

Texas A&M AgriLife celebrates new home for High Plains Research and Extension Center

Expanded facility in Canyon to better serve region through research and educational outreach

By Kay Ledbetter, Texas AgriLife Today

Texas A&M AgriLife held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Texas A&M AgriLife High Plains Research and Extension Center, a state-of-the-art facility that combines research and education outreach for the greater Texas High Plains region.

The facility, at 3211 Russell Long Blvd, is a part of The Texas A&M University System's Charles W. "Doc" Graham '53 DVM

Complex on the West Texas A&M University, WT, campus. This complex includes the Texas A&M Veterinary Education, Research and Outreach, VERO, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

Regent John Bellinger of The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents said the ribbon-cutting isn't just about a building.

"The High Plains generates more than \$20 billion annually in agricultural economic activity, and what happens here reaches far beyond this region," Bellinger said. "This facility represents a long-term commitment to this region and to the people who depend on this work every day. It reflects our broader approach across the Texas A&M University System — working together,

using our full strength, to serve Texans more effectively today and for generations to come."

About the building

The \$30 million multi-use facility will provide office space to support about 60 faculty and staff for the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agencies. In addition, it serves as the district hub for AgriLife Extension and its programming in the 22 surrounding counties.

The public meeting spaces incorporated into the facilities will support educational outreach and community events, and the modern laboratories support applied, solutions-oriented research by agency faculty.

Signature programs include beef cattle and dairy; wheat breeding and genetics; irrigation water management;



Texas A&M AgriLife held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Texas A&M AgriLife High Plains Research and Extension Center, located in The Texas A&M University System's Charles W. "Doc" Graham '53 DVM Complex on the West Texas A&M University campus in Canyon. (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

water-limited forage systems; plant physiology, pathology and disease diagnostics; entomology; agronomy and soil science; sustainable livestock systems engineering; agricultural law and economics; gerontology and human nutrition.

Regional partners, producers and solutions

Texas A&M AgriLife

works across the entire state of Texas, but Jeffrey W. Savell, Ph.D., vice chancellor and dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences, said that doesn't mean it offers cookie-cutter solutions.

"Local work — paired with the power of our statewide mission — will focus on the opportunities and challenges that matter here,"

Savell said. "When scientists, Extension professionals, partners and students work side by side, ideas move faster. Solutions become more practical. That's what it looks like when a building brings people together."

The Texas A&M AgriLife High Plains Research and Extension Center on the WT

(Continued on page 16)

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Texas Side of Things	2
Texas Trails	2
Markets.....	4
Weather Wise.....	10
Sale Calendar.....	18

PERIODICAL

Quarterly report shows decrease in heifers on feed

By Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky Extension professor

USDA's April Cattle on Feed report came in very close to expectations. Total on-feed inventory was down by just over 0.5% from 2025 at 11.58 million head. Both placements and marketings were down considerably from last year, but very close to pre-report estimates. The report was generally consistent with the ongoing trends of tight cattle supplies, lower

slaughter levels, and longer feeding periods. Being a quarterly report, the steer / heifer breakdown was the most interesting element of the April 1 estimates, and I want to spend a little time talking through that.

USDA-NASS estimated that there were 4.32 million heifers on feed as of April 1, which was 60,000 (1.4%) fewer heifers than last April.

For the sake of comparison, steers on feed were largely unchanged year-over-year. To start the second quarter, heifers were estimated to represent 37.3% of total on-feed inventory. This number is often viewed as a retention indicator with potential to indicate future expansion (or contraction) of the beef cow herd and has been watched very closely in the last few years.

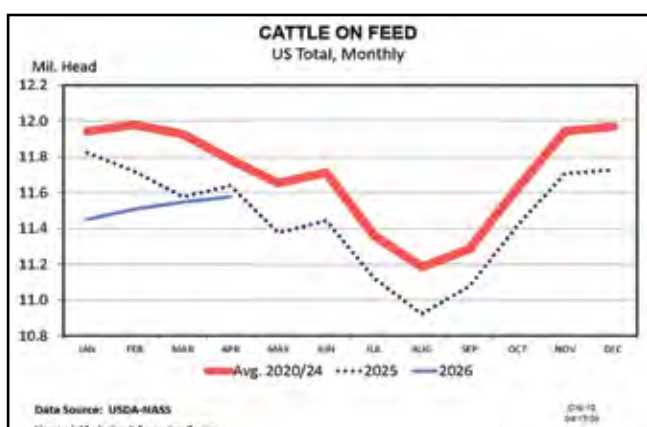
The figure to the right charts heifers, as a percentage of on-feed inventory, going back to January of 2006. I purposely wanted to take that longer-run view to help put the most recent number in perspective. At 37.3%, heifers make up a slightly larger



share of on-feed inventory than they did on average over the last twenty years. While this does not suggest widespread heifer retention, I do think the downward trend over the last 2-3 years is noteworthy. This is actually the smallest heifer percentage

seen in quarterly cattle on feed data since 2018. That statistic is a little deceiving because we have been under 38% several times since then (most recently at 37.7% last April), but it is also hard to ignore.

(Continued on page 2)



• See Pages 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 17 •

INDEPENDENT CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

ROUND-UP REVIEW



Spring of 2026 seems to be getting better and better! For instance, last week I received 2-3 inches of rain at our ranch near Castell, and from what was reported to me, many of you south and southeast of San Antonio received even more than that. This recent rainfall should boost our native grasses and improve pastures to finally green up and grow, which is exactly the way spring is supposed to be. I'm not sure if it's just me, but ever since 2011 (the year of the drought), I get a really bad feeling in my stomach even when I think it's getting a little bit dry. Texas has been so blessed this spring, and I hope it continues a long way into the summer. But then, we all know what happens in July and August. The dome of high pressure takes over and for the next eight weeks we must endure the heat and absence of rainfall, which is almost a guarantee.

All the sales that I have been to since the first of this year have been outstanding! The market in the registered business has been very good, and I've seen several new buy-

ers at each one. There appears to be a lot of confidence from the purebred buyers, especially in the better-quality cattle. I'm also seeing a lot of new buyers, which is interesting since there hasn't been much growth in most of the cattle breeds in the last 10 years. This is a very good sign, especially for breed associations, but more importantly for the breed executives who are responsible for making them grow.

I've always been somewhat confused by different segments of the cattle industry and how they function. You start with the cow-calf operator, the sale barns, the stocker, the feeder, the packer, and the meat purveyor just to name a few and each one is trying to make the most profit it can from the same cattle. Then, you have the purebred or registered breeders, and they are in a class all by themselves. They usually have a lot more invested in their herd. They must keep accurate records on their cattle including date of birth, performance information and DNA testing, all which create extra expenses to

sell their product. It's a tough and frustrating business but one that is very necessary for the cattle industry to improve efficiency and quality. For we all know, whatever these purebred breeders do today will influence our cow herds for many years. We buy our bulls from them and on up the chain our products go all the way to the consumer's table. Now, many of you on the commercial side of the business make comments all the time about registered breeders and how they don't really understand the way the real cattle business works. Let me tell you that they do, and they continue to improve by providing a better product so that you can improve, also. I've been around the registered business since 1983, and I have seen our cattle improved immensely in that time. Most of that improvement has come at the expense of registered breeders and the investments of time and money they've been willing to make.

The next time you go to a registered breeder's ranch and he prices you a bull for \$8,000-\$10,000, stop and think about the ones he had to cull for infertility, a broken leg, poor quality, disposition, or many other reasons. Then consider what he had to do to get that animal to the point where you would be happy to have him in your pasture.

For those of you who are new to the registered business, I would like to welcome you and say thank you for your enthusiasm and effort to make our industry better. I look forward to meeting and visiting with at future sales this year.

A world champion fiddler

The guitar, by decree of the 1977 Texas legislature, is the state instrument of Texas. With apologies to and deep respect for that fine instrument, we're going to say the fiddle did the most to shape the state's music in its early days. Not that it was easy for the fiddle, even if you call it a violin.

In the state's early days, the fiddle had to fight a perception that it was an instrument of the devil and that a talent for playing it could only be acquired through a deal with same. Fiddlers were depicted as lazy, hard-drinking and generally worthless human beings who drew one step closer to hell with every note they played.

And yet there was a persistent demand for fiddle music, especially in rural places where music provided one of the few social diversions available. Of the many who established a high standard for Texas fiddle playing, Alexander "Eck" Robertson deserves the most credit. Aside from being a very good player of the fiddle, he was also the first to record country music for commercial release.

Eck grew up outside Amarillo into a family of fiddlers until his father entered the ministry and withdrew from the instrument. Eck is surely the only Texas fiddler who crafted his first fiddle (when he was eight-years-old) by shooting the family cat, stretching the hide over a large gourd and stringing it

with hair from a mare's tail.

"It's the meanest trick I ever done," he later told an Amarillo newspaper.

The family's cats breathed a sigh of relief when Eck traded a pig for a store-bought Sears and Roebuck fiddle but Eck's father did not. Eck began sneaking out of the house at night to fiddle at local dances. By 16 he was on the road, fiddling full time for traveling medicine shows in Oklahoma.

Eck met an Oklahoma fiddler named Henry C.

Gilliand, who happened to be friends with lawyer Marvin Littleton, who happened to represent the Victor Recording Company. Littleton arranged for Gilliand and Eck to record some tunes at the Victor studios in New York City in June of 1922. That's how Eck Robertson happened to record music aimed at a rural audience at a time when record companies either didn't know or didn't care if such an audience existed.

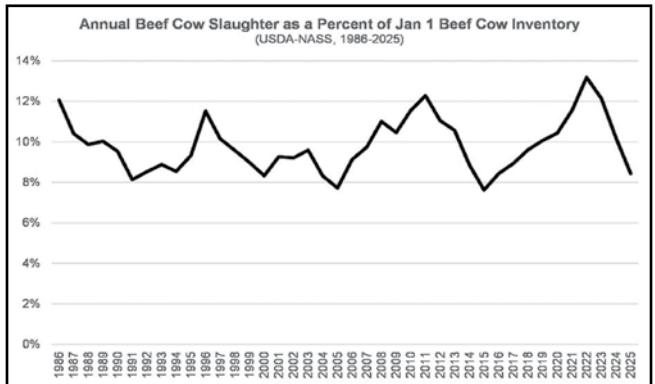
(Continued on page 5)

USDA Livestock Export/Import Statistics For 4-23-26			
SPECIES:	4-13-26:	Wk.-Dt.:	Yr.-Dt.:
1) BEEF CATTLE			
a. Slaughter	0	0	31
b. Breeding Males	55	27	783
c. Breeding Females	51	43	325
Total	106	70	1,139
2) HOGS			
a. Slaughter	0	0	0
b. Breeding Males	0	0	116
c. Breeding Females	0	0	2,129
Total	0	0	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	198	532
Total	0	198	532
6) HORSES			
a. Slaughter	496	628	6,679
b. Breeding Males	34	27	673
c. Breeding Females	20	13	519
d. Geldings	5	12	189
e. Burro/Mule/Pony	0	0	3
Total	555	680	8,063
7) EXOTICS			
Total	0	0	104
MEXICO TO NEW MEXICO IMPORTS			
SPECIES:	4-13-26:	1-1-26 - Present	
FEEDER CATTLE	0	0	
MEXICO TO TEXAS IMPORTS			
FEEDER CATTLE	0	0	

Quarterly...
(Continued from page 1)

The bigger story of 2026 may be less about heifer retention and more about beef cow slaughter. After culling the herd very hard from 2021 to 2023, beef cow slaughter was sharply lower in 2024 and 2025. Through the first 14 weeks of 2026, beef cow slaughter has been running almost 18% lower than the

same time last year. If that trend held for the balance of the year, the 2026 beef cow culling rate would be about 7%, when the culling rate has averaged over 9.8% the last twenty years. Weather conditions are likely to impact both heifer retention and cow culling as we move through current year, but the current pace of cow slaughter may be the largest inventory driver as we move towards 2027.



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Groundbreaking marks next major milestone in strengthening U.S. New World screwworm preparedness

Source: USDA

(Edinburg, TX, April 17, 2026) — Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins and Lieutenant General William H. “Butch” Graham, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) commanding general, led the groundbreaking for the new sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas. USDA is partnering with USACE to construct this facility, which is a cornerstone of Secretary Rollins’ five-pronged strategy to combat New World screwworm (NWS), expanding the nation’s domestic capacity to protect livestock, wildlife and public health from this serious pest.

“Breaking ground on this facility marks a major investment in safeguarding America’s livestock and the producers who feed this nation. This puts NWS sterile fly production in American hands, so we do not have to rely on other countries for the best offensive measure to push screwworm away from our borders,” said Secretary Rollins. “The NWS threatens the health of our herds, the stability of rural economies, and the resilience of our supply chain. President Trump and his entire cabinet is committed to leveraging every resource necessary to contain this pest, protect American agriculture, and ensure the long-term security of our food supply chain.”

“Thank you to President Trump and Secretary Rollins for your leadership in helping mitigate the spread of the dangerous New World screwworm,” said Senator Cornyn. “I am glad to be in the Rio Grande Valley today for the groundbreaking of the sterile fly production facility, which will combat this parasite from spreading throughout the Lone Star State. Texas ranks first in the nation in cattle production, and I will keep working with Secretary Rollins to ensure Texas ranchers and farmers are supported and protected from this pest.”

“Our mission at USACE is to deliver engineering solutions, with our part-

ners, to secure our Nation, strengthen our economy, and reduce disaster risk,”

said LTG Graham. “That’s why we’re proud to deliver an engineering solution to the NWS, which represents a direct threat to our nation’s livestock, our food security, and our economy. This new, modern facility is the critical infrastructure we need to secure a defensive line against the NWS for generations to come.”

USACE is providing engineering, design, construction management, and contract oversight for the project, ensuring the facility meets the highest standards for biosecurity, reliability, and long term operational readiness.

The new facility is being built with an aggressive timeline designed to quickly expand the nation’s sterile fly production capacity:

- Initial operational capability targeted for November 2027, reaching production of 100 million sterile flies per week.
- Construction continues immediately beyond initial operations to scale full production capacity to 300 million sterile flies per week.
- USDA and USACE have slashed red tape, securing expedited procurement, and eliminating other barriers.
- Together, USDA and

USACE will oversee installation, and commissioning of specialized systems that will make this facility operable on time, delivering the critical sterile flies we need to continue to defeat this pest.

This new state-of-the-

art facility will complement USDA’s ongoing production of 100 million sterile flies per week at the Panama-based COPEG facility. USDA has also invested \$21 million to

(Continued on page 5)

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USDA Major Livestock Reports:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, Apri 23, 2026: Total receipts: 314, last reported (4-16-26) 399, last year 672. Feeder cattle 228 (72.6%), last reported (4-16-26) 309 (77.4%), last year 511 (76.0%). Slaughter cattle 54 (17.2%), last reported (4-16-26) 67 (16.8%), last year 141 (21.0%). Replacement cattle 32 (10.2%), last reported (4-16-26) 23 (5.8%), last year 20 (3.0%). Feeder cattle were all too lightly tested to develop an accurate market trend however lower undertones were noted on feeder steers, while steady to higher undertones were noted on feeder heifers and feeder bulls. Slaughter cows sold uneven; leans and breakers sold 2.00 to 3.00 lower, while boners sold 4.00 to 5.00 higher. Slaughter bulls sold steady. Supply included: 73% Feeder Cattle (42% Steers, 39% Heifers, 19% Bulls); 17% Slaughter Cattle (74% Cows, 26% Bulls); 10% Replacement Cattle (13% Stock Cows, 58% Bred Cows, 29% Cow-Calf Pairs). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 32%.

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 28, 2026: Total receipts 6,573, last reported (4-20-26) 5,867, last year 4,921. Feeder cattle: 6,573 (100.0%), last reported (4-20-26) 5,867 (100.0%), last year 4,921 (100.0%). Compared to last week: Feeder cattle and calves mostly steady. Bulk of the feeder steers weighing over 750 lbs and 700-750 lb steers very lightly tested. Demand good as cattle futures traded sharply higher on Monday. Several strings of heavier weight feeder cattle included. Weigh ups average to full. Feeders in medium to fleshy conditions. Warm, humid day on Monday but will cool back into the 60’s and 70’s after today. Supply included: 100% Feeder Cattle (51% Steers, 0% Dairy Steers, 46% Heifers, 2% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 75%.

SALE: Beeville Livestock Commission, Inc. Beeville, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-24-26 VOLUME: 145 TREND: Steady/lower. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>587-730</td><td>626-700</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>539-630</td><td>505-575</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>480-545</td><td>465-530</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>402-468</td><td>398-465</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>380-455</td><td>392-400</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>330-383</td><td>243-395</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>80-186</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>185-205</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1150-2250</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>—</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	587-730	626-700	300-400 lbs.	539-630	505-575	400-500 lbs.	480-545	465-530	500-600 lbs.	402-468	398-465	600-700 lbs.	380-455	392-400	700-800 lbs.	330-383	243-395	Slaughter cows	80-186		Slaughter bulls	185-205		Stocker cows	1150-2250		Pairs	—		SALE: Brazos Valley Livestock Commission Bryan, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-28-26 VOLUME: 606 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>625-740</td><td>580-675</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>590-710</td><td>490-555</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>480-590</td><td>465-530</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>450-522.5</td><td>390-425</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>380-455</td><td>365-400</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>385-410</td><td>310-333</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>166-190</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>190-230</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>2300-3350</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>2500-3700</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	625-740	580-675	300-400 lbs.	590-710	490-555	400-500 lbs.	480-590	465-530	500-600 lbs.	450-522.5	390-425	600-700 lbs.	380-455	365-400	700-800 lbs.	385-410	310-333	Slaughter cows	166-190		Slaughter bulls	190-230		Stocker cows	2300-3350		Pairs	2500-3700		SALE: Live Oak Auction, Inc. Three Rivers, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-27-26 VOLUME: 729 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>578-738</td><td>546-738</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>524-656</td><td>448-604</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>484-638</td><td>436-558</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>420-524</td><td>396-502</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>340-448</td><td>338-432</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>296-374</td><td>284-364</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>134-184</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>172-210</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1800-3600</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>2550-4200</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	578-738	546-738	300-400 lbs.	524-656	448-604	400-500 lbs.	484-638	436-558	500-600 lbs.	420-524	396-502	600-700 lbs.	340-448	338-432	700-800 lbs.	296-374	284-364	Slaughter cows	134-184		Slaughter bulls	172-210		Stocker cows	1800-3600		Pairs	2550-4200		SALE: Nixon Livestock Commission, Inc. Nixon, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-27-26 VOLUME: 796 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>635-790</td><td>580-770</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>522-685</td><td>503-790</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>463-585</td><td>432-540</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>431-515</td><td>374-480</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>363-450</td><td>342-480</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>319-370</td><td>340-345</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>85-180</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>162-206</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1540-2000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3800</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	635-790	580-770	300-400 lbs.	522-685	503-790	400-500 lbs.	463-585	432-540	500-600 lbs.	431-515	374-480	600-700 lbs.	363-450	342-480	700-800 lbs.	319-370	340-345	Slaughter cows	85-180		Slaughter bulls	162-206		Stocker cows	1540-2000		Pairs	3800		SALE: Gulf Coast Livestock Auction, LLC Alice, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-28-26 VOLUME: 225 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>575-675</td><td>505-560</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>520-625</td><td>470-525</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>450-550</td><td>420-500</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>400-470</td><td>395-480</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>352-410</td><td>315-365</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>305-320</td><td>290-320</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>80-175</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>140-210</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>2500-3000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3000-3650</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	575-675	505-560	300-400 lbs.	520-625	470-525	400-500 lbs.	450-550	420-500	500-600 lbs.	400-470	395-480	600-700 lbs.	352-410	315-365	700-800 lbs.	305-320	290-320	Slaughter cows	80-175		Slaughter bulls	140-210		Stocker cows	2500-3000		Pairs	3000-3650	
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SALE: Gillespie Livestock Company Fredericksburg, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-22-26 VOLUME: 145 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>200-670</td><td>210-600</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>350-620</td><td>350-575</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>350-555</td><td>350-515</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>250-527</td><td>300-492.5</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>200-442</td><td>250-415</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>200-370</td><td>200-345</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>70-190</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>90-225</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>2000-4600</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>2000-5000</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	200-670	210-600	300-400 lbs.	350-620	350-575	400-500 lbs.	350-555	350-515	500-600 lbs.	250-527	300-492.5	600-700 lbs.	200-442	250-415	700-800 lbs.	200-370	200-345	Slaughter cows	70-190		Slaughter bulls	90-225		Stocker cows	2000-4600		Pairs	2000-5000		SALE: Groesbeck Auction/Livestock Co., LLC Groesbeck, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-9-26 VOLUME: 677 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>450-600</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>525-640</td><td>430-520</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>450-570</td><td>385-485</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>425-530</td><td>360-400</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>360-380</td><td>300-350</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>300-387</td><td>308-350</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>85-172</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>60-215</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1650-4200</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>1800-4600</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	—	450-600	300-400 lbs.	525-640	430-520	400-500 lbs.	450-570	385-485	500-600 lbs.	425-530	360-400	600-700 lbs.	360-380	300-350	700-800 lbs.	300-387	308-350	Slaughter cows	85-172		Slaughter bulls	60-215		Stocker cows	1650-4200		Pairs	1800-4600		SALE: Jordan Cattle Auction San Saba & Mason, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-23-26 VOLUME: 1060 TREND: Steady/lower. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>447-525</td><td>460-550</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>430-500</td><td>413-505</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>402-452</td><td>381-560</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>378-400</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>78-190</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>175-224</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1500-4400</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>2850-6650</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	—	—	300-400 lbs.	—	—	400-500 lbs.	447-525	460-550	500-600 lbs.	430-500	413-505	600-700 lbs.	402-452	381-560	700-800 lbs.	378-400	—	Slaughter cows	78-190		Slaughter bulls	175-224		Stocker cows	1500-4400		Pairs	2850-6650		SALE: Giddings Livestock Commission Giddings, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-27-26 VOLUME: 1110 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>614-900</td><td>537-730</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>559-700</td><td>512-600</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>511-570</td><td>491-570</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>462-535</td><td>424-505</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>393-445</td><td>352-410</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>340-400</td><td>314-377.5</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>105-194</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>190-229</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1700-3550</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>1600-4300</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	614-900	537-730	300-400 lbs.	559-700	512-600	400-500 lbs.	511-570	491-570	500-600 lbs.	462-535	424-505	600-700 lbs.	393-445	352-410	700-800 lbs.	340-400	314-377.5	Slaughter cows	105-194		Slaughter bulls	190-229		Stocker cows	1700-3550		Pairs	1600-4300		SALE: Milam County Livestock Auction Cameron, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-24-26 VOLUME: 1171 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>585-740</td><td>450-670</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>529-710</td><td>408-605</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>461-580</td><td>365-570</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>250-560</td><td>225-480</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>141-187</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>155-216</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1450-4600</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>1600-6000</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	585-740	450-670	300-400 lbs.	529-710	408-605	400-500 lbs.	461-580	365-570	500-600 lbs.	250-560	225-480	600-700 lbs.	—	—	700-800 lbs.	—	—	Slaughter cows	141-187		Slaughter bulls	155-216		Stocker cows	1450-4600		Pairs	1600-6000	
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SALE: East Texas Livestock, Inc. Crockett, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-28-26 VOLUME: 1412 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>408-860</td><td>235-810</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>401-840</td><td>225-830</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>380-710</td><td>218-605</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>372-605</td><td>212-555</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>361-495</td><td>206-490</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>315-452</td><td>185-500</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>155-186</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>201-226</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>2400-3600</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3300-4600</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	408-860	235-810	300-400 lbs.	401-840	225-830	400-500 lbs.	380-710	218-605	500-600 lbs.	372-605	212-555	600-700 lbs.	361-495	206-490	700-800 lbs.	315-452	185-500	Slaughter cows	155-186		Slaughter bulls	201-226		Stocker cows	2400-3600		Pairs	3300-4600		SALE: Caldwell Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Caldwell, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-22-26 VOLUME: 200 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>655-700</td><td>600-650</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>600-675</td><td>507-640</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>500-555</td><td>480-520</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>426-485</td><td>400-475</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>370-407</td><td>340-380</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>130-200</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>167-219</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>2000-3950</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3150-4500</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	655-700	600-650	300-400 lbs.	600-675	507-640	400-500 lbs.	500-555	480-520	500-600 lbs.	426-485	400-475	600-700 lbs.	370-407	340-380	700-800 lbs.	—	—	Slaughter cows	130-200		Slaughter bulls	167-219		Stocker cows	2000-3950		Pairs	3150-4500		SALE: Buffalo Livestock Commission Co., Inc. Buffalo, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-25-26 VOLUME: 991 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>420-890</td><td>355-790</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>400-675</td><td>385-600</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>510-565</td><td>410-565</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>385-525</td><td>385-525</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>320-432</td><td>320-432</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>310-380</td><td>310-380</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>75-200</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>160-218</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1325-4150</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3250-6000</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	420-890	355-790	300-400 lbs.	400-675	385-600	400-500 lbs.	510-565	410-565	500-600 lbs.	385-525	385-525	600-700 lbs.	320-432	320-432	700-800 lbs.	310-380	310-380	Slaughter cows	75-200		Slaughter bulls	160-218		Stocker cows	1325-4150		Pairs	3250-6000		SALE: Navasota Livestock Auction Co. Navasota, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-25-26 VOLUME: 1426 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>350-760</td><td>325-720</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>350-645</td><td>325-595</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>300-570</td><td>300-555</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>300-500</td><td>300-470</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>300-470</td><td>300-425</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>100-185</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>150-230</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1700-3450</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>1700-3450</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	350-760	325-720	300-400 lbs.	350-645	325-595	400-500 lbs.	300-570	300-555	500-600 lbs.	300-500	300-470	600-700 lbs.	300-470	300-425	700-800 lbs.	—	—	Slaughter cows	100-185		Slaughter bulls	150-230		Stocker cows	1700-3450		Pairs	1700-3450		SALE: Cattleman's Brenham Livestock Brenham, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-24-26 VOLUME: 601 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>465-765</td><td>450-680</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>250-640</td><td>370-575</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>387-570</td><td>325-575</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>220-510</td><td>200-425</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>370-425</td><td>200-360</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>310-355</td><td>150-310</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>110-186</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>140-237</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1750-4750</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>2500-5500</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	465-765	450-680	300-400 lbs.	250-640	370-575	400-500 lbs.	387-570	325-575	500-600 lbs.	220-510	200-425	600-700 lbs.	370-425	200-360	700-800 lbs.	310-355	150-310	Slaughter cows	110-186		Slaughter bulls	140-237		Stocker cows	1750-4750		Pairs	2500-5500	
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SALE: Cuero-Victoria Livestock Markets Cuero & Victoria, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-24-26 VOLUME: 1348 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>604-750</td><td>514-735</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>561-705</td><td>493-555</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>492-575</td><td>465-570</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>475-555</td><td>390-455</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>416-470</td><td>370-420</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>349-348</td><td>330-340</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>180-187</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>135-218</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>2250-2950</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3200</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	604-750	514-735	300-400 lbs.	561-705	493-555	400-500 lbs.	492-575	465-570	500-600 lbs.	475-555	390-455	600-700 lbs.	416-470	370-420	700-800 lbs.	349-348	330-340	Slaughter cows	180-187		Slaughter bulls	135-218		Stocker cows	2250-2950		Pairs	3200		SALE: Gonzales Livestock Market, Inc. Gonzales, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-25-26 VOLUME: 397 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>425-860</td><td>375-650</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>420-675</td><td>350-500</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>390-565</td><td>320-545</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>350-505</td><td>315-455</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>320-465</td><td>335-375</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>335-365</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>90-183</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>165-204</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1200-3800</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>1800-4400</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	425-860	375-650	300-400 lbs.	420-675	350-500	400-500 lbs.	390-565	320-545	500-600 lbs.	350-505	315-455	600-700 lbs.	320-465	335-375	700-800 lbs.	335-365	—	Slaughter cows	90-183		Slaughter bulls	165-204		Stocker cows	1200-3800		Pairs	1800-4400		SALE: Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction Columbus, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-23-26 VOLUME: 462 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>550-790</td><td>525-695</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>475-645</td><td>435-570</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>410-600</td><td>400-530</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>395-470</td><td>375-470</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>350-430</td><td>315-400</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>310-385</td><td>290-325</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>110-183</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>170-182</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1650-3500</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>1900-3600</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	550-790	525-695	300-400 lbs.	475-645	435-570	400-500 lbs.	410-600	400-530	500-600 lbs.	395-470	375-470	600-700 lbs.	350-430	315-400	700-800 lbs.	310-385	290-325	Slaughter cows	110-183		Slaughter bulls	170-182		Stocker cows	1650-3500		Pairs	1900-3600		SALE: Four County Livestock Auction Industry, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-28-26 VOLUME: 718 TREND: Steady/higher. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>420-800</td><td>400-715</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>410-720</td><td>400-590</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>360-555</td><td>365-520</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>300-500</td><td>335-485</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>285-440</td><td>305-375</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>—</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>115-187</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>180-225</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>1600-6000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>2750-5400</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	420-800	400-715	300-400 lbs.	410-720	400-590	400-500 lbs.	360-555	365-520	500-600 lbs.	300-500	335-485	600-700 lbs.	285-440	305-375	700-800 lbs.	—	—	Slaughter cows	115-187		Slaughter bulls	180-225		Stocker cows	1600-6000		Pairs	2750-5400		SALE: El Campo Livestock Exchange LLC El Campo, Texas DATE OF SALE: 4-28-26 VOLUME: 2105 TREND: Steady/no change. <table><tr><td></td><td>STEERS</td><td>HEIFERS</td></tr><tr><td>200-300 lbs.</td><td>643-800</td><td>597-760</td></tr><tr><td>300-400 lbs.</td><td>578-710</td><td>527-663</td></tr><tr><td>400-500 lbs.</td><td>506-600</td><td>461-580</td></tr><tr><td>500-600 lbs.</td><td>462-535</td><td>412-480</td></tr><tr><td>600-700 lbs.</td><td>420-520</td><td>380-457</td></tr><tr><td>700-800 lbs.</td><td>356-418</td><td>330-395</td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter cows</td><td>110-210</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Slaughter bulls</td><td>190-219</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Stocker cows</td><td>3000-3500</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Pairs</td><td>3200-3900</td><td></td></tr></table>		STEERS	HEIFERS	200-300 lbs.	643-800	597-760	300-400 lbs.	578-710	527-663	400-500 lbs.	506-600	461-580	500-600 lbs.	462-535	412-480	600-700 lbs.	420-520	380-457	700-800 lbs.	356-418	330-395	Slaughter cows	110-210		Slaughter bulls	190-219		Stocker cows	3000-3500		Pairs	3200-3900	
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Sheep & Goat Auctions:

Producers Livestock Auction, San Angelo, Texas, April 29, 2026: Sheep and goats: Total receipts 6,846, last reported (4-21-26) 3,216, last year 5,897. Feeder sheep/lambs 0 (0.0%), last reported (4-21-26) 0 (0.0%), last year 521 (8.8%). Slaughter sheep/lambs 3,965 (57.9%), last reported (4-21-26) 1,925 (59.9%), last year 1,543 (26.2%). Feeder goats 1,004 (14.7%), last reported (4-21-26) 540 (16.8%), last year 1,220 (20.7%). Slaughter goats 1,877 (27.4%), last reported (4-21-26) 751 (23.4%), last year 2,613 (44.3%). Compared to last week, slaughter hair lambs traded 3.00 to 6.00 higher, while slaughter ewes traded steady. Feeder goats traded sharply higher and Slaughter goats traded sharply higher. Next report will be released on May 6, 2026. Supply included: 58% Slaughter Sheep/Lambs (9% Woolled & Shorn, 77% Hair Breeds, 4% Ewes, 6% Hair Ewes, 0% Bucks, 3% Hair Bucks); 15% Feeder Goats (100% Kids); 27% Slaughter Goats (69% Kids, 21% Nannies/Does, 3% Bucks/Billies, 7% Wethers).

Gillespie Livestock Company, Fredericksburg, Texas, April 21, 2026: Sheep and goats: 1,112 Light Lambs Steady. Heavy Lambs Steady. Kids Steady. Light Kids Steady. #1 Wool Lambs 40-60 Lb 180.00-400.00 Cwt. #1 Wool Lambs 60-80 Lb 170.00-400.00 Cwt. Bbd Lambs (40-60 Lb) 130.00-340.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (40-60 Lb) 330.00-415.00 Cwt. Dorpx Lambs (60-80 Lb) 300.00-415.00 Cwt. Light Slaughter Lambs (45-80 Lb) 330.00-415.00 Cwt. Slaughter Lambs (90-140 Lb) 150.00-400.00 Cwt. Packer Ewes 20.00-220.00 Cwt. Sheep Bucks/Rams 90.00-500.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (20-40 Lb) 350.00-500.00 Cwt. #1. Sp/Boex Kids (40-60 Lb) 350.00-535.00 Cwt. #1 Sp/Boex Kids (60-80 Lb) 350.00-535.00 Cwt. Sp/Boex Muttons 175.00-485.00 Cwt. Angora Kids 220.00-325.00 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. Angora Nannies No Test. Boex Billies 120.00-265.00 Cwt.

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Texas Trails...

(Continued from page 2)

The two men recorded "Arkansaw Traveler" their first day in the Big Apple. Eck returned by himself the next day to record five more tunes, including "Sallie Gooden and "Done Gone."

Critics, scholars and fiddlers generally agree that Eck's recording of "Sallie Gooden" is the genesis of modern-style Texas fiddling.

"The first time I heard him (Robertson) play 'Sallie Gooden,' my thought was this guy is playing that style as well as it can be played," Austin fiddler Erik Hokkanen told *Texas Highways* in 2022. "A hundred years later and nobody's topped him."

Matt Brown, another

Panhandle fiddler of note, wrote "Done Gone." J.B. Cranfill, a doctor, preacher, publisher and prohibitionist but also a fiddler reported that Brown wrote the tune on the side of a lonely highway after the only car he saw during an entire afternoon of hitchhiking passed him by and dang near ran over him.

Eck recorded another set of tunes for Victor in 1928. He later recorded 100 songs for the Sellers Transcription Studios in Dallas; the loss of those tapes is one of the great misfortunes (and possibly missed fortunes) of Texas music.

Eck never quite managed to make a living playing music but he kept playing it anyway. He was a popular performer and frequent win-

ner at old time fiddling contests. He appeared at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival when he was 78-years-old and also played the UCLA Folk Festival in California.

There was talk of another recording but nothing ever came of it. Eck drifted back to Amarillo and then to a nursing home in Borger. He died there in 1975 at the age of 88, a mostly forgotten pioneer of Texas music. The inscription on his tombstone reads: "World's Champion Fiddler."

So the next time you hear the song that claims "you just can't play in Texas without a fiddle in the band" take a moment to remember Eck Robertson, the man who did as much as anybody to make that true.

~SLS

DC News...

(Continued from page 3)

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President's Address...

By: Greg Seidenberger



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

Rain

When we decided to leave South Texas, one of my "musts" was to move where it rained (the other two were 1) no brush to treat and 2) good fences). Brenham seemed like a good spot to resettle but pretty soon it quit raining. Not quite like it did in South or West Texas or Central Florida, but certainly less than advertised. In the last major drought in 2011-2012, I studied the monthly rainfall measurements for the 10 or so years leading up to that dry period for different areas of the state. It turned out that most of the rainfall, 80% or so, fell in increments of less than 0.20 inches (about the thickness of a wooden pencil) so only about 4 inches of a 20-inch

annual rainfall fell in amounts above that! Usually within the 0.50- and 1.0-inch range. Agricultural universities and the NRCS have long promoted the importance of ground cover to improve infiltration of rain into the soil to stimulate root and grass growth but there have been few studies on the impact of the amount of rain on grass production from a given amount of ground cover. The one study I know was conducted in the early 1980s by my friend and colleague, Dr. C. Wayne Hanselka, the Texas A&M Extension Range Specialist now retired. His work proved that adequate ground cover with even minimal rainfall had significant

(Continued on page 7)

Chapter Happenings...

Around The Lone Star State

South Central ICA Chapter

Prayers have been answered! After a long stretch of dry conditions, our area was finally blessed with much-needed rain, bringing a renewed sense of hope across much of South Texas. For many, the sound of rain on a tin roof and the sight of water collecting in the gauge was more than just a weather event—it was a reminder of why we do what we do and how much we care for the land, the cattle and the life we have built around them. Even the toughest ranchers will get a lump in their throat or tear up at a good rain following a hard drought. Pastures are

already showing signs of life and with another week of continued moisture, we're hopeful for stronger forage production in the coming months. This should help ease input costs, improve hay availability and put some much-needed condition back on our cattle. This rain has lifted spirits and reminds us all that even in tough times, resilience, perseverance and most of all, faith in our Creator will carry us through. Our local chapter held its quarterly meeting on Apr. 16th at Blessed Sacrament Church in Poth, Texas. It was encouraging to see both

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued on page 7)

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Rain...

(Continued from page 6)

benefits on grass growth and nutritional value. During a three-year period, he looked at the monthly growth and nutritional value of Buffelgrass on three ranches in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. While collecting the data he found that those plots with greater grass growth after monthly clipping grew significantly more grass with less rainfall! In an extreme example, a plot with only 150 pounds of forage per acre (less than an inch) grew 1,900 pounds of grass but had 19.9 inches of rain.

However, those plots with 300, 425, and 500 pounds of residual grew 1000, 1600, and 2500 pounds of forage, all with only 8 to 10 inches of rain! Sure, timing is important but so is the ability of having enough ground cover to slow down the moisture so it can be captured and enter the ground where it can be used. This applies not only to rangelands but to improved pastures, as well. Ground cover is the key to trapping rainfall no matter how little it is. It does not take a lot of rain to grow grass, but it does take grass to grow grass once it begins to rain.

President's...

(Continued from page 6)

the year you join us. Hope to see you there. Stay safe, stay healthy, and remember your ICA is working hard every day to keep you informed and to be your voice in the industry and in the legislature. Please share the good news with your neighbors and recruit them to become ICA members.

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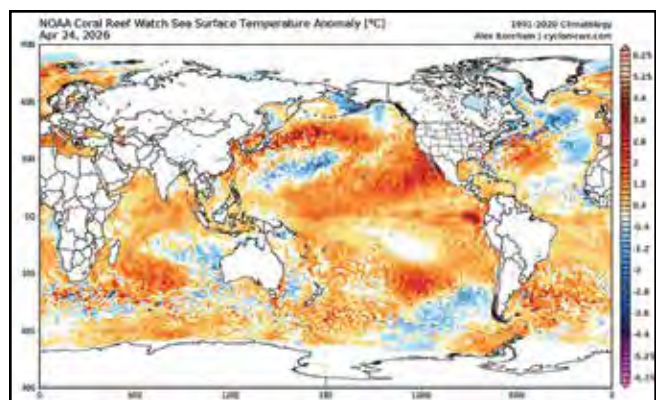
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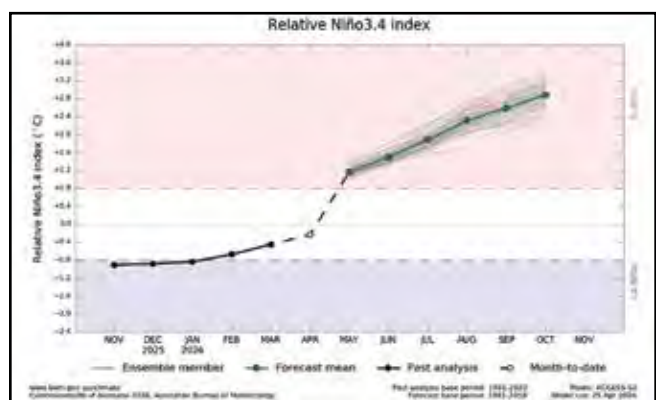
WEATHER WISE

By Brian Bledsoe

From the last time we chatted, the El Niño chatter has taken off. I am not surprised by this, but feel like we need to continue to talk about what it means. While some outlets tell you that we won't see impacts until fall/winter, I believe that we are already seeing El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean. The following map shows sea surface temperature anomalies as of April 27th.



The warmer than average water off the west coast of South America extends along the equator to the west. We also have much warmer than average water off the southwest coast of the U.S. That is the warm/positive phase of what is called the Pacific Meridional Mode. These two can work to enhance the subtropical or southern branch of the jet stream. We've seen some of this in recent weeks. However, what is happening at the surface is only a small part of what is going on. The ocean temperature anomalies beneath the surface are even more impressive. This map shows extremely warm water beneath the surface...all the way down to 200 meters deep across the same part of the ocean. That warm water in a lesser capacity will eventually surface. That process is what will make this event develop quickly. That magnitude of warm water also is what will likely make this a strong event. How strong? That is what we still have to determine. However, the following chart/forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology out of Australia gives us an idea.

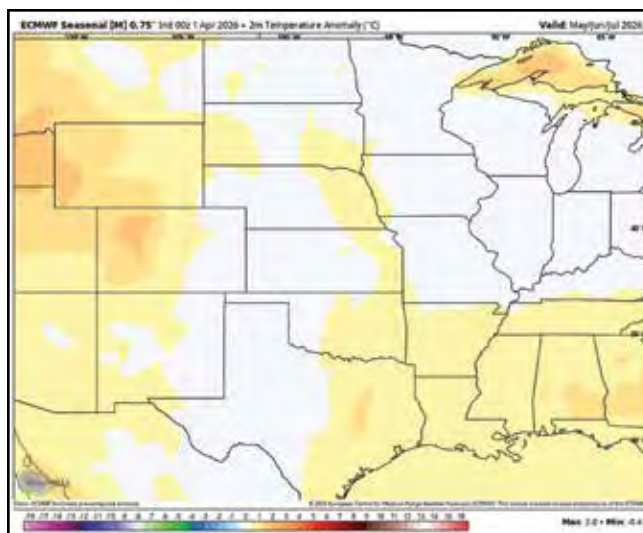


The chart above shows sea surface temperature anomalies rising to levels greater than 2.5 degrees Celsius by the fall. That would put us in very strong or "super" El Niño territory. In fact, if the forecast chart above verifies, this could be the strongest El Niño in well over 100 years. Now, I think it is very important to be measured about the strength forecast as we have a few more things to determine. However, given how quickly we left La Niña in the

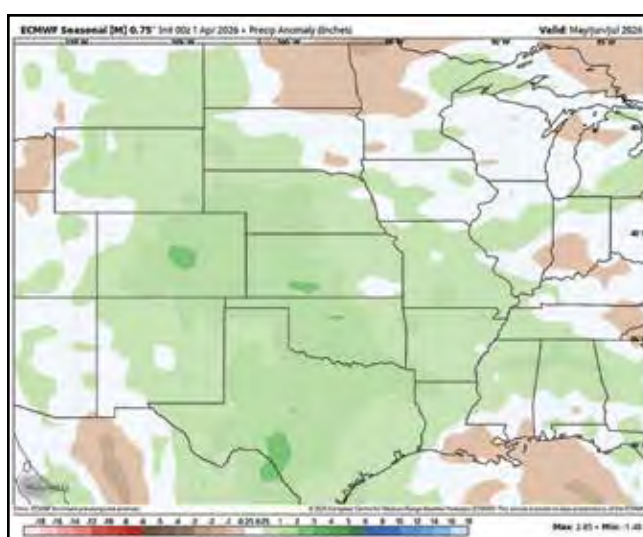
dust and how quickly we've transitioned to weak El Niño status, along with the typhoon activity in the western Pacific, I would be very surprised if we didn't have a very strong El Niño by later this summer and fall. I also think it is important to note that this El Niño likely isn't going to exit as quickly as it developed. This event and its impacts will likely linger into AT LEAST the first third of 2027, possibly longer. But as I said, still some things to figure out there.

While the model data came out earlier this month, here is what the EURO seasonal model information had to say about the rest of spring and summer.

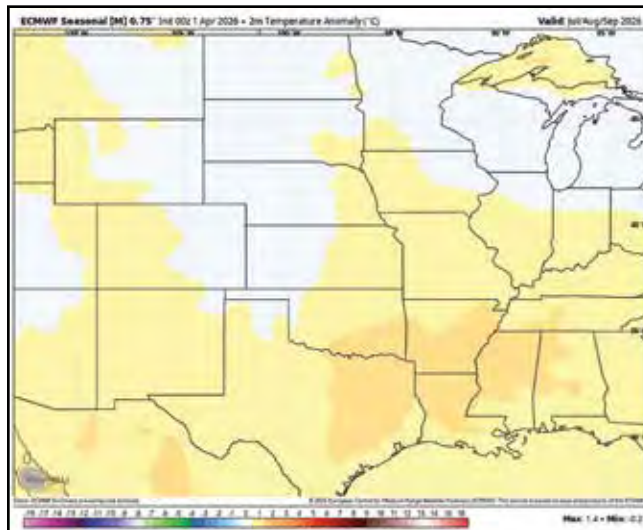
EURO Seasonal Model Temperature Anomaly Forecast May - July



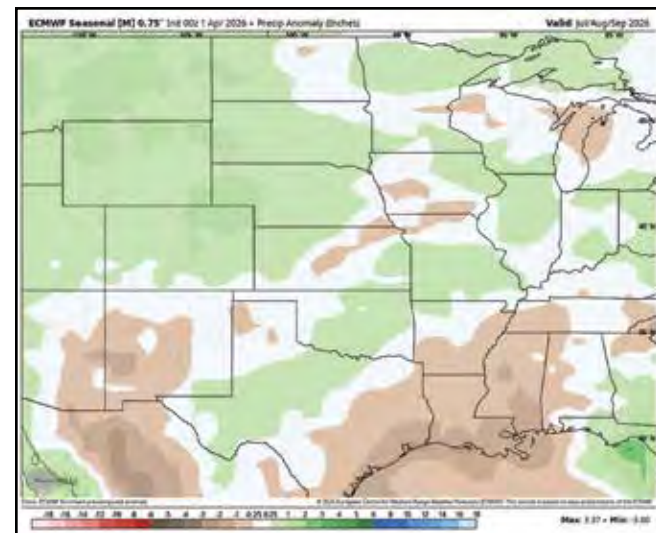
EURO Seasonal Model Precipitation Anomaly Forecast May - July



EURO Seasonal Model Temperature Anomaly Forecast July - September

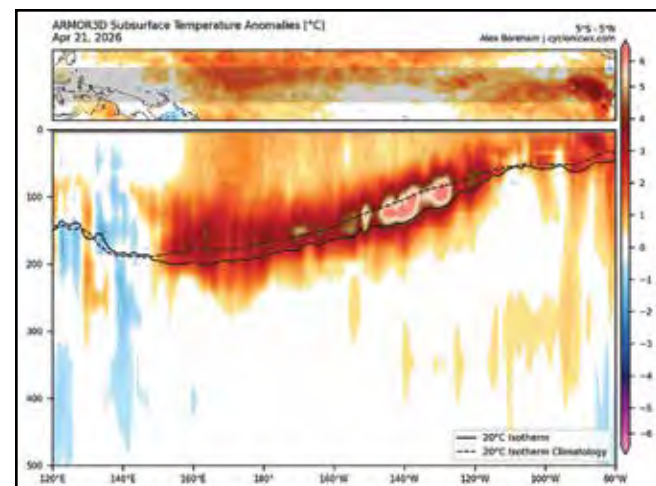


EURO Seasonal Model Precipitation Anomaly Forecast July - September



While this model doesn't show any extreme heat or dryness for a prolonged period of time, if you read last month's article, you know I am concerned about some heat and flash drought conditions materializing later this summer for central/east Texas eastward along the Gulf Coast. Why? Well, history suggests as much, and you can kind of see that signal in the model information above.

Tough to say how widespread it will be, but a lot of it will determine how much rain these areas receive in May and June. Less rain? The heat and dryness come on quickly. More rain? The heat and dryness come on less quickly. Certainly something I will be watching.



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

Brian Bledsoe,
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Chapter...

(Continued from page 6)

longtime producers and new faces coming together, feasting, fellowshiping, sharing knowledge and supporting one another through the challenges and victories that come with our way of life. Corbitt Wall, with National Beef Wire and DV Auction, provided some insight into the current cattle market and remains confident that prices will continue to hold steady for some time. We are looking forward to the State ICA Convention planned for June 24th-26th in San Marcos, Texas as well as our chapter's Annual Ranch Rodeo fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 10th in Pleasanton, Texas. We welcome all volunteers who would like to participate to reach out to any director for more information. We hope to see all of you at our next chapter meeting on July 16th or sometime in between.

GUADA-COMA ICA Chapter

Howdy from GUADA-COMA ICA. I am breathing a little easier this week, as I had the big decision of gambling whether I should fertilize the hay fields or not. We have not had a measurable amount of rain for a very long time. Well, I gambled and prayed. Sunday, Apr. 19th, my many prayers were answered, and it started raining a nice slow rain. By Tuesday, I had received over 7 inches! Tanks are full and pastures are greening up. It was truly a God rain that even my daughter in Mission received. My son-in-law is a produce farmer, so it was a welcome sight for the melons. I will keep praying we have rain to get our pastures back in shape and have fat happy cows. We have a new concern here locally. Data centers are buying good pasture and farmland. It is very troubling, with many concerns about how much water they use. We are already stressed with all the development happening and the strain on the aquifer. Why good farmland and pastureland? And on top of that, they give them tax abatements! People selling their land need to do research on how this affects everyone. If we do not have the land to graze our cattle or grow crops, who is going to feed them? Don't sit back and let this happen in your area. Our next chapter meeting will be on Monday, May 18th at Seguin Cattle Company. We look forward to presenting our scholarship winners and preparing for the 52nd Annual ICA Convention and Trade Show. We hope to see you there.

Colorado Valley ICA Chapter

Howdy from the Colorado Valley ICA! Cows and bulls sold steady to a couple of dollars higher. The calf market was very active and steady. Weather has been nice and several areas in the county received anywhere from 0.75 to 10" of rain. We are continuing to receive rain weekly. Pastures are greening up and cattle finally have fresh grass. Hay continues to move down the highway. The Fayette County Cow/Calf Clinic began bright and early on Friday, May 1st at the Fayette County Fairgrounds.

This event is always a great opportunity for our local producers to earn CE credits and learn great information to help them and their operations. Our Colorado Valley ICA chapter sponsored the event again this year and we enjoyed having an ICA vendor booth set-up to welcome new and prospective members. Now, we are gearing up for an amazing time at ICA's Annual Convention and Trade Show this June in San Marcos. This annual meeting always includes several CE credits, live demonstrations and important beef cattle industry updates that are ben-

eficial to our members and producers state-wide. Gary P. Nunn will be the live entertainment for Wednesday night, and we are also excited to see what goodies there will be in the silent and live auctions on Thursday evening. If you haven't registered yet, don't wait. We look forward to seeing y'all there!

Mid-Tex ICA Chapter

Top of the news for the Mid-Tex ICA is that we got RAIN—slow and soaking rain and lots of it. This has been the wettest April in a while, and more rain is predicted for May. Grass is growing again. On Apr. 14th,

our Mid-Tex chapter held its meeting at 2 Bar C Ranch's beautiful sale barn and meeting room in Luling. Many thanks to them and to Capital Farm Credit for sponsoring our meeting, meals and bring-

ing speakers and door prizes. Stewart Pickett with Velocity Powersports brought a side-by-side for members to test drive before the meeting. Our own state director and member, Dr. Bill Selman updated

(Continued on page 14)

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dam, ACE MS EMPOWER 889K33
CED BW WW YW MILK TM CEM SC REA IMF
-1.4 4 37 63 3 22 2.09 0.55 0.54 0.46
FAT HP STAY CW TI FI BB NC
0.023 6.82 2.96 1.72 3.42 4.27 1.12 0.16



ACE MS SHO TIME 209N16
R.10580573
sire, MC SHO TIME 313H30
dam, ACE MS KINGDOM 209K52
CED BW WW YW MILK TM CEM SC REA IMF
8.6 -0.4 43 72 5 26 3.43 0.02 0.53 0.2
FAT HP STAY CW TI FI BB NC
0.02 6.35 2.34 1.05 3.62 3.46 -0.56 0.12

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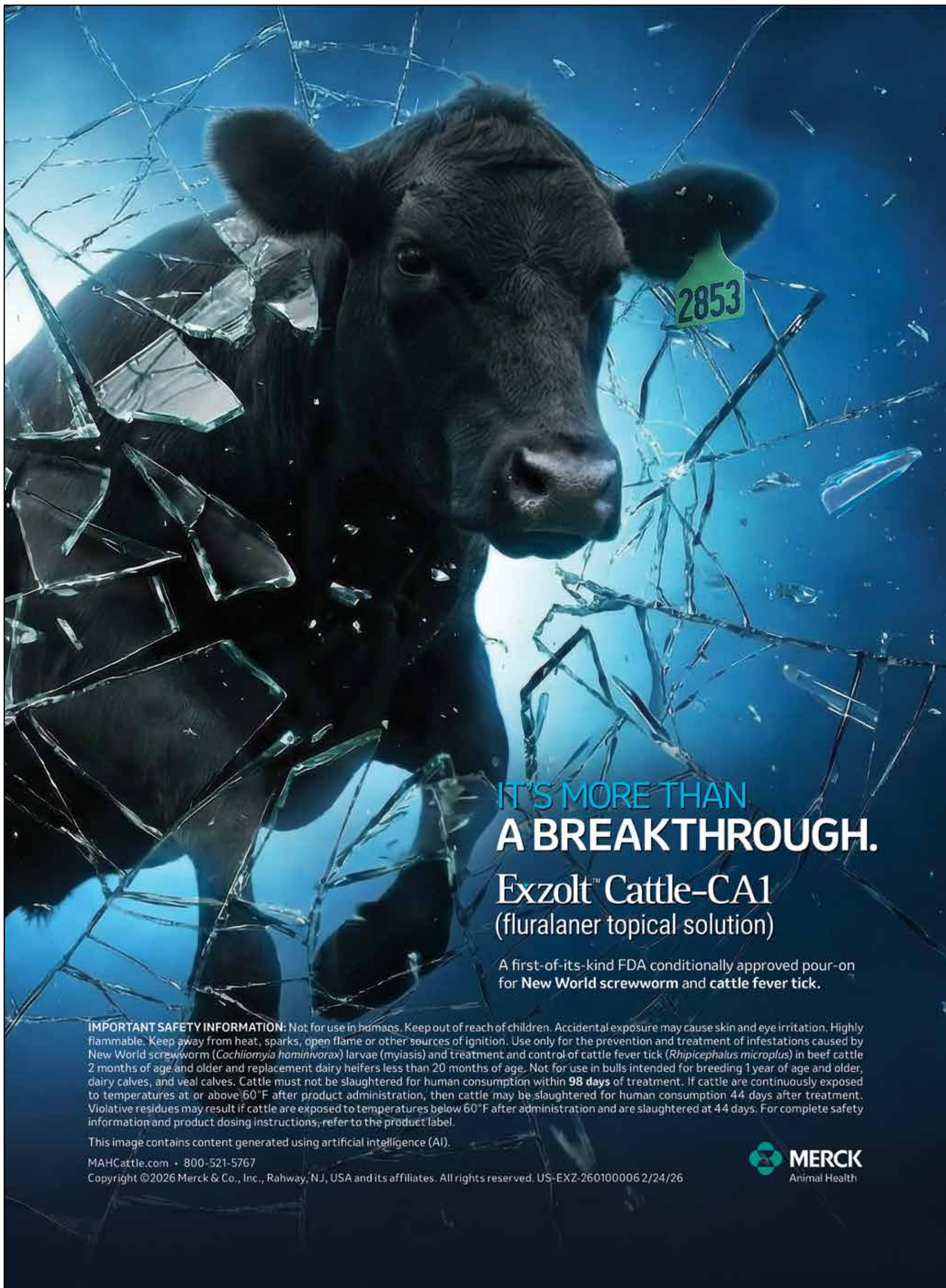


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**IT'S MORE THAN
A BREAKTHROUGH.**

Exzolt™ Cattle-CA1
(fluralaner topical solution)

A first-of-its-kind FDA conditionally approved pour-on
for **New World screwworm** and **cattle fever tick**.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children. Accidental exposure may cause skin and eye irritation. Highly flammable. Keep away from heat, sparks, open flame or other sources of ignition. Use only for the prevention and treatment of infestations caused by New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) larvae (myiasis) and treatment and control of cattle fever tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in beef cattle 2 months of age and older and replacement dairy heifers less than 20 months of age. Not for use in bulls intended for breeding 1 year of age and older, dairy calves, and veal calves. Cattle must not be slaughtered for human consumption within **98 days** of treatment. If cattle are continuously exposed to temperatures at or above 60°F after product administration, then cattle may be slaughtered for human consumption 44 days after treatment. Violative residues may result if cattle are exposed to temperatures below 60°F after administration and are slaughtered at 44 days. For complete safety information and product dosing instructions, refer to the product label.

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 **MERCK**
Animal Health

Exzolt™ Cattle-CA1

(fluralaner topical solution)

Antiparasitic

50 mg of fluralaner/mL

CAUTION: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

Conditionally approved by FDA pending a full demonstration of effectiveness under application number 141-617.

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product other than as directed in the labeling.

DESCRIPTION: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (fluralaner topical solution) contains fluralaner, an antiparasitic of the isoxazoline class. Each mL of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 contains 50 mg of fluralaner.

The chemical name of fluralaner is (±)-4-[5-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl]-2-methyl-N-[2-oxo-2-(2,2-trifluoroethylamino)ethyl]benzamide. Inactive Ingredients: pyrrolidone, isopropyl alcohol, 1-menthol, propylene glycol dicaprylate/dicaprate, FD&C blue No. 1, FD&C yellow No. 5.

INDICATIONS FOR USE: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is indicated for the prevention and treatment of infestations caused by New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) larvae (myiasis) and treatment and control of cattle fever tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in beef cattle 2 months of age and older and replacement dairy heifers less than 20 months of age. Not for use in bulls intended for breeding 1 year of age and older, dairy calves, and veal calves.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is a ready-to-use topical formulation intended for direct application to the hair and skin in a narrow strip extending along the dorsal midline from the withers to the base of the tail (see Figure 1). The recommended rate of administration is 1 mL/44.1 lbs. (1 mL/20 kg) body weight, which is equivalent to 1.13 mg of fluralaner for each pound (2.5 mg/kg) body weight. Effectiveness has not been evaluated in cattle with wet hides.

Recommended site of administration:

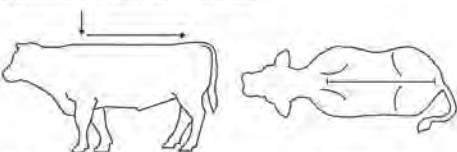


Figure 1: Recommended location for the topical application in a narrow strip along the dorsal midline from the withers to the base of the tail.

Administration of the product with 250 mL and 1L bottles with built-in dosing chamber: To ensure administration of a correct dose, body weight should be determined as accurately as possible, and accuracy of the dosing volume should be checked before administration. Round the dose up to the nearest volume increment on the dosing chamber, which goes up in 2.5 mL increments.

The table below can be consulted to assist in the calculation of the appropriate volume which must be applied based on the weight of animal being treated.

Body Weight (Pounds)	Dose Volume (mL)
220	5
330	7.5
440	10
550	12.5
660	15
770	17.5
880	20
990	22.5
1100	25
1320*	30

*Add 2.5 mL for each 110 pounds above 1320 pounds of body weight.

Practice the Administration and Overfill Reduction Instructions a few times to become familiar with operating the package before dosing animals.

Step 1

On first use remove cap and peelable seal from the dosing chamber.

Do not remove cap from the bottle.

Step 2

Dosing chamber

Hold the bottle upright and at eye level while slowly and gently squeezing the bottle to fill the dosing chamber to the selected mark.

Step 3

Pour the measured volume on the dorsal midline from withers to the base of the tail. Application to a small area should be avoided.

A small amount of liquid will remain on the walls of the chamber, but the chamber is calibrated to account for this.

Avoid squeezing the container section while the solution is poured from the dosing chamber.

If the dosing chamber is overfilled follow the Overfill Reduction Instructions below:

Step 1

Re-apply cap to dosing chamber and tighten.

Confirm the cap is tight.

Step 2

Transfer Tube Air Pocket

Tilt the bottle to allow an air pocket to form at the beginning of the transfer tube inside the bottle.

Step 3

Hold the bottle horizontally to allow product to cover the end of the transfer tube inside the dosing chamber.

Step 4

Squeeze and release the bottle repeatedly. Product will return to the bottle through the transfer tube.

Administration of the product with 5L bottle with an applicator device: These bottles are designed for use with the Simcro Breaze™ Applicator Device (30 mL). This applicator device and delivery tubing (sold separately by Simcro as a kit) should be used with the 5L bottle. The 5L bottle is supplied with spigot cap attached to dip tube for its use with the applicator device. A strap is also included for use of the 5L bottle as a backpack.

To ensure administration of a correct dose, body weight should be determined as accurately as possible, and accuracy of the dosing volume should be checked before administration. Round the dose up to the nearest volume increment on the applicator device, which goes up in 1 mL increments.

The table below can be consulted to assist in the calculation of the appropriate volume which must be applied based on the weight of animal being treated.

Body Weight (Pounds)	Dose Volume (mL)
220	5
440	10
660	15
880	20
1100	25
1320*	30

*Add 1 mL for each 44 pounds above 1320 pounds of body weight.

Assembly, Disassembly and Cleaning Instructions for the 5L bottle with applicator device:

- Step 1**
Follow the applicator device manufacturer's assembly directions. Connect one end of the delivery tubing to the connection point on the dosing applicator.
- Step 2**
Remove the transit cap and protection seal from the 5L bottle and replace with spigot cap attached to dip tube. Tighten spigot cap to bottle and attach other end of delivery tubing to the spigot cap. Do not discard the transit cap until the contents of the 5L bottle are completely used. Please refer to Figure 2 for the assembled 5L bottle with applicator device.
- Step 3**
Keeping the 5L bottle in an upright position, gently prime the applicator device per the included manufacturer's instructions, checking for leaks. With the applicator device in an upward position, expel all visible air from the barrel and confirm that product is visibly expressed from the tip of the applicator device so that it is free of any residual air.

- Step 4**
Follow the applicator device manufacturer's directions for adjusting the dose.
- Step 5**
When the interval between uses of the applicator device is expected to exceed 1 week, take off the entire spigot assembly (delivery tubing connected to the spigot cap with attached dip tube while still connected to the applicator device), from the 5L bottle. Return any unused product remaining in the applicator device and in the delivery tubing back into the 5L bottle. Raise the spigot cap with dip tube attached and place the tip of the applicator device into the 5L bottle. Discharge the remaining product from the spigot assembly into the bottle. Place the transit cap onto the 5L bottle to close it. Submerge the dip tube in warm, soapy water. Flush warm soapy water through the delivery tubing and through the applicator device, followed by flushing them with clean water and allowing them to dry. Once dry, store the entire dosing assembly (applicator device, delivery tubing, spigot cap with attached dip tube) in a safe, clean place until next use. Refer to the manufacturer's directions for maintenance of the applicator.



Figure 2: 5L bottle and applicator device with tubing

WITHDRAWAL PERIODS AND RESIDUE WARNINGS:

Environmental temperature affects the withdrawal period.

Cattle must not be slaughtered for human consumption within 98 days of treatment.

If cattle are continuously exposed to temperatures at or above 60° F after product administration, then cattle may be slaughtered for human consumption 44 days after treatment. Violative residues may result if cattle are exposed to temperatures below 60° F after administration and are slaughtered at 44 days.

Not for use in female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older, including dry dairy cows; use in these cattle may cause drug residues in milk and/or in calves born to these cows or heifers. Not for use in beef calves less than 2 months of age, dairy calves, and veal calves. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves.

USER SAFETY WARNINGS:

Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children.

This drug product is a skin and eye irritant; special care should be taken to avoid contact. Personal protective equipment should be worn, such as gloves, long sleeve shirt and pants, as well as glasses or goggles to prevent skin, eye and mucous membrane contact and/or drug absorption, while handling the product. In case of skin contact, wash with soap and water. If contact with eyes occurs, immediately rinse thoroughly with water. In case of accidental spill, immediately remove affected clothing and wash contacted skin with soap and water. In case of accidental ingestion, immediately rinse the mouth with plenty of water and seek medical advice.

Do not eat, drink, or smoke while handling the product. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after use of the product.

The product is highly flammable. Keep away from heat, sparks, open flame or other sources of ignition.

To obtain a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or for technical assistance, call Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Contact Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573 or <https://www.merck-animal-health-usa.com>. To report suspected adverse drug experiences, contact Livestock Technical Service at 1-800-211-3573. For additional information about reporting adverse drug experiences for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or <https://www.fda.gov/reportanimalae>.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action: Fluralaner belongs to the class of isoxazoline-substituted benzamide derivatives. Fluralaner is an inhibitor of the arthropod nervous system. The mode of action of fluralaner is the antagonism of the ligand-gated chloride channels (gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-receptor and glutamate-receptor).

Pharmacokinetics: The pharmacokinetic properties of a single 2.5 mg/kg dose of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 administered topically along the dorsal midline from the withers to the base of the tail to cattle that were not restricted from grooming are presented in Table 1 (n = 12).

Table 1. Mean (± standard deviation) plasma pharmacokinetic parameters of total fluralaner^a after a single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 in male and female cattle in warm conditions (54 – 98° F).

Parameter (units)	Estimate
C _{max} (ng/mL)	127 ± 82.2
T _{max} ^b (day)	5 (4 – 12)
AUC ₍₀₋₅₆₎ (day*ng/mL)	1570 ± 1220
AUC _∞ (day*ng/mL)	1590 ± 1230
t _{1/2} (day)	8.48 ± 1.84

^aAlthough total fluralaner (R+S) is reported, the S enantiomer is more abundant and active than the R

^bMedian and range

C_{max} = maximum plasma concentration

T_{max} = time to maximum plasma concentration

AUC₍₀₋₅₆₎ represents the AUC from day 0 to day 56

AUC_∞ = area under the curve from the time of dosing extrapolated to infinity

t_{1/2} = half-life

TARGET ANIMAL SAFETY

Margin of Safety: In a margin of safety study, Exzolt Cattle-CA1 was well tolerated in 32 six to seven month old healthy beef cattle (16 males and 16 females). Study animals were administered 3.7, 11.1, or 18.5 mg/kg body weight (1X, 3X, and 5X the maximum anticipated labeled dose) of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 by topical application three times 42 days apart (Days 0, 42, and 84). Cattle in the control group (0X) were treated with green dyed sterile saline at a dose volume similar to the 5X treated group. General health observations were conducted twice daily from acclimation to the end of the 98-day study. Variables measured periodically throughout the study for each animal were body weight; physical examinations; neurological examinations; analysis of blood for hematology, clinical chemistry, coagulation, and toxicokinetics; fecal and urine analysis; and feed and water consumption. All animals were necropsied at the end of the study for gross and histopathological examination and select organs were weighed.

Test article-related application site reactions, including skin flaking/scurfing and scabbing were observed. These findings were dose-dependent in both incidence and severity. Reactions in the 1X animals appeared after the second administration. These reactions in the 1X group were cosmetic in nature and did not require treatment.

Female Reproductive Safety: In a reproductive safety study, Exzolt Cattle-CA1 was well tolerated in 200 healthy beef cows between the ages of 3 to 11 years old. Study animals were administered 11.1 mg fluralaner/kg body weight (3X the maximum labeled dose) of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 by a single topical application once during breeding (estrus; before timed-artificial insemination), early in the 1st trimester of pregnancy, during the mid-1st trimester of pregnancy, or in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy. Cattle in the control group (0X) were treated with green dyed sterile saline at a dose volume similar to the treated groups (3X). General health observations were conducted twice daily from acclimation to the end of the study at 30±2 days postpartum. Variables measured at start of acclimation and at the end of the study for each animal were body weight (including prior to each dosing) and physical examinations (including at parturition for offspring). Reproductive safety parameters included conception rate, abortion rate, calving rate, live births, stillborn calves, perinatal death, premature deliveries, neonatal death, dystocia, ability of calf to stand, walk and suckle, and abnormalities. Three stillbirths and one premature delivery were observed in animals in the control group. One stillbirth associated with dystocia and one premature delivery were documented in cows treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1. Six abortions occurred across three of the Exzolt Cattle-CA1 treated groups (2 out of 31 cows in the estrus-treated group; 2 out of 34 cows in the early first trimester-treated group; 2 out of 27 cows in the mid first trimester-treated group). One calf was found dead within 24 hours of birth in an Exzolt Cattle-CA1 treated cow. These events were considered to occur at rates typical for the source herd and unlikely to be test article related. Not for use in bulls intended for breeding over 1 year of age, as reproductive safety has not been evaluated.

Reasonable Expectation of Effectiveness: A reasonable expectation of effectiveness may be demonstrated based on evidence such as, but not limited to, pilot data in the target species or studies from published literature.

Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is conditionally approved pending a full demonstration of effectiveness. Additional information for Conditional Approvals can be found at www.fda.gov/animalca.

A reasonable expectation of effectiveness for Exzolt Cattle-CA1 for the prevention and treatment of infestations caused by New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) larvae (myiasis) and treatment and control of cattle fever tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*) in beef cattle 2 months of age and older and replacement dairy heifers less than 20 months of age is based on results from the following foreign studies conducted in Australia, Brazil, and South Africa.

A. New World Screwworm (NWS) (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)

Three effectiveness studies utilizing natural NWS infestations conducted in Brazil in 2018 are described below:

- Support for a prevention indication: This study evaluated prevention of New World Screwworm (NWS) myiasis in a surgical wound created seven days after treatment administration. Animals received either a placebo (n=6) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=6) on Day -7. Seven days later, two surgical incisions were made on each side of the body at the shoulder. Animals were housed outside to facilitate natural infestation of the wounds with NWS. Cattle were monitored twice daily for 10 days post-incision to assess the presence of eggs and larvae. A single topical application of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg provided 100% prevention against myiasis for the length of the study.
- Support for a prevention indication: This study evaluated prevention of NWS myiasis in a castration wound created on the day of treatment with either a placebo (n=15) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=15). Animals were housed outside to facilitate natural infestation of the wounds with NWS. Cattle were monitored daily for 14 days post-surgery to assess the presence of eggs, larvae, and the progress of wound healing. A single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg provided 100% prevention against myiasis for up to 14 days following castration.
- Support for a therapeutic indication: This study evaluated the effectiveness of the product to treat a wound already infested with NWS. A surgical wound was created and left exposed to facilitate natural infestation with NWS. Three days later, after confirming the presence of live larvae, animals were treated topically once with either a placebo (n=12) or Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (n=12). A single topical administration of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg achieved 90.9% effectiveness by the second day post-treatment and reached 100% effectiveness by the third day. No myiasis in treated animals was observed up to day 5.

B. Cattle Fever Tick (*Rhipicephalus microplus*)

Three dose confirmation studies conducted in Brazil and South Africa and a rain exposure study conducted in Brazil utilizing induced infestations of *R. microplus* were evaluated. These studies were conducted between 2018 and 2021. In each study, animals were individually housed and randomly assigned to control and Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups. Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups received a single administration at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg. A total of thirty animals were treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1 across these four studies. The product demonstrated 100% effectiveness within the first week after Exzolt Cattle-CA1 administration. Length of consistent 100% persistent effectiveness ranged from 39 days to approximately 110 days post-treatment.

Thirteen field effectiveness studies conducted in Brazil and Australia utilizing natural infestations of *R. microplus* were evaluated. These studies were conducted between 2017 and 2023. In each study, animals were grouped housed and randomly assigned to control and Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups. Exzolt Cattle-CA1-treated groups received a single administration at the dose of 2.5 mg/kg. Approximately 220 animals were treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1 across these thirteen studies. The product demonstrated 100% effectiveness within the first week after Exzolt Cattle-CA1 administration. Length of consistent 100% persistent effectiveness ranged from 28 days to 70 days post-treatment.

C. Rain exposure study

One study was conducted to evaluate the impact of simulated rainfall post-treatment on the effectiveness of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 with cattle artificially infested with *R. microplus*. A total of 30 cattle (cross-bred beef bulls) were randomized to one of five groups with six animals each: Groups A, B, C, and D were treated with Exzolt Cattle-CA1 (2.5 mg/kg) and Group E with saline (equivalent volume). Groups A, B, and C were exposed to simulated rainfall at the following post-treatment timepoints: 6 hr, 12 hr, and 24 hr, respectively. Groups D and E had no exposure to rain. Percent effectiveness of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 was 100% in Groups A, B, C, and D up to 77 days. Rain exposure as early as 6 hr post-treatment did not affect the therapeutic or persistent effectiveness of Exzolt Cattle-CA1 in beef cattle.

HOW SUPPLIED: Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is available in 250 mL, 1L, and 5L bottles.

STORAGE AND HANDLING: Store at or below 30°C (86°F), with excursions to 40°C (104°F). Use within 6 months after first opening. Store the dosing applicator when loaded with product at or below 30°C (86°F) and use within 1 week.

Distributed by: Intervet Inc., (d/b/a Merck Animal Health), Rahway, NJ 07065

Formulated in New Zealand

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Revision Date 02/2026
247620 R1

Chapter...

(Continued from page 11)
the membership on New World screwworm (NWS) latest location and treatment information. The Screwworm Coalition of Texas, organized in May 2025, is comprised of livestock, wildlife, equine

and landowner groups, including ICA. Its goal is to provide Texas landowners and the agricultural and wildlife industries with tools and resources that equip Texans with educational information needed amid the threat of the NWS. The Mid-Tex chapter

participated in the Central Texas ICA All Breeds Sale on Wednesday, Apr. 29th, at the Gonzales Livestock Market. Thank you to all the breeders who consigned cattle to this great sale event for members. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th, at Blue Pearl in historic downtown Lockhart. We are proud to announce that Capital Farm Credit will sponsor this meeting, too. As always, a beef dinner will be served. We are looking into having either beef fajitas or barbecue. Either way, come hungry! The ICA Hay Testing program (which is FREE for ICA members) is ongoing. You can pick up testing equipment by contacting the ICA headquarters in Lockhart, collect your sample, bring it back to the ICA office with the equipment loaned to you and they will send it off for forage testing. ICA's 52nd Annual Convention and Trade Show, happening June 24-26, in San Marcos, is open for registration. If you have never been to one of these conventions, this is your year. It's an easy commute and there is no excuse not to be involved in shaping the future of the beef cattle industry. This event features top industry speakers, educational programs

(some with CE credits) and a world-class trade show. Join us to help celebrate 52 years of ICA with 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, Texas, the home of state ICA's headquarters, please continue to pray for rain. God Bless America!

West of the Pecos ICA Chapter

Howdy from the West of the Pecos ICA! West Texas has a lot of soil moisture from the winter snow and rain, but it's starting to deplete. Grass is greening up but will be short lived if we don't receive more rain soon. Many ranchers out here are dependent on Mexican feeder cattle to stock their country. With the border closed, they'll have to shift their production strategies to stay profitable. The upside in the market is helping to keep us motivated and growing. Don't forget to register for ICA's 52nd Annual Convention and Trade Show this June 24th-26th! It'll be a fun time for all, with live music, auctions, great food and drinks, and tons of educational opportunities that are beneficial for Texas cattle producers and their oper-

ations. We hope to see you there.

Gonzales ICA Chapter

Greetings from Gonzales ICA Chapter. April has shaped to be a pretty good month for Gonzales and our surrounding area. We have received anywhere from 4 to 15 inches of rain. We continue to thank God for the rain and hope that everyone is getting some. We know our farmers and ranchers are glad to have some relief and by the looks of the cattle, they're glad to have green grass. The CTICA All Breeds Sale was held on Wednesday, Apr. 29th. The sale had a new location this year at the Gonzales Livestock Market. We will share highlights from the sale with readership later this month. Our Gonzales ICA chapter will be having a meeting on May 28th at the VFW Hall in Gonzales. We plan to award our scholarships and get ready for the upcoming ICA State Annual Meeting in June. We hope everyone can attend. Until then, here's to green grass, blue skies, and happy cattle. God bless America.

Brazos Valley ICA Region

Howdy from Brazos Valley! I am so grateful for the rain we're receiving this week. We had so much mud

yesterday that I decided against feeding cubes for fear of getting the truck stuck. That is what I call a good problem. Things have really greened up in a short amount of time. Thank you Lord! I have been thinking about how I will doctor our cattle if the screwworms arrive. Most days, I am by myself on our 59 acres. Penning, sorting and doctoring sick cattle by myself seems like a tall order. I am glad that our two college students and a friend of theirs are planning to work at our place this summer. I know they will be handy as pockets for whatever arises. I have made our reservations for the ICA Convention in San Marcos. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there. If you have never attended, I encourage you to do so. Our family always has a fun and educational time. Gary P. Nunn will be performing, and I am looking forward to dancing with my wife and singing along to his songs: "I want to go home with the armadillo.....". On the other hand, my wife and kids tell me I should let Gary do the singing, so maybe I should follow their advice. Do yourself a favor and come to the convention, earn credits

(Continued on page 16)



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Fertilizer price surge squeezes Texas producers

By Karn Dhingra, Teas AgriLife Today

Texas producers of crops, including hay are facing a sharp rise in fertilizer costs this spring, adding pressure to already tight margins as global instability continues to ripple through agricultural commodity markets.

Fertilizer prices, which remained relatively steady early in the year, began climbing in March amid escalating conflict in the Middle East and rising energy prices, said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economists.

“Fertilizer is a global commodity, so when disruptions occur anywhere, prices tend to rise everywhere,” said Mark Welch, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension grain economist and professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and

Life Sciences Department of Agricultural Economics.

Nitrogen costs drive increases

Nitrogen fertilizers, which are critical for commodity crops like cotton, corn, sorghum, wheat and rice, have seen some of the largest gains.

Anhydrous ammonia prices rose from about \$840 per ton in late January to roughly \$1,100 per ton in early April, significantly increasing per-acre costs for producers, Welch said.

Other products have followed similar trends. Urea prices have increased about 48% since the beginning of the year, while prices for urea ammonium nitrate solutions are up more than 30%.

“These are significant increases, especially when

commodity prices are flat or declining,” said Luis Ribera, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist and professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics. “That creates a real squeeze on profitability.”

Energy, global markets drive volatility

Fertilizer production is closely tied to natural gas, making prices highly sensitive to energy markets.

Rising oil and gas prices, combined with supply disruptions and transportation uncertainty, have pushed fertilizer costs higher despite strong domestic production.

“We’re more self-sufficient than we used to be, but we’re still tied to global markets,” Ribera said.

Timing matters for producers

The impact of rising fertilizer prices could vary depending on when producers secured inputs, Welch said.

In South and Central Texas, many producers had already locked in fertilizer purchases before the latest price increases. However, producers in later-planting regions, such as Texas’ High Plains, may still be exposed to higher costs, Welch said.

“If inputs were purchased early, some producers may have avoided the worst of the increases,” Welch said. “But those still buying are facing much higher prices.”

Unlike crop prices, fertilizer costs offer limited risk management options.

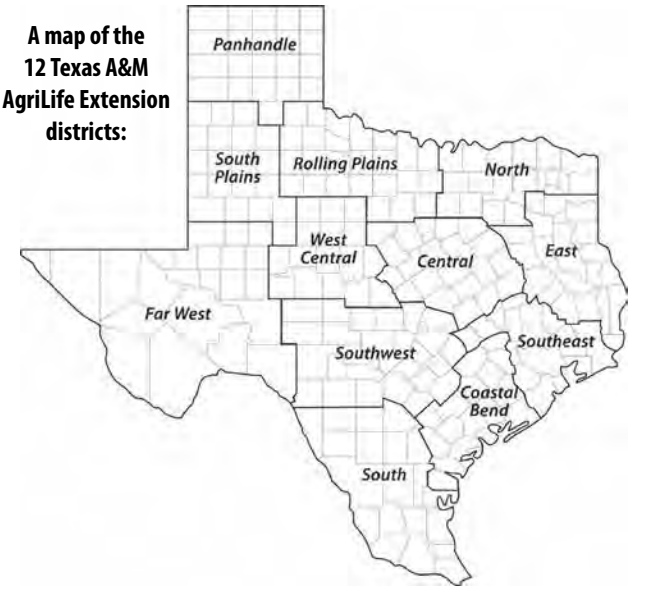
“Producers are price takers when it comes to inputs,” Ribera said. “There’s very little they can do to hedge against these increases.”

Outlook remains uncertain

Economists do not expect fertilizer prices to decline quickly, even if geopolitical tensions ease.

“Prices aren’t likely to fall overnight,” Welch said. “There are longer-term impacts that will keep costs elevated.”

That uncertainty is raising concerns for the 2027 crop year, when producers may face even higher input costs



from the outset. With rising input costs and uncertain crop prices, many producers are expected to face tighter margins, and potentially increased borrowing and delayed investments.

“Most producers are not at a break-even point under these costs-versus-crop price

conditions,” Ribera said. “That means more debt or using savings to get through the season.”

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

Panhandle

Dry, windy conditions
(Continued on page 17)

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Texas A&M...

(Continued from page 1)

campus is a visible, tangible commitment to something important: partnership, said Walter V. Wendler, Ph.D., WT president.

"In the Panhandle, we understand partnership," Wendler said. "We understand that no single rancher or farmer, no single researcher, no single institution can feed, clothe and fuel the state, nation and world. We work

together because the land demands it and because our future depends on it."

This region is home to key commodities like fed beef, corn, sorghum, cotton, dairy and wheat, among many others. High Plains producers generate more agricultural production than that of most states.

"The opening of this world-class facility marks a new era and technological leap in our scientific journey alongside the producers of the High Plains," said G. Cliff Lamb, Ph.D., director of AgriLife Research.

"The science we gener-

ate here will build new and strengthened trust among our partners, in our ability to produce translational solutions across the region's most important commodity systems," Lamb said. "This center will be an integral part of a rapidly emerging paradigm around intelligent agricultural systems, which are critical to supporting healthy lives and livelihoods into the future."

A space for community, outreach and service

The new center is an investment in both place and purpose, providing a home that inspires learning, leadership and service for youth,

families and communities, said Rick Avery, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension director.

"This new center strengthens how AgriLife Extension serves the Panhandle by connecting counties, aligning priorities and expanding the reach of our programs," said Avery. "It allows us to deliver meaningful, local impact at scale across the communities we serve."

This center serves communities across the High Plains and every family and agricultural operation across the Golden Spread, said Brent Auvermann, Ph.D., Texas

A&M AgriLife High Plains Research and Extension Center director.

"We stand on the shoulders of the men and women whose very livelihoods have depended on the land since the pioneer days," Auvermann said. "Today, we herald a new era in our long tradition of science, outreach, education and service to every resident of the Texas High Plains. This center will serve as an embassy for Texas A&M AgriLife — a place where we will be about the 'people business' of building trust, sustaining relationships and solving problems."

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Chapter...

(Continued from page 14)

towards your pesticide applicator's license, visit with old friends and make new ones, eat well, dance, listen to great music and laugh a lot. You won't regret it. I hope to see you there! - James Alford

Southeast Texas ICA

Chapter

Howdy! We have gotten a much needed 4" rain here in the utmost southeast corner of the state. Planes and spreaders are seen daily putting out fertilizer and everything is greening up. Our chapter held a director's meeting last week to go over the annual budget and discuss what a major success our bull and heifer sale was this spring. We also determined the recipients of our 2026 scholarships and spent some time discussing upcoming producer meetings for the remainder of the year. We held our 2026 social gathering at the Thorton Ranch on Apr. 12th, graciously hosted by Lounette Thorton. She and her late husband, Andy, have been extremely involved in our chapter since it began and we can't thank her enough for her hospitality. This social event was for fellowship among members to show appreciation to all the workers and directors who help with the sale and fall drawdown, as well as to award and present scholarships to the graduating seniors chosen by our committee. Thank you also to Susan Horn, Debbie Riley, Kimberly Braquet and Beverly Williford for their involvement in the SETICA Scholarship Committee. Chuck Kiker and Peanut Gilfillian spoke in depth on the current cattle market and the sale. We are now planning for our Drawdown Fundraiser this fall, chaired by James Riley, as well as our week in San Marcos for the Annual State ICA

(Continued on page 17)

Texas crop...

(Continued from page 15)

persisted across the district, with red flag wildfire warnings common. Soil moisture ranged from very short to short. A few late-week showers provided relief and improved topsoil moisture for small grains where they fell. Earlier-planted wheat continued heading, with reproductive stages becoming more evident. Dual-purpose wheat fields were largely grazed, and some fields were chopped for silage ahead of corn planting. Wheat diseases were widespread. In general, winter wheat conditions were very poor to poor. Pasture and range conditions were very poor to poor.

South Plains

Chapter...

(Continued from page 16)

Convention in June. So, until next time, stay productive, good luck in all endeavors and thank you so much for all you do for our industry. God bless you all and God Bless the United States of America (especially Texas).

Victoria Crossroads ICA Chapter

The Victoria Crossroads ICA met Apr. 23, 2026, at Amy's Bluebird Café in Cuero, Texas, for an evening focused on youth support, education and upcoming events. A highlight of the meeting was the announcement of our three \$1,000 scholarship recipients: Adyson Miller, Noah Rung, and Alexis Kincaid. Each student comes from a family deeply rooted in the association, with parents and grandparents who are active members. Their selection reflects both academic achievement and a strong connection to the agricultural community, reinforcing VCICA's commitment to investing in the next generation. Guest speaker Benny Martinez with Corteva provided a timely and informative presentation on pasture and land management. His discussion focused on controlling woody brush, rose hedge, and other invasive species, along with proper herbicide application methods. The information offered practical value to producers working to improve pasture conditions and overall land productivity. Members also discussed preparations for the upcoming VCICA Fundraiser, scheduled for May 9th at Club Westerner in Victoria. Organizers reported that plans are coming together well, with strong support and a solid lineup of auction items expected to draw a great turnout. We hope to see y'all there.

~SLS

Dry conditions and drought stress dominated the district. Rainfall was minimal, with only isolated areas receiving measurable moisture. High winds and warm temperatures further depleted soil moisture, delayed fieldwork and caused blowing dust. Producers continued field preparations for summer crops, including irrigation, tillage and herbicide applications. Winter wheat remained under irrigation, while triticale was flowering or being harvested for silage. Corn and sorghum planting was underway, and cotton planting was expected soon. Soil moisture

levels were very poor, and pasture conditions remained poor, increasing reliance on supplemental feed. Some producers reduced fertilizer inputs due to high costs. Livestock were in generally good condition.

Rolling Plains

Recent storms delivered scattered rainfall, improving pasture and range conditions in some areas, though dry conditions persisted overall. Soil moisture declined again in many locations despite earlier gains. Pastures greened up, reducing the need for supplemental feeding, and stock tanks improved. Stocker

cattle continued moving off wheat, while herd management progressed. Fieldwork resumed following windy conditions, including herbicide applications and hayfield preparations. Wheat conditions varied widely depending on rainfall, with some fields benefiting and others receiving moisture too late.

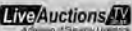
North

Rainfall varied widely, with western areas receiving up to 2.5 inches and eastern areas receiving lighter amounts. Despite rainfall, much of the district remained in severe drought. Soil moisture ranged from adequate

to short. Winter wheat conditions were generally good, though Hessian fly damage was reported. Corn, sorghum and soybean crops benefited from recent moisture, though fertilizer use declined in some areas due to high

prices. Pastures continued to improve with warming temperatures, and livestock were in good condition. Minor disease pressure was noted in small grains, and insect

(Continued on page 18)

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Texas crop...

(Continued from page 17)

populations increased with warmer weather.

East

Rainfall improved conditions in many areas, though most counties remained in drought. Soil moisture was adequate, but forage growth remained slow overall. Pasture and range conditions were fair, with some counties reporting stronger forage growth. Livestock were in fair to good condition, with some supplementation ongoing. Cattle markets remained strong, and feral hog activity increased.

Far West

Dry, windy conditions persisted with limited rainfall. Soil moisture ranged from adequate to very short, with most areas reporting short to very short levels. Fieldwork continued, including planting and irrigation, with cotton planting underway in some areas and corn emerging. Preirrigation continued across the district, though limited water availability and drought were expected to reduce planted acreage. Some producers opted for planting insurance. Pecan orchards and alfalfa fields were actively managed, while small grains were in fair condition. Pasture conditions remained limited, and supplemental feeding continued. Livestock conditions were fair overall.

West Central

Recent rainfall improved soil moisture and pasture conditions, with some areas receiving significant runoff that replenished stock tanks. Conditions greened up across much of the district, though some areas remained dry. Wheat conditions improved with rainfall, though yields were expected to remain below average in many areas. Cotton planting was delayed as producers monitored forecasts. Hay and forage crops responded well to moisture. Pasture conditions improved, though parasite pressure increased. Livestock was in good condition, and market activity remained strong.

Central

Recent rainfall improved soil moisture and accelerated pasture growth. Perennial grasses and weeds responded quickly, though high fertilizer costs limited applications.

Wheat advanced rapidly toward maturity, while corn recovered from earlier freeze damage. Cotton establishment remained uneven due to cool, wet conditions. Pecan trees showed strong development. Insect and disease pressure in wheat declined and was not expected to impact yields. Livestock remained in good condition, supported by improving forage and strong markets.

Southeast

Rainfall varied widely across the district, improving soil moisture and pasture conditions in some areas while others remained dry. Soil moisture levels ranged from short to surplus. Rice and corn planting progressed, with emergence underway in several counties. Sorghum planting was largely complete, and cotton planting continued. Pasture and range conditions ranged from fair to excellent depending on location. Livestock conditions were mostly good, and market demand remained strong.

Southwest

Spotty showers and a late-week cold front improved moisture conditions, though additional rainfall was needed. Pastures greened up, and stock tanks improved. Early planted sorghum and Sudan grass emerged, while cotton planting neared completion. Corn and sorghum showed some drought stress during warmer periods. Wheat and oats approached maturity. Supplemental feeding continued, and livestock were in fair to good condition.

South

Hot, dry conditions were interrupted by recent rainfall, improving soil moisture and providing relief to crops and rangeland. Row crops emerged, though late planting created management challenges without follow-up moisture. Sorghum planting neared completion, and wheat and oats approached maturity. Citrus and specialty crops benefited from rainfall, while hay production improved. Pastures greened up but needed additional moisture for sustained recovery following prolonged drought. Livestock conditions improved, though supplementation continued. Cattle sale volumes declined, and prices remained steady.

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LIVESTOCK SALES CALENDAR

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

- 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 2 Fenco Farms Spring Female Sale, Floral City, FL
 MAY 7 Jordan Cattle Auction Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
 MAY 7 **Jordan Cattle Auction Featuring Rafter S Cattle Co Angus Bulls, San Saba, TX**

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- 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**
 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
 AUG 1 J&T Farms Production Sale, Lexington, TN
 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 Live Oak BBA Fall Perfect Pair Sale, Three Rivers, TX
 SEP 26-27 Synergy XIX SimGenetics Event, Giddings, TX
 OCT 1 Special Stocker & Feeder Sale, San Saba, TX
 OCT 3 Lyssy's Heart of the Herd Production Sale, Luling, 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 9 Genetic Investment Bull & Female Sale, Crockett, TX
 OCT 10 Carr & Others Fall Sale, Floresville, TX
 OCT 14 Jordan Cattle Auction 13th Annual Hill Country Youth Heifer Sale, San Saba, TX
 OCT 16-17 Beef On Forage Bull & Female Sale, Brenham, 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
 OCT 31 **South Texas Hereford Association Fall Bull Sale and Pride of Texas Female Sale, Beeville, 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

Upcoming Events**• 2026 •**

- May 14-May 25** Ranch Raised Beef Conference, College Station, Texas
Jun. 24-Jun. 26 ICA 52nd Annual Convention & Trade Show, San Marcos, 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

Miller named AHA director of commercial programs

Justin Miller, Canyon, Texas, joined the American Hereford Association (AHA) as director of commercial programs March 16.

With more than 25 years of experience working in cattle procurement, feedyard marketing, carcass data analysis and branded beef programs, Miller will bring a relationship-driven and data-focused approach to his position. Miller received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and holds a master's in agricultural business and economics from West Texas

A&M University. He was a cattle buyer for the JBS USA processing facility in Cactus, Texas, for more than 22 years.

"I'm excited to return to the production side of the cattle industry after spending more than 25 years working with packers and feedyards. During that time, I've built strong relationships with feedyards and feeder cattle buyers which I look forward to bringing to AHA members and their commercial customers," Miller says. "I'm eager to offer a perspective that connects the seedstock, commercial, feeding and

packer sectors of our industry. I've always enjoyed thinking outside the box, and I look forward to helping users of Hereford genetics capture more value throughout the supply chain."

As the director of commercial programs, Miller will lead the strategic growth and development of Hereford-influenced feeder calf and commercial female marketing opportunities and oversee the Hereford Feedout programs. He will collaborate with the Certified Hereford Beef® (CHB) team to coordinate ranch tours, audit

CHB packers and manage the CHB affidavit program. Additionally, he will organize and analyze performance data received from CHB packing partners.

"Justin brings a wealth of industry experience to his role with the AHA," says Jack Ward, AHA executive vice president. "We are excited to have him join Team Hereford and we look forward to seeing how he further develops and leverages the demand for Hereford-influenced genetics."

Miller can be reached at jmiller@hereford.org.

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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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