

Producer preparedness critical as New World screwworms approach

AgriLife Extension experts offer advice on planning, preparing and monitoring

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Livestock producers need to take steps now to prepare as the New World screwworm approaches the Texas-Mexico border, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock specialists.

Necessary action now breaks down to three areas: plan, prepare and monitor the situation and livestock, said

AgriLife Extension livestock specialists Ron Gill, Ph.D., professor, Chico, and Karl Harborth, Ph.D., assistant professor, Corpus Christi, both in the Department of Animal Science.

With the latest report of New World screwworm in Mexico, only 149 miles from the Texas border, Harborth said the threat is more imminent to South Texas producers. While some progressive ranchers have already made changes in their operations, he said many producers still need to develop plans for the pest's arrival.

"I don't think a lot of us thought it would be an issue in our lifetime," Harborth said. "There are still people who don't know what screwworm is and the possibilities it brings."

Best treatment is management and preparation

Gill and Harborth said producers' questions at New World screwworm-related meetings have been focused on treatment.

There is no magic cure or foolproof treatment, so preparation and management should be No. 1 on the list, they said.

"Producers need to be thinking about the management side of things first," Gill said. "Treating external parasites is a constant challenge for many producers, but it will be one of several management practices that will help producers reduce the impact of the screwworm."

Their advice:

- Develop a plan for external parasite control, as fly and tick wounds create a place for the screwworm fly to lay eggs.

- Look for options to help reduce the impact of external parasites throughout the fly season. This may include well-timed topical fly and tick control using sprays, pour-ons, dips, and ear tags.

- Set up game cameras to



Livestock producers need to begin planning and preparing now as the New World screwworm moves closer to the Texas-Mexico border. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

monitor livestock at water sources.

- If feasible, consider using technologies such as drones or tracking collars to enhance remote monitoring and animal location.

- Establish a relationship with a veterinarian now and develop a treatment protocol. Access to several approved products requires a veterinarian's authorization. Time is of the essence for animal treatments should an infestation be discovered.

- All employees should be trained and ready to access products suggested for treatment.

- All employees need to understand how to identify infestations, clean wounds, collect larvae, submit samples, treat current wounds and provide post-treatment care.

"Preparation is the best thing right now," Gill said. "Stay aggressive until the sterile flies can eliminate the issue."

Service livestock specialists, discuss how producers need to prepare their infrastructure, such as their squeeze chute, to ensure no additional injuries are caused when working livestock. (Donny Hall, Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

Prepare the working area

Producers need to visually inspect their livestock up close and individually for

signs of screwworm infestation, Gill said.

"Being able to identify and treat is going to be key. This shouldn't just be a drive-by window look, get close enough to look the whole animal over," Harborth said. "An infected wound will manifest within 72 hours, and the animal could be lost in seven days."

Their suggestions:

- Consider using cubes or some "hand-fed" supplement in the warm-season feeding routine to allow close viewing to identify wounds. Pretrain your animals for these inspections.

- Prepare corrals and chutes to capture animals suspected of infestations and be able to treat and monitor them to ensure wounds heal and don't reinfest or cause additional injury sites.

- Inspect working facilities. Fix jagged edges or nails sticking out that could cause injury or invite a screwworm infestation.

- Producers with multiple pastures will need a set of panels to gather, identify, and, if needed, treat, or consider partnering with neighbors on a portable panel system to share.

- If calving will occur during the fly season, consider placing expectant mothers in pastures with easier access or working facilities to allow for their monitoring and treatment before turning them out with the rest of the herd.

"We can't 100% prevent injuries and open wounds that could attract New World screwworm, but we can take care of things that are under our control," Gill said. "Look into alternatives that work for your operation. Develop a plan and be ready to act."

Timing is everything

Gill and Harborth said producers should consider moving the birthing season and wound-inducing processing operations to the cooler months, when flies are less

active or inactive, depending on the part of the state.

Their suggestions:

- Ear tagging, castrating, dehorning, shearing and branding need to be done as early in the spring as possible or late in the fall after the fly season.

- Avoid births after April until temperatures cool in late October or November.

- Ramp up treatment of the umbilical cord.

"The No. 1 route of infestation and cause of death in South American livestock due to screwworm is the entrance through the umbilicus of a newborn animal," Harborth said. "If we can get that treated and dried up or healed faster, the fly won't have the opportunity to make that entrance."

Stay vigilant in monitoring and reporting

Wildlife and game cameras could be important tools for livestock producers. The deer population is very

(Continued on page 6)

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Texas Side of Things 2

Texas Trails 2

Markets 4

Weather Wise 16

Sale Calendar 26

PERIODICAL

• See Pages 7-14 •

INDEPENDENT CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS
ROUND-UP REVIEW



The TEXAS SIDE of Things

By Jim Banner

TEXAS Trails...

By Clay Coppedge

What's the number one topic of conversation this spring? Maybe it's the high prices we are still getting for our calves. No, that's an old topic now days. Maybe it's the increased prices being paid for replacement females. That probably is getting to be old news as well, since that began all the way back in January. I would have to say that the biggest concern for producers right now is when this drought will end. This is a great question. Mankind has tried to outsmart mother nature for a long time and has yet to be successful.

A lot of folks think that our seasonal rain patterns have changed dramatically due to the change in our climate. So, I did some research and found numerous papers written on Texas drought and following is some of the information I found. From the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), droughts have been recorded as a problem in Texas ever since the Spaniards explored the area.

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca found a population of soil tillers (Native Indians) near the site of present day Presidio where it had not rained for two years. Regarding the white man as a god, they begged him to tell the sky to rain. In 1720, a summer dry spell in Coahuila, Mexico killed 3,500 head of the 4,000 horses that the Marques de Aguayo, governor of Texas was prepared to bring to Texas. A drought in Central Texas dried up the San Gabriel River in 1756, forcing the abandonment of a settlement of missionaries and Indians.

Another report I found was comparing the infamous 1950s drought to recent 2010-2014 drought. This has been a great debate forever, and this article actually lets both sides win part of the argument. The report said that meteorological records show that the 1950s drought lasted significantly longer than the 2010-2014 drought, while the 2011 was the most intense single year of drought on record in

Texas.

Growing up in Central Texas, my dad would tell me things about the 50s drought, especially when it started to get dry. One day I asked him if it ever rained during that 10-year period and he told me yes.... just enough to let you hang on. That's kind of what we are presently doing right now. I've been traveling around recently and yes, I know it is extremely dry right now, but I honestly believe we are about three weeks away from the welcoming effects of El Niño and the much-needed moisture we desperately need to receive. If you go back and read the columns that our favorite weatherman, Brian Bledsoe, wrote last fall, he explained that this extreme drought could happen and it has. But he also thought that by late April, into May and June, we would have above normal rainfall.

There you have it. Count your many blessings and get ready for some much-needed rain that will produce that green spring grass. I hope you won't forget to ask the Lord for some rain when you attend church on Easter Sunday and may all of your tanks and ponds be filled with water.

A sure thing man

Though his legend is most often associated with nefarious activities in Colorado and Alaska, the man history knows as Soapy Smith spent a couple of impressionable teenage years in Round Rock and began his career as a con artist and crime boss in Fort Worth.

Before he was Soapy Smith, he was Jefferson Randolph Smith II, son of a wealthy Coweta County, Georgia family that was rich no more after the Civil War. The family moved to Round Rock in 1876 where he secured honest work as a store clerk. Not long before he left Round Rock, Smith and a cousin reportedly witnessed the shootout that killed outlaw Sam Bass in July of 1878. The "crime doesn't pay" lesson inherent in the incident was apparently lost on Smith.

The two years he spent in Round Rock were his last law-abiding years; he would spend the rest of his days as a "sure thing man," defined as one who makes bets he can't lose. Words such as "crook" and "swindler" (and some we can't print) were also used at various times to describe Smith and his chosen vocation.

Jefferson Smith morphed into Soapy Smith by virtue of his most famous swindle, the "Prize Package Soap Sell." He'd pick a busy street corner to set up a display stand featuring bars of soap. He would establish a friendly patter with passersby and then wrap some of the soap bars with paper money of various denominations. Then he rewrapped the bars in plain paper, mixed them with the others and sold them for 50 cents—about \$12 in today's money.

Somebody in the crowd always bought a bar of soap, unwrapped it, found money inside and announced the discovery at high volume and with the proper theatrics. Unfortunately for everybody else, the loudmouth was always a member of Smith's gang, a skill. So were any other winners. The skills' excitement invariably spread to a dependable number of unwitting dupes who at least got to keep the pricey bar of soap.

In Fort Worth, Soapy assembled a gang of loyalists, each with a special skill—the shell game, three-card Monte, bribery, beating people senseless, whatever. The

gang members shared profits, pooled their money, paid off cops, hired expensive lawyers and bribed politicians. It was such a reliable template that Fort Worth ran him and his gang out of town.

Soapy opted for the big leagues of Denver but maintained contact with his family in Texas. His younger brother, Bascom, was arrested in 1883, when he was 14, for trying to set fire to a Belton hotel building after being turned down for work there. Bascom later joined

his older brother in Colorado where headlines such as "Smith Brothers Run Amuck Though the City" soon appeared.

Two of Soapy's sisters lived in Bell County for many years, including Eva Katherine Smith, who married Bell County lawman William "Cap" Light. Light, quick to anger and handy with a gun, shot and killed two men in the discharge of his Bell County duties. He ventured to Colorado to enforce

(Continued on page 3)

USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 3-26-26

SPECIES:	3-16-26:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	31	0	31
b. Breeding Males	12	27	491
c. Breeding Females	0	0	231
Total	43	27	753
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	29	116
c. Breeding Females	0	0	2,129
Total	0	29	2,245
3) SHEEP			
a. Slaughter Ewes	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
4) GOATS			
a. Spanish	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0
5) DAIRY CATTLE			
a. Breeding Males	0	0	0
b. Breeding Females	0	0	217
Total	0	0	217
6) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	298	533	4,870
b. Breeding Males	12	32	510
c. Breeding Females	12	21	428
d. Geldings	13	10	160
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	3
Total	335	596	5,971
7) EXOTICS			
Total	0	4	34

MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS			
SPECIES:	3-16-26:	1-1-26 - Present	
FEEDER CATTLE	0	0	

MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS			
SPECIES:	3-16-26:	1-1-26 - Present	
FEEDER CATTLE	0	0	

Scholarship available

The Sheep Heritage Foundation Memorial Scholarship, offered through the American Sheep Industry Association, is an opportunity designed to support graduate students who are dedicated to advancing the U.S. sheep industry. This scholarship provides \$3,000 in financial assistance to students pursuing research related to sheep, lamb, or wool production.

The scholarship targets graduate students involved in disciplines such as animal science, agricultural economics, and veterinary medicine, as long as their work contributes to the improvement and sustainability of the sheep industry. To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens and enrolled in a graduate program within the United States.

The application process is comprehensive and designed to evaluate both academic achievement and professional potential. Applicants must submit a completed application form, two letters

(Continued on page 22)



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☐ OTHER: _____

SUBSCRIPTION WILL START UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT



USDA promotes new, voluntary “Product of USA” label

New guidance supports transparency, consumer trust and American ranchers

Source: USDA

(Washington, D.C., March 24, 2026) – Today, on National Agriculture Day, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins announced the launch of a national public awareness campaign to inform meat, poultry and egg

producers of the “Product of USA” voluntary labeling standard which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2026 and increases consumer understanding of what the label means.

“Our great patriot ranchers and producers grow, raise, and harvest the world’s safest, most affordable, and abundant food supply. American consumers want to support America by buying American and this label will strengthen our food supply chain through transparency, fairness, and trust,” said USDA Secretary Rollins. “This new standard policy ensures producers who invest in a fully American sup-

ply chain can compete fairly, and it gives consumers the confidence they deserve about the food they bring home.”

“When we choose to purchase from American producers, we get a superior product while supporting the hardworking family farms who put it all on the line every day to feed, clothe and fuel our nation,” said SBA Administrator Loeffler. “Amid President Trump’s work to end years of unfair competition and eliminate the massive red tape that has crushed domestic agriculture, Made in America is finally

(Continued on page 6)



Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

Soapy’s version of the law in Denver and the Creede mining camps. He only killed one man in Colorado. On a train back to Texas he accidentally shot himself in the leg and bled to death. Okay, maybe he wasn’t *that* handy with a gun.

Soapy Smith’s ballyhooed reputation as “King of the Frontier Con Men” made it difficult for him to find dishonest work beyond Colorado, which, like Fort Worth, sent him packing. By the 1890s the frontier that had fueled his illegal activities was mostly gone but he found a new and wide-open frontier town in Skagway, Alaska, gateway to the Klondike gold fields, where rubes and suckers were as numerous as the gold nuggets and a lot easier to spot.

Skagway didn’t exactly send a welcome wagon for Soapy’s gang. More like a posse. A group of hostile citizens formed a vigilance committee to run Soapy and his confederates out of town. Smith responded by announcing his own committee to run the *other* vigilance committee out of town.

The breaking point came when a member of Soapy’s gang stole more than \$2,000 from a Dawson City miner and Soapy refused to give up the robber or return the money. A small army met at the Juneau Wharves on July 8, 1898, to discuss their next move. Soapy, drunk and armed, decided to drop in on the meeting—a terrible mistake. His last words were: “My God, don’t shoot!”

Twenty years to the month after he saw Sam Bass gunned down in Round Rock, Soapy Smith met the same fate in Alaska. That he would go out in such a manner was the one sure thing in the sure thing man’s life.

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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, March 26, 2026: Total receipts: 609, last reported (3-19-26) 597, last year 1,326. Feeder cattle 542 (89.0%), last reported (3-19-26) 461 (77.2%), last year 1,087 (82.0%). Slaughter cattle 43 (7.1%), last reported (3-19-26) 90 (15.1%), last year 117 (8.8%). Replacement cattle 24 (3.9%), last reported (3-19-26) 46 (7.7%), last year 122 (9.2%). Compared to last week, feeder cattle overall sold sharply lower. Slaughter cows and bulls overall sold 3.00 to 4.00 higher. Buyer demand was moderate. Supply included: 89% Feeder Cattle (26% Steers, 43% Heifers, 31% Bulls); 7% Slaughter Cattle (63% Cows, 38% Bulls); 4% Replacement Cattle (14% Bred Cows, 86% Bred Heifers). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 31%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, March 31, 2026: Total receipts 7,622, last reported (3-23-36) 5,370, last year 4,795. Feeder cattle: 7,622 (100.0%), last reported (3-23-36) 5,370 (100.0%), last year 4,795 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder steers and heifers 4.00-8.00 higher. Steer and heifer calves mostly steady. Supply included many feeders off winter pasture. Demand very good. Several mentions of cattle being here because the wheat has played out due to lack of rain. Some wheat in Southwestern Oklahoma has been reported only about 3 inches tall and already heading out. Quality average to attractive. Rain is in the forecast for the week, hoping it will reach those areas that need it the most. Grass accounts have practically dried up. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (58% Steers, 41% Heifers, 1% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 76%.

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc.
Beeville, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-27-26
VOLUME: 543
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	678-810	536-780
300-400 lbs.	539-650	455-610
400-500 lbs.	471-590	437-525
500-600 lbs.	423-495	363-420
600-700 lbs.	358-400	340-345
700-800 lbs.	323-355	290-325
Slaughter cows	85-189	
Slaughter bulls	166-210	
Stocker cows	—	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission
Bryan, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-31-26
VOLUME: 600
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	575-660	500-610
300-400 lbs.	475-650	475-545
400-500 lbs.	465-565	420-525
500-600 lbs.	430-525	370-480
600-700 lbs.	385-450	340-415
700-800 lbs.	370-390	320-365
Slaughter cows	140-181	
Slaughter bulls	185-230	
Stocker cows	2800-3450	
Pairs	3300-4500	

SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc.
Three Rivers, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-30-26
VOLUME: 1657
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	562-840	540-790
300-400 lbs.	584-662	442-564
400-500 lbs.	454-628	438-548
500-600 lbs.	392-528	362-496
600-700 lbs.	348-432	320-408
700-800 lbs.	295-374	276-352
Slaughter cows	136-184	
Slaughter bulls	174-210	
Stocker cows	1800-3700	
Pairs	2400-3850	

SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc.
Nixon, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-30-26
VOLUME: 1144
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	555-690	503-685
300-400 lbs.	509-640	463-605
400-500 lbs.	466-580	423-540
500-600 lbs.	427-525	376-465
600-700 lbs.	379-450	326-465
700-800 lbs.	343-415	307-340
Slaughter cows	97-185	
Slaughter bulls	182-210	
Stocker cows	2000-3500	
Pairs	2900-3500	

SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC
Alice, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-24-26
VOLUME: 900
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	540-700	465-600
300-400 lbs.	525-625	460-550
400-500 lbs.	475-565	420-505
500-600 lbs.	415-508	375-450
600-700 lbs.	370-420	335-450
700-800 lbs.	325-370	310-364
Slaughter cows	85-185	
Slaughter bulls	140-195	
Stocker cows	2500-3200	
Pairs	2850-3200	

SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company
Fredericksburg, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-25-26
VOLUME: 771
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	200-655	210-600
300-400 lbs.	350-605	350-550
400-500 lbs.	350-550	350-500
500-600 lbs.	250-520	300-460
600-700 lbs.	250-465	250-422.5
700-800 lbs.	200-437.5	200-340
Slaughter cows	70-185	
Slaughter bulls	90-220	
Stocker cows	2000-4600	
Pairs	2000-5000	

SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC
Groesbeck, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-26-26
VOLUME: 676
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	—	—
300-400 lbs.	525-640	450-600
400-500 lbs.	450-550	430-510
500-600 lbs.	425-530	385-445
600-700 lbs.	380-460	360-410
700-800 lbs.	300-380	300-320
Slaughter cows	60-172	
Slaughter bulls	160-215	
Stocker cows	1650-4200	
Pairs	1800-4600	

SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction
San Saba & Mason, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-26-26
VOLUME: 1602
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	537-790	564-790
300-400 lbs.	518-600	474-555
400-500 lbs.	480-570	445-520
500-600 lbs.	456-516	419-480
600-700 lbs.	409-490	381-445
700-800 lbs.	368-455	318-380
Slaughter cows	106-189	
Slaughter bulls	179-225	
Stocker cows	1800-4200	
Pairs	2900-5000	

SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission
Giddings, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-23-26
VOLUME: 1221
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	575-660	516-625
300-400 lbs.	539-645	485-630
400-500 lbs.	492-560	453-600
500-600 lbs.	448-512.5	449-595
600-700 lbs.	394-465	384-445
700-800 lbs.	326-382.5	287-380
Slaughter cows	105-187	
Slaughter bulls	165-210	
Stocker cows	1950-3900	
Pairs	1950-3900	

SALE: Milam County Livestock Auction
Cameron, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-20-26
VOLUME: 1333
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	420-730	374-660
300-400 lbs.	381-640	338-565
400-500 lbs.	339-575	301-525
500-600 lbs.	225-525	210-485
600-700 lbs.	—	—
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	110-160	
Slaughter bulls	155-226	
Stocker cows	1450-4100	
Pairs	2000-4450	

SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc.
Crockett, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-31-26
VOLUME: 1218
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	301-720	225-690
300-400 lbs.	280-690	218-640
400-500 lbs.	272-565	212-550
500-600 lbs.	265-500	206-490
600-700 lbs.	255-432	185-378
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	135-191	
Slaughter bulls	190-231	
Stocker cows	2400-4600	
Pairs	3500-4650	

SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Caldwell, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-25-26
VOLUME: 402
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	600-760	550-690
300-400 lbs.	550-670	525-550
400-500 lbs.	500-555	470-535
500-600 lbs.	460-455	410-490
600-700 lbs.	400-455	330-395
700-800 lbs.	375-400	335-350
Slaughter cows	110-190	
Slaughter bulls	180-204	
Stocker cows	1500-3000	
Pairs	2500-3300	

SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc.
Buffalo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-28-26
VOLUME: 744
TREND: Steady/lower.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	420-690	220-680
300-400 lbs.	355-680	315-545
400-500 lbs.	345-545	330-492
500-600 lbs.	320-510	289-480
600-700 lbs.	295-445	275-404
700-800 lbs.	240-370	235-335
Slaughter cows	75-184	
Slaughter bulls	160-230	
Stocker cows	1050-5100	
Pairs	3250-5000	

SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co.
Navasota, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-28-26
VOLUME: 1409
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	350-775	325-700
300-400 lbs.	350-525	325-545
400-500 lbs.	300-530	300-525
500-600 lbs.	300-490	300-470
600-700 lbs.	300-460	300-400
700-800 lbs.	—	—
Slaughter cows	100-184	
Slaughter bulls	150-228	
Stocker cows	1700-3450	
Pairs	2600-3600	

SALE: Cattlemen's Brenham Livestock
Brenham, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-27-26
VOLUME: 760
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	420-690	385-625
300-400 lbs.	350-630	350-610
400-500 lbs.	330-550	310-502
500-600 lbs.	350-505	300-500
600-700 lbs.	290-420	300-465
700-800 lbs.	300-385	260-355
Slaughter cows	80-189	
Slaughter bulls	131-210	
Stocker cows	1750-4750	
Pairs	2500-5500	

SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets
Cuero & Victoria, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-27-26
VOLUME: 1554
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	618-715	556-700
300-400 lbs.	528-700	475-645
400-500 lbs.	478-570	445-600
500-600 lbs.	430-515	396-525
600-700 lbs.	408-440	372-430
700-800 lbs.	367-412	350-390
Slaughter cows	100-190	
Slaughter bulls	137-210	
Stocker cows	1900-3550	
Pairs	3000-3750	

SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc.
Gonzales, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-28-26
VOLUME: 1197
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	425-860	375-650
300-400 lbs.	420-710	350-500
400-500 lbs.	390-565	320-570
500-600 lbs.	350-470	315-455
600-700 lbs.	320-465	335-410
700-800 lbs.	335-365	—
Slaughter cows	90-183	
Slaughter bulls	155-206	
Stocker cows	1200-3800	
Pairs	1800-4400	

SALE: Cattlemen's Columbus Livestock Auction
Columbus, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-26-26
VOLUME: 731
TREND: Steady/no change.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	550-795	525-775
300-400 lbs.	475-635	435-585
400-500 lbs.	410-575	400-530
500-600 lbs.	395-550	375-465
600-700 lbs.	350-450	315-412
700-800 lbs.	325-400	290-352
Slaughter cows	98-181	
Slaughter bulls	175-208	
Stocker cows	1650-4400	
Pairs	—	

SALE: Four County Livestock Auction
Industry, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-31-26
VOLUME: 871
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	430-730	400-645
300-400 lbs.	425-620	350-605
400-500 lbs.	425-535	310-510
500-600 lbs.	320-490	305-485
600-700 lbs.	260-440	290-365
700-800 lbs.	400-645	—
Slaughter cows	110-186	
Slaughter bulls	170-218	
Stocker cows	1600-2750	
Pairs	2050-4950	

SALE: El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC
El Campo, Texas
DATE OF SALE: 3-31-26
VOLUME: 1761
TREND: Steady/higher.

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 lbs.	631-710	555-650
300-400 lbs.	575-675	503-670
400-500 lbs.	499-645	476-555
500-600 lbs.	456-570	503-670
600-700 lbs.	412-470	476-555
700-800 lbs.	335-423	414-495
Slaughter cows	110-200	
Slaughter bulls	160-222	
Stocker cows	2600-3100	
Pairs	2500-3350	

Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, April 1, 2026: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 6,818, last reported (3-24-26) 6,004, last year 9,565. Feeder sheep/lambs 0 (0.0%), last reported (3-24-26) 0 (0.0%), last year 765 (8.0%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 4,320 (63.4%), last reported (3-24-26) 4,109 (68.4%), last year 4,691 (49.0%). Replacement sheep/lambs 0 (0.0%), last reported (3-24-26) 0 (0.0%), last year 180 (1.9%). Feeder goats 693 (10.2%), last reported (3-24-26) 560 (9.3%), last year 861 (9.0%). Slaughter goats 1,805 (26.5%), last reported (3-24-26) 1,335 (22.2%), last year 2,877 (30.1%). Replacement goats 0 (0.0%), last reported (3-24-26) 0 (0.0%), last year 191 (2.0%). Compared to last week, slaughter hair lambs traded 12.00 to sharply lower, while slaughter ewes traded 10.00 lower. Feeder goats traded 10.00 lower. Slaughter goats traded 10.00 lower. Next report will be released on April 8, 2026 Supply included: 63% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (7% Woolled & Shorn, 87% Hair Breeds, 1% Ewes, 4% Hair Ewes, 0% Bucks, 1% Hair Bucks); 10% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 26% Slaughter Goats (68% Kids, 23% Nannies/Does, 5% Bucks/Billies, 3% Wethers).

Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, March 24, 2026: Sheep and goats: 3,673 Light Lambs 5 Lower. Heavy Lambs 5 Lower. Kids 10-15 Lower. Light Kids 15-20 Lower. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 180.00-385.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 170.00-385.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 130.00-385.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 330.00-412.50 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 300.00-412.50 Cwt. Light Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 330.00-414.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (90-140 Lb) 150.00-400.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 20.00-190.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 90.00-300.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 350.00-450.00 Cwt. #1. Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 350.00-465.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 350.00-465.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 175.00-475.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 280.00-394.00 Cwt. Lower Quality Kids 100.00-250.00 Cwt. Packer Sp/Boex Nannies 30.00-260.00 Cwt. Stocker. Sp/Boex Nannies 200.00-330.00 Cwt.



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Producer...

(Continued from page 1)
susceptible to screwworms, so cameras are a good monitoring tool for the cattle operations, the specialists said.

Remember that horses,

dogs and other mammals are also susceptible, so keep an eye on everything.

"If you see something, say something," Gill said. "Some may be hesitant to report, but that's the only way you will get sterile fly support to target

issues. Don't try to hide anything because it is more beneficial to help."

This fly readily moves from one property to the neighbors, and an important step in eradicating it is knowing it is active in an area, which

is best done by those who work with the animals. The sooner an infestation is discovered, the quicker it can be eliminated by releasing sterile flies in the reported area.

Animal movement restrictions and protocols will

likely be a component in the battle against this fly, but these are essential to stopping the widespread populations experienced in the 1960's and 1970's.

"As the new fly production facilities come online, we will re-eradicate this fly," he said. "But due diligence by producers will be key to protecting our livestock and economic livelihood until that day arrives."

More in-depth recommendations and information are available on the AgriLife Extension page <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/new-world-screwworm>.

DC News...

(Continued from page 3)
making a comeback. Today, on National Agriculture Day, I urge all Americans to join me in support of the hardworking farmers and ranchers who anchor the U.S. food supply chain that is so vital to keeping our nation strong, safe, and healthy."

"Our farmers and ranchers are essential to putting real food back at the center of the American plate and delivering on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans," said Health and Human Secretary Kennedy. "'Product of the USA' labeling puts American producers first, gives families clear, honest information, and empowers them to choose food raised right here at home."

"U.S. producers are the best in the world, and produce the highest-quality products," said North Dakota Senator Hoeven. "A 'Product of USA' label benefits our ranchers and provides transparency and confidence for consumers. We appreciate Secretary Rollins and the Trump administration for their efforts to support our farmers, ranchers and rural communities."


Under this standard, the "Product of USA" label is reserved exclusively for meat, poultry, and egg products from animals that were born, raised, harvested, and processed in the United States. The claim is voluntary, but companies using it must meet this transparent and verifiable requirement. This ends the prior practice which allowed imported products to carry the claim after minimal processing and strengthens consumer confidence by aligning with what Americans expect and demand.

Since 2017, the United States has lost over 17% of family farms, more than 100,000 operations over the last decade. The national herd is at a 75-year low while consumer demand for beef has grown 9% over the past decade. In October 2025, Secretary Rollins released the USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry that focuses on rebuilding domestic capacity, improving transparency across the supply chain, and ensuring U.S. ranchers can compete on a level playing field.


Today's announcement on enforcement and promotion of the strengthened "Product of USA" label is a key deliverable under this initiative, advancing the Trump Administration's priorities of fairness, competition, and consumer trust.

Learn more at productofusa.gov.

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Executive Director's Report...

By: Cooper Little



By Joe C. Paschal,
Professor Emeritus and
Extension Livestock Specialist (Retired)



President's Address...

By: Greg Seidenberger

Dragging pastures

Under more intensive pasture conditions, dragging pastures to break up manure pads to disperse their nutrients and reduce horn fly populations is a good management practice this time of year. I realize that under more extensive conditions it may not be practical but there are certainly locations in traps and smaller pastures that would benefit from the practice.

I have seen some pretty elaborate drags made out of nearly anything that is handy including old tires, metal gates and even chain link fence. The idea is to have enough weight and rough surface area in contact with the ground to break up even the biggest, driest pads. In some cases, a heavy drag will level if not reduce a fire ant mound. The best time to drag is right after cattle have rotated out of the pasture, the grass is shorter and there is better contact with the pads. I had worried about damaging the grass or making the grass unpalatable after dragging. In my experience, the grass recovers quickly (within a few days) and the cows graze right over the dragged areas. Dragging spreads the nutrients in the pads which contain about 3% nitrogen, 2% potassium, and 1% phos-

phorus (grazing cows). Cow manure also contains a high level of organic matter (15-20% dry weight).

Dragging will help control horn flies since they lay their eggs in fresh cow manure, up to 200 in their lifetime. The eggs hatch in about a day and then are in either larval or pupal stages in the pad for 8 to 10 days total before they emerge as sexually mature flies. Spreading the fecal pads will interrupt this cycle and help reduce horn fly populations and support other control methods. Thousands of internal parasite eggs, particularly the roundworms, are also passed out in the cow paddies. They hatch into larvae to be eaten by cows grazing near the fecal pads. I don't have any data to prove any impact but common sense tells me that there would be a significant mortality rate on the worms in a widely spread and dried out pad. I use an old metal gate with some tractor tires for weight and a tow chain that can be used behind a small tractor or even an ATV. It's not as wide as my gates so I don't have to move it much once it's attached. I realize that not everyone can utilize this as a pasture and parasite management tool but if you can, it is certainly worth a try.

Then spring became summer! I know here in Texas we don't always have four seasons, but wow, where did our spring go? These 90 degree days and warm nights feel like July. And we aren't even out of April yet. So, if you haven't had your annual a/c clean and inspection yet you better not wait too much longer. And those spring cleaning promises you made, forget about it. I really intended to organize my tool chest, clear some junk out of the garage and replace all the screen filters on my boom sprayer. Tools and junk get a reprieve, but I did replace all those filters. I really do need to clean out my garage, but clutter is a way of life and when I dig through it I find things I bought and never used. I suppose you might call that contingency planning.

We were blessed with a couple inches of rain in my area in March, but the ground is again parched. Weather outlook for April on some charts is indeed optimistic and we might see those proverbial April showers. Forage and hay production depend on that rainfall. The cost of producing a bale of hay is going up and those of us who buy hay will certainly see a price increase. I fertilized my pastures and know how expensive that application is. But

is there a price point where you ask yourself if the hay is worth more than the cow? Every election cycle brings a change in leadership, new ideas, fresh starts and unknown consequences. There are several primary runoff elections yet to come and it is easy for voters to lose interest in many races. I encourage you to stay engaged and informed. Know your candidates and vote your interests and values. Our world of agriculture demands good leaders with vision and integrity. Vote!

Exciting times for many of our local ICA chapters. There have been many excellent fundraising events and informative chapter meetings. Scholarship applications are being accepted now so encourage those students to apply. Your ICA leadership works diligently to keep up with current issues and engaged with lawmakers on policy and programs. Our website and weekly E-Blast have some really good information, and you can choose which articles you want to read. Please put our ICA 52nd Annual Convention on your calendar and make plans to attend. The dates are June 24-26 in San Marcos, Texas and registration is now open. It'll be fun, informative, and we hope addictive. See you there!

Last month came with two major announcements from the USDA that should encourage Texas cattlemen. March 9th the USDA awarded a contract with Mortenson Construction to build a New World screw-worm (NWS) sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas. The plans to establish the facility were announced by the USDA in July 2025 however, this latest announcement does signal progress on the project and movement toward the needed increase in NWS sterile fly inventory. March 24th the USDA

rolled out a national awareness campaign to promote the updated "Product of USA" label for meat, poultry and processed egg products. Under USDA's strengthened standard, the "Product of USA" label may appear only on products from animals that were born, raised, harvested and processed in the United States. This closes long standing loopholes that allowed foreign product to be labeled in ways that misled consumers about where their food originated.

With Congress in gridlock and very little movement on any MCOOL legislation in Washington, the USDA's effort to educate consumers, provide producers with a marketing tool, and highlight the importance of Country of Origin is a refreshing win for U.S. cattlemen.

In other news, registration is now open for ICA's 52nd Annual Convention and Tradeshow being held June 24th-26th in San Marcos, Texas. Live entertainment will be provided by Gary P. Nunn. Please visit icatexas.com for more information and to register.



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Chapter Happenings...

Around The Lone Star State

South Central ICA Chapter

Most ranchers are used to keeping a close (and often obsessive) watch on two very important numbers: rainfall chances in the forecast and cattle prices at the auction barns. It appears lately that these two numbers are moving in opposite

directions. Stock tanks are dropping, many are still feeding hay from winter and the cost—both financial and emotional—of holding onto cattle through a dry spell is weighing heavy. Grass doesn't negotiate and neither does time when moisture is short. Many ranchers are forced to make the

decision we all dread to make. Yet, in an interesting turn, cattle prices have held steady and in some cases, remained surprisingly strong. It's the kind of market that makes a person think twice before making any major moves. On one hand, there's real opportunity to capitalize on favorable prices. On the other, there's the long-standing instinct to hold onto good cattle, built over generations of careful breeding and hard-earned knowledge. What's worth remembering is that droughts, while harsh, are not new to

this country. Neither is resilience. Ranchers have always adapted—rotating grazing, adjusting stocking rates and making the tough calls when necessary. Those decisions aren't easy, but they are part of the legacy of working the land. In the end, it comes back to stewardship. Taking care of the land so it can recover and making decisions that allow operations to continue not just this year, but for the long haul. Rain will come again, it always does. The question is how we position ourselves when it does. Until then, we keep one

eye on the forecast, one on the market, and both boots planted firmly in the work ahead. We invite you to join our chapter meeting on Thursday, April 16th at 6:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church in Poth. Come enjoy a delicious free meal and hear Corbitt Wall give a presentation on understanding cattle market reports. We also encourage all graduating high schoolers and current college students who are children or grandchildren of SCTICA members to apply for both the chapter and state ICA scholarships. Students of ag educators

are eligible as well! The deadline is April 15th and applications and additional information can be found at ICATEXAS.com under the Forms & Links tab.

Guada-Coma ICA Chapter

Howdy from Guada-Coma ICA ! I wish I could write about how much rain we have received and how our pastures look green and beautiful but sadly I can't. I pray this drought will end. Our chapter had a great meeting on Monday, March 16th. We thank Goerke Catering for the great pot
(Continued on page 10)

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Chapter...

(Continued from page 8)
 roast meal. Dr. Caroline Alsop of Southern Winds Veterinary Services gave an informative presentation on herd bull selection. She emphasized the importance of breeding soundness exams (BSE) and how important Trichomoniasis testing is.

It is scholarship time again, so if you have a graduating senior or a college student and are a member in good standing with our chapter, get these kids to fill out our Guada-Coma scholarships. The forms can be found on the State ICA

website and are due April 6th. Be sure to apply for the State ICA Scholarships as well! It's time again to plan to attend the ICA State Convention in San Marcos June 24-26. Gary P. Nunn will be the entertainment and if you have seen him before you know he puts on a great show! The next chapter meeting will be on Monday, May 18th at Seguin Cattle Company. We will be discussing the convention, presenting awards to our scholarship recipients, and providing a great meal. We hope to see y'all there, and remember, PRAY

FOR RAIN.

Colorado Valley ICA Chapter

Howdy from the Colorado Valley ICA! Cows and bulls were steady to \$5 higher. Calf market was 10 to 25 cents higher on most classes. Weather is nice and several areas in the county received anywhere from 0.75 to 1.5"+ of rain. Pastures are greening up due to the heavy morning fog and rain. Hay continues to move up and down the highway.

One again, thank you to all the attendees, volunteers, and special guests in making our 2026 Colorado Valley Independent Cattlemen's Trade Show a great success. Our attendance was lively and we received many compliments about the show, auctions and especially the food. Thanks again!

The deadline for our local chapter scholarships closed on April 1st, but eligible applicants are still encouraged to apply for the State ICA scholarships as well! The application forms can be found on the ICA website or by contacting the ICA State Office. Save the date for the Fayette County Cow/Calf Clinic on Friday, May 1st at the Fayette County Fairgrounds. This event is a great opportunity to earn CEU credits, learn great information to help you and your operations, and ICA will have vendor booth set-up so be sure to come visit with us. We look forward to seeing y'all there!

Mid-Tex ICA Chapter

Mid-Tex ICA members are all suffering through one of the worst draughts in history and the hottest March in recorded history for central Texas. A cool front was due but that only meant a high of 67 degrees on Saturday, March 28, with no rain in the forecast. I've heard firsthand stories of ranches planting hay grazer only to have the new shoots hit by that last freeze we had in this area. Also, many of our ICA members planted winter rye, but without rain, it either did not come up or if it did, it did not survive. Many cattle producers are feeding round bales and other feeds and culling their herd. Last week at our auction barn, one ranch sold one of the largest groups of high quality cattle. If this drought continues, I fear more are going to go out of business. Speaking of that, one of the oldest feed stores and producing mills

(Continued on page 12)

CENTRAL TEXAS

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INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 250 PAIRS - 100 FALL BRED BRANGUS & SUPER BALDIE HEIFERS, 50 OPEN BRANGUS HEIFERS

APPROX. 146 SPRING PAIRS

- Brangus from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Pairs at the Sale. Calves are mostly by LBW Cavender AI sires, remainder by LBW Cavender Brangus Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,100 • Body Condition Score: 7

APPROX. 31 SPRING PAIRS

- Black F1 from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: AI sired calves at side and a few by LBW UB1 Cavender Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,100 • Body Condition Score: 6.5

APPROX. 28 HEAVY BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Bland Farms
- Calving Date & Sires: Heavy Bred 8 and 8+ months bred to Cavender LBW Brangus Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,100 • Body Condition Score: 7

APPROX. 23 HEAVY BRED HEIFERS

- Black F1 from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Heavy Bred 8 and 8+ months to LBW Cavender UB1 Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,050 • Body Condition Score: 7

25 FALL BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Shoestring Ranch
- Calving Date & Sires: Fall Calving Bred Heifers AI'd to CB True Balance 60L30 12/3/25 PE to Briggs Masterpiece 541L11 from 12/10/25 to 2/28/26. Palpated Safe.
- Average Weight: 950 • Body Condition Score: 7

25 OPEN HEIFERS

- Brangus & Super Baldies from JRC Ranch
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 800 • Body Condition Score: 6

25 OPEN HEIFERS

- Brangus & Super Baldies from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 900 • Body Condition Score: 6.5

5 OPEN HEIFERS

- Brangus from Everlasting Comfort
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 850 • Body Condition Score: 7+

2 OPEN HEIFERS

- Motley Faced Brangus from Everlasting Comfort
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 850 • Body Condition Score: 7

5 OPEN HEIFERS

- Brangus from Four Winds
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 900 • Body Condition Score: 7

4 OPEN HEIFERS

- Super Baldies from Gracen & Harrison Fisher
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 850 • Body Condition Score: 7

4 OPEN HEIFERS

- Brangus from Gracen & Harrison Fisher
- Calving Date & Sires: Open.
- Average Weight: 850 • Body Condition Score: 7

APPROX. 42 SPRING PAIRS

- Super Baldies from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Pairs at the Sale. Calves are mostly by LBW Cavender AI sires, remainder by LBW Cavender Brangus and UB2 Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,150 • Body Condition Score: 6.5

APPROX. 50 HEAVY BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Heavy Bred 8 and 8+ months bred to Cavender LBW Brangus Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,250 • Body Condition Score: 7

APPROX. 31 HEAVY BRED HEIFERS

- Super Baldies from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Heavy Bred 8 and 8+ months bred to Cavender LBW Brangus and UB2 Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,175 • Body Condition Score: 7

50 FALL BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Fall Calving Bred Heifers Safe 4 months to Cavender LBW Brangus and UB2 Bulls. Should start calving the end of September.
- Average Weight: 1,050 • Body Condition Score: 6

5 FALL BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Brantly Kennedy
- Calving Date & Sires: AI Bred to Force Field 12/12/25. 4 of the 5 are AI the 5th is NS next service. All safe to Force Field.
- Average Weight: 1,050 • Body Condition Score: 6

APPROX. 33 SPRING PAIRS

- F1 Tiger Stripes from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: AI sired calves at side and a few by LBW UB1 Cavender Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,200 • Body Condition Score: 6.5

APPROX. 28 HEAVY BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Heavy Bred 8 and 8+ months bred to Cavender LBW Brangus Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,200 • Body Condition Score: 7

APPROX. 25 HEAVY BRED HEIFERS

- F1 Tiger Stripes from Cavender Ranches
- Calving Date & Sires: Heavy Bred 8 and 8+ months to LBW Cavender UB1 Bulls.
- Average Weight: 1,150 • Body Condition Score: 6.5

20 FALL BRED HEIFERS

- Brangus from Bland Farms
- Calving Date & Sires: Fall Calving Bred Heifers AI'd to CB Ledger 117K19 12/12/25. Palpated safe with an ECD of 9/21/26.
- Average Weight: 1,000 • Body Condition Score: 7

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Chapter...

(Continued from page 10)

in Lockhart, Livengood Feeds, has closed the mill which produced feed for 71 years. The retail store will be closing in the next 45 days. There's no feed left to purchase there, but plenty of general supplies for chickens, horses and cattle. The gun shop is trying to relocate to another location.

In other news, Mid-Tex ICA will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, April 14th at a new location, 2 Bar C Ranch in Luling, Texas. Capital Farm Credit is graciously sponsoring our beef

meal and discussing their different loan programs. Additionally, Stewart Pickett with Velocity Powersports will be present to discuss their Hired Hands Program and will have a side-by-side unit available for members to test drive that evening.

Time is running out on the scholarship application deadlines. Tell all your seniors and college students that scholarships are available from not only the state level, but also the Mid-Tex Chapter. The deadline for applying for our three \$500 scholarships is April 15th

and state level scholarships have a May 1st deadline. ICA scholarship applications and eligibility requirements can be found on the ICA website by clicking on the Forms and Links Tab. Just another reminder to save the date for the ICA 52nd Annual Convention and Trade Show, June 24-26, in San Marcos. Be a part of the discussion in shaping the future of the beef cattle industry! Online registration is now open on the convention website. Watch your mailbox for registration and sponsorship information. This convention is

not only educational, but also a fun family event! Not only are there top industry speakers, but there will also be a world-class trade show with exhibitors of products you might want to use. Join us for continuing education workshops with CEU credits, awards, live music and great food. It's a good time to visit with fellow cattle producers from around the state. From the Mid-Tex ICA Chapter and Lockhart, TX, the home of state ICA's headquarters, please continue to pray for rain. God Bless America!

West of the Pecos ICA

Region

Howdy from West of the Pecos! We're always thankful for what the Lord blesses us with. With the warmup, producers are excited in anticipation of the prospects for pasture conditions this spring. Water is always a big topic out here, whether it comes from the sky or from out of the ground. The Pecos River is bone dry in many places and folks are concerned about the long-term outlook for water supplies in the west Texas desert. In other news, we're looking forward to the Annual ICA Convention

& Trade Show that will be here before we know it. Be sure to mark your calendars for June 24th-26th and join us! Register today at <https://icatexasconvention.square.site/> or call the ICA State Office at 512-620-0162!

Southeast Texas ICA Chapter

Well spring is in the air. Warm days, cool nights and extremely foggy mornings here in Southeast Texas. We have successfully completed our 31st Annual SETICA Bull and Heifer Sale. It took a fair amount of coordination and muscle to get the pens arranged to accommodate the new facility in Winnie Texas at the Sonnier Arena. We received approximately 92 bulls and around 300 females this year. Watching the sale stage as the sale began, I noticed the amazement on the faces of our sale manager Chuck Kiker and auctioneer Troy Robinett when the prices started to surface from the first several bulls. Things never slowed down as the livestock came through the ring. We were fortunate to have a great group of volunteers from our local farming and ranching community. The ladies of our chapter, as always, helped manage the load out on both sides as a dozen or so local ranch hands sorted through the invoices and loaded cattle with immaculate precision. It was an amazing event and on behalf of ICA, we would like to extend our utmost appreciation to Chambers County and everyone involved with them for everything they have done to accommodate us in this huge transition. There was a record number of buyers along with record sales results. The food and fellowship were also outstanding. I would like to thank everyone involved that helped and participated in any way.

It's the time of year that seniors are sending applications for scholarships, so our committee will be reviewing documents to choose deserving graduates. Well now, it's time to get back to mending fence, fertilizing hay fields, pasture and checking on our high dollar cattle and thanking everyone for everything you do for our cattle industry.

Gonzales ICA Chapter

Greetings from Gonzales ICA Chapter. The chapter held a meeting on Thursday, March 19th and we would like to thank Gonzales County Judge, Patrick Davis, for providing

(Continued on page 14)

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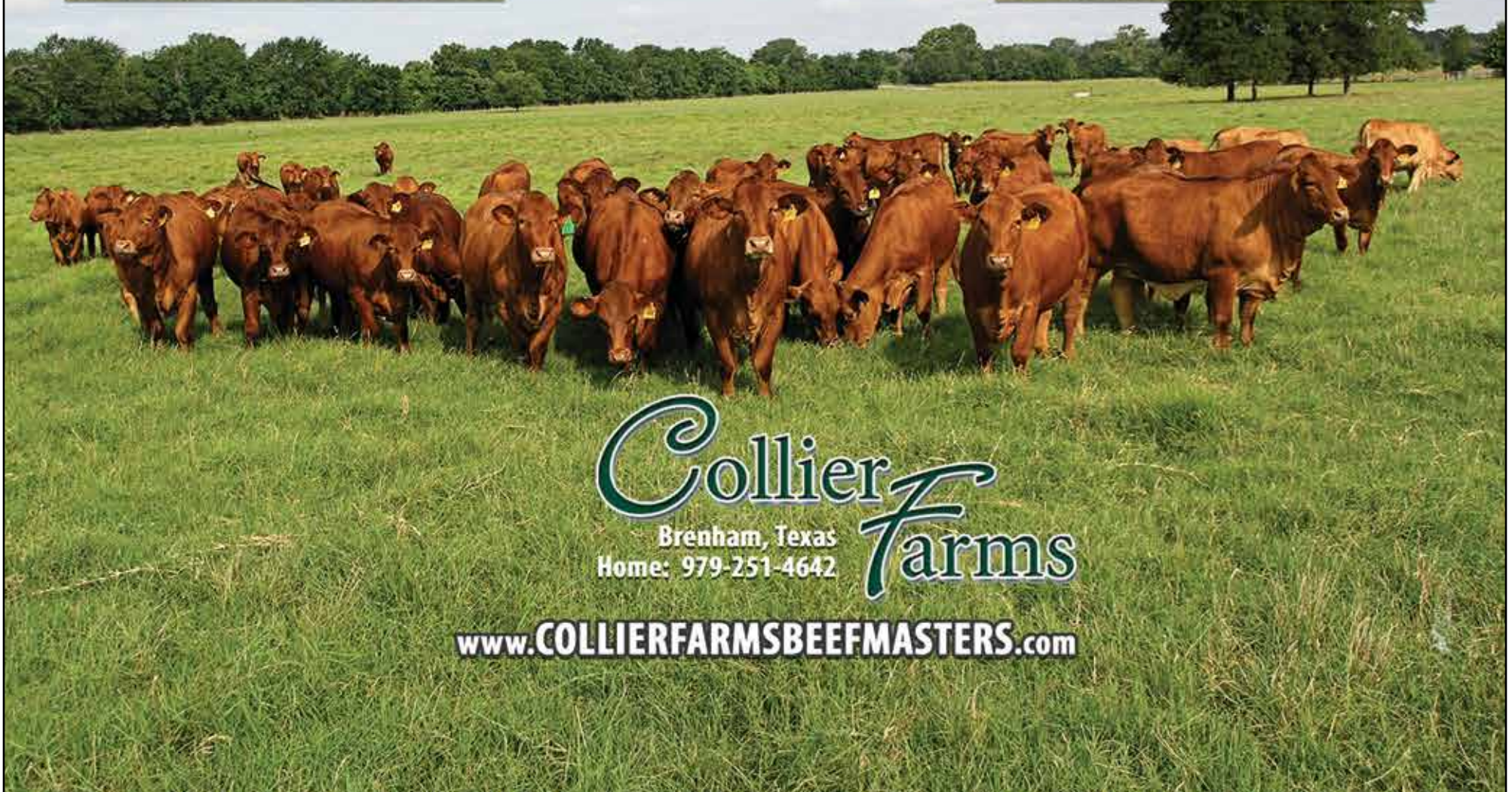


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Chapter...

(Continued from page 12)
insightful county government updates. Coming up this month is the CTICA All Breed Sale on Wednesday, April 29th. The sale also

has a new location, which will be at the Gonzales Livestock Market facilities. The sale will begin at 11 a.m. and more information as well as consignment forms can be found on the

sale website at centraltexasica.com. Looking forward to seeing you all there. In the meantime, please continue praying for rain.

Brazos Valley ICA Region

Greetings from Brazos Valley! Although we have more calves coming soon, I went ahead and worked our cattle this past week. I wanted to work the calves before they got much larger and I had help available on short notice, so I went ahead and made that call. As we worked the calves, I thought about the screwworm peril, and wondered if we would be spared that

plague for another year. Most days I am by myself and although I can usually pen the herd, sorting out and treating sick animals alone is a tall order. Please join me in praying that our government helps to prevent screwworms from doing great harm to our cattle, pets, and wildlife. Speaking of joining me, please join all of your friends at the ICA Convention in San Marcos this June 24th-26th. The events look excellent and I have already booked a pair of rooms for my family. Come join us and invite a friend. I also encourage

you to invite your friends and family members to join the ICA. They do an excellent job of representing us, the ranchers, and the more members we have, the louder our voices are in Austin and Washington. The dues are reasonable and are well-worth the price for all the member benefits included. Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter!

Victoria Crossroads ICA Chapter

The Victoria Crossroads ICA chapter met on March 19th in Victoria, TX. The meeting was called to order, members appointed John

Atzenhoffer as Sergeant-at-Arms and Lee Hafernick will continue serving as our vice president. ICA understands the importance of youth in agriculture, so we were proud to report to membership at the meeting that our chapter recognized three students at the Victoria Livestock Show and awarded 5-foot bunk feeders to the commercial heifer class champions at the end of February. Lee Hafernick provided an update on the local cattle market, along with information regarding the New World screwworm and the importance of continued vigilance. Additional discussion focused on growing concerns surrounding proposed data centers moving into Texas and the potential impact on land and water resources. With water already scarce in our region, these developments raise serious concerns for the future of agriculture, especially under ongoing drought conditions. Producers were encouraged to remain attentive to herd health, including monitoring for screwworm, maintaining proper mineral supplementation and staying on schedule with deworming and vaccinations. Drought conditions continue to force cattle to graze closer to the roots, increasing parasite exposure while reducing available nutrients.

In other news, preparations are well underway for our upcoming VCICA Fundraiser scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9th at Club Westerner in Victoria, Texas. The fundraiser will include an ag industry tradeshow, hamburger steak meal, a mini horse and cow photo-op, as well as live and silent auctions. Be sure to join us for our upcoming meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd at Aimee's Bluebird Café in Cuero, Texas. Thank you to DeWitt County AgriLife Extension Agent, Anthony Netardus, and Corteva Range and Pasture Specialist, Alex Chancellor for providing a CEU program on weed/brush management. To RSVP, contact Iris Heller at 361-652-8014. We will also be discussing the upcoming ICA Convention this June, so don't miss and be sure to register. As always, ranching and farming require resilience, dedication, and a deep-rooted passion. The challenges ahead are real, but so is the commitment of those who work every day to provide for the future of agriculture.

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Managing first-calf heifers: Setting 2-year-old cows up for success

By Haley Linder

Our expectations of first-calf heifers are high. We ask a 2-year-old cow to calve for the first time, rebreed on time to maintain a 365-day calving interval and continue growing all at the same time. On top of that, there is significant financial pressure on this animal. She has not yet generated income in the form of a weaned calf and every input to this point has been an investment.

First-calf heifers are typically the highest-need animals in the herd. The question producers should be asking is: are they getting the attention they deserve?

Nutrient requirements for a 2-year-old cow are greater than those of a mature cow because she is still undergoing structural growth. At the same time, lactation places a substantial demand on energy and nutrients. Milk production pulls nutrients away from the cow to support calf growth, and when resources are limited, the cow must prioritize where nutrients are allocated.

Cattle follow a biological hierarchy for nutrient use. Maintenance and lactation come first, followed by growth, with reproduction at the bottom of the list. If a first-calf heifer cannot meet her nutritional requirements for maintenance, milk production, and continued growth, reproductive performance will suffer. This often shows up as delayed estrus, lower conception rates, or failure to rebreed altogether.

Body condition score (BCS) is one of the most effective tools producers have for evaluating whether first-calf heifers are nutritionally prepared to rebreed. Because reproduction sits low on the nutrient priority list, body condition at calving and during early lactation plays a major role in determining how quickly a heifer resumes estrous cycles.

For first-calf heifers, a BCS of 6.0 at calving is the target. This slightly higher condition compared to mature cows helps buffer the heifer against the energy demands of early lactation and continued growth. Heifers that calve too thin have limited reserves to draw from and are more likely to lose additional condition after calving.

By the start of the breeding season, first-calf heifers

should ideally be at BCS 5.0 or greater. Heifers below this threshold often experience delayed return to estrus, reduced conception rates, or require additional time and expense to get bred.

It is important to remember that it is far easier and cheaper to maintain condition than to rebuild it, especially during early lactation when nutrient demands are at their

peak.

When first-calf heifers enter the breeding season thin or actively losing condition, nutritional intervention is needed quickly. The goal is not rapid weight gain, but rather to slow or stop condition loss and improve energy balance.

1. Evaluate forage quality and intake

(Continued on page 26)



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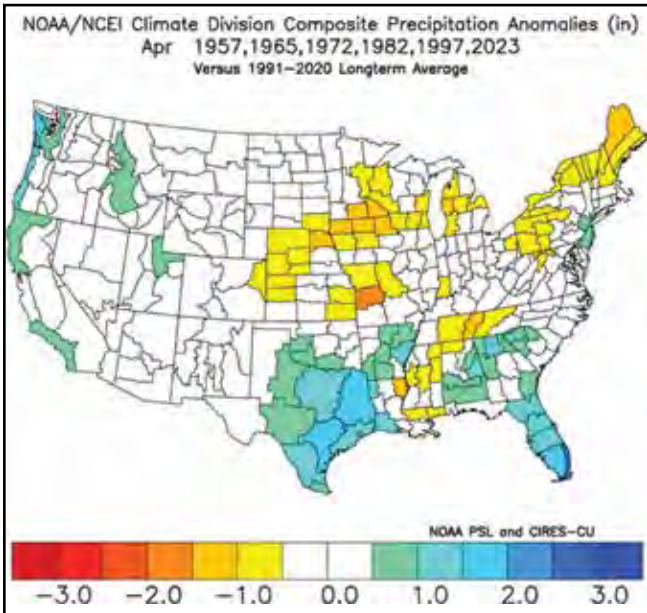
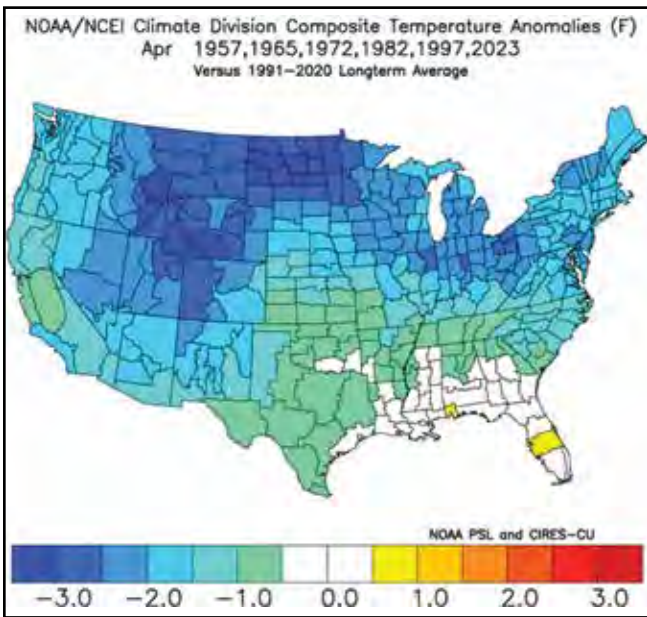
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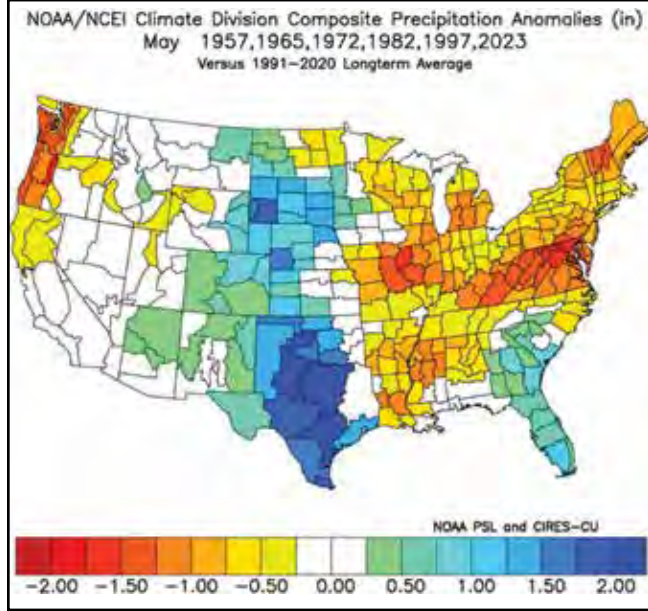
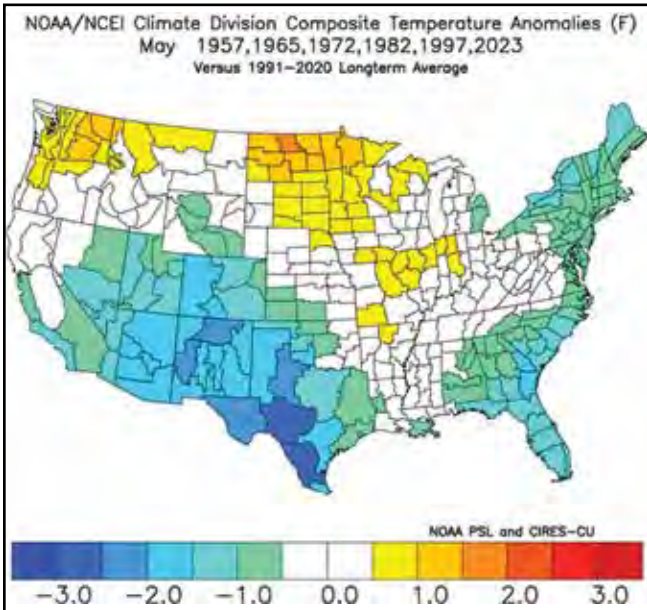


Since we last spoke, things have been rapidly changing in the Pacific Ocean. The following maps show what the sea surface temperature anomalies looked like in late December, January, and as we finished February. I really don't want to focus on the latest computer model information, as it will be dated by the time you read this. However, let's look at some past years that fit the analog package when we moved into an El Niño episode. I am only looking at the temperature and precipitation anomalies for April, May, June, July, and August. While there are other years that we could throw into the mix, the years 1957, 1965, 1972, 1982, 1997 and 2023 seem to mimic where we are now and where we are going. I have also looked at 2015, but we did not move from La Niña to El Niño in 2015. We actually were almost in El Niño by this time in 2015. For that reason, I don't want to include it for now. I actually think 2015 may end up working better for the months that lie beyond August and I'm sure many of you remember 2015 quite well.

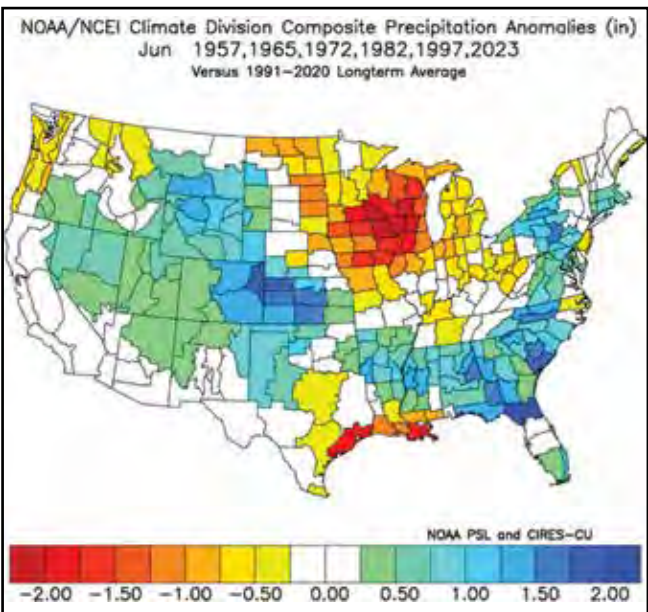
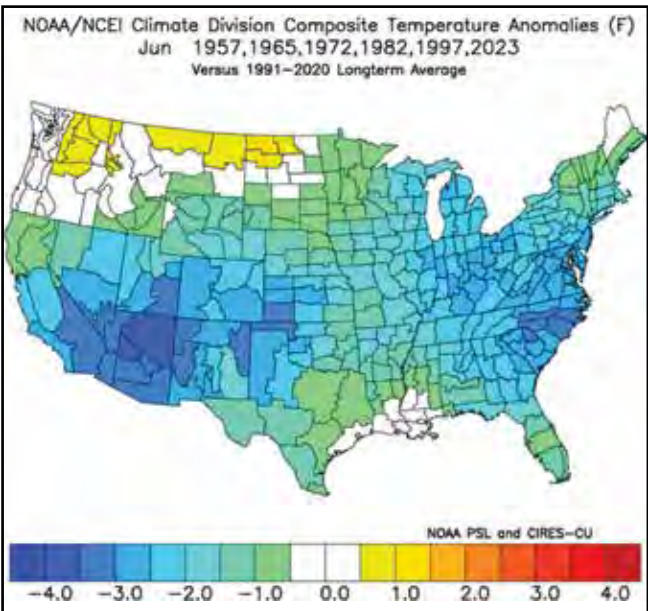
April Temperature & Precipitation Anomaly



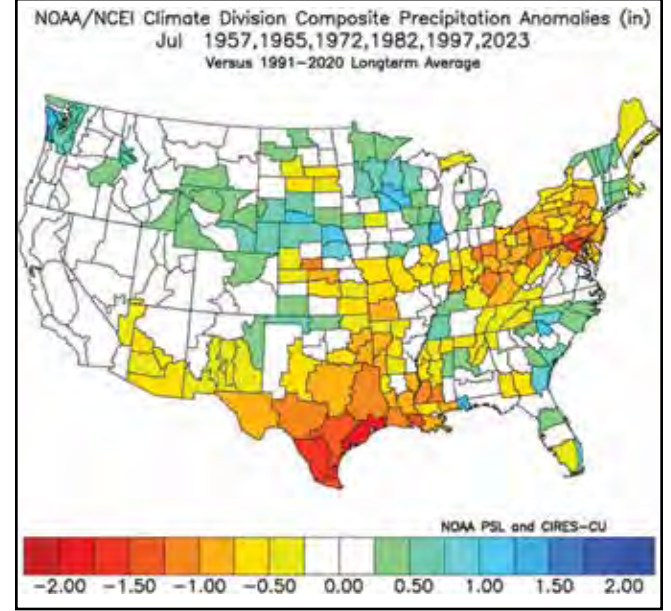
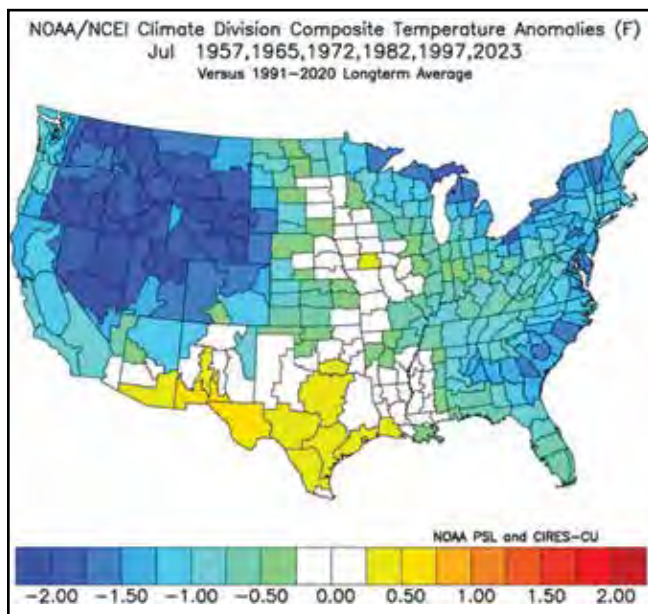
May Temperature & Precipitation Anomaly



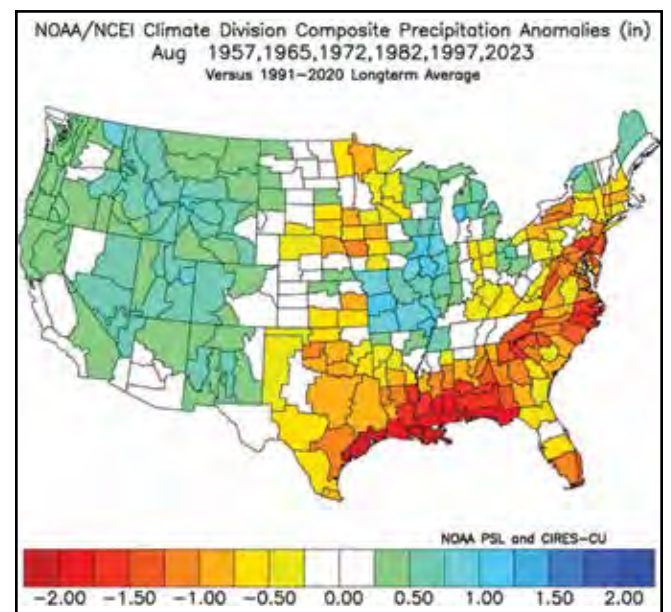
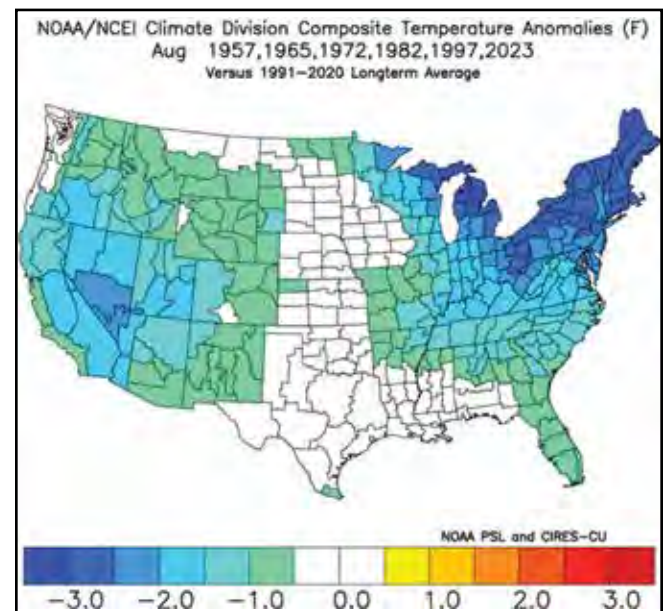
June Temperature & Precipitation Anomaly



July Temperature & Precipitation Anomaly



August Temperature & Precipitation Anomaly



For most of Texas and the Gulf Coast, the best moisture seemed to show up early in the forecast for most of those years. However, the troubling thing is how we really dried things out after mid June through August for much of Texas and the Gulf Coast. Therefore, a lot of these years would suggest that we need to prepare for some flash drought conditions through the heart of summer, after some spring rain. There is also some of that signal in the modeling, but as I said earlier, by the time you read this that modeling will be dated. So, what I will do next month is break down some modeling and see what makes sense and what doesn't.

It is VERY important to remember that every El Niño event is different. However, they do have certain tendencies that we can recognize. Inevitably, there will be changes and nuances that arise in the forecast. That is why it behooves anyone that consumes this information to stay current with the seasonal forecast trend. History is a great teacher, but there are always locations that can buck that historical narrative.

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



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XIT Ranch: A Texas legend returns – new photography exhibition opens at the Cattle Raisers Museum

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Cattle Raisers Museum in Fort Worth is proud to present XIT Ranch: A Texas Legend Returns, a compelling photography exhibition celebrating the legacy and enduring influence of the historic XIT Ranch. The multi-gallery exhibition opened March 27 and will remain on display through February 2027.

Established in 1885, the XIT Ranch was born from one of the most remarkable land agreements in American history. Financiers John V. Farwell and Charles B. Farwell provided funding for the construction of the Texas State Capitol in exchange for more than three million

acres of land in the Texas Panhandle. At its height, the ranch stretched across ten counties and became the world's largest fenced ranch, running as many as 150,000 head of cattle across its vast grasslands.

By the early 20th century, the XIT Ranch had declined. The last cattle bearing the XIT brand were shipped in 1912, and by 1963, the final acre of its vast holdings had passed into new hands. Yet the XIT never truly vanished. Its legacy lived on across the Texas Panhandle in local memory, in rodeo arenas, in businesses, and in the traditions of the communities it helped shape. It was a legend waiting to be revived.

The exhibition brings this history to life through photography that spans more than a century. Visitors will encounter historic XIT images including one captured by legendary Western photographer Erwin E. Smith, whose photographs from the late 1800s and early 1900s helped define the visual record of ranching and cowboy culture in Texas. They will also step further back in time through an archival gallery wall which features a historic image of the Texas State Capitol upon its completion in 1887.

That revival began in 2022, when descendants of John V. Farwell, Drew Knowles and his wife, Abby, purchased the ranch's historic Rita Blanca Division. Moving their family from Colorado, they returned to the land with a deep respect for its history and a forward-looking vision. Today, they steward the ranch with a focus on heritage, thoughtful land management, and progressive ranching practices, bridging the legacy of the past with the promise of the future.

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Complementing Smith's historic work are contemporary interpretations from a group of respected mod-

ern photographers who document ranching culture today. Featured artists include Nicholas Dupuy, a Florida-based photographer and filmmaker known for chronicling modern Western culture; Crystal Wise of 360 West Magazine, who photographed the ranch while producing a feature story highlighting its landscape, people, and revival; and Peter Robbins, a Texas-based photographer and cowboy artist celebrated for documenting working ranches and the lives of cowboys throughout the American West.

Also included is the work of Belton Kleberg McMurrey, a sixth-generation member of the King Ranch family and curator of the exhibition. McMurrey's photography continues a family tradition of documenting ranching life. His images of the King Ranch were previously featured at the museum in 2025.

The exhibition further highlights the work of internationally recognized Western photographer Anouk Krantz, whose bold and cin-

ematic photography offers a powerful interpretation of the modern American West. Her striking imagery bridges tradition and contemporary culture, introducing new audiences to the enduring relevance of ranching life. The XIT Ranch itself appears on the cover of one of Krantz's acclaimed books, *Frontier*, underscoring the ranch's lasting cultural significance.

XIT Ranch: A Texas Legend Returns marks the fourth annual ranching photography exhibition at the Cattle Raisers Museum and offers visitors a rare opportunity to explore the legacy of one of the most legendary ranches in Texas history through the lens of both past and present photographers.

The Cattle Raisers Museum is located inside the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History at 1600 Gendy Street in the Cultural District of Fort Worth.

For museum hours and additional information, visit www.cattleraisersmuseum.org.

~SLS

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The new Dietary Guidelines for Americans emphasize healthy eating patterns to support long-term health

By Trisha Gedon, Oklahoma State University

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans has provided nutritional guidance since 1980. The latest guidelines continue to provide the public with research-based information to help people of all ages make healthier food and beverage choices.

Updated every five years, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans emphasize practical, flexible approaches to healthy eating that fit a variety of lifestyles, budgets and cultural preferences, said Nila Pradhananga, Oklahoma State University Extension nutrition specialist.

“The guidelines serve as a foundation for federal nutrition programs and offer guidance for people looking to improve their overall health,” she said. “The updated version emphasizes that healthy and consistent eating patterns over time will help people meet their health goals.”

Consumers need to realize that healthy eating doesn't mean making drastic changes or giving up favorite foods. Pradhananga said the Dietary Guidelines still emphasize consuming a variety of vegetables and fruits, choosing whole grains and eating whole, minimally processed foods.

Because nutritional science is continually advancing, the guidelines must be updated regularly. New research helps clarify how dietary patterns affect health across the lifespan, including risks for conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

The 2025-2030 guidelines also place a greater emphasis on the importance of eating unprocessed foods and adequate protein intake for special populations.

Deana Hildebrand, community health program leader for OSU Extension, said protein is vital for supporting muscle health, especially for people who are in different life stages, such as those who are weight training, older adults, nursing mothers or those with special medical conditions.

“For those groups, the recommendation is 1.2 to 1.6 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight per day,” she said. “For other groups, the Recommended Dietary Allowance is 0.8 grams of protein per kilogram of weight per day. For example, a person weighing

165 pounds should eat about 60 grams of protein each day. This can be easily achieved when protein-rich food is included with each meal.”

Hildebrand also encourages consumers to heed the new Dietary Guidelines' message to eat more whole, nutrient-dense foods and reduce processed foods. Be sure to include a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole

grains, healthy fats and protein-rich foods such as lean meats, eggs, dairy products, legumes, nuts and seeds.

OSU Extension has many resources for research-based information about nutrition on its website, said Candy Gabel, state coordinator for OSU Extension's Community Nutrition Education Programs.

“Through CNEP, we

offer a wide variety of programs that help consumers understand the importance of nutrition, how to safely prepare foods, how to shop and make nutritionally sound choices on a budget and how to overall make smart food choices,” she said. “Programs such as CATCH, Fresh Start, KIK It Up!, and Teen Cuisine are designed to help adults and youth gain a better un-

derstanding of good health, provide recipes and cooking tips and help people understand where their food comes from.”

Although the new guidelines no longer contain in-

formation about food safety, following core food safety principles remains important, said Christi Evans, OSU Extension food safety specialist.

(Continued on page 26)

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THURSDAY, APRIL 16

12 Noon - 5 PM: Sale Cattle Arrive

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

12 Noon: All Cattle in Place

1 PM: ETLBMG Membership Meeting

3 PM: Heifer Futurity - Graded by PJ Budler

6 PM: Dinner with Fun Auction to Follow

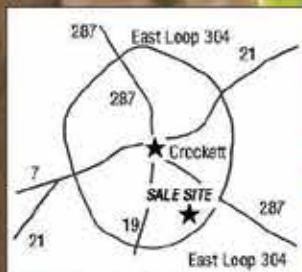
SATURDAY, APRIL 18

8 AM - 12 Noon: View Sale Cattle

11 AM: Meal Available

12 Noon: East TX/LA Marketing Group Sale; JBBA Heifer Show to

Follow Immediately after Sale



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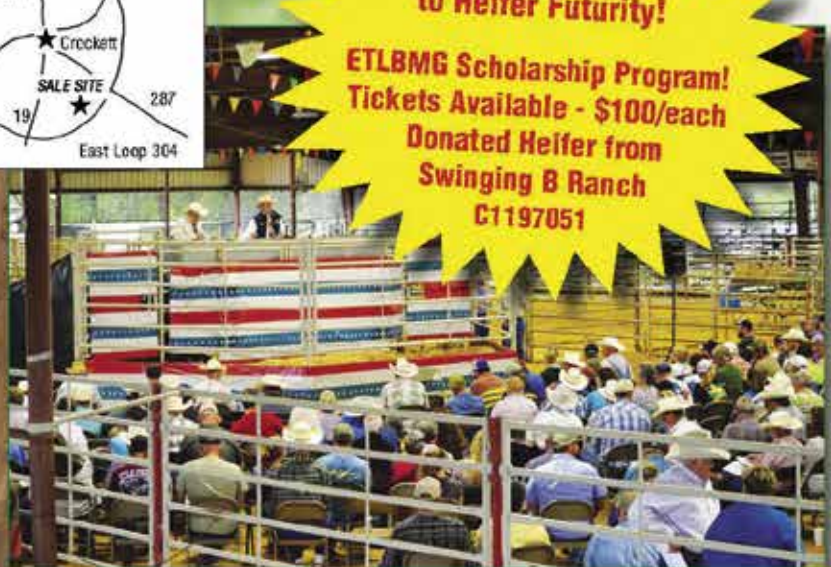
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Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation awards scholarships to 33 students

The Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation (TSCRF) is proud to announce that 33 students representing 10 universities have been selected to receive

scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year.

For more than 20 years, the foundation has remained committed to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders through its scholarship program. During that time, the program has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to students pursuing careers in agriculture and related industries.

These scholarships are

made possible through the generosity of families who choose to honor loved ones, as well as agricultural foundations and trusts, ranching operations, and businesses connected to the livestock and agricultural industries.

The foundation awards scholarships to students pursuing agriculture-related degree programs. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or college undergraduates who are cur-

rently enrolled or accepted at an accredited university in Texas or Oklahoma. Recipients are selected based on their interest in the agricultural industry, demonstrated leadership, academic achievement, and financial need. Designated scholarship funds are also available for students pursuing degrees in veterinary medicine.

Scholarship awards for the 2026-2027 school year ranged from \$2,000 to \$7,000, depending on individual scholarship criteria.

This year's scholarship recipients include Carlton Luke Bauer, Red Rock,

Texas; Keeli Clark, Joshua, Texas; Camille Burns, Wharton, Texas; Kyleigh Lock, Mount Enterprise, Texas; Caly Blackshear, Garrison, Texas; Ava Gattrell, Barnsdall, Oklahoma; Hannah Pemberton, Campbell, Texas; Cody Barnett, Decatur, Texas; Bethany Blackwell, Iowa Park, Texas; Hugh Britten, Groom, Texas; Preslie Brooks, McAdoo, Texas; Lauren Catching, Howe, Texas; William Donnell IV, Caldwell, Texas; Joshua Dube, McDade, Texas; Quanah Dudley, Centerville, Texas; Addyson Franklin, Wells, Texas; Sydney Geistweidt, Doss, Texas; Paisley Groschke, Riesel, Texas; Taylor Ivy, Valley Mills, Texas; Gracie Johnson, New Ulm, Texas; Abbey Lawrence, Comanche, Texas; Lauryn Locke, Hungerford, Texas; Truitt Luddeke, Cuero, Texas; Aubrey Meador, Abilene, Texas; Ansley Owen, Sealy, Texas; Coy Pittman, Canadian, Texas; Kenady Skelton, Wellington, Texas; Jaylen Tesch, Bellville, Texas and Spencer Walahoski, Overton, Nebraska.

Additionally, the TSCRF awarded four large animal veterinary scholarships valued at \$5,000 each to students nearing completion of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine. The Foundation Scholarship Committee works with the chair of the Large Animal Practice at Texas A&M to award the scholarships.

Large animal veterinary scholarships were awarded to Lauren Aycock, Richwood, Texas; Christopher Box, Gonzales, Texas; Jack Detten, Hereford, Texas; and Kailee Knezek, Yoakum, Texas.

Applications for the 2027-2028 scholarship program will open Tuesday, September 8. For details about the application process, current donors, and the foundation's scholarship program, visit www.cattleraisersmuseum.org/scholarships/. Interested donors may also visit the site for information on the scholarship program and the process for establishing one.

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Lifestock launches Calf Start and Calf Recover to improve herd health and performance

Maintaining livestock health is essential to profitability, and two of the most critical windows occur at birth and during periods of high stress. Lifestock has developed two targeted products designed to help cattle producers manage these challenges and set their herds on a path to long-term success.

Both products focus on supporting digestive health, an often overlooked but vital component of overall performance. Founder and developer Robo Hendrickson explains, "The gut is the engine of an animal's productivity, and we've developed tools to keep that engine running at peak performance."

Newborn calves are particularly vulnerable, entering the world with naïve immune systems and underdeveloped digestive tracts. Calf Start is a product formulated to support immune function, strengthen gut defenses, and promote a healthy microbiome. It is the only product of its kind to combine egg-de-

rived natural antibodies, probiotics that help establish the microbiome, and fat-soluble vitamins A, D, and E. Calf Start also delivers seven targeted antibodies that help defend against common pathogens, including E. coli. For added flexibility, it is available as a single-dose tube administered at birth or in a powder form for use with milk replacer.

Lifestock's second product, Calf Recover, is designed to support calves during high-stress periods such as digestive disease, sickness, weaning, and transportation. Stress can suppress appetite and compromise immune function, often leading to illness and reduced performance. Calf Recover is formulated with a whopping 25 billion CFUs of probiotic combined with prebiotic, digestive enzymes, amino acids, and targeted antibodies that help restore gut health faster. The product is available in both paste and powder forms for convenience.

Hendrickson brings a diverse background in ranching, rodeo, and animal healthcare. His father Dale was a mixed animal practitioner for over 50 years. He has been involved in the pioneering development of digestive healthcare products for animals since 2011, primarily in the equine sector with FullBucket and 6666 Equine Supplements. With this new focus on cattle, Lifestock expands its commitment to improving animal health and producer profitability.

You can learn more about the products, the history behind them and where to purchase or order online at www.lifestockhealth.com.



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Cavender Ranches Spring Bull and Commercial Female Sale

76 Coming 2-Year-Old Brangus and Ultrablack bulls grossed \$848,000 to average \$11,158

70 Spring Yearling Brangus and Ultrablack bulls grossed 800,500 to average \$11,436

146 Total Brangus and Ultrablack bulls grossed \$1,648,500 to average \$11,291

6 Commercial Brangus Pairs grossed \$31,500 to average \$5,250

212 Commercial Heavy Bred Brangus, Super Baldie, and F1 heifers grossed \$1,126,100 to average \$5,312

58 Open Commercial Brangus, Super Baldie, and F1 heifers grossed \$225,000 to average \$3,879

276 Commercial Females grossed \$1,382,600 to average \$5,009

Warm temperatures and sunny spring weather greeted a large crowd gathered for the annual Cavender Ranches Spring Bull and Commercial Female Sale. 98 buyers from 12 states and Mexico snapped up the high-quality offering.

The days high selling bull was Lot 86, CB Pure Balance 60N2. This super complete calving ease son of True

Balance sold to Cross N Farm, Olla, LA as they paid \$41,000 to own him.

Lot 89, HR Admiral

2051M3 was the days second high seller when Full Circle Cattle Co, Cartersville, GA and River Valley Farms, Calhoun, (Continued on page 26)



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South Texas HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE SOUTH TEXAS HEREFORD ASSOCIATION.

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On April 19, 1937, a group of thirty-two representative cattlemen from Bee and surrounding counties met at Bee County courthouse for the purpose of organizing an association to build up the cattle industry in South Texas. The following people of South Texas signed the original charter: Paul Russell, Sidney Smith, J.R. McGuffin, Tom McNeil, John R. Scott, Sr., K.L. Handy, T.L. Wilson, George Miller, B.V. Matheson, Raymond C. Brown, F.M. Ellis, C.H. Hardison, Claude E. Heard, Charles Mull, R.A. Hall, C.L. Cox, L.B. Williamson, Bennie H. Wilson, B.H. Wilson, Hinnant Brothers, Grover Impson, John P. Impson, B.S. Byrnes, G.W. Clare, J.J. McKinney, Leonard C. Smith, W.E. Handy, J.A. Handy, J.A. Stewart, T.L. Wade, Carroll R. Jones, R.P. Lucas, and Texas Livestock Marketing Association of Fort Worth. With the assistance of Jack Turner from the Texas Hereford Association, the group organized an association to be called the South Texas Breeder-Feeder Association.

At that first meeting in Beeville, plans were made to hold an annual Registered Breeder Show and Sale. On November 5, 1937 that first sale became a reality with 17 Hereford bulls and 5 Hereford females selling. The top selling and first place bull was bred and consigned by J.R. Roeder of Yorktown and sold for \$385.00 to Sidney Smith of Beeville.

In 1939, the name of the organization changed to the South Texas Hereford Breeder-Feeder Association. By 1940, the group was holding sales twice a year - in the early spring and fall. During the 1950's, only one sale was held each in the fall, but consignments had increased dramatically due to the fact that pens of range bulls were being sold. Total sales topped \$100,000 for the first time in the fall of 1952 sale as a top record of 242 bulls were sold that day averaging \$396.00 per head. Again in 1953, the name changed to the present South Texas Hereford Association. By the 1960's the annual fall show and sale was recognized as the largest All-Hereford show and sale in the Southwest.

In fall of 1969, the S.T.H.A. held its first F-1 female sale in conjunction with its Hereford bull and female sale. Crossbreeding had long been a common practice in South Texas, with the Hereford-Brahman cross proving to be the most popular. The organization was now able to offer its commercial buyers not only quality Hereford bulls in volume, but also true F-1 females that would do the job under harsh South Texas range conditions.

Today the sale is held twice a year. The fall sale is always held on the last Saturday in October, and the spring sale is held the first Saturday in February. The consignors annually sell approximately 100 Hereford bulls, 50 Hereford females, and 500 true F-1 females.



Next Sale October 31, 2026
Sale will start at Noon

For more info, contact:
Sara Lanham-Sale Manager
210-844-4806 | southtexashereford@gmail.com

Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo brings thousands to Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (March 31, 2026) — The 2026 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo ended on Sunday, wrapping up the three-day event packed with industry updates, awards, entertainment and the welcoming of new Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) leadership.

The Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo drew thousands of attendees to downtown Fort Worth March 27-29. The agenda featured four dynamic main-stage sessions addressing key industry topics such as generational transfer, the 2026 weather forecast and a market outlook. A highlight of the weekend included remarks from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins

during Saturday's Annual Membership Meeting, underscoring TSCRA's strong relationship with federal leadership. On Saturday, keynote speaker Marty Smith shared his journey from ranch life to the national spotlight and how it shaped his perspective on hard work, heritage and the people who keep America running.

During the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Annual Meeting held on Saturday, new leadership were elected, including:

- The new officer team: Stephen Diebel, president; Dan Gattis, first vice president and Wayne Cockrell second vice president

- New board of directors members: Foster Burchett,

Matthew Crow, Jared Dangelmayr, Sarah Franklin, August "Auggie" McCan, Andrew Polk, Joey Ramirez, Martha Santos and Fay Fitzsimons Walker.

- New executive committee members: James Henderson, Memphis, John Malazzo and Wesley Welch

Industry awards were presented, including:

- Bloody Buckets Cattle Company Los Hermanos Ranch, 2026 Texas Environmental Stewardship Award

- Marcel Fischbacher, 2026 Outstanding County Extension Agent—Beef

- Fred Weber, 2025 Prosecutor of the Year

The 2026 event was filled with hours of educational sessions, live cattle demonstrations, policy updates, student opportunities, social events and the expo featuring more than 250 exhibitor booths and interactive activities for all ages.

"It is always encouraging to see cattle raisers, landowners and industry partners gather together at Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo to learn

and share ideas that benefit not only their operations, but shape the future of the industry," TSCRA President Stephen Diebel said. "We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Fort Worth next year as we celebrate the 150th Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo, April 9-10, 2027."

~SLS

Scholarship... (Continued from page 2)

of reference, and proof of acceptance or enrollment in a graduate program. In addition, candidates are required to provide two short essays (each 250 words or less): one summarizing their past research and accomplishments, and another outlining their proposed research project and its significance.

The application also gathers detailed background infor-

mation, including academic history, GPA, GRE scores, leadership roles, scholarships, assistantships, and employment experience. This ensures that the selection committee can fully assess each applicant's qualifications and commitment to the field.

The deadline for submission is May 31, 2026, and late or incomplete applications will not be considered. All materials must be submitted to the American Sheep Industry office in Englewood, Colorado, or via email.

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How to get rid of fire ants: Expert tips that work

By Adam Russell, Texas AgriLife Today

Are fire ant mounds popping up in your yard, garden or pasture? As temperatures rise, so does fire ant activity. The good news is that science-backed ways to control fire ants can eliminate entire colonies — and not just the ones you see.

Robert Puckett, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologist and associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Entomology, has helped landowners across Texas and around the world fight red imported fire ants. He offers expert advice for getting rid of fire ants' annoying mounds and fiery stings.

"There are a few reliable research-backed options and approaches when it comes to fire ant control," he said. "It just comes down to how quickly you want results, and your budget to reach the desired level of protection."

Puckett's recommended annual fire ant treatment method costs about \$25-\$35 per acre.

What is the best way to control fire ants?

Puckett said the most effective way to control fire ants is to use granular fire ant bait.

Fire ant mounds are the clearest sign of a colony and its underground activity. New colonies start when flying queens mate, land and dig into the soil to lay eggs. That means new colonies can start even if you routinely treat visible, established colonies.

Granular baits work because worker ants pick up the bait and carry it back to the colony to feed other ants — including the queen. This method eliminates the entire colony.

"Studies have shown time after time that fire ants have an extremely efficient foraging behavior and dominate those baits," Puckett said.

How long does it take bait to work?

Puckett said store-bought baits vary in price and how quickly they work. In general, the cost of bait typically reflects how quickly it eliminates a colony.

Lower-cost baits may take six to eight weeks to eliminate a colony, while more expensive ones usually work in less than a week.

"There is really just a cost-versus-time-to-kill-decision matrix to consider when using baits," he said.

"But I am confident in our field research that tells me using these products is effective. Some just take longer."

How should you apply ant bait?

Puckett recommends these key steps when applying bait:

- **Sprinkle bait around the mound's perimeter** rather than directly on the mound. When disturbed, ants go into defense mode and won't collect bait.

- **Apply bait when tem-**

peratures are about 70 degrees or above, when ants are actively foraging.

- **Check the forecast** and avoid applying bait within 48 hours of rain.

- **Broadcast bait around your yard once or twice a year.** This routine will help treat visible mounds and new colonies you can't see.

- **Follow the label.** The typical application is 1 to 1.5 pounds per acre. Using more is wasteful and doesn't improve results.

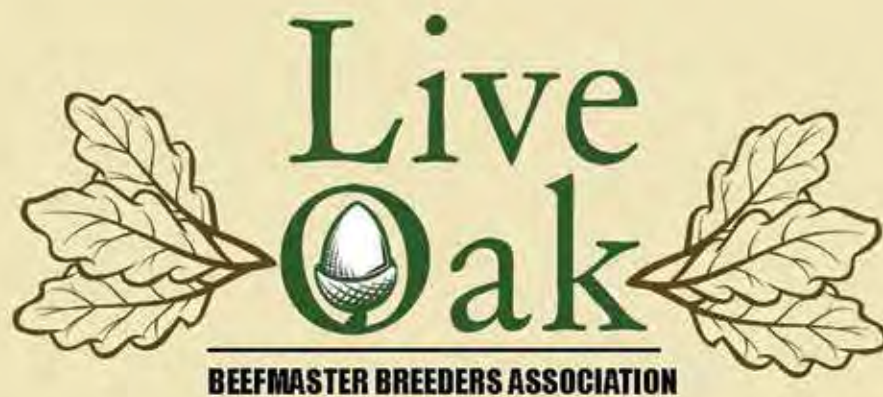
What are some organic or garden-safe options?

If you are controlling ants in a vegetable bed or prefer an organic approach, Puckett recommends using products containing spinosad. These products are the best alternatives to insecticides with synthetic active ingredients.

Another option is to slowly pour boiling water onto the mound and stir with a stick. But this method requires caution and often repeated attempts.



The broadcast and spot-treatment fire ant control regimen will deal with colonies you see and those you may not see yet. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)



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Ranch-Raised Beef Conference set for May 14-15 in Bryan-College Station

Early bird registration open through April 17 for beef production, direct-to-consumer marketing event
 By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today



Registration is open for the Ranch-Raised Beef Conference on May 14-15 in Bryan-College Station. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

Registration is open for the Ranch-Raised Beef Conference on May 14-15 in Bryan-College Station, hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science.

The conference is designed for beef producers of all experience levels who want to grow and finish high-quality beef on the ranch, said Jacquelyn Prestegaard, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension statewide livestock sustainability specialist and assistant profes-

sor, Department of Animal Science, Bryan-College Station.

The program will begin with registration at 8 a.m. on May 14 in the Animal Reproductive Biotechnology Center at Texas A&M-RELLIS campus, 1895 Ave. D, Bryan, and move on

May 15 to Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center, 488 Olsen Blvd., College Station.

The early bird fee is \$300 and ends April 17. Late registration, beginning April 18, will be \$400. Register at tx.ag/RanchRaisedBeef26. The event will include 16

hours of classroom training, resources, face-to-face access to the experts and meals throughout the two days.

Cattle producers may

be eligible for up to \$400 in reimbursement for registration and travel costs through the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Rancher Resilience Grant. Applications must be submitted by April 28. For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit www.ncba.org/education-resources/rancher-resilience-grant.

"New for 2026, we've added focused discussions on regenerative management practices, more precise methods for identifying cattle endpoints, and an expanded session featuring successful ranchers who market directly to consumers," Prestegaard said.

On the agenda

Participants will learn about raising beef both "on the hoof and on the hook" through expert presentations and hands-on demonstrations. Throughout the conference, they will gain perspective on grass-finishing and grain-finishing techniques to determine what best suits their operation's goals and customers' preferences.

The following topics will be addressed during the two-day event:

- Live evaluation to determine cattle endpoints.
- Goal setting for your operation and marketing strategies for direct-to-consumer sales.
- Nutritional management from weaning to harvest for grass and grain-finished animals.
- Grazing, forage and soil management principles.
- Hands-on examination and fabrication of carcasses from both grass-fed and grain-fed cattle.
- Selling live animals or retail beef: Which is the better option?
- Working with customers and processors on cut sheets and carcass fabrication needs.

For questions regarding event details, contact Prestegaard at j.prestegaard@agnet.tamu.edu or Drew Cassens, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension meat specialist, at drew.cassens@ag.tamu.edu.

~SLS

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Influence of backgrounding on finishing performance and carcass traits

By Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist

The segmented nature of the beef industry naturally leads to production and economic inefficiencies. Management and nutrition prior to feedlot entry have long-lasting implications on performance during the finishing phase. In the past few weeks, I have discussed observations on the increase in cow mature body weight and its impact on the carcass weights of their offspring. This week I will look at how finishing performance is affected by post-weaning performance during backgrounding of cattle in dry-lot or on pasture.

We have long been aware that previous genetic, nutrition, and health management has large impact on feedlot performance and profitability, carcass traits and ultimately consumer acceptability of beef. To determine the impacts backgrounding system and the level of performance during backgrounding on finishing performance and efficiency, we collected treatment means from multiple studies that tracked cattle from backgrounding through finishing.

Cattle entered the feedyard from pasture were 78 pounds heavier than calves from dry-lot backgrounding systems (824 for calves coming off from grass vs 746 pounds for calves coming out of dry-lot), and final finished body weight was greater for calves backgrounded on pasture. Increasing average daily gains on pasture increased final body weight at harvest and hot carcass weights to a greater degree than increasing gains in dry-lot based growing systems. Increasing average daily gain in dry-lot backgrounding systems decreased finishing performance to a much greater extent than increasing average daily gain in pasture-based stocker backgrounding systems. Where for each pound increase in daily gain during backgrounding in dry-lot systems decreased finishing average daily gain by 0.22 pounds, a pound increase in backgrounding average daily gain on pasture only decreased finishing performance by 0.13 pounds per day.

Cattle backgrounded on pasture had higher feed intake and reduced feed efficiency, which is related to the greater bodyweight entering the feedyard but also potentially indicat-

ing that the high roughage diets on pasture resulted in increased GI capacity. But feed efficiency is impacted to a greater extent as gains of cattle backgrounded in dry-lot increase than for cattle backgrounded in pasture-based stocker systems. Even with the heavier body weight entering the finishing phase, cattle from pasture backgrounding systems were on feed longer but increasing gains on pasture reduced finishing days on feed by

16 days for each additional pound in backgrounding average daily gain, while increased gains during feedlot backgrounding did not influence days on feed during finishing.

Additional gain in pasture based backgrounding systems increased ribeye area where additional gain in feedlot backgrounding systems reduced ribeye area. In contrast, increasing backgrounding ADG in feedlot systems increased marbling

score, while marbling score was not increased by additional ADG on pasture.

Calves entering the finishing phase after feedlot based backgrounding programs appear to be fatter than calves backgrounded on pasture this improves marbling and ultimately carcass quality reducing weight when slaughtered at the same degree of finish. We relate these backgrounding systems differences on the impact of activity and

thus expected differences in body composition of gain of calves grown on pasture vs feedlot pens.

Pre-finishing management has lasting effects on feedyard performance, carcass weight, and whole-system efficiency. In past articles we discussed how increasing cow sizes increases the weight of calves at harvest and carcass weights but reduces efficiency of the entire beef industry. Backgrounding strategy

also plays an important role. Pasture-based stocker programs generally produce heavier finished cattle, larger ribeye areas, and improved efficiency compared with dry-lot backgrounding. Across segments of the beef industry, optimizing pre-finishing management, rather than simply increasing cow size, offers greater opportunity to enhance carcass output and overall profitability across the entire beef production system.

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Managing...

(Continued from page 15)

Spring forage may look abundant, but energy intake can still be limiting, particularly early in the grazing season when forage is immature and intake is restricted. Testing hay or pasture can help identify whether energy or protein is limiting performance. Thin heifers often need more energy, not just more protein.

2. Prioritize energy supplementation

Energy is typically the first limiting nutrient for lactating, growing heifers. Supplement options may include:

- Corn or other cereal grains
- Byproduct feeds such as distillers grains, soy hulls, or corn gluten feed
- Energy-dense commercial supplements

The most effective supplements are those that increase total dietary energy without significantly reducing forage intake.

3. Separate management pays off

Managing first-calf heifers separately allows producers to:

- Reduce social and feed competition
- Provide supplements more consistently
- Monitor body condition more closely

This targeted approach is often one of the most cost-effective management tools for improving reproductive success in young cows.

Bottom line

First-calf heifers operate with little margin for error. They are growing, lactating, and expected to rebreed. Maintaining adequate body condition through calving and into the breeding season is one of the strongest predictors of success. Strategic nutritional management, especially for thin heifers, can pay dividends through improved conception rates, tighter calving intervals, and greater lifetime productivity.

~SLS

The new...

(Continued from page 19)

“To help reduce the risk of foodborne illness, consumer need to keep in mind these four core principals – clean, separate, cook and chill,” she said.

• **Clean:** Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling food. Clean cooking utensils, cutting boards and countertops with hot, soapy water. Rinse fruits and vegetables under running water.

• **Separate:** Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs separate from ready-to-eat foods. Use separate cutting boards for raw meats and fresh foods.

• **Cook:** Cook foods to the proper internal temperature to kill harmful bacteria. Use a food thermometer to make

sure all foods reach safe internal temperatures.

• **Chill:** Refrigerate perishable foods within two hours. Keep the refrigerator at 40 F or below at the freezer at 0 F.

Sometimes all of the information can seem daunting, but by incorporating the new changes, and staying in step with the guidelines that remain the same, Oklahomans can find a way to incorporate the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans into their everyday lives.

“Simple steps like adding an extra vegetable to meals, swapping out a sugary soda for a glass of water or using whole grain pasta can make a big difference,” Pradhananga said. “Good health isn’t about preparing a perfectly balanced meal every time – it’s about making small, sustainable choices over time.”

Cavender...

(Continued from page 21)

GA paid \$36,000 to own this calving ease son of Admiral consigned by Hicks Ranch.

Townsend Brangus, Milburn, OK paid \$30,000 to own the next high seller. He was Lot 87 CB Express Way 1363N6. This big topped, thick made son of Express is out of a full sister to Lineman.

Also selling for \$30,000 was Lot 44, CB Express 4232M18, another clean made,

calving ease son of Express. He was purchased by Bart Carter, Stafford, AZ.

\$27,000 was the bid price for Lot 47, CB Ace of Spades 415N20. This big topped elite weaning weight son of Ace of Spades. He sold to Greg Gibbes and Dal Williamson, Laurel, MS.

Lot 1, CB Paramount Plus 541M13 sold to East Texas Cattle, Bullard, TX for \$25,500. He boasts elite growth and carcass.

2 0 2 6 2 0 2 6

LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR

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

- APR 4 TBBA Spring Spectacular Sale, Salado, TX
- APR 4 Louisiana BBA Spring Futurity & Sale, Alexandria, LA
- APR 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Spring “Best of the Best” Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- APR 11 Collier Farms Advantage Sale, Giddings, TX
- APR 11 The Irreplaceable Showcase, Brenham, TX
- APR 16 Jordan Cattle Auction Ft Hickory Sand Ranch Brangus, STS Ranger Registered Angus & Shady Oak Farm Charolais & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX**

- JUN 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- JUN 18 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- JUN 27 Southern Tradition XXVI Sale, Savannah, TN
- JUL 6 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- JUL 9 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- JUL 25 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 3 Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 12 Collier Farms Fall Advantage Sale, College Station, TX
- SEP 14 Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- SEP 26 Fall Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- SEP 26 Karnes City Auction Special Replacement Sale, Karnes City, TX
- SEP 26-27 Synergy XIX SimGenetics Event, Giddings, TX
- OCT 1 Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 8 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering Featuring Dybdal Charolais & RR Ranch Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- OCT 8 GKB Cattle Fall Bull Sale, Desdemona, TX
- OCT 14 Jordan Cattle Auction 13th Annual Hill Country Youth Heifer Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 24 Jordan Cattle Auction Fall “Best of the Best” Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- OCT 26 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, Mason, TX
- NOV 5 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker-Feeder & Premium Weaned Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 5 Jordan Cattle Auction Cannon Charolais & Schaefer Farms Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- NOV 11 Jordan Cattle Auction Barber Ranch Herefords & Express Angus Bull Sale, San Saba, TX
- NOV 19 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Bull Offering Ft Shady Oak Farm Charolais & SimAngus Bulls, San Saba, TX
- DEC 5 Jordan Cattle Auction December Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- DEC 5 GKB Cattle Brangus Production Sale, Desdemona, TX
- DEC 10 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX

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- APR 16 Martin-Bruni Brangus Late Spring Bull Sale, San Saba, TX**
- APR 16-17 Next Gen Flint Hills Spring Classic, Paxico, KS**
- APR 18 Beef On Forage Maternal Collection Sale, Brenham, TX
- APR 18 East Texas/Louisiana Beefmaster Marketing Group Sale, Crockett, TX**
- APR 25 Best of Both Worlds Beefmaster Sale, Selmer, TN**
- APR 26 Cattleman’s Brenham Livestock Auction Special Replacement Female & Bull Sale, Brenham, TX**
- APR 24-25 Cavender Ranches Annual Spring Female Sale, Jacksonville, TX**
- APR 25 Beefmaster E6 Commercial Female Sale, Brenham, TX**
- APR 28 McGarity Brangus Female Sale, Royston, GA
- APR 29 Central Texas ICA All Breeds Bull & Female Sale, Gonzales, TX**
- APR 30 Jordan Cattle Auction Featuring Grothaus Hereford Bulls, San Saba, TX
- MAY 1 Coggin Farms Replacement Female Sale, Lake Park, GA**
- MAY 2 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAY 2 Genetic Investment Sale, Salado, TX**
- MAY 2 Charolais Quest for Excellence Sale, College Station, TX
- MAY 2 Live Oak Livestock Auction Special Replacement Female & Bull Sale, Three Rivers, TX**
- MAY 2 Santa Gertrudis Bluebonnet Classic, Hallettsville, TX**
- MAY 4 Fenco Farms Spring Female Sale, Floral City, FL**
- MAY 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
- MAY 9 Live Oak BBA Spring Showdown Sale, Three Rivers, TX**
- MAY 9 Thomas Charolais Female Sale, Raymondville, TX**
- MAY 9 7P Dispersal Sale, Winona, TX**
- MAY 23 GenePlus @ Bar V Genetix Female Sale, Oneonta, AL
- JUN 6 Jordan Cattle Auction Replacement Female Sale, San Saba, TX
- JUN 6 H-Bar Ranch Production Sale, Livingston, TX
- JUN 6 ACE Quail Valley Farms “Brangus on the Beach” Sale, Orange Beach, AL

Upcoming Events

• 2026 •

- May 14-May 25** Ranch Raised Beef Conference, College Station, Texas
- Aug. 3-Aug. 5** Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, College Station, Texas
- Aug. 31-Sept. 5** American Cattle World Expo, Fort Worth, Texas



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(Continued from page 23)

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INDEX:

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

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