

Managing feeder cattle price risk

By Jennifer Ifft, Flinchbaugh Agricultural Policy Chair

Futures prices have rallied to around \$265-270/cwt. However, weather, global conflict, or other factors could negatively impact the 2024 market. Prices were relatively high throughout 2014 in response to a drought-induced decline in cow numbers, but during the fall of 2015 prices declined rapidly. While market fundamentals may currently be stronger in

2024 than 2015, markets remain volatile and high prices have never lasted forever.

Producers can manage price risk in many ways. Many self-insure, whether through other agricultural enterprises, working additional jobs, or savings accounts (maintaining higher working capital). Marketing and hedging strategies can also be an important part of price risk management. Today, Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) insurance is the primary federally subsidized insurance product used to manage feeder cattle price risk. LRP makes payouts when actual feeder cattle prices at the intended marketing date are lower than expected prices at the time of purchase. LRP actual and expected prices are based on futures markets; LRP does not protect against local price (basis) risk.

Below are ten important things to know about LRP, for a producer considering using LRP.

- LRP is similar to a “put option”, which a producer purchases to have the right, but not the obligation, to sell a futures contract at a specific price at any date in the future before expiration. For example, a put option for October feeders at the “strike price” of \$270 currently costs around \$13.20 per cwt.

- LRP is more ‘small producer-friendly’ than a put option. First, LRP is cheaper: a LRP policy for feeder cattle that will be sold around October currently costs around \$9.95 per cwt (current quote for “steers weight 2”, 600 – 1,000 lbs.). Second, while futures and options contracts are sold on a volume basis with a minimum of 50,000 lbs., LRP is sold on a head basis, with no minimum on the number of head enrolled.

- Nearly 322,000 head of feeder cattle were covered by LRP in Kansas in 2023. Over 258,000 head have been en-



Producers can manage price risk in feeder calves in many ways. Photo by Courtney Saaco, Texas AgriLife Today

rolled in 2024; this number is likely to increase. These enrollment numbers can be indirectly compared to the following USDA estimates for Kansas: the 2023 calf crop was 1.29 million head and calf inventory on January 1, 2024, was 620,000 head.

- A producer must select a coverage price for LRP that is equal to or lower than the expected price, which is based on current futures price, with a conversation factor for lower-weight feeders, different breeds, and heifers. These coverage prices reflect a coverage level of around 92-100% (coverage levels could go as low as 70%, but lower levels are currently not available). The current fall feeder prices of around \$270 per cwt correspond to coverage prices in the range of \$250-270.

- Like other insurance policies that are a part of the “Federal Crop Insurance Program”, the Federal government pays 35-50% of the

LRP premium. *The government share has increased in recent years, making LRP a better value for the producer than in the past.* If a producer uses a subsidized insurance product consistently, over the long-term payouts (indemnities) are typically greater than premiums. While there is no guarantee, many producers that use crop or livestock insurance report that, over time, total payouts add up to more than total premium costs.

- Producers must sign up for an LRP policy with a livestock agent before purchasing a policy, or an “endorsement”. There are many qualified livestock insurance agents across Kansas. The USDA provides an online agent directory at <https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#/>.

- Producers using LRP cannot sell their livestock (without permission) *more than 60 days* before their LRP endorsement ends. However, there is no obligation to sell

your feeders at the end of the endorsement. This lack of flexibility may be a disadvantage for some producers. Also, if death loss is reported to an insurance agent within 72 hours, coverage can be maintained.

- Premium costs today range from \$2 to \$11 per cwt. Higher coverage policies cost more and pay out more often. Lower coverage policies cost less and pay out less often. Costs increase with higher prices, higher market volatility, a longer LRP endorsement length, and higher coverage levels.

- The LRP premium is not due until after the end of the endorsement period. From a practical perspective, this means a producer might not have to pay the LRP premium until after they get their calf check.

- Before purchasing an LRP endorsement, a producer needs to have an idea of an acceptable range of costs and coverage prices, which could

be determined as a part of farm financial and marketing planning. For example, knowing your breakeven price for feeder cattle can be an important part of a marketing plan.

For additional LRP and other livestock insurance policy details and analysis, see <https://agmanager.info/crop-insurance/livestock-insurance-papers-and-information>.

For a spreadsheet that allows a user to develop a detailed beef cow/calf enterprise budget to evaluate potential income, costs, and profitability, see <https://agmanager.info/farm-mgmt-guides/livestock-budgets/ksu-detailed-cow-calf-budget>.

For the USDA Risk Management Agency Fact Sheet on LRP for Feeder Cattle, see <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Fact-Sheets/National-Fact-Sheets/Livestock-Risk-Protection-Feeder-Cattle>.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Just Your
Standard Bull 2
Texas Trails 2
Markets 4
Weather Wise 16
Sale Calendar 25

PERIODICAL

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas
ROUND-UP REVIEW

• See Pages 9-10, 17-18 •



Egg prices increase ahead of Easter holiday

Texas Crop and Weather Report – March 19, 2024

Egg prices are on the rise as Easter approaches, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert, but they are lower than what consumers may have paid at the grocery store earlier in the year.

Consumers — and the Easter bunny — may have noticed the price of eggs increasing recently but that has mostly to do with demand, said David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station. Anderson said he expects that trend to continue leading up to the Easter holiday.

“We’re actually producing more eggs than we did a year ago, but eggs have a seasonal pattern to them,” he said, “And with Easter being earlier than usual this year, we’re also seeing prices rise earlier than we typically would.”

Producers saw wholesale prices for cartons of shell eggs strengthening through this past week with the increasing demand.

Holidays tend to drive demand up as consumers purchase more eggs than usual for eating and baking. The Easter holiday demand also includes the purchase of eggs to dye and hide.

Egg prices rising but lower than last month

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, in February the Consumer Price Index for eggs increased 5.8%, which was 17% below the level of 2023, with an average price of \$3 per dozen. This price was 47 cents per dozen higher than in January.

Egg prices peaked in February at \$3.29 per dozen according to some weekly USDA retail grocery store data, Anderson said.

Last year around the Easter holiday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Marketing Service reported retail eggs nationally were \$2.74 per dozen. Anderson said consumers can expect them to be around \$2.99 per dozen this year.

Anderson expects the cost of a dozen eggs will decline around Texas after the holiday, which is typical, however

stores may drop prices closer to Easter if demand isn’t as strong as expected.

“But I don’t think I’d wait

until right before Easter to buy your eggs, just in case the demand is stronger than expected,” he said. “You prob-

ably don’t want to wait too long to get eggs, especially if you’re planning on using real ones for your Easter egg hunt.”

Ongoing effect of avian influenza

Avian influenza, which has devastated commercial and backyard flocks in the U.S. since the outbreak began in January 2022, has been on the decline so far this year. Only one flock in the state has been infected to date, and that was a backyard flock in the Texas Panhandle, said Greg Archer, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension poultry specialist and associate professor in



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the Texas A&M Department of Poultry Science, Bryan-College Station.

“Since December, there have been around 14 million birds lost to avian flu, with the majority being in the upper

Midwest,” said Archer. He said while that number may be alarming, the majority — around 11 million — were impacted in December and last month only about 300,000

(Continued on page 5)

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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, March 21, 2024: Total receipts: 825, last reported (3-14-24) 927, last year 767. Feeder cattle 445 (53.9%), last reported (3-14-24) 788 (85.0%), last year 453 (59.1%). Slaughter cattle 157 (19.0%), last reported (3-14-24) 121 (13.1%), last year 161 (21.0%). Replacement cattle 223 (27.0%), last reported (3-14-24) 18 (1.9%), last year 153 (19.9%). Compared to last week steer and heifer calves and yearlings steady. Slaughter cows steady to 2.00 higher; slaughter bulls steady. Stock cows and pairs firm to moderately higher. The quality of the replacement cattle was very attractive. Trading fairly active, demand good. Supply included: 54% Feeder Cattle (44% Steers, 53% Heifers, 1% Cows, 2% Bulls); 19% Slaughter Cattle (77% Cows, 23% Bulls); 27% Replacement Cattle (25% Stock Cows, 30% Bred Cows, 45% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 38%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, March 26, 2024: Total receipts 6,509, last reported (3-18-24) 6,444, last year 6,053. Feeder cattle: 6,509 (100.0%), last reported (3-18-24) 6,444 (100.0%), last year 6,053 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers 3.00-6.00 lower. Feeder heifers 4.00-8.00 lower. Steers calves steady to 5.00 lower. Heifer calves steady to 2.00 lower. Demand moderate to good. Quality mostly average. It appears some of the grass buyers have pulled out of the market as some of the tight 7 weight steers and 6 weight heifers that would normally go to grass are selling sharply lower. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (56% Steers, 42% Heifers, 2% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 60%.

Table with columns: SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-22-24, VOLUME: 300, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories (200-300 lbs, 300-400 lbs, etc.) with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission, DATE OF SALE: 3-26-24, VOLUME: 410, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-25-24, VOLUME: 1398, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-25-24, VOLUME: 722, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC, DATE OF SALE: 3-26-24, VOLUME: 643, TREND: Steady/lower, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company, DATE OF SALE: 3-20-24, VOLUME: 520, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC, DATE OF SALE: 3-21-24, VOLUME: 502, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction, DATE OF SALE: 3-21-24, VOLUME: 1485, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission, DATE OF SALE: 3-25-24, VOLUME: 1159, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction, DATE OF SALE: 3-13-24, VOLUME: 249, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-26-24, VOLUME: 1028, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-20-24, VOLUME: 535, TREND: Steady/no change, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-23-24, VOLUME: 668, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co., DATE OF SALE: 3-23-24, VOLUME: 1327, TREND: Active/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock, DATE OF SALE: 3-22-24, VOLUME: 478, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets, DATE OF SALE: 3-22-24, VOLUME: 737, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc., DATE OF SALE: 3-23-24, VOLUME: 812, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction, DATE OF SALE: 3-21-24, VOLUME: 860, TREND: Steady/no change, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: Four County Livestock Auction, DATE OF SALE: 3-26-24, VOLUME: 546, TREND: Steady/no change, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Table with columns: SALE: El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC, DATE OF SALE: 3-26-24, VOLUME: 1135, TREND: Steady/higher, and weight categories with STEERS and HEIFERS prices.

Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, March 26, 2024: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 6,900, last reported (3-19-24) 8,171, last year 8,428. Feeder sheep/lambs 0 (0.0%), last reported (3-19-24) 490 (6.0%), last year 421 (5.0%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 4,140 (60.0%), last reported (3-19-24) 5,171 (63.3%), last year 4,467 (53.0%). Replacement sheep/lambs 138 (2.0%), last reported (3-19-24) 81 (1.0%), last year 84 (1.0%). Feeder goats 69 (1.0%), last reported (3-19-24) 475 (5.8%), last year 674 (8.0%). Slaughter goats 2,415 (35.0%), last reported (3-19-24) 1,864 (22.8%), last year 2,613 (31.0%). Replacement goats 138 (2.0%), last reported (3-19-24) 90 (1.1%), last year 169 (2.0%). Compared to last week slaughter lambs 10.00-15.00 lower. Slaughter ewes weak to 10.00 lower. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies firm; kids 5.00-10.00 lower. Trading and demand moderate. Supply included: 60% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (9% Woolled & Shorn, 74% Hair Breeds, 6% Ewes, 9% Hair Ewes, 1% Bucks, 0% Hair Bucks); 2% Replacement Sheep/Lambs (85% Hair Ewes, 15% Families); 1% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 35% Slaughter Goats (86% Kids, 12% Nannies/Does, 2% Bucks/Billies); 2% Replacement Goats (100% Families).

Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, March 19, 2024: Sheep and goats: 2,578 Light Lambs Lower. Heavy Lambs Steady. Kids Steady. Light Kids Lower. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 180.00-300.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 170.00-300.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 130.00-280.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 200.00-320.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 200.00-320.00 Cwt. Light Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 140.00-320.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (100-150 Lb) 140.00-290.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 20.00-130.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 90.00-320.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 100.00-360.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 140.00-375.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 160.00-375.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 175.00-370.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 140.00-335.00 Cwt. Lower Quality Kids 100.00-200.00 Cwt. Packer Sp/Boex Nannies 30.00-200.00 Cwt. Stocker Sp/Boex Nannies 200.00-300.00 Cwt. Angora Nannies 20.00-200.00 Cwt. Boex Billies 160.00-200.00 Cwt.

For updated daily reports and additional market reports go to: www.southernlivestock.com

Texas crop...

(Continued from page 3)

birds were lost.

Since the start of the outbreak in 2022, over 82 million birds have been affected. As producers have been able to replace the egg-laying hens lost, consumers have seen that reflected in lower egg prices.

"Knock on wood, we'll continue to see those fatality numbers drop," he said. "Since it hasn't been as bad this year, I wouldn't expect egg prices to be as affected by that as much as in past years."

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL

Cooler temperatures were accompanied by substantial rainfall. Winter pastures improved significantly, and the better weather prompted warm season grasses to break dormancy. Producers were spraying fields, applying fertilizer and managing brush to remove prickly pear and restore native pastures. The cooler temperatures slowed down the development of leaf rust, while wheat conditions showed steady improvement. Moisture posed a risk of stripe rust and other diseases. Hessian flies seemed smaller in number compared to recent years. Corn planting operations neared completion but were delayed by recent rains. Grain sorghum planting also faced delays. Corn showed a promising start with adequate soil moisture and favorable weather conditions. Cattle remained in good body condition, and the local market for calves was favorable. The sheep and goat market remained strong. Stock tank levels remained full. Pastures greened up, reducing the need for supplemental feeding, and stocker cattle gained well on winter grazing. Producers donated significant amounts of hay to support those in the Panhandle affected by wildfires.

ROLLING PLAINS

District-wide rain fell with amounts ranging from 0.5 inch to 2 inches. Farmers who had wheat top-dressed with fertilizer before the rains were especially grateful for the timing of the moisture. Wheat across the district looked very satisfactory, as did stocker calves, which showed excellent body condition thanks to above-average grazing. Pasture grasses and stock tanks were also in good condition. Producers in a few counties began tilling cotton fields.

COASTAL BEND

Widespread rain improved soil moisture, benefited crops, and led to the completion of planting in

Nueces County. Rangeland and pasture conditions were improving with warmer temperatures and adequate soil moisture. Corn and sorghum planting was completed, and cotton planting was underway. Most planted acres were up and growing, although rangeland and pasture conditions varied from poor to fair, with some areas rated good where pastures were rested. Livestock was generally doing well.

EAST

Recent rain and warmer temperatures continued to aid the growth and green-up of warm-season forages.

Producers in some areas could slow or completely stop feeding hay, which helped relieve some of the stress of thin hay supplies. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to good. Subsoil and topsoil conditions were adequate. Heavy rain ensured ponds and creeks were full. Cattle market prices were strong and higher in some markets. Livestock were in fair to good condition with some supplementation taking place. Fertilizer prices increased.

SOUTH PLAINS

It was another wet week across most of the district

with rainfall totals from 0.5-0.8 inch. Wheat fields were in very good condition. The rain provided much-needed winter grazing for cattle across the district. A few producers sprayed their wheat crop to prepare for the planting season. Cattle were in good condition and supplemental feeding was minimal.

PANHANDLE

The region experienced mild temperatures and no precipitation. Corn, cotton and sorghum preplant activities continued. Wheat was beginning to grow rapidly. Precipitation was

(Continued on page 8)



A map of the 12 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension districts:

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Protecting farms and ranches from wildfires

By David W. Smith, Texas A&M Extension

Wildfires affect America's farms and ranches, damaging and destroying homes, barns, agriculture production facilities, crops and livestock. Much of this damage can be avoided, or at least minimized, if a few precautions are taken to minimize the risk and spread of wildfires.

Before

Precautions should be taken long before a fire threatens your property in order to minimize costly damages after a fire. All farm and ranch family members and farm workers should be able to identify potential fire hazards and understand the basic fire response techniques to eliminate or minimize personal and property damage.

Basic measures include:

1. Install and maintain smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be installed in barns and buildings and checked at least once per month. Batteries should be changed at least once per year.

2. Develop an escape or evacuation plan and practice it. The evacuation plan should also include how to transport animals and livestock that may be in danger.

3. Post emergency numbers in a central location, including the fire department, police department, local emergency response coordinator, and others who provide rural emergency assistance.

4. Place fire extinguishers in all barns, vehicles, and tractors. Check extinguishers periodically for charge. Discard damaged or used fire extinguishers.

5. Store fuels, pesticides, medicines and other chemicals in a fire-retardant enclosure or secure location away from heat sources and combustible materials. In the event of a wildfire, these substances should be removed from the premises.

6. Keep barns and buildings clean of trash and other combustible materials such as hay, lumber, logs, and empty feed sacks.

Practice farm-specific fire safety:

1. Always avoid fire hazards in the initial construction.

2. Make sure your farm has adequate water supply, such as an irrigation ditch, a water tank, a cistern, or a pond.

3. Keep irrigation sources clear of combustible material.

4. Keep areas clear of grass, weeds, and other debris.

5. Park tractors and implements away from combustible materials such as haystacks and fuel storage containers.

6. Obtain fire insurance for livestock, buildings, and equipment.

7. Conduct random, but regular inspections and fire drills. Invite the fire department for these drills to minimize confusion during an actual occurrence.

8. Keep above ground fuel storage tanks at least 40 feet

from buildings.

During

If a wildfire threatens your farm or ranch, always remember that human life must be the first priority; property comes second. Keep in mind, however, that when firefighters arrive, they may ask which to save first, second, third, etc., so determine beforehand the order of importance: livestock, machinery, or feed.

If you become trapped in a burning barn or build-

ing, practice basic fire safety:

1. Get out quickly, but safely.

2. Stay low, since smoke rises, and cover your mouth with a clean cloth to avoid inhaling smoke and gases.

3. Close doors after escaping rooms to slow the spread of fire.

4. If smoke is pouring in the room at the bottom of the door, and the door feels hot, keep it closed.

5. Open a window to es-



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cape or for fresh air while waiting to be rescued.

6. If no smoke is coming in under the door and it is not hot, open it slowly to escape.

If you do have time to evacuate animals, proceed

with caution. Some animals may refuse to leave, and some may even run back into a burning barn or building. Make sure to close gates prohibiting access to dangerous areas. When evacuating

(Continued on page 18)



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Sired by: MC BLUE BLOOD 129H18

Sympathies extended to Russell deCordova family

Russell deCordova, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, died on March 16, 2024. Born on May 4, 1957, he was destined to be in the cattle industry following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps.

DeCordova left behind a true legacy in the cattle industry, a legacy that he began creating at a young age. Relationships, a handshake, and a man's word are how he operated.

The cattle industry continued to be a family tradition for deCordova; aside from Superior Livestock, he and his sons Cody and Ty also owned and operated Buffalo Livestock Marketing, Inc. in Buffalo, Texas where he spent many hours writing up cattle that lined the road and welcoming all the sellers with a handshake and a thank you. Then, he would change boots and head to Fort Worth to help customers market their cattle

through Superior Livestock and mentor all the young men who joined on as Superior representatives.

He loved his family and spent countless hours with his children and grandchildren showing cutting horses, showing livestock and sports involvement.

He was a man who garnered respect in all the things he did, including his pursuits with cutting horses. He won many championships showing cutting

horses, but his greatest joy was breeding and raising his own show horses.

DeCordova is survived by his loving wife Debbie; children, Amie Bushaw (Chad Bushaw), Cody deCordova (Emily deCordova), Ty deCordova (Jennifer deCordova), and grandchildren Charles Russell Bushaw, Will Bushaw, Gracie deCordova, Peyton deCordova, Wesley Bushaw, Tylar deCordova, Colt Russell deCordova,

and Ellie deCordova, sisters LuRene LeNoir (Stanley LeNoir), Lisa deCordova, Peggy Crow (Len Crow) and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Joan deCordova.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Groesbeck with a private family burial.

~SLS

Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

Gabe Henson (or Hanson in some accounts) after Henson and his larcenous cohorts commenced stealing cattle and turning them out on Good's range. Doak Good did not approve. He and other like-minded New Mexico cattlemen urged Henson's bunch to vamoose. All except Henson obliged.

Henson said he would not leave except as a corpse, and that he would make all who had spoken ill of him eat their words or bite the dust. Good wasn't surprised when Henson showed up at his place soon after and called for him to apologize for saying bad things about him or come out of the house and "shoot it out."

When Good told Henson he wasn't apologizing and had no desire to leave the house, Henson took cover behind a shed and spent the night there, promising Good that the shooting would commence the next morning if Good didn't apologize. Next morning, Henson began taking pot shots at Good, who returned fire with his old Sharp's buffalo gun. The two men exchanged gunfire for the better part of the morning. At noon, in an act of unprecedented and almost unbelievable act of chivalry, Good sent Henson some dinner.

In an act of unbelievable stupidity, Henson ate it.

The post-dinner portion of the gunfight continued until Henson hollered for Good to come out of the house. Good opted to stay put. Henson emerged from cover and either took a seat in front of the shed or charged the house; accounts vary but they all end with Henson dead. Some accounts say Doak Good shot Henson while others say he poisoned Henson. Nearly all accounts of the shootout from people who knew both Henson and Good include the opinion that Henson was certifiably insane.

The *St. John's* (Arizona) *Herald* said as much in 1886: "His {Henson's} actions and talk would indicate that he was crazy, a condition caused probably by his having discovered a few days before the trouble that his wife was untrue to him..."

In the end, Doak Good won the shootout, but legal fees and other costs associated with the incident left him bitter and broke. He went to Arizona for a while and shows up in 1896 as a member of the Cattle Raisers Association in Roswell, New Mexico.

~SLS

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Texas crop...

(Continued from page 5)

needed. Cattle were being supplemented on rangeland. Rangeland and pasture green-up started. Overall, soil conditions were reported to be adequate to short. Pasture and rangelands were reported to be fair to very poor. Winter wheat was reported to be good to poor. Livestock operators in several counties were beginning the recovery process after the devastating fires that began in late February.

NORTH

Rainstorms brought 1-2 inches of rain over the northeast portion of the district. Topsoil was adequate, and crop conditions for cool-season crops continued to be favorable for growth and development. Noctuid moth populations were increasing. Livestock were in fair to good condition overall. Most counties saw a decline in hay consumption over the last week due to the growth of green grass in the pastures. No diseases were reported.

FAR WEST

Temperatures were steady across the region, with highs in the low 80s to mid-70s. Dry and windy conditions, coupled with the wildfires in the Texas Panhandle, had producers and first responders on high alert as area rangelands had a large amount of fuel available if a wildfire occurred. A cool front entered parts of the region over the weekend and temperatures dropped into the low 50s. There was rainfall from between 0.3 inch and 1.5 inches. Wheat was growing. Producers continued preparing land for cotton crops. Pecan trees started to put on leaves. Land and stock tanks were still very dry and in poor condition. Area cattle producers were busy with the start of spring branding season. Lambing was complete and goats were expected to kid through March. Livestock were in fair condition and producers continued supplemental feeding.

WEST CENTRAL

The district experienced a range of temperatures from the lower 60s to low 80s, accompanied by light rain showers. The rainfall helped replenish topsoil and subsoil moisture, but more was needed to create runoff and improve rangeland and pasture conditions, as well as fill tanks and ponds. Winter wheat was improving and in good condition. Fieldwork continued in preparation for spring planting. Livestock remained in good condition as spring grasses were starting to grow.

SOUTHEAST

The district was swept with rainfall, leaving fields soaking up most of the water. Grass started to green up with the moisture and mild temperatures. Producers were preparing for rice and corn planting. Wheat was being top-dressed. Preparation for cotton planting began. Ponds and tanks were filling up. Livestock were in good condition, and local markets showed a slight price rise for all classes of beef cattle.

SOUTHWEST

Weather conditions continued to be dry, with several days of windy condi-

tions, which increased crop evapotranspiration and soil drying. Overall rainfall reported for the week ranged from 0.2 inch to 2.2 inches, with some areas receiving hail and experiencing cooler temperatures. Farmers were tilling the land in preparation for planting, with a few managing to sow seeds before the rain. Overcast weather for a few days helped alleviate conditions that would have otherwise created additional stress on the crops and soil moisture. The small rain showers did not significantly replenish subsoil moisture but may have initiated

some growth in the pastures. Rangeland green-up began with wildflowers blooming. Corn planting was complete, while farmers were waiting for more rain to plant hay and milo. Hay was becoming increasingly scarce and was extremely costly. Spring shearing and late lambing and kidding continued, with livestock mostly in fair condition and under supplementation.

SOUTH

Weather conditions throughout the district were mild with scattered showers over the weekend. Strawberry production was taking place, and corn planting continued.

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Wheat and oat crops began heading under irrigation. Onions, citrus and cool-season vegetables were being harvested. Watermelons were being planted. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair. Bermuda grass was greening up. Stock tanks were low. Producers continued supplemental feeding for their herds. Local markets remained strong and steady for all classes of beef cattle.

East Texas / Louisiana Beefmaster Marketing Group

44th Annual Sale

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

12 Noon - 5 PM: Sale
Cattle Arrive

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

12 Noon: All Cattle in Place
1 PM: Heifer Grading
5 PM: ETLBMG Membership Meeting
6 PM: Dinner with Fun Auction to Follow

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

8 AM - 12 Noon: View Sale Cattle
11 AM: Meal Available
12 Noon: East TX/LA Marketing Group Sale; JBBA Heifer Show to Follow Immediately after Sale

**Saturday, April 20
12 Noon**

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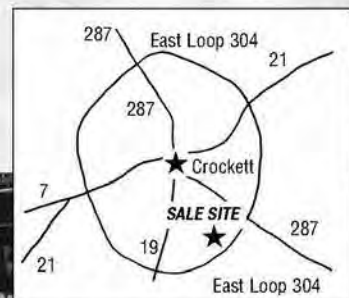
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Terry Chambers, 979/849-4824

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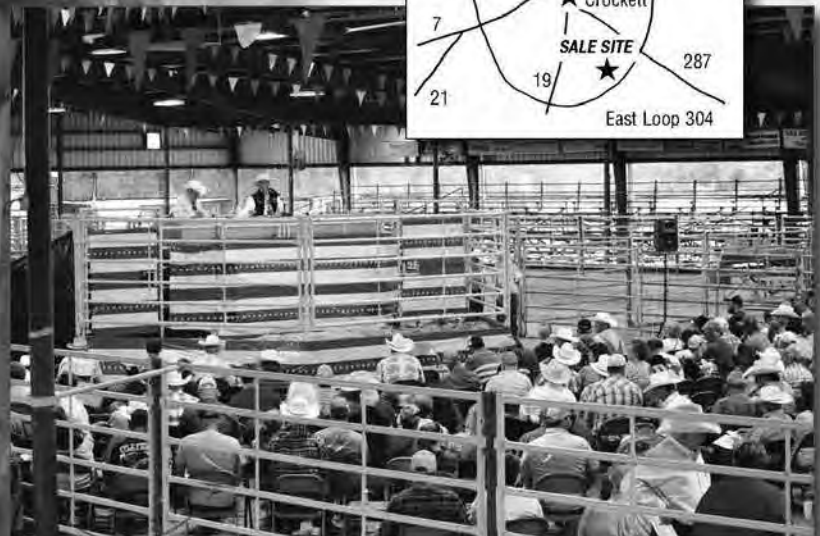
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President's Address...

By: Kerry Wiggins

Green is the color for March, as Patrick's Day was celebrated but also because of the beautiful green in our pastures.

Spring calving is going strong, and the livestock market remains strong, as well.

Certainly makes it easier to justify the cost of fertilizing those hay fields.

The ICA 50th Annual Convention planning is underway and will be held July 1-3 in San Marcos.

Remember that ICA staff are available to assist you, don't hesitate to call.



By Joe C. Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist, ICA Director Emeritus

Vacuuming in the nude

I'll readily confess that I am a reader. I bought my wife a copy of "Dirty Jobs" Mike Rowe's mother's "Vacuuming in the Nude" the other day.

The reason I brought the book up reminds me of our knowledge and status in our current cattle market.

I know that the price of all our inputs have risen, some astronomically.

There are folks who say that prices for our feds and feeders are not high enough based on the costs of our inputs and cattle numbers.

The cowherd numbers are the lowest they have ever been in my lifetime.

Rebuilding may not begin for a couple of more years. There are still a lot of heifers going on feed, but I know that some folks are beginning to retain replacements.

Chapter Happenings...

Around The Lone Star State

South Central ICA Chapter

South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association (STICA) covers Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, and Wilson counties.

involved in agriculture and this bright spring patchwork.

The next SCTICA meeting is 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 11, in Poth at Blessed Sacrament Church.

Southeast Texas ICA Chapter

Howdy from Southeast Texas ICA. March has been busy with our SETICA Commercial Bull and Heifer Sale on March 9th.

(Continued on page 10)

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2023-2024 Executive Board, 2023-2024 Board of Directors, DIRECTORS EMERITUS, CHAPTER PRESIDENT/DIRECTORS, STATE STAFF

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Chapter...
 (Continued from page 9)
 weather was almost perfect for a change. A big thank you to our consignors, buyers, sponsors and a special thanks to our corporate sponsor Capital Farm Credit and all the SETICA members who worked for days to put the sale together and the cooking team that kept everyone fed.
 Greg Goudeau of Navasota Livestock, along with Merck Animal Health representatives Kyle Boone and Dr. Harold Newcomb gave a great presenta-

tion to 71 cattlemen about Navasota's weaned calf sale at SETICA's producer's meeting on March 12th. His presentation centered around improving the cattle industry and helping producers add value to their herds through animal health and demonstrated how Navasota's weaned calf sale has become so successful by using those programs. The Merck reps. and Goudeau answered questions and engaged in good discussion about wormers and vaccines. Besides helping our producers learn more about animal health, they also

provided us with a great rib-eye steak dinner.
Brazos Valley ICA Chapter
 I am grateful for the continuing rain. Our pastures are really greening up. On the other hand, all appearances indicate that I lost a cow from grass tetany this week, despite having mineral available for her and the other cows. I am going to consult a veterinarian and see how I can add more magnesium to my herd's diet to prevent this from happening again.
 The Brazos Valley Chapter of the ICA is currently
 (Continued on page 17)



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Jim S. Williams to be inducted into the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery

Jim S. Williams, Boling, Texas has been named the 2024 inductee of the prestigious Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery. His portrait will be unveiled at an induction banquet, Nov. 17 during the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. Williams will be the 379th member added to this historic gallery of livestock standouts. The award is the highest honor bestowed on an animal agriculture leader who has made major contributions to the livestock industry in the U.S and abroad as judged by their peers.

Williams has had one home his adult life and that is on the V8 Ranch, one of the world's premier registered Brahman operations. He represents the sixth generation to continue a commitment to excellence in the seedstock segment and continues a legacy initiated by his great-great-grandfather, J.D. Hudgins, who is the founder of the renowned J.D. Hudgins, Inc Brahman Ranch.

Williams was a gifted athlete in high school and after a career-ending injury in college, he transferred to Texas A&M University. His interest in cattle became his passion, as his knowledge and understanding of animal genetics and breeding flourished. He graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science and he returned to the ranch and began to make his mark in the industry.

Under his leadership, V8 Ranch has been a trailblazer for adopting advanced technologies such as the incorporation of performance measurements in the 70's, embryo transfer, and IVF, as well as use of DNA based genomics. V8 has also been a leader across breeds in the marketing of purebred genetics with many firsts to their credits in this area.

Visual appraisal is also paramount to Williams in making mating and herd selections and the show ring has been a major force in the growth and popularity of the V8 Ranch. Since 1976, V8 Ranch has exhibited 66 National or International Grand Champions, which tops Brahman history records.

V8's reach extends far beyond the U.S and the ranch's genetics can be found in more than 50 countries and on six

continents. Along with his dad, Sloan, V8 Ranch satellite herds were established in Brazil and Zimbabwe.

In addition to the Brahman herd, V8 Ranch is home to a 1,500 head Brahman based commercial cattle operation along the Gulf Coast of Texas. In the early 2000's, Williams founded and managed V8 Shorthorns, where the operation exhibited national and

junior national champions, as well as three Shorthorn Show Heifers of the year. His daughters were heavily involved in the junior association on a national level, also.

Williams has continually given back to the industry and served in many leadership capacities. He is a two-term past president of the American Brahman Breeders Association, a three-term past president

of the American Shorthorn Association and has held executive board positions on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, U.S Meat Export Federation and was chairman of the Texas Beef Council.

For 48 years, he has been judging cattle across all breeds and has presided over more than 1,500 shows at all levels. He has judged 33 national breed shows, 44 state

fairs, as well as the most prestigious junior nationals, and steer shows in the nation. His judging ability has also been sought after in shows in Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia, and Thailand.

His expertise and knowledge as also made him a sought-after speaker and panel member across many forums in the U.S., as well as five foreign countries.

His contributions and love for cattle has earned him considerable recognition including the 2012 BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year, Builder of the Breed



honor from the American Shorthorn Association, honorary member status for Texas A&M University Saddle & Sirloin Club, Texas

(Continued on page 25)

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The ranchland surrounding Canadian may be blackened by wildfires, but cattle raisers from across the country will still find a value in the Texas A&M AgriLife Hemphill County Beef Conference on April 23-24. (Sam Craft/Texas A&M AgriLife)

Texas A&M AgriLife Hemphill County Beef Conference April 23-24

Wildfire devastation won't stop event; registration is open

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Themed "Better Ranching for Better Life," the Texas A&M AgriLife Hemphill County Beef Conference is set for April 23-24 in the Jones Pavilion, 1101 N. Sixth St., Canadian.

While many ranchers will still be reeling from the

devastation left in the path of the Smokehouse Creek Fire, Andy Holloway, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent for Hemphill County, said the adage "the show must go on" may be as important as ever.

"We will be addressing everything from the future of the cattle market to what is in store with the weather and risk management, all of which will play an important role in the recovery of our ranchers here in our county and across the industry," Holloway said.

He also assured participants that despite the severe damage in parts of Canadian, they will still be able to accommodate the expected doubling of the town's size when participants arrive.

Registration, at \$150 per person and spouse tickets at \$125, is open online at www.hemphillcotxbeef.com, by calling 806-323-9114 or stopping by the AgriLife Extension office at 10965 Exhibition Center Road, Canadian.

New at this year's Hemphill County beef conference

A new feature with the Texas Beef Council will include chef presentations in a new tent dedicated to beef products developed by Texas Beef Checkoff dollars, including a tasting opportunity of some of the developments to enhance value.

Also, a record number of trade show exhibitors, more than 100, will be in attendance.

A chuckwagon lunch on April 24 will feed the entire crowd ribeye steaks, mashed potatoes and green beans. A total of three beef meals are included in the registration price.

Keynote, conference speakers

The Hemphill County Ag Committee will bring in Kayleigh McEnany, former White House press secretary and current co-host of Outnumbered on the Fox News Channel, as the keynote speaker April 23. McEnany's topic will be "America's Heart and Soul is Under Attack."

Additionally, Holloway said the conference will offer 12 sessions on everything from financing, regenerative pasture management and new technology to beef cattle genetics, beef quality and what future production might look like.

The complete agenda can be found online. ~SLS

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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">MP MR ULTIMATE HIGH 38K26</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SIRE: DDD HIGH NOTE 150H8 DAM: MP MISS ULTIMATE SOURCE 38F REG #: R10532940 DOB: 1.10.2022</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">MP MR TRAVELER 38K32</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SIRE: MC CROSSOVER 834Y DAM: DDD SWEET SOURCE 38D22 REG #: R10532944 DOB: 8.22.2022</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">MP MR CASH RESERVE 767K17</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">SIRE: MSC SPECIAL RESERVE 329H4 DAM: WCC MS. KATY 767C REG #: R10533039 DOB: 8.23.2022</p>

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Friday, April 26:

View Cattle all Day • 6 pm - Social

Saturday, April 27:

10:30 a.m. - Springtime in Texas Sale

1 p.m. - E6 Replacement Female Sale

(or immediately following Springtime in Texas Sale)

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LOTS 165-174: 10 1st Calf Pairs

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LOTS 175-177: 3 Heavy Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Gary Halepeska, Goliad, TX

LOTS 178-183: 6 1st Calf Pairs

Consigned by: Larry Hobbs, Moody, TX

LOTS 184-186: 3 Black Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Larry Hobbs, Moody, TX

LOTS 187-189: 3 Black Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Larry Hobbs, Moody, TX

LOTS 190-192: 3 1st Calf Black Pairs

Consigned by: Dave Moore, George West, TX

LOTS 193-196: 4 Registered Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Dave Moore, George West, TX

LOTS 197-198: 2 Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Dave Moore, George West, TX

LOTS 199-212: 14 Registered Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Schneider Brothers, Skeeter & Dora Schneider, Premont, TX

LOTS 213-234: 22 Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Aransas Creek Cattle Co., Skidmore, TX

LOTS 235-236: Registered Bred Heifers

Consigned by: Arrowhead Ranch, Tilden, TX

LOTS 238-241: 4 Open Heifers

Consigned by: Pam Colvin, Seguin, TX

LOTS 242-262: 20 Bred Heifers

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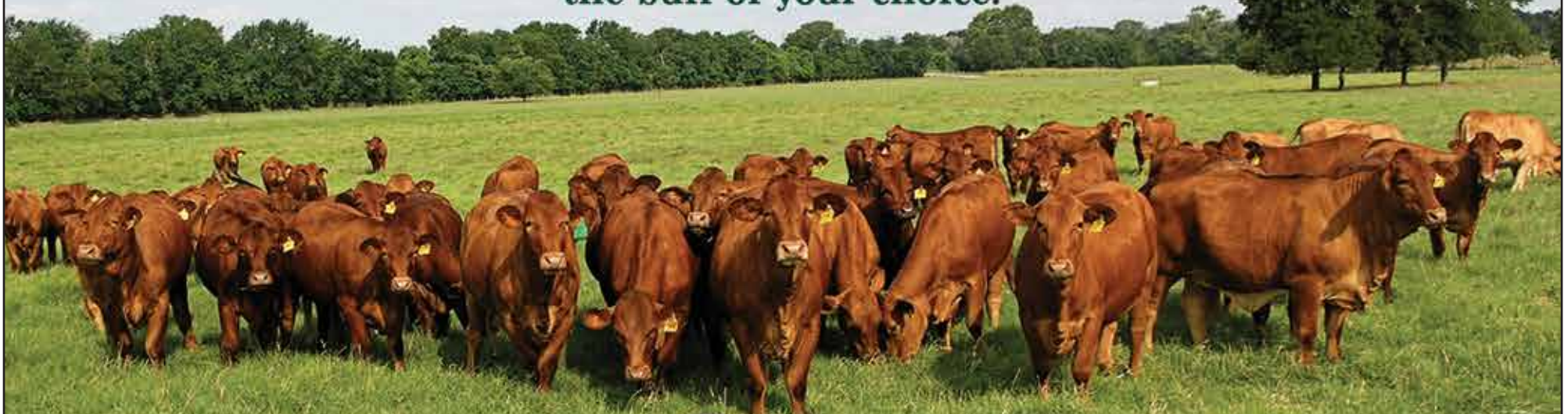
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25 to 28 months of age with 2 to 4
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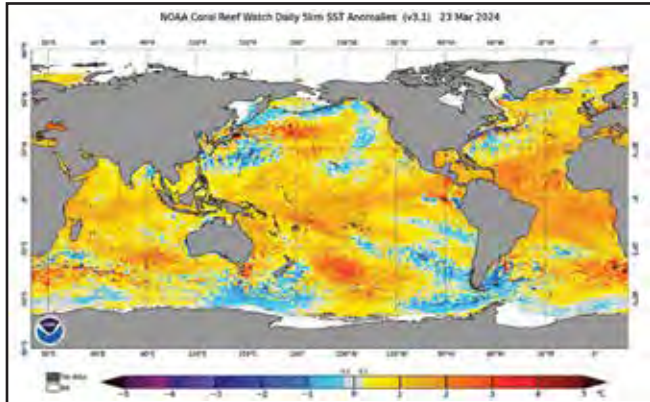
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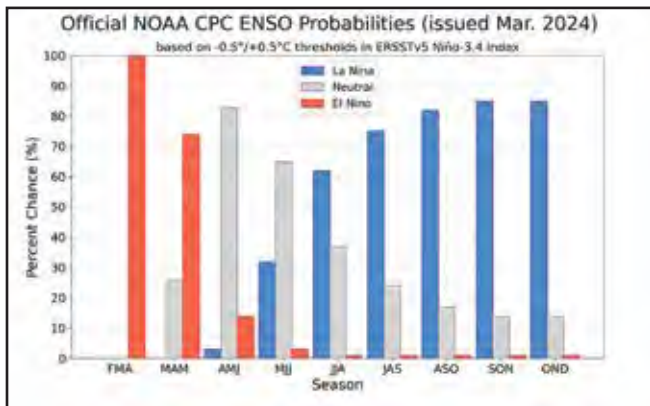
By Brian Bledsoe

Here's the latest. sea surface temperature anomaly map.



You can see the El Niño weakening, and the evidence of La Niña building. There is also quite a bit of cooling in the north Pacific and from the Baja to Hawaii. That "cold horseshoe" is likely going to mean a PDO (Pacific Decadal Oscillation) that gets more and more negative/cold. That is not a good sign as we move out of spring and into summer.

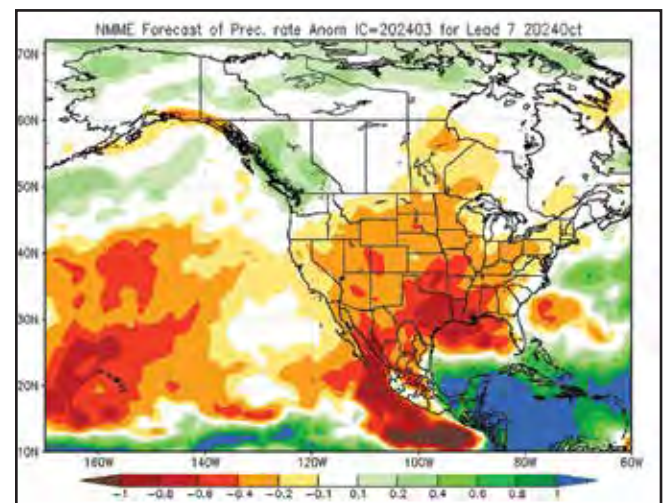
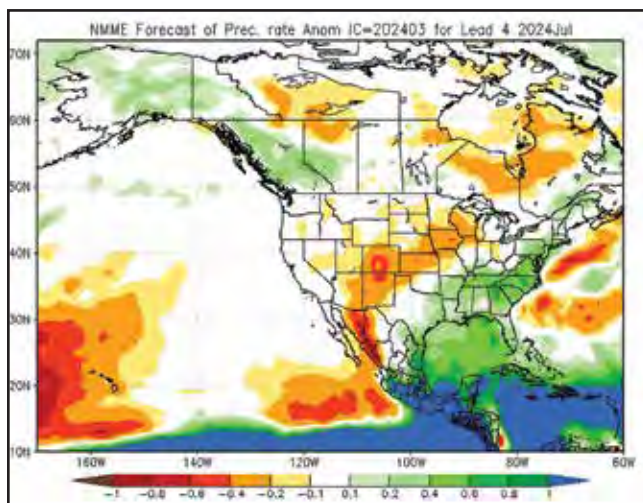
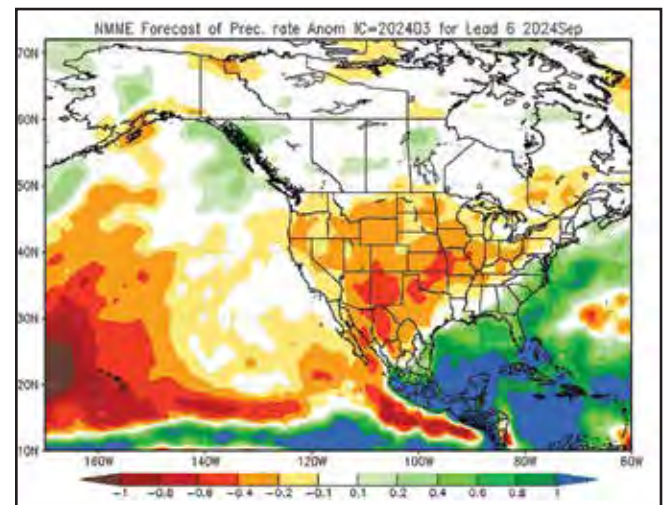
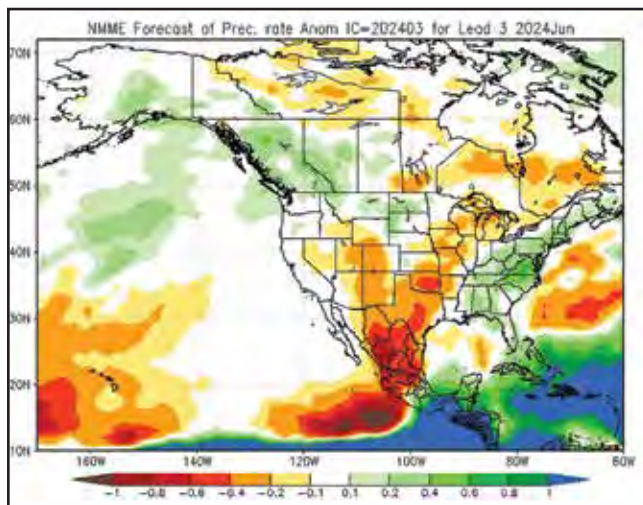
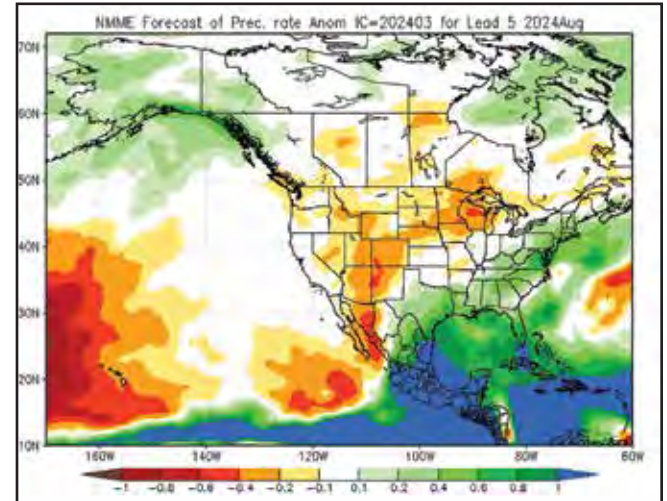
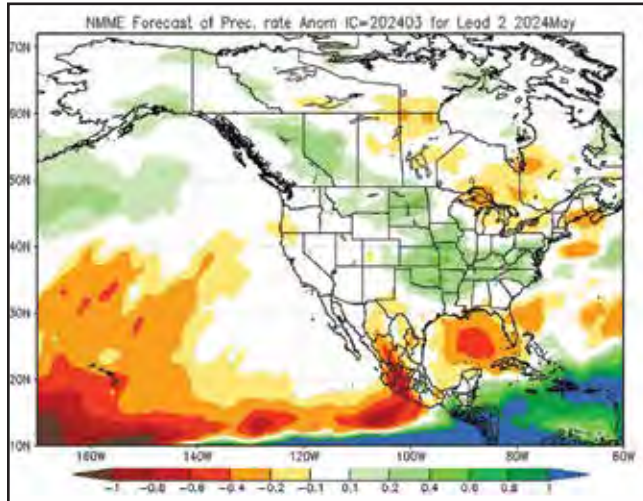
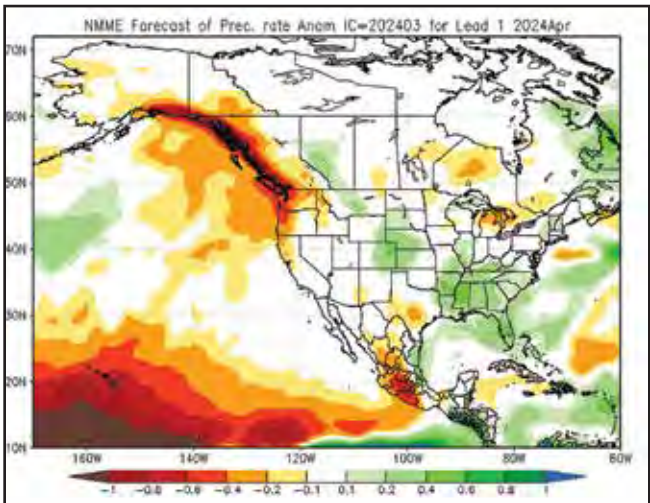
The long range models seem to agree with me. I have no doubt we are going to La Niña, and it could be a fairly strong one. I think the only question lies in how fast it comes on. Here are the latest probabilities from NOAA and the Climate Prediction Center.



You can see that it has us locked in with La Niña percentages of 60% or greater starting in June/July/August.

Here is a look at the full NMME model precipitation anomaly forecast. This model is aggressive in bringing the La Niña on quickly and strongly. So, factor that in with it's relatively drier than average forecast for many areas of the central and southwest US.

NMME Model Precipitation Anomaly Forecast April - October



You can see that NMME is pretty aggressive about bringing on the dryness after we get out of May, and possibly early June for some. This is especially true for the Southern Plains and Desert Southwest. There would be heat issues too...possibly starting up as soon as June, but certainly maxing out in July/August/September. As I have been saying for the past several months, the time between now and June is critical. After we get past June, and the monsoon likely ends up either severely diminished or a significant failure, it doesn't leave much room to break the pattern. La Niña will likely linger into the first one-third of 2025, which leads to another set of issues when trying to break the dry/droughty pattern.

1) Could this be wrong? Sure...I just don't have any current or historical evidence to think so. It is a prepare for the worst and hope for the best scenario, in my opinion.

2) Will there still be rain? Of course there will. But with this setup, it just makes it less frequent and meaningful. Also, the farther west you live, the drier

it will likely end up. The hurricane season will likely be active, which accounts for the wetter than average bias to parts of Texas and the Gulf Coast this summer.

3) Wait, the monsoon was pretty amazing during the summers that La Niña was around...why not this year? The exceptionally warm water off the west coast of Africa is known as the positive/warm Atlantic Meridional Mode. It was present last year, and the monsoon disappointed. That region is even warmer than last year, and I see no reason for it to change. This is historically a bad sign for the monsoon. Even the models see a monsoon failure happenin This is significant for western parts of the region.

Plenty to watch and analyze in the coming days, but I fear the deck is stacked against many of us for the second half of 2024. Could the active tropical storm and hurricane season offset this trend? Sure, but those storms have to come in at the right angle to help us. If they shear east, then they are no help at all.

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

Chapter...

(Continued from page 10)

scheduled to meet at the Caldwell Civic Center on Tuesday, May 21st at 6 p.m. The chicken fried steak meal will be catered by Four Tines Restaurant of Caldwell. I am still in communication with a potential speaker. Please feel free to call me at any time, James Alford at 830/203-8181.

Colorado Valley ICA Chapter

The Colorado Valley ICA chapter is excited to announce that we will be holding a producer meeting on Thursday, April 25th, at the

CHB Land Management Office in La Grange, Texas. A BBQ meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting and program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with 2 CEU credits being offered. RSVP's can be made to the ICA State Office at 512/620-0162 or tica@ica-texas.com by or before April 23rd. All producers are welcome, so spread the word and we will see you there!

Guada-Coma ICA Chapter

The Guada-Coma ICA Chapter held their monthly meeting Monday, March 18th, at Seguin Cattle Company. It was so exciting to see so many in attendance.

Dr. Caroline Alsop of Southern Winds Veterinary Services gave a presentation on "Antimicrobial Stewardship in Production Cattle". Dr. Alsop went over the new guidelines that the FDA has imposed on antibiotic use in food animals. They are no longer available to the producer without a patient-client relationship with the veterinarian. This new ruling was brought down by the USDA and not the veterinary profession.

Cooper Little presented information on the resolution that Congressman Ronny Jackson has introduced; a

resolution to oppose the importation of fresh beef from Paraguay. The Country of Paraguay is not free from Hoof and Mouth disease. By allowing this importation, the USDA has potentially put the risk of introducing the disease back into the U.S. We are urged to contact Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz to support this resolution.

He then touched on the relief efforts for the ranches that have been affected by the wildfire. It is just unfathomable what the ranchers have been through. Personally, knowing cattle families in the Panhandle and talking

to them, it is just devastating how much has been lost. ICA has delivered goods, but more is needed. The Guada-Coma chapter gave a monetary donation to ICA to continue helping. Hopefully, other chapters can do the same.

Remember our Guada-Coma scholarship is due April 17th, and the state scholarships are due May 1st. Take care and pray for rain.

East Texas ICA Chapter

The East Texas ICA chapter met March 12th at the Regen Ranch in Oakwood, Texas. Members were treated to a delicious meal prepared by Christine Martin of Regen

Ranch.

Five members formed a calendars committee to schedule topics for the remainder of 2024 and early 2025. Topics that received the most support and enthusiasm included estate planning, handling calving difficulties, ranch-to-table presentations for students, pesticide applicators' continuing education and ag safety. Members would also like to hear from one or more buyers about what they value most in market calves.

Estate planning will be the topic of the next meeting. Time and location will be scheduled to accommodate the speaker and will be announced as soon as the speaker is confirmed.

Mid-Tex ICA Chapter

The Mid-Tex ICA Chapter held a meeting on March 26, 2024, at Lockart Auction Inc. in Lockhart, Texas. A big thank you to our speakers Christa Kraatz and McKayla from our local USDA FSA office. They gave a great presentation on FSA Programs and Farm Loans offered by the USDA. We also want to thank Printing Solutions for sponsoring the meal and Jesse Hernandez with 4H Hat Company for providing some great door prizes. Be on the lookout for details about our next meeting.

We are also excited to announce that we will be giving out a 2024 Mid-Tex ICA High School Scholarship. The deadline is May 1, 2024, and the scholarship application can be found on the ICA website: ICATexas.com, under the Forms and Links Tab.

Gonzales ICA Chapter

The Gonzales ICA Chapter is excited to announce that our 2024 Gonzales ICA Chapter High School Scholarship is now available. The application can be found on the ICA State website, under the Forms & Links tab. The ICA State Office also has a high school scholarship and a new collegiate scholarship, so be sure to look at the eligibility requirements and apply today.

Victoria Crossroads ICA Chapter

The Victoria Crossroads ICA chapter held a chapter meeting on Thursday, March 21st, at The Bomb Diggity in Inez, Texas. We were very excited to host a meeting closer to our Jackson County folks and were very pleased with the turnout and getting to see some new faces. A big thank you to Crystalyx and Ful-O-Pep for sponsoring our delicious chicken fried steak dinner. We appreciate Harrison

(Continued on page 18)



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Protecting...

(Continued from page 6)
animals, do not lead them where they will become trapped or to a dead end.

After
The aftermath of a wildfire can be hazardous.

A few precautions must be taken after a wildfire takes place on your property:

1. Stay out of damaged barns buildings and return to your property only when authorities permit you to.
2. Notify proper authorities if you believe that hazardous materials were released in the fire or during firefighting.

Place warning signs on contaminated areas.

3. When disposing of some materials, such as those potentially contaminated with chemicals, check on state and local requirements for disposal procedures.

4. Consult someone from the Local Emergency Planning Committee or the state Division of Emergency Management for legal clean-up procedures if needed.

5. Keep livestock away from contaminated feed and water.

6. Wear protective gear when entering contaminated

areas including steel-toed boots, a hard hat, respiratory protection, gloves and other protective clothing when in damaged barns and buildings.

7. Before entering a barn or building, assess the true integrity of the structure. Always turn off the electrical power and other utilities until a thorough safety inspection is made.

8. If the decision is made to demolish a building, hire a professional. Professionals will be able to do the job more efficiently and safely.

9. Check with your insurance provider so you know what is covered by wildfires. Take pictures of all damage, and inventory all damaged structures, supplies, equipment and machinery. Save receipts for expenses relating to fire loss.

(Continued on page 19)

Chapter...

(Continued from page 17)

Smith with Crystalyx and Mychael Small with Ful-O-Pep Feeds for providing a wonderful program for our meeting's attendees.

The chapter voted to move the April VCICA Fundraiser to Saturday, Sept. 28th at the KC Hall in Victoria, Texas. We are looking forward to adding some new ideas to the fundraiser that will be beneficial to our ICA members, so stay tuned for more announcements and be sure to save the date.

Don't forget! The 2024 VCICA Scholarship is now available on the ICA website, and the deadline will be April 15th so be sure to apply. Please direct questions about the VCICA scholarship to CrossroadsICA@gmail.com. Also located on the ICA website are the 2024 ICA State High School and Collegiate scholarships. The deadline for these is May 1st. All scholarships can be found at ICATexas.com under the Forms & Links tab.

Our next meeting will be held at Ramsey's Restaurant in Victoria, Texas, on May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. More meeting information will be sent out soon, as there will be lots to cover. We look forward to seeing you there.

West Texas ICA Chapter

The West Texas ICA Chapter will be holding a chapter meeting on Tuesday, April 30th at the Pecos County Civic Center in Fort Stockton, Texas. Your RSVP is appreciated and can be made to either Wayne Tinkler at 432/290-3496 or the ICA State Office at 512/620-0162. We're excited to see everyone there and be sure to bring your neighbors!

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Auctioneer: Anthony Mihalski 210/415-0888

New coach hired to helm Texas Aggie Rodeo team

Hanagriff set to take the reins from Wagner this fall

By Susan Himes, Texas AgriLife Today

Roger Hanagriff, Ph.D., knows he will have big shoes — or rather boots — to fill.

Hanagriff will be the new Texas Aggie Rodeo team coach in the fall, replacing longtime coach Al Wagner, Ph.D.

Wagner, a food technologist in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, volunteered for 30 years coaching Texas Aggie Rodeo and shaping it into the successful program it is today — a legacy he will soon entrust to Hanagriff.

For the first time in the program's 75-year history, the coach position will change from a volunteer role to a full-time, paid position. It was a move Wagner thought was crucial for the ever-expanding team and he was determined not to retire until he knew the program was in good hands.

"This was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Hanagriff said. "Dr. Wagner took the program from a handful of students to a team of 50-plus athletes, and I'm excited to be a part of continuing that legacy."

Hanagriff will be inheriting the recognized competitive team under the Department of Animal Science in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

"We are very excited about the hiring of Dr. Hanagriff," Wagner said. "He is very dedicated to the Texas A&M rodeo team, and I know will grow the program immensely. I could not be more pleased with the hiring of Dr. Hanagriff."

Hanagriff's passion for rodeo runs deep. During his undergraduate years at Sam Houston State University, he was a rodeo athlete himself. Rodeo isn't just a hobby for him; it's a family affair. His wife, Gena, shares his love for the sport, and together they've passed down

this cherished tradition to their children. Their eldest son, Boyd, is already making waves as a member of the Aggie Rodeo team, and it's anticipated that his brother Samuel will follow in his footsteps in the future.

Hanagriff is happy to return to Texas A&M where he earned his master's de-

gree in the Department of Agricultural Economics in 1992 and his doctorate in philosophy in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication in 2002.

In addition to coaching the team, Hanagriff will serve as an instructional associate

(Continued on page 20)



The new Texas Aggie Rodeo coach Roger Hanagriff, his wife Gena, and sons Boyd and Samuel all share a love of rodeo. (Photo by Kristi Lee Bracewell photography)

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Protecting...

(Continued from page 18)

Animals

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www.LesikarRanch.com

New coach...

(Continued from page 19)
professor in the Department of Animal Science come fall.

"We've got a really strong team that represents the university at a competitively high level," Hanagriff said. "But academics come first, and I think that is what is so great about this coaching position. I get to be involved in academics and focused on the team. It's a cool combination."

Hanagriff is currently an associate professor of agricultural business and agricultural education at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He was a continuing education associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications at Texas A&M from 2012-2017. Hanagriff was an associate professor in agricultural business and coached the Sam Houston State University rodeo team from 1998-2012.

An endowment to secure the future of Texas Aggie Rodeo

Hanagriff's hire was made possible by the Dr. Al Wagner '69 Rodeo Coach Endowment Fund, a testament to the commitment to preserving and expanding the program that Wagner has

worked tirelessly to grow. This endowment secures a full-time paid coaching position, essential for the ongoing success and development of the team. Additionally, ambitious future plans include providing team members with a dedicated full-time facility for practicing and stabling their horses, further enhancing their training and competitive edge.

"It was just two years ago that we launched the \$1 million capital campaign to

Richards said the endowment was established to ensure the rodeo program's continued success beyond Wagner's retirement and "for the next 100 years," knowing that a full-time coaching position was in place.

fund the endowment," said Bret Richards '01, Texas Aggie Rodeo Alumni Board president and a past rodeo team member under Wagner. "Enough has been raised since 2022 that we could fund a full-time coaching posi-

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tion." Richards said the endowment was established to

porters of the Aggie Rodeo team who had the vision and drive to secure a future for the team," said Clay Mathis, Ph.D., professor and head of the Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station. "We are excited about the new chapter and the chance to work with Dr. Hanagriff as a coach and a faculty member within the department."


"We would like to thank Al Wagner for his many years of dedicated service to the rodeo team," Mathis said. "He set a strong foundation that will help future teams successfully represent the university, college and the department."

How to support Texas Aggie Rodeo

The Texas A&M Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works with former students, corporations

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and other Texas A&M supporters to match their charitable interests with the university's priorities.

The A&M Foundation oversees capital campaign gifts for the Dr. Al Wagner '69 Rodeo Coach Endowment Fund.

Contributions at any level are welcome by contacting Scott Jarvis '00 at 979.777.0309 or sjarvis@txamfoundation.com, or by making an immediate donation in the amount of your choosing online at TexasAggieRodeo. ~SLS

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Texas A&M AgriLife Research-led project employs technology and artificial intelligence to ensure industry sustainability

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

A Texas A&M AgriLife animal nutritionist believes precision livestock management — utilizing an extra set of eyes and ears and a little artificial intelligence — can go a long way toward making today's livestock operations more efficient.

Luis Tedeschi, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research Fellow and Chancellor EDGES Fellow in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, is looking for cost-effective and non-invasive methods of monitoring feeding behaviors in livestock operations that producers can adapt to improve their bottom line — all through alerts on a cell phone or computer.

Texas has about 3 million cattle in feedlots and another 10 million cows, heifers, steers, bulls and calves in different feeding situations annually.

Tedeschi said if the managers of these livestock use modern technological advances or “smart” practices, then the industry can better understand what is happening at the feed bunk and in the pens to make management decisions accordingly.

Research goals to harness precision livestock farming

Over the next three years, he will create and utilize a precision livestock farming facility at Texas A&M to determine where some of the most significant changes can be made. His research is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant: Harnessing Precision Livestock Farming to Support Smart Agriculture for Sustainable Beef Cattle Production.

Tedeschi said his goals with this project are to:

- Make artificial intelligence an invaluable and accessible tool for producers.
- Make production sustainable from an economic, social and environmental perspective.
- Ensure the producers are on top of the cutting-edge and innovative advancements they can utilize to improve

their production.

• Deliver services leveraging cutting-edge research, sophisticated data analysis and artificial intelligence within a precision livestock farming data framework. This could

create opportunities for others to use the technology and create their own business to assist producers.

The project falls under the Research Facilities
(Continued on page 23)



Computer monitors and cameras, along with artificial intelligence, are part of a precision livestock management system being researched by Luis Tedeschi, Ph.D., in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)



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Atascosa County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent recognized by Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Dale Rankin recognized as a leader in local beef education.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association announced Dale Rankin, an Atascosa County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, as the 2024 Outstanding County Extension Agent – Beef at the 2024 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo held in Fort Worth March 22 – 24.

The award was created to recognize Texas' most dedicated and effective local educators in cattle production.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Second Vice President Stephen Diebel, who presented the award at Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo, noted the instrumental role of county extension agents to working alongside landowners to advance stewardship of land and livestock across Texas.

"The invaluable work of Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension agents like Dale Rankin help advance the livestock community," not only better beef pro-

landowners through programs and resources that operations." Rankin is a seasoned County Extension Agent with 23 years of experience. In his current role, he has significantly elevated Atascosa County's agricultural landscape. Innovative initiatives like Brush Country Beef 706 and the Atascosa Club Calf Association have enhanced local beef production practices, adding substantial economic value to producers' herds. His proactive involvement in research collaborations and influential outreach efforts position Atascosa County as a hub of agricultural excellence, setting a benchmark for sustainable ranching and farming practices.

"The invaluable work of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents like Dale Rankin help advance the livestock community," Diebel said. "Dale Rankin has shown tremendous commitment to educating landowners through programs and resources that not only better beef production locally but to help cattle raisers improve economics within their own operations."

duction locally but to help others and your hard work in our industry," Diebel said.

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Surging cull cow prices

By David P. Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service professor and economist

Cull cow prices have surged in recent weeks, along with calf and feeder prices. Southern Plains auction prices for 85-90 percent lean cows jumped from \$85 per cwt to \$105 per cwt over the last two weeks. National average cutter quality cows hovered around \$100 per cwt.

Cull cow prices tend to increase seasonally until about May-June. Higher prices are normally supported by seasonally declining cow slaughter into early summer and grilling season demand for ground beef. Dairy cow slaughter remains well below a year ago even with struggling milk prices. Dairy culling tends to decline to seasonal lows in mid-year. Weekly beef cow slaughter has remained below a year ago. Fewer cows available are certainly boosting live prices. Tighter supplies of cow beef are boosting the meat market. Since the first of the year, cow beef production has been about 14 percent lower than the same period last year. Heavier weights are boosting pounds of production, partially offsetting fewer animals slaughtered. The boxed cow beef cut-

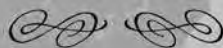
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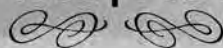
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Texas A&M...

(Continued from page 21)

Act Program approved by Congress in 2023 and will include modifications at the department's Animal Nutritional and Physiology Center. For the next three years, the team will collect data after setting up all the equipment and measuring the system's precision and accuracy.

The Texas A&M AgriLife team from the Department of Animal Science includes Tedeschi, his doctoral student Egleu Mendes; Karun Kaniyamattam, Ph.D., an AgriLife Research quantitative animal performance scientist and assistant professor; and Gordon Carstens, Ph.D., an animal nutrition professor. They are teaming up with the Texas A&M Institute of Data Science, which includes Nick Duffield, director; Jian Tao, assistant director for project development; and Yalong Pi, an associate research scientist.

Can technology help pen riders?

Feed efficiency is a prerequisite to achieving sustainable livestock intensifica-

tion, Tedeschi said. "Precision livestock farming is all about getting to know your animals, their needs and what value you can give them," Tedeschi said. "We strive to match the animal's needs to the level of management we are providing and then align that with the kind of performance we are expecting from that animal."

The project's ultimate goal is to integrate data streams related to precision feeding and health monitoring sensors into existing and newly developed decision models to implement real-time management decisions for the livestock feeding industry.

Using sensors, cameras and microphones, the team will collect information about a pen of cattle, such as what percent of the time they are walking, eating, playing, grooming, lying down or getting

water. Knowing their behavior can help calculate how much feed they eat and at what time of day.

"Once I know what they are doing, I can calculate a more accurate prediction of how much energy those animals need or how much they are expending," Tedeschi said. "I know that if an animal eats too fast and only once per day, that animal will have digestive problems, and management may require judicious use of antibiotics."

Combining recorded

(Continued on page 25)

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Saturday, April 13, 2024 • 12:00 Noon
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EXPECTING 1000 HEAD

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Office: 361-786-2553

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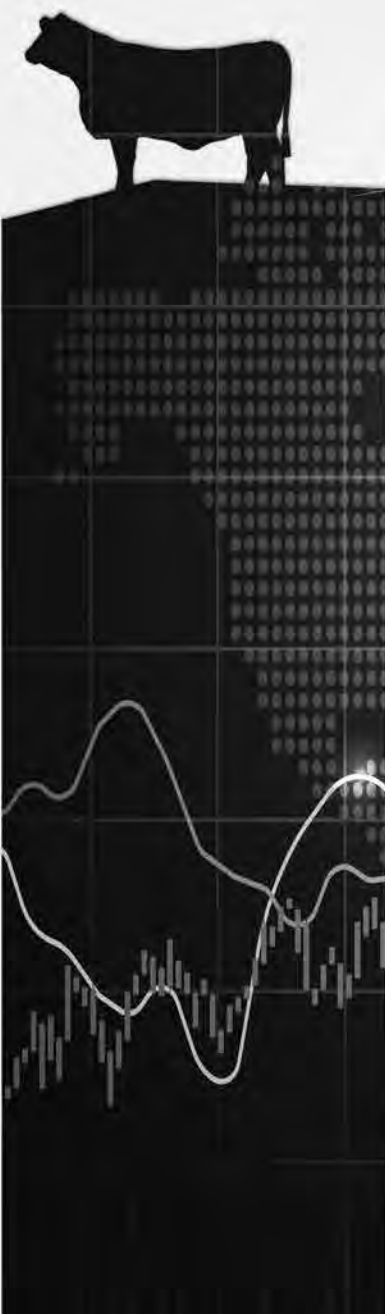


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Texas A&M...

(Continued from page 23)

sounds with artificial intelligence can help identify the difference between a cough and a clearing of the throat by a single animal, allowing for early identification of respiratory issues. The cameras can also help identify lameness, bloat and disease or even alert the owner if wildlife is causing issues in the pens.

“We can even collect enough information on the animal to determine when it is ready to go to market,” Tedeschi said. “You can determine how many animals in a particular pen are ready to go and when to sell them for the maximum profit. Is that when 70% of a pen is ready or 82% ready? It allows the owner to look at the market to determine when it is most profitable.”

Capitalizing on technology to create sustainability

Tedeschi said the project will allow them to show producers what and how to apply precision livestock farming, what benefits they can obtain, and how to do it.

He envisions a new subscription program could be created for use by any producer to get sensors installed. Then a data science center could accept the information, process it using artificial intelligence modeling, and send critical information back to the producer to assist their decision-making process. This would allow small operators who don't really have the opportunity to invest in extensive technology to also improve their efficiency and be more sustainable.

“This research allows us to keep improving the sustainability of beef cattle operations in Texas,” Tedeschi said. “The big idea is to provide the information to everyone – we don't control anything, just provide educational recommendations. We can train people to analyze the data. We can identify issues that happen in different regions or under different market conditions.”

“But first, we need to show the livestock producers the possibilities and the opportunities.”

Jim...

(Continued from page 12)

Junior Livestock Association and the Texas Shorthorn Association Progressive Breeder Award. In addition, he has received the Premier Breeder Award, an honor jointly presented by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and Canadian Western Agribition. He was inducted in the Showtimes Magazine Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2013 the Best of the Barns contest selected him as the Best Livestock Judge and in 2023 V8 Ranch was acknowledged as the Best Show Cattle Operation.

Williams and his wife, Luann, his high school sweetheart reside on the ranch in Boling, Texas, about an hour outside of Houston. He has also made time to lead his family and serve in various leadership capacities in his church, local school board and Farm Bureau. He has served on various committees and councils for Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life

Sciences. He is also a strong believer in youth programs and can always be supporting 4-H, FFA and sports activities, as well as visiting with students of all ages in the beef industry. The Williams family has created an endowed scholarship at Texas A&M University for graduate students interested in researching and improving *Bos indicus* cattle.

An oil portrait of Williams has been commissioned by renowned artist, Richard Halstead, and will be framed and hung when the award is presented in November. Texas A&M University, American Brahman Breeders Association and the American Shorthorn Association collaborated to nominate Williams for this prestigious honor.

~SLS

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2 0 2 4 **2 0 2 4**
LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR
EDITOR'S NOTE: Bold-faced listings have advertisements in this issue.

- APR 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, STS Ranger Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- APR 6 TBBA Miss America Sale, Salado, TX
- APR 11 HeartBrand Cattle Spring Kick Off Sales Event-Online
- APR 13 Jordan Cattle Auction Spring “Best of the Best” Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

- JUN 22 Southern Tradition XXIV Sale, Savannah, TN
- JUL 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- JUL 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- JUL 27 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- AUG 1 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- AUG 3 J&T Farms Production Sale, Lexington, TN
- AUG 5 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- AUG 17 Emmons Ranch Production Sale, Bryan, TX
- AUG 24 Jordan Cattle Auction Early Fall Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 5 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- SEP 20 Beef On Forage Bull Sale, Arcadia, FL
- SEP 28 Jordan Cattle Auction Fall Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 28-29 Synergy Sale and Showcase, Giddings, TX
- OCT 3 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 5 Lyssy Heart of the Herd Production Sale, Luling, TX
- OCT 10 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering featuring Hidden Oaks Ranch Hereford Bulls, San Saba, TX
- OCT 16 Jordan Cattle Auction 11th Annual Hill Country Youth Heifer Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 17 Jordan Cattle Auction Knox Brothers Bull Sale Hereford & Angus, San Saba, TX
- OCT 18/19 Beef on Forage Bull & Female Sale, Brenham, TX
- OCT 26 South Texas Hereford Association Sale, Beeville, TX**
- OCT 26 Jordan Cattle Auction Fall “Best of the Best” Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 28 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- NOV 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Hales Angus Farms - 30 Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- NOV 13 Jordan Cattle Auction Barber Ranch Herefords/GKB Herefords/Express Angus Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Ft Schaefer Farms Angus & Shady Oak Farm Charolais & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- DEC 6 J Bar Angus Bull & Female Sale, Hallettsville, TX**
- DEC 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- DEC 12 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- DEC 16 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX

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- APR 13 Collier Farms Advantage Beefmaster Sale, Giddings, TX
- APR 13 Branch Ranch Spring Female Production Sale, Mansfield, LA
- APR 13 **2024 ABBA National F1 Female and Bull Sale, Brenham, TX**
- APR 13 **Live Oak Livestock Auction Spring Replacement Cow Sale, Three Rivers, TX**
- APR 13 **El Campo Livestock Exchange Spring Special Replacement Bull & Female Sale, El Campo, TX**
- APR 13 **MP Brangus Annual Production Sale, Poteet, TX**
- APR 18 **Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX**
- APR 18 Union Commission Special Stocker-Feeder Sale, Hondo, TX
- APR 18 **NextGen Diamonds of the Flint Hills Elite Beefmaster Female Sale, Paxico, KS**
- APR 19 **NextGen Flint Hills Classic Spring Classic Bull Sale, Paxico, KS**
- APR 20 **East Texas/Louisiana Beefmaster Sale, Crockett, TX**
- APR 20 **Navasota Livestock Auction Spring Replacement Sale, Navasota, TX**
- APR 20 **Santa Gertrudis Bluebonnet Classic Sale, Hallettsville, TX**
- APR 21 **Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, Brenham, TX**
- APR 26-27 **Cavender Ranch Spring Brangus Female & Commercial Female Sale, Jacksonville, TX**
- APR 27 **Springtime in Texas Sale & BBU National E6 Sale, Brenham, TX**
- APR 27 **Beefmaster National E6 Beefmaster Commercial Female Sale, Brenham, TX**
- APR 27 **Lesikar Ranch Angus Sale, Athens, TX**
- MAY 3 Coggins Farms Commercial Female Sale, Lake Park, GA
- MAY 4 Jordan Cattle Auction May Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAY 4 **Phillips/Fenco Annual Spring Brangus Sale, Bunnell, FL**
- MAY 4 Charolais Quest For Excellence Sale, College Station, TX
- MAY 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAY 18 Swing B Ranch/Kreger Ranch Genetic Investment Beefmaster Sale, Salado, TX
- JUN 1 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- JUN 3 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- JUN 7-8 ACE Quality Customer Appreciation Female Sale, Oneonta, AL
- JUN 13 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- JUN 15 **Lone Star BBA Beefmaster Sale, Sulphur Springs, TX**

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INDEX:

Employment Wanted.....1	Insurance.....18
Help Wanted.....2	Livestock Supplies.....19
Cattle.....3	Tack.....20
Sheep, Goats.....4	Pasture For Lease.....21
Horses, Mules.....5	Pasture Wanted.....22
Misc. Livestock.....6	Personal.....23
Exotic Game.....7	Photography.....24
Livestock Wanted.....8	Schools/Education.....25
Livestock Order Buyers.....9	Auctioneers/Sale Mgmt.....26
Buildings.....10	Services.....27
Business Opportunities.....11	Trucks/Trailers.....28
Dogs.....12	Transportation.....29
Equipment.....13	Semen/Embryos.....30
Equipment Wanted.....14	Real Estate For Sale.....31
Fencing.....15	Real Estate For Lease/Rent.....32
Financial.....16	Real Estate Wanted.....33
Hay/Feed/Seed.....17	Fuels.....34

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Safety tips for watching solar eclipse in Texas

Texans should start preparing for April 8 event

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife Today

The total solar eclipse is a large-scale natural phenomenon that Texans have not seen since 2017. Something so rare and intriguing is one that will certainly draw the attention of people far and wide within the coming weeks, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

expected to balloon into the hundreds of thousands of people.

“Because there will be such a sudden influx of much higher volumes of people and traffic, we want to make sure everyone is thinking about the little things that will help make this a good experience,” he said. “We want res-



The total solar eclipse is expected to last more than 4 minutes as it tracks across the Texas sky on April 8, which makes this viewing event special. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

the event may be relatively short, safety

measures for the event are strongly recommended for viewers everywhere.

Plan ahead for increased traffic and crowds

It is inevitable, with a natural

phenomenon of this caliber, that people from far and wide will make the trek to parts of the state to experience optimal viewing of the total solar eclipse.

With that in mind, Davis recommends a few ways for residents to prepare for the big event:

• Anticipate higher traffic on highways and increased crowds at tourist destinations and hotels.

• Schedule errands and appointments in advance of April 8.

• Fuel up gas tanks and stock up on essential groceries beforehand.

Be prepared for potential disruptions

Along with the need for anticipating large crowds gathering across the state, Davis suggests Texans should also anticipate and plan for other possible delays including:

• Expect decreased cellular service in highly populated areas and have multiple forms of communication.

• Expect potential delays in supply chains and deliveries.

• Know local business hours, as some may close early during the eclipse.

• Check the weather forecast beforehand.

Pack the essentials

Davis also suggests specific items that will be important to bring with you should you attend an eclipse watching event:

• Bring eclipse viewing glasses that meet ISO standards.

• Carry plenty of drinking water, a first-aid kit, and any necessary medications.

• Don't forget sunscreen,

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“It is good to remember this event is important to so many people because of how very rare it is,” Sultemeier said. “We have visitors traveling into our state from all over the world. They are looking to find a place that has some open space for viewing with limited light interruption.”

As people begin to make plans to travel across the state for eclipse watching events, AgriLife Extension's Disaster Assessment Recovery,

DAR, unit, along with state emergency preparedness officials, urge individuals to be mindful of increased traffic and resources leading up to and the day of the event.

Bryan Davis, AgriLife Extension DAR area chief South Region, Seguin, said more than 1 million visitors are expected to flock to areas along the eclipse path. Populations in some small towns and rural counties are

idents to be prepared for visitors, and we want the visitors to be prepared for locations and situations they may be unfamiliar with.”

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the moon will start to block the sun along its track around noon on April 8 and will be visible for up to 4 minutes and 25 seconds in optimal viewing locations in Texas. While the timing of

continue to increase seasonally in the coming weeks. Beef and dairy cow weekly slaughter should remain below a year ago keeping supplies tight. The calendar moving towards Spring and the grilling season's start should boost prices further.

~SLS

year. The increase in 90 percent lean price is in sharp contrast to the 50 percent lean price which is about 27 percent lower than last year. Beef imports, which are largely beef trimmings, have exceeded year-ago levels since April 2023, boosting lean beef supplies.

Cow prices are likely to

sunglasses, and hats for sun protection.

• Pack snacks or food, comfortable clothing, and chairs for comfort during the viewing.

• Bring cash in case online payment systems may become unavailable.

• Bring bug spray repellent.

Check viewing locations and times

Finding the right location to view the eclipse safely is another thing viewers should consider, Davis said.

Here's a few tips to keep in mind:

• Identify prime viewing spots. You can consult the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for state park viewing locations.

• Note the specific times when the eclipse will be visible in your viewing area.

• Be mindful of wildlife including snakes and other animals or insects, like fire ants and ticks, that may be present in rural settings.

• Be aware of and respect private property lines, including fences, to avoid trespass.

Farron Sultemeier, DAR agent for District 18A,

Fredericksburg, said this event is truly special and one people should prepare for, but also remember to enjoy. Sultemeier said he hopes crowds gathering for the eclipse are respectful to the locations they visit and their fellow viewers.

Trash dumpsters have been added to public viewing areas, but Sultemeier said it is important for visitors to adhere to the outdoor ethics principle, “leave no trace.”

Sultemeier said Texans should have time to prepare for the event and that should make for an overall great day to watch this total solar eclipse. By following safety and preparedness tips, people across the state can make the most of this experience while staying safe and well-prepared.

“It is good to remember this event is important to so many people because of how very rare it is,” Sultemeier said. “We have visitors traveling into our state from all over the world. They are looking to find a place that has some open space for viewing with limited light interruption.”

Surging...

(Continued from page 22)

out hit \$240 per cwt at the end of February up from about \$205 per cwt at the beginning of the year and \$32 per cwt higher than the same week in 2023. Wholesale 90 percent boneless beef hit \$305 per cwt at the end of February, \$47 per cwt higher than last

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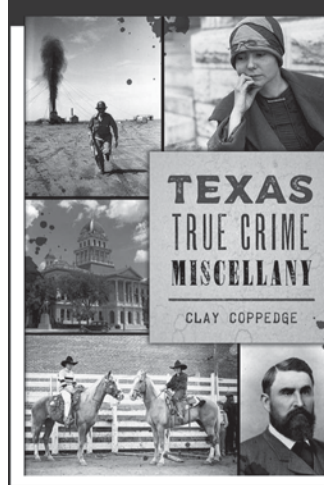
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From the author of the “Texas Trails” column in Southern Livestock Standard!

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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