Ag Newsletter - Fall 2024

Sam Womble, CEA Ag/NR
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212
San Antonio, TX 78230-4818
Office: (210) 631-0400 Email: s-womble@tamu.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 8th - Private Pesticide Applicator Training
October 9th - Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training
October 15th - Small Acreage Landowner Series
November 21st - Overton Pesticide CEU Program
January 14th - Beef Cattle Short Course

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

When: Tuesday, October 8th, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208, San Antonio, TX

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. 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. Please contact Kennedy at (210) 631-0400 or email kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu to register.

Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training

When: Wednesday, October 9th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208, San Antonio, TX

Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training covers the application requirements for the use of Invora herbicide for weed and brush management on rangeland and is required every two years. The program will be held virtually Wednesday, October 9th. One hour of L&R CEU credit will be offered to individuals with a pesticide applicator's license. Please contact Kennedy at (210) 631-0400 or email kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu to register.

Ag Blog and Newsletter Online:
Visit http://agrilife.org/agnewsandview
and our county website at http://bexartx.tamu.edu
Like us on Facebook @ AgriLife Bexar County

Small Acreage Landowner Series

When: Tuesday, October 15th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208, San Antonio, TX

The final program of our 5-part series will take place on Tuesday, October 15th, and will address **Equine Nutrition** and **Pasture Management**. One hour of general CEU credit will be offered. The program registration fee is $10 per person. Please contact Kennedy at (210) 631-0400 or email kennedy.green@ag.tamu.edu to register.

Program Highlights

It's interesting to look at a year in review and see some of the impact our programs have had. In the last couple of years, one of my focus areas has been **Beef Cattle Production** and **Natural Resource Management**. Click on the above links to view the documents. Thank you to the members of our Ag/NR Committee for planning educational programs and those of you who attend and provide your feedback/testimonials.

Overton Pesticide CEU Program

When: Thursday, November 21, 2024
Where: Zoom Virtual Program

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold the Overton Pesticide Continuing Education Units Program online. This program provides an opportunity for producers to get five CEUs (1 L&R, 1 IPM, 3 Gen.) for their pesticide license from the comfort of their homes. The webinar will be divided into two sections with a break for lunch. The program will be offered through Zoom. Click **here** for the registration link.

Beef Cattle Short Course

Mark your calendar and save the date for the Annual Beef Cattle Short Course on January 14th, 2025 at Palo Alto College.

Tentative Schedule:
Tuesday, January 14th, 2025
2:00 p.m. Industry Tour
3:30 p.m. Registration
4:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions
- Farm and Ranch Financial Management
- Pasture and Rangeland Weed and Brush Management (1 IPM CEU)
- Understanding the Pesticide Label (1 L&R CEU)

5:30 p.m. Meal
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Planning for the Future - Maximizing Your Operations Potential

Be watching for additional information on the program!

Prickly Pear Study

In October of 2023, we initiated a study on the Back 40 Ranch in Elmendorf looking at 5 different control options for prickly pear on fence lines. The treatments were evaluated in June (8 months post-treatment). Although the study will continue for the next two years and the information below is not final data, it's interesting to note the initial observations. Each of the five treatments were applied at 1% with a ¼ % surfactant and ¼ % hi-light blue dye. A one-gallon mixture was used for each treatment (1.28 oz of herbicide, .32 oz of non-ionic surfactant, and .32 oz hi-light blue dye). Applications were made with a backpack sprayer. Treatments were rated on percent desiccated, yellow, and green.

Herbicide	% Desiccated	% Yellow	% Green
PastureGard HL	15	60	25
Tordon 22K	90	10	0
Surmount	95	0	5
MezaVue	55	5	40
Invora	20	5	75

Johnsongrass

Texas A&M - AgriLife Agronomic Monday Memo (September 16, 2024)
Dr. Calvin Trostle, Ph. D. - Professor and Extension Agronomist - Lubbock

Most often we think of Johnsongrass as a weed. It germinates from seed (Fig. 2) in the spring, but also aggressively emerges from spreading rhizomes. So, control methods are foremost on our mind. There are several chemical options for Johnsongrass control, but I will defer to a comprehensive University of Georgia Extension document "Johnsongrass Control in Pastures, Roadsides, and Noncropland Areas," https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1513. The document—confirms suggestions with current herbicide labels—summarizes the different situations where control is desired. These include:

- Use of pre-emerge dinitroaniline herbicides will suppress germination from seed, but do not affect rhizome growth, emergence, and spread.
- Selective herbicides for control in existing hay patches and pastures. These include sulfosulfuron (acetolactate synthase ALS-inhibiting herbicide) which can be used cautiously in existing bermudagrass and bahiagrass. Also, combinations of nicosulfuron + metsulfuron and imazapic may also control Johnsongrass in bermudagrass pastures though Univ. of Georgia suggests this latter combination may be more injurious to existing bermudagrass. A positive for these active ingredients is there are no grazing restrictions.
- For Johnsongrass that infests non-grass crops like forage legumes, herbicide with active ingredients like clethodim (most common brand name 'Select') and quizalofop-P-ethyl (common brand name Assure II) may be used.
- Other Johnsongrass control options include other herbicides and glyphosate to translocate and kill the root (most common formulation is Roundup) if it is acceptable to kill all vegetation. I am unsure, however, if there is less effectiveness in translocation to rhizomes. (It would seem rhizomes might be somewhat impervious to this mechanism.)

University of Georgia notes long-term control of Johnsongrass is best with fall applications.

USDA Releases 2024 Cash Rent Data

Posted on September 3, 2024 by tiffany.dowell
Facebook/Twitter/Email

Each year, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a nationwide survey to gather data and compile a report showing average cash rental rates across the United States. These results are based upon the survey responses from landowners and producers around the country. **Please note that all reported cash rent amounts are listed in a per acre/per year format.**
To view the database with the data for each state, click here. To view the database with data for each county in the US, click here.
To see a chart listing the cash rents by county for Texas, click here. Here's how things broke down in the Lone Star State.

Pastureland

The statewide average for pastureland was $8.20/acre, which is down $0.30 from last year. The highest pastureland rental rates were reported in Bowie and Delta Counties at $22/acre and Bell County at $21/acre. Conversely, the lowest reported pastureland lease averages were in West Texas with Winkler County at $0.90, Hudspeth at $1, and Presidio at $1.40

Irrigated Cropland

The Texas average lease rate for irrigated cropland was $117/acre, up $4 from 2023. For 2024, the highest average reported lease rates were in Hartley County ($229/acre) and Gaines County ($194/acre). The lowest reported rates for irrigated cropland came from Chambers County at $39.

Non-Irrigated Cropland

Statewide non-irrigated cropland lease rates averaged $31.50/acre, which is a $0.50/acre increase from the prior year. The highest reported rental for non-irrigated cropland was found in San Patricio County at $88/acre and in Willacy County at $75.50/acre. On the other hand, the lowest rates came from Llano County at $6.50/acre, Sutton County at $7.60/acre, and Kimble County at $7.90/acre.

District Summary

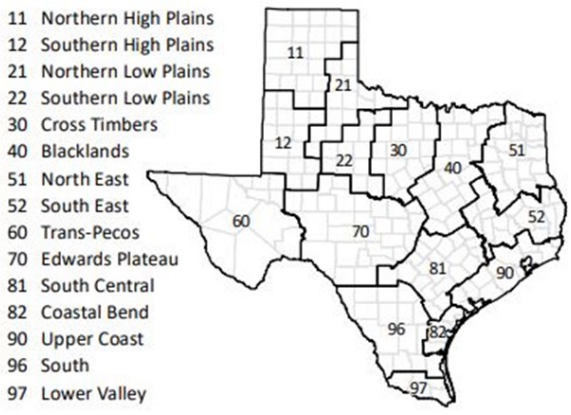
Dr. Greg Kaase pulled together the following table showing the average cash lease rates for 2023 and 2024 for each of Texas' regions.

County level estimates are accessible online at the following web address:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Cash_Rents_by_County/index.php

Cash Rents District Estimates, Dollars per Acre, Texas 2023 and 2024

District	Pasture		Cropland			
			Irrigated		Non-Irrigated	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	dollars	*dollars*	*dollars*	*dollars*	*dollars*	*dollars*
Northern High Plains	12.27	9.00	111.77	122.15	28.95	28.20
Southern High Plains	6.14	6.93	127.73	118.21	40.38	42.13
Northern Low Plains	8.27	8.44	(D)	(D)	25.05	22.60
Southern Low Plains	8.40	7.70	77.33	(D)	23.79	27.91
Cross Timbers	11.03	10.85	(D)	(D)	19.06	19.03
Blacklands	15.76	14.40	(D)	(D)	27.60	27.93
North East	16.03	15.39	(D)	(D)	19.15	19.93
South East	13.54	12.45	(D)	(D)	19.09	17.76
Trans-Pecos	4.53	1.96	133.17	(D)	(D)	(D)
Edwards Plateau	5.40	5.35	(D)	(D)	18.42	19.97
South Central	12.61	10.91	(D)	92.17	23.63	26.82
Coastal Bend	11.80	11.45	(D)	(D)	62.37	61.33
Upper Coast	12.52	11.14	71.58	68.36	38.73	39.14
South	7.98	7.14	121.87	116.25	23.14	22.25
Lower Valley	14.43	10.50	114.00	95.83	54.25	58.63
State	**8.50**	**8.20**	**113.00**	**117.00**	**31.00**	**31.50**

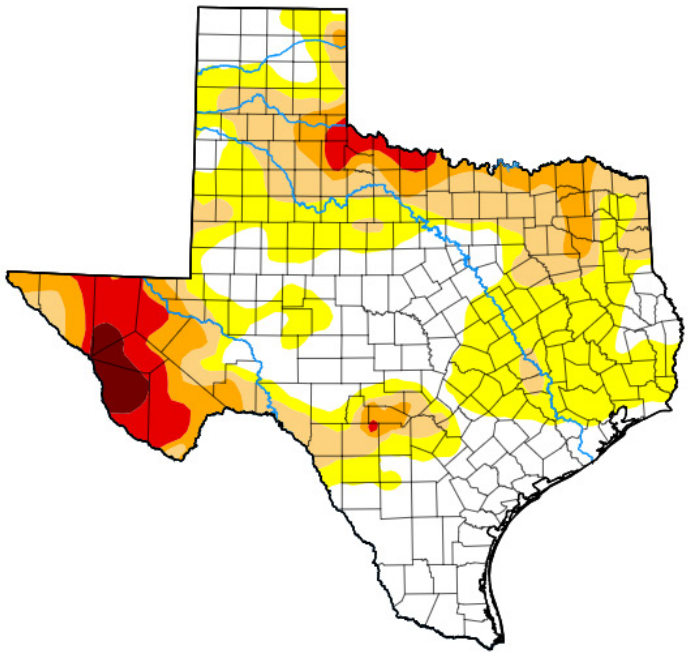
(D) Witheld due to insufficient number of reports.



US Drought Monitor Update

Texas

Home / Texas



Map released: Thurs. September 26, 2024

Data valid: September 24, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Rocky Bilotta, NOAA/NCEI

Where's the Beef Youtube Video Series

If you're interested in direct-to-consumer beef sales and want to learn from some of the most successful in the business, check out the Where's the Beef Video Series featuring interviews with direct beef sales producers, packing plants, and licensing agencies. Visit the Texas Ag Law YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/@TexasAgricultureLaw