

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

November 2023



BEGINNING THE KEMPKEN FAMILY

Dakota Kempken

I hope everyone is enjoying the cool weather and much needed moisture! This month has definitely been a busy one, as I am now officially a married man as of Saturday, November 11th!

With everything winding down, now is a good time to begin making plans for the next growing season and stock up on forage for the winter. The added moisture will hopefully help out our cool season grasses and allow for relief for hay supplementation.

THINGS TO KNOW

TURNING WASTE HAY INTO A SOIL AMENDMENT

Cattle are messy eaters at the hay ring, leading to piles of wasted hay littering the ground. Typically this results in land being completely covered and unusable for forage production for long periods of time and wasted money. Instead of leaving it to waste, dropped hay can still be useful by promoting forage production and soil aggregation during the fall and winter months.

When spread across the ground, hay will over time decompose into organic matter, a necessary soil component for aggregation, water holding capacity, and nutrient content as it allows core plant nutrients, especially Nitrogen, to be restored for later uptake. Additionally, manure is usually mixed into waste hay, increasing Nitrates and other nutrients. Around this time of year, it can be spread across the surface to act as a mulch and protect seeds/dormant grasses from cool-season weed growth. This can be useful when regularly rotating hay feeding stations to promote forage growth in an area that normally sees high rates of compaction, poor drainage, and next to no grass growth.



WEED OF THE MONTH – KING RANCH BLUESTEM

King Ranch, or KR, Bluestem is a warm-season, old-world bluestem introduced for grazing, and has since dominated pastures and roadsides throughout Texas. This aggressive bunchgrass has the potential to form stolons when heavily



grazed, promoting their spread on grazing land and competing with bermudagrass. Young KR has a light green color with some or no ligules at the nodes. They are most recognizable by their seedheads, which reach maturity in the fall. They form many purplish spikelets 3 inches long high above the plant itself. They make for decent grazing on cattle operations, but can be a nuisance on hay meadows and native rangeland.

Control:

Because of their highly aggressive growth pattern, completely eradicating them is near impossible, however it can be done if enough resources are available. Because of this, it is generally recommended to limit their spread as much as possible and simply coexist with KR bluestem on grazing land. Keep stands of native/preferred forage healthy to limit open space for KR to invade, and apply

AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Flatonia Livestock Commission

November 13, 2023

Wt	Rng	Avg
Steers		
100 -199	210.00-272.00	244.00
200 -299	112.00-340.00	252.15
300 -399	200.00-345.00	265.47
400 -499	130.00-310.00	249.39
500 -599	154.00-258.00	217.58
600 -699	162.00-239.00	206.32
700 -799	175.00-231.00	195.64
800 -899	175.00-195.00	186.67
900-999	101.00	101.00
Heifers		
100 -199	47.00-232.00	139.50
200 -299	155.00-285.00	234.89
300 -399	77.00-280.00	228.53
400 -499	75.00-267.00	215.24
500 -599	114.00-260.00	203.58
600 -699	109.00-210.00	192.10
700 -799	67.00-189.00	165.00
800 -899	172.00-175.00	173.50
900-999	175.00	175.00

herbicides to key areas. Seed cleared areas with preferred grasses and watch for KR recolonization.

Herbicides labeled for King Ranch Bluestem:

- Glyphosate

DEALING WITH PINE BARK BEETLES



Pine Beetle bore holes

Pine Bark Beetles continue to be a nuisance for our pine trees with weather conditions keep their systems weak enough to succumb to infestations. I recently had a great opportunity to see the grubs and damage in detail and wanted to share.

Initial infection can be difficult to spot until its too late, and by the time it is noticed, the tree has already died and plenty of grubs inhabit the tree.

Adults bore into the tree's bark to lay their eggs, leaving a small, circular holes in the outer bark. Sometimes they will ooze resin making them more noticeable. When the egg hatches, the beetle larvae consume the inner wood behind the outer bark layer, eventually killing the tree. They remain there until they pupate and turn into adults, where they emerge and spread to nearby pines.



Pine Bark Beetle grub found burrowed in inner bark

Unfortunately, there is no easy way to deal with an already infested tree. Since the grubs reside within it, an infected tree will need to be culled and discarded to prevent further infection. Pesticides are available, however they are usually highly impractical as they are contact insecticides and must be applied to the entire tree, base to crown. If you are able, maintain any desired pines by keeping them healthy to help the tree withstand infestation. A weakened tree will be much less able survive infestation.

TCAA GUN RAFFLE

The Texas County Ag Agents Association is hosting a 21-gun raffle in support of the National Association of County Ag Agents annual meeting in Dallas. A wide range of firearms are up for grabs through this raffle, from pistols to shotguns, for only \$100 per ticket now through December 15th! See the attached flier for further details and firearms offered. Only a limited amount of tickets are available, so if you would like to enter, please call the Extension office to check for availability!



-TCAA- GUN RAFFLE



TEXAS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS ASSOCIATION



IN SUPPORT OF THE 2024 NACAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE



- RUGER PRO 5.7X28
- BENELLI SUPER BLACK EAGLE 3
- BERETTA A400
- BERGARA RIDGE 6.5 CREEDMOR
- BROWNING CITORI
- BROWNING XBOLT 300 WIN
- CHRISTENSEN ARMS 6.5 PRC META
- FN FNX-45
- HENRY 22WMR
- HENRY BIG BOY STEEL 357MAG
- MOSSBERG SILVER RESERVE
- REMINGTON 870 PUMP
- RUGER 357MAG
- RUGER SFAR 308
- S&W LADYSMITH 38 SPL
- SHADOW SYSTEMS MR920 9MM
- SIG SAUER P320-M17 9MM
- SPRINGFIELD SAINT 5.56
- SPRINGFIELD HELLCAT 9MM
- TIKKA HUNTER 243
- WIN SUPER X4



\$100 PER TICKET

Drawing will be on Facebook live on the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association - TCAA in District 12 Facebook Page at 12:00 noon.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024



**Giddings Livestock
Commission**

November 13, 2023

Wt	Avg	High
Steers		
150-300	237	350
300-400	280	325
400-500	246	315
500-600	223	252.50
600-700	211	230
700-800	194	207.50
Heifers		
150-300	235	285
300-400	249	280
400-500	228	275
500-600	211	240
600-700	198	217.50
700-800	180	195
Yearling bulls		
700-850	170-205	
850-1000	110-180	
Packer cows		
Top	90-108	
Med.	65-80	
Thin	25-60	



LUNCH AND LEARN: ORGANIC PEST MANAGEMENT

Learn how to keep your garden/flower bed free of pests without synthetic chemicals



\$5 at the door

Lunch materials and drinks will be provided, or Bring your own lunch!

- Monday, December 4th

For more information, contact:

- Bastrop Public Library
 - 1100 Church St.
 - Bastrop, Tx 78602

Bastrop County AgriLife Extension
512-581-7186
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu

- Program begins at 12:00

AROUND THE COUNTY

Gonzales Livestock Market

November 11, 2023

Wt	\$ Range
Steers	
150-300	285-310
300-400	255-305
400-500	245-315
500-600	237-250
600-700	220-240
700-800	175-195
Yearling bulls	
700-900	90-155
Heifers	
150-300	282-295
300-400	267-310
400-500	225-225
500-600	203-220
600-700	172-207
Stocker Cows	
750-2,000	
Cow-Calf pairs	
1,100-2,000	

TESTING CAMPAIGN RESULTS ARE IN

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Soil/Water/Forage Testing Campaign! We have received the results for the submitted samples and have sent them to their respective people. If you have not received your testing results, please contact the Extension office at 512-581-7186.

LUNCH AND LEARN: ORGANIC PEST MANAGEMENT ON DECEMBER 4TH

It may be the cool season, but now is a good time to begin planning your garden for the growing season next year, and part of that includes developing a pest management plan.

Come by for lunch to learn how to build an Integrated Pest Management plan around organic principles! This program will be held at the Bastrop Public Library's Pressley Meeting Room. Doors will open at 11:30am and attendance will be \$5 at the door. Lunch materials will be provided, but feel free to bring your own lunch! For further information, please contact the Extension office or email me at Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu.