

# LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



## HIGH TEMPERATURES HIT EARLY

Dakota Kempken

Records are already expected to be set this week with triple-digit temperatures in the recent forecast. Keep an eye on yourselves, your employees, and your animals for signs of overheating. Keep an eye on the condition of stock tanks and water wells and ensure they are kept in good condition to keep the water flowing!

## THINGS TO KNOW

# PECAN NUT CASEBARIER MONITORING IN BASTROP COUNTY

*Eddie Kyle Slusher, Extension Specialist (Pecan, Viticulture, and Fruit Entomology)*

The pecan nut casebearer (PNC) is a native moth whose larvae feed on the nuts of pecan trees. Adult moths are about 1/3 of an inch long and light gray with a prominent fringe of dark scales between the head and top of the wings. The larvae are white or pink when they first hatch but turn an olive or jade green as they mature.



Mature larvae are around 1 inch in length. Historically, the moth was found along the range of native pecan trees including Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Southern Ohio, and Mexico. As pecan trees have been cultivated in areas outside their native range, the moths have followed and are now found all through the southeast and as far west as New

Mexico. PNC are an economically important pest of pecan. While there are 3-4 generations a year, the 1<sup>st</sup> generation is often the most destructive. A three-year study in Texas found that 1<sup>st</sup> generation PNC destroyed 8-40% of nuts and caused crop losses as high as 95%.

Use of pheromone traps to monitor male moth flights is critical to determine when to spray for PNC larvae. By determining Biofix (when two male moths are caught on back-to-back trapping dates), we can forecast when we expect to see egg lay in the orchard. Determining PNC egg lay is important, as recently hatched larvae are the only stage known to be vulnerable to an insecticide application. This field season, through a partnership with FMC, we have been deploying Cropvue Smart Delta traps throughout various pecan growing regions of Texas including Bastrop County.

Through this program, we hope to help coordinate monitoring and management efforts for PNC across the Texas Pecan Industry. Please visit

<https://pecan.agpestmonitor.org/pecan-nut-casebearer-risk-map/> to see trap

capture updates across Texas. To determine your own predictions on when to see egg lay in the orchard based on PNC Biofix, please visit here:

<https://pecan.agpestmonitor.org/ipmtoolbox/forecast/>.

## **BE WATCHFUL OF NEW WORLD SCREWWORMS**

In 2023 and 2024, much of Central America and Mexico experienced an outbreak of New World Screwworm flies. Although they have been eradicated in the United States and steps have been taken to prevent reinfestation, such as the May 11<sup>th</sup> decision by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to suspend live animal imports along the U.S.-Mexico border, the risk of migration and infestation is always present.

Screwworms feed by burrowing into live tissue, screwing deeper into the host akin to a screw driven into wood. If left untreated, screwworm infestation can cause severe harm to the host animal and can potentially kill them. The adult stage can be difficult to spot. Adult flies are similar in size to a house fly, but are recognizable by their orange eyes and metallic blue and green body with three dark stripes along their back.

## **BEEF CATTLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HORN FLY CONTROL DEMONSTRATION**

Horn flies pose a constant, yearly nuisance to beef cattle by parasitizing juvenile and adult livestock, piercing the skin and drinking their blood. Horn fly populations over 200 individuals can result in reduced weight gain and milk production, and increasing stress, and with the rainfall seen recently, a surge in population can be expected.

Multiple strategies exist with multiple products on the market, but newer producers may find the options overwhelming. I am looking to provide guidance by comparing commonly used horn fly control strategies for their effectiveness in controlling adult flies. I am needing roughly 12 – 20 head of beef cattle to test 3 different control strategies in comparison to a control group. Each group will be monitored for about 4 weeks and fly populations will be counted each week. If you are willing to host this, please reach out to me at any time at [Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu)!

## **WEED OF THE MONTH: RAIN LILY**

After a rain event every spring, white flowers appear seemingly overnight all over the landscape. These flowers are known as the prairie rain lily, or simply rain lily. Rain lilies are a native wildflower that grow from black underground bulbs and sprout rapidly after precipitation. Leaves are long and linear in shape and up to 14

inches long, taking on a grass-like growth pattern and ending in dead tips. The flower stalk reaches the same height and ends in a single white flower.

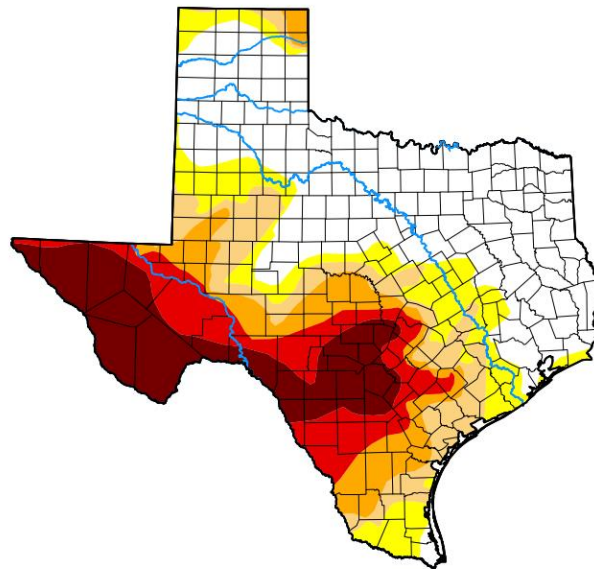
While Prairie lilies are short lasting, lilies in our area have been known to cause photosensitivity in livestock that ingest the dead leaf tips. This condition is usually not fatal but can result in sunburns or potentially blindness in deer and black cattle. However, this is in extreme cases and is not usually expected.









## TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

*U.S. Drought Monitor*  
**Texas**

**May 6, 2025**  
(Released Thursday, May. 8, 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:***

Brad Pugh  
CPC/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# AUCTION BARN REPORTS

## Giddings Livestock Commission – May 12th

Weight	Steers		Heifers	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
150 – 300	\$494	\$560	\$411	\$485
300 – 400	\$444	\$520	\$382	\$445
400 – 500	\$393	\$455	\$362	\$420
500 – 600	\$344	\$400	\$320	\$400
600 – 700	\$308	\$360	\$297	\$330
700 – 800	\$265	\$310	\$239	\$280
Packer bulls				
	Top	\$175 – 200		
	Medium	\$150 – 170		
Stocker Females				
	Stocker pairs	\$1,950 – 3,250		
	Bred cows	\$1,400 – 2,800		
Packer Cows				
	Top	\$140 – 168		
	Medium	\$120 – 135		
	Thin	\$95 – 115		

## Lockhart Auction – May 5th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
<300	\$300 – 655	\$280 – 640
300 – 400	\$275 – 510	\$275 – 435
400 – 500	\$240 – 425	\$260 – 410
>500	\$205 – 395	\$220 – 345
	Packer Cows	\$102 – 163
	Packer Bulls	\$155 – 180
	Stocker Cows	\$1,000 – 2,650
	Cow/Calf Pairs	\$1,350 – 3,150

## Gonzales Livestock Market – May 10th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
150 – 300	\$400 – 550	\$320 – 415
300 – 400	\$325 – 515	\$290 – 430
400 – 500	\$285 – 450	\$275 – 375
500 – 600	\$275 – 395	\$265 – 330
600 – 700	\$270 – 330	\$210 – 315
700 – 800	\$215 – 290	
	Yearling Bulls	\$175 – 225
	Stocker Cows	\$900 – 2,300
	Pairs	\$1,800 – 3,700



# DEDICATED TO QUALITY

**IT'S NOT ABOUT A HERE-TODAY, GONE-TOMORROW TREND.**

Texas Beef Quality Assurance promotes modern best management practices proven to help strengthen consumer confidence in beef as a wholesome food product.

Build trust, enhance your reputation, and showcase your commitment to excellence by attending a FREE training near you and earning your BQA certification.

Be proud of the beef you produce by learning best practices in beef safety, product quality, environmental stewardship and animal well-being.

**Beef Quality Assurance Training**  
Hosted by: Bastrop County

May 29, 2025

BQA Registration: 8:30 a.m.  
BQA Training: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Free Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Bastrop County Extension Office  
15 American Legion Dr. Ste. 109  
Bastrop, TX 78602

Contact Dakota Kempken to register:  
dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu or (512) 581-7186



# 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

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Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## Rangeland Plant ID Workshop

Monday, May 19th  
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 16th

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

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## **RANGELAND PLANT ID WORKSHOP PUSHED BACK TO MONDAY, MAY 19th**

There is still time to sign up for the Rangeland Plant ID Workshop in Paige, now pushed back to Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> due to recent rainfall. Doors open at 8:30am and we will begin promptly at 9:00 with an introduction and pasture tour!

## **LUNCH & LEARN: ALTERNATIVE GRAZING STRATEGIES ON FRIDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

Join us for lunch at the Bastrop County Community Center, 15 American Legion Dr. on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING ON MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

Producing high quality beef products remains an ever crucial goal for both Texas beef producers and consumers, which is why learning the science-backed strategies in animal care and quality control remain an ever beneficial experience. On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Bastrop County and Travis County AgriLife Extension will be hosting a Beef Quality Assurance training session at the Bastrop County Extension Office (15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx) sponsored by Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Texas Beef Quality Assurance promotes modern best management practices proven to help strengthen consumer confidence in beef as a wholesome food product. This training will cover best management practices like beef cattle safety, land stewardship, animal well-being, and product quality. This training is FREE for participants, and lunch will be provided. Doors open at 8:30am and training begins at 9:00am. To RSVP, please contact the Bastrop County Extension Office by contacting us at 512-581-7186 or by email at [Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu).