

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

May 2023



THE SUMMER HEAT IS COMING

Dakota Kempken

This spring has been relatively mild in temperature, and I don't think anyone is objecting to the rainfall much of the county has seen over the past couple months! However with May now here, we will be quickly approaching the heat of the summer months. Now is a good time to make sure you have measures in place to avoid heat stress in crops, livestock, and landscape. Make sure water/irrigation systems are in good condition and keep plenty of shade areas available!

DEALING WITH HIGH FERTILIZER COSTS IN FORAGES

Vanessa Corriher-Olson – Extension Forage Specialist

Fertilizer is and has always been a significant production expense whether you are growing corn, cotton, or pasture forage. Fertilizer costs have increased tremendously over the last few decades. Commercial fertilizers are the most costly input in warm season grass forage production. Below are some important issues relative to fertilizer efficiency as well as alternatives for reducing fertilizer use and reducing production costs for forage production.

1. **Soil Test:** Adequate soil fertility is one key to successful forage and livestock production in Texas. Soil testing is still the best management tool to monitor soil fertility levels. Routine soil tests can help identify nutrient deficiencies and inadequate soil pH. Applying fertilizer without having taken a soil test amounts to guessing how much fertilizer is needed. Applying too much fertilizer is a waste of money; applying too little will result in less-than-optimum forage production. Based on soil test results, cost-effective fertilization programs can be developed to meet forage nutrient requirements and minimize production costs. (<https://soiltesting.tamu.edu>)
2. **Choosing the most adequate fertilizer source:** Several fertilizer sources are commercially available to supply N, P, K, and micronutrients to forage crops. Ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate and urea are the major N sources used on pastures in Texas. Organic sources such as biosolids and animal manure also represent important sources of N that can be used in pastures. When choosing the right fertilizer source, it is important to consider important factors, such as price, fertilizer effectiveness, method and rate of application.
3. **Timing and Rate of Fertilizer Application:** Fertilizer should be applied when the forage is actively growing. For most warm-season grasses commonly used in Texas, growing season does not start until night temperatures reach 60F. For establishment of new plantings, fertilizer should not be applied until plants have emerged. Nitrogen and K should be split-applied into multiple applications; after emergence and 30 to 50 days later. For hayfields, N and K should be applied after each cutting.
4. **Utilization of Forage Legumes:** In association with Rhizobium bacteria, clovers and other legumes obtain N from the atmosphere. Specific strains of this type of bacteria live on the roots of particular legumes. The bacteria obtain N from air in the soil and “fix” it in a form usable by plants. Bacteria accumulate in small nodules on the legume roots but most of the N is in the form of protein in the leaves. The primary driving force in calculation of N fixation is legume yield. High yielding legumes fix more nitrogen. Cool season annual clovers can contribute with about 75-100 lbs N/acre for the subsequent grass crop. The majority of the legume-N is transferred to the soil by unused plant material and/or animal excreta. Grazing animals can return more than 80% of the consumed nutrients to the soil through the feces and urine. If the legume crop is harvested and removed from the pasture

as hay or haylage, the contribution of legume-N to the subsequent crop is reduced. [Cool-Season Forage Legume Management Guide](#)

5. Use Biosolids or Animal Manures: One important aspect to consider when using organic amendments is the N present in these sources is not readily available to plants and total N is often a poor indicator of N availability. When poultry litter is surface applied to pastures, an estimated 30% of the N is lost through volatilization, 60% is available to the plant the first year, and 10% is not available until after the first year. About 70 to 80% of the K and P in poultry litter is available to plants. As the organic compounds mineralize, N and other essential nutrients become available to the plants. Factors such as source, time and rate of application and environmental conditions can impact the effectiveness of organic materials in providing N to pastures. Because improper application of organic amendments may lead to excessive soil P concentrations, it is important to monitor soil fertility after manure and/or biosolids application.

WEED OF THE MONTH - THISTLE



There are multiple species of thistles found in Texas, however the most common is the Texas Thistle, *Cirsium texanum*. This is a nasty biennial forb that begins growth in the late winter/early spring and flowers in the spring and summer. Thistles are usually abundant in disturbed soils and overgrazed areas, making them a problem in some hay and livestock operations. Early-growth thistles are easy to recognize by their circular growth pattern, called a rosette, made up of long, spiny leaves that stay close to the ground. Flowering stems shoot up from the center of the rosette in the spring, growing roughly 2 to 5 feet tall. The flowers are a bright pink puffball shape which mature into a white puffball. They are excellent sources of nectar for pollinators, however they make poor forage for livestock and are considered highly unpalatable due to their spiny texture. Their large rosettes also limit the growth and spread of desired forage.

Control:

A thistle's growth patterns of low, sprawling growth and a thick taproot allows it be highly resilient to most control methods. Even herbicide usage can be ineffective if not sprayed at the right time. If using herbicides, it is critical to target the plant before it sends up the flowering stalk, as it will only get harder to control as it matures. Targeting thistles in the rosette stage will yield the best chances of killing them.



Herbicides labeled for thistle:

- 2, 4-D - GrazonNext HL, Weedmaster, Cimarron Max, Grazon P+D
- Triclopyr - Remedy Ultra, Pathfinder II

Flatonia Livestock Commission

May 1st, 2023

Wt	Rng	Avg
Steers		
100 -199	240.00-292.00	264.25
200 -299	232.00-277.00	258.47
300 -399	130.00-275.00	232.90
400 -499	128.00-252.00	222.59
500 -599	140.00-238.00	207.65
600 -699	70.00-221.00	189.72
700 -799	164.00-192.00	183.07
800 -899	168.00-181.00	177.25
900-999	101.00-169.00	135.00
Heifers		
100 -199	175.00-242.00	208.50
200 -299	175.00-265.00	225.40
300 -399	160.00-257.00	210.52
400 -499	110.00-234.00	196.83
500 -599	140.00-220.00	190.97
600 -699	150.00-209.00	186.83
700 -799	164.00-182.00	172.00
800 -899	69.00-103.00	81.90
900-999	101.00	101.00

CEU CONFERENCE IN LEE COUNTY TO BE HELD ON MAY 24TH

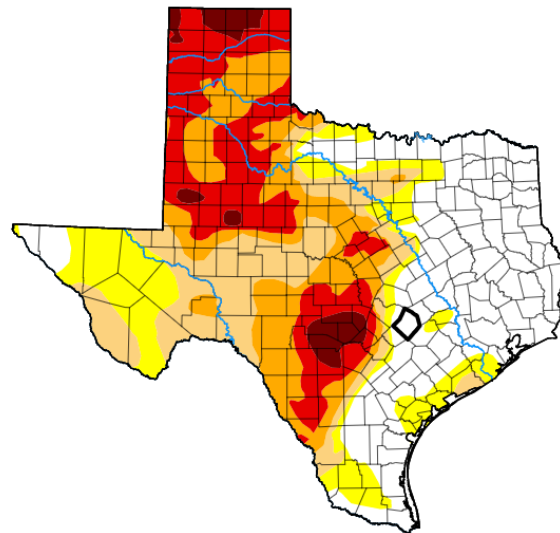
The South-Central Texas Ag Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 24th at the Lee County Extension office, 310 South Grimes Street Giddings, Texas 78942. **5 CEU's will be offered for licensed pesticide applicators**, so if you are in quick need of CEU hours, this is an excellent opportunity to get them! Detailed CEU breakdown and program topics can be found on page 6.

Registration fees are \$45 until May 19th, and \$65 if paying at the door. To pre-register for the event, please visit <https://washington.agrilife.org/ceuconference> and contact the Lee County Extension office at 979-542-2753 for more information.

TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

Bastrop County, TX

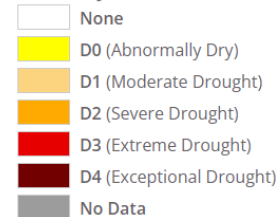
[Home](#) > Bastrop County, TX



Map released: Thurs. May 4, 2023

Data valid: May 2, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

Brad Pugh, NOAA/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying **text summary** for forecast statements.*

**Giddings Livestock
Commission**

May 1st, 2023

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

RAINWATER HARVESTING SEMINAR



Join us for breakfast and coffee and learn the basics of rainwater catchment systems and how to implement them into your home, garden, or property

**Where: Bastrop Area Livestock Show Barn,
Mayfest Park**

- 25 American Legion Dr Bastrop, TX 78602

When: Thursday, May 25th at 8:30am

**RSVP by Monday, May 22nd by calling the
Extension office at 512-581-7186 or by emailing
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu**

SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS AG CONFERENCE

PROGRAM SPONSORED BY GRIMES, LEE, WALLER, AND
WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES

5 CEUs

(2 IPM, 1 L&R, 2 Gen)

May 24, 2023

Lee County Extension Office

310 South Grimes Street
Giddings, Texas 78942

Registration: 8:30am
Program Starts at 9:00am

\$45 Pre-Registration Before 5/19/2023

\$65 Registration at the Door

Please make checks payable to EPC Fund

Topics Include

- Using IPM Strategies to Control Aquatic Vegetation in Texas
- Laws and Regulations
- Herbicide Applications
- Ant Management
- Feral Hog Management

For additional information, please contact your
local County Extension Office

Kyla Moeller
Grimes County
(936) 873-3907

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(979) 542-2753

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(979) 277-6212 ext.2

To pre-register visit:

<https://washington.agrilife.org/ceuconference>



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at (979) 277-6212 prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

AROUND THE COUNTY

Gonzales Livestock Market

April 29th, 2023

Wt	\$ Range
Steers	
150-300	250-270
300-400	267-295
400-500	255-261
500-600	215-242
600-700	205-211
700-800	172-188
Yearling bulls	
700-900	80-115
Heifers	
150-300	235-260
300-400	210-230
400-500	209-238
500-600	201-205
600-700	181-195
Stocker Cows	
750-1700	
Cow-Calf pairs	
1100-2600	

POND MANAGEMENT AND WEED CONTROL SEMINAR ON MAY 12TH

A 2-hour program over pond management will be held on Friday, May 12th at the Bastrop Public Library Maynard Conference Room at 3pm. This seminar aims to provide landowners with knowledge and resources for establishing a pond or stock tank on their property and how to best manage it depending on their goals. **1 General CEU will be provided for pesticide applicators who attend this program.**



Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 10th to ensure enough resources can be provided. To RSVP, please call the Extension office at 512-581-7186.

RAINWATER HARVESTING SEMINAR ON MAY 25TH

Interested in installing a rainwater catchment system for your home or property? Come join us for coffee and breakfast on Thursday, May 25th and learn the in's and outs of rainwater harvesting, including ways rainwater catchment can be implemented, construction of simple and complex catchment systems, and maintenance.

This seminar will be held at 8:30am at the Bastrop Area Livestock Show barn. 25 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx 78602. To RSVP, please call the Extension office at 512-581-7186 by **Monday, May 22nd**.

MOBILE ANIMAL VACCINE CLINIC SPONSORED BY ROCKNE 4-H ON MAY 20TH

Need to get your pet updated on their vaccines? Come join the Rockne 4-H Club for a Mobile Animal Vaccine Clinic on Saturday, March 20th from 9:00am to noon at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4045 Farm to Market 535, Bastrop, TX 78602. Select canine, feline, and equine vaccinations will be administered at low cost. Please see the attached flyer on page 8 for detailed breakdowns. Payments must be in cash or check only. **No debit/credit cards accepted.**



ROCKNE 4-H CLUB
INVITES YOU TO
JOINS US FOR A



MOBILE ANIMAL VACCINE CLINIC

9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
IN ROCKNE

CONDUCTED BY DR. HAYLEIGH
MOORE OF BASTROP VET HOSPITAL

CASH OR CHECK ONLY;
NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



DOG VACCINATIONS

K9 Rabies - \$15 each
K9 DHPP - \$27 each
K9 Bordetella - \$18 each



CAT VACCINATIONS

Feline Rabies - \$15 each
Feline FVRCP - \$27 each
Feline Leukemia - \$27 each



HORSE VACCINATIONS

West Nile/VEWT (combo vacc.) - \$54 each
Equine Rabies - \$20 each
Strep/Strangles (combo vacc.) - \$25 each
Equine Coggins - \$35 each



Questions?

Please contact Luke Bauer
& Rachel Bauer at 512-468-7953



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rockne
4045 Farm to Market
535 Bastrop, TX 78602