

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

April 2025



MID SPRING FIRE WEATHER

Dakota Kempken

Fire season appears to have begun already with a string of hot weather, little moisture, and windy conditions make for excellent fire weather. Make sure you are taking precautions against factors that can spark fires. Clear cutting equipment of debris, keep equipment well maintained, and monitor fuel loads in pastures and rangeland.

THINGS TO KNOW

SMITHVILLE LIVESTOCK SHOW ON APRIL 26TH

Come out to the Smithville Jamboree at Vernon Richards Park on Saturday, April 26th to come support Smithville 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors at the annual Smithville Livestock Show! Judging begins at 8:00AM Saturday morning and auction is at 4:30pm.

TAKING SOIL SAMPLES

As the warm season begins, soil fertility is going to become crucial for a strong and healthy plant in the early growing season. Major macro and micronutrients are going to be greatly needed this time of year for adequate shoot, leaf, and root growth, and to make sure an adequate amount is supplied, landowners and producers should keep up-to-date information on soil fertility. The best way to do this is to conduct a soil fertility test.

Texas A&M AgriLife provides soil testing kits for free at each county office. After obtaining one, the collection process is simple. Select 10 locations at random to represent the pasture or plot being tested, then dig into the first 4 – 6 inches of soil and collect about a cup's worth of soil from this depth. Repeat nine more times and mix samples together in a large bowl. After mixing, pour the sample into the provided soil testing bag and mail the sample bag and completed submission form with payment to the TAMU Soil Testing Laboratory in College Station. Results will be returned after around two weeks, depending on laboratory workload.



For any questions about soil testing, contact the Bastrop County Extension office.

WEED OF THE MONTH: HEARTLEAF NETTLE

Heartleaf nettle, AKA Fireweed, is a painful weed that grows in shaded and rocky environments and is notoriously painful to the touch. As with other nettles, fireweed is covered in small stinging hairs on every part of the plant, causing extremely painful irritation that can even penetrate clothing. Fireweed is also easy to identify by its near heart-shaped leaves with serrated edges. Flowering parts are mostly inconspicuous and rely on wind for pollination. Despite its painful touch, fireweed

still serves an important role for pollinators by acting as a host plant for multiple native butterflies.

Heartleaf nettle is generally not considered as much of a nuisance as other nettles as the plant prefers low-productivity areas, naturally dies back with hot weather, and is generally avoided by cattle. It can, however, intrude into yard spaces or into moist bottomlands, which may warrant control for ease of access.

Herbicides listed for Heartleaf nettle:

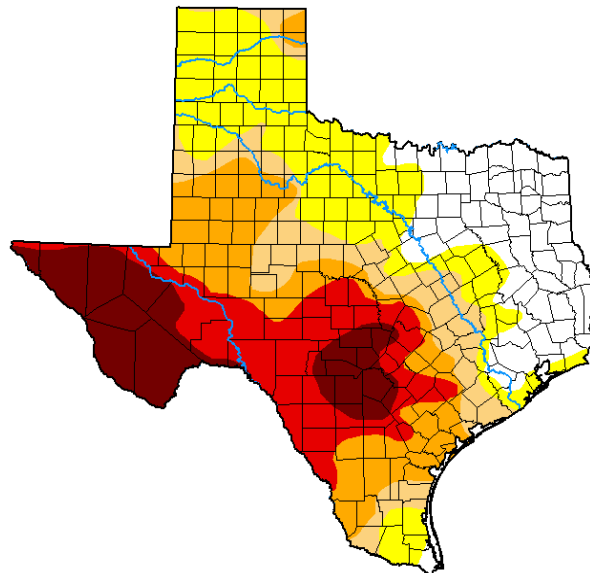
- 2,4-D: 2,4-D amine, GrazonNext HL
- Triclopyr: Remedy Ultra, PastureGard HL
- Glyphosate: Roundup, Rodeo



TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

April 8, 2025
(Released Thursday, Apr. 10, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Giddings Livestock Commission – April 14th

| Weight | Steers | | Heifers | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| | Avg | High | Avg | High |
| 150 – 300 | \$451 | \$530 | \$411 | \$520 |
| 300 – 400 | \$399 | \$490 | \$357 | \$412.50 |
| 400 – 500 | \$354 | \$410 | \$329 | \$375 |
| 500 – 600 | \$312 | \$375 | \$300 | \$347.50 |
| 600 – 700 | \$295 | \$340 | \$258 | \$345 |
| 700 – 800 | \$244 | \$300 | \$230 | \$280 |
| Packer bulls | | | | |
| | Top | \$170 – 190 | | |
| | Medium | \$150 – 165 | | |
| Stocker Females | | | | |
| | Stocker pairs | \$2,350 – 3,500 | | |
| | Bred cows | \$1,400 – 2,800 | | |
| Packer Cows | | | | |
| | Top | \$135 – 161 | | |
| | Medium | \$121 – 134 | | |
| | Thin | \$90 – 120 | | |

Lockhart Auction – April 10th

| Weight | Steers | Heifers |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| <300 | \$280 – 630 | \$270 – 585 |
| 300 – 400 | \$270 – 515 | \$265 – 435 |
| 400 – 500 | \$245 – 425 | \$240 – 390 |
| >500 | \$195 – 385 | \$190 – 365 |
| | Packer Cows | \$95 – 161 |
| | Packer Bulls | \$148 – 180 |
| | Stocker Cows | \$1,075 – 2,600 |
| | Cow/Calf Pairs | \$1,200 – 3,450 |

Gonzales Livestock Market – April 12th

| Weight | Steers | Heifers |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| 150 – 300 | \$400 – 525 | \$320 – 415 |
| 300 – 400 | \$325 – 445 | \$285 – 370 |
| 400 – 500 | \$285 – 405 | \$285 – 345 |
| 500 – 600 | \$265 – 375 | \$245 – 295 |
| 600 – 700 | \$250 – 315 | \$245 – 275 |
| 700 – 800 | \$245 – 255 | |
| | Yearling Bulls | \$175 – 215 |
| | Stocker Cows | \$900 – 2,100 |
| | Pairs | \$1,800 – 3,000 |

Rangeland Plant ID Workshop

Thursday, May 8th
9:00am - 1:30pm

2 Pesticide Applicator CEU's Offered

Paige Community Center
117 Main St, Paige, TX 78659



- Rangeland Forage Management in the Post Oak Savannah
- Range Plant ID Field Tour Courtesy of Pines and Prairies Land Trust
- Water Intensive Brush Management - **1 General CEU**
- Rangeland Restoration - **1 General CEU**



\$15 registration fee

\$10 late registration fee after May 5th

Exact change, check, or online payment accepted. Scan the QR code to pay by card.



Doors open at 8:30am

For questions or to pre-register, please contact the Bastrop County AgriLife Extension Office

15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx 78602
512-581-7186
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

LUNCH AND LEARN: ALTERNATIVE GRAZING STRATEGIES

Rethink grazing management to promote soil conservation and forage productivity



\$5 Due to the Extension Office by May 15th

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

- Friday, May 16th, 2025
- Bastrop County Extension Office
 - 15 American Legion Dr.
Bastrop, Tx
- Program begins at 11:30am

Check or exact change only. For credit card registration, please follow the QR code:



For more information, contact:
Bastrop County AgriLife Extension
512-581-7186
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

RANGELAND PLANT ID WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY, MAY 8TH

Understanding and recognizing common rangeland plants can greatly benefit landowners and livestock producers better manage their property. Come up to Paige Community Center, 117 Main St. on Thursday, May 8th for a workshop on rangeland plant ID and weed/forage management. **2 General CEU's will be offered** to pesticide applicator license holders. Doors open at 8:30am!

Pre-registration is required to reserve your seat. A pre-registration fee of \$15 is due to the Bastrop County extension office by May 5th, payable by exact change, check payable to Bastrop County Ag Demonstration Fund, or by paying online via the QR code on the flyer. For any questions, please contact the Bastrop Extension office at 512-581-7186!

LUNCH & LEARN: ALTERNATIVE GRAZING STRATEGIES ON FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

Join us for lunch at the Bastrop County Community Center, 15 American Legion Dr. on Friday, May 16th for Alternative Grazing Strategies! Lunch materials and drinks will be provided, however you are encouraged to bring your own lunch as well.

A \$5 fee is due to the Bastrop County Extension office to reserve your seat and ensure enough lunch/snack materials are provided. To reserve your seat, please submit payment to the Bastrop Extension office via exact change, by check payable to Bastrop County Ag Demonstration Fund, or via card by scanning the QR code on the flyer. Doors open at 11:00am!