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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 7th - Private Water Well Screening

October 9th - Private Water Well Screening Interpretation Meeting

January 15th - Beef Cattle Short Course

Private Water Well Screening

Sample Drop Off: Tuesday, October 7th, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Interpretation Meeting: October 9th, 9:00 a.m.

Where: SARA Office, 100 E. Guenther Street in San Antonio

The Bexar County AgriLife Extension Office, San Antonio River Authority, Texas Well Owners Network, Texas Water Resources Institute and others will be partnering to offer a Private Water Well Screening Event October 7 in San Antonio. Samples will be dropped off Tuesday, October 7th from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the SARA Office, 100 E. Guenther Street in San Antonio. A clean, unused 12–20 ounce water bottle will be used to collect samples. Please see QR code below for flyer, sample collection instructions and sample form.



Participants will also need to complete a sample form for each water sample submitted. Cost will be \$15/sample. Results will be shared at an Interpretation meeting Thursday, October 9th 9:00 a.m. at the San Antonio River Authority Office.

Bexar County Extension Office Moving

The Bexar County AgriLife Extension Office will be moving to temporary office space as of Monday, September 15th. Our office contact information (phone and email) will remain the same. Our new address will be 8844 Tradeway Street San Antonio, TX 78217.



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

2026 Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Course

When: Tuesday, January 13th

Where: Palo Alto College, 1400 W Villaret Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78224

The 2026 Bexar County Beef Cattle Short Course will take place Tuesday, January 13th at Palo Alto College. Final details are still in the works but you can expect afternoon concurrent sessions, CEU's, vendors, door prizes, dinner and an exciting line up of speakers. Be watching the [Ag News and Views Blog](#) and our [County Website](#) for the most up to date information.

USDA Announces Plans to Address the New World Screwworm

You probably read that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Governor Greg Abbott announced on Aug. 15th the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plan to combat the New World screwworm.

As part of the approach, USDA is taking the following immediate actions:

- USDA will provide up to \$100 million to invest in innovations and technology to support the United States facility and accelerate sterile fly production. They also plan to implement a number of longer-term research projects focused on: new sterile NWS production techniques, novel NWS traps and lures, NWS therapeutics, and any other tools to bolster preparedness or response to NWS.
- Construction of a sterile fly production facility in Edinburg, TX at Moore Air Force Base. Plans are for the facility to produce up to 300 million sterile flies per week to combat NWS. Panama's facility is currently producing 100 million flies per week. This will be the only United States based sterile fly facility and will work in tandem with facilities in Panama and Mexico to help eradicate the pest and protect American agriculture. It's important to note that NWS threatens over \$100 billion in economic impact to the cattle and livestock industry alone.
- A big concern centers around wildlife migrating across the border. USDA is working to ramp up the hiring of USDA employed mounted patrol officers and other staff who will focus on border surveillance. USDA will also begin training detector dogs to detect screwworm infestations in livestock and other animals along our border and at various ports of entry.

For more information and the latest updates, be sure to check out [New World Screwworm - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#)

Market Outlook

Record Prices, High Demand for Beef

During this year's Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, Randy Blach, CEO at CattleFax gave a market outlook and to say it's encouraging would be an understatement. Blach began by explaining why the industry is experiencing record highs. The three reasons he suggested were:

- **Tight supply** – low cattle numbers
- **Strong demand** – drives prices up
- **Consistent high quality** – about 85% of all steers and heifers harvested are grading choice or better; a consistent product equals a good eating experience

Blach shared that we've been able to meet demand by producing more beef with less cows. According to CattleFax data, carcass weights have been increasing steadily and last year went up about 26 pounds. That represents an equivalent of about a million head of cattle being harvested to help offset the difference.

Blach predicts the market will remain at high levels for the next 2-3 years. He made an interesting comment regarding ground beef. In essence, ground beef makes up about 53% of beef consumption. With tight supplies and the Mexican border closure, prices are expected to go up.

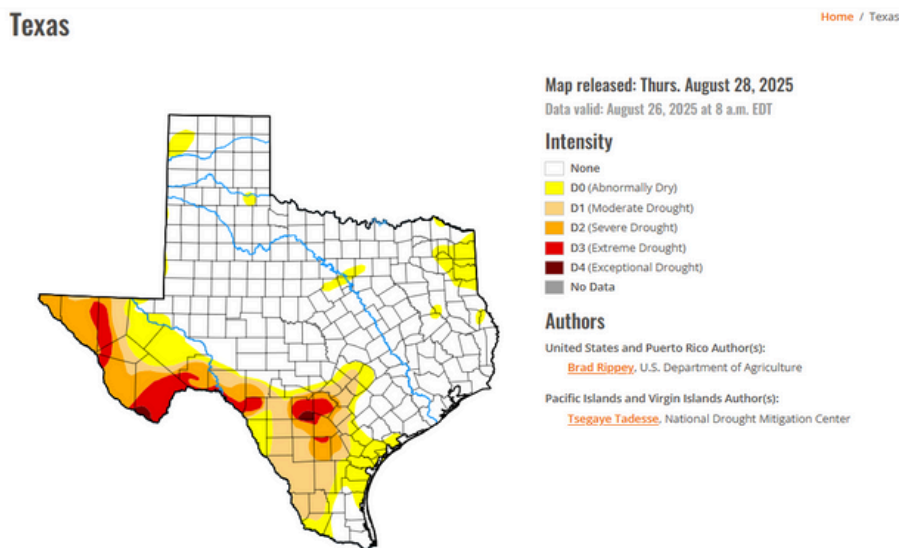
He shared that beef consumption remains high and demand drives prices. The take home message, people are still willing to pay a premium for beef.

Plants of Texas Rangelands Website

If you don't have this site bookmarked, you're missing out. It covers everything from weeds and brush to toxic plants, wildflowers and over 80 species of native grasses. It's literally one stop shopping for everything rangeland. Be sure to check it out at [Plants of Texas Rangelands](#)

Current Texas Drought Monitor

Bexar County has seen a slight improvement from 3 months ago going from 100% of the county in Extreme Drought to 61% now in Severe Drought. To put things in perspective, we are still in a dire situation as compared to many parts of the state. Be mindful of wildfire potential and the need to supplement livestock. Try to conserve water and manage heat stress by staying hydrated and wearing light colored clothing when working outside.



Heifer Economics

I was forwarded an article by a friend of mine recently and it was too good not to draw attention to a few highlights –

According to Mark Johnson, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist – Oklahoma State University, a good metric to use when purchasing replacement heifers is the number of calves it takes to pay for the purchase. CattleFax reported that for 2025, that number is projected at 2.75, well below the long-term average of 4.5. If feed resources allow, adding females to the herd might be a good time from a breakeven standpoint. According to some recent data, it's projected that cow costs range from \$910 per cow for operations with 500 or more cows to \$2,099 per cow for operations with 20-49 cows. Data collected as recently as last year by Kansas Farm Management Association estimates the annual cost of running a cow to be \$1,551. In short, what bred heifers are worth to you will likely depend on how much profit she generates each year per calf rather than on the gross value of each calf she produces.