Ag Newsletter – Spring 2023

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Ag Blog and Newsletter Online:
Visit **http://agrilife.org/agnewsandviews** and our county website periodically at http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9 - Multi-County Cattle Reproduction Mgmt.
May 12 - Multi-County Beef and Forage
May 23 - Farm Pond Management
June 2 - Private Applicator Training

Multi-County Cattle Reproduction Management Workshop

Sponsored by Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina and Wilson Counties
When: Tuesday, May 9th.
Where: Tom Brothers Ranch, 770 CR412 Campbellton,TX
Topics:

- The Ins and Outs of Pregnancy Testing
- Bull Fertility
- Rectal Palpation
- Estrus Synchronization Made Easy
- Body-Condition Scoring

The program will run from 9-2 pm. Lunch will be included, cost is $30. Space is limited so sign up today. Attendees are encouraged to bring 3-4 head of docile cattle for demonstration purposes. Cows in various stages of pregnancy (and/or open) would be ideal. Please RSVP to Dale Rankin at the Atascosa County Extension Office, 830-569- 0034.

Need Pesticide CEU's

For various online opportunities, follow the link:
https://ceusearch.texasagriculture.gov/

Multi-County Beef and Forage Field Day

Sponsored by Atascosa, Bexar, Guadalupe and Wilson Counties
When: Friday, May 12th
Where: Brehm Farms, 7381 FM 775 Seguin, TX
Topics:

- Selection and Development of Breeding Bulls
- What Happens During a Breeding Soundness Evaluation
- What Can I Pay for a Bull and Average Longevity
- External and Internal Parasite Management
- How am I Benefitting from the Checkoff
- Pasture Management Considerations Following Drought

Registration will begin at 8:30 with the program to follow at 9:00 am. Cost is $20/person, lunch is included. Two hours of CEUs will be offered (1 IPM, 1 Gen) To RSVP, please contact Kennedy at the Bexar County Extension Office, 210-631-0400 or email kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu

Farm Pond Management

When: Tuesday, May 23rd
Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208 San Antonio, TX
Topics:

- Pond Design and Construction
- Managing Aquatic Vegetation and Control Options

Cost is $10/person. There will also be a virtual option available. One hour of IPM CEU credit will be offered. To sign up, please contact Kennedy at 210-631-0400 or email kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu.

Reference for Common Rangeland and Pasture Herbicides

Producers planning to make herbicide applications in the coming weeks will find the information following information helpful. Click here to see common product names, grazing and hay restrictions and whether or not a pesticide applicator license is required.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

When: Friday, June 2nd, 8 am - noon
Where: Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Rdg, Ste. 208, San Antonio, TX

Registration will begin at 8:00 am. This training is for people who do not have a license to apply restricted use pesticides on their property or those who had a license that expired at least a year ago. The program registration fee is $60/person which includes the training and study materials. Participants should plan on bringing a calculator and photo ID. If you plan to attend, please contact Kennedy Green at (210) 631-0400 or email kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu to register.

Ag/NR Committee Recognition

Thank you to members of our Bexar County Extension Ag/NR Committee. They meet 4 times annually to plan, implement and evaluate our educational programs. They are a pleasure to work with and the driving force behind a successful county program. I'm thankful for their commitment and dedication to supporting youth and adult agriculture.

David Janszen – Chairman
Dennis Hale – Vice Chairman
Angel Torres-Luna – Secretary/Treasurer
Laura Martinez
Marilyn Magaro
Samantha Salinas
Art Hall
Ken Weidenfeller

White-Tailed Deer Food Plots

Dr. Jacob Dykes, Extension Wildlife Specialist, Corpus Christi

Cool-season food plots get all the hype! This is understandable since we hunters will be sitting over them come deer season. However, late summer is the most stressful time for deer, and extra "groceries" could really be of good use.

During late summer, bucks are growing antlers and making a last-ditch effort to build energy reserves for the rut. Does are in late stages of gestation or have fawned and are lactating to feed them. As for "groceries", the lush spring forage is either no longer available or has been reduced to a much lower quality, and hard and soft mast has yet to arrive. This is prime time for warm-season food plots to shine.

Trail cam picture in one of my warm-season plots of a buck growing antlers and eating American joint vetch (Aeschynomene).

Warm-season food plots are typically planted April-May, depending on region. Plant too early and you risk a freeze; plant too late and you're shortening your growing season.
Considerations for Warm-season food plots:

1. Choose your location. Consider things like sunlight, drainage, area and ease of access. Consider where the critters are by looking for deer and turkey sign and take advantage of openings nearby.
2. Collect soil samples and amend the soil. If soil pH is off, then nutrients are not available for plant uptake.
3. Prepare the seed bed. The goal is a seedbed that offers good seed-to-soil contact with minimal competition.
4. Choose your plants. Some plants are more shade-tolerant or do better in arid conditions. Some plants will not do well if you plant them in a small area or have a high deer density. Many warm-season plants are legumes and must be inoculated (bacteria added to plant for nitrogen fixation) before planting. Common warm-season plants include soybeans, lablab, cowpeas, alyceclover, American joint vetch, and corn.
5. Plant and fertilize. If broadcasting seeds, at least drag something over the top to cover them with soil. You can broadcast fertilizer (per soil test recommendations) before or after dragging.
6. Monitor the plot. There should be at least 1 exclosure cage in the plot to monitor plant growth without the effects of critters eating them. Also, use the right herbicide to treat weeds when they occur. This is very important for warm-season food plots because there will be weeds, and they can get out of hand.

Gillespie Livestock Commission Market Report Update

Cattle: 651 HD.

Cows & Bulls	Steady
Steers	650 lb 2-5 Higher Others Steady
Heifers	2-5 Higher
Cows	60.00-107.00 CWT
Bulls	90.00-120.00 CWT
Bred Cows	900.00-1500.00
Cow & Calf Pairs	1000.00-1650.00
Plain Cattle	50.00-90.00 CWT

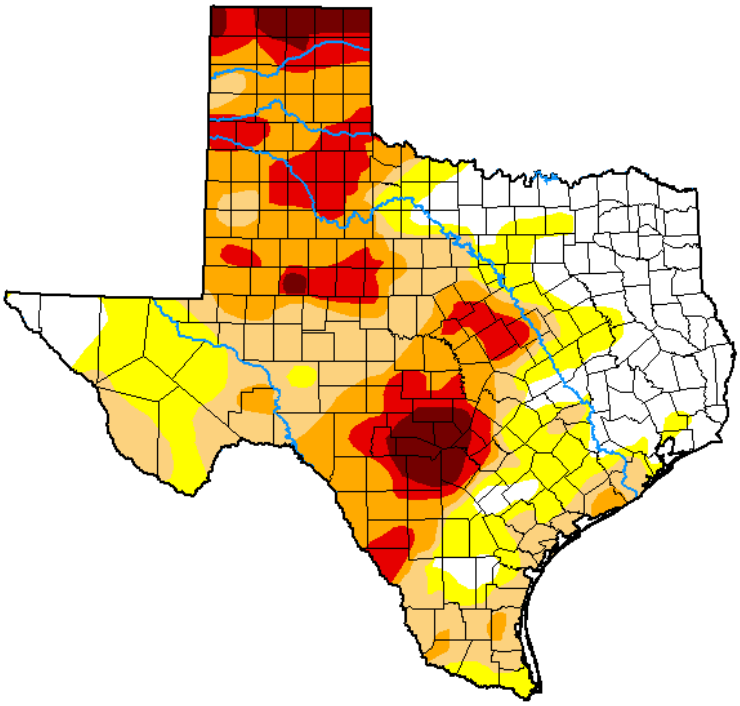
Medium to Large Frame #1

	STEERS	HEIFERS
200-300 LB	200.00-300.00 CWT	175.00-235.00 CWT
300-400 LB	220.00-302.50 CWT	175.00-240.00 CWT
400-500 LB	200.00-257.50 CWT	170.00-230.00 CWT
500-600 LB	190.00-240.00 CWT	165.00-216.00 CWT
600-700 LB	170.00-210.00 CWT	150.00-195.00 CWT
700-800 LB	150.00-197.00 CWT	120.00-160.00 CWT
Lower Quality	40.00-75.00 CWT	20.00-60.00 CWT

Drought Monitor Index

U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas



April 11, 2023

(Released Thursday, Apr. 13, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.13	77.87	58.63	37.64	16.24	4.07
Last Week *04-04-2023*	19.10	80.90	66.89	45.25	18.98	4.19
3 Months Ago *01-10-2023*	26.83	73.17	51.66	27.31	7.70	1.80
Start of Calendar Year *01-03-2023*	28.84	71.16	49.90	26.60	7.41	1.60
Start of Water Year *09-27-2022*	14.96	85.04	61.36	31.61	8.82	1.06
One Year Ago *04-12-2022*	2.87	97.13	87.66	74.12	49.11	14.20

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

David Simeral

Western Regional Climate Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Suns out, Fertilizer out?

Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson,
Extension Forage Specialist. Overton

After a cold, dreary winter we get anxious about our warm season perennial pastures and hay meadows. We start panicking about the winter weeds we see growing, the volunteer ryegrass we see growing and we start making calls to our local fertilizer retailer. Find more information about dealing with volunteer ryegrass here and dealing with winter weeds here.

Now, let's take a moment and talk about the RIGHT time to fertilize our warm season pastures/hay meadows.

First and foremost, soil test. If you have not done so for this year, please consider obtaining a soil test now. There is not much that can be done regarding the high cost of fertilizer, but there is much we can do regarding how efficiently we use fertilizer. The soil test is the first step in efficient fertilizer use and improved forage production. Samples should be collected annually for hay meadows and every 2 to 3 years for pastures. For soil test forms and bags contact your County Extension Office or visit http://soiltesting.tamu.edu. You may also wish to read the Testing Your Soil publication that describes how to obtain a soil sample for analysis. The form for submitting soils samples can be obtained by clicking here.

Soil Sampling Tools

Warm season perennial grasses, such as bahiagrass or bermudagrass, green-up when nighttime temperatures remain above 60 degrees F for several days in the spring and soil temperature reaches 65 degrees at the 4-inch depth. For bermudagrass or bahiagrass to utilize any fertilizer, it should be applied after green-up and as active growth begins. Applying any fertilizer prior to this, results in the utilization of nutrients by any volunteer ryegrass and/or any cool season broadleaf weeds (such as thistles, Texas groundsel, henbit, etc.)

Thistle in rosette stage

Usually, the most limiting nutrient in bermudagrass production is nitrogen. Nitrogen is vital to plants for optimum growth. Deficiencies of nitrogen appear as pale green color in the plants, very poor growth and yield and low protein. The optimum nitrogen rate for a situation is dependent upon a producer's goals. Learn more about nitrogen sources here.

Bermudagrass removes relatively large amounts of phosphate and potash when harvested for hay. Bermudagrass hay removes 14 lbs of phosphate and 42 lbs of potash per ton of hay. Phosphorus is vital in plants for developing a healthy root system and reaching optimum yield. Potassium is essential in plants to combat diseases and aid in water translocation. Deficiencies of potassium can cause both yield losses and stand losses. Bermudagrass can be a luxury consumer of potassium. Meaning, bermudagrass will take in more potassium than it needs if an abundant supply is present. Therefore, if soil test recommendations call for more than 100 lbs of potassium/acre the recommendation is to make split applications throughout the season.

Levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium applied should be based on soil test recommendations as well as match farm/ranch goals.