SOUTHERN LIVESTOCK STANDARD

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Texas cattle producers plan for, look toward post-drought market

Texas cattle producers should be planning ahead and ready for scenarios that put them in good position to capitalize on a potentially strong post-drought cattle market, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension statewide beef cattle specialist, Bryan-College Station, said cattle producers face a range of challenges and concerns as herds enter fall and winter, particularly those related to rainfall between now and spring.

Producers need to minimize costs while maximizing their herd's productivity through these challenges because cattle market outlooks are positive, Cleere said.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, rainfall events in mid-August through early September reduced the percentage of the state experiencing some form of drought. More than 99% of Texas was experiencing drought on Aug. 2 compared to 78% on Sept. 13, but the percentage has climbed back to 89% as of Oct. 4.

The next drought monitor report is expected to show worsening drought conditions due to recent high temperatures and lack of rainfall, he said. The weather is expected to shift toward an El Niño pattern by spring, but the lingering La Niña patterns, which typically deliver warmer, drier weather to most of Texas, have left big question marks for producers.

Cleere said many producers still face tough decisions on their herds related to the potential costs of keeping cattle based on their operation's stocking rates and forage stocks. Some producers are facing decisions based on low pond or stock tank water levels.

Cow and calf prices are expected to rise following widespread herd consolidation across the state due to drought, he said. Producers should be mapping out their winter based on available grazing, forage and hay stocks, as well as expected costs for supplemental feed.

The goal should be to maintain a good body condition score going into the calving seasons so that those cows will breed back to ensure a good calf crop the following year, Cleere said.

"I am optimistic about cattle numbers and future demand over the next few years," he said. "We could be poised to be as good or better than 2014-2015, so we need to be thinking about the calf crop that will be hitting the market, and the costs of pregnancy rates and supplementation through winter. My fear is that producers will try to cut corners, and that it could impact the calf crop, fertility and the timely breed-back of cows, which would impact the next year's calf crop."

Cattle producers are feeding supplemental feed to help get their herds through the drought. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Adam Russell)

Be efficient rather than cut corners

Nutrition is not the place to cut corners, Cleere said.

Producers should aim for a body condition score of five for cows at calving, he said. This provides a buffer for lactating cows that will help them maintain a good condition as they recover for breeding.

Improving an operation's efficiency when it comes to animal nutrition can be done in several ways, he said.

Cleere recommends testing hay to determine the nutritive value and what type of nutritional supplementation may be necessary. Many hay producers reduced fertilizer applications due to higher nitrogen prices this season, and hay quality could be lower than normal.

"Hay supplies are much better than they were 60 days ago, but ranchers will still be cutting it close," he said. "It's a great idea to test hay and let that guide the supplemental diet in an efficient way."

Producers should also look into purchasing supplemental feed in bulk rather than by the bag or pricing other supplements with nutrition per pound in mind, he said. Total digestible nutrients per pound of feed is an important consideration because some less expensive rations may include higher amounts of fiber, which reduces the energy value of the feed.

Cleere said producers could also consider pricing troughs to reduce waste.

"Under wetter conditions, you may lose 20%-30% of cubes, and you can see a lot of nutrition go to waste on the ground," he said. "The key is looking for efficiency in our feed management and getting the most out of every dollar you spend."

Winter pasture could be good investment

Warm-season pastures are playing out at this point.

The investment in winter pasture, including ryegrass, could be another way to provide efficient nutrition for cattle, Cleere said. But that option is heavily dependent on whether fields receive timely rainfall events to fuel germination, establish good stands and growth if winter temperatures are mild, or during spring green up.

"There is certainly an opportunity to overseed with ryegrass, especially with the lack of thatch in many pastures," he said. "Fertilizer prices have come down, but the question is will it rain enough to get ryegrass pastures up and keep them going through spring."

Cleere said overseeding ryegrass in East Texas typically begins around Oct. 15, but that very few producers were preparing yet due to the moisture situation. Producers should be ready to capitalize on positive weather patterns if they are looking to establish winter pasture.

During the drought in 2011, Cleere said his operation received its first rain the week of Thanksgiving. He overseeded a sacrifice pasture that was grazed down with ryegrass the day after Thanksgiving.

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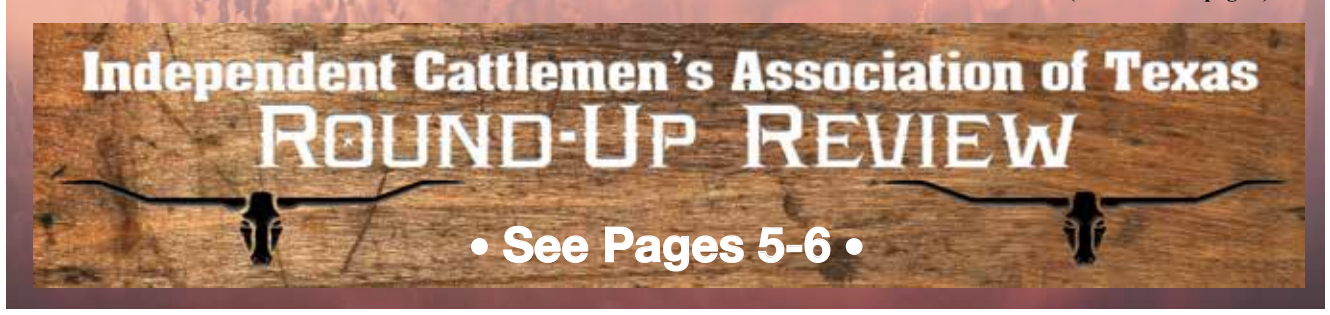
WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PERIODICAL



Just Your Standard Bull

By Michael Sturgess

We are now halfway through the Fall bull sale season, and I'd have to say the market has been very good in anticipation of higher projected calf markets next year. U.S. cowherd herd numbers are certain to be down. At some point, the numbers of cattle on feed will reflect this.

There have been years, if you will recall, that even with lower numbers on feed, that pounds of beef remained steady due to larger carcasses. When you go to killing them at 1,500 pounds, as opposed to 1,250, that makes a pretty big difference.

But in order to truly take advantage of larger carcasses, we really need to get back to utilizing more heterosis as an industry. That's right. Good old fashioned cross-breeding! The advantages of higher average daily gains, better feed conversion rates, higher red meat yields and even lower death loss rates come when you utilize cross breeding.

We are starting to see the feedyards, and even the packers, talk more about the advantages of crossbreeding. And I really think it is starting to show up in the bull averages of breeds across the board. Whereas in the past, we may only see increases in one or two breeds.

For those of you not signed up for Pasture Rangeland Forage (PRF) insurance, the time is coming soon. The deadline is Dec. 1st. But please don't wait until the last day. In addition to paperwork, we have to make sure we have all your acres and that all these acres are insurable. We will need some time to map these acres and then formulate a plan that works for you. So call us as soon as possible.

And pay close attention to Brian's weather column. Especially if you are considering planting ryegrass, wheat or oats for grazing. Some areas of the country may better suited to use those funds on additional hay. Brian does a good job of forecasting so that hopefully you can make better management decisions.

If we can help you in any way, please let us know.

USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 10/20/22

SPECIES:	10/15/22:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	1,531	1,353	65,935
b. Breeding Males	78	35	2,244
c. Breeding Females	50	53	1,111
Total	1,659	1,441	69,290
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	103	1,274
c. Breeding Females	2,225	0	13,257
Total	2,225	103	14,531
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	2
b. Breeding Females	79	0	4,515
Total	79	0	4,517
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	300	489	12,839
b. Breeding Males	26	65	1,077
c. Breeding Females	51	85	1,692
d. Geldings	11	31	660
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	14
Total	388	670	16,282
7) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	109

MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS

SPECIES:	10/15/22:	1-1-22 - Present
FEEDER CATTLE	10,296	346,992

MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS

FEEDER CATTLE	3,105	131,673

TEXAS Trails...

By Clay Coppedge

The old gringo in Texas

At the ripe of old age of 71, writer and civil war veteran Ambrose Bierce wrote to his niece, "Goodbye. If you hear of my being stood up against a Mexican stone wall and shot to rags please know that I think that a pretty good way to depart this life. It beats old age, disease, or falling down the cellar stairs. To be a gringo in Mexico – ah, that is euthanasia."

That last line inspired the title of novelist Carlos Fuentes highly regarded novel of speculation about Bierce's fate, *The Old Gringo*. An aging Gregory Peck played Bierce as the old Gringo in the movie version. But what really happened to Bierce in Mexico? Or did he meet his fate in Texas? A hundred years later, the mystery and circumstances surrounding Bierce's death are as well-known as his oft-cited book *The Devil's Dictionary*, but we still don't know the answer.

Historians generally believe that Bierce died in Mexico in a futile search for Pancho Villa and the next big story. The image of being "shot to rags" is as good a guess as any about what happened to Bierce. But it's still just a guess.

Because he passed through Texas on his way to Mexico, an alternative history suggesting that Bierce died in Texas— in Marfa to be precise— has taken hold in some quarters. The justification for this view is a letter written to the editor of the Marfa Newspaper, the *Big Bend Sentinel*, in 1990.

"Neither (Pancho) Villa nor his men had any involvement in the disappearance of Ambrose Bierce," the letter read. "Bierce died on the night of January 17, 1914, and was buried in a common grave in Marfa the following morning, in a cemetery located southwest of the old Blackwell school and across from the Shafter road."

The letter writer was a man from California named Abelardo Sanchez who was born in Marfa and lived there until he was 16. He was driving back to Marfa from California one day when he picked up an old man named Agapito Montoya, who had a story to tell.

Montoya told Sanchez that he survived the battle of Ojinga against Pancho Villa and was fleeing the scene when he and three fellow soldiers came across a sick old Anglo man who said he was looking to find Villa in order to write an article about him. The soldiers told him that wasn't going to happen because they were doing their best to get away from Villa. He offered the soldiers 20 pesos each to take him to Marfa, and they agreed.

On the way, the old man told the soldiers he had written a popular book. Montoya remembered that it had the word "devil" in it. The name he remembered wasn't Ambrose Bierce exactly, but it was close. Elements of the U.S. Third Cavalry captured the soldiers and the old gringo after they crossed the Rio Grande into Texas. The cavalrymen didn't believe the old man was a famous writer, and he was taken prisoner. He supposedly died in Marfa a few days later.

Jake Silverstein, the former editor of *Texas Monthly* and now editor of *New York Times Magazine*, stumbled across the letter when he was a young reporter in Marfa.

"The more I learned about Bierce, the more credible Sanchez's letter looked to me," Silverstein wrote. "His version of Bierce's end was so Biercian…A proud

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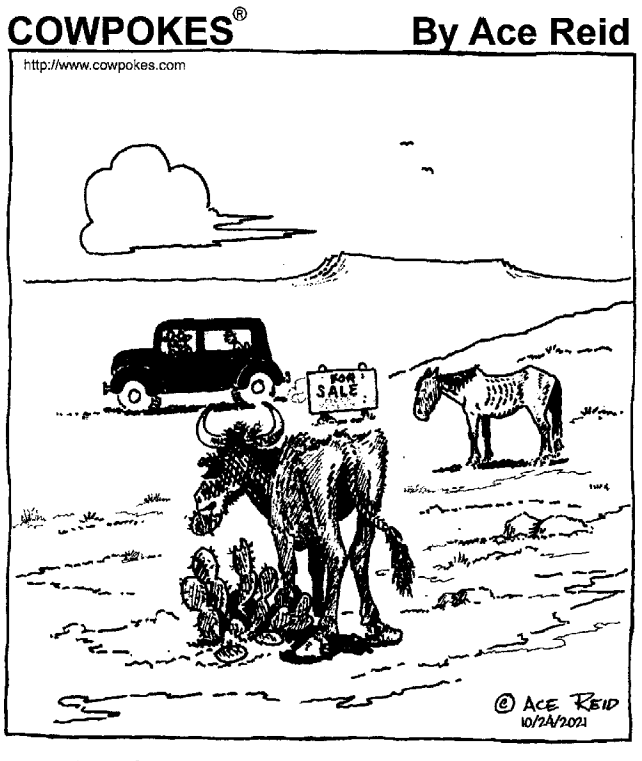

"Now if you'll buy this ranch, I'll throw in the livestock and there they are!"

Wholesale turkey prices rise as Thanksgiving approaches

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife TODAY

Turkey prices have been on the rise with Thanksgiving Day still more than a month away, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Market forces coupled with a force of nature – avian influenza – have disrupted the supply chain and caused turkey prices to trend upward, leading to shortages for some wholesale buyers.

Wholesale prices for whole turkeys are sky high, said David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, Bryan-College Station. Last year, turkeys reached a record high of $1.39 per pound in early November, but that price had climbed $1.79 per pound by Oct. 15, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

Anderson said the primary driver of this increase on already historically pricey whole birds has been bird losses to highly pathogenic bird influenza outbreaks over the past several months. The highly contagious and deadly avian influenza began hitting U.S. poultry production this spring, with the first case in a Texas poultry flock reported on April 2.

The USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reported more than 47.45 million commercial poultry birds, including broiler and egg-laying chickens, turkeys and various fowl have been lost to the virus that has been reported in 42 states, including Alaska.

The disease has hit hard certain production farms that have egg-laying chicken flocks and turkeys. For this year, turkey production is about 5% less than last year.

"The outbreaks may not be making headlines, but they are popping up here and there still," Anderson said. "I saw that it wiped out 50,000 turkeys at a farm in California, and it is happening to other poultry farms. These occurrences have dramatically impacted wholesale turkey prices and availability for some businesses."

No shortage of turkeys for Thanksgiving

Anderson said the avian flu impact on turkey is especially disruptive because the length of time it takes to grow them – eggs incu-

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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, October 20, 2022: Total receipts: 689, last reported (10-13-22) 1,531, last year 1,161. Feeder cattle 462 (67.1%), last reported (10-13-22) 1,210 (79.0%), last year 906 (78.0%). Slaughter cattle 117 (17.0%), last reported (10-13-22) 168 (11.0%), last year 127 (10.9%). Replacement cattle 110 (16.0%), last reported (10-13-22) 153 (10.0%), last year 128 (11.0%). Compared to last week steer and heifer calves and yearlings steady. Slaughter cows cows weak; bulls steady. Stock cows and pairs steady in light test. Trading and demand moderate. Supply included: 67% Feeder Cattle (50% Steers, 43% Heifers, 7% Bulls); 17% Slaughter Cattle (81% Cows, 19% Bulls); 16% Replacement Cattle (96% Stock Cows, 4% Bred Cows). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 18%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, October 24, 2022: Total receipts 7,938, last reported (10-17-22) 6,579, last year 7,966. Feeder cattle: 7,938 (100.0%), last reported (10-17-22) 6,579 (100.0%), last year 7,966 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers 2.00 -5.00 higher.. Feeder heifers 1.00 - 4.00 higher. Steer calves unevenly steady. Heifers calves 2.00 - 5.00 higher. Demand moderate to good. Last Friday's Cattle on Feed report bullish with less Placements and more Marketing's. Cattle futures reflected that bullishness and traded in the green on Monday. Supply included several loads of thin fleshed feeders off grass. These sold to excellent demand. Quality average to attractive. Most of the region receiving much needed rainfall and cooler temperatures to follow. More moisture in the forecast this coming weekend. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (60% Steers, 38% Heifers, 3% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 41%.

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.
Beeville, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-21-22
VOLUME: 570
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	144-173	120-127
300-400 lbs.	143-165	130-145
400-500 lbs.	138-165	130-153
500-600 lbs.	136-157	130-149
600-700 lbs.	131-150	118-142
700-800 lbs.	123-145	122-131
Slaughter cows	20-73	
Slaughter bulls	30-96	
Stocker cows	73-85	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission
Bryan, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-25-22
VOLUME: 988
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	170-200	138-165
300-400 lbs.	165-198	140-162
400-500 lbs.	150-199	132-165
500-600 lbs.	145-175	125-151
600-700 lbs.	142-166	122-139
700-800 lbs.	138-143	125-135
Slaughter cows	48-73	
Slaughter bulls	75-88	
Stocker cows	750-1100	
Pairs	950-1300	

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.
Three Rivers, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-24-22
VOLUME: 1654
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	122-212	104-160
300-400 lbs.	122-184	110-152
400-500 lbs.	124-176	108-152
500-600 lbs.	120-170	108-148
600-700 lbs.	114-154	104-144
700-800 lbs.	106-148	94-142
Slaughter cows	20-76	
Slaughter bulls	66-96	
Stocker cows	450-1175	
Pairs	800-1400	

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.
Nixon, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-24-22
VOLUME: 1343
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	109-200	98-158
300-400 lbs.	134-193	129-180
400-500 lbs.	142-191	133-165
500-600 lbs.	135-175	132-203
600-700 lbs.	130-160	125-160
700-800 lbs.	126-153	124-139
Slaughter cows	20-77	
Slaughter bulls	82-104	
Stocker cows	400-850	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC
Alice, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-18-22
VOLUME: 410
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	135-165	125-140
300-400 lbs.	130-160	127-155
400-500 lbs.	136-165	130-145
500-600 lbs.	132-155	125-140
600-700 lbs.	125-145	115-135
700-800 lbs.	110-135	100-120
Slaughter cows	25-70	
Slaughter bulls	60-95	
Stocker cows	800-1100	
Pairs	975-1300	

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company
Fredericksburg, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-19-22
VOLUME: 940
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-180	150-180
300-400 lbs.	160-185	150-167.50
400-500 lbs.	160-186	145-161
500-600 lbs.	145-178	130-154
600-700 lbs.	135-163	125-147
700-800 lbs.	130-144	110-129
Slaughter cows	50-72	
Slaughter bulls	60-95	
Stocker cows	800-1100	
Pairs	1000-1400	

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC
Groesbeck, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-20-22
VOLUME: 786
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	145-207	125-175
400-500 lbs.	145-180	130-170
500-600 lbs.	130-168	120-165
600-700 lbs.	125-155	115-150
700-800 lbs.	110-145	100-140
Slaughter cows	25-72	
Slaughter bulls	80-88	
Stocker cows	450-1250	
Pairs	650-1475	

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction
San Saba & Mason, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-20-22
VOLUME: 2252
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	162-185	131-159
300-400 lbs.	163-185	146-170
400-500 lbs.	162-188	146-162
500-600 lbs.	151-185	140-168
600-700 lbs.	144-150	139-153
700-800 lbs.	133-147	127-147
Slaughter cows	30-78	
Slaughter bulls	60-92.5	
Stocker cows	800-1325	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission
Giddings, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-24-22
VOLUME: 1346
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	148-210	139-180
300-400 lbs.	161-185	147-185
400-500 lbs.	151-180	144-180
500-600 lbs.	144-169	140-160
600-700 lbs.	137-159	134-165
700-800 lbs.	131-154	121-140
Slaughter cows	15-77	
Slaughter bulls	75-98	
Stocker cows	500-1050	
Pairs	1075-1375	

SALE: Lampasas Cattle Auction
Lampasas, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-12-22
VOLUME: 556
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	160-200	150-166
300-400 lbs.	153-190	148-168
400-500 lbs.	141-176	138-157
500-600 lbs.	125-177	132-154
600-700 lbs.	133-158	125-142
700-800 lbs.	128-145	106-136
Slaughter cows	30-72	
Slaughter bulls	88-96	
Stocker cows	700-1000	
Pairs	1000-1400	

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.
Crockett, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-18-22
VOLUME: 3348
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	138-203	135-168
300-400 lbs.	133-205	128-177
400-500 lbs.	129-190	123-170
500-600 lbs.	125-180	115-164
600-700 lbs.	118-174	110-159
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	50-72	
Slaughter bulls	80-90	
Stocker cows	590-1400	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Caldwell, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-19-22
VOLUME: 889
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	150-187	120-150
300-400 lbs.	155-192	135-177
400-500 lbs.	150-177	138-177
500-600 lbs.	145-172	141-171
600-700 lbs.	135-151	129-148
700-800 lbs.	122-142	115-137
Slaughter cows	30-79	
Slaughter bulls	65-83	
Stocker cows	575-1200	
Pairs	800-1275	

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Buffalo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-22-22
VOLUME: 1112
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	180-210	155-192
400-500 lbs.	170-197	150-185
500-600 lbs.	150-188	145-177
600-700 lbs.	150-178	145-157
700-800 lbs.	152-156	140-158
Slaughter cows	57-80	
Slaughter bulls	78-101	
Stocker cows	900-1375	
Pairs	1100-1575	

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.
Navasota, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-22-22
VOLUME: 1827
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	110-195	110-185
300-400 lbs.	110-187.50	110-175
400-500 lbs.	110-182	110-195
500-600 lbs.	110-175	110-165
600-700 lbs.	110-156	110-140
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	20-70	
Slaughter bulls	70-100	
Stocker cows	700-1150	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock
Brenham, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-21-22
VOLUME: 1193
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	150-210	140-192
300-400 lbs.	145-190	135-163
400-500 lbs.	135-185	130-168
500-600 lbs.	130-172	120-167
600-700 lbs.	125-161	110-144
700-800 lbs.	110-143	105-143
Slaughter cows	19-78	
Slaughter bulls	65-181	
Stocker cows	600-1275	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets
Cuero & Victoria, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-21-22
VOLUME: 1840
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	134-180	89-140
300-400 lbs.	141-196	115-170
400-500 lbs.	146-192	133-170
500-600 lbs.	145-163	129-158
600-700 lbs.	142-158	129-149
700-800 lbs.	137-149	118-145
Slaughter cows	20-74	
Slaughter bulls	80-102	
Stocker cows	75-99	
Pairs	1100	

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.
Gonzales, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-22-22
VOLUME: 1192
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	183-210	160-175
300-400 lbs.	169-175	155-165
400-500 lbs.	163-167	140-145
500-600 lbs.	143-150	130-143
600-700 lbs.	139-141	128-130
700-800 lbs.	130-135	—
Slaughter cows	32-72	
Slaughter bulls	83-99	
Stocker cows	600-1100	
Pairs	850-1300	

SALE: Columbus Livestock Co.
Columbus, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-19-22
VOLUME: 1097
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	140-185	130-192
300-400 lbs.	135-180	125-165
400-500 lbs.	130-178	120-151
500-600 lbs.	125-174	115-146
600-700 lbs.	115-156	110-141
700-800 lbs.	110-147	105-136
Slaughter cows	30-74	
Slaughter bulls	65-105	
Stocker cows	450-1275	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction
Industry, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-25-22
VOLUME: 1129
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	100-190	90-175
300-400 lbs.	100-187.50	90-167.50
400-500 lbs.	100-187.50	90-155
500-600 lbs.	100-180	90-155
600-700 lbs.	100-154	80-140
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	20-76	
Slaughter bulls	65-88	
Stocker cows	400-1050	
Pairs	750-1750	

SALE: El Campo Livestock Auction
El Campo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 10-25-22
VOLUME: 1432
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	135-188	130-172
300-400 lbs.	146-187	140-178
400-500 lbs.	149-185	135-185
500-600 lbs.	143-166	133-160
600-700 lbs.	136-155	130-151
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	22-80	
Slaughter bulls	70-95	
Stocker cows	900-1050	
Pairs	—	

Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, October 25, 2022: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 4,100, last reported (10-18-22) 4,131, last year 4,936. Feeder sheep/lambs 0 (0.0%), last reported (10-18-22) 123 (3.0%), last year 49 (1.0%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 2,050 (50.0%), last reported (10-18-22) 1,765 (42.7%), last year 1,696 (34.4%). Replacement sheep/lambs 37 (0.9%), last reported (10-18-22) 41 (1.0%), last year 0 (0.0%). Feeder goats 164 (4.0%), last reported (10-18-22) 207 (5.0%), last year 148 (3.0%). Slaughter goats 1,804 (44.0%), last reported (10-18-22) 1,706 (41.3%), last year 2,718 (55.1%). Replacement goats 45 (1.1%), last reported (10-18-22) 289 (7.0%), last year 325 (6.6%). Compared to last week slaughter lambs 20.00-30.00 higher. Slaughter ewes 10.00-20.00 higher. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies 5.00-15.00 higher; kids 10.00-15.00 higher. Trading fairly active, demand good. Supply included: 50% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (8% Wooled & Shorn, 76% Hair Breeds, 6% Ewes, 8% Hair Ewes, 1% Bucks, 0% Hair Bucks); 1% Replacement Sheep/Lambs (100% Hair Ewes); 4% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 44% Slaughter Goats (85% Kids, 6% Nannies/Does, 8% Bucks/Billies, 0% Wethers); 1% Replacement Goats (100% Nannies/Does).

Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, October 18, 2022: Sheep and goats: Light Lambs 10 Higher. Heavy Lambs Steady. Kids Steady. Light Kids Steady. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 120.00-260.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 120.00-260.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 120.00-250.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 220.00-345.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 250.00-335.00 Cwt. Light. Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 180.00-345.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (100-150 Lb) 115.00-180.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 40.00-115.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 100.00-160.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 170.00-410.00 Cwt. #1. Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 170.00-405.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 200.00-330.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 200.00-450.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 160.00-220.00 Cwt. Lower Quality Kids 100.00-200.00 Cwt. Packer Sp/Boex Nannies 50.00-200.00 Cwt. Stocker. Sp/Boex Nannies 250.00-300.00 Cwt. Angora Nannies 30.00-250.00 Cwt. Boex Billies 160.00-290.00 Cwt..

Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas

ROUND-UP REVIEW

P.O. Box 1168 / 220 W. San Antonio St.
Lockhart, Texas 78644-1168

October, 2022
512/620-0162

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email: tica@icatexas.com

Executive Director's Report...

By: Cooper Little

It was certainly a busy October for ICA with events across Texas. The Central Texas ICA All-Breed Bull & Female Sale settled as a success for all involved.

I want to extend a great deal of gratitude to all sponsors, volunteers, consignors and buyers that participated this year. Particularl,y Capital Farm Credit for being our exclusive meal sponsor. I also want to thank the Malaer Family for their continued commitment to this sale. Without them, this sale would not be a reality.

Remember, Election Day is November 8th. Feel free to call the ICA state office, if you need assistance locating a polling location.

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

Hot topics

Likely, by the time that this is printed, I'll be retired (Oct. 31). Of all the presentations that I have given, the one I call "hot topics" always seemed to generate the most audience questions. I borrowed the title from my friend and colleague, Dr. Rick Machen, formerly the Extension livestock specialist in Uvalde and currently a professor and chair with the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management.

There are several issues affecting the livestock industry in Texas and the U.S., most are well known by our national and state producer groups such as Farm Bureau, ICA, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, and others. I thought I would just cover a few here.

Changes to the "Waters of the U.S." or WOTUS is top of mind. Farm Bureau is doing a terrific job of following how the federal government , through the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, view what is private and public water when it comes to your property. Although the Clean Water Act of the 1970s was important in reducing pollution and improving urban drinking water standards, the proposed changes could affect your private property rights.

Mandatory livestock market reporting is another, especially the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022. I understand the concern that the four major packers control 80-85% of the fed cattle slaughter, but the details of this bill will add a considerable amount of reporting, a large bureaucracy and expense. Live cattle or negotiated sales have declined, while formula pricing has increased, but much of that is being driven by the need for higher quality cattle for labeled programs. I like the idea of transparency in reporting pricing, but do we really want to share that information? It's like asking how much money you make.

The last topic you may not have considered is the trade in carbon credits or carbon offsets. In response to concerns over climate change, Europe and later, California, required certain businesses to set a "cap" on their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or arrange a "trade" with another business that had reduced their emissions as a way of slowing down climate change. Carbon credits, based on the amount of carbon in carbon dioxide, a major GHG, could be sold or traded. Carbon dioxide was still released into the air, but it looked like someone was doing something. There are a lot of concerns over exactly how this will all play out, but it's something you need to understand. New Zealand is considering a tax on their livestock to offset their GHG emissions and it is worth watching what happens there.

President's Address...

By: Kerry Wiggins

Greetings,

I know it's only October (think State Fair, Red River Rivalry (TEXAS-ou) and all), but it seems like Groundhog Day to most of us in Texas who continue to pray for rain.

"Hot and dry" are beginning to sound like curse words for cattle producers in Texas and most western states. Hopefully, our prayers will be answered soon.

ICA continues to be active across the state with upcoming events scheduled for the remainder of October. You can find full details on the ICA website.

Be sure and note Mix-Tex Rural Community Appreciation Fundraiser and Street Dance for Oct. 29th at the State ICA office in Lockhart.

You don't have to be an ICA member to attend any event, but you'll probably want to be as you leave.

In addition, you'll find chapter meeting notices with dates, places and times. Most are after quitting time and are informative and fun get-togethers with your friends and neighbors.

Meanwhile, Good Lord, please send some rain.

Chapter Happenings... Around The Lone Star State

Colorado Valley ICA Chapter News

After two years of postponing the annual Colorado Valley Independent Cattlemen's Association (CVICA) Annual Fundraiser Barbecue & Trade Show, the directors voted to have the annual event once again. The event is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 11, 2023, to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in La Grange.

The CVICA chapter helps support scholarships in three counties: Colorado, Fayette and Lee. It also assists the community by supporting annual events like the Fayette County Junior Livestock Show and Commercial Heifer Show and Sale.

The organization has held this annual fundraiser for many years. The last fundraiser was held in 2020 and over 550 people participated. The event, along with several other fundraising activities, will feature a special trade fair prior to serving the evening BBQ brisket meal. The trade fair helps local compa-

(Continued on page 6)

Chapter...

(Continued from page 5)

nies exhibit their products and producers have a better appreciation of what our local businesses have to offer.

Horace Drisdale, event chairman and chapter director, stated, "We hope to have the same interest and participation we have had over the years. It is always a pleasure to have local cattlemen and their associates gather once a year."

The chapter is currently selling meal tickets and gun raffle tickets.

Until next month, Steve

East Texas ICA Chapter News

The East Texas Chapter of ICA will have its next meeting on Dec. 6th at the 1855 Steakhouse and Saloon in Palestine, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The restaurant is located at 555 East Palestine Ave. This will be the annual Christmas meeting with a "takeaway Santa" gift exchange. Join us for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and timely information. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Marie Reed

Gonzales ICA Chapter News

Our chapter was all in hosting the Central Texas ICA All Breed Bull and Female Sale at JB Wells Arena on Oct. 21st.

About 20 members, including several we have not seen hide nor hair of during the worst of the Covid situation, attended our September meeting. It was good to see our dear friends after such a long time.

Guest speaker, Jim Banner of Silveus Insurance Group, discussed hay crop insurance as a hedge against operating costs overtaking your wallet in off years. Members enjoyed a tasty meal prepared by Mike Ehrig, Ken DuBose, Barbara Hand and Kathy Winegeart.

Our chapter supports youth shows in Gonzales, Waelder and Nixon-Smiley, and maintains the Gonzales County brand monument situated on the Gonzales Courthouse grounds.

Submitted by Perry Winegeart and Steve Sucher

Guada-Coma Chapter News

Our next meeting will be Nov. 14th at 6:30 p.m. at Seguin Cattle Company. A BBQ meal with all the fixings will be served. Members are asked to bring a door prize and dessert.

We will be planning and accepting volunteers to help at the Christmas Party on Dec. 4th. Bring your silent or live auction items at this time. Bring a bottle of wine or six-pack for Christmas door prizes.

Christmas party tickets will be on sale at the door, prices still pending. Menu includes ribeye steak and all of the fixings. Please RSVP by Nov. 10th by texing Carilyn John at (210) 827-1696 or Allan Bode at (830) 305-1325.

Submitted by Carilyn John

Mid-Tex ICA Chapter News

Howdy from the Mid-Tex ICA Chapter! We hope everyone is doing well and enjoying a well-deserved break from the heat. If only we could get a little rain to go with it!

The cattle market the last month has been a typical October market that trends downwards. With the drought causing an uptick in volume, along with high prices for grain and hay, the market has taken a hit. The good quality cattle still dollar well, but the odd and in-between cattle are sure spotty.

We wanted to remind everyone that there will be a rural community appreciation fundraiser and street dance benefitting the Mid-Tex ICA on Saturday, Oct. 29th with food and drinks from 5-9:30 p.m., and live music which will kick off at 6 p.m. This will be at the ICA State Headquarters in Lockhart. We would love to see some new faces and catch up with the old faces we always love to see. Come out and enjoy a nice evening with us!

As always, pray for rain and the U.S.A. – Madi Bexley

Texas cattle...

(Continued from page 1)

"It was a mild winter, we fertilized and we had good rain, and by the end of January we had a foot of ryegrass," he said. "That turned out to be a perfect winter for that, but it started with being ready for the rain.

"The positive is the numbers and indications that we're seeing good market predictions," he said. "The negatives are what we are dealing with right now with the drought and the cost of everything. We'll need those expected prices to see profits, and so we need to be doing everything we can to control costs without sacrificing herd production."

AgriLife...

(Continued from page 3)

bate for 28 days and another 10-18 weeks for those hatchlings to reach their harvest weights. That means turkey flocks, and other longer-term poultry like egg-laying hens, are at risk of potential exposure to the pathogen. It takes 3.5-5.5 months to replace a flock lost to avian influenza.

Holiday shoppers should not fret, he said, but they

(Continued on page 8)

AgriLife...

(Continued from page 6)

should be prepared to buy early or shop around for a Thanksgiving Day centerpiece turkey.

The good news is that Anderson is not concerned about a shortage of whole birds for the holidays. Stocked turkey supplies build throughout the year to make sure they are available to major grocers in November. Most grocers have order contracts with suppliers that are set up to a year in advance. Demand from big buyers like major grocers will be the priority when it comes to the available supplies.

Anderson said cold storage stocks of whole turkeys are about 3% lower than last year according to USDA cold storage stocks data, which indicates suppliers are working to meet holiday demand. While the data shows about 13% fewer tom turkeys in storage, there are about 12% more hens in storage.

The price of whole turkeys could be higher at grocery stores, he said, but grocers may also take losses on whole birds as features or specials to entice consumers into stores in the hopes they continue shopping for other items.

Consumer preferences on turkey brand, size, fresh or frozen could all play into the price and availability, Anderson said. But grocers also know consumers might consider other options – a ham or rib roast – and competitive deals by one store could drive others to commit to a more enticing deal.

"As a consumer, it might be a good idea to have a strategy this year," he said. "Last year, when prices were high, I went to the store the first day because we wanted a particular size. The store had specials on them then, but then I saw a store had a terrific deal on turkeys the day before Thanksgiving. They had turkeys still on hand and needed to move them., and that translated into lower prices."

Smaller-scale buyers, businesses impacted most

When it comes to turkey, historically there are two major markets for birds – deli meat and whole birds for the holidays. There is niche demand for turkey legs around fair season and consistent demand for turkey breasts from restaurants, but the bulk of turkey is committed to deli meats and Thanksgiving.

While large grocers and big buyers of turkey may be facing higher prices, the demand for whole birds and turkey breasts amid a continuing avian influenza outbreak is stressing smaller-scale buyers such as local meat markets and restaurants.

The local deli that brines and bakes its own birds or barbecue joints with smoked turkey are struggling to find wholesale sellers willing to part with stock.

"I've had this conversation with multiple mom-and-pop businesses about the wholesale turkey supply," he said. "It's not because they're high priced; it's that they can't even get them, and that's really hurting those smaller buyers."

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

CENTRAL: Very dry conditions continued

(Continued on page 11)

Texas trails...

(Continued from page 2)

old man of letters, intent on finishing his life on a valorous note, sallies forth into a war-ravaged nation in search of a heroic death before a firing squad or in the heat of battle." Silverstein went looking for Bierce's grave and, with the help of a friendly local, found the spot, but not the grave.

Glenn Willeford at Sul Ross College in Alpine cast serious doubts on the letter's validity when Silverstein went to see him. Willeford believes that neither the story's geography nor the time of day (or night) when it happened match up. Beyond that, Willeford notes that the soldiers were fleeing for their lives and finds it doubtful they would have had the time or the inclination to detour for the sake of an old gringo. He believes the U.S. Cavalry would have sent on old and ailing gringo, especially a famous one, to a Red Cross Hospital in Presidio. And there is no record of an Old Gringo dying in Marfa around that time, leaving us with no more evidence than we've ever had but with more material to fuel additional speculation.

What would have Bierce have made of all this?

Perhaps a clue lies in *The Devil's Dictionary* where he defines history as "an account mostly false, of events mostly unimportant."

New grant program will spur competition and help U.S. farmers address rising costs of fertlizer

Source: USDA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, 2022 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the Biden-Harris Administration is making $500 million in grants available to increase American-made fertilizer production to spur competition and combat price hikes on U.S. farmers caused by the war in Ukraine.

"Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA is creating a resilient, secure and sustainable economy, and this support to provide domestic, independent choices for fertilizer supplies is part of that effort," Vilsack said. "USDA believes in the growth of innovative, local businesses owned and shared by people who can best serve their own unique community's needs, fill gaps, and build opportunities. Recent supply chain disruptions have shown just how critical it is to invest in the agricultural supply chain here at home. The Fertilizer Production Expansion Program is one example of many Biden-Harris Administration initiatives to bring production and jobs back to the United States, promote competition and support American goods and services."

The Biden-Harris Administration's Fertilizer Production Expansion Program is part of a whole-of-government effort to promote competition in agricultural markets. The funds are being made available through the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Grants will be used to support independent, innovative and sustainable American fertilizer production to supply American farmers. Funds also will expand the manufacturing and processing of fertilizer and nutrient alternatives in the U.S. and its territories.

The program will support fertilizer production that is:

• **Independent and outside the orbit of dominant fertilizer suppliers.** Because the program's goal is to increase competition, market share restrictions apply.

• **Made in America.** Products must be produced by companies operating in the U.S. or its territories, to create good-paying jobs at home, and reduce the reliance on potentially unstable, inconsistent foreign supplies.

• **Innovative.** Techniques will improve fertilizer production methods and efficient-use technologies to jumpstart the next generation of fertilizers and nutrient alternatives.

• **Sustainable.** Ideally, products will reduce the greenhouse gas impact of transportation, production and use through renewable energy sources, feedstocks and formulations, incentivizing greater precision in fertilizer use.

• **Farmer-focused.** Like other Commodity Credit Corporation investments, a driving factor is providing support and opportunities for U.S. agricultural commodity producers.

Eligible entities are for-profit businesses and corporations, nonprofit entities, Tribes and Tribal organizations, producer-owned cooperatives and corporations, certified benefit corporations, and state or local governments. Private entities must be independently owned and operated to apply.

The maximum award is $100 million. The minimum award is $1 million. The grant term is five years.

The Department will begin accepting applications in the coming days via www.grants.gov.

Analog year update

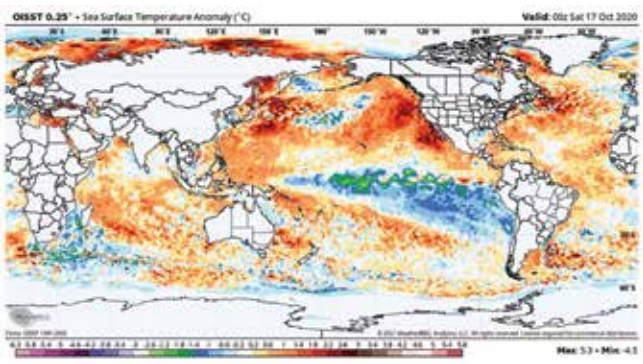
I know many of you are interested in knowing what years from the past look like as to what we are seeing now...i.e. analog years. I have a few that I want to share with you, but I also want to caution you about using them exclusively.

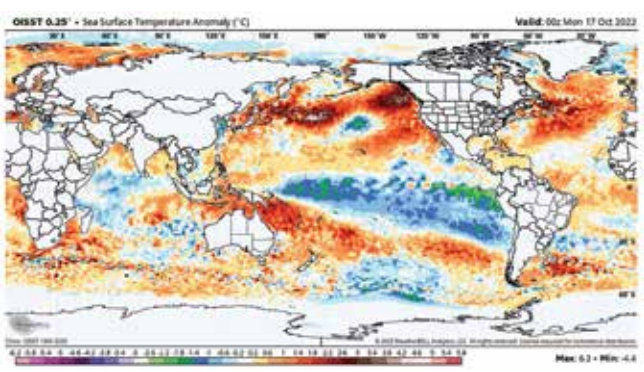
1. We are in strong La Niña now, but will likely see it fade late this winter and early spring.

2. This transition makes it tough to use an analog year much beyond March or April.

3. We may also have an atmospheric hangover from La Niña, before we transition to a possible El Niño. This may aid to linger dryness in the center part of the country.

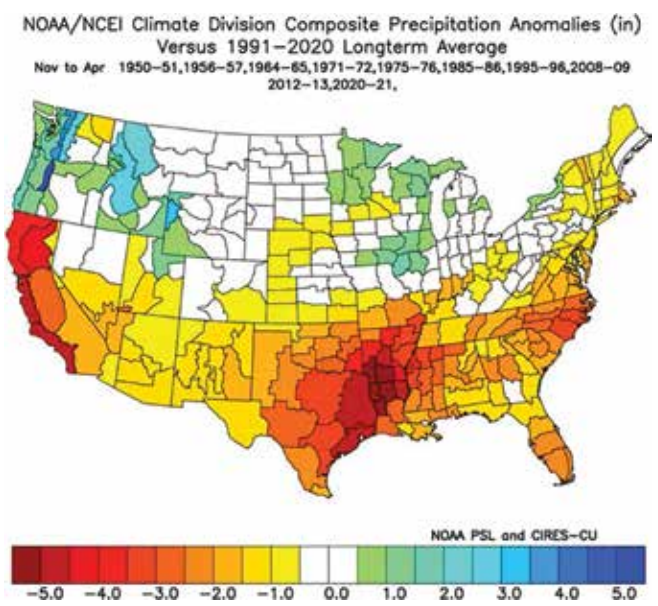
4. There will not be a perfect analog year to what we are going to see. However, the current sea surface temperature anomaly setup is pretty close to that of 2020. See below:

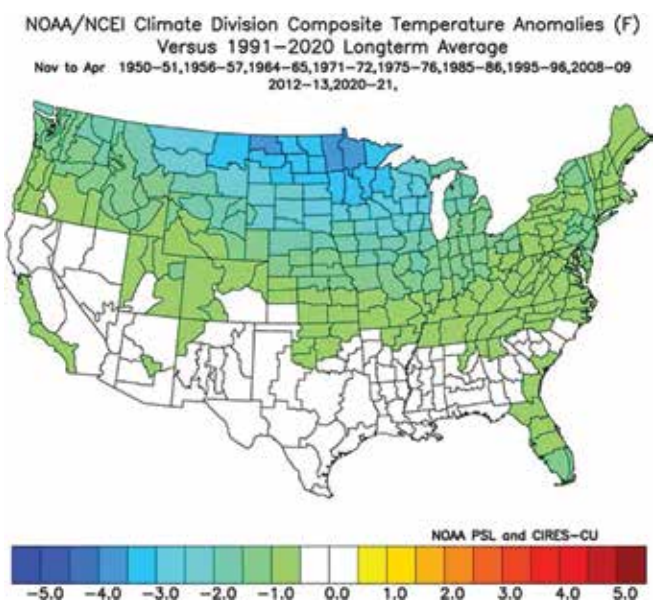




I'm not saying we'll see the exact same weather going forward, but the sea surface temperature anomaly maps match up pretty closely. The difference in where these two years were heading is pretty significant, as we continued La Niña for quite some time after October 2020 and we are likely coming out of a long La Niña, as we enter 2023. At any rate, I wanted to show you that comparison and it is one of the analog years I feel matches pretty closely for the next few months.

Here are the rest of the analog years and the average precipitation and temperature anomalies that occurred from November through April of those fall, winter and early spring seasons.





Highlights:

Average to wetter than average for the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies, Northern Plains and parts of the Midwest/Great Lakes.

Drier than average for California eastward through Texas and the Southeast U.S.

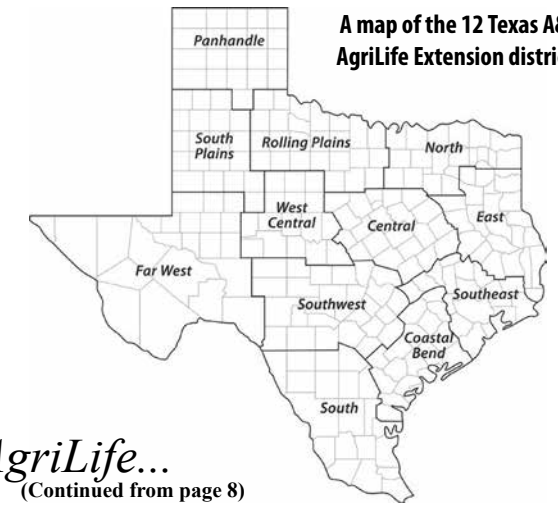
Colder than average for the northern tier of the country, with much colder than average across parts of Montana, Dakotas and Great Lakes

I think the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies and Northern Plains could have a pretty serious winter, with more snow than last year and more sustained cold. At least, that is largely the signal that I am getting. We need to put some snow on the ground in Canada to get this going, but some areas will get that done this weekend and early next week.

As I have lamented, IF the PDO does not warm from its current readings, then I would expect drier than average conditions to continue across much of the Central/Southern/Western Plains... even after La Niña goes away. That is something significant I will be watching in the weeks and months to come.

Going forward, we'll get another round of model data in a few weeks and it also gives us time to see how the oceans will be changing...or, if they stay static. I doubt these analog years will change much, given the fact that we are in a strong La Niña right now. You kind of have to start the analog with that condition, or you don't have a good basis to go from. I know more would like to know what happens after spring of 2023, but I'd be lying if I told you I know. I THINK we could see an El Niño develop later in the year, but that is far from being decided right now.

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



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

AgriLife...

(Continued from page 8)

throughout the area. Overall soil moisture was 100% very short, range and pasture conditions were 95% very poor. Overall crop conditions were 85% poor and livestock conditions were 75% poor. Winter grazing was a huge concern since most producers have already been supplementing baled forage. Stock tanks were dry, and many streams had become stagnant and choked with algae. There is a deficit of 16 to 25 inches of rain for most of the area over the past year. Small grains planting was delayed due to lack of moisture. Desert termites, armyworms and aphids were not helping the light yields in coastal fields and pecans.

ROLLING PLAINS: Some areas received rain, but the region remained dry overall. Pasture conditions were poor but improved somewhat. Cattle producers have been feeding hay or caking for supplementation. Most winter wheat is in the ground but very little has emerged. Cotton was beginning to defoliate with mixed opinions on yield. Only irrigated cotton remains to be harvested with dryland cotton being insured out. Wheat is in the ground and producers will wait to see what happens. Armyworm numbers are lower. Wheat drills were running all last week. Fertilizer was being put out in hopes of an inch of rain.

COASTAL BEND: Dry conditions with hot temperatures prevailed. Fields with surplus topsoil and subsoil moisture at the end of September had started to revert to less-than-adequate moisture levels. Fieldwork continued to eliminate volunteer grain grass and weeds. Range and pasture conditions continued to decline. Some hay was being made, with the possibility of getting one more cutting before frost. Livestock producers continued to wean calves and cull cows. Livestock market prices remained steady to higher. Pecan harvest prospects were looking poor.

EAST: Drought conditions worsened across the region and burn bans were implemented in some counties. Pasture and rangeland conditions were poor to good. Subsoil and topsoil conditions were short. Ponds were very low. Cattle culling strategies continued. Livestock was in fair to good condition with some supplementation taking place. Wild pig and gopher activity was reported.

SOUTH PLAINS: A few welcomed showers covered the area over the weekend, giving early planted winter cover crops some much-needed moisture. Pastures improved somewhat. Harvest aids were continuing to be applied in cotton. Some gins in the area indicated they will begin ginning soon. Preemergent herbicide was applied to turfgrass to prevent weeds from emerging. Cattle were in good condition.

PANHANDLE: The region remained very dry

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AgriLife...

(Continued from page 11)

and moisture was desperately needed. Overall soil moisture was 100% short. Overall range and pasture conditions were 100% poor and overall crop conditions were 72% fair. Harvest was ongoing for corn and grain sorghum. Due to prolonged drought earlier in the growing season and high demand for forage, additional fields of irrigated corn were being harvested for ensilage purposes instead of grain. Cotton was not yet ready for harvest. Wheat was being planted but needed moisture to germinate. Some fields were being watered for pasture. Cattle were being supplemented on- range or when shipped to market. Calves were being weaned early.

NORTH: Soil moisture was short for most of the region. Conditions continued to degrade due to prolonged drought. Some producers have decided to plant wheat and oats without the necessary moisture. Many ponds and stock tanks were drying up. Hay supplies were still critically low. Grasshopper populations were high in some areas.

FAR WEST: The weather was seasonable with some slow rains over most of the region. Producers reported from 0.10 up to 6 inches of rain. Temperatures fluctuated with nighttime temperatures from the 50s and 60s to daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. The rain and mild weather were expected to help the winter wheat planted over the past few weeks. Rangeland and pastures were expected to take more time to recover considering the shape they were in. Cotton harvest resumed at the end of the week, and many fields were defoliated in preparation for harvest. The cotton crop will be minimal this year. Livestock was in poor to fair condition and producers continued to feed and water to supplement nutrition. Producers continued with their shipping seasons.

WEST CENTRAL: There were cooler-than-normal nighttime temperatures, and the entire region was short on rain. Many producers chose to hold off on planting small grains until it rains, while several have decided not to plant this year due to drought, high input costs and limited seed availability. In some areas, wheat was still being planted. The remaining cotton was maturing quickly and in poor shape. Some cotton was being sprayed with harvest aids, so harvest will soon follow. Livestock producers continued to cull animals and more producers brought in hay from out of state

SOUTHWEST: Continued drought conditions persisted even though a front moved into the region bringing precipitation to most of the area. Most areas received rainfall of three-fourths of an inch or more. However, crop conditions remained roughly the same as before. Cooler and decent rain chances were predicted for the start of next week. Wheat and oats were being planted. The winter wheat and oats should show significant improvements as moisture in the soil profile was improving in the remaining fields. Deer were thin and some supplemental nutrition was provided. Supplemental feeding continued as seasonal plants began to go dormant.

SOUTH: Most of the district reported very short to short soil moisture levels with dry weather conditions. The cotton harvest was moving along as was the peanut harvest. Row crop farmers were preparing their fields for the next crop and vegetable farmers were planting cool season vegetables, with many already emerged. Some farmers had begun preparing their fields for and planting spinach. Some vegetable farmers were planting onions, cabbage and other assorted greens. The citrus harvest started. Field cleaning and cotton stalk destruction continued as did preparation for winter crop planting. On the few acres where sesame was planted and harvested, average yields were being reported. Strawberries should be going into the ground very soon. Pasture and range conditions were from poor to good, and supplementation continued for livestock where conditions were poor. In some areas, overgrazed pastures that were destocked during drought were beginning to recover. Insect damage was extensive on brush species. Ranchers and deer breeders were supplementing some livestock and wildlife. Fields with coastal Bermuda grass were not producing any hay due to the winter cycle of the plant. Bermuda grass pastures were expected to go dormant soon. Hay producers continued to harvest where possible with fallow or failed row crop fields being used to harvest hay. Pecan orchards just began their harvest and yields were expected to be normal. Watermelons and cantaloupes were harvested for the year. There was an unusual run of cattle and calves with above-average volumes offered. Cattle prices continued to be steady but lower than 30 days ago. Hay prices were $60-$70 per round bale and square bales ranged from $12-$16.

Flexible stocking rate options for drought management

By Ryan Benjamin, Nebraska Extension educator

It is often recommended that ranchers stock at a moderate stocking rate to avoid overgrazing and to manage for dry conditions. However, during severe multiyear droughts, even moderately stocked rangelands become overstocked, and managers are forced to sell breeding stock to adapt. Depending on market conditions during and after drought, liquidating breeding stock can have significant financial impacts on the operation. Developing plans that provide for interannual variability can give producers the opportunity to take advantage of above average years and prompt action in poor years.

Stocking rate is defined as the number of animals on a given piece of pasture for a given amount of time, often expressed as animal unit months (AUM). One AUM is equivalent to 780 pounds of air-dry forage, the amount of feed required by a thousand-pound cow with a young calf for a month. This gives us three places to change our stocking rate: the animal, the forage resource (pasture size) and the length of time.

Changing and/or diversifying class of animal is one way to build flexibility into stocking rates. For cow-calf producers, an example of this may be keeping a cow herd that is stocked at a level close to the lowest production drought years to prevent loss of investment in the cow herd. Using weather and forage forecasting tools such as the NOAA Climate Prediction Center season forecasts and GrassCast, producers can plan to add more animal units during higher production years by adding a stocker cattle enterprise to the operation. Multi species grazing is another way to increase animal units in a grazing system that do not directly compete for all forage resources, allowing better utilization of forage resources across the pasture (especially native range).

Custom grazing options also allow greater flexibility than owned herds, as it is possible to take in different numbers of animals across years depending on forage resources. Animal size plays a key role in forage demand as larger animals eat more than smaller ones. Understanding how animal size affects intake can be critical if bringing in growing animals, as they require more feed throughout the grazing season. Larger cows/pairs also require more feed resources, which should be factored into custom grazing contracts.

Forage resources can be adjusted in many ways to add flexibility into an operation. Using different grazing systems such as a rest rotation or a deferred rotation system can build a bank of grass in the grazing system that can be utilized in poor years. If a producer owns their pasture, they may find it advantageous to lease out excess pasture in good years and retain pasture in poor years. This allows them to take lease income in good years and maintain a core herd through poor years. On the other hand, if a majority of pasture is leased it may be possible to sublease pasture during good years and retain lease ground for personal use during poor years or try to obtain more resources such as lease more pasture, lease cornstalks, or buy feed. Cover crops can also be a valuable forage resource if infrastructure is available.

Systems can also be built that are time flexible. Including stocker cattle in an operation is one option, as stocker cattle are a more liquid asset than cows. This means that they can easily be sold when forage resources run out. Early weaning calves can save approximately 10 pounds of forage per cow, per day and allow calves to be marketed earlier, reducing forage demand. Calves can be weaned as early as 90 days; however, they may require increased management if retained. When forage resources are short, pregnancy checking may be more important than normal as it identifies open animals and can identify late-calving cows, whose calves will be lighter, allowing producers

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Feed concerns as we move into winter

By Matthew Diersen, Ness School of Management & Economics

New-crop corn futures have steadily increased over the past two months. Thus, there is not any relief in sight for higher feed costs. With higher interest rates, the cost of storage becomes a larger concern. There is currently very little carry in the corn futures prices, suggesting that going hand-to-mouth for feed needs could be considered if the feeder can ensure they can secure supplies later. Corn yields in the northern plains are not great, but production levels and old-crop stocks levels suggest that securing feed will later in the marketing year would not be an issue, but the price may not be attractive. For those looking for price protection, the implied volatility in the corn market remains in normal ranges despite the higher price levels. Thus, end users may consider buying a call option to protect from further price increases.

Continued high corn prices would be expected to impact livestock feed use. For example, higher prices should result in lower slaughter weights or fewer animals slaughtered at very heavy finish weights. Costs of gain should have downward pressure on returns to feeding at heavy weights. However, the prices have been high on the cash side for a long time, so the impact is not being reflected in recently observed weights. The recent price shock has been observed in feeder cattle futures, which have fallen as corn has increased on the futures side. In the recent WASDE, there is very little feed use adjustment even though the corn price is high. The market continues to act hungry for corn, which also limits the carry in that market.

The other prominent feed is hay, either from alfalfa or grass. In the October Crop Production report, the production of both types was revised to sharply lower than in August. Grass hay production is much lower in 2022 than in 2021 from Texas to South Dakota. At the national level, old crop hay stocks were a modest 16.8 million tons on May 1. The 2022 production total of 112.0 million tons gives a supply of 128.8 million tons. A little checking suggests this is the lowest U.S. production and supply levels since the 1950s.

Very severe rationing with recent prices suggests fall hay use of 56.6 million tons and December 1 stocks of 72.2 million tons; both would be levels not seen in decades. In August (the most recent national numbers available), the U.S. all hay price of $246 per ton was sharply higher than the price of $193 per ton in 2021. A slightly softening of fuel costs may help mitigate the most extreme price differences, but the general price level will remain high until supplies can improve in future years. The higher U.S. dollar, compared to most other currencies in recent months, would have a slight dampening effect on the hay situation. The U.S. is a net exporter of hay, as exports exceed imports. The stronger dollar would push the U.S. price higher for importers, making it less attractive in the global market. However, there are not many economical sources for imported hay for U.S. feed consumption.

Flexible...

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to make early culling decisions. This can affect pasture use as well as winter feed cost. There may also be opportunities to reduce bull feed cost. If a neighbor has similar goals and a different calving period, bulls can be bought together or leased out to other producers reducing the amount of forage each producer must supply.

Quantifying available forage resources can be difficult, especially on new land. Previous managers, local NRCS or extension educators may have a good estimate of appropriate and historical stocking rate. A more accurate method is clip and weigh, where plots are clipped of current years vegetation, dried, and weighed before being converted to a pounds-per-acre value to base stocking rate on. There are also online tools such as Web Soil Survey and Rangeland Analysis Platform that use past monitoring or remotely sensed data to produce approximate forage production that can be used to inform stocking rates.

The cattle cycle

By Josh Maples, Mississippi State University Department of Agricultural Economics

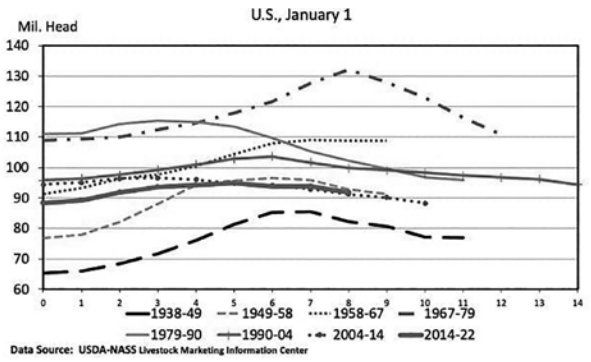
Much discussion surrounding cattle markets in 2022 has focused on factors impacting current and future supplies. Drought-induced feedlot placements, higher cow and heifer slaughter, and lower auction receipts are all topics discussed in this newsletter over the past few months that have implications for cattle supplies moving forward. Let's take a step back and look at the supply situation from a longer-term perspective which is typically called the cattle cycle.

The cattle industry is cyclical by nature. The production lags inherent to the sector lead to long-lasting impacts of production decisions. Increased liquidation in 2022 implies tighter supplies for next year. Similarly, times of herd expansion are typically a multi-year period. This expansion story held true during 2014-2018. The cliché of it taking a while to turn a large ship is fitting.

The cattle industry has moved in cycles for as far back as we have data to see. The chart above shows the last eight cattle cycles dating back to 1938. A cycle is defined as the cattle inventory low point, through the peak, and back to the next low point where the next cycle begins. As shown in the chart, these cycles typically last roughly 10 years. January 1, 2023 will mark the ninth year of the current cycle that began in 2014. We are currently in the contraction phase of the cycle after peaking in 2018/19. The current cycle will end whenever the next expansion phase begins.

How long we continue to contract will be directly impacted by drought and pasture conditions. Below is a chart pulled from Drought monitor data from 2000-current. The current drought draws comparisons to the 2011-2013 and has led to similar liquidation impacts on the cattle inventory. Herd expansion will be difficult until the drought abates.

Producer profitability will be the key driver of when the next expansion phase occurs and when the next cattle cycle begins. 2014/15 was a clear example. At record high prices, producers figured out how to produce more and the result ended seven consecutive years of contraction. Just a few years ago, the thought of reaching those record price levels again seemed far-fetched. However, we are again experiencing many of the same ingredients that led to the 2014/15 market. Cattle futures markets for 2023 are at levels not seen since 2015. The timing is still up in the air, and beef demand will certainly matter, but the end of the current cattle cycle may ultimately not look all that different from the end of the last one.



Mass timber: What to know about today's options for building with wood

Source: Texas Forest Service

Mass timber could be the best-kept secret in Texas. But those familiar with the building material recognize its potential to reshape the way buildings are designed and constructed in the U.S. while promoting healthy forests.

Rob Hughes, Texas Forestry Association Executive Director, said the rising popularity of the building material is a game-changer in the forest industry because it will be used in commercial buildings.

"The commercial buildings markets provide brand new opportunities for forest products to expand beyond their current limited use mostly in single- and multi-family housing," Hughes said. "Having healthy forested ecosystems is the goal of tree farmers and these new opportunities will allow them to continue providing wood and other environmental benefits that come from sustainably managed forests."

The usefulness and versatility of one mass timber product could make cross-laminated timber the Swiss Army Knife of this category of wood products. Construction with CLT developed in Europe and is on the rise across the

(Continued on page 17)

Report shows ending U.S. beef trade could be catastrophic for industry

Source: Kansas State University

A recent report revealed economic disaster would be the end result if all U.S. beef trade was eliminated. The report was authored by agricultural economists Glynn Tonsor of Kansas State University and Derrell Peel from Oklahoma State University.

According to the report, if both U.S. beef exports and imports declined by just 10%, prices and quantities of feeder cattle and fed cattle would fall significantly. Cumulatively, a 10% reduction in beef trade over 10 years would create a loss of $12.9 billion to those selling feeder cattle and $6.8 billion to fed cattle sellers. A scenario where 100% of U.S. beef trade was lost would suggest a catastrophic impact, broadly approximated in the report to cost those selling feeder cattle $129 billion and fed cattle $68 billion, leading to a significantly smaller industry.

The authors also calculated the impact on individual states. In the case of a 10% decrease in U.S. beef trade, Kansans selling feeder cattle would experience a $611 million loss and those selling fed cattle would see a $1.22 billion loss. If completely eliminated, feeder cattle sellers in Kansas could stand to lose $9.1 billion over a 10-year period.

Additionally, the report outlines why the U.S. exports and imports beef and provides a review of historical beef trade data. The authors highlight that implied trade prices clearly show the U.S. receives a higher dollar per pound value for exports than it pays for imports. From 2016 through 2020, the U.S. average annual unprepared beef exports were 2.05 billion pounds, which had an export value of $6.4 billion and an implied export price of $3.13/lb. Conversely, the average annual unprepared beef imports for that same time were 2.30 billion pounds, with an import value of $5.8 billion and an implied import price of $2.52/lb. The authors state in the report these statistics "clearly indicate participation in the global market provides a net economic gain."

To read the full report, click https://www.agmanager.info/livestock-meat/marketing-extension-bulletins/trade-and-demand/assessing-economic-impact-would-follow. The report was commissioned by the Kansas Beef Council, Oklahoma Beef Council and Texas Beef Council.

NCBA urges EPA to pause WOTUS rulemaking following Supreme Court actions

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) called on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pause their "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rulemaking following today's Supreme Court oral arguments in the case Sackett v. EPA, a case that will determine the EPA's authority to regulate bodies of water under the Clean Water Act.

"Today's oral arguments highlighted the need for the Supreme Court to put this issue to bed once and for all. Since the passage of the Clean Water Act, cattle producers have experienced the regulatory whiplash of shifting WOTUS definitions—on average, a change every 3.8

(Continued on page 19)

Mass timber...

(Continued from page 15)

U.S., but to many, it remains unfamiliar. Here are five things to know about the latest trend in sustainable construction.

What is mass timber?

Mass timber is a family of engineered wood products that are solid layers of wood pressed and bonded together. The finished product is stronger than steel and lighter than concrete. Types of mass timber panels include cross-laminated timber, nail-laminated timber and dowel-laminated timber. Applications for each type vary, with expansive possibilities in various types of construction.

"Cross-laminated timber can be used in all of the major structural elements of a building," said Dr. Aaron Stottlemyer, Texas A&M Forest Service Forest Analytics Department Head. "And mass timber buildings are lighter than concrete or steel buildings, so the foundation doesn't have to be as extensive or expensive."

What are the benefits of CLT?

Cross-laminated timber construction has a number of benefits over more conventional construction systems, including a quicker construction time, cost-efficiency, structural strength and environmental sustainability.

"Wood is a quickly renewable resource," Stottlemyer said. "Unlike conventional steel and concrete building systems, forests are renewable and sustainable."

Mass timber buildings have a smaller carbon footprint than construction using steel or concrete. "Steel and concrete construction is energy intensive," Stottlemyer said. "It takes fossil fuel, and manufacturing steel emits carbon dioxide, while the wood in cross-laminated timber panels stores carbon for the life of the wood, which may be hundreds of years."

And in addition to being aesthetically pleasing, the exposed wood in mass timber buildings provides physical and mental health benefits. Research has shown that working and living in buildings where you can see exposed wood can relieve stress and help people perform better.

"By building with CLT, it's providing people with a connection to nature and making the spaces we inhabit healthier and more appealing," said Stottlemyer.

Is it safe?

The International Building Code allows mass timber construction up to 18 stories tall, approval that came only after extensive testing for structural integrity in fire and seismic conditions as well as blast resistance.

A primary concern for consumers is fire safety, and though wood products are combustible, mass timber has a high degree of fire resistance because of its density.

During fires, mass timber chars on the outside, creating a protective layer that insulates the interior of the wood and slowing combustion of the wood and the spread of the fire.

Testing also demonstrated that mass timber buildings can withstand the impact of a tornado and harsh wind conditions.

"There are places on the coast where there's a tendency for wind events to have large impact, and there's potential for CLT to be used to build more resilient buildings," Stottlemyer said.

Is using more wood good for the forest?

Texas is home to 12 million acres of productive timberland, and the state is growing 30 percent to 40 percent more timber than is harvested each year.

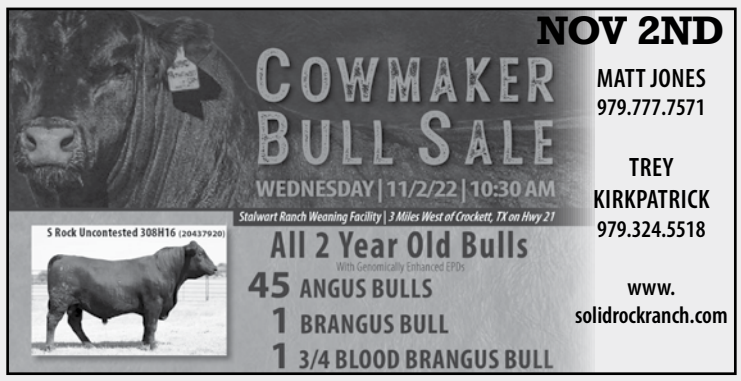
(Continued on page 19)

2022 2023

LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR

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

OCT 25 Phillips Ranch – Fenco Brangus Bull Sale, Bunnell, FL
OCT 25 Perez Cattle Co. Hereford Bull Sale, Columbus, TX
OCT 26 Texas Hereford Assn. Fall Classic Sale, Buffalo, TX
OCT 29 7P Ranch Simmental Annual Fall Bull & Female Sale, Tyler, TX
OCT 29 Jordan Cattle Auction Fall "Best of the Best" Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
OCT 29 South Texas Hereford Assn. Bull & Female Sale, Beeville, TX
NOV 2 Cowmaker Angus Bull Sale, Crockett, TX



NOV 3 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering featuring Hales Angus Farms & Cannon Charolais Ranch, San Saba, TX

NOV 4-5 GenePLUS Brangus at Chimney Rock, Concord, AR
NOV 5 Southern Cattle Company Annual Sale, Marianna, FL
NOV 7 The Branch Ranch Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Mansfield, LA
NOV 9 Buffalo Livestock Marketing Pre-Conditioned Calf Sale, Buffalo, TX
NOV 9 Barber Ranch Herefords/Express Angus Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
NOV 11-12 ACE @ Quail Valley Farms Brangus & Santa Gertrudis Bull & Female Sales, Oneonta, AL
NOV 12 Lesikar Ranch Fall Bull Sale, Athens, TX
NOV 17 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering featuring Schaefer Farms Angus, San Saba, TX
NOV 18-19 Cavender-Draggin' M Partners Brangus Bull, Female and Commercial Female Sales, Jacksonville,TX
NOV 19 Collier Farms Beefmaster Performance Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
NOV 19 South Texas Heritage Santa Gertrudis Sale, Robstown, TX
NOV 26 Pine Belt Alliance Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Purvis, MS
DEC 2 Lone Star Angus Alliance 22nd Annual Bull & Female Sale, Hallettsville, TX
DEC 3 Rancher's Choice Charolais Bull Sale, Nixon, TX
DEC 3 Brazos Valley Livestock 25th Annual Fall Replacement Sale, Bryan, TX

DEC 3 Texas Drovers Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Weimar, TX
DEC 3 Tom Brothers Opening Day of Private Treaty Sale, Campbellton, TX
DEC 3 2 Bar C 4th Annual Production Sale, Luling, TX
DEC 3 Pied Piper Farms Hereford Production Sale, Industry, TX
DEC 7 Caldwell Livestock Auction Special Cow Sale, Caldwell, TX
DEC 10 Navasota Livestock Auction 17th Annual Special Female & Bull Replacement Sale, Navasota, TX
DEC 15 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
DEC 17 Pearsall Livestock Auction End Of The Year Cow Sale, Pearsall, TX

JAN 12 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Shady Oak Farm Charolais & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX
JAN 21 45th Cattleman Bull & Female Sale, El Campo, TX
JAN 21 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
JAN 28 38th Annual DeWitt County All Breed Bull & Female Sale, Cuero, TX
JAN 29 53rd Annual Powerhouse Sale, Ft. Worth, TX
FEB 4 South Texas Hereford Assn. Spring Sale, Beeville, TX
FEB 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Martin-Bruni Brangus and Cannon Charolais, San Saba, TX
FEB 14 32nd Annual San Antonio Livestock Show All Breeds Bull Sale & Commercial Female Sale Judging, San Antonio Livestock Show, San Antonio, TX
FEB 15 32nd Annual San Antonio Livestock Show All Breeds Bull Sale & Commercial Female Sale, San Antonio Livestock Show, San Antonio, TX
FEB 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Early Spring Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
FEB 18 Border Classic Beefmaster Sale, Edcouch, TX
FEB 18 Foundation Angus Alliance Sale, Luling, TX
FEB 25 Hallettsville Livestock Commission Special Female Sale, Hallettsville, TX
FEB 28 Perez Cattle Co. Bull Sale, Nara Visa, NM
MAR 1 Houston Livestock Show 56th Annual All Breeds Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Houston, TX
MAR 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Cattleman's Kind Bull Sale Simmental & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX
MAR 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
MAR 23 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Knox Brothers Bull Sale, Hereford & Angus, San Saba, TX
MAR 21 Flying S Herefords Production Sale, Paluxy, TX
MAR 25 Emmons Ranch Beefmaster Bull Sale, Groesbeck, TX
APR 6 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, San Saba, TX
APR 15 Jordan Cattle Auction Spring "Best of the Best" Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
MAY 6 Jordan Cattle Auction May Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
JUN 3 Jordan Cattle Auction June Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

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Texas Tech taking lead in $1.6M sorghum project

Source: Texas Tech

Texas Tech University is taking the lead in one of the largest projects ever funded by the United Sorghum Checkoff Program (USCP).

Krishna Jagadish, a professor and the Thornton Distinguished Chair in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, received $1.6 million in funding in partnership with Texas A&M University, Kansas State University, the U.S Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service locations in Lubbock and Manhattan, Kansas, and industry partners. Haydee Laza, an assistant professor of plant physiology in the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, is a co-investigator on the project as well.

Titled "Transforming grain sorghum's climatic yield potential and grain quality through trait-based ideotype breeding," the project is designed to maximize the sorghum crop by determining effective trait combinations for different environments.

"The project brings together major public sorghum improvement programs in the U.S.," Jagadish said. "The trans-disciplinary team aims to achieve the project goals by integrating agronomy, crop physiology, breeding, machine learning and crop and climate modeling."

Over the course of the project researchers, led by Jagadish, hope to develop trait-based ideotype sorghum hybrids specifically targeted to thrive in water-deficient areas and in areas considered favorable for growing sorghum.

"For the first time in modern history, we have an opportunity to reimagine the architecture of the plant and how it operates," USCP CEO Tim Lust said. "From drought tolerance to photosynthetic efficiency, this stellar team of physiology experts will leave no stone unturned in pursuit of a more productive, efficient sorghum plant for our farmers."

The project is scheduled to last five years and incorporate a number of students seeking both master's and doctoral degrees, giving it the added benefit of helping train the next generation of leaders in the sorghum industry.

"This project is timely and will be a difference-maker as we strive to improve crop resilience and feed the world," said Plant and Soil Science Department Chair Glen Ritchie. "The collaborators on this project are top experts in sorghum physiology and stress tolerance and they will make a global impact with their success."

The project hopes to develop trait-based ideotype sorghum hybrids specifically targeted to thrive in water-deficient areas and in areas considered favorable for growing sorghum.

About the USCP

The USCP is a producer-funded organization dedicated to improving the sorghum industry through research, promotion and education. For more information about the USCP and other sorghum promotion projects visit www.sorghumcheckoff.com.

Mass timber...

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Meanwhile, some of the fastest-growing cities in the state are within reasonable transportation distance of the resource.

"We really have the potential to grow our own cities," Stottlemyer said. "We have the resources and the demand for the resources. There are sustainability issues with the current methods of construction, and cross-laminated timber has the potential to address many of those issues."

With more than 90 percent of the state's forest land privately owned, the lack of strong markets for wood products could mean forest land transitions to other uses.

"The worst thing that could happen to our forests is conversion to non-forest use. When good markets exist, forest landowners are more likely to continue to own the forest and invest in good management," Stottlemyer said. "Using forests can help maintain forests."

What comes next?

"We need to get to a point where building owners, developers, design and construction professionals are aware of mass timber, accept it and are willing to build with it," Stottlemyer said.

That means promoting the benefits of mass timber to the communities of architects, engineers, builders, developers, planners, financial institutions and universities.

"Academic institutions are where innovation happens," Stottlemyer said. "We also have to teach the future leaders about the value of mass timber."

Current manufacturing limits the availability of mass timber, particularly cross-laminated timber panels made from southern yellow pine.

"We have the resource and the demand for wood products," Stottlemyer said. "Our communities and our cities are growing. All of this points to opportunities for existing facilities to increase production as well as the establishment of new manufacturing."

NCBA...

(Continued from page 16)

years," said NCBA Natural Resources and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover. "NCBA is hopeful that the court will support NCBA's argument for clear and limited WOTUS definition, but in the meantime, we call on the EPA to suspend their rulemaking until the outcome of the case is clear."

In April 2022, NCBA filed an amicus brief before the Supreme Court calling for a new test for determining whether a water feature fell under the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. NCBA's argument would allow the government to protect substantial bodies of water while preventing overreach on small isolated agricultural water features.

NCBA also filed comments on the Biden administration's proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule. NCBA is calling for this rulemaking to halt until the Supreme Court issues a ruling in the Sackett v. EPA case.

Background

NCBA has been involved in every step of the WOTUS rulemaking process. In February, over 1,600 cattle producers from 44 states submitted a letter to the EPA calling for a limited WOTUS definition that retained exclusions for common small water features found on farms and ranches. The Kansas Livestock Association, an NCBA affiliate, also organized an EPA roundtable where cattle producers highlighted their concerns with an expansive WOTUS rule.

NCBA also backed a report from the EPA's own Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee that recommended the EPA develop a clear WOTUS definition, protect WOTUS exclusions of agricultural features like farm ditches, stock ponds, prairie potholes, and prior converted cropland, and ensure EPA compliance with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent.