order buyers several weeks to assemble 45-50 open heifers of that weight class to make a load.

Option 2: Feed them. Open replacement heifers are still of an acceptable age to be finished for slaughter. Most heifers at pregnancy check time are about 18 months of age and can be easily finished with 3-4 months of additional feeding. Local beef is in big demand and if slaughter space can be scheduled this may be an acceptable option.

Option 3: Retain owner-

ship and send them to the feedlot. This is one option that most small to medium size cow calf producers have probably not considered. Recent data from the PVAP-Feedlot program on 18 open replacement heifers showed an average profit of \$132 per head, while feeder calves on the same load lost \$98 per head. The primary reason for this difference is due to the discounted starting value of the open replacement heifers. The replace-

ment heifers outgained and out graded the feeder calves.

There appears to be great potential for producers to pool open replacement heifers in late summer and send to the feedlot as opposed to selling at a discount. But there are some additional factors to consider.

Considerations for retaining ownership and finishing open replacement heifers:

- Be mindful of the age

of heifers. Heifers that are skeletally mature may be downgraded to Commercial or Utility grade and severely discounted. Try not to feed heifers that are older than 20 months.

•Manage heifers much like feeder calves. Make sure to booster respiratory vaccines and deworm before shipping to the feedlot.

•If you choose to feed heifers on your farm and have never finished cattle, take advantage of upcoming Master Finishing pro-

grams that will be offered this fall.

As always, contact your local ANR Extension

agent for more information on the PVAP program or marketing open replacement heifers.

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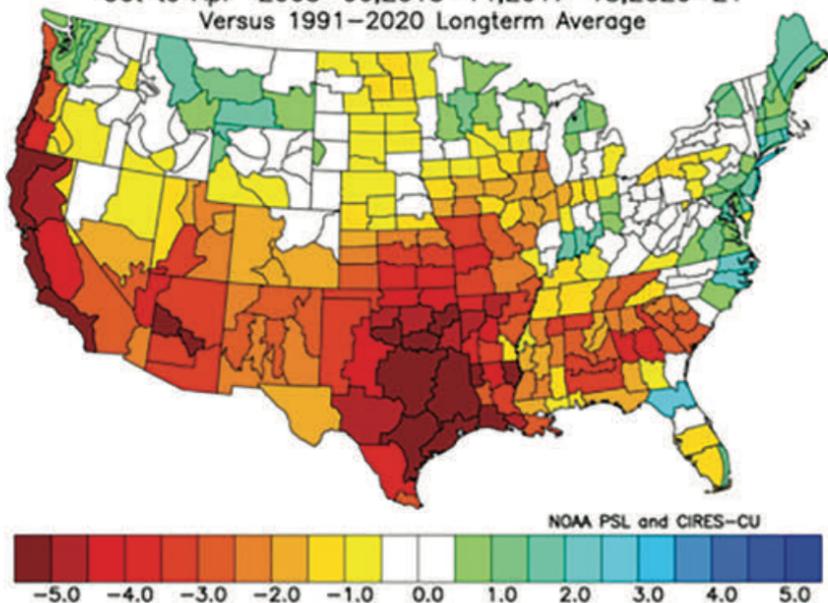
WEATHER WISE
By Brian Bledsoe

As many of you know, history is a great teacher and history and weather go hand in hand. So, when we see the oceans behaving in a manner that they have in the past, we can go back and see what years were similar to what is happening now, and what type of weather occurred.

While it is still early and while I think a more traditional La Niña pattern will prevail for the next several months, I still wanted to put together some analog years for you. I also wanted to show what the associated temperature and precipitation trends were like for those selected years. There will likely be some years added and subtracted in the coming weeks, and I will update you accordingly. You can see the selected years within the following maps:

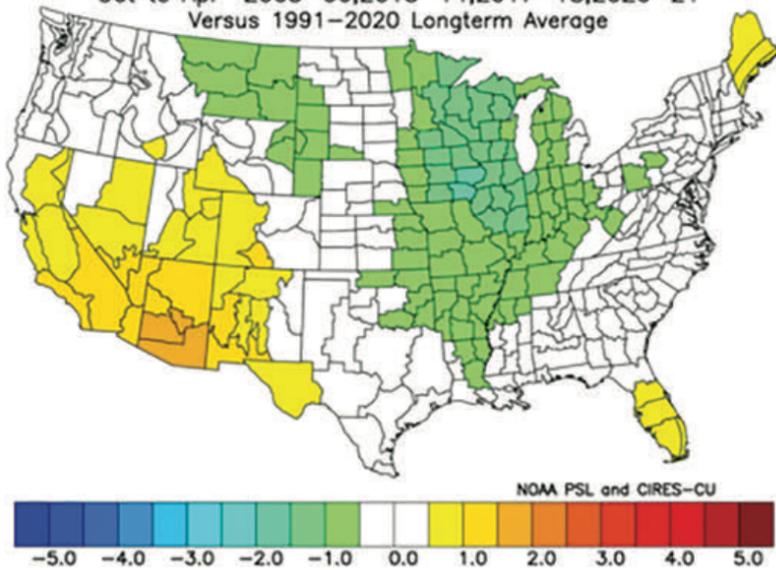
**Analog Years October - April
Precipitation**

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Oct to Apr 2005-06, 2013-14, 2017-18, 2020-21
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average

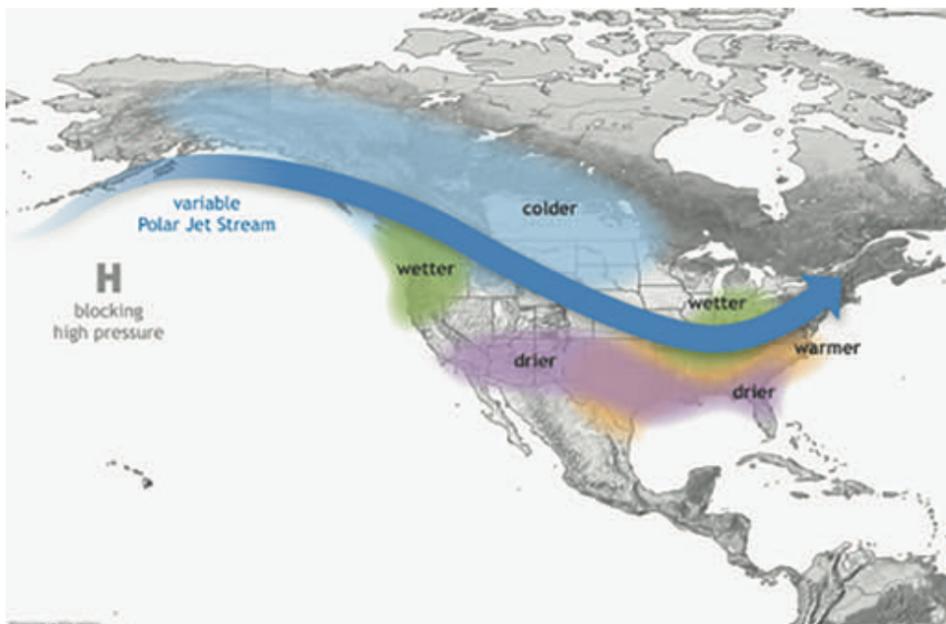


Temperature

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Oct to Apr 2005-06, 2013-14, 2017-18, 2020-21
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



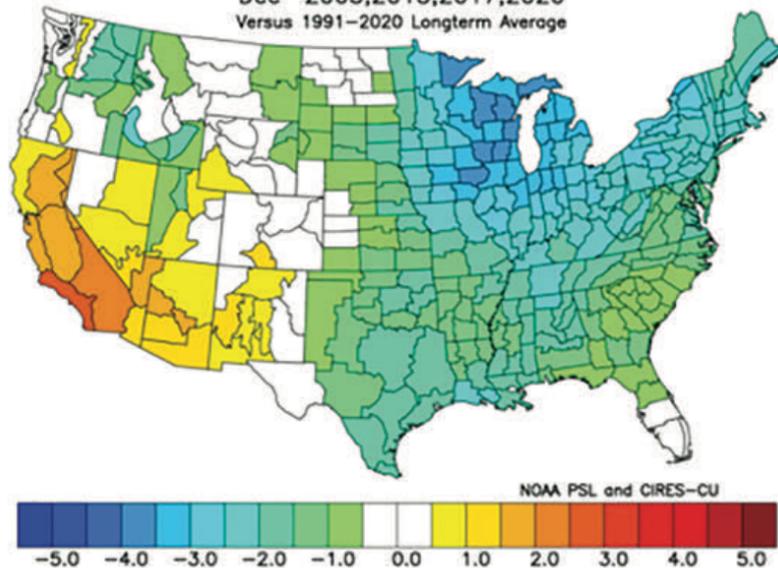
You can see the overall pattern that prevailed in the years, and it is really not that different to what is expected during a La Niña...which is shown below:



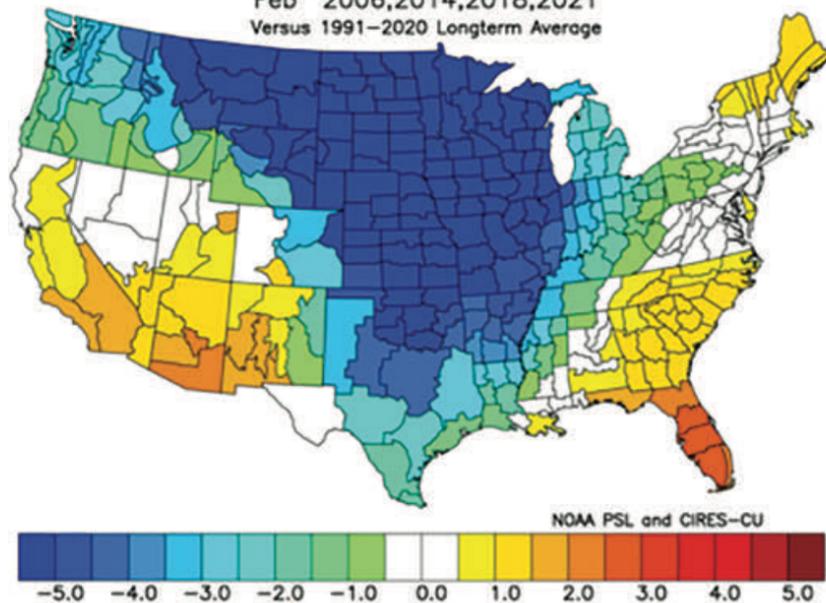
The more active part of the storm track favors the northern tier of the country and much of the southern tier gets left out. However, if you look at the temperature map that I posted above, it

does suggest that it can get cold. I know everyone remembers the extreme cold event of last February...during a La Niña. It seems that the analogs do have a tendency to produce cold Decembers and cold Februaries. See below.

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Dec 2005, 2013, 2017, 2020
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Feb 2006, 2014, 2018, 2021
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



Every La Niña / El Niño is different, and there is plenty of variability in the analogs. Last year was a La Niña, and it produced wet conditions south and dry conditions north. I do think that was an aberration, but it can happen. As I eluded to at the Beef Cattle Short Course, I don't think this winter/spring will be as kind with the precipitation. Plus, you also need to be aware of the potential cold we could possibly see. As I mentioned above, the analogs have December and February as the months to watch out for in regard to cold. We'll see what happens, but those are my thoughts for now. I'll update our long range model forecast next month.

If you have any questions or comments, please drop me an email... Brian Bledsoe, brianbledsoewx@gmail.com

**WEATHER WISE
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Santa Rosa Ranch sells, new owners introduced

Santa Rosa Ranch, Crockett, Texas, has recently sold and the new owners are led by Lance Roasa, DVM and Cody Pohler, DVM. "We saw the tremendous opportunity in the great genetics and operations that the Gerald Sullivan family has created," said Roasa in announcing the purchase.

Roasa and Pohler met and became friends at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and both have extensive experience in bovine reproduction and business management.

"We came together to work with the Sullivan family on purchasing the Santa Rosa because of the enormous potential these cattle and genetics have, both domestically and globally," said Pohler.

"The plan for the Santa Rosa is to continue the legacy and foundation that the Sullivan's have created, but incorporate advanced reproductive technologies, such as ovum pick up, invit-

ro fertilization, sex sorted semen and selecting genetically elite breedings, using genetic markers. We've spent our careers with these technologies, which are now commercially feasible and are revolutionizing the cattle industry. We're basically combining old fashioned customer service and timeless genetics with cutting edge technology at the Santa Rosa,"

said Roasa.

"We've been through the herd and studied their EPDs. These cows have thrived in environments throughout the South and in Latin America. They breed back and they finish well with great terminal qualities. Brangus and Ultrablacks really are the all-around cow," added Pohler.

Santa Rosa Ranch is the

largest registered breeder of Brangus and Ultrablack cattle in the United States. The ranch is set upon 14,000 acres in the Trinity River bottom on the historic Rattlesnake and 7J Stock Farm in the heart of Texas cattle country. The cattle, the grass, the facilities and the location make the ranch one of the premier operations in the industry. The entire team, including long-time manager, Kent Smith will be staying on with the ranch.

The new ownership will continue to offer replacement females and herd sires on a private treaty

basis and says that production sales may be part of the future.

"We thank the Sullivan family and Smith for putting together an outstanding operation and we look forward to the opportunity

to take the ranch to the next level," said Roasa.

For additional information contact info@srrbrangus.com or call 936/624-2333. Smith may be reached at 979/540-8338 and Roasa at 254/760-1131.

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Assessing...

(Continued from page 11)

Ribera said the TDA asked that the assessments address the challenges and opportunities for Texas exports.

"This research is an objective assessment of future international market-share growth potential for each commodity based on any upward or downward trends and changes in the global marketplace over the past five years or more," he said.

The assessments will help producers better understand their import and export competitors and trends that reveal challenges in markets, like tariffs, and market variation insights that present opportunities for Texas producers, Ribera said.

"These assessments will help Texas producers who would like to expand their market share or open new markets overseas," he said. "Basically, they provide an objective overview of the potential for these Texas agricultural products in the global marketplace as well as some of the challenges related to international trade."

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 MT MR. THOMAS 9010 ET DOB: 5/25/20 • SIRE: DA RANGPORT 502 P ET BW: 78 • ADJ. WW: 804 • ADJ. YW: 154P REA: 1977 • NMF: 4.89 • SC: 41	 MT MR. THOMAS 6710 ET DOB: 5/25/20 • SIRE: TR MR. FINE WINDERSPORT BW: 77 • ADJ. WW: 771 • ADJ. YW: 128P REA: 2035 • NMF: 4.25 • SC: 39	 BT MR. THOMAS 6110 ET DOB: 5/25/20 • SIRE: LT JACKER 0020P BW: 80 • ADJ. WW: 799 • ADJ. YW: 142P REA: 1817 • NMF: 4.75 • SC: 39
 MT MR. THOMAS 8010 DOB: 5/25/20 • SIRE: MT MR. THOMAS 710 BW: 77 • ADJ. WW: 802 • ADJ. YW: 145P REA: 2231 • NMF: 5.21 • SC: 41	 TT MR. THOMAS 4810 DOB: 4/25/20 • SIRE: ST MR. THOMAS 120A BW: 78 • ADJ. WW: 722 • ADJ. YW: 127P REA: 1870 • NMF: 3.71 • SC: 40	 BT MR. THOMAS 13310 DOB: 5/25/20 • SIRE: SGT HARRIS 11 BW: 80 • ADJ. WW: 747 • ADJ. YW: 149P REA: 2156 • NMF: 4.61 • SC: 42

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When all else fails, read the feeding instructions

By Jeff Lehmkuhler, PhD, PAS,
University of Kentucky Extension professor

This is the time of year when calves are starting to come to market. Backgrounders and fall stocker programs are buying light-weight feeders for their operations. Some operations, in consultation with their veterinarians, may obtain a veterinary feed directive (VFD) for medicated feed to help in the prevention or treatment of bovine respiratory disease

(BRD). Medicated feeds are a tool in the toolbox and managers should familiarize themselves with the use of such tools.

A common feed medication is chlortetracycline (CTC). This feed grade antibiotic can be used for a variety of disorders. The feed additive is labeled for use for the control of anaplasmosis, reduction of liver abscesses, control of

bacterial pneumonia associated with shipping fever (i.e. BRD) and treatment of bacterial enteritis caused by E. coli. Would it surprise you to learn then that there are different target doses for the control or treatment of these disorders?

For the control of bacterial pneumonia in feeder calves, the approved label dose is 350 mg/hd/d. "Con-

trol" is essentially the dose to help calves to avoid serious infection whereas "treatment" is the dose to treat active infections in sick calves. The approved treatment dose for feeder calves is 10 mg/lb. of body weight. If a 500-pound calf were to be treated for bacterial pneumonia with chlortetracycline, the total CTC dose would be 5,000 mg/d which is 14-fold higher than the control level. This is why it is important to consult with your veteri-

narian about incorporating medications into your feed.

Feed manufacturers will include key information on the feed tag of medicated feeds. The active ingredient or medication level will be listed near the top. This is essential in calculating the amount to feed to achieve the desired dosage. Additionally, the instructions will provide information on feeding recommendations and rates.

Many of you have probably fed or heard about

bloat prevention blocks. These blocks contain poloxalene which aids in breaking frothy foam formation in the rumen when cattle are grazing fresh legumes. To be effective in the prevention of bloat, cattle must consume the appropriate dose daily. Well, how do you know the appropriate dose? By reading the feeding instructions on the label for a certain block product, it says that cattle must consume 0.8 ounces per 100 lb. of body weight. For a 1,400-pound beef cow, she would need to consume 11 ounces or 0.7 pounds a day. Additionally, feeding recommendations on the product label states provide one block for every five head. If the group has 30 cows, then you should provide six blocks at a time. Why? Cattle are going to come to the blocks as a herd and the boss animals are going to get their share. The dominant cows will prevent the other animals from consuming the blocks they are licking. Having several blocks available will provide more timid cows the opportunity to consume their daily dose to prevent bloat.

Protein tubs are popular supplements. Not all protein tubs are made the same. Some may be medicated, some may have additional fat, a few are made for stress and some are made from coproduct feeds rather than molasses. Other differences can be whether salt is part of the mixture of ingredients. Tubs that do not contain salt will often have on the feeding directions to offer free-choice salt in addition to the tub. Not providing salt when the label recommends to do so could result in challenges with target intakes.

When you are getting ready to supplement your cattle, take the time to read the feed tag. Pay attention to the feeding instructions. If you are considering a medicated feed, discuss your options and goals with your veterinarian and obtain a VFD if needed. There are many feed additives that are additional tools for us in maintaining animal health and performance. Learn how to effectively use these tools to get the most out of them.

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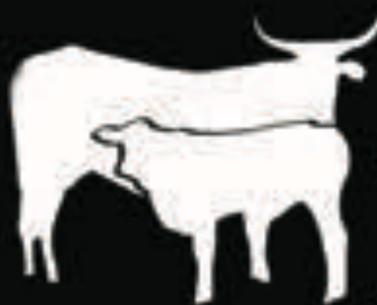
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Test, don't guess - sampling and testing hay

Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension Beef Educator

Fall is here and the weather reminds us of the changing of the seasons. This is the time of year when many producers are hauling hay home for the winter as well as pricing and purchasing hay. There is a tremendous range in hay quality depending upon level of maturity, fertilization, growing conditions, harvest circumstances and storage methods. Accurately sampling and testing hay is the only way to get a real understanding of the nutritive value of feed. Using values from previous years or a "book value" can be costly since a producer may incorrectly develop a ration using values that aren't representative.

Guidelines for sampling

When sampling hay, getting a representative sample is a critical first step. Samples must accurately represent the entire lot of hay. When obtaining a sample for analysis, it should be kept separate from other lots of hay. The UNL NebGuide "Sampling Feeds for Analyses" (PDF version, 655KB) states that a "lot" of hay should be harvested from the same field consisting of similar types of plants, cutting dates, maturity, variety, weed contamination, type of harvest equipment, curing methods and storage conditions. When these conditions differ, feed should be designated and sampled as a separate "lot".

Hay samples should be taken using a hay probe or a core sampler. The hay probe should penetrate at least 12-18 inches into the bale and have an internal diameter of at least 3/8 of an inch. Using your hand to grab a sample will not consistently provide reliable results. Tips of hay probes should be kept sharp to cut through hay and prevent selective sampling. Avoid getting hay probes hot when using a drill to drive the probe into the bale, since friction from high speeds can heat the probe to a point where it damages the hay sample.

To get a representative hay sample from a "lot" of hay, select 15-20 bales in

the lot. Knowing the total number of bales that are present can help identify a random method that should be used (such as sample every fourth bale) to obtain an accurate sample. Once all of the samples for a "lot" have been collected, the samples may

need to be sub-sampled to get the feed down to a sample size that can be sent in for analysis. The UNL NebGuide "Sampling Feeds for Analyses" walks through a step-by-step process to do this. Being careful to ensure the sub-sample submitted is represen-

tative is important.

Once hay samples have been taken, store in a plastic sealed bag in cool dry place until the sample is ready to be submitted. Samples that contain over 15% moisture should be frozen. Make sure to label

(Continued on page 22)



Accurately testing hay provides valuable and cost effective information. Photo credit Troy Walz.





QVF PR Empower 30G16 Sold in 2020



QVF Pistol 60G9 Sold in 2020



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Friday, October 29th
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Saturday, October 30th
8:30 am- QVF Brunch
10:30 am- 150 Brangus & Santa Gertrudis Bull Sale
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Desert Door premieres Easteños: True Cowboys of the Wild Horse Desert

San Antonio, TX – September 20, 2021 – The short film, Easteños: True Cowboys of the Wild Horse Desert, tells the story of brothers and cowboys, Timo and Miguel Rodriguez. As part of a collaborative series with Desert Door Texas Sotol and Ocotillo films, this film highlights the cowboy's connection to the land and explores what it means to be a true cowboy. Hosted

by Desert Door at the Hotel Emma in San Antonio's Pearl District, the short film premier was followed by an interactive Q&A session with the East Foundation cowboys featured in the film, Foundation CEO Neal Wilkins, and the film producers.

"It is a privilege to work with Timo and Miguel. They are both examples of why ranching in South

Texas is so special. Thank you to Desert Door and Ocotillo Films for telling their story and highlighting the legacy of those that work the land." said Neal Wilkins of the East Foundation.

The Desert Door conservation series highlights land stewards across the state of Texas, bringing attention to individuals and organizations that support and conserve natural

resources. Wild places are at the core of the Desert Door brand, and the regeneration and conservation of those places are at the heart of their organization.

"From the beginning, when we started this company, the thing the three of us fell in love with was how this represents the land, culture, and history of West Texas. Desert Door has made its mission to tell real authentic stories of Texas

Culture and History, and this series on cowboy culture has been critical to showing people who and what a real cowboy/girl is," said Ryan Campbell, owner of Desert Door. "We are beyond excited to have worked with the East Foundation and Ocotillo films in bringing this story to life."

Timo and Miguel have worked on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch for over 45 years. This film follows the cowboys on the San Antonio Viejo ranch, telling the story of their life journey with the East Foundation and their con-

sistent bond as brothers as the decades have passed on the ranch.

"We spent a week alongside the cowboys documenting their work, their relationships, and their way of life. Workdays started before the sun was up and lasted well after it had set. Timo and Miguel were nearly inseparable—gathering cattle, roping calves, branding calves, eating lunch and joking around always side-by-side," said Garrett Robertson of Ocotillo Films. "Our hope for the project is to tell the brothers' story—a lifetime spent together. The love and commitment to people and the land springs from the love and commitment they have for each other. We're so grateful to know them and share their story."

Easteños: True Cowboys of the Wild Horse Desert can be viewed on the Desert Door Instagram TV Channel.

About the East Foundation

The East Foundation promotes the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science and education. We manage over 217,000 acres of native South Texas rangeland, operated as six separate ranches in Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr and Willacy counties. The lands were bestowed to the foundation through the generous gift of the East family in 2007. To honor their legacy, we uphold their vision and values that were established more than a century ago.

About Ocotillo Films

Ocotillo Films is a production company in Austin, Texas, that specializes in documentary storytelling for brands and non-profits. With a strong focus on story, we explore the beauty in life's common moments and exceptionally ordinary people.

About Desert Door

Desert Door is a craft distiller of a premium and unique Texas spirit known as Texas sotol. Our liquor is made from the sotol plant which we wild-harvest all across Texas, from Driftwood to Marfa. Sotol was the first alcoholic beverage ever consumed by humans in Texas 800 years ago and the plant has been in use for over 13,000 years. Our sotol is smoother than whiskey, less smokey than mezcal, and it doesn't burn like tequila.

For more information on our work, visit www.eastfoundation.net.

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Texas A&M AgriLife course tackles foot-and-mouth, animal disease risk to North America

Virtual event rounds out comprehensive animal disease initiatives

The second foot-and-mouth disease training event for North America in 2021 rounds out a comprehensive suite of animal disease mitigation efforts across Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

The event takes place online Nov. 1-10 and is limited to 30 participants.

Foot-and-mouth disease has been eradicated from the U.S., Canada and Mexico since 1929, 1952 and 1954, respectively. However, the global threat remains high due to endemic occurrences in many countries across Asia, the Middle East and much of Africa. It also persists in parts of Europe and South America.

“The need for this training is at an all-time high for U.S. and North American veterinarians working with livestock,” said Elizabeth Parker, DVM, AgriLife Research associate director for operations and strategic initiatives.

The course is part of a Texas A&M AgriLife collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, EuFMD. International expert trainers will teach through presentations, small breakout group exercises and full group discussions. They will share real-world experiences in global foot-and-mouth disease control and provide practical information to course participants.

“The EuFMD team has managed the difficult challenge of transitioning a hands-on, real-time training course to a virtual version, seamlessly continuing the process of building capacity to recognize and respond to foot-and-mouth disease,” said Keith

Sumption, FAO chief veterinary officer. “I am pleased to see this excellent partnership progressing over the years, to include industry and university personnel in addition to government and private practitioners.”

Continuing threats and solutions from the foot-and-mouth disease course

Parker cited the rapid spread of African swine fever across Asia and a recent incursion in the Dominican Republic as calls for vigilance and increased preparedness for foreign animal diseases.

“If the U.S. experiences an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, early detection will be key, and our private sector veterinarians will most likely be the boots on the ground to help regulatory animal health officials implement the daily response,” she said.

The virtual course will cover diagnosis and investigation of outbreaks. It will teach participants how to safely examine livestock without spreading disease among farms; how to age lesions and take foot-and-mouth disease diagnostic samples; how to understand requirements of U.S. regulations; how to set up biosecurity points around suspect farms; and how to use vaccines to prevent disease spread and impact.

Registration for the course is available at <https://tx.ag/fmd2021>.

Key infectious animal disease solutions in industry collaboration

U.S. Department of Agriculture research suggests an outbreak in the U.S. could result in losses of \$15 billion to \$100 billion, depending on the duration of the outbreak, the extent of resulting trade restrictions and consumer reactions.

“The return of foot-and-mouth disease to the

U.S. is one of the biggest threats to our industry,” said Colin Woodall, chief executive officer for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association. “It is important that courses like this are used to help educate, train and prepare large animal vets and industry experts to help us respond quickly and decisively. Preparation and prevention are key, and this course will help with both.”

Participants in the November course will learn to assess a farm’s risk of foot-and-mouth disease and develop enhanced biosecurity plans for minimizing the risk. Two videos of U.S. farms representing the beef and dairy industries will guide live discussions with animal health officials and foot-and-mouth disease experts — providing participants with practical experience vital to an operation’s business continuity during a foreign animal disease event. The videos were developed in collaboration with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the check-

off-funded Beef Quality Assurance program.

The U.S. Department of Plant Health Inspection Agriculture Animal and (Continued on page 23)



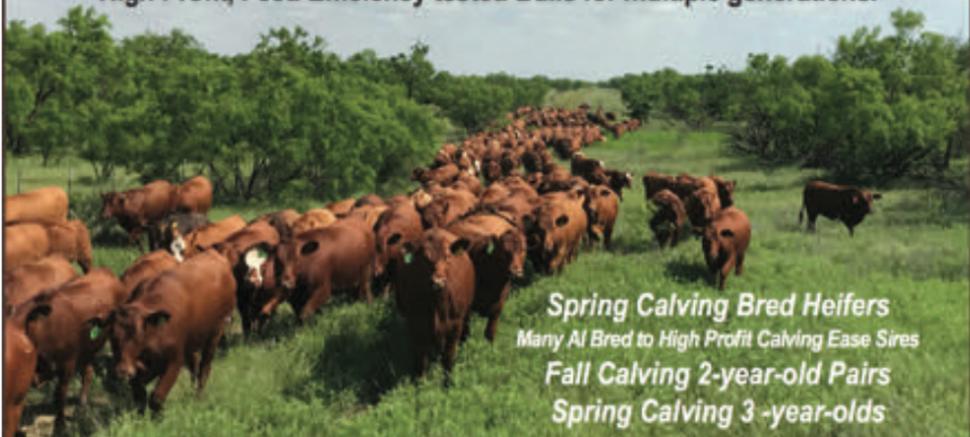
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AgriLife TODAY

Texas crop, weather

High wheat prices could push Texas, U.S. acres upward

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife Today
Wheat acres are expected to increase in Texas, but dry, warm conditions are delaying many plantings for now, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert. Texas producers are

expected to follow national projections and plant more wheat this season, said Fernando Guillen, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension statewide wheat specialist, Bryan-College Station. The latest U.S. Department of Agriculture national estimate forecasts

wheat acres rising more than 5% to 35.5 million acres, compared to 33.7 million acres last year.

Decent prices for wheat are driving the expectation of more planted acres, he said. Guillen reported prices reached \$6.76 per bushel in mid-September.

Due to higher input costs this season, Guillen said producers should make strategic decisions that help maximize production and minimize expenses.

Soil analyses are recommended for fields with suspect nutrient availability, especially nitrogen and phosphorous. Phosphorous can be especially important for producers hoping to get quick plant establishment and maximum output for fall grazing, Guillen said.

"Prices bring an incentive to expand wheat acreage, but there are a number of considerations

that will be critical to producers' success this season," he said. "We want producers to maximize their profit potential and reduce risks, and there are several ways they can be planning now that could pay dividends later."

Guillen said choosing the correct wheat variety for localized conditions and producer goals is the most important first step for maximizing production potential. There is no single recommendation that fits every farm, but AgriLife Extension and Texas A&M AgriLife Research experts across the state

provide the wheat "Picks" list each year to steer producers toward the most appropriate varieties for specific wheat-growing regions.

A wheat variety's water requirements, grain yield potential, disease and pest resistance, milling and baking attributes are all notable qualities to look at when choosing a variety, Guillen said. He added that another important criteria to be considered is how consistent a wheat variety's performance is over multiple years.

Guillen said AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension uniform variety trials in various regions of the state provide a wealth of multiple-season data that helps guide the agency's recommendations for each region.

"Growing conditions in Texas are highly variable with climactic fluctuations that make predicting production conditions and outcomes difficult," he said. "So placing an emphasis on plant performance over years can give you a better idea how they might perform this season."

Drier, hotter weather has been the norm in many wheat-producing parts of the state after good spring and early summer rains, so Guillen said there has been very little wheat planting activity so far, at least in dryland fields.

And these conditions could continue because there is a high likelihood Texas will experience an El Niño weather pattern, Guillen said. El Niño systems historically deliver warmer, drier conditions through the winter for most of the state.

These weather expectations could discourage or delay wheat plantings. Some producers may plant wheat in dry soil if forecasts call for decent chances of rainfall, while others may wait for rainfall to plant.

"It's hard to predict how farmers will react to conditions," he said. "So, we are trying to inform farmers on how to make wise and timely decisions for their operations. The price is attractive, but farmers need to plan according to their situation and location."

How the producer plans to utilize wheat will play into what variety they choose and when they plant, Guillen said. A number of management practices differ if farmers plant

(Continued on page 21)

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SEVEN P RANCH

Crops...

(Continued from page 20)

for grain production compared to planting dual-purpose crops for grazing and grain or grazing alone.

Producers looking for grazing going into winter typically begin planting as early as possible. But the lack of rainfall could delay those plans, he said.

Planting early comes with tradeoffs, especially in years when soils are warmer and drier, Guillen said. Early planting provides more time for diseases and pests to impact wheat stands.

It can allow insect pests like Hessian fly in volunteer wheat and diseases like wheat streak mosaic virus in newly planted fields, he said. For that reason, Farmers should rid fields of volunteer wheat and any green plant material that could be housing flies and wheat curl mites, the host insect of wheat streak mosaic virus.

Guillen said producers hoping for grazing should look for varieties with increased early vigor and tillering ability so that good stands are established. They should also look to get the most out of their fertilizer regimen. Overall soil condition, base fertilizer applications and factors like soil moisture and rainfall should loom large for each producer's decision.

Some recommendations call to apply 100% top dressing twice – about one-third of the nitrogen before or at planting followed by two-thirds of the application of nitrogen around the joint stage for the wheat field.

“There are several considerations when it comes to how much and when to apply nitrogen, but being more efficient with our fertilizers can translate into improved yields and lower input costs,” he said. “The wheat market is difficult to predict because global factors can come into play. Careful planning is important to give producers the best chance to take advantage of opportune conditions and prices.”

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL: Dry conditions continued, and another week of warm, dry weather was in the forecast. Cotton harvest continued, and growers were pleased with yields and quality thus far. Plantings of fall forages were limited so far due to

dry, warm soils. Winter wheat harvest, which should be at months end. Almost all planted following cotton corn and sorghum stubbles



were worked under. Pasture conditions for hay and grazing were on the decline due to limited rainfall. Livestock remained in good body condition.

ROLLING PLAINS: Hot, dry and windy weather has left soil conditions very dry. Farmers were preparing fields for wheat, but very little planting activity was reported as most farmers waited on a rain to proceed. Some early wheat was planted in dry soil. More producers were expected to dust in wheat if rains do not materialize soon. Wheat planting was (Continued on page 23)



Texas producers are expected to plant more wheat this season to capitalize on good market conditions. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)



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Testing...

(Continued from page 17)

the bag with your name, address, lot identification and feed type. Most commercial labs provide an information submittal form that allows producers to select a standard feed test for forages. Whenever possible, send samples into the lab early in the week to avoid having the samples sit over a weekend.

Analyze for moisture, protein and energy

Cattle feeds should be analyzed for moisture, protein and energy. Producers may also want to have forages tested for key minerals. Feed sample results are usually reported on an as-is and dry-matter basis.

When developing a ration for cattle or comparing feeds to one another, always utilize the nutrient analysis on a dry-matter basis. After formulating a ration on a dry-matter basis, the values can then be converted to an as-is basis using the moisture content of the feed to

determine the actual amount of feed that should be fed to the cattle on an as-is basis.

Analyze forages for nitrates

In addition to moisture, protein and energy, annual forages harvested for hay such as foxtail millet, oats, sudan grass and sorghum-sudan hybrids should be analyzed for nitrates. These annual forages can accumulate high levels of nitrates under various growing conditions that can potentially reach toxic levels. The only way to know if high levels of nitrate accumulation have occurred is to test for it.

Conclusion

Accurately testing hay takes time and money. However, the value of this information is critical in accurately and cost-effectively formulating rations. Don't let the small investment of time and money discourage you, it may be some of the best time and money you can invest in your operation.

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Crops...

(Continued from page 21)

completed in some areas. Late-planted Sudan was baled up with good yields reported. Cotton continued to mature in abnormally hot and dry fall weather. Irrigated cotton looked good, but dryland cotton conditions were poor in some areas. Rangeland grasses were browning and going dormant due to lack of moisture. Grasshoppers and armyworms continued to be a problem. Producers

were gearing up to harvest peanuts. Cattle were still grazing on available forage. Cows looked good, but milk production was decreasing as nutritional value in the grasses declined. Calves looked decent, but gains have slowed down. Farmers were in the fields, some plowing getting ready to plant wheat and others planting a few fields.

COASTAL BEND: Scattered showers occurred in parts of the district, but overall conditions

remained dry. Some areas in the northern part of the district were affected by Hurricane Nicholas with winds claiming 10% of the cotton still on the stalk, while other areas were unaffected and cotton harvest continued. Main crop rice harvest finished up, and ratoon crop rice was irrigated with some fields headed out. Soybean harvest was nearing an end with average to above-average yields. Hay production slowed down, and some areas reported a decline in rangeland and pasture conditions due to dry weather. Additional rain was needed as producers prepared pastures for winter. Livestock remained in good condition with high prices at market. One pecan producer estimated a third of their crop was lost due to wind damage.

EAST: Subsoil and topsoil conditions were adequate, but most of the district needed rainfall. A few counties reported scattered showers that improved growing conditions. Fall vegetable planting was underway. Producers were gearing up to plant winter pastures. Hay production

(Continued on page 24)

Course...

(Continued from page 19)

Service, USDA-APHIS, will also take part during the training to discuss the specifics of a U.S. response in the event of an outbreak.

"This training is an essential opportunity for private practitioners, as they play a critical role in animal health and the initial identification of possible foreign animal diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease," said Rosemary Sifford, Chief Veterinarian of the United States. "Veterinarians will gain experience in the clinical recognition of foot-and-mouth disease in ruminants, conducting foot-and-mouth disease investigations, and determining appropriate surveillance actions following suspicion or confirmation of outbreaks."

Comprehensive efforts in animal disease mitigation for North America

While the EuFMD has offered training courses for other countries over the last decade, the Texas A&M AgriLife course is designed specifically for North America. It also is one in a comprehensive series of initiatives across Texas A&M AgriLife to address animal diseases and other cross-border threats across the globe.

Cross-border initiatives across Texas A&M AgriLife

- Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases, IIAD, vaccine exercise to prepare animal health first-responders

- IIAD Strategic Widespread Agricultural Response Management, S.W.A.R.M — a prototype food animal disease outbreak simulation game to evaluate preparedness and time-sensitive response activities in the face of a catastrophic event on U.S. agriculture.

- Biological threat

showcase at Department of Homeland Security Summit 2021

- IIAD Frontline In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training, ISAVET, program — an initiative that aims to strengthen the surveillance and epidemiology capacity of government ministries of agriculture. The program promotes training veterinary field epidemiologists who are the first line of defense against diseases that affect animals and humans.

- Cross-Border Threat Screening and Supply Chain Defense, CBTS, Center of Excellence contraband-sniffing detection dog program.

- Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service webinar series to help Texans control feral swine

- National wild pig management taskforce
- Developing producer resources for foreign animal disease response

The Beef Quality Assurance program has developed other producer education resources in conjunction with the Secure Beef Supply plan, such as interactive biosecurity plans and online learning modules that train cattle producers and veterinarians on developing a biosecurity plan.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research collaborations with National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Beef Quality Assurance program on the videos, as well as the partnership with EuFMD on the virtual foot-and-mouth disease course, aim to provide tools for producers and veterinarians to develop biosecurity plans, support implementation of USDA's Secure Food Supply Plans and assist preparations for a successful foreign animal disease response.

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Gradual weaning of calves reduces stress, increases profits

By Eric Bailey,
Missouri Extension

Columbia, Mo. – Weaning at home reduces stress and improves profit in calves, says University of Missouri Extension beef nutritionist Eric Bailey.

Unfortunately, more than 55% of calves are weaned on the trailer on the way to the sale barn, according to USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System surveys.

Calves face many types

of stress in their early days, including weaning, castration, vaccinations, diet changes and transportation. Stress increases their risk of contracting a respiratory disease upon entering the feedlot. Bailey says 17% of calves entering the feedlot show signs of respiratory disease. This costs the beef industry \$800 million annually.

Producers can reduce some of that stress by weaning at home, which Bailey calls a “tried-and-

true” method.

A couple of “at home” techniques:

- Nose clips in the nostril, which prevent the calf from sucking and encourage them to eat hay and feed concentrates. After the nose clip is removed, calves are physically separated from their dams. This low-stress method costs about \$2.25 per nose flap.

- Fence line weaning puts calves on one side of the fence and mama cows on the other side for five to

seven days after weaning. Good fences help in this method. Fence line weaning improves performance and helps calves bawl less. Calves that are abruptly removed from their mothers bawl twice as much as gradually weaned calves.

Calves that don't eat well after weaning face risk for illness, generally 14-28 days after weaning. Producers can encourage drinking and eating by placing physical barriers within the pen so that

calves must walk past water and feed sources.

Bailey also suggests a method to adapt weaned calves to new feed. On the day of weaning, offer calves 1% or more of their body weight in high quality grass hay. The next day, offer hay at 1% of body weight and begin to offer 0.5-1% of body weight in grain. Put the grain under hay in the bunk to get calves to eat down to the new feed. Putting a new feed on top may cause calves to avoid

it, he says.

Increase the concentrate to 1 pound (dry matter basis) each day until cattle are eating 2.5% of their body weight in concentrate. Discontinue hay between days three and five.

Crops...

(Continued from page 23)

was winding down. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to good. Cattle market prices were lower. Livestock remained in fair to good condition. Anderson County reported yellow and black aphids showing up in pecan orchards. Wild pigs remained a problem in pastures and hay meadows. Timber prices were up slightly.

SOUTH PLAINS: Dry conditions continued across the district. Many producers irrigated crops up to last week. Corn and sorghum harvests started. Peanuts were very close to harvest, and some producers were preparing to dig. Silage harvest continued. Cotton bolls were opening early due to dry conditions, especially dryland fields, and producers were worried about an early freeze. Rains were needed for wheat planting. Cattle were in good condition, and grazing and hay availability were good going into the fall.

PANHANDLE: Northern and southern areas reported short soil moisture, while central areas reported short to adequate soil moisture levels. Pasture and rangeland conditions were poor to fair. Corn was dented and maturing, and sorghum was coloring and maturing. Some early planted sorghum should be harvested soon. Cotton conditions were fair to good, and bolls were opening. Soybeans were in fair to good condition and should be harvested soon. Peanuts were in good condition. Wheat plantings were off to a slow start due to dry, warm conditions.

NORTH: Soil moisture was short to adequate for most counties and continued to decline with no reports of rainfall. Rain was desperately needed across the district to replenish ponds and to get crops through the remainder of the summer growing season. Some moisture

(Continued on page 25)

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Crops...

(Continued from page 24)

could help producers make another cutting of hay. Sorghum harvest was mostly complete, and soybean harvest was underway. Livestock were in good condition.

FAR WEST: Temperature highs were in the upper 90s with lows in the low- to mid-60s. Conditions were starting to dry up in some areas after more than two weeks without rain. Thunderstorms produced lightning and rainfall, and precipitation reported ranged from trace amounts to 2 inches. Cotton looked good, but there were some whitefly infestations in certain areas. Pecan orchards looked healthy, and rains helped with aphid control. Clearing of weeds and grass on orchard floors was behind schedule. Some orchards reported above-average pecan potential while others were reporting an average to below-average year. Alfalfa fields were weedy and grassy due to above-average moisture. Lower quality hay was abundant. Rangelands looked very good, even in desert areas. Livestock were being supplementally fed.

WEST CENTRAL: Conditions dried out significantly over the past few weeks. Row crops, rangelands and pastures showed signs of moisture and heat stress. Cotton fields progressed, and some bolls opened. There was some field preparation for small grain planting, but most wheat producers were waiting for rainfall. Some producers began planting oats, but most were holding off for a chance of rain in the forecast. Some hay was baled and cut. Insect pests continued to cause problems with forages, trees and shrubs. Fall armyworms were reported in harvested corn fields. Producers were disappointed in fed cattle cash prices, and slaughter numbers impacted stocker and feeder prices as higher volumes of cattle were marketed.

SOUTHEAST: Soil moisture levels were short to surplus. Many counties received heavy rains from Hurricane Nicholas. Chambers County reported 5-8 inches of rain while Jefferson County reported up to 12 inches of rainfall, but Walker County reported only trace amounts up to 1.25 inches of rain. Drier weather was in the forecast. Some rice was lost due to high winds and rain. Producers reported hay stores this year were well below average to average this season. Pastures were dry and trees appeared very stressed in Grimes County. San Jacinto County reported armyworm infestations. Rangeland and pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent.

SOUTHWEST: Pasture and range conditions declined, and wildfire conditions increased due to lack of moisture and warmer temperatures. Hay harvesting continued. Cotton harvest was going well. Corn harvest continued, and small grain fields were being prepared for planting wheat and oats. Livestock were in fair condition. Caldwell County reported livestock markets were good, with high prices on calves, sheep and goats. Producers were providing supplemental feed to livestock and wildlife. Wildlife remained in good condition. Fall gardeners were planting and preparing fall gardens.

SOUTH: Soil moisture levels continued to decline under hot and dry conditions. Hurricane Nicholas delivered some rain in areas. A few counties reported 1-3 inches of rainfall. A cool front was in the

(Continued on page 27)



Livestock Sales Calendar

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bold-faced listings have advertisements in this issue.



- OCT 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 7 Dudley Brothers Hereford Bull Sale, Comanche, TX
- OCT 8 Red River Farms SimGenetics Production Sale, Grand Saline, TX
- OCT 8-9 The South Texas Beefmaster Breeders Association Buccaneer Classic Weekend, Robstown, TX**

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- OCT 9 Cox Excalibur Red Brangus Sale, Weimar, TX
- OCT 9 Big D Ranch's Building Your Tomorrow Annual Brangus Production Sale, Center Ridge, AR
- OCT 9 Addison Brangus Farms & Friends Performance Sale, Cullman, AL**
- OCT 9 Black Label Sale, Grandview, TX
- OCT 11 Williams Ranch Co Brangus Bull Sale, Bastrop, TX
- OCT 11 Union Commission Co., Inc. Special Stocker-Feeder Sale, Hondo, TX
- OCT 12 R A Brown Ranch Angus Female Sale & Quarter Horse Sale, Throckmorton, TX**
- OCT 13 R A Brown Ranch Bulls Sale & Red Angus Female Sale, Throckmorton, TX**
- OCT 14 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX**

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Weekly Sales at 11:00 AM
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- OCT 15 Central Texas ICA Bull & Female Sale, Gonzales, TX**
- OCT 16 Fink Genetics 24th Annual Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
- OCT 16 MP Brangus at Diamond D Ranch Fall Brangus Sale, Poteet, TX**
- OCT 16 Beef on Forage Beefmaster Bull Sale, Brenham, TX**
- OCT 16 Carr & Others Fall Beefmaster Sale, Floresville, TX**
- OCT 16 Strait-Heftle Tried & True Santa Gertrudis Production Sale, Streetman, TX**
- OCT 16 Club Calf Event Online Sale**
- OCT 20 Thomas Charolais Ranch Bull Sale, Raymondville, TX**
- OCT 20 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- OCT 20 Texas Hereford Association Fall Classic Sale, Buffalo, TX
- OCT 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Female Offering, San Saba, TX
- OCT 22-23 LG Herndon Farms Best of the South Charolais and Brangus Sale, Lyons, GA**
- OCT 23 Star G Annual Brangus Production Sale, Ben Wheeler, TX**
- OCT 23 44 Farms Fall Angus Bull Sale, Cameron, TX**
- OCT 23 Live Oak Livestock Auction, Inc. Special Replacement Cow and Heifer Sale, Three Rivers, TX**
- OCT 25 Perez Cattle Company Hereford Bull Sale, Navasota, TX**
- OCT 29-30 Quail Valley Farms Fall Brangus Female and Bull Sale, Oneonta, AL**
- OCT 29-30 2nd Annual Texas Breeders Classic Fall Replacement Sale, Brenham, TX**
- OCT 30 7P Simmental Simmental Bull & Female Sale, Tyler, TX**

- OCT 30 South Texas Hereford Association Fall Sale, Beeville, TX**
- OCT 30 Jordan Cattle Auction October Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 30 7P Ranch Annual Bull and Production Sale, Tyler, TX
- OCT 31 Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, Brenham, TX**
- NOV 3 Cowmaker Angus Bull Sale, Crockett, TX**
- NOV 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 4 Jordan Cattle Auction special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 6 The One Charolais Sale, Salado, TX
- NOV 6 Southern Cattle Co Annual Fall Bull Sale, Marianna, FL
- NOV 6 Tanner Farms Angus & Brangus Bull Sale, Shuqualak, MS
- NOV 8 The Branch Ranch Rough & Ready Ranch Raised Brangus & Ultrablack Bull Sale, Mansfield, LA**
- NOV 10 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- NOV 10 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 10 Barber Ranch Annual Hereford Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 12 Briggs Ranch-Harris Riverbend Farms-Salacoa Farms Bull Sale, Bloomington, TX
- NOV 13 Tri-Star Santa Gertrudis Sale, Bloomington, TX
- NOV 13 Lesikar Angus "Big Butts" Bull Sale, Athens, TX
- NOV 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 19-20 Cavender-Draggin' M Partners at Cavender's Neches River Ranch, Brangus & Charolais Bulls, Registered Brangus Female and Commercial Female Sales, Jacksonville, TX
- NOV 19 Salacoa Valley Farms Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Fairmount, GA
- NOV 20 Collier Farms Performance Tested Bull Sale, Brenham, TX**
- NOV 20 South Texas Heritage Santa Gertrudis Sale, Robstown, TX
- NOV 20-23 LMC & Friends Giving THANKS Online Sale VII
- DEC 3 Lone Star Angus Alliance Bull Sale, Hallettsville, TX
- DEC 4 Jordan Cattle Auction December Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- DEC 4 Brazos Valley Livestock Commission Co. 24th Annual Fall Replacement Sale, Bryan, TX
- DEC 4 Tom Brothers Opening Day Private Treaty Bull Sale, Campbellton, TX
- DEC 4 Rancher's Choice Charolais Bull Sale, Nixon, TX
- DEC 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- DEC 11 Caldwell Livestock Auction Replacement Female and Premium Bull Sale, Caldwell, TX
- DEC 11 Las Palomas Brangus Production Sale, Newnan, GA
- DEC 13 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- JAN 8 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Bull Sale, Three Rivers, TX
- FEB 5 **South Texas Hereford Association Spring Sale, Beeville, TX**
- FEB 12 San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo Beefmaster Subasta, San Antonio, TX
- FEB 16 San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo All Breed Bull & Female Sale, San Antonio, TX
- MAR 19 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Spring Sale, Three Rivers, TX

UPCOMING
EVENTS

September 24-October 17 - State Fair of Texas, Dallas, TX
October 28-30 Beefmaster Breeders United Annual Convention, Fort Worth, TX
February 10-27 San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo, San Antonio, TX

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NRCS announces 2022 deadlines for conservation assistance funding

Temple, Texas— The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has announced the first funding application deadline of

Oct. 29, 2021, for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). A second funding application deadline will be Feb. 11, 2022.

Applications are taken year round for NRCS programs, but deadlines are announced to rank and fund eligible conservation projects. Producers inter-

ested in signing up for EQIP should submit applications to their local USDA service center. If already a USDA client, a producer can submit applications online via Farmers.gov.

implement conservation practices to help them meet their land management goals, address natural resource concerns and improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

For additional information visit the NRCS Texas website at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis. Producers interested in EQIP can contact their local USDA service center or visit the NRCS EQIP web page.

Getting Texas into the organic crop breeding game

Texas A&M AgriLife to lead organic specialty crop breeding with unique guar and cowpea varieties

Texas may not be known as a big organic commodity supplier, but Texas A&M AgriLife is working to change that with the addition of a new organic and specialty crop breeding program.

A clear path is laid out for moving Texas up in the ranks of organic suppliers and markets after a year of building the organic program to include research and specialty crop breeding at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Vernon.

Directing that movement in Vernon are Rick Vierling, Ph.D., center director, and Waltram Ravelombola, Ph.D., the new Texas A&M AgriLife Research specialty crop and organic crop breeder in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.

"As we look at trying to help farmers be more economically sustainable, we want to offer them as many options as possible," Vierling said. "Organic crops are one of those options. Texas is a leader in consumption of organic food, but we are near the bottom of organic

Certifying organic land and building a program to become a leader

"We had our first organic acres inspected this year, and we will be bringing additional acres into the organic program in future years. Eventually, we want the new Organic Research Station to be a Texas A&M AgriLife-wide resource, where researchers from all over the state can conduct breeding programs and other research on certified organic acres."

AgriLife Research recently purchased 99 acres that will be converted to certified-organic land for research, breeding and education. It will take three years for that land to be fully organic, Vierling said.

In the first year, Ravelombola said, the team has been evaluating genetic materials in a wide variety of crops. Summer crops include guar, cowpeas and indigo, and winter crops include lentils and barley.

"Right now, Texas is behind in terms of organic production," Ravelombola said. "We would like to fill that gap by providing farmers with high quality organic seeds that are adapted to the region."

Most available crop varieties are bred for traditional agricultural production. Organic producers need varieties that have good pest and disease resistance because chemicals are not allowed in organic production.

"For guar and cowpeas, the plant materials are from our own program," he said. "The lentils are from several other programs and the barley is from Penn State University."

While it will take several years of testing, Ravelombola said they expect to release the first organic guar and cowpea varieties in the country.

"We have to breed for weed competitiveness, and we have to breed for yields that are comparable to con-

ventional crops," he said. "But we also want to concentrate on breeding for nutritional content and traits that are important to food companies."

Ravelombola is trying to contact organic farmers to supply testing locations that will provide a broader range of environmental conditions.

Finding an organic place in the crop rotation

"The most exciting thing is we know the system works," Ravelombola said. "We know these organic crops can fit in the existing agriculture system in Texas. It is a huge opportunity for farmers because the demand for organic food is continually increasing."

Each crop Ravelombola has selected to start with has a purpose and a place in existing cropping systems.

Texas producers are beginning to look at organic production. First, there is a price incentive — organic produce is sold at slightly higher prices compared to conventional. Second, domestic demand is increasing for organic produce. Whether that demand is for more guar, because the U.S. is guar's No. 1 consumer but has to import most of it, or for barley to supply Texas' growing brewery industry, these crops are finding a steady spot in the market.

Organic produce is consumed in every country, and Texas A&M AgriLife plans to help Texas farmers embrace the growing industry.

Crops...

(Continued from page 25)

forecast. Fieldwork, including tilling and stalk destruction, was active. A few acres of corn and sorghum remained unharvested. Cotton harvest was complete in some areas and getting underway in others. Cotton bales were being shipped to gins in many areas. Some late-planted cotton fields were being defoliated. Peanuts were being irrigated in some areas, and digging was starting in some fields. Sesame fields looked good. Strawberry fields were being prepared. Fall vegetables were being planted. Beans were being irrigated and managed for pests. Pecan orchards were not looking good. Cantaloupes

and watermelons continued to produce. Bermuda grass hay fields were being cut and baled. Pasture and rangeland conditions were declining, but some areas reported conditions were holding well. Forage producers were cutting and baling hay, and producers in Willacy County reported excellent hay producing conditions. Supplemental feeding of livestock was increasing. Cattle producers were weaning calves and culling herds, and cattle prices were good at sale barns. Sugarcane fields and citrus orchards were being irrigated. Citrus producers continued to rehabilitate trees damaged by the winter storm in February, while others were uprooting entire orchards.

Field day...

(Continued from page 2)

Life Extension sheep and goat specialist and AgriLife Research and Extension Center director, San Angelo.

•Predators and LGDs — John Tomecek, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist, Thrall.

•Canine Health Care — Susan Fritz, DVM, Compassionate Care Veterinary Hospital, Fredericksburg.

•Canine Parasites — Meriam Saleh, Ph.D., Texas A&M College of Veterinary and Biomedical

Sciences Medicine associate professor, Bryan-College Station.

•GPS Tracker Technology — Costanzo.

The AgriLife Livestock Guardian Dog Program focuses on research and projects related to expanding the industry's use, understanding and appreciation of LGDs. These dogs serve as deterrents to predators such as coyotes, eagles, feral hogs and mountain lions--anything threatening goats, sheep and their young.

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Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

worked a series of odd jobs and played music to anyone who would listen.

In Asheville, North

Carolina, he drove a cab and began performing on local radio shows and in concert. At the time there really wasn't such a thing as country music as far as the recording industry was

concerned. Radio stations didn't play country music because there were no country music records to play.

That changed in 1927 when the Victor Talking Machine Company in Bristol, a small town on the Tennessee-Virginia border, put an ad in the local paper inviting people to audition for the company. Rodgers decided to give it a go. The sessions that took place as a result, which included the Carter Family and Jimmy Stoneman in addition to Rodgers, have been called the Big Bang of Country

Music.

Rodgers recorded two songs at that first session, "The Soldier's Sweetheart" and "Sleep, Baby, Sleep" that met with moderate success. At a follow-up session in October of 1927 he recorded his first smash hit: "Blue Yodel Number One," usually referred to as "T for Texas."

Rodgers' spent his final years in Texas and held four recording sessions here from 1929 to 1932. He moved from San Antonio to Kerrville in hopes that the clean Hill Country air might give him some relief

from the tuberculosis that was slowly killing him. He built a house at the intersection of Main and Jackson and called it "Blue Yodelers Paradise" but the Depression took what money he wasn't spending on medical bills and he moved back to a modest house in San Antonio in 1931. The TB finished him off in 1933 at the age of 35 while he was in New York for a recording session. He was the first inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1961.

SLS

Beware...

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different forms."

Invasive weed and brush species vary across the state and even within specific regions. Treadwell urges producers to work with their local extension agents and Natural Resource Conservation Service to find out the threatening plant species for their area.

"Plant ID and start early," says Treadwell. "If you can recognize it and start early with it, then you are already well ahead of the ball game."

The most threatening weed and brush species, according to Treadwell, are the ones a producer doesn't know the name of. Producers can't prepare a plan of attack because they walk by them not realizing the species poses a monoculture and grazable acres threat. Additionally, Treadwell shares, the worst threatening plant could be a mis-identified plant and producers select the wrong management tool and make the situation worse.

"Producers don't have to know every single species, but pick the big ones," says Treadwell. "Pick the dominant species in your area and be able to recognize them at all growth stages from seedling to maturity. If you can get the most invasive ones, then you're already well ahead on the management curve."

There are number of smartphone applications available to help producers with plant identification, as well. Picture This, Google photos (plant id), iNaturalist, and West Texas Wildflowers are some of Treadwell's top app picks. Some do require purchasing the application.

Another great resource available to producers are educational webinars hosted by AgriLife Extension. More information is available at texasrangewebinars.tamu.edu.

It is important for producers to remember Texas is natively a grassland system. Any weeds or brush they look out and see is likely not native, and therefore can be invasive.

"A lot of people don't remember and understand the role these grassland savannahs play," says Treadwell. "In Texas, there is every kind of prairie system from tallgrass, mixed and short grass systems. It just doesn't look like that anymore."

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