

## Mouthfeel of food determines whether people go back for seconds

Texas A&M Sensory Science Evaluation Laboratory analyzes how people taste food and how that determines purchases  
By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Are you a sucker, cruncher or chewer... maybe even a smoosher? Think about it: how do you taste your food?

Texture has been one of the trends in food product messaging for several years, said Rhonda Miller, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research Faculty Fellow and meat science professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science in Bryan-

College Station.

Miller is applying her mouthfeel research to products in the beef industry to determine how to improve consumption. She conducted a three-phase Mouth Behavior Study involving how all four types of eaters consume beef and steak.

People manipulate food in their mouths differently – some use their molars and chew; some people manipulate the food with their tongue. Chewers and crunchers like to use their teeth to break down food. Suckers and smooshers manipulate food between their tongue and the roof of their mouth.

But these texture terms are not universally understood – a “good crunch” to a cruncher is much different to a chewer.

“Most people don’t even realize they are manipulating their food in their mouth,” Miller said.

But Miller does, as she operates the Sensory Science Evaluation Laboratory, conducting research on a variety of meat and food products, evaluating them for flavor and palatability.

### The science of mouthfeel

Little is known about what drives people’s preferences, but everyone is born with a preference for texture, Miller said. Texture is a strong driver of rejection of a food item. Researchers are interested in whether texture impacts purchasing habits regarding food products.

“In general, people have a very low texture awareness,” she said. “They talk about flavor, but not texture, because we have a low awareness of how to verbalize that.”

Miller breaks down the mouthfeels a little more: chewers and crunchers have the same mouth motions, but chewers are less vigorous in their chew and eat food more slowly, while crunchers eat food forcefully. Crunchers are often accused by others of being too loud. They crunch until the food is gone. Smooshers use their tongue



The texture of a hamburger patty can determine whether consumers enjoy it or not, depending on what type of eater they are – cruncher, chewer, sucker or smoosher. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Laura McKenzie)

and the roof of their mouth; suckers appropriately suck the flavor out before chewing.

She said the U.S. population consists of about 8% suckers, 43% chewers, 33% crunchers and 16% smooshers. The study also showed that suckers reject products at a 45% level, while smooshers reject at 29%, crunchers at 16%, and chewers at 10%.

Her study revealed that many times, products are made without considering consumers’ sensory behaviors.

“But we know there are some that are: for instance, granola bars – do you want them crunchy or chewy? You can look at the package merchandising and see they know there is a difference in what their consumer wants,” she said.

“So as meat scientists, our concern is, especially when beef prices are high, retailers want to know how they can get consumers to buy beef

one more time a month,” Miller said.

### Applying the science to beef

Miller found interesting differences in the way chewers, crunchers, smooshers and suckers experience hamburgers and steaks based on the way the meat was processed prior to cooking.

Ground beef burger patties were rated on descriptive textures such as surface roughness, firmness, connective tissue amount, cohesive mass, particle size and chewiness. Consumers identified factors that influenced their evaluation.

- Chewers must have flavorful burgers, no soggy buns, no rubbery feel or gristle, and the patty can’t be dry or too greasy.

- Crunchers want a burger that is not too dry or raw, not chewy, crumbly or chunky, no soggy bun and the meat can’t stick to their teeth.

- Smooshers want a juicy, well-seasoned patty, no gris-

tle, not congealed or sludgy and no residue feel in their mouth.

- Suckers defined their ideal burger as juicy, not too chewy, but not crumbly, and the seasoning should come before cooking.

The goal of this study was to determine how fat content affected consumers’ perceptions. Chewers and smooshers found higher-fat patties less tough and chewy, with crunchers saying 93% lean beef was too dry. Higher fat was associated with higher tenderness. For the suckers, it wasn’t about fat content, but rather whether the meat was chopped or ground.

The verdict on chopped beef patties – chewers said lean chopped patties were tougher, crunchers said they were less juicy, smooshers said they were greasy, and suckers said they were dry. The final outcome was that ground beef patties from the chuck are less polarizing

across the mouth behavior groups compared to ground beef patties made from other lean sources.

“We learned a lot, and I walked away with an ‘aha’ moment,” Miller said. “The ideal patty is easy to bite and stays together well. Also, we learned that chewers do not like McDonalds.”

When it came to steaks, the higher-marbled steaks were liked by consumers across each mouth behavior group, but for different reasons. The aging process produces big gaps among mouth behaviors.

“We’ve been a little stale in how we as meat scientists think,” Miller said. “This study has helped me think outside of the box – but I don’t have any definitive answers yet.”

More information on Miller’s lab can be found on this Texas A&M Today segment: Testing Taste Buds at Texas A&M’s Sensory Lab.

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PERIODICAL

Independent Cattlemen’s Association of Texas  
**ROUND-UP REVIEW**  
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# Just Your Standard Bull

By Michael Sturgess

# TEXAS Trails...

By Clay Coppedge

On this day, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, I hereby declare my candidacy for the head football coach position at Texas A&M University. Furthermore, I will be seeking fully guaranteed compensation for a period no less than 10 years in the amount of \$5 million dollars per year. Yes—we're talking about 50% off sale baby!

But wait—there's more! For the amount Texas A&M will save, I pledge to invest in another "consulting" position on the staff that will serve as our general manager. The person in this role will head up our efforts in recruiting and the transfer portal. In addition, that person will evaluate players and

their individual NIL agreements. The general manager will have two primaries under his management, a recruiting coordinator and a portal coordinator, and other such support staff as needed.

I will of course, hire both an offensive and defensive coordinator. They will of course, answer directly to me. With the assistance of the offensive coordinator, I will hire a running backs coach, a quarterback coach, and an offensive line coach. They will answer directly to the offensive coordinator.

I will then hire a defensive coordinator, and with his assistance, hire a defensive line coach, a linebacker coach and a defensive backs coach.

They will answer directly to the defensive coordinator, who will then answer directly to me.

And finally, I will hire a special teams coordinator, because the special teams are a vital part of any football program. He will answer directly to me.

The chain of command shall be strictly adhered to. It will not matter how long you have been with the program, where you are from or where you have been, ALL assistant coaches and support staff will answer directly to their respective coordinator. No exceptions will be made.

As your head coach, I fully understand that I answer to the Athletic director and to the Board of Regents. I will serve at their behest—just as my staff, coordinators and assistance coaches serve at mine.

We will be a results-based organization. Talent may get you here, but only results guarantee your return. The entire staff and the players will adhere to the standards expected by this university. Staff rules will apply to all staff members. Player rules will apply to all players. No exceptions will be made.

It won't be about my x's and o's. It will be about our x's and o's. And they will be exceptional.

Much is said about how Texas A&M is a 40-year decision. But there is also another saying that goes to those who are given much, much is expected. Our staff and student athletes must live up to a higher standard.

And finally, I pledge to you that I will adapt to the ever-changing environment that is college football. Any successful business owner knows that one must adapt to survive. There was a time when you could make a living delivering milk door-to-door. But the milk man is a thing of our past. To not adapt is simply not an option.

If you find these terms to be acceptable, I can be easily reached. And I can start as early as next week!

## No count Saligny and the pigs

As a Republic, Texas was hard to get along with. The Mexican government learned this the hard way. The French government discovered the same thing when it sent Alphonse Dubois de Saligny to Austin in 1840 to help determine if France should recognize the young upstart Republic. Saligny had no connection to French nobility but bestowed upon himself the title of "Count", anyway.

Saligny arrived in Austin in 1840 when the town had a population of 856 and Congress Avenue was just a muddy trail lined by wooden shanties and cabins. The most imposing building was not the new capitol but the French Legation, an elegant and sprawling structure in its final stages of construction.

The self-described Count planned to make the French Legation his home and headquarters while he oversaw the establishment of a Franco-Texan commercialization and colonization company. The Franco-Texian bill called for a hefty French loan to the Republic and three million acres of land for the French to settle 8,000 families and build 20 forts and garrisons manned by 10,000 soldiers.

Opponents of the bill pointed out that this was more troops than Santa Anna ever had in Texas at one time. They were right.

Saligny took temporary headquarters at the Bullock complex as workers applied the finishing touches to the French Legation. The complex was a series of log structures owned by a hard-edged frontiersman from Tennessee named Richard Bullock, who hated pretension in all its forms, making it a given that he would never get along with anybody claiming to be a count. Both men were happy to part company when the Frenchman moved to another dwelling on Pecan Street.

When Bullock's pigs discovered the corn that Saligny grew to feed his horses they compromised the integrity of a wooden fence that surrounded his garden and claimed the corn as their own. The pigs soon expanded their attention to the house where Saligny stayed and where they revealed themselves to be the most indiscriminate of gourmands by making meals out of expensive imported

linen and important papers to Saligny from the French government.

The Count was shocked! Appalled! Outraged! But he didn't get much sympathy in Austin, where people had taken to calling him "No Count Saligny." Transactions such as paying the teamster who hauled his possessions into Austin with counterfeit bills and refusing to pay Bullock for staying at his place did not endear him to the locals. Austinites respected Bullock's pigs more

than they did Saligny.

The so-called count took matters into his butler's hands. He ordered Eugene Pluyette, his loyal butler, to shoot the pigs on sight, which Pluyette did on Feb. 11, 1841. Let the record show that the butler did it.

When Bullock sought damages for the loss of his pigs, Saligny invoked diplomatic immunity and the "Law of Nations" in response. Bullock's response was to find Pluyette and pound him

(Continued on page 3)

# HAPPY Thanksgiving

## USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 11-16-23

SPECIES:	11-6-23:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	433	333	22,918
b. Breeding Males	173	21	2,394
c. Breeding Females	9	0	1,211
Total	615	354	26,523
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	1,129
c. Breeding Females	0	0	3,866
Total	0	0	4,995
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter			
1) lambs	0	0	0
2) ewes	0	0	1,763
b. Breeding Males	0	0	0
c. Breeding Females	0	0	0
Total			
4) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	16
b. Breeding Females	82	0	3,854
Total	82	0	3,870
5) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	394	364	14,347
b. Breeding Males	55	50	1,664
c. Breeding Females	116	73	2,136
d. Geldings	33	16	709
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	14
Total	598	503	18,870
6) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	179

MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS		
SPECIES:	11-6-23:	1-1-23 - Present
FEEDER CATTLE	14,078	545,275
MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS		
FEEDER CATTLE	5,937	191,127

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Southern Livestock Standard (USPS 024-951) is published 24 times per year, every other week except monthly in June and December, by Southern Livestock Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 791364, San Antonio, Texas 78279-1364. Periodicals postage paid at San Antonio, Texas.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes for Southern Livestock Standard to Southern Livestock Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 791364, San Antonio, Texas 78279-1364.  
**Physical Address:** 407 Breesport St., San Antonio, TX 78216



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## NALC's Rollins: WOTUS legal roller coaster may slow, but it's not stopping

By Drew Viguet, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, National Agricultural Law Center

The term waters of the U.S., or WOTUS, is crucial to understanding which water bodies are protected by the Clean Water Act, but defining the term has been an ongoing challenge. That trend doesn't look to be slowing down anytime soon, according to Brigit Rollins, staff attorney for the National Agricultural Law Center.

The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 with the goal of improving the coun-

try's water quality. One of the ways the Clean Water Act works to accomplish this goal is by prohibiting the discharge of pollutants into waters of the U.S. without a permit. However, rather

than including a definition of WOTUS in the Clean Water Act itself, Congress left it to the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to define the term.

Since the Clean Water Act was passed, there have been multiple EPA regulations and Supreme Court decisions that have attempted to create a lasting WOTUS definition.

"It's just kind of been a bit of a mess," Rollins said during her NALC webinar, "What's Up with WOTUS: Post-Sackett and Beyond," on Nov. 15. "What we're seeing today, what we've seen this year, is nothing new. This has been a challenge for some time."

WOTUS has been an active issue in 2023. On March 20, an updated WOTUS

definition issued by EPA late last year went into effect. On May 25, the Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*, a long-running case which began in 2007. The Court's decision effectively invalidated several aspects of the previous 2023 Final Rule, narrowing the definition of WOTUS to include open, flowing bodies of water such as streams, rivers, lakes and

the ocean, as well as wetlands sharing a continuous surface connection with such bodies of water. The Sackett decision also redefined the word "adjacent." The Court found that adjacent, when used in "adjacent wetlands," means "having a continuous surface connection."

Rollins said this decision had a major impact. Almost  
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### Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

senseless. More shock and outrage from Saligny. The French filed a formal protest and asked for a judiciary hearing. A judge, in absentia, found sufficient evidence to indict Bullock. John Chalmers, Secretary of the Texas Treasury, personally paid Bullock's bail. He didn't like Saligny either.

Saligny, acting without consent of the French government, moved to New Orleans and stayed there for a year, issuing dire missives to Texas when he wasn't busy parading through the French Quarter as a count. His own government, perhaps a little embarrassed by Saligny and his barnyard drama, offered only token support.

Texas and France eventually worked a deal that allowed Saligny to return to Texas with a minimum of embarrassment, but the French never loaned Texas millions of dollars and the landscape was never dotted with French forts, thanks to Bullock's rampaging pigs.

The pigs were the only casualties of what history knows as the Pig War, unless you count the butler's injuries at the hands of Bullock and a temporary disruption of diplomatic relations between France and Texas. Saligny eventually went away and misrepresented his country elsewhere; the French government called him home after he was accused of financial fraud in Mexico.

Saligny lobbied for another shot at foreign diplomacy but France's foreign ministry had nothing else to do with him. Neither did Texas.

## Brazos Valley Livestock Commission 27th Annual Fall Replacement Sale

Saturday December 2nd | 11 AM  6097 E State HWY 21 | Bryan, TX

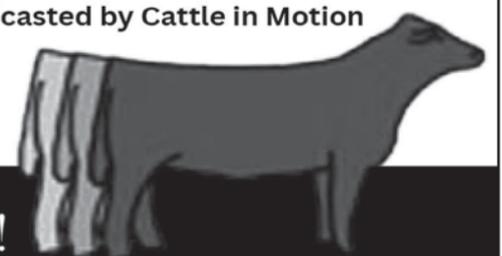
### BREDS/PAIRS

- 8 ~ Beefmaster hfs, heavy bred to Angus bull
- 20 ~ Brangus BF hfs, bred to easy calving bull
- 52 ~ Brangus hfs, heavy bred to easy calving bull
- 15 ~ Braford & Tiger Stripe hfs, bred to LBW Angus bull, some calves
- 35 ~ Black MF ½ blood hfs, out of black baldy cows, heavy bred to LBW black bull
- 25 ~ Brangus hfs, heavy bred to Angus bull
- 6 ~ Braford hfs, heavy bred to black bull
- 70 ~ Brangus hfs medium-heavy bred to black bull
- 25 ~ 3-5 yo, Brangus & Brangus Baldy type, heavy bred, some pairs
- 15 ~ 3-4 yo mixed Crossbred cows, heavy bred, some pairs
- 20 ~ F1 Braford hfs, medium-heavy bred to LBW Angus bull, all one raising
- 15 ~ 3-5 yo, Red Brangus cows, heavy bred, some pairs
- 25 ~ 3-5 yo, Brangus cows, heavy bred, some pairs
- 6 ~ Brangus hf pairs
- 20 ~ Red Angus x F1 Braford hf pairs, calves sired by Red & Black Angus Bull, all one raising
- 20 ~ Brangus hf pairs, calves sired by Red & Black Angus bull, hfs selected from 3 reputational ranches
- 2 ~ Braford hf pairs, calves sired by Angus bull
- 25 ~ Brangus, Brangus Baldy, & Braford type, heavy bred 7-8 mo & pairs, 7 have already calved, calves sired by LBW Angus bull
- 40 ~ 3-5 yo Brangus & Brangus Baldy cows heavy bred & pairs, ½ have already calved
- 35 ~ 3-5 yo Mixed Crossbred cows, heavy bred & pairs, ½ have already calved
- 7 ~ Gert x Hereford Cross hfs, medium bred to LBW Angus bull
- 17 ~ 4-5 yo Reg. Grey Brahman pairs, Golden Certified F1 calves
- 15 ~ 3-4 yo Brangus pairs

### BULLS

- 6 ~ Scamardo Brangus, Brangus bulls, coming 2's
- 5 ~ West Charolais Ranch, Charolais bulls, 2 yo
- 2 ~ Lingle Ranch. Reg. Red Angus bulls, coming 2's

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**USDA Major Livestock Reports:**

**Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, November 16, 2023:** Total receipts: 618, last reported (11-9-23) 1,290, last year 1,740. Feeder cattle 480 (77.7%), last reported (11-9-23) 1,071 (83.0%), last year 1,392 (80.0%). Slaughter cattle 68 (11.0%), last reported (11-9-23) 181 (14.0%), last year 226 (13.0%). Replacement cattle 70 (11.3%), last reported (11-9-23) 38 (2.9%), last year 122 (7.0%). Compared to last week light steer and heifer calves firm to 3.00 higher, heavier calves and yearlings weak to 3.00 lower. Slaughter cows 1.00-3.00 lower; slaughter bulls not well tested. Stock cows and pairs moderately higher. Trading fairly active, demand good. Supply included: 78% Feeder Cattle (45% Steers, 45% Heifers, 3% Cows, 7% Bulls); 11% Slaughter Cattle (93% Cows, 7% Bulls); 11% Replacement Cattle (69% Stock Cows, 4% Bred Cows, 6% Bred Heifers, 21% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 47%.

**Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, November 20, 2023:** Total receipts 5,000, last reported (11-13-23) 9,169, last year 8,769. Feeder cattle: 5,000 (100.0%), last reported (11-13-23) 9,169 (100.0%), last year 8,769 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers lightly tested and few sales near steady with last week's decline. Steer and heifer calves suitable for wheat pasture 4.00-10.00 higher. Other classes mostly steady. More rain fell across parts of the state over the weekend and colder temps arriving today. Demand good for all classes with the holiday shortened week and many sales closed. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (59% Steers, 39% Heifers, 2% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 42%.

**SALE:** Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc. Beeville, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-17-23  
**VOLUME:** 30  
**TREND:** Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	250-303	200-275
300-400 lbs.	251-320	224-270
400-500 lbs.	252-315	215-250
500-600 lbs.	214-260	192-227
600-700 lbs.	202-235	164-213
700-800 lbs.	185-200	163-178
Slaughter cows	57-98	
Slaughter bulls	66-123	
Stocker cows	600-1125	
Pairs	775-1400	

**SALE:** Brazos Valley Livestock Commission Bryan, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-14-23  
**VOLUME:** 1014  
**TREND:** Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	275-345	240-290
300-400 lbs.	265-350	235-320
400-500 lbs.	255-320	230-287
500-600 lbs.	235-270	205-245
600-700 lbs.	210-235	195-220
700-800 lbs.	205-213	194-202
Slaughter cows	73-103	
Slaughter bulls	101-122	
Stocker cows	850-1400	
Pairs	1400-1750	

**SALE:** Live Oak Auction, Inc. Three Rivers, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-13-23  
**VOLUME:** 1002  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	220-288	218-274
300-400 lbs.	212-284	204-268
400-500 lbs.	214-284	194-266
500-600 lbs.	190-262	180-240
600-700 lbs.	178-236	170-208
700-800 lbs.	172-226	168-206
Slaughter cows	56-104	
Slaughter bulls	94-118	
Stocker cows	700-1400	
Pairs	950-1600	

**SALE:** Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc. Nixon, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-20-23  
**VOLUME:** 892  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	274-335	207-310
300-400 lbs.	248-330	208-270
400-500 lbs.	225-320	200-243
500-600 lbs.	212-273	195-245
600-700 lbs.	197-240	182-210
700-800 lbs.	173-217	177-199
Slaughter cows	50-106	
Slaughter bulls	96-116	
Stocker cows	650-1100	
Pairs	815-1600	

**SALE:** Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC Alice, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-14-23  
**VOLUME:** 227  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	215-270	205-240
300-400 lbs.	220-260	200-230
400-500 lbs.	215-255	195-225
500-600 lbs.	190-230	190-210
600-700 lbs.	180-222	174-200
700-800 lbs.	175-200	140-155
Slaughter cows	45-105	
Slaughter bulls	75-110	
Stocker cows	900-1250	
Pairs	1200-1350	

**SALE:** Gillespie Livestock Company Fredericksburg, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-16-23  
**VOLUME:** 682  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-300	210-260
300-400 lbs.	270-320	210-285
400-500 lbs.	260-317	200-285
500-600 lbs.	220-295	190-235
600-700 lbs.	200-258	180-230
700-800 lbs.	180-220	170-195
Slaughter cows	60-103	
Slaughter bulls	75-115	
Stocker cows	900-1800	
Pairs	1000-2000	

**SALE:** Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC Groesbeck, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-16-23  
**VOLUME:** 1334  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	260-340	220-295
400-500 lbs.	220-305	200-285
500-600 lbs.	200-267	180-245
600-700 lbs.	180-240	165-215
700-800 lbs.	170-222	150-195
Slaughter cows	50-105	
Slaughter bulls	80-126	
Stocker cows	450-1750	
Pairs	1050-2100	

**SALE:** Jordan Cattle Auction San Saba & Mason, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-16-23  
**VOLUME:** 2575  
**TREND:** Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	229-320	232-290
300-400 lbs.	283-375	254-320
400-500 lbs.	268-305	241-295
500-600 lbs.	243-295	210-265
600-700 lbs.	219-250	198-221
700-800 lbs.	197-225	176-203
Slaughter cows	96-115	
Slaughter bulls	89-122	
Stocker cows	1400-1850	
Pairs	1075-2200	

**SALE:** Giddings Livestock Commission Giddings, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-13-23  
**VOLUME:** 1055  
**TREND:** Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	237-350	235-285
300-400 lbs.	280-325	249-280
400-500 lbs.	246-315	228-275
500-600 lbs.	223-252.5	211-240
600-700 lbs.	211-230	198-217.5
700-800 lbs.	194-207.5	180-195
Slaughter cows	25-108	
Slaughter bulls	95-124	
Stocker cows	400-1525	
Pairs	800-1975	

**SALE:** Lampasas Cattle Auction Lampasas, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-15-23  
**VOLUME:** 454  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	281-320	260-300
300-400 lbs.	279-335	233-305
400-500 lbs.	259-309	226-284
500-600 lbs.	220-266	201-245
600-700 lbs.	184-228	125-218
700-800 lbs.	173-210	110-220
Slaughter cows	58-101	
Slaughter bulls	70-112	
Stocker cows	1000-1500	
Pairs	—	

**SALE:** East Texas Livestock, Inc. Crockett, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-14-23  
**VOLUME:** 3029  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	245-340	230-325
300-400 lbs.	238-336	224-282
400-500 lbs.	230-312	189-272
500-600 lbs.	214-275	182-261
600-700 lbs.	206-233	168-234
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	68-100	
Slaughter bulls	89-120	
Stocker cows	760-1850	
Pairs	1100-2000	

**SALE:** Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Caldwell, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-15-23  
**VOLUME:** 695  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	250-340	245-295
300-400 lbs.	287-340	250-330
400-500 lbs.	264-310	237-295
500-600 lbs.	230-262	215-260
600-700 lbs.	214-252	200-220
700-800 lbs.	200-217	175-195
Slaughter cows	40-115	
Slaughter bulls	100-113	
Stocker cows	775-1625	
Pairs	—	

**SALE:** Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Buffalo, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-11-23  
**VOLUME:** 1491  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	230-344	210-315
300-400 lbs.	225-336	205-285
400-500 lbs.	215-308	200-255
500-600 lbs.	210-258	200-255
600-700 lbs.	205-229	185-218
700-800 lbs.	195-206	165-185
Slaughter cows	45-106	
Slaughter bulls	95-139	
Stocker cows	850-2075	
Pairs	750-2150	

**SALE:** Navasota Livestock Auction Co. Navasota, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-18-23  
**VOLUME:** 1833  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	185-345	185-304
300-400 lbs.	175-340	175-300
400-500 lbs.	175-310	175-255
500-600 lbs.	175-262	170-232
600-700 lbs.	175-242	170-205
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	85-115	
Slaughter bulls	70-107	
Stocker cows	850-1525	
Pairs	1200-1625	

**SALE:** Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Brenham, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-17-23  
**VOLUME:** 1547  
**TREND:** Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	250-340	215-335
300-400 lbs.	220-342	210-330
400-500 lbs.	210-337	200-300
500-600 lbs.	200-292	190-272
600-700 lbs.	195-261	185-227
700-800 lbs.	190-230	180-219
Slaughter cows	45-109	
Slaughter bulls	90-122	
Stocker cows	900-1600	
Pairs	1100-1400	

**SALE:** Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets Cuero & Victoria, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-17-23  
**VOLUME:** 1807  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	271-350	218-340
300-400 lbs.	263-342	238-338
400-500 lbs.	251-322	222-310
500-600 lbs.	228-270	202-236
600-700 lbs.	218-248	193-238
700-800 lbs.	203-220	174-209
Slaughter cows	30-100	
Slaughter bulls	98-116	
Stocker cows	93-129	
Pairs	1400	

**SALE:** Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc. Gonzales, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-18-23  
**VOLUME:** 1169  
**TREND:** Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	285-310	285-295
300-400 lbs.	275-345	275-315
400-500 lbs.	250-320	220-300
500-600 lbs.	237-275	205-235
600-700 lbs.	220-247	175-215
700-800 lbs.	185-227	—
Slaughter cows	52-102	
Slaughter bulls	100-122	
Stocker cows	750-1500	
Pairs	1100-2000	

**SALE:** Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction Columbus, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-15-23  
**VOLUME:** 772  
**TREND:** Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	225-345	215-270
300-400 lbs.	220-345	210-310
400-500 lbs.	215-342	190-292
500-600 lbs.	200-259	185-251
600-700 lbs.	185-249	180-224
700-800 lbs.	174-232	170-210
Slaughter cows	42-108	
Slaughter bulls	92-116	
Stocker cows	1350-1650	
Pairs	1000-1600	

**SALE:** Four County Livestock Auction Industry, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-14-23  
**VOLUME:** 666  
**TREND:** Active/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	210-340	190-295
300-400 lbs.	200-340	190-285
400-500 lbs.	200-300	180-265
500-600 lbs.	190-255	160-225
600-700 lbs.	180-235	160-210
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	45-104	
Slaughter bulls	90-117.5	
Stocker cows	800-1200	
Pairs	1300-1850	

**SALE:** El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC El Campo, Texas  
**DATE OF SALE:** 11-14-23  
**VOLUME:** 713  
**TREND:** Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	248-300	235-323
300-400 lbs.	284-348	274-320
400-500 lbs.	275-328	236-317
500-600 lbs.	259-298	221-248
600-700 lbs.	237-280	195-233
700-800 lbs.	209-248	164-205
Slaughter cows	55-101	
Slaughter bulls	92-126	
Stocker cows	—	
Pairs	—	

**Sheep & Goat Auctions:**

**Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, November 15, 2023:** Sheep and goats: Total receipts 4,295, last reported (11-7-23) 4,554, last year 4,608. Feeder sheep/lambs 90 (2.1%), last reported (11-7-23) 81 (1.8%), last year 92 (2.0%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 1,647 (38.3%), last reported (11-7-23) 1,836 (40.3%), last year 1,639 (35.6%). Replacement sheep/lambs 45 (1.0%), last reported (11-7-23) 196 (4.3%), last year 460 (10.0%). Feeder goats 172 (4.0%), last reported (11-7-23) 228 (5.0%), last year 168 (3.6%). Slaughter goats 2,246 (52.3%), last reported (11-7-23) 2,114 (46.4%), last year 2,065 (44.8%). Replacement goats 95 (2.2%), last reported (11-7-23) 99 (2.2%), last year 184 (4.0%). Compared to last week slaughter lambs 20.00-40.00 higher. slaughter ewes 20.00-30.00 higher. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies 10.00-20.00 higher; kids 10.00-30.00 higher. Trading active, demand good. Supply included: 2% Feeder Sheep/Lambs (72% Hair Lambs, 28% Hair Breeds); 38% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (13% Woolled & Shorn, 77% Hair Breeds, 1% Ewes, 7% Hair Ewes, 0% Bucks, 2% Hair Bucks); 1% Replacement Sheep/Lambs (100% Hair Ewes); 4% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 52% Slaughter Goats (72% Kids, 18% Nannies/Does, 9% Bucks/Billies, 0% Wethers); 2% Replacement Goats (100% Nannies/Does).

**Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, November 4, 2023:** Sheep and goats: 1534 Light Lambs Higher. Heavy Lambs Higher. Kids Higher. Light Kids Steady. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 180.00-285.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 170.00-280.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 130.00-260.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 200.00-360.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 200.00-360.00 Cwt. Light Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 140.00-360.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (100-150 Lb) 140.00-260.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 20.00-110.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 90.00-175.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 100.00-400.00 Cwt. #1. Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 140.00-400.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 160.00-350.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 175.00-370.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 130.00-300.

# Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas

## ROUND-UP REVIEW

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November, 2023  
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This year's election is over, and I am glad to report that Prop 1 was approved. It was very encouraging to see all the signs supporting Prop 1 on fences and gates out in the countryside and even some yard signs in town (I had to explain it to the neighbors)! Now, we can concentrate on more fun events like deer hunting and the holidays.

The cattle market seems to be holding and moisture has been nice. Hopefully, we'll be blessed with a milder winter than predicted.

Fall seedstock sales are

ongoing but wrapping up for the year but some of our top-quality producers still have private treaty cattle if you're looking. Support those.

Pray for those that are engaged in conflict, it influences all of us.

As this is the last column for the year, I want to thank all of you, members, officers, board members and staff for your ICA support this year. We'll kick off again in early 2024 after what I trust will be blessed Christmas and New Year for all.



By Joe C. Paschal,  
American Brahman Breeders  
Association Executive Vice President

### Fall Calving

About 70% of the calves born in the U.S. come in the spring and about 30% in the fall and 100% come year-round! In some instances that may not be too far from the truth. Of course, that depends on your definition of when spring and fall occur.

Spring calving is often a good choice for several reasons, there's plenty of grass (or will be when it rains), little if any supplemental feed needs to be fed, the weather is warmer, and there is less sickness in the newborn calves. It's also easier to get cows bred to calve in the spring, they are usually in better condition. The calf market is geared to take these calves in August through October so there is a ready market for them. Most will agree that Spring calving calves are cheaper to run (unless there's a drought).

Fall calving tends to be a less desirable option as grass quality and quantity is declining, more supplemental feed needs to be fed (hay if grass is in short supply but especially protein), the weather is usually colder and often wetter, and there tends to be more sickness in the calves (scours and respiratory). It is also more difficult to get the cows rebred in winter. Most will agree that fall calves cost more to pro-

duce, even if everything goes right.

The benefit of fall calves is that they are worth more when they are sold in the spring. There are fewer of them and the demand for calves to go out to grass begins about the time they are being weaned. Fall calves will gain cheaply on grass in the spring and summer and then go into the feedyard in the fall heavier and cost less to finish at a given weight (or grade). That makes fall calves worth about 5% or more at weaning than spring calves.

I will admit it is hard to beat spring calves when you are mucking about in the mud and cold wet weather putting out hay and doctoring sick fall calves but that does not have to be the case. Preparing a dedicated winter pasture can reduce the amount, cost, and hassle of feeding and vaccinating your pregnant cowherd for respiratory diseases and calf scours can go a long way to reducing fall calving problems. Of course, you should do these things even if you calve in the spring!

Regardless of when you calve, make sure you take some of these points into consideration, it will make calving much easier and profitable!

### Chapter Happenings...

## Around The Lone Star State

#### South Central ICA Chapter

South Central Texas Independent Cattlemen Association (SCTICA) members are approaching the holiday season and the new year with optimism. Pastures have greened up for the most part and grass is making up for lost time after a hot, dry summer. Recent rains have winter forage looking promising. Lots of fall calves on the ground and hunters are showing up. SCTICA will hold its first meeting of 2024 on January 23rd in Jourdanton, Texas at 6:30 p.m. and it will be located at the Jourdanton Library and Community Center. Speaker to be announced. Bring a neighbor and join us!

#### Brazos Valley ICA Chapter

Happy holidays from the Brazos Valley Chapter! We have enjoyed the recent rains and hope the hard freeze will hold off a little longer. We have much to be thankful for and it is easy to forget all our blessings as we go about our daily lives. Options for the next chapter meeting are being researched. The next meeting will begin at 6 p.m., and will be in Caldwell, Hearne, or another nearby town. We welcome all suggestions and you can call 830/203-8181 to discuss.

#### Victoria Crossroads ICA Chapter

At the Victoria Crossroads ICA chapter, we are happy to announce that we will be drawing for the winner of the gun raffle on Dec. 16, 2023, during our Christmas party. The Christmas party and meeting will be at Frances Marie's Restaurant in Victoria, Texas at 6 p.m.. There is a wide variety of guns being raffled off, such as a Bergara B14 Hunter, Bolt Action, 24" Bbl., 300 Win. Mag, a Trister, Viper G2 Synthetic, 3" chamber, 28" Bbl., 14 Ga. and many more. If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket, they are \$20 each or six for \$100. We look forward to having you and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

#### Gonzales ICA Chapter

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Gonzales ICA Chapter! We hope everyone has a safe and happy Holidays!

#### Mid-Tex ICA Chapter

Howdy from the Mid-Tex ICA chapter! Our next meeting will be in 2024 on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Be on the lookout for more meeting information soon! We look forward to see-

(Continued on page 6)

MEMBER

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Victoria Crossroads ICA Kyle Motal Victoria, TX			

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**Chapter...**  
 (Continued from page 5)  
 ing everyone in the New Year, and we hope everyone has a Happy Holidays!  
**Guada-Coma ICA Chapter**  
 The Guada-Coma ICA had their monthly meeting Monday Nov. 6th at Seguin Cattle Company. We had a wonderful crowd attend, one of the largest we have seen this year! Cooper Little reminded everyone to vote for Proposition No.1, Right to Farm. We went out and voted and it passed with 79.3%.  
 Sheriff Arnold Zwicke

was our guest speaker and he introduced us to Chief Deputy Joshua Ray. Chief Deputy Ray gave a very informative program. He explained the organizational structure of the Guadalupe County sheriff office. With a steady increase of population growth in the county they have started a mental health unit along with a new position as crime scene technician. We were shown a Narcotic Task Force video that was very interesting. Many questions were asked and answered. We were all impressed by his presentation.

We are thankful for the rain we have received and for the time we will be spending with family and friends over the holidays.  
**Southeast Texas ICA Chapter**  
 The Southeast Texas ICA (SETICA) Chapter would like to thank everyone who helped and supported our Drawdown Fundraiser on Oct. 28th, we really appreciate it as it was a great success! We had our annual business meeting on November 28th in Winnie, Texas, where we held elections for the 2024  
 (Continued on page 11)



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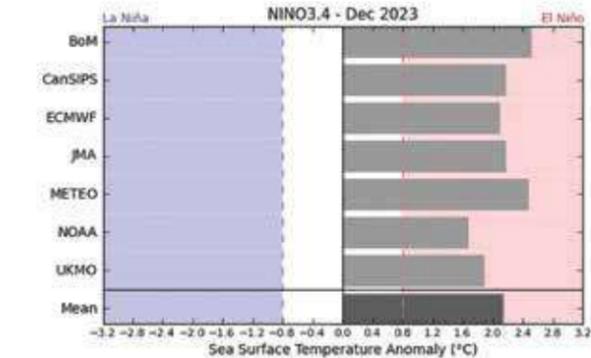


# WEATHER WISE

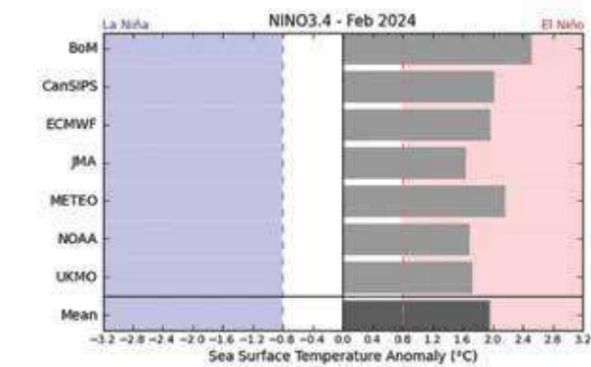
By Brian Bledsoe

### More El Niño thoughts

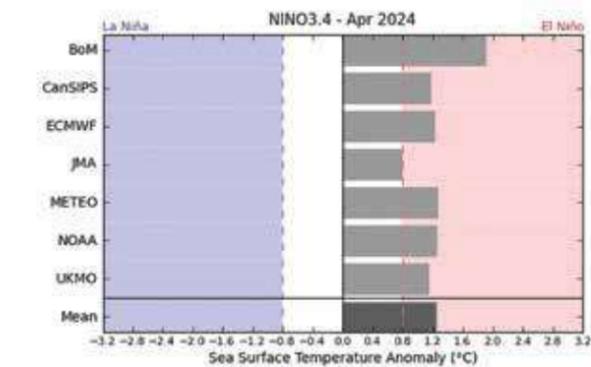
Here is a look at the latest model forecast strength and duration for this El Niño event. Focus on the mean forecast bar graph on the bottom of the charts, as it is the most responsible estimate of strength and duration:



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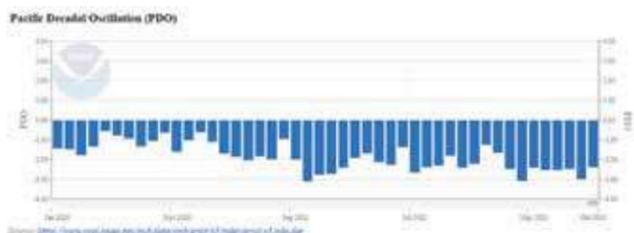
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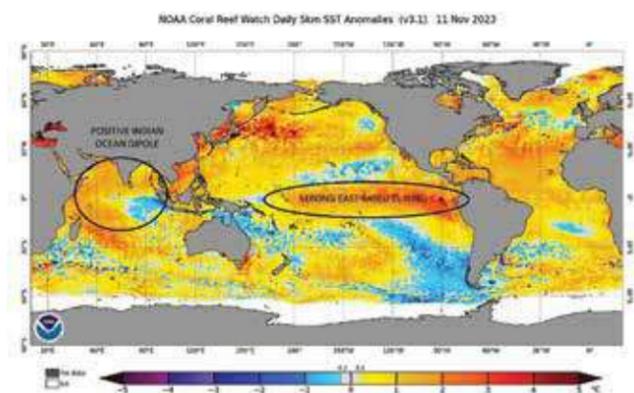
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As you can see, the event peaks from December-February, and then starts to weaken. Will this event be gone by the spring? I don't see that happening. Will it be weakening considerably by the spring? Yes, I see that happening.

What about the analogs? The best fit analog years from the past are very tough to come up with, because we are dealing with a strong east-based El Niño and a very negative/cold PDO. See the current PDO graph below:

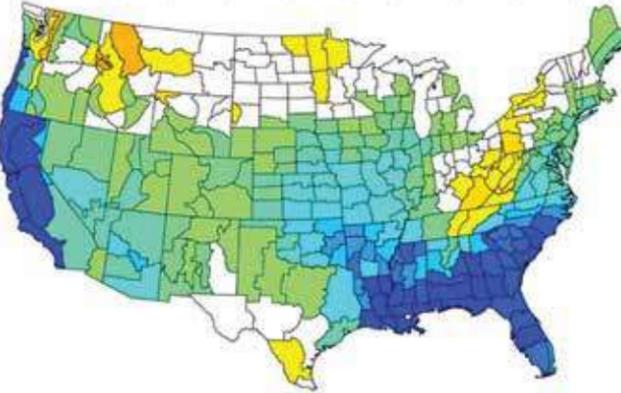


We also have what is called a positive Indian Ocean Dipole.



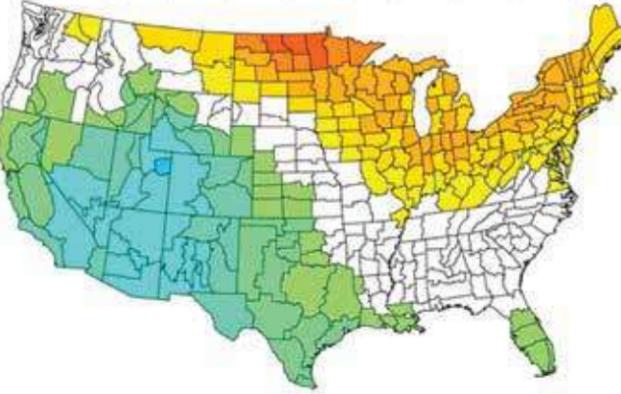
The years that have had a positive IOD, a strong east-based El Niño, and a negative PDO are very limited, pretty much non-existent. However, the following graphic shows just the correlation with a positive IOD and a strong east-based El Niño. The following graphics show the precipitation anomalies and the temperature anomalies that occurred during the years that matched up. Plus, you will see years listed multiple times...that is due to those years having more weight than others. The time frame runs from December through April.

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in) Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F) Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU

There are some dry signals in the Pacific Northwest and parts of the Northern Rockies/Plains, and Ohio Valley. Otherwise, a lot of the country ended up wetter than average. The southwest part of the country was colder than average and the north/northeast ended up warmer than average. Now, out of all those years...1972-73 was still my favorite analog of the bunch. I have talked about that for quite some time, but here is a refresher on what it looked like from December - April of that winter/spring.

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Temperature Anomalies (F) Dec to Apr 1972-73 Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU

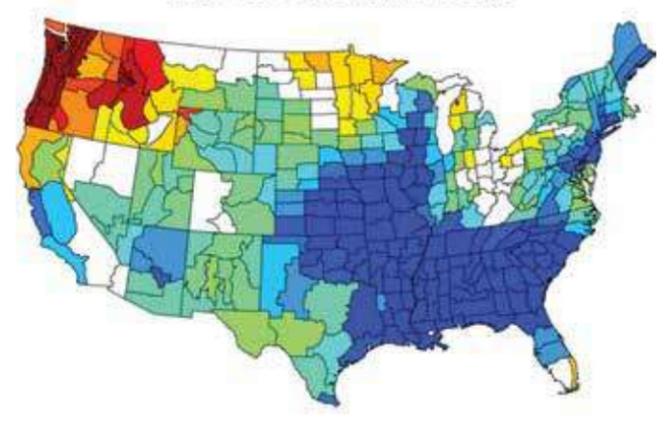
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If you have any questions or comments, please drop me an email... Brian Bledsoe, brianbledsoewx@gmail.com

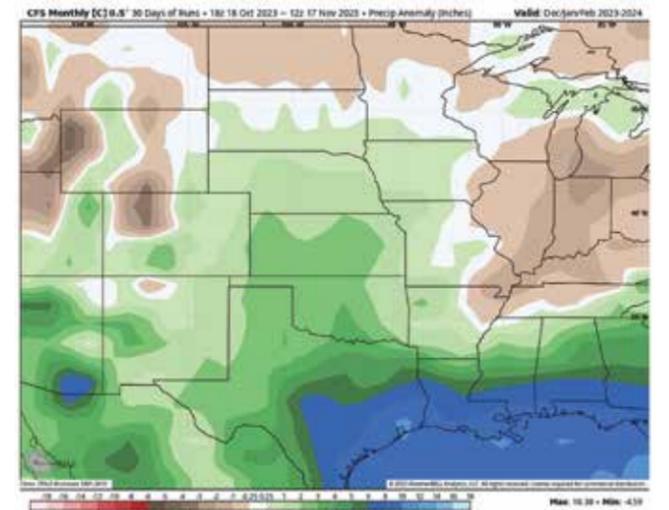
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Precipitation Anomalies (in) Dec to Apr 1972-73 Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



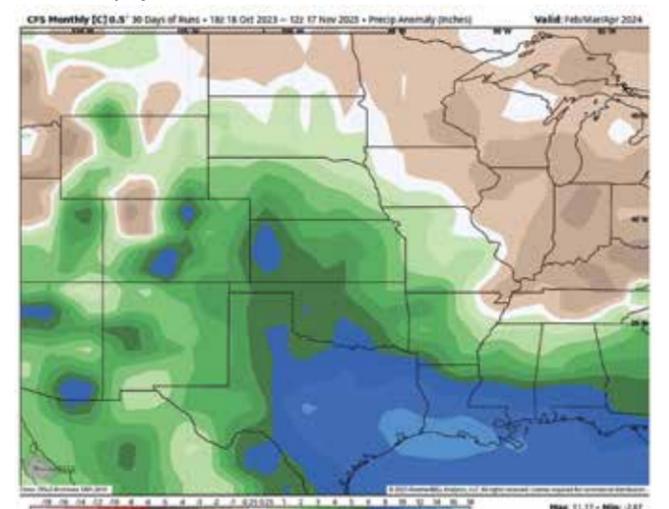
NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU

It may be tough to get cold and stay as cold as it was in 1972-73, but the overall storm track across a large part of the country looks pretty active. While it isn't the best model out there due to it overdoing things, the CFS model does have some takeaways about the pattern. See the precipitation anomaly forecast below:

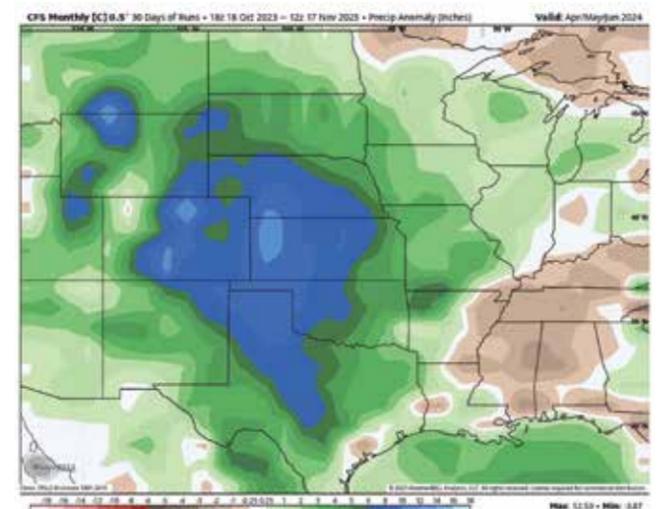
### December-February:



### February-April:



### April-June:



While the CFS model does have a tendency to be too wet or too dry, the overall flavor may not be that far off. While we may not technically be in an El Niño after April, we may still be benefiting from the residual impact of it.

While the back half of 2024 is more uncertain, I do believe that we will revert back to a La Niña. Historically, the PDO usually will moderate or even turn positive when an El Niño occurs. That has not been the case, and likely won't be the case going forward. Because of this, La Niña can more easily redevelop after the El Niño episode has ended. Historically, La Niña produces a decent monsoon for the southwest part of the country, and favors wetter than average conditions in the fall/winter, for the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies/Plains, while drying things out in the Desert Southwest, and the Western/Southern Plains.

I know we are talking about things a long way out there in time, but I know you are interested, and I wanted to share my thoughts. If you have questions, please let me know.



## Texas peanut production up this season

By Randi Williams, Texas AgriLife Today

Back-to-back seasons of drought continue to impact planted peanut acres making it another tough year for Texas peanut growers, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Emi Kimura, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension state peanut specialist, Vernon, said producers who were able to keep their crop under irrigation throughout the drought were able to maintain growth and produce average yields per acre. However, for those who were not able to keep up with moisture demands during a second season of drought and extreme heat suffered another rough season.

Harvested acres were up compared to 205,000 acres last year, according to an October U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistics Service report. The USDA report also forecasted 107% higher production in Texas than last year – 677 million pounds, compared to 328 million pounds in 2022. Peanut yields this season were up 500 pounds per acre over 2022 production and expected to reach 3,300 pounds per acre.

But Kimura said the USDA report does not depict the 2023 peanut growing season. She said 13,000-14,000 acres of the 230,000 peanut acres in Texas were lost to dry, hot conditions.

“It was the second drought season in a row, and that makes it harder,” Kimura said. “Peanuts need even more water, and lower yields in back-to-back seasons makes it hard for growers.”

### Peanut growers face tough conditions

The lack of rain and soil moisture in the ground throughout the season left most peanut growers solely reliant on irrigation, Kimura said. That means a farm’s irrigation capacity greatly influenced individual grower outcomes.

The evaporative effect of another arid growing season took its toll on growers’ ability to meet water demands for good pod and peanut development, she said.

Drought delayed crop progress, but there were also weather-related delays at harvest, Kimura said.

“Producers waited a week

or two longer than normal to harvest their crop since the rain we received in May and June pushed back planting,”

(Continued on page 10)

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## BEEFMASTER BULL SALE

**12 Noon – Saturday, January 13, 2024**

Live Oak County Fairgrounds • Hwy. 281 South • Three Rivers, Texas

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**2023 Live Oak Grand Champion Bull**

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Friday, January 12**

- Viewing of bulls
- Final grading of top 20 bulls and selection of Grand Champion
- Presale social, dinner and awards presentation

**Saturday, January 13**

- Viewing of bulls, coffee and doughnuts
- Membership meeting
- Lunch

12 Noon - Bull sale begins

Auctioneer & Sale Manager:

**Anthony J. MIHALSKI**  
Auctioneer & Sales Mgmt. LLC

**Anthony J. Mihalski**  
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Anthony Sr. Mobile (210) 415-0888  
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All bulls have been pre-graded and final grading of the top 20 bulls will be on Friday afternoon at the sale site. The top 20 bulls will be cataloged in age order. The remaining bulls are cataloged in sale order starting with Lot 21. Catalog and videos will be available in mid-December.

The Live Oak Bull Sale is one of the longest running, most dependable offering of high-quality herd sire prospects and commercial Beefmaster bulls in the nation.

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Best Western, George West  
(361) 449-3300

Quality Inn, Three Rivers  
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Atria Inn & Suites, Three Rivers  
(361) 786-1500

**Texas Crop...**

(Continued from page 9)

said Kimura. "The drought also slowed down production, so waiting to harvest allowed the crop to mature."

**Progressing peanut prices**

Pancho Abello, AgriLife Extension economist, Vernon, released the High Plains Ag Week – Peanut Market update Oct. 18. Peanut prices reached the highest level in the last decade – \$545 per ton on average. Abello said demand for peanuts in the U.S. has shifted.

He reported a 9% consumption decrease for peanut candy, snacks and other peanut products, while peanut butter and in-shell peanut consumption increased 6%.

"Even though producers' yields improved on average, many still struggled to bring in a crop," Kimura said.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

**CENTRAL**

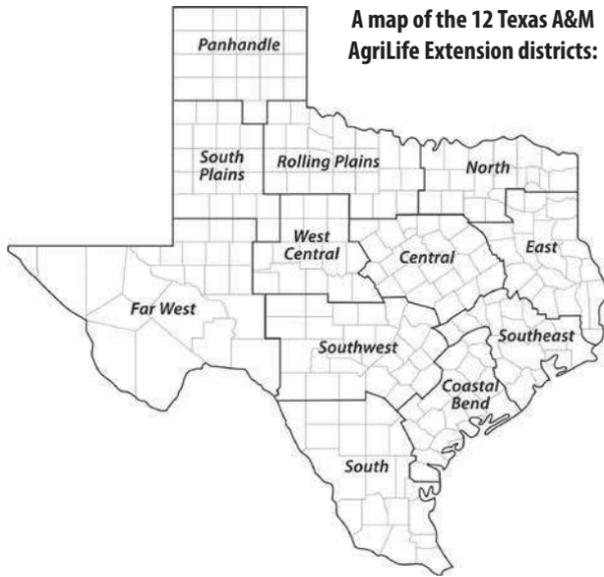
The district received some moisture and cooler temperatures later in the week. That moisture continued to help young grain fields. The pecan harvest continued with mostly low yields; fair quality on some irrigated acres and no yield on dry-

land or irrigated acres that ran out of water. Trees were showing some symptoms of drought after moisture returned to the area. Rust and other fungi were present on trees. Small grains were still being planted. Cool-season grass and small grains already planted were responding well. Wheat that emerged looked excellent. Grazing was anticipated to become more widespread as cool and damp weather continued and winter forages developed further. There were a few reports of isolated armyworms. Walnut and tent caterpillars were higher in number this year. Bermuda grass stem maggots were also noted.

Hessian fly larvae were observed in the early planted wheat and remain a concern with growers. Livestock remain in fair to good condition with some supplementation.

**ROLLING PLAINS**

Optimism for a good winter wheat stand remained last week, with farmers across the district seeing a promising start for the crop. The rains were showing their benefit. Some stockers were even starting to move calves out for grazing on wheat. Topsoil moisture was holding well in most places, and pasture grasses were reported as emerging and holding green, although not growing much. Ranchers with cattle on pas-



ture continued supplementing with some hay and cubes.

**COASTAL BEND**

The area was in a cooler and wet weather pattern, with reports of 1-3 inches of rain. All fieldwork stopped. Producers were placing orders for seed for next year. Rangeland and pasture conditions were showing improvement. Winter pastures were progressing well and should be even better next week after the widespread rain. Local ranchers got their last hay cutting for the year before the rain arrived. Livestock were doing well, and markets were holding firm. Some pecan harvest continued as weather allowed. Yields were very sporadic, ranging from poor to good.

**EAST**

Most of the region received rainfall. Marion County reported as much as 2 inches. Ponds and creeks began to fill up. Some winter pastures were growing. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair to good. Subsoil conditions were adequate to short. Topsoil conditions were adequate. Livestock was doing fair to good with some supplementation taking place. Wild pig damage was reported in hay meadows and pastures.

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Gopher control was underway.

**SOUTH PLAINS**

Producers had to wait for the fields to dry out before they could continue stripping cotton and planting wheat. Last week, the district received modest rain showers across the district. Farmers reported that yields for irrigated cotton fields were down 30-50% across the area. A few in the eastern counties reported yields down only 10% due to receiving more rainfall

in later July. Early planted wheat was in good condition across much of the district. Some of the later planted wheat hadn't emerged. Cattle were in good condition, and native pastures across the area were in good condition going into the winter season.

**PANHANDLE**

The region continued to have very dry conditions. Corn harvest was completed in most counties. Most late sorghum and corn for silage

(Continued on page 11)



**NAVASOTA LIVESTOCK AUCTION CO.**  
 Hwy 90 (toward Anderson) & FM 3455

**19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FALL FEMALE & BULL REPLACEMENT SALE**

**Saturday, December 9th ★ 10:00 a.m.**  
 All Livestock must be received no later than Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 5:00 p.m.

Expecting 400+ Pairs, Bred Cows, Bred Heifers, & Open Heifers

Expecting 20+ Angus, Charolais, Hereford, & Brangus Bulls

ALL CONSIGNMENTS WILL BE SCREENED UPON ARRIVAL. All Bulls must have a trich and a fertility test within 30 days of the sale date and prior to arrival. (Paperwork on these tests must be presented when bulls are unloaded.)

ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL CONSIGNMENTS

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 For a Free Weekly Market Report Log on to [www.navasotalivestock.com](http://www.navasotalivestock.com)

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**10th Annual Spring Brangus Bull Sale**

**20 Exceptional Bulls Sell!**

**Thursday, February 8, 2024 • 10:00 a.m.**

**Jordan Cattle Auction • San Saba**

View On Location - Friday, February 2 to Sale Day  
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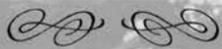
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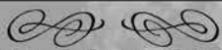
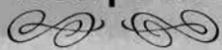
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**Chapter...**

(Continued from page 6)

Officers. We want to thank Tom Kelly with Livestock Risk Protection for speaking at the meeting, as well. SETICA wishes everyone a blessed holiday, and a Happy New Year!

**Colorado Valley ICA Chapter**

Season's greetings from the Colorado Valley ICA Chapter! We are excited to announce our Annual Fundraiser Barbeque & Trade Show will take place on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at KC Hall in La Grange, Texas. The trade show and social hours will be from 4-6 p.m. with the meal to be served directly following. There will also be a silent auction, gun raffle, live auction and cash door prize giveaways! You must be present to win, so make sure to save the date and grab your tick-



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ets! For more information, please email [contact@ColoradoValleyICA.com](mailto:contact@ColoradoValleyICA.com). We look forward to seeing you there and wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**West Texas ICA Chapter:**

The West Texas Chapter would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**East Texas ICA Chapter**

Howdy from the East Texas ICA Chapter! Members met on Tuesday, Nov. 14th at The Regen Ranch in Oakwood Texas

for a great chapter meeting. Thank you to our sponsor Bimeda, and their representatives who gave a presentation on their animal health products and veterinary pharmaceuticals.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 6 p.m. at The Regen Ranch in Oakwood, Texas for our holiday celebration. Please bring one gift to share in a gift exchange. We look forward to seeing y'all there and wish everyone happy holidays!

~SLS

**Texas Crop...**

(Continued from page 10)

had been harvested. Tillage operations continued, especially on fields where a warm-season forage was chopped and harvested for silage purposes. Additional precipitation was needed

to boost the emergence and early growth of recently planted cover crops, including acres of winter wheat planted for forage, grain or dual-purpose use. Winter wheat plantings were ongoing, with some early planting being irrigated for pasture cattle. All dryland wheat

suffered from lack of rainfall; only irrigated wheat had progressed. Cotton was limited this year due to weather conditions during planting. Pasture and rangelands were reported as fair to very poor. Producers continued supplemental feeding their herds.

(Continued on page 12)

**TEXAS DROVERS**



**BULL & COMMERCIAL FEMALE SALE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023 – 10:00 AM**  
**CAROLETA RANCH – WEIMAR, TEXAS**

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 Gary & Rodney Butler, Owners  
 Gary Butler, Manager • (830) 857-4330

**BEEVILLE**  
**LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, INC.**  
 Sale every Friday 11:00 a.m.  
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## McClintock inducted into Hereford Hall of Merit

Source: American Hereford Association

Mark McClintock of San Angelo, Texas, was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Merit on Oct. 21 at the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting and Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Hall of Merit recognizes two inductees each year who have heavily influenced the Hereford breed. David Hawkins, Ph.D., from Michigan was also inducted.

Mark McClintock has spent a lifetime working in the Hereford breed, with stints at Bright Bros. Herefords, California; Lone Star Herefords, Texas; and Rocking Chair Ranch, Texas.

McClintock's roots trace back to a racetrack on the outskirts of Los Angeles, where his father was a horse trainer and jockey. However, from an early age, he knew he preferred bovine over equine. McClintock grew up showing cattle and attended Cal Poly University, where he studied animal science and even cut his long, beloved locks to judge on the livestock judging team. Since then, he has traveled the world to evaluate cattle of every shape, size and



Mark McClintock (center) was honored by the American Hereford Association as a member of their Hall of Merit. He is joined in the photo with his family.

color.

After college, McClintock worked for Bright Herefords in California before becoming the herdsman for Lone Star Herefords. While on the road fitting and showing cattle, he met his wife, Teresa, at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), and she joined McClintock at Lone Star. The couple has two sons, Ryan and Mason.

The McClintocks went to west Texas to work for the Rocking Chair Ranch (RCR) in the early '80s. There, McClintock was tasked with building a herd of elite Hereford cattle. McClintock

won Hereford Herdsman of the Year in 1981 and over the next 25 years, built and maintained the RCR Hereford herd. Patience paid off, and RCR raised the grand and reserve champion horned females at the 2000 Junior National Hereford Expo in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the reserve champion female at the NWSS. In addition to raising elite females, McClintock was an essential part of establishing a market for RCR's bulls, often selling Hereford sires to Brahman breeders to create the ultimate Southern cross.

(Continued on page 15)

### Texas Crop...

(Continued from page 11)

#### NORTH

Topsoil and subsoil were reported as adequate to short for counties within the region. Pasture and rangelands were reported as fair to very poor for most counties in the district. Heavy rainfall over the past week helped the crop tremendously. Winter pastures were starting to grow and looked good. Ryegrass and oats were growing well thanks to adequate moisture. Some ranchers started to feed hay because the fields were drying up. Summer crops were harvested. Winter wheat and other cool-season grasses were planted and emerged across some counties. Livestock were doing well. There was no disease or insect outbreak in the district.

#### FAR WEST

Temperatures were warmer, from the mid-80s to low 60s. A cold front persisted for the latter part of the week. Trace amounts of rain were received up to at least 2 inches. The wet ground kept cotton strippers out of the field until it dried out. Most irrigated cotton was harvested. It was dry enough for planters to put a little wheat in the ground. Earlier planted wheat was emerging and

looking good. Rangeland had improved slightly due to the extra rainfall and temperatures cooling; however, it was still considered fair to poor. Livestock were in fair condition and were getting fed three times a week. Calves were being weaned. Deer hunters arrived in the region on leases.

#### WEST CENTRAL

The district experienced average temperatures with cooler mornings and received another inch of rain to sustain soil moisture. Small grain planting was underway, but additional soil moisture was needed to emerge recently planted grain. Cotton harvest was almost complete. Although the district received rain, stock tank and lake levels remained low. Winter annuals appeared in rangelands and pastures, providing some grazing. Fed cattle prices were up at local sale barns. Producers have increased supplemental feeding of their herds to help maintain body condition going into the winter months.

#### SOUTHEAST

Numerous counties throughout the district experienced rainfall. Pastures were still very dry, and no winter grass was emerging yet. Cooler temperatures

swept across the district, and the first frost hit and caused forages to go dormant. Winter wheat that was previously planted was in good shape. Trees began transitioning into dormancy, and there were no pest issues. Producers were getting a final cutting of hay, which was crucial to help with the upcoming winter months. Cow prices were holding steady, and calf prices continued to rise. Producers continued supplemental feeding the cattle they have kept.

#### SOUTHWEST

Weather conditions in the region were cooler and drizzly, with slow and steady rains providing much-needed moisture in some areas. Precipitation amounts varied, with reports ranged from 0.1 to 2.75 inches. However, there were still areas experiencing dry conditions. The cool and damp conditions at the end of the week impacted livestock markets, causing prices to be slightly lower. Wheat appeared to be in good condition and fully emerged. Some armyworm pressure was observed, likely due to the previous week's rainfall. Wheat plantings were beginning to increase, and the moisture was expected

(Continued on page 13)



**Fall Bull Sale and**  
**Pride of Texas Female Sale**  
**February 3, 2024**  
 Beeville Livestock Commission  
 Sale Starts at Noon

Accepting Entries:  
**Bull consignments:**  
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 Brahman (Only 5)

**Pride of Texas Female Sale**  
 NEW THIS YEAR:  
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**DC News...**

(Continued from page 3)  
every WOTUS definition since the 1980s has included adjacent wetlands, but under previous definitions, "adjacent" has included wetlands that neighbored or bordered a recognized WOTUS. The wetland did not necessarily need to be indistinguishable from the WOTUS to fall under Clean Water Act jurisdiction. With *Sackett*, that changed.

**Public comment issue**

It didn't take long for EPA to update its WOTUS definition following *Sackett*. On Aug. 29, EPA issued its Final Conforming Rule. The rule brought EPA's definition more in line with the ruling in *Sackett*.

Rollins noted that EPA did not offer a period of time for public comment before issuing its rule.

"Usually, when an agency issues a rule or a regulation, they are going to put forward first their proposed rule," she said. "And that's going to be available for public comment" during which the public can leave comments on the rule that agencies will then respond to, and potentially take into account before issuing a final rule.

EPA said that a public comment was unnecessary, as the reasoning for issuing the final rule was to conform the 2023 rule to the decision in *Sackett v. EPA*.

"That's something that people are going to argue about, and certainly something that we are going to see come up in the ongoing litigation," Rollins said.

Rollins noted that states may have their own laws regulating water and wetlands pollution, which would not be impacted by

the *Sackett* decision and EPA's conforming rule. While some states may not have laws regarding wetlands or may have laws preventing them from regulating wetlands beyond the federal level, other states have wetlands permitting programs that regulate more strictly than the Clean Water Act.

"A lot of them do regulate beyond what the Clean Water Act does because the feds set the floor, not the ceiling," she said.

Before the *Sackett* decision was issued, three lawsuits were filed by multiple states to challenge the Biden Administration's March 2023 WOTUS rule. WOTUS is currently interpreted consistent with the pre-2015 definition of the term and with the *Sackett* decision in the 27 states that are party to the lawsuits, as litigation is ongoing.

**Slowing, but not stopping**

While 2023 has been a big year for WOTUS news, it is not the end of the road.

"We're still on our WOTUS roller coaster," Rollins said. "We've had our *Sackett* decision this year, but we still have a lot of questions, really about what WOTUS looks like following *Sackett*."

Rollins noted that depending on how things shake out with the litigation, the WOTUS definition has the potential to change again. Additionally, there are state and federal laws that regulate wetlands that will probably receive greater attention in the aftermath of *Sackett*.

"I would expect things are going to slow down a little bit," Rollins said. "But, with this litigation still ongoing, there are more changes that could be ahead."

**Texas Crop...**

(Continued from page 12)  
to benefit the cool-season fields of wheat and oats and rangeland growth. The rains helped the fall corn crop and provided much-needed moisture for winter vegetables, oats and wheat crops. Rainfall continued in the area as the cotton harvest began to round out. Despite the rain, the region was still considered short on moisture. Rangeland conditions were improving, and winter wheat planting was nearing completion. Producers were providing supplemental feed for livestock, and there was a slowdown in shipping stock. Livestock were reported to be in fair condition. Hunters reported average antler growth

and average body condition for recent harvests.

**SOUTH**

Weather conditions continued to cool down across the district, and beneficial rainfall was received. Some producers were continuing peanut harvest, small winter grain planting continued and some previously planted were emerging. Pecan harvest was reported as good. Producers started cutting hay and have hopes of a second cutting with the recent rainfall. Beef cattle producers continued supplemental feeding and culling their herds. Local markets were offering average volumes of cattle. Turkey and deer were moving and more visible as cooler temperatures approached.

**2 0 2 3** **2 0 2 4**  
**LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR**  
EDITOR'S NOTE: Bold-faced listings have advertisements in this issue.

NOV 25 Pine Belt Alliance Brangus Bull & Female Sale, Purvis, MS

NOV 29 Caldwell Livestock Auction Special Replacement Sale, Caldwell, TX



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**WEDNESDAY,  
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**11:00AM | Caldwell, TX**  
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DEC 1 J Bar Angus Bull & Female Sale (formerly Lone Star Angus Alliance Sale), Hallettsville, TX



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DEC 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

DEC 2 2 Bar C Ranch Angus Production Sale, Luling, TX



**2 Bar C Ranch**

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*Fifth Annual Production Sale*  
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DEC 2 Rancher's Choice Charolais Bull Sale, Nixon, TX

DEC 2 Pied Piper Farms Annual Production Sale, Industry, TX

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DEC 2 Sunbelt Red Brangus "Color'em Red" Sale, Henderson, TX

DEC 2 Brazos Valley Livestock Commission 27th Annual Replacement Sale, Bryan, TX

DEC 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX

DEC 9 Inaugural GKB Cattle & Barber Ranch Hereford Female Event, Desdemona, TX

DEC 9 Texas Drivers Annual Bull & Replacement Female Sale, Weimar, TX

DEC 9 Navasota Livestock Auction Female & Bull Replacement Sale, Navasota, TX

DEC 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX

DEC 14 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Sale, Leachman's Texas Fall Stabilizer Bulls, San Saba, TX

DEC 16 Pearsall Livestock Auction End of the Year Cow Sale, Pearsall, TX

JAN 4 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering, Shady Oak Farm Charolais & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX



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JAN 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX

JAN 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX

JAN 13 Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association Bull Sale, Three Rivers, TX

JAN 20 Jordan Cattle Auction January Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

JAN 20 46th Annual Cattleman Bull & Female Sale, El Campo Livestock Exchange, El Campo, TX

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FEB 14 San Antonio All Breed Bull and Replacement Female Sale, San Antonio, TX

FEB 17 Jordan Cattle Auction Early Spring Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX

FEB 24 Advantage Plus Beefmaster Bull Sale, Brenham, TX

FEB 24 Hallettsville Livestock Commission Special Replacement Female Sale, Hallettsville, TX

MAR 2 South Texas Cattle Marketing Spring Replacement Female Sale, Nixon, TX

MAR 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX

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# Cattle economics: cattle production cost

Dr. Andrew Griffith, University of Tennessee Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

What does it cost to carry a cow? What is the cost of production in the cattle business? These are questions that arise on occasion, but few people actually take the time to calculate their cost of production. There are annual budgets available through the land grant universities that provide an outline of production costs, and those budgets are meant to be a guide for individual operations to develop a production budget for their operation. The primary objective of a budget is to determine costs, compare those costs to revenues, and finally make management decisions that increase profits.

What is the largest cost of production in the cattle business? Most people would say feed, which would be purchased feed, hay and pasture, but the biggest cost category in most cattle operations is owning the cattle. It is easy to see from the stocker or feedlot perspective in that purchasing the animals is a tremendous cost. For example, given the average market price of 550 pound steers as of this writing, a steer costs more than \$1,350. That

same animal as an 850 pound steer is valued near \$2,000. Owning the animal is also the largest cost in the cow-calf business. It is clearly witnessed when a bred female is purchased, but it is more often experienced when a producer retains a heifer to put back in the breeding herd instead of selling the heifer. The cost of that animal was her value at weaning plus the cost of getting her to calving.

Moving away from the cost of the animals, feed cost does tend to be the largest cost category. Based on the University of Tennessee cow-calf budget, pasture, hay and supplemental feed accounts for nearly 80 percent of the production expenses and over 50 percent of the total cost of production. The remainder of the production expenses is composed of salt and mineral, herd health, reproductive costs, and labor.

Some costs that are often overlooked include interest, land rent, marketing costs, and depreciation. Many people overlook interest expenses and land rent because they are not borrowing money and they

own the land they are utilizing. However, every dollar that is used in the cattle herd has an interest expense, because that money could be doing something else to earn a dollar. Similarly, the failure to apply a land rent cost to owned land is a mistake, because that land could be rented to someone else. The truth of the matter is producers should apply a cost to these categories to gain a better understanding of a return to their management. Marketing costs often come out of the cattle check at the auction barn, which means they are dollars the cattle producer never sees. These cannot be overlooked. This is a real cost of production even though it is taken out at the time of sell.

This now brings the conversation to depreciation. Many people consider depreciation of equipment, buildings, and other items that have a tax depreciation schedule. However, these are not the only things depreciating. Cows depreciate as well. For example, if bred heifers are worth \$2,500 per head today, is she still worth that when she is five years old or

nine years old? Occasionally, bred female values will increase from when they are a bred heifer to when they are three or four years old, which means they appreciated in value. However, cows typically depreciate in value the older they get. This may not seem like a big deal, but that \$2,500 heifer today may only have a salvage value of \$1,000 when she is ten years old. That means she depreciated nearly \$200 per year when using straight line depreciation.

Cost of production is probably not at the top of most producers' minds right now, because calf and feeder cattle prices are extremely strong. However, production costs always influence profits regardless of how high cattle prices are. Producers should probably take the time to sketch out a budget to see where their costs are too high and even where more money is needed to produce the cattle desired by the market. Ignorance and laziness are not excuses that will protect a person from losing money or failing to be as profitable as they can be.

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## 2023 USDA Land Values summary

By Tiffany Lashmet, Texas AgriLife Extension

Earlier this fall, the USDA released its annual Land Values Summary for 2023.

Not surprisingly, the report indicates increasing values nationwide over the past year. For "farm real estate value," which takes into account the value of all land and buildings on farms, the U.S. average value was \$4,080, up 7.4% from 2022. For cropland, the nationwide average value increased 8.1% to \$5,460/acre. For pastureland, the nationwide average value was \$1,760/acre, up 6.7% from last year.

The report also looks at

various regional measurements.

- Farm real estate average value is the highest in the Corn Belt region (IL, IN, IA, MO, OH) at \$8,100/acre. The highest state value is found in Rhode Island at \$18,300/acre. The lowest regional average was \$1,450 for the Mountain region (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY). The lowest state value is New Mexico at \$610. By way of comparison, Texas and Oklahoma make up the Southern Plains region, which has an average of \$2,800.

- For cropland values,

New Jersey reports the highest at \$18,100/acre, while regionally the Pacific region shows the highest values at an average of \$8,800/acre. Mountain region reported the lowest cropland average value at \$2,410/acre with the Southern Plains region slightly higher at \$2,480.

- Pasture average value per acre was highest in New Jersey at \$16,600 and regionally highest in the Southeast (AL, FL, GA, SC) at \$5,050 and lowest in the Mountain region, pastureland value came in at an average of

\$2,150.

Looking specifically at Texas:

- Farm real estate average value: \$2,900/acre, a 9.4% increase from 2022.

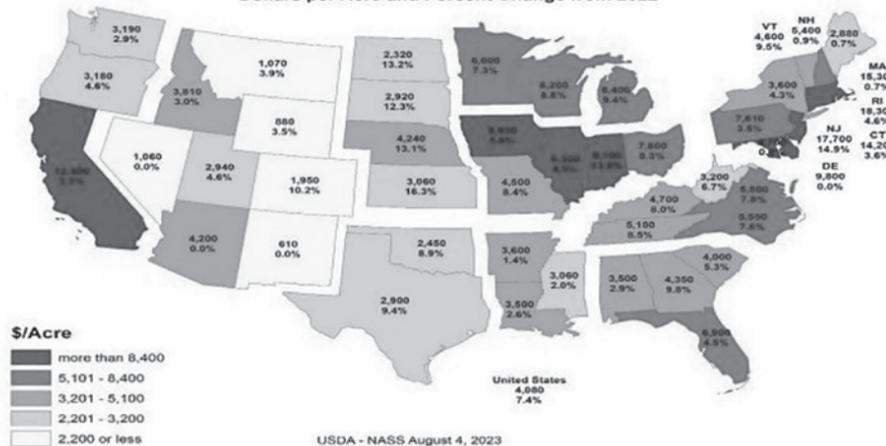
- Cropland average value: \$2,590/acre. This is up 7% from a year ago. This includes an irrigated average of \$3,050 and non-irrigated average of \$2,520.

- Pastureland average value: \$2,200/acre, up 7.3%.

To view the entire report and see com-

plete information for each state and region, visit <https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/pn89d6567/9w-033j15z/2v23xb225/land0823.pdf>.

2023 Farm Real Estate Value by State  
Dollars per Acre and Percent Change from 2022



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## McClintock...

(Continued from page 12)

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ing efforts, while continuing to judge major cattle shows.

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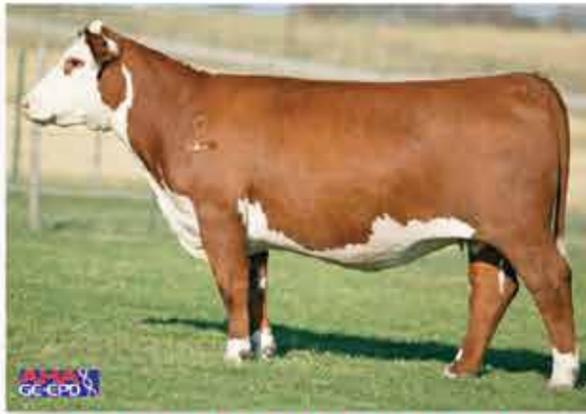
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44374113 • 1/4/22 • Horned  
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REA +.70 • MRB +.24 • CHB +163



**GKB 229G RITA K111 ET**

P44368468 • 3/5/22 • Homozygous Polled  
Makers Mark x Loewen DMF Rita BB42 G21 ET  
CED +5.3 • BW +1.0 • WW +61 • YW +104 • MILK +34  
REA +.75 • MRB +.23 • CHB +158



**GKB G015 HALSEY K153 ET**

P44374552 • 6/3/22 • Polled  
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CED -2.7 • BW +3.2 • WW +62 • YW +100 • MILK +34  
REA +.62 • MRB +.08 • CHB +119



**BR ANASTASIA G012 ET**

P44092606 • 8/26/19 • Polled  
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CED -1.0 • BW +5.1 • WW +63 • YW +103 • MILK +26  
REA +.38 • MRB -.07 • CHB +100



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P44224880 • 1/19/21 • Polled  
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P44002254 • 1/6/19 • Horned  
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