

# LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

February 2023

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## THE GROWING SEASON IS COMING

Dakota Kempken

With the relative inactivity that comes with wintertime, now is a good time to begin making plans for this production year, and with the past year we experienced, I bet most of us will be focused on recovery so that we can get back to full production. Luckily that will hopefully be what is in store for us!

While this winter has been dry, the fall showers were a welcome sight to help boost our seasonal plants and get some subsoil moisture stored up. On top of that, the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a wet spring this year. Let's hope that comes true and gives our growing season a much-needed boost!

## **PESTICIDE DISPOSAL EVENT IN HONDO, TX**

Have old, unneeded pesticides and/or herbicides sitting in storage? Now is a good chance to get rid of it! An official pesticide waste disposal event will be taking place at the City of Hondo Fairgrounds, 733 FM 462 N Hondo, TX 78861, on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. This completely free program accepts outdated, discontinued, and unwanted chemical pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc. for disposal and will operate in a drive-through style, so you will not even need to leave your vehicle.

Please make sure chemicals are in their original container, as unknown chemicals will have to be tested on-site.

I understand that it is quite a ways to Hondo, so I would encourage agreements/partnerships to be worked out in delivering your and your neighbors' pesticides to Hondo. If you would be willing to help with transportation for your neighbors or others in the county, please let me know so that we can work on coordination with those in need of assistance. For more information, please see the attached flyer on page 6 of this newsletter or call the Texas Dept of Agriculture (TDA) at 512-463-7622, TDA San Antonio Regional Office at 210-820-0288, or the Medina County AgriLife Extension Office at 830-741-6180.

## **IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TREAT GRASSBURRS**

Grassburr (*Cenchrus longispinus*) is always a hot-button issue in the county and a bane of hay producers across Texas, and soon we'll be plagued with them again within a couple months as temperatures get warmer. However it's not too late to catch this nuisance weed before it takes root.

The best way to control this weed is to not let it take root in the first place. Keeping stands of forage thick and healthy through proper management can prevent grassburrs from establishing and growing a presence in yards and hay meadows. However nothing is guaranteed, and as everyone who's dealt with grassburr knows, they are highly aggressive and can find a way in. So herbicides might be necessary.



If that's the case, there is still time to treat with preemergent herbicides before the grass takes root/reestablishes. Ideally, preemergent herbicides should be applied when the soil temperature (not air temperature) stays roughly 52°F and then watered thoroughly within 7 days of application. Our best timeframe with this in mind is late February to mid-March. This time period usually provides cool enough temperatures for the herbicide to be effective before germination and reestablishment.

**Flatonia Livestock  
Commission**

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Wt	Rng	Avg
<b>Steers</b>		
100 -199	112.00-187.00	149.50
200 -299	110.00-235.00	176.64
300 -399	128.00-245.00	205.39
400 -499	110.00-238.00	177.82
500 -599	160.00-202.00	180.88
600 -699	100.00-185.00	166.69
700 -799	114.00-181.00	160.18
800 -899	112.00-173.00	149.00
1000+	105.00-122.00	113.50
<b>Heifers</b>		
100 -199	126.00-170.00	149.00
200 -299	90.00-193.00	150.69
300 -399	40.00-202.00	157.11
400 -499	130.00-198.00	167.94
500 -599	9400-176.00	157.96
600 -699	147.00-173.00	161.78
700 -799	150.00-154.00	152.00
800 -899	129.00-141.00	135.00
1000+	90.00-96.00	96.00

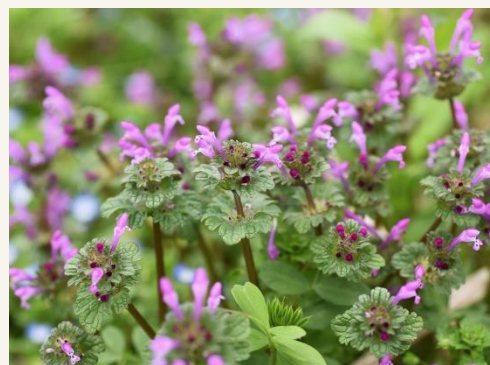
Some recommended preemergents are Pendimethalin (Prowl H2O), Oryzalin (Surflan), indaziflam (Rezilon), and Prodiamine (Pendulum).

Post-emergent herbicides are still an option if you miss this window, but their results may not be as reliable and would need to be used with caution, as they could be damaging to bermudagrass that is accidentally sprayed. Some herbicides that have been known to treat grassburr are Pastora, Plateau, and Impose. Pay attention to any grazing/harvesting restrictions when applying these herbicides.

## WEED OF THE MONTH

Whether you are managing a pasture, grow row crops, or manage native rangelands, weeds are a constant presence that require some level of management, and part of formulating a proper management strategy is knowing what exactly you are trying to manage. This segment will help you begin to identify some popular and lesser known weeds of Bastrop County and offer methods to control them.

Starting off this month, we will be looking at Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*). Native to Africa and Eurasia, henbit is a small, cool-season annual forb commonly found on roadsides, agricultural fields, yards, pastures, and other frequently disturbed/bare-soil areas. This is a small broadleaf plant, only getting between 6 and 15 inches in height, and is easily recognizable by its rough-textured, scaly, heart-shaped leaves that emerge from the stem at the center and resemble mint herbs. Fun fact - this plant is actually related to mint, as they are both in the same family (Lamiaceae), however henbit does not have any distinctive odor. Its flowers are small and tube shaped with a lavender color. Multiple flowers can grow out of the petiole of the topmost leaves, forming somewhat dense clumps of purple.



### Control:

While they can be beneficial for mitigating topsoil erosion for fallow croplands, they can be a noxious weed in turf and hay pastures, as henbit is highly competitive. Additionally, they can serve as hosts for corn earworm. Henbit is a hardy weed, and as such is not easy to control. Discing will help immediately eliminate stands in dormant cropland, but you risk reemergence in the spring alongside seedling crops. The easiest and most effective method of control is with herbicides, especially in turf and hay pasture.

Pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides are both available to treat henbit. The best time to treat henbit is in the early fall, when plants are just beginning to emerge/are not mature. Spring applications aren't needed as the plants will die off by summer.

## Giddings Livestock Auction

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

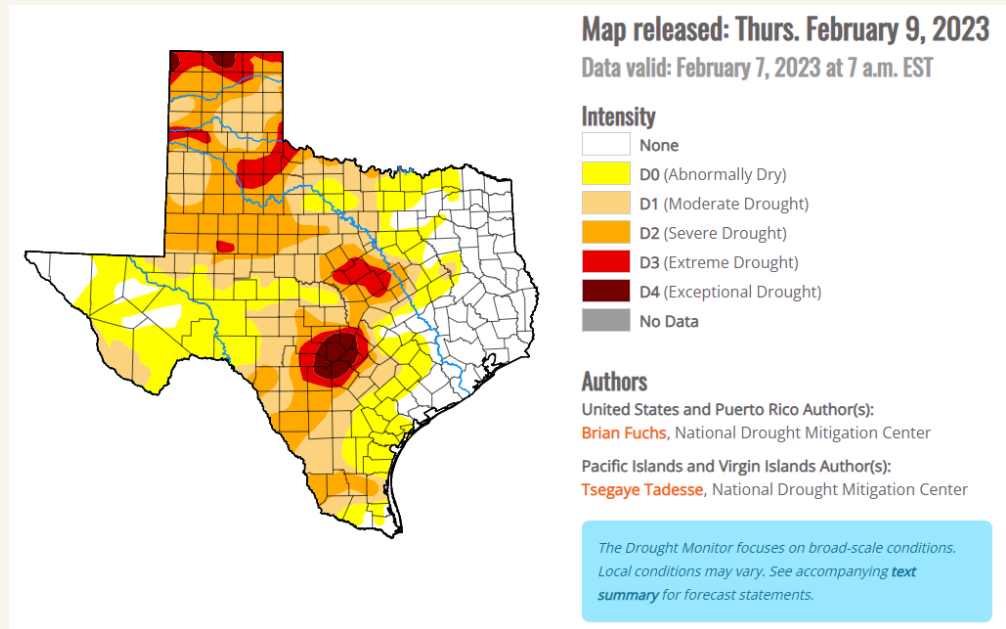
Wt	Avg	High
Steers		
150-300	194	235
300-400	197	232.50
400-500	196	235
500-600	182	207.50
600-700	159	180
700-800	139	170
Heifers		
150-300	167	200
300-400	179	225
400-500	177	210
500-600	168	192.50
600-700	155	169
700-800	138	165
Yearling bulls		
700-850	120-170	
850-1000	100-150	
Packer cows		
Top	80-102	
Med.	60-75	
Thin	25-55	

### Herbicides for Henbit:

- 2,4-D
- Fluroxypyr - Comet, Flurox, Stark Ultra
- Triclopyr - Remedy Ultra, Pathfinder II
- Pendimethalin - Prowl H2O

While these herbicides work well in control of henbit, the best form of control is prevention. In turf and hay, maintaining dense stands of grass through regular irrigation and fertilization will help crowd out potential henbit emergence.

## TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE



# Water Well Owners Educational Event



Sample Drop Off  
Monday, February 27, 2023  
8:30—10:00 a.m.  
Educational Meeting  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
8:00—12:00 p.m.

Bastrop County  
Annex Building

804 Pecan Street, Bastrop

## TEXAS WELL OWNER NETWORK PROGRAM

The Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) program is a free, educational training for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs. TWON is for private well owners who want to become familiar with groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance, water quality and water treatment. Private well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells. Essentially, they are the operators of their own water system and are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe.

### BRING YOUR WELL WATER SAMPLES!

Well owners should bring water samples the day prior to the event (Monday, February 27) to be screened for nitrate-nitrogen, total dissolved solids (TDS) and *E. coli* bacteria. Pick up approved sample containers with instructions at the Bastrop County AgriLife Extension office, 901 Pecan Street in Bastrop. Samples should be turned in at the same location that testing materials were picked up.

Samples are due on Monday, February 27 by 10:00 a.m.. No cost for samples.



Pre-register for the workshop by calling Joel Pigg at 979-845-1461 or email at [j-pigg@tamu.edu](mailto:j-pigg@tamu.edu)



Funding for the Texas Well Owner Network is through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The project is managed by the Texas Water Resources Institute, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, AgriLife Extension and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.



# Agricultural Pesticide Waste Collection Event

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 8 AM - Noon

City of Hondo Fairgrounds  
733 FM 462 N  
Hondo, TX 78861

Scan the QR Code



for directions

Unwanted or Surplus Agricultural Pesticides?  
Dispose of them Free and Anonymously without leaving your Vehicle!

### MATERIALS ACCEPTED

- Outdated, Discontinued or Unwanted Agricultural Pesticides
- Insecticides
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Rodenticides
- Nematicides
- Growth Regulators
- Empty, Triple-Rinsed Plastic Pesticide Containers
- Empty or Partial Metal Drums

### MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTED

- Explosive ordinances and ammunition
- Petroleum-Based Products
- Paints
- Medical Wastes
- Radioactive Substances
- Household Chemicals and Waste
- Tires
- Fertilizers
- Propane or Butane Cylinders
- Fumigant Canisters
- Used motor oil and automobile fluids
- Auto Batteries
- Empty Totes
- Methyl-Bromide Cylinders
- Dioxins (2,4-5T, Silvex, TCDD, etc.)

**PESTICIDES MUST BE KEPT IN ORIGINAL CONTAINERS, EVEN IF THE LABEL IS NOT PRESENT.**

*Unknown pesticides will be sampled and identified on site.*

For questions or additional information contact the Texas Dept of Agriculture (TDA) at (512) 463-7622, TDA San Antonio Regional Office at (210) 820-0288, or the Medina County AgriLife Extension Office at (830) 741-6180.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

# AROUND THE COUNTY

## AUCTION BARN REPORTS

### Gonzales Livestock Market

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Steers

Weight	Price
150 - 300	245.00-265.00
300 - 400	218.00-235.00
400 - 500	195.00-215.00
500 - 600	178.00-190.00
600 - 700	165.00-175.00
700 - 800	151.00-163.00

#### Heifers

150 - 300	215.00-220.00
300 - 400	207.00-210.00
400 - 500	171.00-195.00
500 - 600	155.00-168.00
600 - 700	145.00-150.00

#### Yearling Bulls

700 - 900	80.00 - 95.00
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#### Stocker Cows

	750.00 - 1150.00
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## PRIVATE WELL SCREENING AND RESULTS CONFERENCE IN LATE FEBRUARY

The [Texas Well Owner Network](#) is hosting a “Well Educated” water well screening February 27th - 28th in Bastrop to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened.

Dr. Joel Pigg, [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) program specialist and TWON coordinator, College Station, said the TWON program is for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs. “The program was established to help well owners become familiar with Texas groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance and construction, and water quality and treatment,” he said. “It allows them to learn more about how to improve and protect their community water resources.”

Water samples will be screened for contaminants, including total coliform bacteria, E. coli, nitrate-nitrogen and salinity. Water samples can be dropped off **on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-10 a.m.** at the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) office for [Bastrop County](#), 901 Pecan Street, Bastrop. There will be no cost for the water sample. Any samples submitted before the 27<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted, as samples must be as fresh as possible for accurate readings. The follow-up meeting to explain the results of the screenings will be at **8:00 a.m. February 28** at the Bastrop County Annex Building, 804 Pecan Street, Bastrop.

The screening is presented by AgriLife Extension and [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), TWRI, partnership with the AgriLife Extension office in Bastrop County, and the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District.

## SPRING PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING SESSION ON MARCH 8TH

A private pesticide applicator training session will take place at the Bastrop County Courthouse annex building on **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30am.** This training session will prepare producers to complete the Texas Department of Agriculture’s licensing exam and certify them to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides.

The training will be held in the downstairs conference room next to the Elections office of the annex building. Registration will be \$65 due to the Extension office by **Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** to ensure enough materials can be ordered in time.

# LUNCH AND LEARN: PEST MANAGEMENT IN FORAGE CROPS

Come out and enjoy a bite to eat while learning some valuable information! This lunch and learn, taking place on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Bastrop Area Livestock Show Barn (behind the American Legion Post 533 hall, 3003 Lp 150, Bastrop, Tx 78602) will put focus on managing pests (both plant and insect) in forage crops and offer 2 general CEU's. Registration of \$15 is due in advance to the Extension office by Wednesday, March 1st to ensure enough meals can be provided.



**MONDAY  
LUNCH &  
LEARN**

**PEST MANAGEMENT  
IN FORAGE CROPS**

Monday, March 6th,  
2023 at 11:00am

Bastrop Area Livestock  
Show Barn: 3003 Lp  
150 Bastrop, Tx 78602

**2 General CEU's Offered**

- insect pest management in forage crops
- controlling common grass weeds in pastures and hay meadows

**Registration fee is \$15** due to the Extension office by  
**Wednesday, March 1st.**

Please state any dietary restrictions we need to be aware of