

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



BACK IN THE OFFICE

Dakota Kempken

July has been a busy month, but I am happy to say that mom and baby are doing very well. With that said, I am now back in office and ready to resume regularly scheduled programming!

THINGS TO KNOW

GREAT TURNOUT AT 2ND ANNUAL CENTRAL TEXAS BEEF AND FORAGE CONFERENCE

The Central Texas Beef and Forage Conference saw its second year on Thursday, July 24th at St. Mary's Catholic Church event hall in Rosanky. 40 participants from Bastrop, Caldwell, and Gonzales Counties received information on grass weed management in hay pastures, control of prickly pear cacti, and rangeland restoration practices, with guest speakers Dr. Karl Harborth, Extension beef cattle specialist and Dr. Tom Hairgrove, Extension veterinary specialist, discussing the current New World Screwworm situation and establishing a vaccination schedule.

Participants with pesticide applicators licenses received 4 CEU's as part of the event. We look forward to holding this event again next year, and for more information on this and other educational opportunities, please stay up to date on our activities!



BASTROP AGRILIFE WEBSITE BEING ARCHIVED, TRANSFERRED TO A NEW SITE

Our current website, Bastrop.agrilife.org, is scheduled to be archived in September while our main website will be relocated to the broader AgriLife Extension website, <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/> as part of a broader consolidation effort by the state Extension office. News and updates on county Extension and 4-H activities can be found there as we further customize and develop the page.

FALL WEBWORMS MAKE THEIR ANNUAL APPEARANCE

Fall webworms are showing their signs again this year and once again impacting pecan and fruit trees across the county.

Fall webworms are a common caterpillar pest that target the canopy of trees for feeding and nesting. Individual caterpillars grow to about one inch in length and have greenish or pale yellow bodies covered in long whitish hairs. Heads are black or



reddish in color. Adult moths are mostly white with dark spots on the wings. However webworms are most easily recognized by their nests.

Fall webworms construct loose webbing around clusters of leaves and branches to safely feed on the leaves inside. These nests can envelop large portions of tree canopies and make control by both insect predators and humans highly difficult. For proper webworm control, maintaining a large beneficial insect population, or spraying foliar insecticides, in the spring and early summer should be prioritized. This period catches caterpillars after they have hatched, but before they can build their nests. If spraying insecticides, the active ingredients carbaryl, chlorpyrifos, and Spinosad are effective. Bt is also an effective insecticide and has the added benefit of being exclusively effective against larval moths and butterflies like Fall Webworm.

WEED OF THE MONTH: RYEGRASS

Annual and perennial rye is a double-edged sword for many beef and forage producers. On one hand, it provides fantastic cool-season forage and soil stabilizer for livestock and hay production, but for warm-season forage production, it can become a hindrance by delaying the break of dormancy and taking up space. Both annual and perennial rye are



native to Europe and can be found throughout the US due to planting in pastures and lawns. It grows roughly 24 to 36 inches in height and stems and leaves are dark green with dark, swollen joints. Leaves are smooth and glossy to the touch. The inflorescence (cluster of flowers) reaches up to 12 inches and is yellow in color. The seeds are elliptical in shape with a pointed tip, and do not have awns.

Annual ryegrass can be utilized as a temporary soil stabilizer in soil management, but established populations may need management depending on the landowner's management goals. Several options exist for control:

1. Graze it: Livestock will seek out and prefer ryegrass as forage.
2. Bale it: If a sufficient population is available, it can be baled and sold.
3. Spray it: Using a mixture of pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides can suppress ryegrass growth in bermudagrass pastures.

TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

Bastrop County, TX

[Home](#) / Bastrop County, TX

Map released: Thurs. August 7, 2025

Data valid: August 5, 2025 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

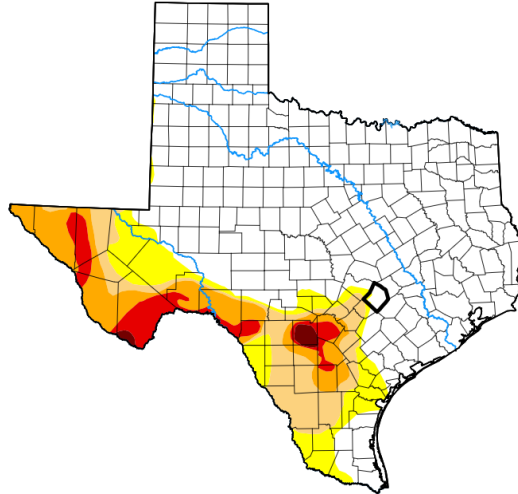
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Richard Tinker](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Lindsay Johnson](#), National Drought Mitigation Center



AUCTION BARN REPORTS

Giddings Livestock Commission – August 4th

Weight	Steers		Heifers	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
150 – 300	\$484	\$610	\$420	\$525
300 – 400	\$438	\$530	\$408	\$510
400 – 500	\$384	\$480	\$359	\$495
500 – 600	\$350	\$397.50	\$331	\$450
600 – 700	\$326	\$365	\$316	\$425
700 – 800	\$295	\$340	\$288	\$340
Packer bulls				
	Top	\$185 – 202		
	Medium	\$165 – 175		
Stocker Females				
	Stocker pairs	\$1,750 – 4,800		
	Bred cows	\$1,550 – 3,650		
Packer Cows				
	Top	\$155 – 179		
	Medium	\$139 – 154		
	Thin	\$95 – 138		

Lockhart Auction – August 6th

Weight	Steers	Heifers
<300	\$340 – 665	\$330 – 645
300 – 400	\$340 – 540	\$320 – 505
400 – 500	\$310 – 500	\$310 – 460
>500	\$260 – 390	\$240 – 410
	Packer Cows	\$112 – 174
	Packer Bulls	\$165 – 192
	Stocker Cows	\$1,350 – 3,400
	Cow/Calf Pairs	\$1,750 – 3,650

Gonzales Livestock Market – August 2nd

Weight	Steers	Heifers
150 – 300	\$400 – 750	\$375 – 650
300 – 400	\$325 – 540	\$290 – 450
400 – 500	\$295 – 500	\$275 – 435
500 – 600	\$275 – 400	\$265 – 355
600 – 700	\$270 – 365	\$295 – 325
700 – 800	\$295 – 325	
	Yearling Bulls	\$185 – 275
	Stocker Cows	\$900 – 2,900
	Pairs	\$1,800 – 4,350

FALL PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

September 9th, 2025



- Where: Bastrop County Community Center
 - 15 American Legion Dr.
- When: 9:00am - 12:30pm

\$65 registration fee due to the Bastrop County Extension Office by **Wednesday, August 27th**. Exact change only or pay by check payable to:
Bastrop County Ag Demonstration Fund

If paying by card, scan the QR Code



For more information, please contact the extension office at 512-581-7186 or at dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu

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FALL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING SEPTEMBER 9TH

Interested in obtaining a private pesticide applicators' license? Bastrop County Extension will be holding a pesticide applicator training session for the Fall on Tuesday, September 9th from 9:00am to 12:30pm at the Bastrop County Community Center, 15 American Legion Dr. in Bastrop. This is a required training in order to apply for the Texas Department of Agriculture's pesticide applicator license, and will cover all aspects of pesticide/herbicide application best practices to best prepare participants for the licensing exam.

To ensure enough materials are provided, a \$65 fee is due to the Bastrop County Extension Office by noon on Wednesday, August 27th. For further information on payment methods or the event itself, please contact the Bastrop Extension office at 512-581-7186.