

### Active market and quality cattle offering combined for successful San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale

The 33rd Annual San Antonio All Breed Bull and Commercial Female Sale hosted another large crowd that witnessed a very active market as producers began to build back their herds with a quality offering of cattle. This year's event was held on February 13th & 14th in conjunction with the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo and sold 54 bulls and 493 females to gross \$1,870,250 and average \$3,419.

The 54 bulls, representing 10 breeds, brought a gross of \$327,000 for an average of \$6,056, while 493 females sold for a total of \$1,543,250 for an average of \$3,130. Of

the females, 229 open heifers sold for an average of \$2,634; 75 bred heifers sold for an average of \$3,040; and 189 pairs sold for an average of \$3,768.

In the annual bull sale, two Angus bulls brought an average of \$4,375; two Beefmaster bulls \$2,750; seven Brahman bulls \$3,857; 15 Brangus bulls \$7,667; four Charolais bulls \$7,500; 19 Hereford bulls \$6,382; one LimFlex \$4,000; two Red Angus \$3,125 and two Red Brangus \$4,625. Topping the 54 head of bulls was a Hereford consigned by B&C Cattle Co. of Miami, Texas that sold to Roger Hill, San Antonio, Texas, for \$15,500. Second high selling bulls were Brangus, consigned by Pinnacle Cattle Co. of Giddings, Texas, that sold to Mark Morris from Normanna, Texas and the other to Mike Burke from Waynesboro, Georgia for \$12,000 each.

Other high selling bulls by breed: Angus consigned by Savage Angus, Seminole, Texas, sold to Jack Woodford of Crockett, Texas for \$6,000; Beefmaster consigned by Flying Diamond Ranch, Bulverde, Texas, sold to Dan Kinsel from Cotulla, Texas for \$2,500; Brahman consigned by Flying Diamond Ranch sold to W D Cattle Co., Floresville, Texas, for \$6,000; two Charolais consigned by Sturgess Double S Cattle, LaRue, Texas, sold to Yturria Ranch, Brownsville, Texas for \$8,000 each; Charolais consigned by Patrick Farms of Bishop, Texas sold to Yturria Ranch for \$8,000; LimFlex consigned by Wilder Family Limousin of Snook, Texas, sold to Russell Richter of San Antonio, Texas for \$4,000; Red Angus consigned by Trademark Genetics of Hempstead, Texas, sold to Jack Woodford, Crockett, Texas for \$2,250; Red Brangus consigned by Cox Excalibur Red Brangus, Katy, Texas, sold to Bruce Buffaloe of Victoria, Texas for \$6,250.

**High selling females by categories:**

Certified Brahman X Hereford: Five pair from W D Cattle Co., Floresville, Texas sold to Jeff & Lisa Pollok,

Poth, Texas for \$5,200. Five bred heifers from La Vista Ranch, Gatesville, Texas sold to Neches River Ranch, Jacksonville, Texas for \$3,100. Five open heifers from Bludau Ranch, Hallettsville, Texas sold to Kenny Mingers, Cameron, Texas for \$5,100.

Beefmasters: Five pair from Rancho Dos Vidas, Ltd., Moore, Texas sold to John Ely, Salisaw, Oklahoma for \$4,500. Five open heifers from Big Drop Ranch, Hondo, Texas sold to 2J Donnell Livestock, San Antonio, Texas for \$2,000.

Brangus: Five pairs from Jasik Hay Farms, Pleasanton, Texas sold to Albert Saenz, Pleasanton, Texas for \$5,100. Five bred heifers from Verstuyft Farms, Von Ormy, Texas sold to Albert Saenz for \$3,900. Five open heifers from Jackson Family Brangus, Waco, Texas sold to Clarence Kahlig, San Antonio, Texas for \$5,000.

Brahman: Five pair from Donnell Ranch, Fowlerton, Texas sold to J+, Huntsville, Texas for \$4,500. Five bred heifers from Golden Meadows Ranch, Cotulla, Texas sold to Ryan Mills, Gonzales, Texas for \$2,400. Five open heifers from John Malazzo Farms, Caldwell, Texas sold to Novosad & Sons, Caldwell, Texas for \$3,400.

Non-Certified Brahman X Hereford: Five pair from Bell Cattle Co., Gainesville, Texas sold to Mike G. Rutherford, Houston, Texas for \$4,900. Five open heifers from Richardson Ranch, San Angelo, Texas sold to Kyle Kingsman, San Angelo, Texas for \$3,500.

Certified Brahman X Angus: Five open heifers consigned by Lynn Melton Ranches, Grand Saline, Texas sold to Joey Sliva, Bay City, Texas for \$2,800.

Other Brahman Crosses: Five pair from TDCJ Ranch, Huntsville, Texas sold to Mike Bolten, Sealy, Texas for \$4,750. Five bred heifers from MK Ranch, Era, Texas sold to Alvin P. Grahmann, Hallettsville, Texas for

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The 2024 San Antonio All Breed Show and Sale High Grading Bull Overall and High Grading Hereford was consigned by B&C Cattle Company.



The 2024 San Antonio Commercial Female Show and Sale Grand Champion Pen of Females and Certified Hereford x Brahman Pairs were consigned by WD Cattle Co.



The 2024 San Antonio All Breed Show and Sale Second High Grading Bull and High Grading Brangus was consigned by Cross F Cattle Co.



The 2024 San Antonio Commercial Female Show and Sale Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Females and first place Brangus pairs were consigned by Jasik Hay Farm.

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PERIODICAL

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas  
**ROUND-UP REVIEW**  
 • See Pages 22-24 •

**Active market...**

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\$3,000. Five open heifers from E.G. Land & Cattle, Bryan, Texas sold to Chase Foutch, Canton, Texas for \$2,500.

Santa Gertrudis: Five pair from Texas Oaks Cattle Ranch, Burton, Texas sold to Jeff & Lisa Pollok for \$4,000. Five bred heifers from Corporron Acres, Schulenberg, Texas sold to Jeff & Lisa Pollok for \$2,600. Five open heifers from Lynn Melton Ranches sold to 2J

Donnell Livestock for \$1,700.

English & English Crosses: Five bred heifers from B&C Cattle Co. sold to Sheldon Grothaus, Hondo, Texas for \$4,400. Five open heifers from B&C Cattle Co. sold to Roger Hill for \$4,500.

Volume Buyers were Jeff & Lisa Pollok, Jack Woodford, Crockett, Texas; Bozka Farms, Shiner, Texas; Albert Saenz, 2J Donnell Livestock, San Antonio, Texas; Clarence Kahlig, San Antonio, Texas; and Novosad & Sons, Caldwell, Texas.



High Grading Angus bull was consigned by Savage Angus.



High Grading Beefmaster bull was consigned by Flying Diamond Ranch.



High Grading Brahman bull was consigned by Flying Diamond Ranch.



High Grading Charolais bull was consigned by Sturgess Double S Ranch.



High Grading Lim-Flex bull was consigned by Wilder Family Limousin.



High Grading Polled Hereford bull was consigned by Atlas Farms.



High Grading Red Angus bull was consigned by Trade-mark Genetics.



High Grading Red Brangus bull was consigned by Cox Excalibur Ranch.



First Place Beefmaster open heifers were consigned by Big Drop Ranch.



First place Beefmaster pairs were consigned by Rancho Dos Vidas.



First place Brahman Cross breeds were consigned by MK Ranch.



First place Brahman Cross opens were consigned by EG Land & Cattle Co.



First place Brahman Cross pairs were consigned by Texas Department of Corrections.



First place Brahman breeds were consigned by Golden Meadows Ranch.



First place Brahman opens were consigned by John Malazzo Farms.



First place Brahman pairs were consigned by Donnell Ranch.



First place Brangus bred were consigned by Indian Hills Ranch.



First place Brangus opens were consigned by Jackson Family Brangus.



First place Certified F-1 Angus x Brahman opens were consigned by Lynn Melton Ranches.



First place Certified F-1 Hereford x Brahman bred were consigned by La Vista Ranch.



First place Certified F-1 Hereford x Brahman open heifers were consigned by Bludau Ranch.



First place English open heifers were consigned by B&C Cattle Co.



First place English bred heifers were consigned by B&C Cattle Co.



First place F-1 Hereford x Brahman bred were consigned by JCW Cattle Co.



First place F-1 Hereford x Brahman opens were consigned by Hermann Cattle Co.



First place F-1 Hereford Brahman pairs were consigned by Bell Cattle Co.



First place Santa Gertrudis opens were consigned by Lynn Melton Ranches.



First place Santa Gertrudis bred were consigned by Corpron Acres.



First place Santa Gertrudis pairs were consigned by Texas Oaks Cattle Co.

# Bull selection criteria and cost

By Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension educator



Spring is bull buying season.

The spring bull sale season is underway. Producers are studying catalogs, comparing EPDs and individual animal performance numbers, and choosing which bulls will be the next herd sires. This article addresses some of the things producers should consider before heading to the sale. Hint: It's more than just the lunch menu.

**What do you want your cowherd and the calves**

**you produce to do? What genetics will do that?**

Clearly identifying goals for what cattle are expected to do and the traits and characteristics that most impact profitability for the cow-calf enterprise is a foundational first step. Are calves sold at weaning, as yearlings, or is ownership retained through until harvest? What do the purchasers of your calves want? Can you produce what they want and have a

functional female if replacements are retained? What is an optimum target given the production system cows are expected to operate under? These "big picture" questions should be answered prior to the selection and purchase of a bull.

**Where is my cowherd at genetically?**

"Wherever you are at, that is where you are." Randy Hunter, DVM and stocker/yearling operator

uses this phrase when teaching cattle handling skills to help people recognize everyone is at a different place in their ability. Once you know where you are, you can identify a plan to move toward where you want to go. This phrase applies well to thinking about the genetics of the cowherd. What is the genetic makeup of the cowherd currently? Are you pleased with where you are? What traits or characteristics would you like to see change? What is the target for where you want to end up? How much change is needed to reach an optimum level given your resources?

**Sorting out the bull breeder**

Selecting the breeder and breeding program of your next bull is more important than the choosing of the bull himself. The following are characteristics, in no particular order, that need to be considered when deciding who will be your genetic provider.

1. Honesty and integrity
2. Customer service
3. Genetic program and focus
4. Bull development plan
5. Value added opportunities

**Sorting through all the information**

Selecting a bull today can be an overwhelming task for many cow-calf producers. Bull sale catalogs are full of information, including actual animal performance, ratios, Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), gene testing, economic indexes, ultrasound measurements, etc. There are also individual breeders who utilize their own scoring system for characteristics such as disposition and udder soundness of a bull's dam. Having access to all this information is great. However, trying to sort through and discern what these data mean and which information is relevant to what you want can be a bit like trying to get a drink out of a fire hose! What you want is there, but you can find yourself getting smacked in the face with more than you wanted when you go to get it.

**Know and understand what the numbers mean**

The first priority is to know and understand EPDs. Research has shown EPDs are a tremendous and valuable tool for giving an indication of what a bull's true

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## SPRING SHOWDOWN BEEFMASTER SALE

**March 16, 2024 — 1 PM**

Live Oak County Fairgrounds, Three Rivers, Texas

### **Revised Sale Format**

**Selling Bred Heifers, Open Heifers, 3N1s, Pairs, and Bulls**

**Expecting a Minimum of 75-80 Lots**

#### FEATURING

**An Outstanding Group of Bred Heifers from Live Oak's Top Breeders**

#### FEATURING

**An Awesome Group of Breeding Age Open Heifers from the Live Oak Heifer Development Program**

The revised format will include the judging/grading with a panel of judges of all cattle and the selection of the champion for the following groups: Bred Heifers, Development Program Open Heifers, Open Heifers, 3N1s/Pairs, and Bulls. The Spring Showdown for the overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Female will then be selected.

The new aspect of the sale will include focus on the BRED HEIFERS. Expecting a minimum of 35-40 Bred Heifers. Early BRED HEIFER commitments to the sale have been made by many of our top longtime Live Oak breeders. They include:

Judy Long - L2  
Hans Wittenburg  
Bub Epley  
Mackie Bounds  
Tyler Gwodz  
Cameron Cox  
Xavier Pena  
Bill Wilson  
Tony Psencik

Dave Moore  
Dr. Alvaro Restrepo  
Charles Schneider  
Elton Lieke  
Tim Pollock  
Jennifer Hahn  
Melvin Scherer - V7  
John Rediger  
Ramon Pulido  
Alan Wright

Jim Colvin  
Chris Cooley  
Tim Chapman  
Gary Halepeska  
Lauren Lyssy  
Frank Chapa  
Burnell Gates - G4  
Bob Siddons  
Phillip Walther

### **Mark your calendars and make plans to join us!**

For additional information, please contact:

**Gary Halepeska**  
President  
361-649-5043

**Don Kaspar**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
361-786-3056

**Anthony Mihalski**  
Sale Manager  
210-451-0888

**Bull selection...**

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breeding value is in terms of the genetics he will pass on to his calves. Understanding what the numbers mean and which ones are relevant for the traits for which you are selecting is important. Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Beef Genetics Specialist has put together a NebGuide titled "EPD Basics and Definitions" that explains what these traits mean and how they can be used to compare animals within a breed to one another. It can be found at <https://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/g1967/html/view>. In most cases, EPDs are not comparable across breeds. An exception to this is Red Angus and Simmental EPDs which are a multi-breed EPD and are calculated in the same way.

Economic indexes are the second set of numbers to understand. Matt Spangler defines economic indexes as "A collection of EPDs weighted by their economic value such that traits with greater impact on production goals have a larger economic weight associated with them." Understanding how different economic indexes are calculated for the breed you are evaluating can help you to know if they should be used as a tool for selection.

The third set of numbers to grasp and evaluate is an individual's own records and performance against those of his contemporaries. These indicate how a bull did in his own right. While worth looking at and evaluating, they are secondary to EPDs for identifying a bull's true breeding value.

**Identify the bulls that meet your "numbers" criteria**

Sorting through the bulls on paper and identifying those that meet your criteria is the next step. Plan to do this well in advance of the bull sale so you give yourself adequate time. The more stringent the criteria and the more values you include, the fewer bulls you will have to pick from.

**Visually appraise bulls for structural soundness and phenotype**

While a bull may look good on paper, when you actually see him, he may not be the type and kind that you want. Remember that this bull's purpose in life is to get cows pregnant. That means he must be able to move and cover cows.

**Get the breeder's opinion**  
A solid seed stock sup-

plier should be a tremendous resource for you in selecting your next sire. Communicate to them what you want and ask what bulls they recommend. See if the bulls you have identified are ones they believe will meet your goals.

**Set a budget and give yourself options**

Bull sales can be fast moving events. Know ahead of time what you are willing to spend. Identify your options in terms of bulls you will consider. If the bulls you want quickly blow by your limit, you want to have evaluated if there are others in

the offering that still meet your criteria.


Taking the time to evaluate breeding expenses and bull cost based on cost per calf produced or cost per pound of calf produced can give insight into the real value of a bull.

**SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD**

Visit [www.SOUTHERNLIVESTOCK.com](http://www.SOUTHERNLIVESTOCK.com) for all of your advertising needs and the latest news and sale reports!

**Maternally Speaking... You Can't Find A Better Breed Than Santa Gertrudis**

*Pictured is a group of our Santa Gertrudis cross (Star 5) females.*



THE CATTLE OF CORPARRON ACRES AND PINNACLE CATTLE CO., LLC ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR EFFICIENCY, FERTILITY AND THE EXTRA PROFITS FROM THEIR REMARKABLE ABILITY TO EXCEL IN GAIN.

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**A RANCHER'S RENDEZVOUS  
IN THE HEART OF RANCH COUNTRY  
THROCKMORTON, TX  
March 11th -13th, 2024**

**265 Bulls (Angus, Red Angus, SimAngus™)  
200 "Hand-Picked" Commercial Bred Heifers  
50 Registered Red Angus Females  
29 Ranch Horses**



**Selling 130 Red Angus Bulls**



**Selling 50 Black Red Angus**



**Selling 25 SimAngus Bulls**



**Selling 50 Red Angus Females**



**Selling 60 Angus Bulls**



**Selling 200 Commercial Bred Heifers**

**• 1 Big Event • 3 Incredible Days •**

**Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
•Ranch Horse Competition featuring 100 of some of the nicest equine athletes in the region

**Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
•Complimentary Colt Starting & Ranch Horse Demonstration by NRCHA Million Dollar Rider & 2016 Worlds Greatest Horseman, Clayton Edsall  
•Lunch / Calcutta  
•Saddle Chute-Out  
•Horse Sale  
•Dinner / Entertainment

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
•9th Annual March Bull and Female Sale



**Selling 29 Ranch Horses**

**RABrownRanch.com**



**USDA Major Livestock Reports:**

**Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, February 22, 2024:** Total receipts: 879, last reported (2-15-24) 730, last year 761. Feeder cattle 642 (73.0%), last reported (2-15-24) 504 (69.0%), last year 594 (78.1%). Slaughter cattle 88 (10.0%), last reported (2-15-24) 153 (21.0%), last year 114 (15.0%). Replacement cattle 149 (17.0%), last reported (2-15-24) 73 (10.0%), last year 53 (7.0%). Compared to last week all classes steady. Trading fairly active, demand good.. Supply included: 73% Feeder Cattle (44% Steers, 42% Heifers, 5% Cows, 9% Bulls); 10% Slaughter Cattle (81% Cows, 19% Bulls); 17% Replacement Cattle (50% Stock Cows, 21% Bred Cows, 29% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 41%.

**Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, February 27, 2024:** Total receipts 11,253, last reported (2-19-24) 12,234, last year 8,082. Feeder cattle: 11,253 (100.0%), last reported (2-19-24) 12,234 (100.0%), last year 8,082 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers steady to 2.00 higher, over 850 lbs up to 5.00 higher. Feeder heifers 2.00-4.00 higher. Steer and heifer calves mostly steady. Demand very good for all classes. Last Friday's Cattle on Feed report somewhat of a disappointment as January placements came in some 5-6 percent above the the estimate. Live cattle futures traded back in the green while feeder futures closed lower. Quality average to attractive, but several cattle coming off wheat in medium to fleshy conditions. Spring like temperatures Monday and Tuesday, but we will quickly be reminded it is still winter come Wednesday with temps back in the 40's. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (58% Steers, 40% Heifers, 2% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 67%.

**SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.**  
Beeville, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-24-24**  
**VOLUME: 342**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	325-405	287-375
300-400 lbs.	323-405	283-345
400-500 lbs.	280-355	248-295
500-600 lbs.	263-308	228-263
600-700 lbs.	246-268	212-257
700-800 lbs.	232-237	186-208
Slaughter cows	87-119	
Slaughter bulls	93-133	
Stocker cows	1675	
Pairs	1750	

**SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission**  
Bryan, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-27-24**  
**VOLUME: 647**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	300-415	315-350
300-400 lbs.	315-405	290-335
400-500 lbs.	280-365	250-320
500-600 lbs.	270-316	240-271
600-700 lbs.	250-281	205-225
700-800 lbs.	235-242	200-208
Slaughter cows	92-124	
Slaughter bulls	108-146	
Stocker cows	900-1425	
Pairs	1700-2475	

**SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.**  
Three Rivers, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-26-24**  
**VOLUME: 2403**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	278-394	248-354
300-400 lbs.	268-398	240-350
400-500 lbs.	236-352	206-324
500-600 lbs.	224-318	204-270
600-700 lbs.	192-282	184-248
700-800 lbs.	186-246	174-234
Slaughter cows	84-128	
Slaughter bulls	114-138	
Stocker cows	750-1925	
Pairs	1200-2250	

**SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.**  
Nixon, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-26-24**  
**VOLUME: 1377**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	297-425	259-370
300-400 lbs.	294-415	259-395
400-500 lbs.	284-370	241-355
500-600 lbs.	249-273	218-350
600-700 lbs.	223-273	207-234
700-800 lbs.	203-263	148-212
Slaughter cows	82-117	
Slaughter bulls	94-135	
Stocker cows	650-1175	
Pairs	1300-2150	

**SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC**  
Alice, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-20-24**  
**VOLUME: 625**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	294-375	260-365
300-400 lbs.	285-355	255-320
400-500 lbs.	260-320	240-306
500-600 lbs.	246-316	227-250
600-700 lbs.	218-255	200-230
700-800 lbs.	185-205	185-218
Slaughter cows	75-120	
Slaughter bulls	105-130	
Stocker cows	1400-1800	
Pairs	1700-2200	

**SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company**  
Fredericksburg, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-21-24**  
**VOLUME: 669**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-402	210-335
300-400 lbs.	270-405	210-330
400-500 lbs.	260-385	200-322.50
500-600 lbs.	220-363	190-278
600-700 lbs.	200-299	180-250
700-800 lbs.	180-240	170-225
Slaughter cows	90-125	
Slaughter bulls	90-135	
Stocker cows	1300-2200	
Pairs	1250-2700	

**SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC**  
Groesbeck, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-22-24**  
**VOLUME: 608**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	260-420	220-410
400-500 lbs.	220-400	200-390
500-600 lbs.	275-320	180-300
600-700 lbs.	180-285	165-285
700-800 lbs.	170-250	150-235
Slaughter cows	70-130	
Slaughter bulls	80-140	
Stocker cows	450-2250	
Pairs	800-3200	

**SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction**  
San Saba & Mason, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-22-24**  
**VOLUME: 4210**  
**TREND: Steady/no change.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	291-370	262-370
300-400 lbs.	298-378	273-345
400-500 lbs.	298-345	256-307
500-600 lbs.	274-326	242-276
600-700 lbs.	247-290	226-252
700-800 lbs.	225-256	206-230
Slaughter cows	30-125	
Slaughter bulls	78-141	
Stocker cows	700-1950	
Pairs	1500-2400	

**SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission**  
Giddings, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-26-24**  
**VOLUME: 1307**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	362-410	317-350
300-400 lbs.	328-410	298-385
400-500 lbs.	300-340	272-325
500-600 lbs.	269-317.50	243-290
600-700 lbs.	244-280	237-265
700-800 lbs.	190-250	186-235
Slaughter cows	50-132	
Slaughter bulls	105-140	
Stocker cows	600-1850	
Pairs	500-2550	

**SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction**  
Lampasas, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-21-24**  
**VOLUME: 318**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	342-272	—
300-400 lbs.	315-362	280-318
400-500 lbs.	269-345	261-285
500-600 lbs.	261-312	245-270
600-700 lbs.	250-292	233-250
700-800 lbs.	231-281	191-230
Slaughter cows	60-116	
Slaughter bulls	119-138	
Stocker cows	1200-1975	
Pairs	1500-2000	

**SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.**  
Crockett, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-27-24**  
**VOLUME: 1679**  
**TREND: Steady/lower.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	264-435	226-358
300-400 lbs.	245-385	216-344
400-500 lbs.	228-378	205-330
500-600 lbs.	210-332	185-299
600-700 lbs.	195-298	161-270
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	98-108	
Slaughter bulls	107-144	
Stocker cows	810-2000	
Pairs	1200-2300	

**SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.**  
Caldwell, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-21-24**  
**VOLUME: 577**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	336-420	324-395
300-400 lbs.	350-405	324-395
400-500 lbs.	330-370	285-337
500-600 lbs.	300-315	252-300
600-700 lbs.	260-302	220-276
700-800 lbs.	230-239	185-215
Slaughter cows	70-132	
Slaughter bulls	90-138	
Stocker cows	1075-1550	
Pairs	1600-1800	

**SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.**  
Buffalo, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-24-24**  
**VOLUME: 1562**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	230-425	210-338
300-400 lbs.	225-420	200-344
400-500 lbs.	215-366	200-337
500-600 lbs.	210-321	190-307
600-700 lbs.	195-275	165-247
700-800 lbs.	170-243	155-230
Slaughter cows	35-129	
Slaughter bulls	95-147	
Stocker cows	1025-2850	
Pairs	1450-3350	

**SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.**  
Navasota, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-24-24**  
**VOLUME: 1177**  
**TREND: Active/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-405	200-345
300-400 lbs.	200-440	200-340
400-500 lbs.	200-337.5	200-290
500-600 lbs.	200-300	200-270
600-700 lbs.	175-275	170-246
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	75-121	
Slaughter bulls	85-138	
Stocker cows	1000-1750	
Pairs	1500-1850	

**SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock**  
Brenham, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-23-24**  
**VOLUME: 816**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	250-425	215-360
300-400 lbs.	230-405	210-340
400-500 lbs.	230-375	200-320
500-600 lbs.	220-320	200-270
600-700 lbs.	200-275	180-240
700-800 lbs.	180-245	165-210
Slaughter cows	65-120	
Slaughter bulls	95-132	
Stocker cows	1150-1700	
Pairs	1400-1800	

**SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets**  
Cuero & Victoria, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-23-24**  
**VOLUME: 1431**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	337-400	285-360
300-400 lbs.	309-395	277-350
400-500 lbs.	289-332	253-322
500-600 lbs.	261-318	227-274
600-700 lbs.	252-278	220-275
700-800 lbs.	244-248	180-240
Slaughter cows	30-120	
Slaughter bulls	104-140	
Stocker cows	1300-1700	
Pairs	1650-2100	

**SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.**  
Gonzales, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-24-24**  
**VOLUME: 1321**  
**TREND: Steady/no change.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	295-405	285-330
300-400 lbs.	295-395	300-355
400-500 lbs.	295-380	275-315
500-600 lbs.	245-330	242-285
600-700 lbs.	230-271	212-250
700-800 lbs.	198-250	—
Slaughter cows	72-118	
Slaughter bulls	105-131	
Stocker cows	900-1900	
Pairs	1400-2100	

**SALE: Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction**  
Columbus, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-21-24**  
**VOLUME: 944**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	270-410	260-395
300-400 lbs.	260-420	250-360
400-500 lbs.	250-370	240-365
500-600 lbs.	235-320	220-300
600-700 lbs.	230-308	200-258
700-800 lbs.	195-246	180-230
Slaughter cows	68-118	
Slaughter bulls	105-132	
Stocker cows	1600-2100	
Pairs	1850-2250	

**SALE: Four County Livestock Auction**  
Industry, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-27-24**  
**VOLUME: 826**  
**TREND: Steady/no change.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	210-410	200-390
300-400 lbs.	210-390	200-278
400-500 lbs.	210-335	200-290
500-600 lbs.	180-312.50	180-260
600-700 lbs.	180-270	180-242
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	65-137	
Slaughter bulls	110-139	
Stocker cows	825-1850	
Pairs	1225-2450	

**SALE: El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC**  
El Campo, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE: 2-27-24**  
**VOLUME: 1448**  
**TREND: Steady/higher.**

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	324-440	295-400
300-400 lbs.	314-405	300-374
400-500 lbs.	287-350	250-314
500-600 lbs.	260-324	244-300
600-700 lbs.	245-283	212-258
700-800 lbs.	206-241	181-245
Slaughter cows	77-129	
Slaughter bulls	110-140	
Stocker cows	1100-1400	
Pairs	1900	

**Sheep & Goat Auctions:**

**Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, February 27, 2024:** Sheep and goats: Total receipts 7,000, last reported (2-20-24) 5,618, last year 4,170. Feeder sheep/lambs 15 (0.2%), last reported (2-20-24) 225 (4.0%), last year 167 (4.0%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 3,905 (55.8%), last reported (2-20-24) 2,736 (48.7%), last year 2,465 (59.1%). Replacement sheep/lambs 0 (0.0%), last reported (2-20-24) 120 (2.1%), last year 83 (2.0%). Feeder goats 70 (1.0%), last reported (2-20-24) 393 (7.0%), last year 250 (6.0%). Slaughter goats 2,800 (40.0%), last reported (2-20-24) 2,032 (36.2%), last year 1,080 (25.9%). Replacement goats 210 (3.0%), last reported (2-20-24) 112 (2.0%), last year 125 (3.0%). Compared to last week slaughter lambs steady. Slaughter ewes firm. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies steady; kids weak to 10.00 lower. Trading and demand moderate for heavy supply. Supply included: 0% Feeder Sheep/Lambs (100% Hair Lambs); 56% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (16% Woolled & Shorn, 77% Hair Breeds, 5% Hair Ewes, 0% Bucks, 3% Hair Bucks); 1% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 40% Slaughter Goats (87% Kids, 8% Nannies/Does, 5% Bucks/Billies); 3% Replacement Goats (100% Nannies/Does).

**Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, February 20, 2024:** Sheep and goats: 1,820 Light Lambs Steady. Heavy Lambs Steady. Kids Steady. Light Kids Steady. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 180.00-290.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 170.00-290.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 130.00-280.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 200.00-316.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 200.00-316.00 Cwt. Light Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 140.00-316.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (100-150 Lb) 140.00-290.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 20.00-130.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 90.00-190.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 100.00-370.00 Cwt. #1. Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 140.00-370.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 160.00-370.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 175.00-370.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 140.00-295.0

# 10 tips to bulletproof your beef operation

Beef producers can use a window of profitability to make their farm business more bulletproof.

University of Missouri Extension agricultural economist Joe Horner says successful beef producers can make small changes in three areas to make their farm less vulnerable to risks: plants, animals and business. Being good in just one of those three areas is not enough.

Longtime producers see the big picture and plan to withstand cycles in the industry. Drought is a recurring theme for Missouri farmers, says Horner. But producers should not look at drought as an emergency since it happens often and in cycles.

Horner urges producers to think long-term. Drought is going to happen. Build a standard operating procedure on your farm to manage it," he advises. "Prepare yourself to glide through it."

One safeguard against drought is to invest one time in making or buying 50% more hay than you normally need. Carry that hay inventory over every year. That becomes a strategy to keep drought from forcing you to buy hay or sell cattle in a drought.

A 50% hay cushion you can rotate through every year comes as a one-time investment that is tax-deductible. With high calf prices projected for 2024, farmers will be looking for deductions.

Younger farmers also are seeing interest rates at levels they've never seen in their lifetimes, says Horner. Since the great recession in 2008, lending rates were artificially low until this year. Normal times have returned. Older producers have seen these high-interest cycles before and will manage differently than younger producers as a result. Managing cash and reducing debt becomes more important, says Horner.

Livestock producers are now 10 years into a 10-year cycle, Horner says. Cow inventories are tight. Feeder calves available to feed will get tighter as higher prices encourage people to keep more heifers on-farm. Economists are forecasting good prices ahead. "2024 will be as good as any time we've seen since 2014," he says, with producers holding back heifers. "Periods like the next two to three years only happen a few times in a 50-year farming career."

Horner predicts that these higher margins will lead farmers to look for tax deductions. Rather than buying a new pickup or farm equipment, Horner recommends that producers first invest in a Top 10 list to make their farm business more profitable and resilient when the cattle cycle inevitably turns with lower prices.

Horner gives 10 tips to increase profits:

**1. Have a separate bull pasture.** A defined breeding season reduces odd lots at the sale barn. Lots of like calves sell at higher prices. Batch calving is easier to manage.

**2. Follow your veterinarian's advice.** Follow vaccination schedules and test for bull soundness. "Veterinarians create value on your farm because of what they know. Pick your vet's brain and follow their

suggested protocol," Horner says.

**3. Invest in good cattle handling facilities.** Properly designed and maintained handling facilities make cattle working easier. Easy jobs get done and good facilities lead to fewer injuries. "You can't put a price on your family's safety," he says.

**4. Invest in good fences for weaning.** Bawling calves bring less money at the sale



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barn, so do the extra work. Wean calves before selling. Buyers pay more for weaned calves.

**5. Carry 50% extra hay inventory.** Add 50% more hay stock once and rotate out


hay yearly. The carrying cost is a good investment, "That's your drought insurance and it is easier than finding hay, and it makes life less stressful," says Horner.

(Continued on page 8)

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10 tips...

(Continued from page 7)

6. **Do soil tests.** A soil test will tell you if you need to add nutrients to boost yields. Lime is a cheap, undervalued nutrient.

7. **Convert some pastures to native warm-sea-**

**son grasses.** Warm-season grasses make your operation more drought-resilient, need less fertilizer, boost summer calf gains and can improve herd reproduction performance. State and federal incentives are available to plant natives.

(Continued on page 10)

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# Minerals: Too much of a good thing

Dr. Katie VanValin, University of Kentucky assistant Extension professor

Minerals are an essential nutrient for beef cattle which means, like protein and energy, minerals must be supplied in the diet. However, minerals make up a very small portion of the total diet. Many feedstuffs are deficient in one or more essential minerals which is why mineral supplementation is a critical component of meeting the nutritional needs of the herd. So, this begs the question, "if a little is good, isn't more better?". The truth is, we can have too much of a good thing when it comes to minerals, and this can lead to serious and sometimes fatal consequences.

## Sulfur

The sulfur requirement for beef cattle is 0.15%, with maximum tolerable concentrations of 0.3% in high concentrate diets (15% roughage or less), and 0.5% in high roughage diets (40% or greater roughage). By-product feeds including corn gluten feed and distillers grains can be high in sulfur content. According to the Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle (NASEM, 2016), sulfur content of corn gluten feed, dried distillers grains, and distillers solubles averaged 0.58%, 0.66%, and 0.82% S, respectively. Sulfur content of forages also needs to be accounted for and can range between 0.15-0.20% S. Lastly, sulfur content of water can vary greatly from one source to the next but can also add to the total S intake of the animal. Thus, it is possible to overfeed sulfur if careful consideration is not taken when formulating the diets, especially when utilizing by-product feeds. When sulfur is fed above the maximum tolerable concentrations, it is possible for cattle to develop Polioencephalomalacia (PEM), a neurological disorder resulting in blindness, ataxia, seizures, and death.

By-product feeds can be a great asset to the feeding program, but care should be taken to avoid complications from over-feeding. Just because a feed ingredient is "free" or "cheap" does not mean we should be feeding as much as the cow wants to consume. Unfortunately, it is not all that uncommon to see rations with sulfur concentrations above maximum tolerable levels, and this is often caused by over feeding of by-product feeds.

## Calcium and Phosphorus

Calcium and phosphorus requirements vary depending on stage of production, but in general the requirements of calcium compared to phosphorus are a 2 to 1 ratio. However, many concentrate feed stuffs such as corn or distillers grains actually have an inversed calcium to phosphorus ratio, meaning they are higher in phosphorus than calcium. Evaluating the calcium to phosphorus ratio of the diet is an import-

ant step, when developing a feeding program because when calcium in the diet is low and phosphorus is high, cattle are at risk of developing urinary calculi or stones. A simple solution is to feed a co-product balancing mineral product which will have higher levels of phosphorus and lower levels of calcium compared to a more typical or 2:1 cow-calf mineral.

## Selenium

Initially, selenium was

known for its toxic effects and negative impacts on human and animal health. It was not until 1957 that selenium was recognized as an essential nutrient, and research was conducted to understand the dietary selenium concentrations needed to prevent deficiency and toxicity in livestock. It was not until 1978 that the FDA approved feeding supplemental selenium to beef cattle. Mineral tags will often include ver-

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biage stating that this product was formulated to provide 3 mg of selenium per head per day, which is the maximum level allowed by the FDA. This means that for a free-choice mineral product with a target intake of 3 oz. per head per day the selenium concentration shall not exceed 35.2 ppm, and for a target intake of 4 oz. per head per day selenium concentrations shall not exceed 26.4 ppm.

(Continued on page 12)

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**TEXAS** *Trails...*  
By Clay Coppedge

March 1—and here begins the run of spring production sales. With the January-February rainfall, and the recent stretch of warm weather, optimism for a strong spring is very high.

In this issue of the Southern Livestock Standard, you will see the results of the 33rd Annual San Antonio All Breed Bull & Commercial Female Sales. You will note that the averages for both bulls and females was very strong. But I would encourage you to read further into the sale report, because honestly, the averages do not tell the complete story.

When reading further, you will note something that I believe we will see all spring. And that is quality sells at a high premium. In this sale, like many others we will have this spring, the competition for the top end of the offering is at an all-time high. On the bulls, the front-end bulls that excel in multiple categories are selling at a pace much higher than ones with average numbers and information.

We are seeing the same on females. The front-end females with superior condition, weight per day of age, etc., are outselling the females with average or below

average numbers and body score. Many of you say, well sure! That makes sense right?

What is surprising is the margins between the good ones and the average ones is quite high. In an all-breed environment, we have multiple consignors that are all encouraged to bring their best to town. Certainly, the best that some have to offer will be better than the best others have to offer. In a production sale environment, you may be looking at a single breeder. However, before you decide to go their sale and just buy the top end, I encourage you to consider a few things.

First of all, what were their minimum standards? Are you comparing the same standards for different breeders, or are there different standards? Secondly, the bottom of one offering may not be equal to the bottom of others. The cream always comes to the top, but how strong is the bottom of the offering?

Things to consider out there as you are selecting bull and female replacements. Because whether you are producing purebreds or commercial calves, quality is at an all-time premium.

**10 tips...**

(Continued from page 8)

**8. Convert to rotational grazing.** Rotational grazing systems make managing cattle and forages easier. A system allows producers to mitigate drought, improve soil health, increase forage production and extend the grazing period. Contact the Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture at <https://cra.missouri.edu> for more information on federal cost-share funds for rotational grazing.

**9. Understand risk insurance programs.** Study Missouri Extension publications "Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Insurance in Missouri" and "Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) Insurance" and work with a trusted insurance agent. PRF insures against drought. LRP insures against low prices.

**10. Seek the advice of a farm tax preparer.** The IRS has new resources to measure compliance. Talk to your tax preparer to make sure your farm is bulletproof. Comply with reporting rules for contractors and laborers who need to receive 1099 or W-2 forms.

**Tales of Old Tascosa**  
Tascosa was the kind of Old West town where a man could get killed over most anything, even a duck. This was true despite the fact that the town's first sheriff, Cape Willingham, imposed an early form of gun control by making it illegal to carry a gun in town. Willingham, of course, tended to his own business armed with a double-barreled shotgun.

Willingham was taking it easy in the Equity Bar in the summer of 1881 when Fred Leigh, an Englishman-turned-cowboy turned-problem drunk, rode into Tascosa and took target practice on some ducks playing in a ditch. A woman ran into the Equity Bar yelling to Willingham and everybody else within earshot that a man had just killed her duck. The sheriff assured the woman he'd make sure the duck killer compensated her and he went outside to confront Leigh.

The sheriff notified Leigh that he was now indebted to the woman for the fair market value of a duck. Leigh then did something dumber than shooting a duck; he went for his pistol. Negotiations ended when Willingham raised his shotgun and blew Leigh out of the saddle.

Leigh's cowboy pals seemed ready to avenge Leigh's death right then and there, but Tascosa Marshal Henry Brown, backed up by four men with Winchesters, stepped into view. The cowboys rode away, but the shooting rubbed the cowboys the wrong way and Willingham lost his bid for reelection.

We don't know if the woman ever got paid for her duck, but we know that Leigh was buried outside of town in the Boot Hill cemetery, so named because Leigh and others of his ilk so often died with their boots on. It was the same idea that inspired the more well-known Boot Hills outside of Dodge City, Kansas and Tombstone, Arizona.

Subsequent peacekeepers such as Jim East continued Willingham's tradition of carrying a shotgun, which is just common sense in a town that hosted the likes of Pat Garrett, Bat Masterson, Billy the Kid, and the occasional duck killer.

Billy the Kid hung around Tascosa long enough to sell a

racehorse named Dandy Dick to the town doctor, Henry Hoyt. He neglected to disclose to Hoyt that a Lincoln County (New Mexico) sheriff named William Brady was riding that very same horse when Billy the Kid shot him dead and stole the horse.

Tascosa remained a hub of commerce and sin on the southern plains until an 1893 flood washed out the bridge and damaged many of the town's businesses. Some people left and never came back. Others soon followed. The

big ranches began fencing their spreads, which made the town harder to access. New towns were established in the Panhandle, towns with more churches and schools than Tascosa ever wanted and with a lot fewer saloons and brothels. The county seat moved to Vega. The nearby railroad town of Amarillo became the new shipping and supply point for the region. The Fort Worth and Denver Railroad tracks didn't include Tascosa.

By 1939, only one person

(Continued on page 11)

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**USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 2-22-24**

SPECIES:	2-12-24:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	192	154	1,239
b. Breeding Males	2	0	213
c. Breeding Females	118	4	279
Total	312	158	1,731
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	70
c. Breeding Females	0	0	218
Total	0	0	288
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter			
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	0	0	308
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total	0	0	308
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	0
b. Breeding Females	0	80	367
Total	0	80	367
5) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	247	383	1,632
b. Breeding Males	41	19	226
c. Breeding Females	30	42	262
d. Geldings	8	5	62
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	0
Total	326	449	2,182
6) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	17

**MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS**

SPECIES:	2-12-24:	1-1-23 - Present
FEEDER CATTLE	15,657	88,346

**MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS**

FEEDER CATTLE	6,185	27,290
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# Specialty equipment will enhance eclipse experience at Texas State Parks

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife

It only happens once every 20 years or so, and science nerds, skywatchers and lovers of the natural world look forward to it with great anticipation. "It" being a total solar eclipse, of course, which happens when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun, transforming daytime into dusk for several minutes along the eclipse's path. This year, the "path of totality"—where you can experience the total solar eclipse—will traverse Central and North America, including a wide swath of Texas on April 8, 2024. In Texas, the eclipse will begin about 1:25 p.m. along the Texas/Mexico border, and end about 25 minutes later as the eclipse crosses the Texas/Oklahoma state line.

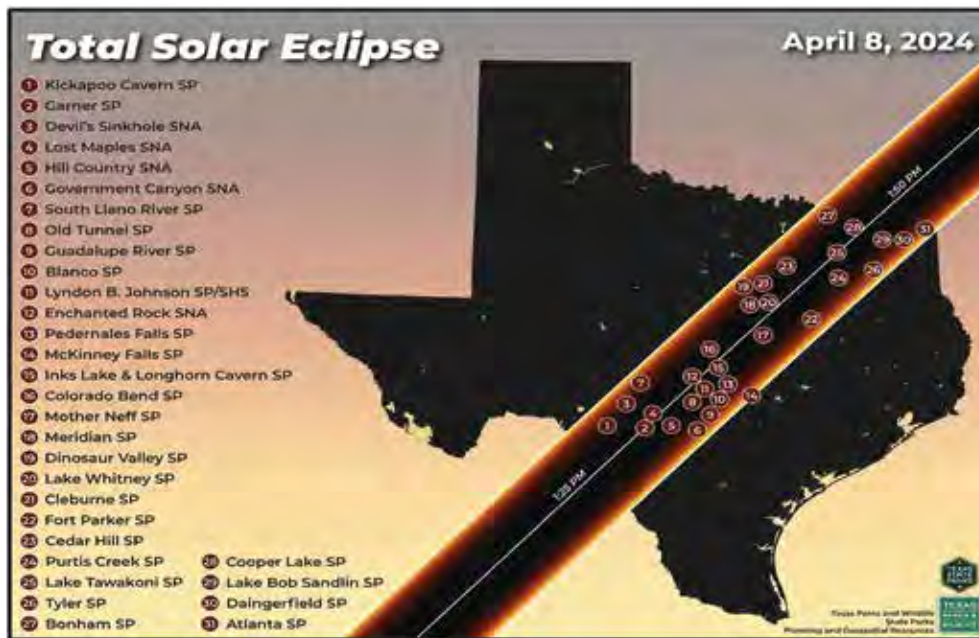
There are 31 Texas State Parks directly situated within the eclipse's path of totality from Del Rio to Texarkana, and park staff are gearing up for huge crowds. Thanks to a donation from Lyda Hill Philanthropies through Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation (TPWF), a variety of specialty equipment to enhance eclipse viewing will be available at parks along the eclipse's path.

"Lyda Hill is a lifelong champion of the sciences, and her love for science education and passion for connecting

more people to our natural world is evident in her countless good works," said TPWF Executive Director Anne Brown. "Several months ago, the stars absolutely aligned when she approached us and wanted to help enhance the eclipse experience for the

thousands of state park visitors who will be in the path of totality on this special day. We couldn't be more grateful for Lyda Hill Philanthropies' generosity, which will make this rare event even more spectacular."

(Continued on page 16)



## THOMAS CHAROLAIS Spring Bull Sale

1 P.M. AT THE RANCH RAYMONDVILLE, TX SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024



MT MR. THOMAS 227/2  
DOB: 6/20/2022 • Sire: BT Mr. Thomas 232/6  
BW: 80 • ADJ WW: 805 • ADJ YW: 1477  
REA: 18.51 • %IMF: 5.79 • SC: 40



MT MR. THOMAS 242/2  
DOB: 6/28/2022 • Sire: MT Mr. Thomas 99/6  
BW: 81 • ADJ WW: 760 • ADJ YW: 1534  
REA: 17.10 • %IMF: 6.41 • SC: 42



BT MR. THOMAS 212/2  
DOB: 6/22/2022 • Sire: TT Mr. Thomas 263-2  
BW: 75 • ADJ WW: 722 • ADJ YW: 1416  
REA: 17.97 • %IMF: 4.77 • SC: 42



TT MR. THOMAS 223/2  
DOB: 6/25/2022 • Sire: MT Mr. Thomas 99/6  
BW: 77 • ADJ WW: 742 • ADJ YW: 1468  
REA: 18.70 • %IMF: 5.02 • SC: 39



BT MR. THOMAS 230/2  
DOB: 6/20/2022 • Sire: MT Mr. Thomas 99/6  
BW: 81 • ADJ WW: 758 • ADJ YW: 1521  
REA: 23.22 • %IMF: 4.56 • SC: 40



MT MR. THOMAS 241/2  
DOB: 6/19/2022 • Sire: BT Mr. Thomas 232/6  
BW: 80 • ADJ WW: 711 • ADJ YW: 1469  
REA: 17.95 • %IMF: 4.21 • SC: 40



RT MR. THOMAS 244/2  
DOB: 9/25/2022 • Sire: LCOC Ledger P072F  
BW: 75 • ADJ WW: 838 • ADJ YW: 1391  
REA: 17.25 • %IMF: 5.21 • SC: 38



BT MR. THOMAS 55/3  
DOB: 2/1/2023 • Sire: SF Three D 3070D2  
BW: 78 • ADJ WW: 855 • ADJ YW: 1481  
REA: 18.40 • %IMF: 5.11 • SC: 42

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### Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 10)

remained in Tascosa and that was Frenchy McCormick, widow of saloon keeper Mickey McCormick. She moved to Channing in 1939. That same year Cal Farley established the Maverick Boys Ranch at the site of the old town. It exists today as Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and includes the Julia Bivens Museum, housed in the old courthouse building.

Other than what exists in the museum, few traces of old Tascosa remain today. The notable exception is Boot Hill, where cause of death is usually listed on the tombstone, thus exposing a scarcity of people who died of natural causes in Old Tascosa. But what else should we expect of a town where someone could get killed over a duck?



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# Sympathies extended to Thomas family

Dr. Milton (Milt) G. Thomas passed unexpectedly at his home on Feb. 15th, 2024, at the age of 58. Since 2022, Dr. Thomas had been leading a new research program in beef cattle systems at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Beeville. He was a graduate of University of Missouri and Texas A&M University and had been a professor and the Gerald Thomas Chair in Food Production and Natural Resources (1997-2011) at New Mexico State University and a professor and the John E. Rouse Chair of Animal Breeding at Colorado State University. He was a highly regarded friend, colleague, teacher, mentor and researcher whose many students are now professors in agricultural universities and colleges across the U.S.

His current research at the Texas A&M Beeville Station was a collaboration with the USDA's project known as germplasm evaluation (GPE) and focused on evaluating Brahman-crosses, Beefmaster, Brangus and Santa Gertrudis cattle in a subtropical environment. The project would have also studied the genetics of grazing traits. The goal of the project was

to increase knowledge of fitness traits of Brahman-influenced cattle in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Dr. Thomas was a visionary animal scientist who understood beef production in tropical environments.

Dr. Thomas is survived by his wife, Dora Vasquez Thomas, two sons, Joshua Glen Thomas (wife Crystal) and John Flores (wife Caitlyn), his father Charles

G. Thomas, and two sisters, Donna Truitt and Julie Loudon.

A visitation will be held March 1, 2024, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Rosewood Funeral Chapels, Victoria, Texas with a rosary to be recited at 6:00 p.m. A funeral mass is scheduled for March 2 2024, 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, also in Victoria.

A scholarship fund in

memory of Dr. Thomas has been established at the Texas A&M Foundation. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to the Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, Texas 77840. Please designate the Dr. Milton Glen Thomas Memorial Scholarship in the memo line of the check.

Online donations can also be made directly to this endowment at the following link: <http://give.am/MiltonGlenThomasMemorialScholarship>.

~SLS



## Minerals...

(Continued from page 9)

Regulations on the selenium content of mineral supplements, help to prevent selenium toxicity, and instead we often talk more about selenium deficiency. In Kentucky and other parts of the southeast, it is not uncommon for forages to be deficient in selenium, making a good mineral program that includes selenium an important management practice. However, other parts of the world have areas where selenium concentrations in plants can be quite high, resulting in selenium toxicity. For this reason, selenium is another example of a mineral where a little is good, but more is not always better.

Minerals have many complex interactions with one another, which can make understanding and developing mineral requirements difficult. At the same time, it is possible to overfeed certain minerals in the diet which can result in serious complications. For this reason, it is recommended to work with a nutritionist to develop a feeding program to meet the needs of your herd while minimizing the potential for negative or unintended complications. For most herds a good quality, complete free-choice mineral is a great starting point for ensuring the mineral needs of the herd are being met, but if concentrates or by-product feeds, a co-product balancing mineral might be recommended.



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The Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute has launched a monthly podcast focused on providing Texans with information and resources related to land stewardship.

# Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute launches The Land Steward Podcast

By Sarah Fuller, Texas AgriLife Today

Conservation-minded Texans have a new outlet to obtain accessible, listener-friendly information related to current research, land trends, landowner resources and conservation initiatives thanks to The Land Steward Podcast, a monthly podcast

series produced by the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, NRI.

A unit of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, NRI works to improve the conservation and management of natural resources and private land stewardship through in-

terdisciplinary and applied research, education and policy. The institute plays a critical role in translating sound science and natural resource solutions for land managers in Texas and across the U.S.

“Put very simply, the goal of the Natural Resources Institute is to help solve complex natural resource challenges on a landscape scale,” said Brittany Wegner, NRI program manager and host of The Land Steward Podcast. “We work in the space where conservation and applied research meet.”

### Relevant conversations with leading experts

Each podcast episode will focus on a different aspect of natural resource stewardship to provide land and wildlife managers with new resources.

Recent episodes covered the nuances of threatened and endangered species and how instrumental private landowners are to maintaining healthy habitats through prescribed fire, invasive species management and conservation easements.

A natural resource professional representing the broad range of related expertise across Texas A&M AgriLife and other partners will join Wegner each month to share their expert insight and personal experiences on diverse topics.

“The natural resources profession is full of brilliant people with a wealth of knowledge,” Wegner said. “They’re dedicated, passionate, have relatable insight and they’re ready to share that with anyone willing to listen.”

One of the most recent episodes featured Jim Cathey, Ph.D., associate director of NRI and professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

Together, they discussed wildlife tax valuations and additional land management resources provided by Texas A&M AgriLife and other agencies. Further, the episode explored the specializations within the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural (Continued on page 19)



*Proven Performance*  
**TEXAS ALLIANCE SALE**

**3.19.2024**  
**BLOOMINGTON, TEXAS**  
 BRIGGS RANCHES, TRAYLOR DIVISION IN BLOOMINGTON, TX  
 Located 13 Miles South of Victoria, TX

**Coming 2 Year Old Bulls**  
 70 BRANGUS, ULTRABLACK & 25 SANTA GERTRUDIS  
**PLUS 150 Commercial Females**









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**MONDAY, MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**  
 2:00 PM Bulls & females available for viewing  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
 8:00 AM Bulls & females available for viewing  
 9:30 AM South Texas Cowboy Brunch  
 11:00 Texas Alliance Bull Sale  
 Commercial female sale to immediately follow

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# South Texas citrus poised for a comeback

By Paul Schattenberg, Texas AgriLife Today

The Texas citrus crop quality and quantity was better than expected following multiple seasons of weather-related setbacks, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Texas is the third largest citrus producer in the U.S., with the total economic impact of the citrus industry to the state exceeding \$300 million annually. With increased fruit prices, cash receipts for citrus farmers recently exceeded \$200 million.

The Texas citrus industry is almost completely located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, with most of the acreage in Hidalgo County and the remainder Cameron and Willacy counties.

The industry has faced numerous challenges in recent years, including Hurricane Hanna in 2020, winter storm Uri in early 2021, and droughts in both 2022 and 2023. Even a few cold-weather snaps in mid-January of this year brought several hours of sustained below-freezing temperatures to the region.

### Effects of winter storm Uri

After Uri, Texas grapefruit production was at about 1.6 million boxes for the 2021-2022 season, down 33% from the previous year's final production of 2.4 million boxes. Orange production was about 400,000 boxes, down 62% from the previous year's production.

Juan Anciso, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist and associate head of the Department of Horticultural Sciences based at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Weslaco, said many producers have been worried there may be a repeat of Uri, so either they have decided not to replant citrus or have abstained from expanding their citrus acreage.

"The extended winter freeze of 2021 effectively decimated the citrus crop, losing 2,400-3,000 acres of the 24,000 acres of citrus planted that year," Anciso said. "We were fortunate in that the few freezes we had earlier this year didn't do any appreciable damage to the citrus crops."

### The current Rio Grande Valley citrus status

Despite the challenges of recent years, Anciso said this year's citrus crop production

is looking up.

He said last year a total of 4.1 million fresh 40-pound boxes of grapefruit and oranges were produced, with 2.4 million boxes being grapefruit and the remainder being oranges.

"The 2023-2024 crop is off to a good start," Anciso said. "We have already begun to harvest oranges and grape-

fruit, and the quality and yield are both looking good at this point. There may be as much as a 20% increase over the last year's production in these two crops."

Other small-production citrus in the Rio Grande Valley, such as Persian limes and tangerines, appear to be unaffected by quality issues

(Continued on page 19)



Harvest quality and quantities for Texas citrus producers have been up this season after multiple years of weather-related setbacks. Challenges remain, but the season has provided optimism to citrus growers. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Sam Craft)

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 <p><b>FS ADVANCE 2066K</b>                  AHA 44525612 • 9/12/22                  HH Advance 0043H × HH Advance 221 ET                  CED +11.5, BW -0.2, WW +56, YW +93, MILK +34,                  CW +84, REA +.42, MARB +.19, CHB +129                  Elite calving ease and style.</p>	 <p><b>FS ADVANCE 3001L</b>                  AHA 44533577 • 1/3/23                  HH Advance 0043H × HH Advance 7101T                  CED +10.1, BW -0.1, WW +57, YW +92, MILK +34,                  CW +80, REA +.32, MARB +.18, CHB +123                  Top calving ease with spread.</p>	 <p><b>FS MISS ADVANCE 2022K ET</b>                  AHA 44526484 • 8/18/22                  HH Advance 0074H ET × HH Advance 3006A                  CED +1.1, BW +3.1, WW +57, YW +95, MILK +40,                  CW +80, REA +.38, MARB +.21, CHB +135                  Selling choice of 2022 and two maternal sisters.</p>

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### Specialty...

(Continued from page 11)

Thanks to this generous donation, 20,000 eclipse safety glasses, tabletop sun-spotter telescopes, telescope tripods and solar filters, binocular filters, smartphone sun photography adapters, and eclipse-themed books will be distributed among the 31 Texas State Parks that are within the path of totality ahead of the eclipse.

"Visiting a Texas State Park is an adventure on any day, but April 8 promises to be a treasured memory for those who have the opportunity to take in an unobstructed, spellbinding view of this monumental celestial event," said Texas State Parks Director Rodney Franklin. "We are so thankful to Lyda Hill Philanthropies for this generous donation, and this specialty equipment will continue to be used and enjoyed by park visitors for years to come."

On the day of the eclipse, Texas State Park staff will offer special programming aimed at safely observing the celestial spectacle, explaining the science behind the phenomenon, and inspiring an appreciation for its cultural and historical context.

"As a science enthusiast,

### When is the eclipse?

During the total eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024, the moon will blot out the entire sun. For a few minutes, it will look and feel like twilight. You will be able to see this rare event along a line across Texas from Del Rio to Texarkana.

### What to expect

The moon will start to block the sun around noon on April 8. Totality will begin at 1:30 p.m. near Del Rio and trace a line northeast across Texas.

Totality will last from a few seconds to about 4.5 minutes depending on where you are along the path. Only those in the path of totality will get the full eclipse experience.

You will see a partial solar eclipse before and after the time of greatest coverage. If you're outside of the eclipse's path of totality, you will see a partial eclipse.

### How to see the eclipse

Solar eclipses are magical experiences. Ensure you have a memorable day by planning.

First, and most importantly, **protect your eyes**. Purchase eclipse glasses or use an indirect observation method, like a pinhole viewer you can make. See <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/how-to-make-a-pinhole-camera/> for instructions.

It's only safe to look directly at the sun during the few minutes of totality. Otherwise, you'll need to use eclipse glasses or a pinhole viewer.

I am glad to support efforts to allow more Texans to experience this special, rare phenomenon at one of our State Parks," said Lyda Hill, entrepreneur and founder of Lyda Hill Philanthropies. "An astronomical event like a total solar eclipse is the sort

of memory that can inspire a lifetime of appreciation for nature and science, something I wish for all fellow Texans."

Visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/links/eclipse-viewing> for more information.

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# Education and training will continue on best practices in light of new dicamba deadlines

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Growers need to be aware of new deadlines on the purchase and use of over-the-top dicamba products in light of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Existing Stocks Order issued Feb. 14. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will continue the producer trainings offered around the state and support producers through outreach and education about recommended best practices.

This Existing Stock Order is a result of the recent U.S. District Court of Arizona's ruling to vacate the 2020 registrations for over-the-top use of dicamba herbicides — Xtendimax, Engenia and Tavium — specifically for use on dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybean.

The EPA issued the order in recognition that significant amounts of Xtendimax, Engenia and Tavium herbicides were already in circulation prior to the Arizona court's decision.

### What producers need to know

Scott Nolte, AgriLife Extension statewide weed specialist in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Bryan-College Station, said this is a chance for producers who have already purchased their herbicides or have plans to use those remaining stocks in 2024, but there are clear deadlines.

For Texas growers, the EPA-established purchase deadline for these herbicides is May 31 for dicamba-tolerant soybeans and June 30 for dicamba-tolerant cotton. The final dates to apply dicamba products are June 30 for soybeans and July 30 for cotton, after which any unused products will be considered illegal to use, Nolte said.

The ruling states the use of products already in the possession of growers or within trade channels must comply with previously approved 2020 labeling to minimize environmental harm, which includes completing the annual auxin training requirement. Producers should contact their local AgriLife Extension agent for in-person meeting information or they can take the training online.

These dicamba herbicides have undergone several regulatory up-

The ruling states the use of products already in the possession of growers or within trade channels must comply with previously approved 2020 labeling to minimize environmental harm, which includes completing the annual auxin training requirement. Producers should contact their local AgriLife Extension agent for in-person meeting information or they can take the training online.

dates, and the AgriLife trainings are meant to keep changes and best practices. Extension-offered trainings are meant to keep producers advised of those changes and best practices.

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“The order on Feb. 14 assists growers who planned to or have already invested in dicamba-tolerant seeds for the season,” Nolte said. “It also means that growers must abide by stringent guidelines for use of the existing stocks of dicamba as well as the deadlines for their purchase and use.” ~SLS

2nd Annual

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**GKB GUARDIAN L120 ET**  
 P44443708 • 2/26/23 • Polled  
 C GKB Guardian 1015 ET x CRR 719 Catapult 109  
 CED +1.9, BW +2.6, WW +71, YW +121, MILK +32,  
 CW +90, REA +65, MRE +24, CHB +152  
 Top 2% YW, top 4% WW and CW; top 7% CHB

**GKB COPPER L109 ET**  
 44434696 • 2/11/23 • Horned  
 BR Copper 124Y x NJW 98S R117 Ribeye 88X ET  
 CED -0.7, BW +3.7, WW +65, YW +93, MILK +33,  
 CW +95, REA +93, MRE +14, CHB +142  
 Top 1% REA; top 2% CW; top 6% MCW

**GKB GUARDIAN K194 ET**  
 44411575 • 11/13/22 • Horned  
 C GKB Guardian 1015 ET x CRR About Time 743  
 CED -1.2, BW +3.3, WW +71, YW +117, MILK +25,  
 CW +90, REA +72, MRE +28, CHB +153  
 Top 3% YW; top 4% CW; top 5% WW; top 6% CHB; top 8% REA

**BR GENESIS 2355**  
 P44417383 • 11/2/22 • Polled  
 Loewen Genesis G16 ET x Gerber Anodyne 001A  
 CED +8.9, BW +2.8, WW +77, YW +138, MILK +35,  
 CW +107, REA +85, MRE +33, CHB +189  
 Top 1% WW, YW, M&G, CW and CHB; top 2% SC and REA

**EXR DESPERADO 2146**  
 P44390086 • 9/13/22 • Homozygous Polled  
 Churchill Desperado 029H x NJW 79Z Z311 Endure 173D  
 CED -4.4, BW +3.9, WW +78, YW +124, MILK +36,  
 CW +93, REA +56, MRE +15, CHB +150  
 Top 1% WW, YW and M&G; top 2% CVI; top 7% CHB

**BR BELLE AIR 2364**  
 44417402 • 11/10/22 • Horned  
 BR Belle Air 6011 x BR Sooner on Sooner  
 CED -3.2, BW +4.0, WW +63, YW +106, MILK +29,  
 CW +76, REA +50, MRE +26, CHB +144  
 Top 15% or higher for 7 traits

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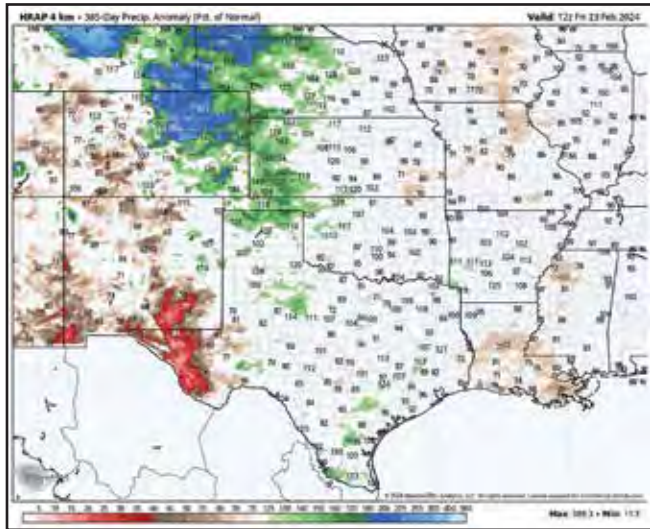


# WEATHER WISE

By Brian Bledsoe

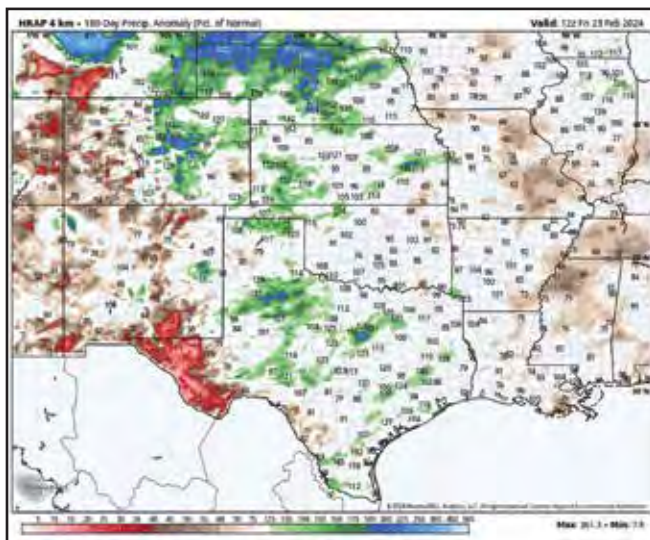
Drought worries, again

I know I have spent plenty of time dissecting El Niño and what will be the transition to La Niña. However, let's do a little recap of who this El Niño has helped, and who it hasn't helped. Here is a look at the last year, in terms of total precipitation % of normal.

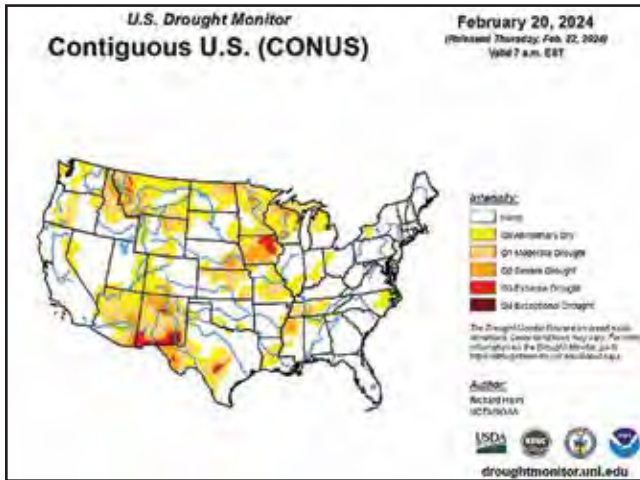


When you take into account the past 365 days, things look in pretty good shape. It doesn't necessarily take into account the very dry and hot summer, but the numbers look pretty good. The only exception is parts of New Mexico and far southwest Texas. El Niño has done very little to help those areas out.

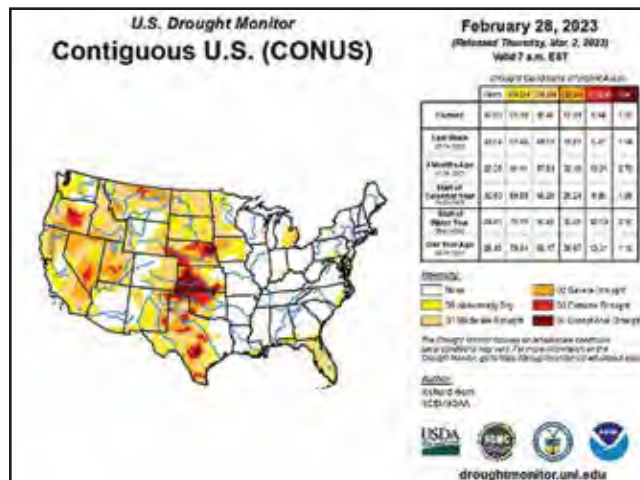
Let's look at the past 180 days with the same metric.



Again, most areas look to be in pretty good shape. The obvious exception is southern New Mexico and southwest Texas. Taking these numbers into account, what does the Drought Monitor look like? Check it out.



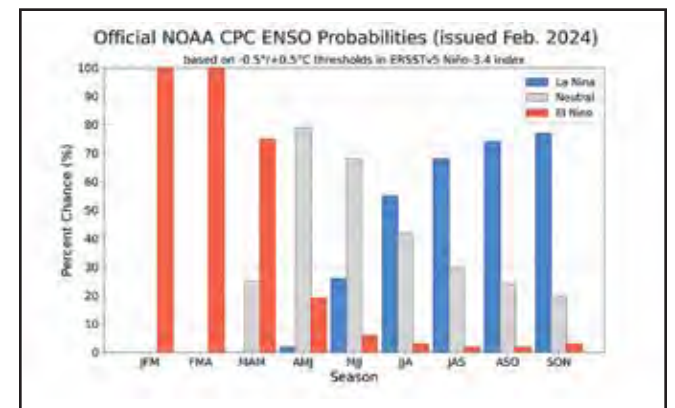
Here is the Drought Monitor from last year at this time.



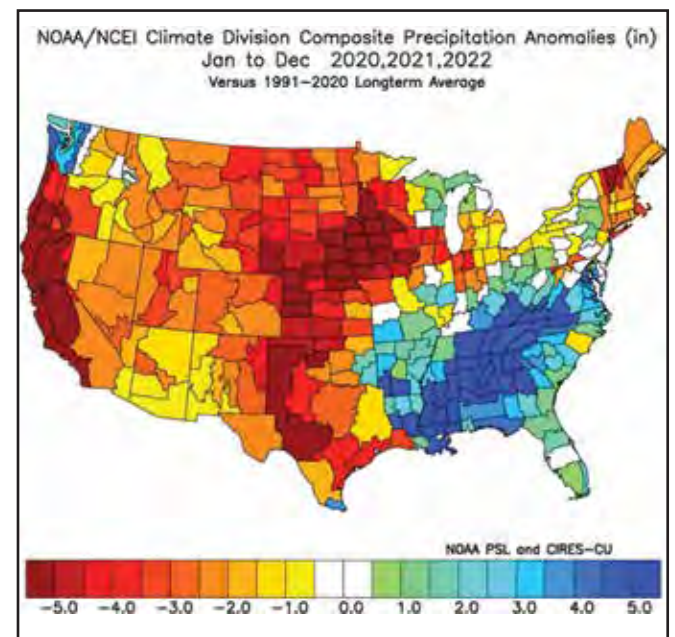
Pretty significant differences, especially for most of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska. However, the drought has worsened for Arizona, New Mexico, and far southwest Texas. This is certainly not the typical outcome with an El Niño. Usually, drought gets pretty much eliminated from southern California eastward across the southern tier of the country. Instead, drought actually got worse for some of those areas. And that my friends, spells trouble.

Because the drought has worsened in Ar-

izona, New Mexico, and southwest Texas, I am concerned that it has anchored itself and won't disappear before this El Niño exits. With La Niña likely to develop late this spring and throughout the back half of 2024, this likely doesn't bode well for those drought stricken areas and areas adjacent to those drought stricken areas. Basically, I am expecting drought expansion. The latest forecast shows La Niña probabilities greater than 50% by June/July/August and almost 80% by September/October/November.



Historically, La Niña portends drought for the southern tier of the country. Can there be exceptions? Absolutely, as every El Niño and La Niña are different. However, I cannot remember a recent La Niña episode that benefited the state of Texas and surrounding areas with exceptional moisture. In fact, it has been the exact opposite... The map below shows the precipitation anomalies associated from January - December 2020, 2021, 2022, when we had the triple dip La Niña.



All of that orange and red represents precipitation anomalies that are well below average. While I am uncertain how strong this event will be or last, history and models do support it potentially being a significant event. Because of this, I would be preparing for the reappearance of drought for many areas that just saw it disappear.

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If you have any questions or comments, please drop me an email...

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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.

- MAR 1 Houston Magic XXIV Beefmaster Sale, Houston, TX
- MAR 1 South Texas BBA Houston Futurity and Sale, Houston, TX
- MAR 2 Genetic Edge Brangus Sale, Houston, TX
- MAR 2 South Texas Cattle Marketing Spring Replacement Female Sale, Nixon, TX
- MAR 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAR 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Cattleman's Kind Simmental & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- MAR 9 Southeast Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association 29th Annual Commercial Bull & Heifer Sale, Beaumont, TX**
- MAR 9 Cavender Ranch Spring Brangus Bull Sale, Jacksonville, TX
- MAR 13 RA Brown Ranch Spring Bull Sale, Throckmorton, TX**
- MAR 15-16 Mound Creek Ranch Annual Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Leona, TX**
- MAR 16 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Spring Sale, Three Rivers, TX**
- MAR 16 Texas Elite F-1 and Brahman Female Sale, Caldwell, TX**
- MAR 16 Malazzo Farms F1 Females Sell in Texas Elite Sale, Caldwell, TX**
- MAR 19 Texas Alliance Annual Bull Sale, Bloomington, TX**
- MAR 19 Flying S Herefords Bull Sale, Paluxy, TX**
- MAR 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Knox Brothers Hereford and Angus Bulls, San Saba, 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
- 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 Genetic Investment Sale, Salado, TX
- JUN 7-8 ACE Quality Customer Appreciation Female Sale, Oneonta, AL
- JUN 22 Southern Tradition XXIV Sale, Savannah, TN
- AUG 3 J&T Farms Production Sale, Lexington, TN
- AUG 17 Emmons Ranch Production Sale, Bryan, TX
- SEP 20 Beef On Forage Bull Sale, Arcadia, FL
- SEP 28-29 Synergy Sale and Showcase, Giddings, TX
- OCT 5 Lyssy Heart of the Herd Production Sale, Luling, TX
- OCT 18/19 Beef on Forage Bull & Female Sale, Brenham, TX
- OCT 26 South Texas Hereford Association Sale, Beeville, TX**

### South Texas...

(Continued from page 15)  
associated with last year's drought, he said.

"There also has not been much of an issue with plant disease, including citrus greening, up to this point," Anciso said. "The commercial citrus industry has taken an aggressive approach to curtailing citrus greening, and it looks like their efforts are paying off."

#### What about water?

The future of the crop, however, will continue to depend on water availability. Citrus production is entirely dependent on the availability of irrigation water, which has been a long-time concern for the citrus industry in South Texas.

A recent report by Texas A&M's Center for North American Studies, CNAS, analyzed the economic impact of the worst-case scenario of a complete absence of irrigation water in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Irrigation water shortages in the region have occurred since the 1990s and have been exacerbated since 1992 when Mexico began undersupplying the average minimum annual amount of water into the Rio Grande as required by a 1944 treaty.

"This water undersupply continues today," said Luis Ribera, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics and CNAS director.

The water deficit for the current five-year cycle that began on Oct. 25, 2020 was 673,892 acre-feet as of Dec. 9. This represents the second largest irrigation water deficit in the

last three decades.

"The past 30-plus years have demonstrated a trend toward fewer and fewer acre-feet of irrigation water available to the Lower Rio Grande Valley area," Ribera said.

Ribera said irrigation continues to be a concern for citrus growers who have struggled to supply recovering citrus with adequate water and face uncertain water availability in the future.

#### The future of citrus in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

Dale Murden, president of Texas Citrus Mutual, an association representing citrus growers, said he estimates citrus production in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to be at only about 60% of what it was before Uri.

"We're still trying to recover from the tree loss and damage from that winter storm, and many producers have been skeptical about replanting," Murden said.

However, he said, this year things are looking good for the citrus industry.

"Citrus production is up, the current fruit quality is excellent, and prices have remained high, all of which are good for the producer," he said.

Murden, who has been in the citrus industry long enough to remember the trials and tribulations of the past 40-plus years, said he is still optimistic about Texas citrus.

"Over the years, there have been issues with the weather, irrigation water and other challenges to the citrus industry, but in production agriculture you've got to be optimistic," he said.

### Texas A&M...

(Continued from page 13)  
Resources Conservation Service, Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, describing how land managers can tap into the technical and financial assistance offered through each organization.

#### Empowering Texans on their stewardship journey

Wegner said the goal of the podcast is to engage Texans with their land and to empower them with science-based knowledge and tools they may need in their

own journey as natural resource stewards.

"I am a sixth-generation rancher, and my children are the seventh generation," Wegner said. "The expert advice and teaching resources that I have access to through Texas A&M AgriLife have been so profoundly useful as we work to best manage our land. I want to ensure others have access to that as well."

The Land Steward Podcast is available for streaming on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

~SLS

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- MAR 22-23 CDP Brangus Partners Spring Bull & Female Sale, El Dorado, AR
- MAR 23 Emmons Ranch Beefmaster Bull Sale, Grosbeck, TX
- MAR 23 Thomas Charolais Spring Bull Sale, Raymondville, TX
- MAR 26 GenePlus Brangus Spring Bull Sale, Concord, AR
- 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
- 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 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 21 Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, Brenham, TX

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MAR 3-25 Rodeo Austin and Stock Show, Austin, TX

MAR 7-17 Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, Mercedes, TX

MAR 22-24 Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention, Fort Worth, TX

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# Texas culinary duo to host surprise guests at their kitchen table during the 2024 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo

FORT WORTH, Texas - (Feb.19, 2024) Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association announced the renowned culinary duo, Lisa and Tom Perini, will welcome surprise guests to the kitchen table for a not-to-be-missed main stage session Saturday, March 23 at the 2024 Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo in downtown Fort Worth.

Alongside Deborah Ferguson, co-anchor of NBC 5 Today, The Perinis will offer attendees a glimpse into their own extraordinary experiences


while they serve up great conversations about cattle, beef and the people who bring us together.

The Perinis, who own and operate Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap, Texas, are recognized as culinary legends, bringing over 40 years of experience to the stage. They have established themselves as an award-winning couple serving "Real Texas Food" and leaving a lasting mark on the culinary and cattle industries.


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tutions such as the James Beard Foundation, TODAY Show, Good Morning America and the Rachel Ray Show. Not only have they served beef to ranchers, but their culinary expertise has also graced the tables of U.S. presidents and celebrities.

This main-stage event is part of the 2024 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo. To explore the full slate of speakers at the 2024 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo and to register, visit [www.cattleraisersconvention.com](http://www.cattleraisersconvention.com).



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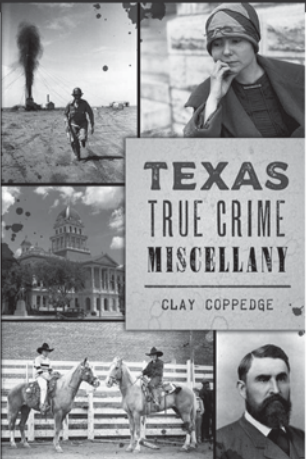


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**From the author of the "Texas Trails" column in Southern Livestock Standard!**

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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## ROUND-UP REVIEW

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How about that RAIN? Now, the sunshine will chime in for all the pastures to turn green, providing a natural food source for our cattle, which is much more economical. Along with these positives, the market is good, and the future is predicted to stay that way for a while. That's some of the good news to go along with the stock show season and the spring production sales. Lots of them will be offering quality stock of all breeds. The

San Antonio All Breed sale was a great success last week and ICA was represented. The Annual Southeast Texas ICA Commercial Bull and Heifer sale is scheduled for March 9th so check your weekly ICA Blast for time and location. They'll have some great stock to choose from and are great supporters of the State ICA.

Order your fertilizer to get that hay on the way. It is probably going to be drier come June-July.



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

In February, we lost Dr. Milton (Milt) Thomas, the new animal scientist at the Texas A&M Beeville Research Station. I knew Milt when he was working on his PhD there under Dr. Gary Williams and although we were not close, I followed his career around the country. He spent many years at New Mexico State University working with their Brahman and Angus (Brangus) crossbreeding program and then went to Colorado State University to work in the animal breeding and genetics program, studying the effects of grazing terrain and altitude on cattle.

I was really pleased that he had applied to come to Beeville after Dr. Williams retired, and even more so when he decided to come. Milt's focus was to evaluate the genetics of cow calf production in tropical areas. So much of what is studied is really not in tropical areas, except the University of Florida's research, and Milt rightly felt that may bias results. One of his first actions was to reach out to the USDA Germplasm Evaluation (GPE) Project in Clay Center, Nebraska. They shipped him some of their Bos indicus cross cows (Brahman cross, Beefmaster, Santa Gertrudis, Brangus) to evaluate the ability of those breeds and crosses to live and produce

in a real subtropical environment. He planned to use that information to determine the genetic differences in these breeds so that cattle breeders could use them in selection, much like birth weights and weaning weights today.

Milt was excited about the promise of the Beeville Station. When he came to Beeville, he reached out to the surrounding ranchers and introduced himself. Milt found a board with the brands of ranchers who had donated funds to improve the station 50 years ago and was having that refurbished. He always prefaced his presentations with the fact that the Beeville Station was the first Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, founded over 100 years ago, and the first one west of the Mississippi!

In two short years, Milt had changed a lot of thinking and attitudes of folks about using Brahman influenced crosses and breeds. He said that cattle should be selected and bred in the environment (not just the climate, but the management environment) in which they will be raised. Too often, we try to fit the cattle to the environment. I hope that someone is chosen soon that will adopt his plan and carry on his vision, making it their own for the betterment of this industry and its producers. Rest in peace.

### Chapter Happenings...

## Around The Lone Star State

### South Central ICA Chapter

Parking lots at South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen's Association's meetings have stories to tell. Recent weather history is proudly told by muddy pickups. Dusty ones have a dry story. Insect populations are reflected on grills and windshields. If the truck sparkles someone has been to town. If the tailgate is creased in the middle, then everyone knows someone drove off with the tailgate still up. A large ding on one side might have a good story behind it about feeding cows.

Our chapter will meet April 11, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Poth at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Meal will be sponsored by Lyssy and Eckel Feeds.

Please RSVP to Dickie Jackson at 830/391-3153 or Weldon Riggs at 210/601-1605. Bring a neighbor and read the parking lot on the way in!

### Southeast Texas ICA Chapter

Hello from Southeast Texas. Chapter members should have received a mail-out containing our newsletter that recapped our 2023 year, a flyer with information on the upcoming Southeast Texas ICA (SETICA) Commercial Bull & Heifer Sale and another flyer regarding the producer meeting on March 12th.

The SETICA Sale is set for March 9th in the Ag Barns of Ford Park, west of Beaumont on IH 10. A catalog can be viewed online

(Continued on page 23)

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**UPCOMING Events**

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**Chapter...**

(Continued from page 22)

at icatexas.com, but if you would like a copy emailed direct or by mail, please contact Susan Horn at 409/656-1039.

The producer meeting on March 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Winnie Stowell Community Building will be sponsored by Navasota Livestock Auction and Merck Animal Health. Guest speaker, Greg Goudeau, will be presenting information on how producers can increase the value of their calf crop using the weaned calf program and sales at the Navasota Livestock Auction. RSVP is a must with the meal preparation for your steak dinner. Please email riley ranch@sbcglobal.net or call Debbie 409/454-6961 or James 409/291-0336.

The SETICA High School Scholarship form has been added to the ICA website for your convenience. Please make sure to note that there are two possible scholarships available to students in our counties. For students graduating from a high school located in one of these counties: (Hardin, Jefferson, Orange, Liberty, Chambers and Galveston) the SETICA High School Scholarship must be post-marked by April 12, 2024, and be returned to our mailing address of PO Box 146, Hamshire, Texas 77622. There is also a State ICA scholarship available, so be sure to pay close attention to the guidelines and deadlines of each application and mail to the appropriate address.

**Brazos Valley ICA Chapter**

Well folks, I think we have this winter beat and because of the rain we have received, I am expecting a bountiful spring. The next meeting of the Brazos Chapter of the Independent Cattlemen's Association will take place in May in Caldwell. Details are being worked out, so stay tuned.

**Colorado Valley ICA Chapter**

The Colorado Valley ICA held its Annual Fundraiser Barbeque & Trade Show on Saturday, Feb. 17th, 2024, at the KC Hall in La Grange, Texas. We had many vendors at our trade show and are very pleased with the overall attendance at the event. The fundraiser included a silent auction, gun raffle, live auction, and cash door prize giveaways. We would like to thank everyone that bid.

Our chapter is excited to announce that we will be holding a producer's meet-

ing 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 two CEU credits being offered. RSVP's can be made to the ICA State Office at 512/620-0162 or tica@icatexas.com. Spread the word and bring a friend, and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Guada-Coma ICA Chapter**

The next Guada-Coma ICA chapter meeting will be on Monday, March 18th at Seguin Cattle Company.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Caroline Alsop, DVM, and she will be discussing antimicrobial stewardship in production cattle. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

The Guada-Coma ICA chapter has launched our 2024 high school scholarship, so be sure to apply before the deadline of April 17, 2024. Additionally, the State ICA has the Steffany Lynn Sklar Memorial Scholarship and new this year is the 2024 ICA State Collegiate Scholarship. The deadlines for both State ICA

(Continued on page 24)

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**Chapter...**

(Continued from page 23)

Scholarships are May 1, 2024. These scholarships can be found on the state ICA website, at [icatexas.com](http://icatexas.com).

**East Texas ICA Chapter**

The next East Texas ICA chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be hosted at the Regen Ranch, located at 8698 County Road 239, Oakwood, Texas. There will be a potluck meal, so be sure to bring a dish. The meeting agenda will consist of selecting committees and members to address chapter growth,

chapter outreach and chapter programs. Please RSVP to Christine Martin via text at 936/245-9505. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

**Mid-Tex ICA Chapter**

The Mid-Tex ICA Chapter is excited to announce that we will be giving out a 2024 high school scholarship. The deadline is May 1, 2024, and the scholarship application can be found on the ICA website: [ICATexas.com](http://ICATexas.com), under the Forms and Links Tab.

Our next chapter meeting will be on March 26, 2024, at Lockart Auction Inc. at 6:30 p.m. Our speaker for the meet-

ing will be Christa Kraatz with the USDA FSA, who will discuss FSA Programs and farm loans offered by the USDA. A home-cooked meal will be provided, so please be sure to RSVP by March 22nd to the ICA Office at [tica@icatexas.com](mailto:tica@icatexas.com) or (512)620-0162. We hope to see you there.

**Gonzales ICA Chapter**

The Gonzales ICA Chapter is excited to announce that our 2024 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 will be holding our next meeting on Thursday, March 21st, at The Bomb Diggity in Inez, Texas. Our speakers for the meeting will be Harrison Smith and Mychael Small with Crystalyx, discussing livestock nutrition. Please RSVP by Monday, March 18th to Iris Heller at 361/652-8014 (call) or Jackie Parsons at 361/550-

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8586 (text). 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.



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# Southwest Beef Symposium set for March 7-8 in Roswell, New Mexico

## Symposium will focus on economic, cattle performance trends

By Rob Williams, Texas AgriLife Today

The annual Southwest Beef Symposium, hosted jointly by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, NMSU, will be held on March 7-8 in Roswell, New Mexico.

The event is designed to provide producers an opportunity to catch up on the latest issues and innovations that can

help them better navigate the ever-changing beef industry and keep them updated on information that helps their daily management of their operations.

The two-day symposium will be held at the Roswell Civic Center, 912 N. Main St. Registration will be \$85 for those who register before March 2. After March 2, registration will be \$100 at the door.

To register, go to <https://tx.ag/SWBeefSymposium>.

Make checks out to New Mexico State University and mail to Marcy Ward, NMSU-ACES Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources, MSC 3AE, Box 30003, Las Cruces, N.M. 88000. Checks must be received before Feb. 28.

The symposium's program will start March 7 at 1 p.m.

MST and will end at 5 p.m. MST with a dinner beginning at 6 p.m. The March 8 program will begin at 8 a.m. MST and will conclude at noon.

A trade show will be held both days. Sponsorships will be available for the trade show. For a complete list of sponsorships, visit <https://tx.ag/SWBeefSymposiumSponsor>.

For more information, contact Bruce Carpenter,

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Ph.D., professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science and AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Fort Stockton, at [bruce.carpenter@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:bruce.carpenter@ag.tamu.edu) or call 432-336-8585, or contact Marcy Ward, NMSU Extension livestock specialist, at [maward@nmsu.edu](mailto:maward@nmsu.edu) or 575-644-3379.

### March 7 agenda

- 2024 beef outlook – Derrell Peel, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension livestock marketing specialist, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

- 40% to 80% choice and prime in 20 years: Reasons and implications for the industry – Ron Gill, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock specialist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station.

- Late feeding mortality in feeder cattle – Greta Krafur, Ph.D., assistant professor of practice, Great Plains Veterinary Education Center, University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

- Genomic testing in commercial herds – Kent Andersen, manager, Team Andersen LLC., Lincoln, Nebraska.

### March 8 agenda

- Cow size and efficiency – Bruce Carpenter, Ph.D., professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science and AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Fort Stockton.

- New technology for range management – Casey Spackman, Ph.D., Extension range specialist, NMSU Extension Animal Sciences and Natural Resources and Range Improvement Task Force, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

- Latest information on prussic acid and nitrate toxicity – Jason Banta, Ph.D., associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science and AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, Overton.

- Research update from Clayton Livestock Research Center – Glenn Duff, Ph.D., professor/superintendent, Clayton Livestock Research Center, NMSU, Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Mozart Fonseca, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Rangeland Sciences, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, Nevada.

## Rates are likely impacting producer interest in expansion

By Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky professor

USDA's cattle inventory report confirmed that the U.S. cowherd continued to get smaller during 2023. Higher input costs, regional weather challenges and hay supply issues, strong cull cow prices and several other factors have contributed to a prolonged liquidation phase of this cattle cycle. Despite the fact that calf prices were relatively strong during 2023, there is no indication that heifer retention has begun. It would appear that we are likely to see a "slow expansion" when beef cow numbers do start to grow in the coming years. At some point, the cattle market will be strong enough, and weather will be cooperative enough, that we will reverse this trend of decreasing cow numbers.

Occasionally, someone will ask why we tend to expand the cowherd when prices are high. It would seem that the best time to expand would be when prices are low because females are worth less. It's a good question and I understand why someone would ask it. On the surface it is true that the cost of breeding stock tends to be lower when calf prices are lower and the full cost of developing a heifer is lower when heifer calves are less valuable. But producers tend to expand during high priced times for two reasons. First, the high calf prices make them more interested in having a larger number of calves to sell in the future. And secondly, high price times often provide the ability to sell fewer calves and still meet financial obligations. By that I mean it is easier to sell fewer heifer calves when the steers and heifers you do sell are fetching a higher price.

I wanted to walk through this to set up the idea that the current interest rate environment is another factor making expansion less attractive to cow-calf producers. The expansion decision is really a tradeoff. A cow-calf producer choosing to expand makes a short-term investment (heifer retention or breeding stock purchase) in hopes of seeing higher profit levels in the future. Any time a short-term / long-term discussion is had, interest rates and inflation are likely to enter the conversation.

The first impact of high interest rates on expansion is the most obvious – the cost of financing breeding stock increases. A farmer wishing to purchase bred heifers in order to expand the number of cows he/she runs will pay more in interest over the length of that loan. The higher interest expense lowers the potential profitability on that bred heifer as

she starts to produce calves in the future. A producer that expands through heifer retention is still impacted as that producer sells fewer heifers in the short run and incurs development costs on those heifers retained. Even if money is not borrowed directly for this purpose, the opportunity cost of the money not received by selling the heifer calves and the money spent on development is more significant in a higher interest rate environment.

The second impact is one that is not discussed as often,

but I also feel that is very relevant – interest rates impact the time value of money. Money in the present is always preferred over money in the future and interest rates largely determine how significant that preference is. When a producer retains a heifer for replacement purposes, he/she forgoes her value as a calf (present) in order to see increased revenues from the sale of her calves after she enters the herd (future). The preference for money now, from the sale of the weaned heifer, is greater when interest rates are higher. At the

same time, the real value of those future calves is lower due to higher interest rates. An economist might say those future returns are "more heavily discounted" in a higher interest rate environment. This combination results in less desire to hold heifers for development purposes, and I think we are seeing some impact from this today.

I think weather (forage supply), calf prices, and production costs are the three main determinants of expansion. But we also can't ignore the fact that we are in a very different interest rate

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environment in 2024 than we were during our last expansion phase. Interest rates have been another factor delaying expansion of the cowherd and should be watched as we consider when we will turn the corner on

this cattle cycle.

Overall, prices for feeder cattle and calves were higher last week and remain well above 2023 levels. Futures prices were largely steady, while corn price fell a bit more.

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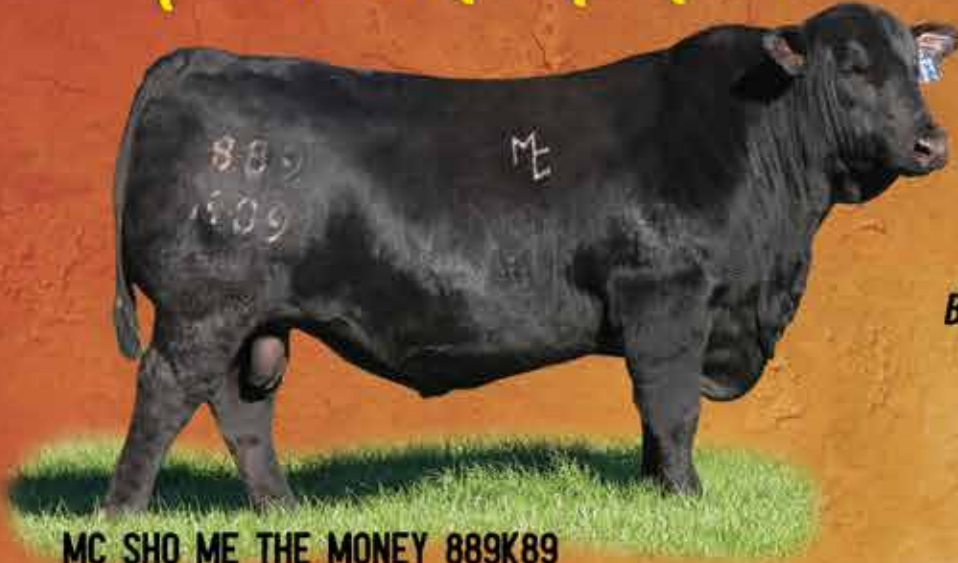


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## MC SHO ME THE MONEY 889K89

MC Sho Time 313H30 X MC Ms Boom Town 889H85

Act BW	AWW/Ratio	AYW/Ratio	REA/Ratio	IMF/Ratio	SC							
69	686 / 118%	1352 / 116%	15.8 / 112%	6.1 / 120%	36.4							
IBRA GENERATED BEEFWEIGHT PERCENTILE RANKS												
BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	SC	REA	IMF	H Pr	Stay	Term	Breed Back	Num Calves
25	1	1	45	1	20	1	4	3	15	1	25	25



## MC TIME PIECE 777K5

MC Sho Time 313H30 X MC Ms Power Source 777H11

Act BW	AWW/Ratio	AYW/Ratio	REA/Ratio	IMF/Ratio	SC							
61	628 / 109%	1311 / 112%	15.4 / 109%	5.6 / 112%	35.2							
IBRA GENERATED BEEFWEIGHT PERCENTILE RANKS												
BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	SC	REA	IMF	H Pr	Stay	Term	Breed Back	Num Calves
35	2	1	55	4	60	1	1	15	10	1	4	5



## MC SHO BOAT 896K10

MC Sho Boat 313H18X MC Ms Ms Boulder 896H

Act BW	AWW/Ratio	AYW/Ratio	REA/Ratio	IMF/Ratio	SC							
95	730 / ET	1217 / ET	14.4 / ET	4.6 / ET	39.8							
IBRA GENERATED BEEFWEIGHT PERCENTILE RANKS												
BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	SC	REA	IMF	H Pr	Stay	Term	Breed Back	Num Calves
55	4	5	20	3	35	1	10	15	20	3	25	25



## MC PAPPY 889K20

MC Papillon 458G X MC Ms Resource 889B88

Act BW	AWW/Ratio	AYW/Ratio	REA/Ratio	IMF/Ratio	SC							
80	645 / ET	1230 / ET	14.5 / ET	4.6 / ET	37.9							
IBRA GENERATED BEEFWEIGHT PERCENTILE RANKS												
BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	SC	REA	IMF	H Pr	Stay	Term	Breed Back	Num Calves
30	10	2	35	10	30	1	5	15	5	1	10	4

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## MC FULL BOAT 777K7

MC Sho Boat 313H18X MC Ms Ranks A Lot 777H10

Act BW	AWW/Ratio	AYW/Ratio	REA/Ratio	IMF/Ratio	SC							
79	659 / 113%	1266 / 108%	15.3 / 108%	5.1 / 100%	42.9							
IBRA GENERATED BEEFWEIGHT PERCENTILE RANKS												
BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	SC	REA	IMF	H Pr	Stay	Term	Breed Back	Num Calves
95	2	2	45	4	25	1	4	10	10	2	15	15



## MC IGNITE 889K123

MC Ignite 889B2 X MC Ms Rematch 889D29

Act BW	AWW/Ratio	AYW/Ratio	REA/Ratio	IMF/Ratio	SC							
85	684 / 110%	1271 / 110%	14.1 / 100%	5.7 / 120%	42.8							
IBRA GENERATED BEEFWEIGHT PERCENTILE RANKS												
BW	WW	YW	Milk	TM	SC	REA	IMF	H Pr	Stay	Term	Breed Back	Num Calves
90	1	1	35	1	65	10	3	10	15	1	20	20

For more information  
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## Mound Creek Ranch

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