

SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

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A look at tax proposals and their impact on agriculture

By Caitlin Richards

The Biden administration is working to deliver on 2020 campaign promises, but some could potentially disrupt American agriculture and the economy. Particularly, the Sensible Taxation and Equity

Promotion (STEP) Act and the For the 99.5 Percent Act (99.5% Act).

“It is important to keep in mind, these are just bills that have been proposed in D.C.,” says Tiffany Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife agricultural law specialist. “So, nothing is passed. I think the bills have come down from the new administration and some of the campaign trail initiatives having to do with tax breaks for the wealthy.”

The 99.5% Act would potentially change the exemption amount for the federal estate tax. Lashmet explains right now, there is a lifetime exemption of \$11.7 million for a single person and \$23.4 million for a couple. This means if the gross estate value is less than the lifetime exemption, no tax would be owed. However, the 99.5% Act, introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders would change the estate tax exemption to \$3.5 million per person and \$7 million per couple.

“For agriculture, if you look at the number of farms and ranches that are currently affected, it is not huge,” says Lashmet, “because \$11.7 million is a lot of assets for one person. Now with a \$3.5 million limit, it is getting a lot more realistic for a lot of farm and ranch families to be impacted. When you consider the value of the land, equipment and livestock it doesn’t take long to hit \$3.5 million.”

Additionally, the 99.5% Act would increase the tax rate of the federal estate tax. Currently, the estate tax rate is set at 40%, Lashmet explains, and under the 99.5% Act there would be a phased increase up to 65% depending on

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PERIODICAL

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ROUND-UP REVIEW
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Just Your **Standard Bull** 
By Michael Sturgess

TEXAS *Trails...*
By Clay Coppedge

I seemed to have struck a chord last month with my column. In a good way mostly. The topic was about the relationships we may be losing with our customers when we transition to online only auctions from our traditional production sales, or even those that now have an online component. The column further discussed that in addition to relationships, we are losing the opportunity to create memorable events. Now, there are many facets of both that we can discuss in greater detail and will do so in this and other future columns.

So, the topic I have chosen for this week's column is your sale facility.

If you have spent any time whatsoever in the purebred seedstock industry, you have seen sale facilities that fall in the category

of a converted shop to built facilities that rival the Taj Mahal. Over the years, I have attended auctions where the sale was held in a barn where they used to hold cock fights! We've had sales under tents, open-sided equipment sheds, you name it—we've done it.

Many of the most memorable take place in facilities with components that have a story. For example, my good friends, Bill and Gail Davis of Chimney Rock Cattle Co. of Concord, Arkansas, built a sale facility a number of years ago referred to as the "Cow Palace". The "Cow Palace" is a great facility but would not be as memorable in a different location. What truly makes it unique is its setting and the countless stories behind its components. In addition to being in the Trucking busi-

ness, Bill and Gail spent a great deal of their lives in the NASCAR racing circuit. If you have ever been there, you will note that they used to have the number 22 car with a major sponsorship from Caterpillar. You will see racing memorabilia everywhere. Even the sale bleachers came from a former NASCAR track.

In addition, the facility sits on a bluff overlooking green pastures of top Brangus cows grazing next to sandstone rock formations known as, you guessed it, Chimney Rock formations.

Now back to my point—does one need to build a "Cow Palace" to be memorable? Absolutely not. But one should keep in mind the characteristics, lay of the land, drainage, and curb appeal when one decides where and how to go about this. We have all heard and have used the phrase "sticks out like a sore thumb." If you erect an English style castle in West Texas, your drawbridge may cross a moat not full of water, but rather tumbleweeds and rattlesnakes!

And by all means, consider the elements. If there is one thing you can bet on, the weather will not be "ideal" each year. I can remember a sale back in the mid-80's down along the Gulf Coast area. If you have spent any time down there, you will note that the

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Dallas Vice

The first grand jury in Dallas County convened in 1846, five years after the town's founding. Fifty-one indictments were handed down for gambling, which ranged from card games to betting on badger and rat fights at the local saloon. However, the righteous ambition matched with the number of indictments didn't leave enough unindicted men (women were a long way from even being able to vote) to serve as jurors.

There were only enough jurors for one trial, so they held that trial and found the first defendant guilty. He went from the witness stand to the jury, where he helped convict another gambler. In the end, all the gamblers fined themselves \$10 a piece and went back to what they were doing before being called upon to do their civic duty.

For the better part of the next 100 years, the city of Dallas handled vice in pretty much the same manner. That we might not think of Dallas as a den of iniquity is because the city went out of its way to portray itself as a conservative, law-abiding and God-fearing community. But amid the banks and mansions was a portion of town called Frogtown.

Here, by city ordinance, prostitution was legal. The cops made sure the brothels had window covers in order to protect people on the street from seeing what was going on behind closed doors. And the prostitutes

were likewise shielded from prosecution.

Dallas took a similar wink-and-nod approach to Prohibition in the 1920s. It was ridiculously easy to find a drink in Dallas during that time. A writer for Collier's magazine heard about this and decided to visit the city and see for himself if the stories were true.

"Regardless of its registered attitude in favor of strict enforcement of dry laws, I know of no town more bold in its violation of

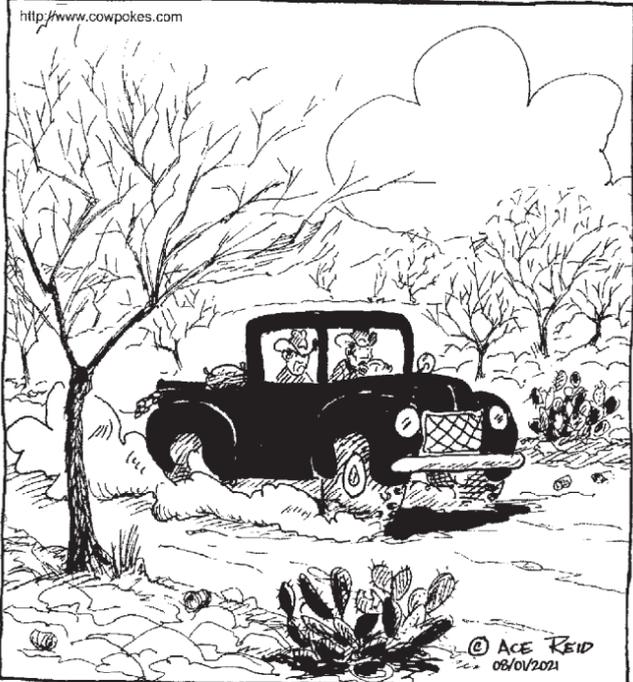
them," the magazine writer reported, though he may have been a bit tipsy and prone to overstatement at the time.

The national publicity spurred sheriff Hal Hood, with much attendant publicity, to order a series of raids on the city's illegal drinking establishments. No undercover investigation was needed. Everybody knew where to find the booze. The lawmen confiscated as much of it as they could and hauled

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USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 8-26-21			
SPECIES:	8-21-2021:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	1,224	1,349	32,798
b. Breeding Males	58	6	1,208
c. Breeding Females	0	10	1,023
Total	1,282	1,365	35,029
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	2,103
c. Breeding Females	0	0	3,952
Total	0	0	6,055
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	9
b. Breeding Females	0	0	2,558
Total	0	0	2,567
5) GOATS			
a. Angora	0	0	0
b. Spanish	0	0	0
c. Other	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
6) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	628	161	11,001
b. Breeding Males	29	63	944
c. Breeding Females	46	118	1,562
d. Geldings	36	33	520
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	2	50
Total	739	377	14,077
7) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	5
MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS			
SPECIES:	8-28-2021:	1-1-2021 - Present:	
FEEDER CATTLE	6,718	420,546	
MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS			
FEEDER CATTLE	1,812	128,653	

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"Oh this is dry, but at my place I had to soak my pigs in water for two days so they could hold slop!"

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SUBSCRIPTION WILL START UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT

DC News...

Texas Farm Bureau supports RAPID Act as short-term help for farmers, ranchers impacted by border crisis

WACO, Texas -- The state's largest farm and ranch organization applauds the introduction of the Reimbursing Agriculture Producers for Immigration Damages (RAPID) Act in Congress to reimburse farmers and ranchers for damages and vandalism occurring on their property due to the border crisis.

The bipartisan proposal by U.S. Reps. August Pfluger, Tony Gonzales, Henry Cuellar and Vicente Gonzalez of Texas repurposes monies from the American Rescue Plan to reimburse America's agricultural producers for damages stemming from illegal immigration, including: livestock loss, crop damage and loss, damage to perimeter fences, damage to physical structures and property loss and damage.

"Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) supports the RAPID Act. We are thankful for the efforts of Congressman Pfluger, Gonzales, Cuellar and Gonzalez to provide short-term financial assistance to the farm and ranch families who are shouldering the burden of the border crisis," TFB President Russell Boening said. "The long-term solution to this crisis is securing the border. Action is needed now to secure the border, first and foremost. That is the only way this crisis can be addressed."

The legislation establishes the Emergency Land and Food Program to implement reimbursements, while prioritizing agricultural producers located in counties with high levels of immigration along the southern border.

Boening said TFB is listening to the concerns of many farmers and ranchers who have experienced significant property damages due to the influx of illegal immigration.

"Texas farmers and ranchers must continually repair cut fences and damaged infrastructure, as well as face threats to their life while on their private property," Boening said. "We commend the bipartisan

legislation filed to address these financial hardships and look forward to working with the Texas leaders behind the RAPID Act and others in Congress to pass this legislation."

SLS

TFB spearheaded a national Farm Bureau effort earlier in the summer urging top Biden administration officials to recognize the border crisis and take swift action to help farm and ranch families impacted by the surge of illegal immigration.

Farmers and ranchers along the border continue to share stories of financial hardship and disruption from the surge of illegal immigrants. View their stories on TFB's Border Crisis Impacts webpage.

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



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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, August 26, 2021: Total receipts 1,032, last reported (8-19-21) 344, last year 1,858. Feeder cattle 805 (78.0%), last reported (8-19-21) 258 (75.0%), last year 1,319 (71.0%). Slaughter cattle 124 (12.0%), last reported (8-19-21) 69 (20.1%), last year 167 (9.0%). Replacement cattle 103 (10.0%), last reported (8-19-21) 17 (4.9%), last year 372 (20.0%). Compared to last week steer and heifer calves and yearlings 2.00-4.00 higher. Slaughter cows and bulls 2.00-4.00 lower. Stock cows and pairs steady in light test. Trading fairly active, demand good. Rain last week helped pasture conditions throughout the area. Supply included: 78% Feeder Cattle (51% Steers, 45% Heifers, 4% Bulls); 12% Slaughter Cattle (88% Cows, 13% Bulls); 10% Replacement Cattle (93% Stock Cows, 7% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 56%.

Oklahoma National Stock Yards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 31, 2021: Total receipts 7,187, last reported (8-23-21) 5,186, last year 9,416. Feeder cattle 7,187 (100.0%), last reported (8-23-21) 5,186 (100.0%), last year 9,416 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers unevenly steady. Steer calves 5.00 - 8.00 higher. Heifer calves 1.00 - 2.00 lower. Demand moderate to good. Quality mostly average but flesh conditions in buyers favor with many in medium to thin flesh conditions. Weigh-ups showing the complete range of gaunt to full. Weather continues hot and dry with very little rain in the forecast. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (57% Steers, 2% Dairy Steers, 40% Heifers, 2% Bulls, 0% Dairy Heifers). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 66%.

Amarillo Livestock Auction, Amarillo, Texas, August 26, 2021:

• No Sale Reported •

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.
Beeville, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-27-21
VOLUME: 404
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	165-201	134-190
300-400 lbs.	147-200	125-168
400-500 lbs.	131-176	120-162
500-600 lbs.	122-165	116-188
600-700 lbs.	120-153	111-140
700-800 lbs.	117-142	105-128
Slaughter cows	35-70	
Slaughter Bulls	67-90	
Stocker cows	—	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission
Bryan, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-24-21
VOLUME: 1081
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	175-220	150-175
300-400 lbs.	165-239	145-177
400-500 lbs.	160-202.5	140-173
500-600 lbs.	142-173	130-150
600-700 lbs.	140-162	124-145
700-800 lbs.	142-150	125-136
Slaughter cows	51-77	
Slaughter bulls	74-94	
Stocker cows	750-1275	
Pairs	750-1450	

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.
Three Rivers, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-30-21
VOLUME: 1,320
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	154-202	138-176
300-400 lbs.	156-208	134-166
400-500 lbs.	144-198	128-164
500-600 lbs.	132-182	122-154
600-700 lbs.	120-158	114-138
700-800 lbs.	112-142	104-132
Slaughter cows	36-78	
Slaughter bulls	76-98	
Stocker cows	575-1225	
Pairs	900-1475	

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.
Nixon, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-23-21
VOLUME: 1528
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	154-223	109-166
300-400 lbs.	163-219	139-180
400-500 lbs.	152-211	132-188
500-600 lbs.	135-168	128-178
600-700 lbs.	131-155	122-183
700-800 lbs.	128-153	118-170
Slaughter cows	25-77	
Slaughter bulls	64-97	
Stocker cows	700-1200	
Pairs	910-1125	

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC
Alice, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-24-21
VOLUME: 819
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	165-205	160-170
300-400 lbs.	162-194	150-175
400-500 lbs.	152-190	147-174
500-600 lbs.	140-175	137-160
600-700 lbs.	134-160	130-150
700-800 lbs.	120-146	105-135
Slaughter cows	48-80	
Slaughter bulls	84-92	
Stocker cows	800-1100	
Pairs	875-1300	

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company
Fredericksburg, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-25-21
VOLUME: 962
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-237.5	160-187
300-400 lbs.	160-240	150-175
400-500 lbs.	150-220	140-170
500-600 lbs.	150-187	140-162
600-700 lbs.	140-168	147-175
700-800 lbs.	130-152	96-137
Slaughter cows	40-75	
Slaughter Bulls	80-102	
Stocker cows	700-1100	
Pairs	900-1400	

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC
Groesbeck, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-19-21
VOLUME: 608
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	150-225	130-185
400-500 lbs.	150-217.5	120-185
500-600 lbs.	130-185	115-174
600-700 lbs.	125-162	110-155
700-800 lbs.	118-152	105-140
Slaughter cows	30-80	
Slaughter bulls	76-102	
Stocker cows	800-1400	
Pairs	1050-1750	

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction
San Saba & Mason, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-26-21
VOLUME: 2675
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	180-242	160-218
300-400 lbs.	185-222	160-174
400-500 lbs.	165-216	148-167
500-600 lbs.	155-185	138-160
600-700 lbs.	145-168	128-158
700-800 lbs.	130-150	120-144
Slaughter cows	32-79	
Slaughter bulls	72-97	
Stocker cows	650-1200	
Pairs	850-1425	

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission
Giddings, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-23-21
VOLUME: 674
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	125-187.5	130-277.5
300-400 lbs.	135-200	135-200
400-500 lbs.	135-202.5	135-144
500-600 lbs.	130-169	125-157
600-700 lbs.	128-153	125-155
700-800 lbs.	75-144	108-146
Slaughter cows	25-81	
Slaughter bulls	45-95	
Stocker cows	625-1175	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction
Lampasas, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-25-21
VOLUME: 586
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	186-228	149-176
400-500 lbs.	165-212.5	143-163
500-600 lbs.	140-172	140-147
600-700 lbs.	139-166	132-146
700-800 lbs.	128-158	122-135
Slaughter cows	25-78	
Slaughter bulls	75-97	
Stocker cows	750-1400	
Pairs	1235-1600	

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.
Crockett, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-31-21
VOLUME: 2396
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	177-216	155-210
300-400 lbs.	171-212	151-200
400-500 lbs.	160-198	140-181
500-600 lbs.	144-167	133-158
600-700 lbs.	135-164	119-154
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	55-81	
Slaughter Bulls	84-98	
Stocker cows	670-1600	
Pairs	800-1400	

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Caldwell, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-25-21
VOLUME: 799
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	180-215	140-167
300-400 lbs.	181-235	156-200
400-500 lbs.	165-207	146-215
500-600 lbs.	148-178	146-185
600-700 lbs.	139-154	142-220
700-800 lbs.	127-147	132-147
Slaughter cows	35-80	
Slaughter bulls	65-100	
Stocker cows	700-1300	
Pairs	975-1750	

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Buffalo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-28-21
VOLUME: 823
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	170-216	153-176
400-500 lbs.	165-185	145-167
500-600 lbs.	157-175	139-158
600-700 lbs.	140-161	136-145
700-800 lbs.	140-145	126-134
Slaughter cows	50-80.5	
Slaughter bulls	80-105	
Stocker cows	800-1175	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.
Navasota, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-28-21
VOLUME: s1573
TREND: Active/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	130-215	125-190
300-400 lbs.	130-210	120-168
400-500 lbs.	130-205	120-164
500-600 lbs.	125-170	115-152
600-700 lbs.	125-152	110-145
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	45-73	
Slaughter bulls	60-93.5	
Stocker cows	750-1350	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Cattlemen's Brenham Livestock
Brenham, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-27-21
VOLUME: 1381
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	114-214	121-160
300-400 lbs.	147-234	127-180
400-500 lbs.	146-232	136-188
500-600 lbs.	143-194	136-220
600-700 lbs.	140-158	131-154
700-800 lbs.	125-146	118-141
Slaughter cows	37-88	
Slaughter bulls	70-98	
Stocker cows	750-1275	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets
Cuero & Victoria, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-27-21
VOLUME: 1554
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	167-178	146-180
300-400 lbs.	161-224	137-168
400-500 lbs.	159-190	138-179
500-600 lbs.	143-174	134-165
600-700 lbs.	143-157	127-146
700-800 lbs.	133-147	119-144
Slaughter cows	28-72	
Slaughter Bulls	76-97	
Stocker cows	74-88	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.
Gonzales, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-28-21
VOLUME: 1270
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	220-225	170-175
300-400 lbs.	205-215	162-168
400-500 lbs.	165-185	149-158
500-600 lbs.	152-160	143-147
600-700 lbs.	145-150	133-138
700-800 lbs.	130-138	—
Slaughter cows	36-75	
Slaughter bulls	83-91	
Stocker cows	600-1025	
Pairs	750-1100	

SALE: Columbus Livestock Co.
Columbus, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-26-21
VOLUME: 905
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-210	120-195
300-400 lbs.	135-215	120-196
400-500 lbs.	130-210	115-180
500-600 lbs.	125-170	115-168
600-700 lbs.	120-160	109-165
700-800 lbs.	110-145	95-141
Slaughter cows	38-78	
Slaughter bulls	65-100	
Stocker cows	550-1250	
Pairs	750-1410	

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction
Industry, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-24-21
VOLUME: 721
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	130-178	120-180
300-400 lbs.	130-210	120-172.5
400-500 lbs.	120-205	110-160
500-600 lbs.	110-175	100-152
600-700 lbs.	110-156	100-145
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	30-75	
Slaughter bulls	78-93	
Stocker cows	550-1225	
Pairs	825-1825	

SALE: El Campo Livestock Auction
El Campo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 8-24-21
VOLUME: 533
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	184-220	153-188
300-400 lbs.	170-215	144-175
400-500 lbs.	155-208	136-160
500-600 lbs.	151-165	135-155
600-700 lbs.	141-158	135-148
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	20-90	
Slaughter bulls	80-96	
Stocker cows	—	
Pairs	975-1050	

Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, August 31, 2021: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 5,424, last reported (8-24-21) 5,704, last year 7,236. Feeder sheep/lambs 54 (1.0%), last reported (8-24-21) 250 (4.4%), last year 941 (13.0%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 1,748 (32.2%), last reported (8-24-21) 2,258 (39.6%), last year 2,665 (36.8%). Replacement sheep/lambs 163 (3.0%), last reported (8-24-21) 25 (0.4%), last year 156 (2.2%). Feeder goats: 74 (1.4%), last reported (8-24-21) 110 (1.9%), last year 362 (5.0%). Slaughter goats 3,201 (59.0%), last reported (8-24-21) 2,896 (50.8%), last year 2,967 (41.0%). Replacement goats 185 (3.4%), last reported (8-24-21) 165 (2.9%), last year 145 (2.0%). Compared to last week slaughter lambs 5.00-10.00 lower. Slaughter ewes 10.00-15.00 lower. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies weak; kids 10.00-15.00 lower. Trading and demand moderate. Supply included: 1% Feeder Sheep/Lambs (100% Lambs); 32% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (10% Woolled & Shorn, 57% Hair Breeds, 23% Ewes, 7% Hair Ewes, 0

Condolences to Strait family

Yancey Newman "Y.N." Strait, Sr. of Streetman, Texas passed away on Aug. 20, 2021 at the age of 71. He was born on March 2, 1950 to John Joseph "Jack" and Dorothy Louise "Dotsie" (Newman) Strait in Cotulla, Texas. Y.N. married Cynthia Ann Wooley on April 16, 1976 in Devine, Texas with whom he had two children, Yancey and Callie.

He was born to a ranching family that has spanned five generations. He graduated from Devine High School and Southwest Texas State University, magna cum laude. Strait started his career working for Devine Nuts, the family operated peanut processing business. Thereafter, he worked in agricultural finance for 27 years in Carrizo Springs and Uvalde until he retired in 2011. His passion always resided in his cattle operation and Santa Gertrudis operation, Strait Ranches, that he carried on after the passing of his grandfather, Y.C. Strait, in 1972. Strait was a revered cattleman, but above all he was a family man. He served on the Dimmit County Appraisal District Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Dimmit County Livestock Association and he was a district director of the local Soil and Water Conservation District for over 30 years. He was also a long-time member at First United Methodist Church in Carrizo Springs, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; son, Yancey Strait, Jr. and wife, Heather; daughter, Callie Loden and husband; grandchildren, Avery Strait, Arden Strait, Piper Loden, and Penelope Loden; brothers, Mike Coyne and wife, Leah; Greg Coyne and wife, Mindy; sister, Cindy Woodland and husband, Sully and numerous other loving relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Joseph "Jack" Strait and Dorothy Louise "Dotsie" and Frank M. "Chief" Coyne.

A memorial service was held Friday, Aug. 27, 2021

at First United Methodist Church, Fairfield, Texas. A graveside service will be held at a later date at the Big Wells Cemetery in Big Wells, Texas.

Memorial contributions may be made to National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation - Y.N. Strait Scholarship Fund, Santa Gertrudis Breeders International, P.O. Box 1257, Kingsville, Texas 78364.



Y.N. Strait

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Proposals...

(Continued from page 1)

the value of the estate.

The STEP Act, which was introduced by Senator Chris Van Hollen, proposes

to eliminate stepped-up basis, a concept under capital gains taxes. Capital gains taxes, Lashmet explains, are due when a person sells an asset that appreciated or increased in

value since it was purchased. For example, Lashmet shares, if a person purchased land worth \$500/acre and later sells it for \$1,200/acre, capital gains taxes would be owed on the \$700 increase in value.

“Right now, the way the law works is if you sell the appreciated asset, capital gains taxes are paid on the increase or gain of value,” says Lashmet. “This is true for many assets – baseball cards, stocks or land. It becomes a major issue for land because of the rapid increase in land values we

have seen over time.”

With the concept of stepped-up basis, when land is inherited at death the original cost basis is stepped-up to the value of the asset at death. For example, Lashmet shares, if a person purchased land worth \$500/acre, but when they died it was worth \$900/acre. If the land is passed to an heir at death, the stepped-up basis would allow the cost basis to be changed from the \$500 purchase price to the \$900 value of the land at the time it was inherited.

“And that makes a huge

difference,” says Lashmet. “Especially, for people in agriculture and generational farm families because some operations have land that might have been bought for \$10 an acre and now it is worth \$10,000 an acre. Without a step up in basis, which the STEP Act would eliminate, the capital gains taxes would be massively large whenever sold. So, it is a big issue.”

Another potential change in the STEP Act would be to impose capital gains taxes on unrealized gains at a person’s death. Currently, a person does

not owe capital gains tax until an asset is sold. The STEP Act would change this to impose capital gains taxes when assets were sold or when they were transferred at death.

The proposed bills may not only impact agriculture, but other sources conclude similar impacts on processors and small businesses across the country. Lashmet encourages agricultural producers of all sizes to consider their estate plans now, regardless of what happens with the legislation. It is important to have an estate plan in place, she states, and to be aware of how any legislation, current or proposed, will impact the operation.

“I do not think it was intended to do harm to agriculture,” says Lashmet. “But what a lot of agricultural groups are trying to explain is even if the intent was to not go after agriculture, agriculture may be unintentionally affected by this legislation to a really disproportionate level given some of the circumstances of agricultural and generational operations. It is certainly a concern.”

The Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University was asked by the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the House Agriculture Committee, Senator John Boozman and Congressman Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson respectively, to conduct a formal study on the impacts of the 99.5% Act and the STEP Act on American farms and ranches.

“Our role is to provide objective advice to policy makers so they can make decisions,” says Bart Fischer, Ph.D. the co-director of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center and one of the authors of the study.

The study is formally titled ‘Economic Impacts of the Sensible Taxation and Equity Promotion Act and the For the 99.5 Percent Act on AFPC’s Representative Farms and Ranches’ and can be found on the AFPC website. The findings outline the impact of the two proposed bills on American agriculture.

“For existing operations, there is no question these proposals would have a significant impact if they became law. The downstream impacts the legislation could potentially have are even murkier, but we

(Continued on page 18)

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Executive Director's Report...

By: Bill Hyman

Everybody seems to be mad about something. Whether it is inflation, taxes, foreign policy, Covid, masks, open borders, packer monopoly or your next door neighbor, nobody is happy. Step back and look at your own situation, we have had great rains, the cattle market is up from last year, you didn't pass away from Covid and college football is back for real. Try to look at the good things and don't dwell on only the bad. Don't let the sensational, "doom and gloom" headlines alter your lifestyle. Our country is still the best in the world, as is our rural lifestyle. Be glad you don't have to worry about smog, subways, homeless people and Loop 610 in Houston. Walk outside and enjoy the country air and the sounds of

nature. After doing this, remember the folks that are trying to protect your way of life. Thank the police, our soldiers, your local leaders, our teachers and your rural legislators, who work for you each day. Thank the organizations and associations that are battling for your rights and your rural values. Do your part to help, don't be an arm chair coach, be a supporter. Remember, there is always plenty of negative advice that is not needed. Step up and pass on your positive thoughts and your support. When Sept. 11th rolls around, say a prayer for those who lost loved ones and thank our military, who makes sure that horrible day never, happens again. God Bless America.

Chapter Happenings... Around The Lone Star State

Colorado Valley ICA Aug. 28th at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in La Grange. A big thank you goes out to all of the volunteers. ICA



President's Address...

By: Brad Cotton

Howdy folks, It's hard to believe we will be in September when this article comes out. Those summer rains made for a relatively short, green and cool summer. While hay production yields were good in our area the quality of hay has suffered. Army worms, stem maggots, extended cutting intervals and rained on hay all played a part there. I am not complaining though. When I speak of stem maggots many folks give me a blank look. These insects affect coastal that is usually about two to three weeks into the growth stage. They get into the top leaves and cause damage resulting in color loss, as well as tonnage loss. The answer is to spray just like you'd do for army worms. If they have not bothered your coastal fields yet, knock on wood. We have had them in this area two to three years now and they are just something we are learning to handle.

for membership is to form a collective group of like-minded folks who are given a voice to our elected officials on the state level. The larger the number of members we have the louder the voice. Should you wish to participate at the local level contact the office and they can steer you in the right direction. If there is not a chapter in your area we would be glad to work with people in your area to start a local chapter in the way of some financial assistance, as well as guidance and participation.

I mentioned our cattle sale last month and it is just around the corner. I am thinking the rain and current cattle prices will help make this another success. As with every year we need more females.

Consignments are coming in and should pick up steam the next few weeks. If you are in need of a place to market your good cattle, you can call the office or get on our website and look under upcoming events where you will find the rules and consignment forms.

While I am no preacher and this publication is not Sunday school, I feel the need to ask each of you to lift up the many in need of prayer. Between the border, pandemic, Afghanistan, our police officers, I continue to be amazed at our current state of affairs. Until next month stay safe, God bless and call if you need anything.

ICA

Grazing cattle can reduce agriculture's carbon footprint

Study recognized for focus on conventional, regenerative production carbon footprints

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife Today

Ruminant animals like cattle contribute to the maintenance of healthy soils and grasslands, and proper grazing management can reduce the industry's carbon emissions and overall footprint, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientist.

Richard Teague, Ph.D., professor emeritus in the Department Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management and senior scientist of the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture and the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Vernon, said his research, "The role of ruminants in reducing agriculture's carbon footprint in North America," published in the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Journal of Soil and Water Conservation presents

sustainable solutions for grazing agriculture.

The published article, authored by Teague with co-authors who include Urs Kreuter, Ph.D., AgriLife Research socio-economist in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, Bryan-College Station, was recognized at the society's recent conference as a Soil and Water Conservation Society Research Paper for Impact and Quality.

Teague's research showed appropriate grazing management practices in cattle production are among the solutions for concerns related to agriculture's impact on the environment. His article serves as a call to action for the implementation of agricultural conservation presents

(Continued on page 8)

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas



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2021-2022 Executive Board

Table listing Executive Board members: Brad Cotton, Paul Looney, Brian Malaer, Kim Ratcliff, Darrell Sklar, Tom Lester, Kerry Wiggins, Chloe Wilson.

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Table listing Board of Directors members across various chapters like Colorado Valley, East Texas, etc.

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Table listing Directors Emeritus members like Tom Beard, Lyndon Homann, etc.

STATE STAFF:

Bill Hyman, Executive Director Sandra Simi, Secretary, Accounting & Membership Cell: 830/857-3500 Cell: 512/620-3500 Email: hyman@icatexas.com tica@icatexas.com STATE OFFICE: P.O. Box 1168 • 220 W. San Antonio St. • Lockhart, TX 78644 www.icatexas.com • tica@icatexas.com • Office: 512/620-0162

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Footprint...

(Continued from page 7)

tural practices that can improve the resource base, environment, productivity and economic returns.

"We went to the society because it represents professionals who know soils, and to have it published and then recognized by them is huge and shows the validity of the work," he said. "I am extremely proud of the work and my fellow contributors at Texas A&M and around the country. And I believe

it to be a good example for how science can present solutions to serious issues related to agricultural production."

Ruminants as part of the solution

To ensure long-term sustainability and ecological resilience of agricultural landscapes, he said cropping and grazing management protocols are needed that can regenerate soil systems and ecosystem functions previously lost by neglect and destructive management practices. Fortunately, many prob-

lems caused by some current cropping and grazing agriculture practices can be avoided by ecologically sensitive management of ruminants in mixed crop and grazing agroecosystems.

Effective soil management measures provide the most significant possibilities for achieving sustainable use of agricultural land amid a changing and increasingly variable climate, Teague said. Regenerative agricultural practices restore soil health and

(Continued on page 10)



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Footprint...

(Continued from page 8)

ecosystem function to support ecologically healthy and resilient agroecosystems. These practices im-

prove net profitability and enhance ecosystem and watershed function.

Reducing carbon footprint with ruminants, regeneration

Grassland ecosystems

co-evolved with herbivores over many thousands of years as complex, dynamic ecosystems comprised of grasses, soil biota, grazers and predators, that deteriorate in the absence of periodic grazing, Teague said. His research suggests moving toward regenerative practices designed to improve soil biology and function.

Ruminant livestock are an important tool for achieving sustainable agriculture with appropriate grazing management, Teague said.

A key element is that

grazing cattle on permanent perennial grasslands with appropriate management helps develop soil biology to improve soil carbon, rainfall infiltration and soil fertility. Thus, much more carbon dioxide equivalents are sequestered into the soil than are emitted by cattle in that management unit, Teague said. Such management increases the production of forages, allowing for more livestock to provide improved economic returns compared to conventional methods.

Permanent cover of for-

age plants is highly effective in reducing soil erosion and increasing soil infiltration, and ruminants consuming grazed forages under appropriate management results in considerably more carbon sequestration than emissions, Teague said.

Incorporating forages with ruminants to manage regeneration of ecological function in agro-ecosystems can elevate soil carbon, improve soil ecological function, and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat if incorporated within goal-oriented plan-

ning and monitoring protocols.

“In non-cropping and cropping areas, grazing ruminants in a manner that enhances soil health reduces the carbon footprint of agriculture much more than by reducing ruminant numbers and provides highly nutritious food that has sustained pastoral livelihoods and cultures for centuries,” he said.

“*Effective soil management measures provide the most significant possibilities for achieving sustainable use of agricultural land amid a changing and increasingly variable climate*”

Regenerative ag practices for future prosperity

Teague said research can harm public discourse related to sustainable agriculture more than help unless scientists take a much broader view of agriculture as it is and can be. This broad view includes the potential societal and economic ramifications of proposed changes but also warrants providing solutions that can be used in policy and ultimately in the evolution of more sustainable global food and fiber production.

“The scientific investigations that call for the reduction or elimination of cattle and livestock agricultural production must consider the full impacts of the entire food production chain, and of different cropping and livestock alternatives,” Teague said.

Collectively, conservation agriculture aimed at regenerating soil health and ecosystem function supports ecologically healthy and resilient agroecosystems, improves net profitability and enhances watershed function, Teague said.

“When we’re talking about science, we need to look at the full spectrum of what is happening, weigh the positives and negatives of our options and be honest about the outcomes,” he said. “Then, we seek the most sustainable solution.”



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Land values show largest increase since 2012

By American Farm Bureau

The Land Values 2021 Summary report, released Aug. 13th by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), shows agricultural land values increasing at a rate not seen in nearly a decade. This report and its contents provide one of many indicators of the overall health of the agricultural economy and help paint a picture of costs that farmers face as they negotiate rent levels for the near future.

Farm real estate value

The U.S. average farm real estate value, a measurement that includes the value of all land and buildings on farms, clocked in at a record \$3,380/acre. This 7% increase over last year represents a percentage change not seen since 2014 when values increased 8% over the previous year. In looking at the dollar value of the change, this is a \$220/acre increase over 2020, a level not seen since 2012. These levels vary significantly throughout the country, with the highest real estate values concentrated in areas of the country with larger volumes of high-value crops (think wine grapes and tree nuts in California), as well as areas experiencing upward pressure due to proximity to urban areas. Much of the Midwest experiences higher levels of real estate values, followed by the South and Pacific Northwest, and finally the Plains and Mountain states. On a state-by-state basis, (excluding Northeast states with urban pressure), Nebraska, Kansas and Oregon all posted double-digit percentage changes over last year. These were followed by Texas, Iowa, California and South Dakota, each posting over 9% year-over-year growth.

Cropland value

Like the overall real estate value, average U.S. cropland values posted sharp increases in 2021, rising to \$4,420/acre. This increase came in as an 8% jump over 2020, which was the highest increase in cropland since 2013 when it jumped 14%. In dollar values, this year-over-year increase was \$320/acre, also not seen since 2013. The distribution across the country follows a similar pattern as overall real estate value, with California and Northeast urban

states claiming the highest average cropland values. Again, following that top category is much of the Midwest, followed by the South/Pacific Northwest, and then the rest of the country. The top three states in terms of percent-

age growth are Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, posting gains of 13.9%, 13.8% and 11.9%, respectively.

Pastureland value

Similar to overall real estate values and cropland values, pastureland values posted strong gains from the previous year, coming in at \$1,480/acre on average for the U.S. This is an increase of 6% over 2020, the highest increase since 2014, and follows six years of little to no increases in

value. However, the distribution of pastureland values across the country differs from the cropland value and real estate val-

ues. Instead of the Midwest and California, some of the more valuable state averages are concentrated in

(Continued on page 16)

Figure 1: Total Ag Land Value

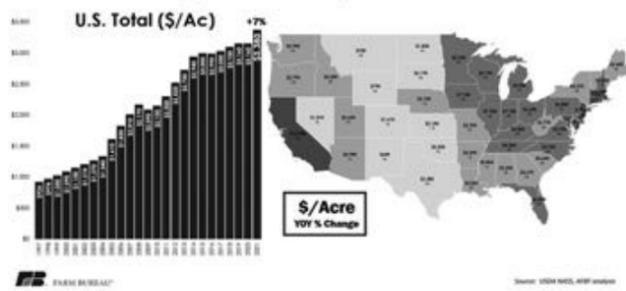
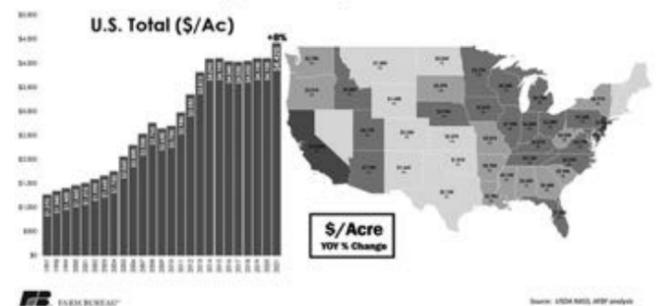


Figure 2: Cropland Value



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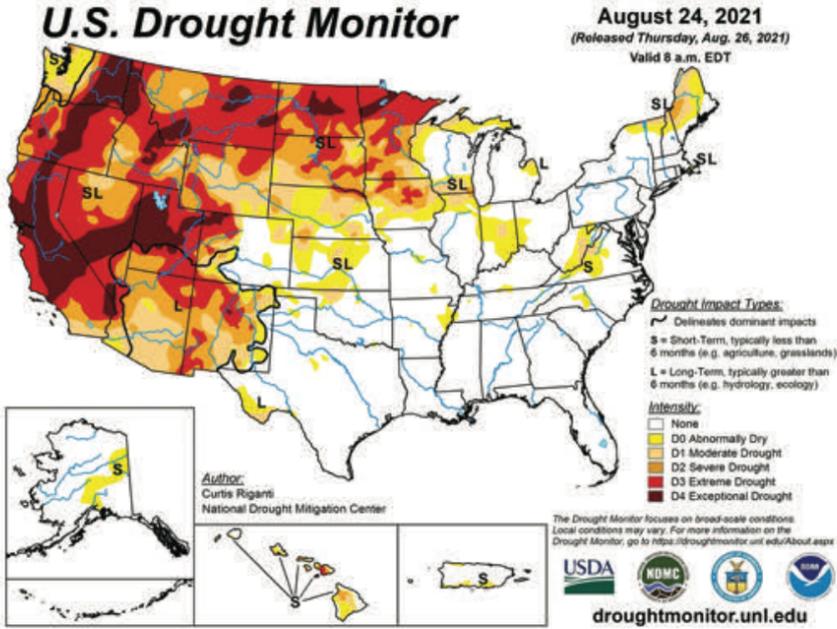
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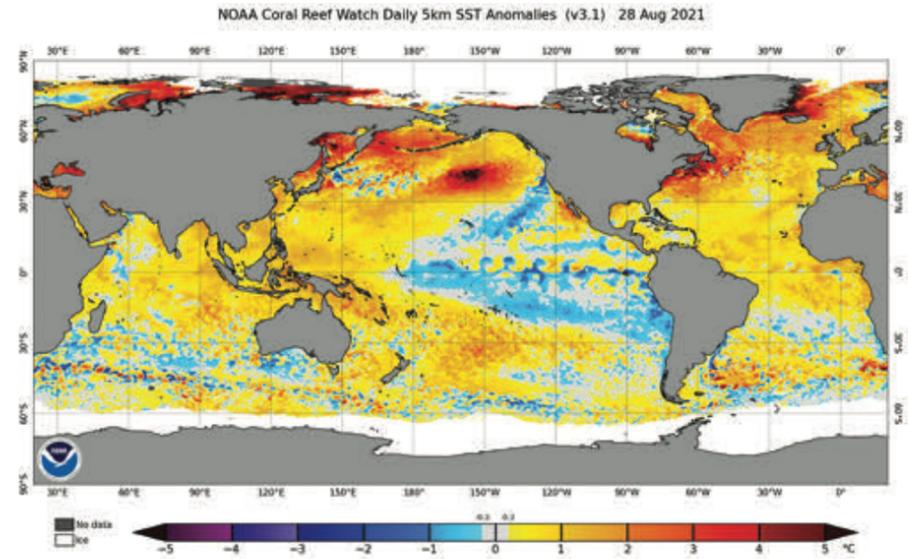
By Brian Bledsoe

Just a short update on how things are going, in regards to the current drought situation (or lack thereof) and where we are heading. The current Drought Monitor shows mostly a good situation for most of Texas and The South. Quite a different story for areas to the west and north.



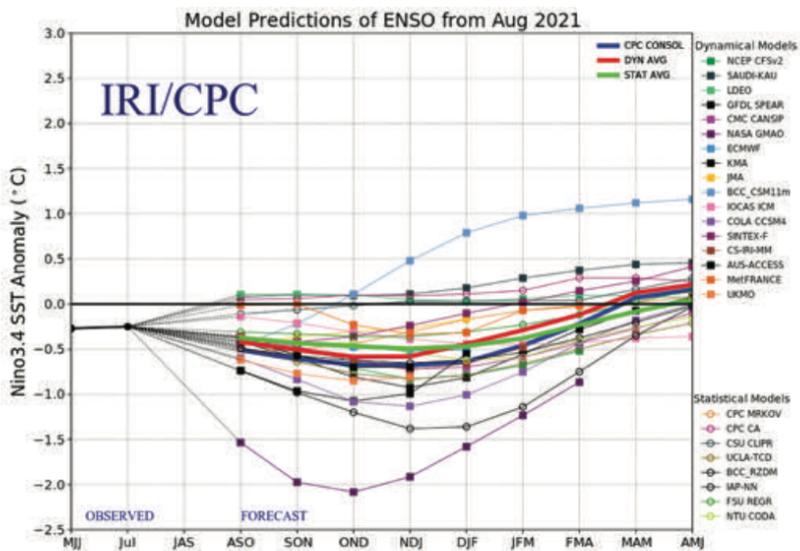
There isn't much evidence in the short range that suggests that this situation is going to change. Given the likelihood of the hurricane season lasting longer than usual and likely remaining active, there is some potential for some HUGE rains along The Gulf Coast and surrounding areas. Ida is a good example of this.

The map below shows sea surface temperature anomalies, and isn't really indicative of a La Niña. As I said at the Beef Cattle Short Course a month ago, this isn't surprising and will continue to take some time to develop.



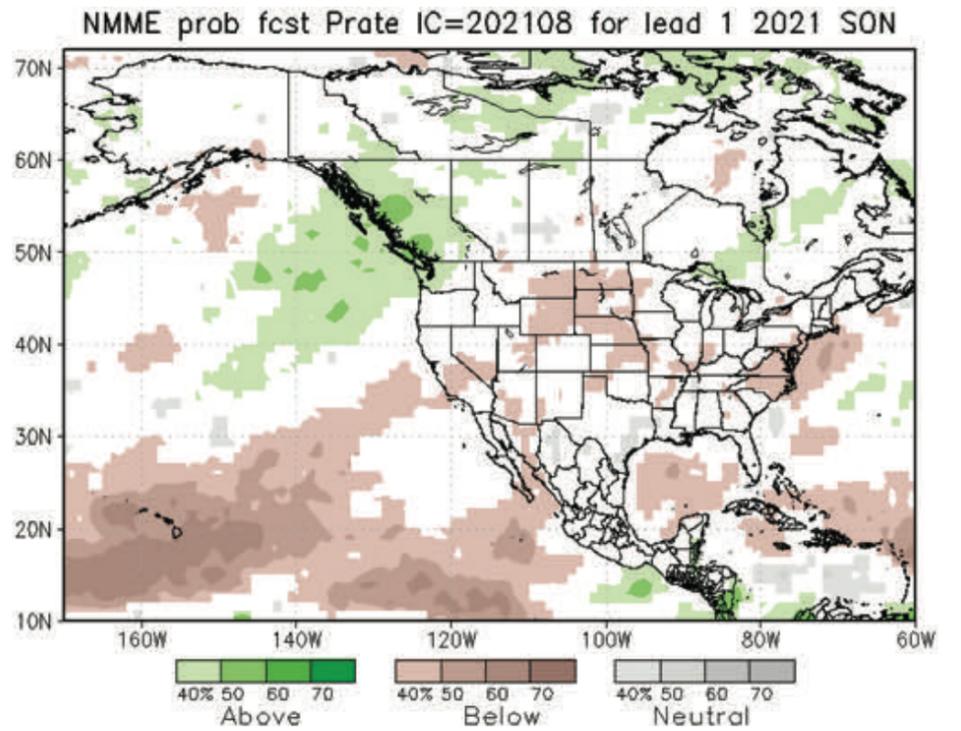
However, there is colder than average water along the equator and it is likely going to continue to expand. Overall, I continue to think the models have been a little to quick in showing the development of this La Niña. But it is coming.

You can see in the graph below, almost all of the models take their forecast and put it in La Niña territory later this year, and continue to keep it there until spring.

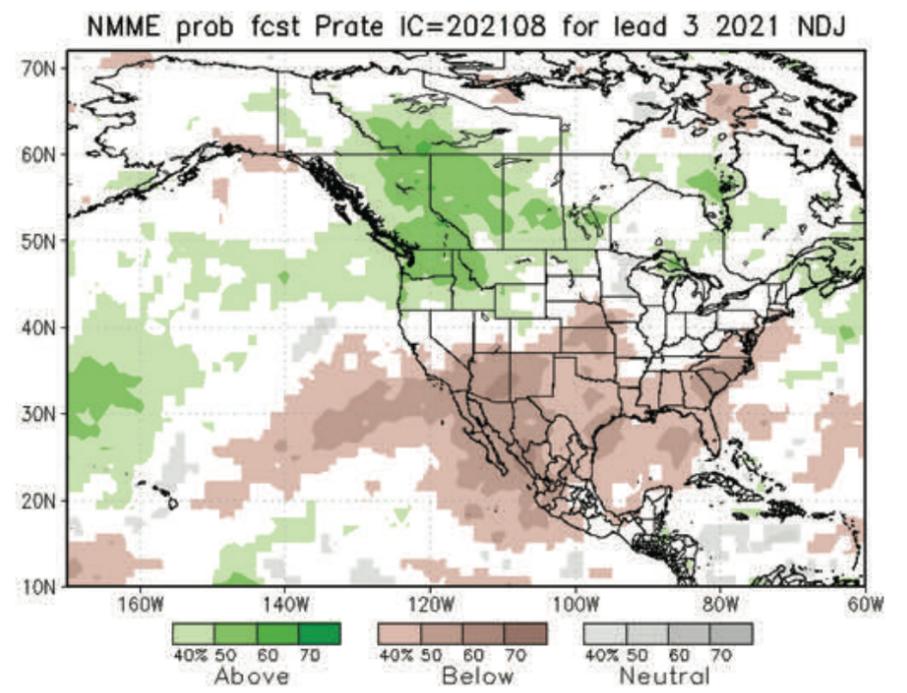


All of those lines that are at or below -0.5 are showing La Niña potential. So, does the precipitation forecast reflect that trend? I'd say so.

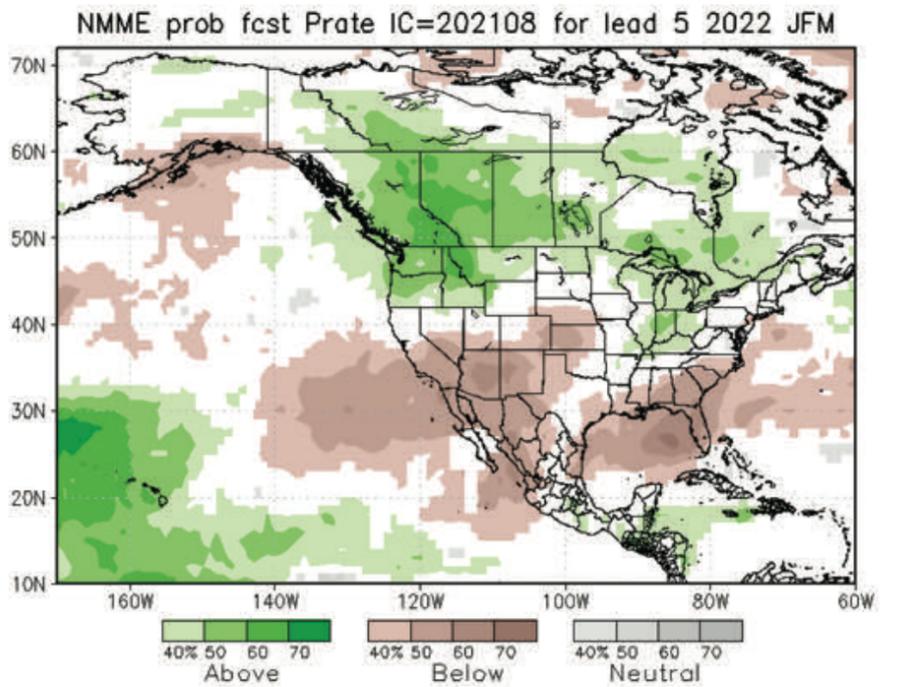
September - November



November - January



January - March



Notice how we are doing pretty well as the La Niña sets in, but then get drier and drier....especially during the heart of winter. This is pretty typical during a La Niña event... The new model info is out in a couple days and I will revisit this next month. Until then, steady as she goes.

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

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Agriculture outlook focus of Southeast Texas Ag Summit

Two-day event set Sept. 30-Oct. 1 in Baytown

By Blair Fannin, Texas AgriLife Today

A comprehensive overview of Southeast Texas production agriculture, featuring academic and industry experts, headlines the Southeast Texas Ag Summit scheduled Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Baytown Community Center, 2407 Market St., Baytown.

The two-day Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service event will begin at 2 p.m. Sept. 30 and run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 1.

Online registration is \$40 for individuals and \$60 for couples. Registration includes the trade show, barbecue social on Sept. 30, breakfast and lunch on Oct. 1 as well as educational classes, hands on demonstrations and continuing education credits for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license holders.

The program will include discussion of issues and an economic outlook of major agricultural commodities produced throughout the Southeast Texas region. Educational tracks will cover beef cattle production and management, range and pasture, conservation management and farm safety.

Program highlights

“Food and fiber produced in Texas has an economic value of \$100 billion, and Southeast Texas agriculture plays an integral part in that production,” said Shannon Dietz, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Harris County. “The Southeast Texas Ag Summit will address the overall economic health of agriculture in this region, plus feature educational tracks where producers can receive continuing education. We are anticipating a large turnout as optimism is running high for higher commodity prices and favorable weather patterns for producers.”

Adrian Garcia, Harris County Commissioner, and Jeff Hyde, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension director, will be keynote speakers beginning at 2 p.m. Sept. 30.

A trade show will also be held featuring several regional vendors.

“Discussions and educational track presenta-

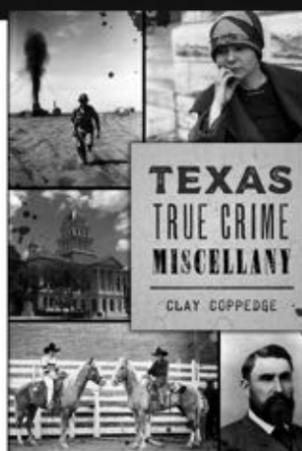
tions will appeal to farmers and ranchers throughout the region and help with decisions regarding their respective operations and stay current on the issues affecting Texas agriculture,” Dietz said.

A barbecue and social will follow at 5 p.m. Sponsors include the Harris

County Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and International Grill Team.

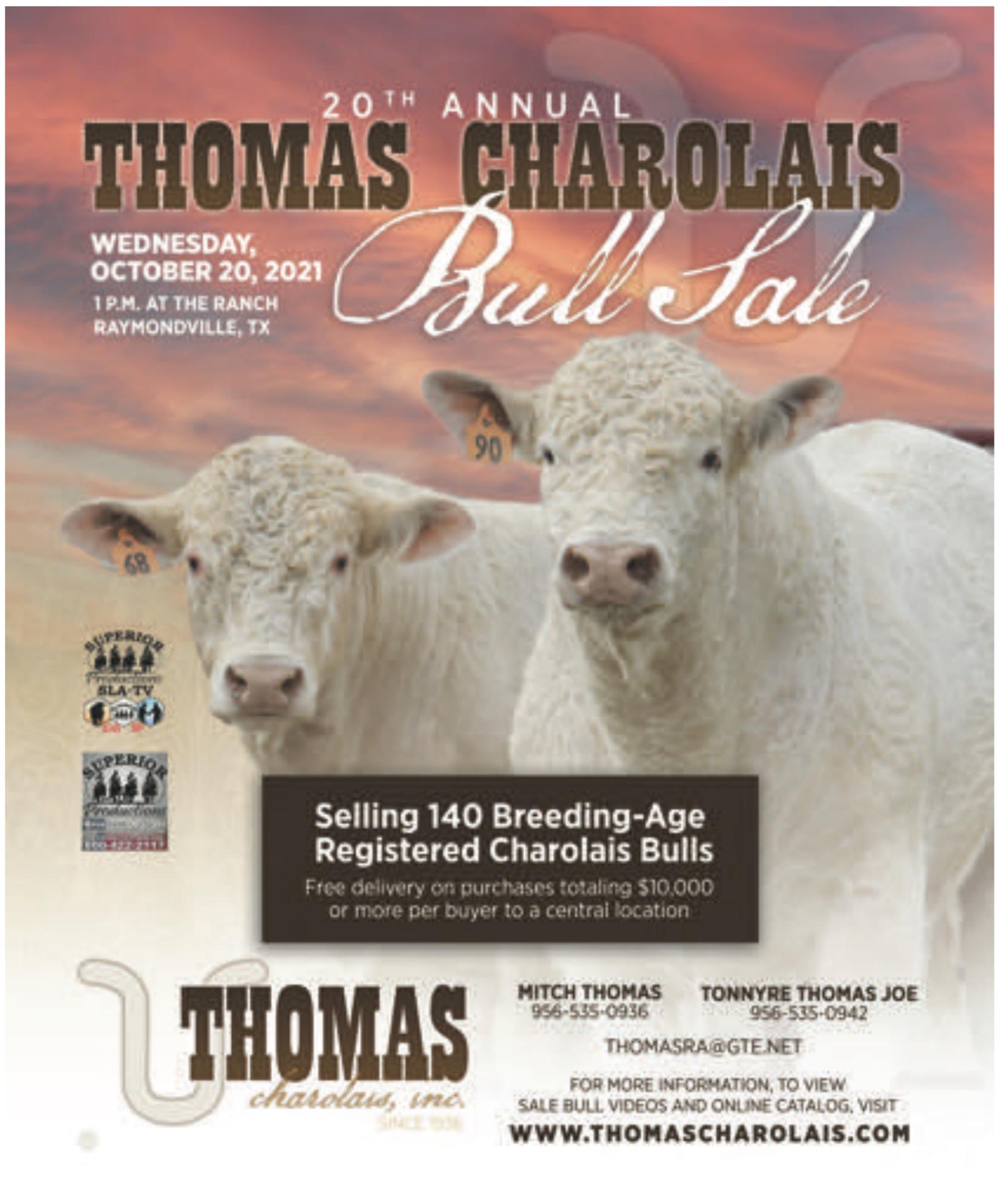
On Oct. 1, breakfast will be provided sponsored by Corteva Agri Science. Educational tracks begin at 8 a.m.

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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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Texas A&M Athletics and 44 Farms sign multi-year partnership

By Evan Roberts, Texas A&M Athletics Communications

Bryan-College Station, Texas – Texas A&M Ventures has signed a multi-year partnership with 44

Farms that will see one of the top beef producers in the United States as a proud partner of Texas A&M Athletics for the foreseeable future, it was announced Aug. 20th.

"We are thrilled to welcome 44 Farms to the Texas A&M Athletics family, a partner that truly embodies the spirit of the 12th Man," Texas A&M Ventures General Manager Clay

Harris said. "The great exceptional brand, much like the 12th Man makes what make them such an Texas A&M such a special

place. We are proud to partner with 44 Farms and bring such a great product to Aggie fans throughout the calendar year."

This comprehensive marketing partnership is set to span across the entire athletics calendar year, aligning 44 Farms with fall, winter, and spring sports, as well as a digital and social presence through 12th Man channels. All hot dogs and beef jerky sold at athletic venues throughout the year will use 44 Farms beef thanks to an exciting new concession integration in conjunction with Levy Restaurants, the official food and hospitality service provider for Texas A&M.

"This comprehensive marketing partnership is set to span across the entire athletics calendar year"

"We are proud to continue our longstanding work to support and encourage the student athletes and programs of Texas A&M Athletics," said Bob McClaren, president and CEO of 44 Farms. "These talented and dedicated men and women will become the future leaders of our great state and nation. It is an honor to further align 44 Farms with Texas A&M. We all know that Texas A&M provides the most exciting gameday experience in all of college athletics. We look forward to being a part of this great tradition and to even enhance this fun and exciting experience."

44 Farms President and CEO Bob McClaren was born in College Station and was instrumental in the establishment of The 44 Farms International Beef Cattle Academy at Texas A&M University (IBCA). McClaren was the co-chair for the Kyle Field Redevelopment Committee and the Blue Bell Park Redevelopment Committee. McClaren also successfully raised two Texas A&M former students of his own, following in the footsteps of their grandfather S.W. McClaren '53.

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Texas A&M AgriLife joins in partnership to protect livestock, wildlife...

Anthrax diagnosis, treatment and handling

By Texas A&M AgriLife Today

Although 2021 hasn't seen the number of anthrax cases registered in 2019, recent Texas Animal Health Commission reports of cattle deaths in the Rolling Plains and a horse death in the High Plains are gaining attention.

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL, typically diagnoses two to three positive cases of anthrax in livestock and wildlife every summer. This year, TVMDL has confirmed seven positives. Although these numbers are still slim compared to more active years and a report from Val Verde County is not surprising, the positives from Hardeman and Armstrong counties are, as they are not areas of Texas with a historic presence of anthrax.

Historically, anthrax typically occurs in an area referred to as the "Anthrax Triangle." This area in Southwest Texas is bordered by Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass. It tends to have weather and soil conditions that make it more anthrax prone. In 2019, there were 23 confirmed positive cases in several species, including exotic antelope, goats, horses, white-tailed deer and cattle, primarily from this region.

"TVMDL works to ensure the health of our state's livestock resource and a safe food supply," said Terry Hensley, DVM, assistant agency director for TVMDL. "Although TVMDL has not confirmed as many positive cases this year as 2019, these current cases serve as excellent reminders for all veterinarians and animal owners across the state to remain observant for potential cases of anthrax. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you have suspicion of anthrax in an animal to discuss potential testing."

Working together, against anthrax

When it comes to identifying, tracking and stopping the spread of diseases like anthrax, TVMDL is one of many partners working together to protect Texas livestock.

In accordance with state and federal regulations, TVMDL must report cer-

tain high-consequence diseases to various regulatory agencies. These include the Texas Animal Health Commission, the Department of State Health Services

and, in the case of a potential bioterrorism agent like anthrax, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well. Once reported, regulatory agencies work with affected parties to control the spread of the disease.

Additionally, Texas A&M AgriLife is keeping producers and county agents who might be affect-

ed by the outbreak updated. Recent anthrax guidance for Texas producers (Continued on page 17)



Cattle are just one of the livestock species affected by anthrax in Texas. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Laura McKenzie)

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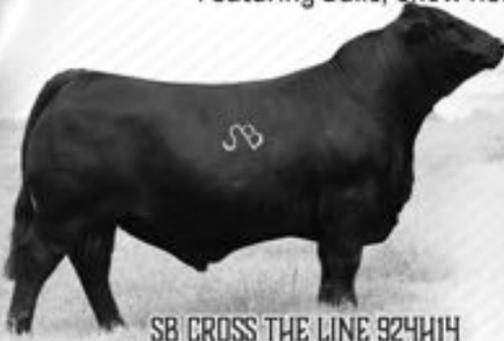
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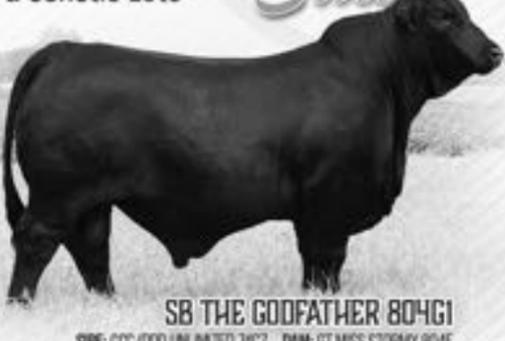
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Land values...

(Continued from page 11)

the South and the mid-South, with the Midwest and the Plains states making up the next group of higher average values.

Cash rent increases

NASS also recently released data on cash rents that farmers pay, and so far the strong increases in land values have not trickled down to cash rents. This tends to be more of a lagging indicator, and likely will be reflected in future negotiations that produc-

ers have with their landlords. Average U.S. cropland rent increased to \$141/acre this year, an increase of 1.4% over 2020. Irrigated cropland rents increased 0.5% to \$217/acre, while non-irrigated cropland rents increased 1.6% to \$128/acre. Cash rents for pastureland held steady from 2020 to 2021, coming in at \$13/acre this year.

Summary

This land value report from NASS showed sharp increases across the board

(Continued on page 17)

Figure 3: Pastureland Value

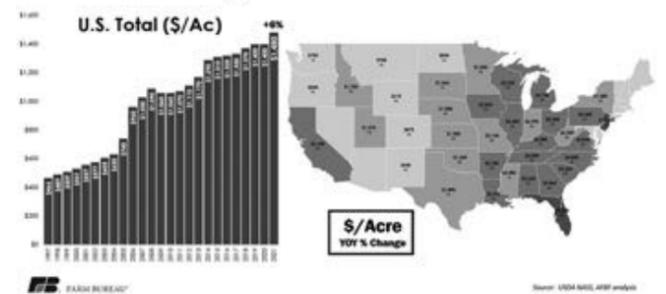
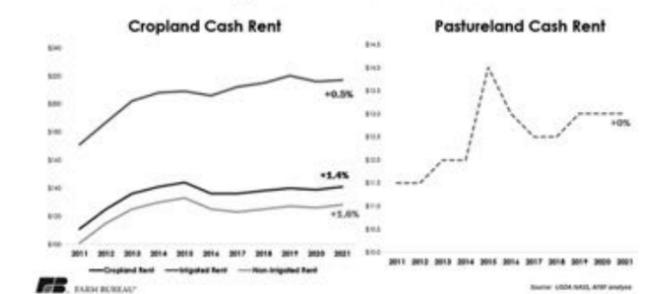


Figure 4: Farmland Rent



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Anthrax...

(Continued from page 15)

has been provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts Tom Hairgrove, DVM, Ph.D., cattle veterinary specialist, and Ron Gill, Ph.D., beef specialist, both in Bryan-College Station, and Joe Paschal, Ph.D., livestock specialist, Corpus Christi, all in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science.

Hairgrove said he has been discussing and teaching about anthrax in animals every day for the past month.

"The big anthrax concern this year is the location of the cases," he said. "For perspective, an AgriLife Extension meeting that was pulled together with only 24-hours advance notice in Hardeman County attracted 150 people to the courthouse – standing room only – and another 50 people attended virtually."

A wide variety of state experts participated in the meeting to answer questions over the two-hour period, stakeholders' concerns included wanting to know how to protect themselves and when they should vaccinate.

In addition, area veterinarians have been asked to view a number of potential

cases and are working with veterinarians in historical areas that have had outbreaks on a more frequent basis, Hairgrove said.

"We know the time to vaccinate livestock for anthrax is not now, unless you actually have confirmed anthrax case or are suspicious it might be a case of anthrax," he said. "And if it is not confirmed and you are not quarantined, use common sense and don't take your cattle to town to risk spreading anthrax at the sale barn if you suspect something."

Hairgrove said individ-

uals thinking about the anthrax vaccine who have not had suspected cases should wait until March and April, so the cattle will be protected during the time they will be most stressed with exposure during the summer. The vaccine only protects about six months.

What is anthrax?

Anthrax is endemic in certain areas of Texas, so TVMDL always expects to get a few positives every year. Caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, anthrax is a spore-forming bacterium that is naturally occurring

in soil in certain parts of Texas and around the world.

It is typical to see an increase in anthrax after wet, cool weather that is followed by hot and dry conditions. Outbreaks usually end when the weather cools again. Animals can ingest the anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay or inhale the spores.

Bacillus anthracis spores can lie dormant in soil for several years, even decades. Typically, the bacterium infects grazing animals through ingestion of

contaminated soil. Animals such as livestock and wildlife may also be exposed to anthrax through inhalation and through the skin; however, those are less common routes of transmis-

sion.

Anthrax is on the federal list of potential bioterrorism agents and is a zoonotic disease – a disease that can also infect humans.

(Continued on page 21)

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Land values...

(Continued from page 16)

in agricultural real estate values, cropland values and pastureland values. The average U.S. farm real estate value increased by 7% over 2020, while the cropland value and pastureland value increased by 8% and 6%, respectively. These increases are the sharpest in six or seven years, with little to no year-over-year increases in the last several years. The same pressures that are affecting many sectors of the U.S. economy appear to be impacting farmland values as well. These levels vary significantly throughout the country, with the highest real estate values concentrated in areas with larger volumes of high-value crops, as well as areas experiencing upward pressure due to proximity to urban areas. So far, the increases in land values have not yet been reflected in cash rents, with the national average cropland rent increasing by 1.4% compared to last year.



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Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

many barrels of hooch to the courthouse, where a great show of tapping the barrels and emptying their contents in the gutter had people cheering and praying and giving thanks to God and the sheriff's department.

The officers should have made that a whiskey and water instead of serving it straight up. When someone tossed a match into the gutter, the whiskey river caught fire and burned for several blocks until the fire department could extinguish it.

There was more whiskey where that came from, mostly from moonshine stills located in the Trinity River bottoms. The drinking establishments were back in business within days, if not hours, of the great whiskey fire.

The end of Prohibition did not put an end to Dallas Vice. Men like Benny Binion set up shop in downtown Dallas, providing a market for anything the law said you were supposed to do without. By the 1930s, Binion had worked his way up the shaky ladder

of the Dallas underworld, controlling the action with some degree of compassion, it's true, but also with an iron fist that might hold a gun that might be used to take care of somebody who broke the rules—Binion's rules.

"I never killed a man who didn't deserve it," Binion said, joining John Wesley Hardin and any number of other cold-blooded murderers who expressed that same sentiment.

Binion and his cohorts operated more or less freely though the 30s and 40s. The powers that be still made great shows of shutting down the gambling joints, but it was all a ruse.

The gangsters and the city had an understanding. The gambling joints could operate as long as they paid fines to the city on a semi-regular basis. The gangsters understood this as a cost of doing business, and the city filled its coffers with several hundred thousands of dollars' worth of fines every year.

This state of affairs lasted until just after World War II, when a new sheriff was elected. The old ways of doing business were soon gone. And so was Benny Binion, who took his act on the road, to Las Vegas, where he became a legend. Binion did fine without Dallas and Dallas did fine without him.

Proposals...

(Continued from page 6)

were asked to focus on the on-farm impacts."

The AFPC has a working group of 94 representative farms from 30 different states, which represent varying operation sizes, structures, and commodities. The study uses the 94 representative farms to analyze the impact of the bills.

The study reports, under current tax law, only two of the 94 representative farms would have an estate tax liability resulting from a generational transfer. Under the STEP Act, 92 of the 94 farms are impacted, with an average long-term capital gains tax liability of \$726,104. Under the 99.5% Act, only 41 of the 92 representative farms would be impacted, but the additional estate tax liabilities incurred averages \$2.17 million per farm. If both the STEP Act and the 99.5% Act were simultaneously implemented, 92 of the 94 representative farms would be impacted with additional estate and long-term capital gains tax liabilities averaging \$1.43 million per farm across the 92 representative farms.

A concern both Fischer and Lashmet addressed is the nature of agricultural

operations to be land rich and cash poor. When it comes time to pass an operation on to the next generation, the beneficiaries will likely not have the funds to pay the tax liability. Both also mentioned potential exemptions for agriculture and small business but were concerned about the Internal Revenue Service's ability to include all necessary persons.

Having spent almost a decade working in Washington at the House Agriculture Committee, Fischer urges producers to be aware, stay abreast of what's going on, and to speak with their congressional representatives to let them know their concerns. When asked if producers should be restructuring their operations now in anticipation of changes, Fischer cautioned against trying to guess what Congress is going to do.

"These are still just proposals that are under consideration," Fischer says, "but it is incredibly important for producers to be aware of what is going on and to be engaged in the process."

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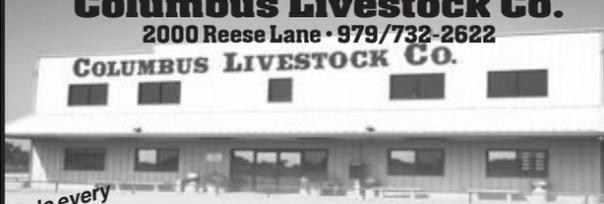
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AgriLife TODAY

Texas crop, weather

Alternative crops provide grower options

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife Today

Alternative crops like sunflowers and black-eyed peas experienced a mixed bag of production and market conditions this season, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Some crops are showing their value within opportunistic growers' portfolios, while others' potential continues to rise as their popularity increases among consumers.

Calvin Trostle, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock, said alternative crop acres dipped somewhat due to good prices among traditional commodity crops like corn, sorghum and cotton.

Farmers who typically grew confectionary sunflower and sesame seed reduced alternative acres or dropped the crops for the 2021 season altogether to take advantage of higher prices elsewhere, Trostle said. But alternative crops also made gains from technologies that will increase efficiency and new products that could translate into increased market demand.

"Alternative crops are typically grown as part of a producer's rotation schedule, but some of them are showing more and more potential," he said. "It is difficult for these crops to compete with large commodity crops in acres, but for a grower, they represent options that can improve the soil and bottom line."

Texas sunflower acres dropped to between 30,000 and 40,000 compared to 50,000 in 2020, Trostle said. Sunflower prices were good and kept pace with traditional crops, but buyer contracts were scarce for confectionary sunflower.

Contracts for oilseed sunflowers were enhanced by a single buyer who buys a range of Texas grain and seed crops for export to Mexico to meet demand there, he said.

There was also some sunflower demand from a bird food-packaging opera-

tion in Central Texas that finds better prices on Texas sunflower seeds compared to paying for out-of-state imports, Trostle said.

Sesame probably struggled the most, Trostle said. Prices were above normal relative to historic sesame markets but could not com-

pete proportionally with other crops.

Trostle said acres dropped as producers took other options. Last year, growers planted more than

50,000 acres in Texas.

The crop is the No. 4 oilseed globally, but it is a delicate crop that continues to be hand-harvested throughout most of the rest

of the world because traditional varieties shatter their seed, which makes mechanical harvest difficult. Texas producers have a technological advantage over international producers because of recent advancements in non-shattering plant varieties and the use of harvesting equipment that separates seeds from the pods with little yield loss.

One positive note for sesame's future, Trostle said, is that another non-shattering variety has shown potential in Texas.

(Continued on page 20)



Alternative crops like sunflowers performed well for producers despite good prices for traditional crop leading to reduced acres. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

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Schedule of Events:
Friday, October 8th
Viewing of sale cattle
10 am - South Texas BBA Board Meeting
2 pm - Miss South Texas Heifer Futurity

Saturday, October 9th
Viewing of Sale Cattle
8 am - General Membership Meeting
10:30 am - Miss South Texas Sale followed by the Buccaneer Classic Sale

Crops...

(Continued from page 19)

The non-shattering varieties and new products such as tahini continue to gain consumer interest.

“There could be some opportunities for some growers in North Texas because there is a proposed processing plant in Oklahoma,” he said. “Sesame is one of those crops that could be interesting because certain products are driving demand higher.”

Guar’s struggles continue, Trostle said. Guar seeds produce a polymer gum

and emulsifier used in oil fields, cosmetics and some foods, Trostle said. It experienced a bump in demand as fracking emerged as a cost-effective way to regenerate abandoned oil wells.

Prices collapsed after a high run-up that ended in 2013, and guar lost traction among other products, Trostle said. There is still some organic production of guar in Texas, but it was not contracted in Texas for 2021.

A potential boon for future guar prospects is current U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency work

that could bring federal program crop insurance to guar by 2023.

“The source material is inexpensive, and if the price goes too high, prod-

uct makers and manufacturers find other alternatives to use,” he said.

Black-eyed peas and beans average around 30,000-40,000 acres, but the crop turned out to be a good opportunity for growers south of Lubbock, Trostle said.

A large hailstorm in June devastated tens of thousands of cotton acres past the window to replant, he said. Black-eyed peas were an option for any grower with experience, as supply and demand economics worked in their favor.

California’s vegetable

crops, including peas and beans, suffered heavily due to drought and water restrictions, which left a supply void filled by Texas growers, Trostle said.

Seed and buyer contracts were readily available to growers with experience with peas, he said.

“Peas are a lesser alternative crop but are a great option for rotation because they are a legume,” Trostle said. “It’s also a short-season crop with modest water requirements compared to peanuts. It is a favorable outcome as black-eyes are doing well this year, and next season cotton will follow legumes.”

Trostle said he expects a continued evolution in the future for alternative crops here in Texas and beyond. The American Society of Agronomy has recently added balanced nutrition in foods to its standards related to food supplies and security.

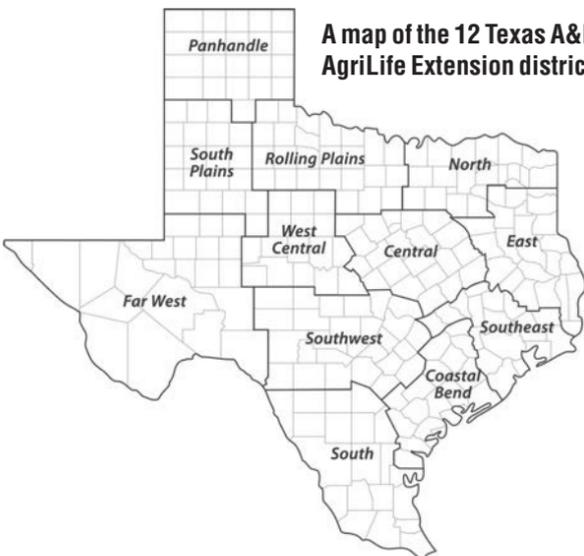
“The emphasis has been food security for a long time, but now they are looking at the importance of nutritional security and foods that provide balanced nutrition and health benefits,” he said. “Anthocyanins for instance provide anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory anti-cancer benefits, and some of our alternative crops represent food options that have a much higher nutritional density than other traditional crops.”

Trostle said producers are likely to see increased opportunity to expand their crop-growing potential by gaining experience and building relationships with buyers as market demand continues to grow.

Landing a contract and contract renewal rates favor experience and reliability, Trostle said. Building knowledge and know-how and a reputation as a reliable grower who can meet demand on a variety of high-demand crops can add value to a producer’s bottom line in a range of circumstance any given growing season.

“The key with alternative crops is for producers to experiment with a portion of their land to increase their opportunity by learning how to grow something new,” he said. “It can be for rotation or just to experiment, but the learning experience of success or failure and improving on what they get right or learning from what they get wrong can lead to new

(Continued on page 21)



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

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Crops...

(Continued from page 20)

opportunities that might relieve the pressure on an operation when weather or market conditions are working against it.”

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL: Pastures responded well to recent rainfall, and low-lying areas had standing water in them. Second-crop corn under irrigation looked excellent. Harvests continued. Pastures and rangeland were doing well. Pecan weevil emergence began following rainfall, and black and yellow aphids were causing issues in some orchards. Hay harvest continued. Livestock were in good condition, but fly numbers were increasing.

ROLLING PLAINS: Storms delivered spotty rains around the district. Wise County reported 4-8 inches of rainfall while Hardeman County reported hot, dry conditions. Dryland cotton stands were good and improving with rains, but crop conditions remained fair in some areas. Irrigated cotton looked very good. Flea hopper and grasshopper pressure were increasing. Corn and sorghum harvests were delayed by rains. Some sorghum was cut for silage. Pastures looked excellent for August with plenty of grazing for cattle. Hay supplies were abundant. Very little fieldwork was done due to wet conditions. Armyworm pressure on Bermuda grass fields was heavy. An abundant hay

(Continued on page 23)

Anthrax...

(Continued from page 17)

Therefore, anyone handling animals suspected of exposure to anthrax should take necessary precautions, such as wearing long sleeves and gloves.

Anthrax in livestock and wildlife

Clinical signs and common symptoms of anthrax in cattle, sheep, goats and deer may include fever, disorientation, labored breathing, muscle tremors, congested mucous membranes and collapse. It is possible for sudden death to occur without the presence of clinical signs. An animal can appear healthy and be dead within a matter of a few hours. In addition to the above clinical signs, horses may show signs of colic, enteritis and swelling of the neck and lower abdomen.

TVMDL encourages animal owners who have an interest in testing for anthrax to first contact a private veterinarian who can assist with evaluating suspect animals and the proper collection of samples. Once testing has been conducted, a TVMDL veterinary diagnostician can consult with private veterinarians and animal owners on additional testing and sampling requirements.

Protecting animal and human health

In addition to anthrax surveillance testing, TVMDL offers over 700 tests for a variety of diseases and conditions from clients across Texas, the U.S. and other countries.

For more information on anthrax and other TVMDL test offerings, visit <https://tvmdl.tamu.edu> or call the College Station laboratory at 1-888-646-5623 or the Canyon laboratory at 1-888-646-5624. To learn more about precautions when handling suspected anthrax samples and disposal of anthrax-infected carcasses, visit the Department of State Health Services website.



Livestock Sales Calendar

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



- SEP 4 South Texas Cattle Marketing Replacement Female Sale, Nixon, TX
- SEP 11 L Ray Ranch Complete Brangus Dispersal Sale, Poteet, TX
- SEP 11 Beefmaster Network Sale, Raymond, Miss
- SEP 11 XTB Simmental Cattle Sale, Canton, TX
- SEP 11 MBJ & Trio Power of the Brands Red Brangus Sale, Wharton, TX
- SEP 11 East Texas and Heart of Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association's Annual Production Sale, Henderson, TX
- SEP 17 **Nunley Brothers One Ranch Annual Female Sale, Sabinal, TX**
- SEP 18 **Midsouth Cattle & Neal Ranch Annual Brangus Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Morganza, LA**
- SEP 18 Club 1835 Elite Online Heifer Sale
- SEP 24-25 **Flint Hills Classic Beefmaster Female & Bull Sale, Paxico, KS**
- SEP 25 **Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association "Perfect Pair" Futurity & Sale, Three Rivers, TX**
- SEP 25 Pearsall Livestock Auction Special Replacement Sale, Pearsall, TX
- SEP 25 **Jordan Cattle Auction Fall Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX**

Weekly Sales at 11:00 AM
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- SEP 25 **Synergy SimGenetics Sale, Giddings, TX**
- OCT 1 Southern Jewel's Precious Gems SimGenetics Sale, Victoria, TX
- OCT 1 Peach Creek Ranch Cattle Online Heifer Sale
- OCT 2 Solid Rock Ranch Maternal By Design Angus Female Sale, Leona, TX
- OCT 2 American Red Brangus Annual Sale, Flatonia, TX
- OCT 2 **Scamardo Brangus Production Sale, Bryan, TX**
- OCT 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 7 **Dudley Brothers Hereford Bull Sale, Comanche, TX**
- OCT 8 Red River Farms SimGenetics Production Sale, Grand Saline, TX
- OCT 8-9 **The South Texas Beefmaster Breeders Association Buccaneer Classic Weekend, Robstown, TX**
- OCT 9 **Cox Excalibur Red Brangus Sale, Weimar, TX**
- OCT 9 Big D Ranch's Building Your Tomorrow Annual Brangus Production Sale, Center Ridge, AR
- OCT 9 **Addison Brangus Farms & Friends Performance Sale, Cullman, AL**
- OCT 9 Black Label Sale, Grandview, TX
- OCT 11 **Williams Ranch Co Brangus Bull Sale, Bastrop, TX**
- OCT 12 **R A Brown Ranch Angus Female Sale & Quarter Horse Sale, Throckmorton, TX**
- OCT 13 R A Brown Ranch Bulls Sale & Red Angus Female Sale, Throckmorton, TX
- OCT 14 **Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX**
- OCT 15 **Central Texas ICA Bull & Female Sale, Gonzales, TX**
- OCT 16 Fink Genetics 24th Annual Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
- OCT 16 MP Brangus at Diamond D Ranch Fall Brangus Sale, Poteet, TX
- OCT 16 Beef on Forage Beefmaster Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
- OCT 16 Carr & Others Fall Beefmaster Sale, Floresville, TX
- OCT 16 **Strait-Hefte Tried & True Santa Gertrudis Production Sale, Streetman, TX**
- OCT 20 **Thomas Charolais Ranch Bull Sale, Raymondville, TX**
- OCT 20 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- OCT 20 Texas Hereford Association Fall Classic Sale, Buffalo, TX

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Richard Hood - 979.224.6150 - richardh@amscattle.com
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- OCT 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Female Offering, San Saba, TX
- OCT 22-23 LG Herndon Farms Best of the South Charolais and Brangus Sale, Lyons, GA
- OCT 23 **Star G Annual Brangus Production Sale, Ben Wheeler, TX**
- OCT 25 Perez Cattle Company Hereford Bull Sale, Navasota, TX
- OCT 29-30 Quail Valley Farms Fall Brangus Female and Bull Sale, Oneonta, AL
- OCT 30 7P Simmental Simmental Bull & Female Sale, Tyler, TX
- OCT 30 **South Texas Hereford Association Fall Sale, Beeville, TX**
- OCT 30 Jordan Cattle Auction October Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 30 7P Ranch Annual Bull and Production Sale, Tyler, TX
- NOV 3 Cowmaker Angus Bull Sale, Crockett, TX
- NOV 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 4 Jordan Cattle Auction special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 6 The One Charolais Sale, Salado, TX
- NOV 6 Southern Cattle Co Annual Fall Bull Sale, Marianna, FL
- NOV 6 Tanner Farms Angus & Brangus Bull Sale, Shuqualak, MS
- NOV 10 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
- NOV 10 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 10 Barber Ranch Annual Hereford Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
- NOV 19-20 Cavender-Draggin' M Partners at Cavender's Neches River Ranch, Brangus & Charolais Bulls, Registered Brangus Female and Commercial Female Sales, Jacksonville, TX
- NOV 19 Salacoa Valley Farms Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Fairmount, GA
- NOV 20 Collier Farms Performance Tested Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
- NOV 20-23 LMC & Friends Giving THANKS Online Sale VII
- DEC 3 Lone Star Angus Alliance Bull Sale, Hallettsville, TX
- DEC 4 Jordan Cattle Auction December Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- DEC 4 Tom Brothers Opening Day Private Treaty Bull Sale, Campbellton, TX

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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Crops...

(Continued from page 21)

supply seems to be shaping up. Some producers were preparing to plant early wheat due to abundant rains. Creeks and rivers were flowing, and some were outside their banks.

COASTAL BEND: Drying conditions allowed harvest of corn and grain sorghum crops to resume. These harvests should wrap up within a week if the weather cooperates. Corn yields were average with a range of 100-125 bushels per acre. Soybeans yields were 30-40 bushels per acre. Some cotton producers started defoliation of their fields. Cotton prices were very high. Rice harvest started. Haymaking continued, with most fields being fertilized to make a second cutting. The district reported one of the most productive hay harvests in recent history. Cattle remained in good condition with strong prices.

EAST: Armyworms continued to be problematic. Cherokee County reported increased infestations, and producers were spraying insecticides to control them. Bermuda grass stem maggots were also a problem, but hay production continued. Most livestock were in good condition as producers reported more grass than normal for August. Smith County reported producers were preparing for winter pasture planting.

SOUTH PLAINS: Rainfall in some counties helped hay, corn and sorghum, but other coun-

ties still needed rain in a bad way. Heat units were needed to advance cotton development. Farmers were cleaning up weedy fields to prepare for small grain planting. Haygrazer and Sudan hay was being swathed for baling.

PANHANDLE: Soil moisture levels were short to adequate. Conditions turned hot and dry. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to good. Corn, sorghum and cotton conditions were mostly fair to good with some counties reporting good to excellent corn conditions. Cotton was accumulating heat units, but dryland cotton needed moisture. Soybean and peanut conditions were good. Weed control remained a problem due to flushes of weeds during wetter conditions. Livestock were in good condition, and supplemental feeding continued on a small scale. Some producers were preparing to plant wheat for grazing.

NORTH: Topsoil moisture throughout the district was short to adequate. Some areas received 4-6 inches of rain. Corn harvest started. Producers expected to see soybean and cotton condition improvements following the rains. Pastures and livestock were in good condition. Armyworms were causing widespread damage due to rainfall and cooler August temperatures.

FAR WEST: Conditions were hot but mild compared to an average August. The district received some much-needed rain. The timing and amount of the rainfall were very beneficial to cotton producers. The pecan crop progressed nicely. Pastures were much greener than normal for this time of year. Land preparation for small grains continued. Some cattle producers were holding on to calves longer than normal due to good grazing, but lower prices on heavier weight cattle were not benefitting them.

WEST CENTRAL: Cooler than normal temperatures continued across the district, with highs in the mid-90s and lows in the upper 60s. Widespread rainfall and flooding were reported as some areas received 1-4 inches of precipitation in an hour. Average precipitation for the area was between 3-6 inches for the week. Pasture and rangeland conditions continued to improve. Weed growth

increased in undeveloped areas. Hay grazer stages were all over the board as far as stand and maturity. Farmers reported standing water in cotton fields. Most cotton had flowered. Whitefly numbers in cotton increased, and southwestern cotton rust was a concern. Pecan producers were seeing some aphids in orchards as anticipated. Many alfalfa and Sudan grass fields were cut and rained on, which was expected to decrease quality and value substantially. Those who had not cut yet were cutting now. Producers continued to feed livestock and wildlife.

SOUTHEAST: Low-lying areas were still holding water making conditions difficult for producers, but some areas were improving. Hot and dry temperatures should dry pastures and fields. Rice harvest was progressing, however scattered rains were delaying farmers in specific fields. Several areas with Blackland soils were showing surface drought cracks. Pasture conditions were holding, and hay producers were still attempting to harvest what they could. Rangeland and pasture ratings ranged from poor to excellent with good ratings being most common. Soil moisture levels ranged from adequate to surplus.

SOUTHWEST: Scattered rainfall was reported across the district. Hay cutting and baling continued. Sorghum harvest neared completion. Corn harvest continued with average yields reported. Cotton looked healthy with lots of bolls starting to open. Livestock and wildlife were in fair to good condition. Cattle, sheep and goat markets remained steady or slightly higher. Producers were weaning and taking lambs and kid goats to market. Kendall County reported stomach worm issues with sheep and goats. Fall gardeners were plant-

ing. **SOUTH:** Conditions were hot and dry. Temperatures reached 100 degrees in some areas but were mostly in the 90s during the day and 70s at night. A few spotty showers were reported, but producers in most areas were able to continue fieldwork without interruption. Northern parts of the district reported very short to short soil moisture levels while central and southern areas were mostly adequate with some areas reporting short moisture conditions. Corn and sorghum harvest continued, and grain sorghum harvest was nearing completion in some areas. Cotton harvest was complete in some areas and defoliation was about to begin in other areas. Cotton bolls were opening in some areas. Early planted cotton was harvested

and at area gins. Peanuts were being irrigated and sprayed with fungicides. Forage crops were cut and baled. Bed preparation for strawberries continued. Turfgrass was being harvested. Producers continued to harvest cantaloupes and watermelons. Pecan orchards were developing well, and good yields and quality were expected. Pasture and rangeland conditions were drying down. Native and improved grasses were struggling in some areas and looked excellent in other areas. Ranchers were providing supplemental feed to livestock and wildlife. Feed prices were increasing. Stock tanks and pastures could use rainfall. Livestock were performing well and bringing good prices with late winter calves fetching very good prices. Fawn and quail covey numbers were promising.

Standard bull...

(Continued from page 2)

lay of the land is predominantly flat. These guys erected a tent for their sale and, wouldn't you know it, they get a huge rain the night before the sale. Where it is flat, there isn't anywhere for the water to go, so they had to put out trails of square bales for people to walk on. At another sale in Kansas, it rained so hard one year that the rain drained right through the middle of the tent. At another sale in Texas, it rained so hard that the roof was leaking in dozens of places. They put out as many 5-gallon buckets as they had, but that didn't stop the sound system from shorting out.

Over the years, we have had issues with rain, snow, ice and extreme cold and heat. And many of these events were memorable, although not always the kind of memory we were going for. Plan for the best but be prepared for the

worst. And no matter the facility, large or small, there are two additional points to note. First of all, make sure your facility is clean. This may be your once per year excuse to clean up the barn. And remember that most who attend will leave wishing they had their place cleaned up like yours!

The last little carrot that I will leave you with follows. There is a time to be spread out and comfortable and a time to be in tighter quarters. When there are 60 people spread out over tables with capacity for 200, one can have a meal or sit down and converse with people they haven't seen in a while. However, when it comes to sale time, those same 60 people in a ring with a capacity of 75 makes for much more excitement and electricity. When it comes to sale time, keep your crowd tight. You can always add chairs. But a setting that is 75-80% full always looks better than the one that is half full.

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Lot 1 - A polled three-quarter female from the Bella Bella family. Purebred Simbrale heifer calf at side bred by Smith Genetics.



Lot 4 Polled purebred heifer bred by Smith New No Fear and from the Bella Bella Cow Family.



Lot 10 Half interest with in this polled purebred daughter of Smith No Wave T and Topanga. She is bred to Smith Practical.



Lot 11 Just a May baby ready for the show ring. She is a polled purebred bred by Smith No Better Than This and from the Classic Family.



Lot 20 - A polled purebred daughter of Smith New No Fear and from the Delicate Cow Family. She's a December and backdrops on a hot future.



Lot 16 - A May polled purebred bred by Smith No Better Than This and from the She Waves Cow Family. This baby has a promising show career ahead of her.



Lot 25 Two embryos from this cow produced, Rita, who is from the She Waves Cow Family and Smith Satisfies calf.



Lot 26 Half interest with in this heifer. She carries the Topanga and She Waves families in her lineage and will breed to Smith Like Never Before.



Lot 27 - A March purebred baby girl. Bred by Smith Shortstop and from the She Waves Family.



Lot 110 - A fancy and gentle November heifer. She's a polled purebred bred by Bill Red Lobel.



Lot 121 - This purebred heifer has the National Champion Perambles as granddam and will breed to Smith Advancers, an up and coming young son of Smith Just Because.



Lot 122 - A polled purebred daughter of the National Champion, Smith WJ Go To and will breed to Smith Steppin' Up Your Game.



Lot 2 Two embryos sold from this cow, Smith CBC Bella Waa (primed) and Smith Satisfies. Embryos will be full able to lubback.



Lot 1 - Half interest with in this April daughter of Smith Practical and Smith Cow Bella. She is one of several practical daughters that will highlight the offering.



Lot 6 - A February polled purebred daughter of Lubback and Smith The Best Bella. This heifer is ready for the show ring.



Lot 21 - A young female from the Topanga Cow Family that will be carrying a Smith Practical calf. Half interest with in this cow that has unlimited potential.



Lot 26 - A 25% breeding interest in this young herd size prospect with. Will be polled purebred bred by Smith No Better Than This with the She Waves Cow Family as the maternal side.



Lot 36 - A polled three-quarter female, bred by Carson, from the Jubel Cow Family and bred to Smith Satisfies.



Lot 44 - A polled daughter of Smith Possible One, selling bred to Smith Satisfies.



Lot 55 - A January baby girl bred by Smith Just Because — what is quickly becoming one of the hottest ones in the breed.

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