

LOST PINES COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

October 2026



GOOD TO SEE SOME RAINFALL THIS MONTH

Dakota Kempken

Who knew water actually fell from the sky... This recent moisture was a welcome sight to see as we transition into the cool season and warm season plants fall into dormancy. While the rainfall certainly would have been well welcomed in the heat of summer, an early fall shower will definitely be helpful as we go into the fall. Additionally, fall is a very active time for Bastrop County Extension! Have a look through the upcoming county events and make sure they are added to your calendar.

THINGS TO KNOW

FERAL HOG BOUNTY IS BACK FOR 2026 - 2027

Bastrop County's annual feral hog bounty has restarted for the 2026 – 2027 year has begun! If you are experiencing feral hogs on your property, this is your opportunity to both reduce or eliminate invasive feral hogs while also receiving payment for it! Bastrop County residents who harvest feral hogs within Bastrop County lines are eligible to receive a payout of \$5.00 per pair of ears turned in. Ear pairs can be submitted with scalp or in individual pairs. To submit entry into the bounty, please deliver ear pairs in gallon bags to the following drop off locations and fill out the provided form:

- Smith Supply Co.
 - 764 NW Loop 230, Smithville, Tx 78957
- Elgin General Store
 - 1155 Dildy Dr. Elgin, Tx 78621
- Paige Tractor Co.
 - 4409 US-290, Paige, Tx 78659

Hogs can be harvested by any legal means. Alternatively, receipt from an approved Texas Animal Health Commission feral hog holding facility. A list of currently approved facilities can be found here:

https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/swine/pdf/FeralSwineFacilities.pdf

LEGUMES CAN PROVIDE NITROGEN

Vanessa Corrier Oleson – Forage Fax

Commercial fertilizers are the most costly input for warm season grass forage production for hay and pastures. With high fertilizer prices there is increased interest in utilizing legumes to offset the cost of nitrogen. Here are some facts that you need to keep in mind when deciding whether or not to introduce cool season legumes into your forage system:



Arrowleaf Clover

- Clovers are cool season legumes with the ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen as a result of their symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobium*. **Specific *Rhizobium* inoculant is required for each clover species.** Although most clover seed has been pre-inoculated and sold as pelleted seed, one should always confirm that

inoculation has occurred. Otherwise, N-fixation will be very reduced to even non-existent.

- There are several species and cultivars of clovers adapted to different locations in TX. Soil type and drainage are the primary factors that can influence the adaptability of species to a location in a vegetational region. The [WebSoil Survey](#) is a valuable resource that can be used to learn more about the soil characteristics of your property. Examples are as follows. Dixie crimson and Apache arrowleaf clover are good choices for sandy or sandy loam upland soils in east Texas but neither of these species are adapted to high pH soils of central Texas. White clover will provide late spring and early summer grazing in either east or central Texas but must be planted on bottomland sites with good moisture availability in winter and spring. Hairy vetch and medics are good choices for upland sites in central Texas.
- Legumes are generally more sensitive than forage grasses to nutrient deficiencies and low soil pH. Successful legume production in pastures depends on maintaining adequate levels of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) with a soil pH of at least 6.0. Even though N fertilization is not required, fertilizers containing P and K may be needed to maintain productive and persistent stands. Without adequate P and K or when grown in acid soils, legume stands will be unproductive and unreliable.
- The full potential N-fixation and contribution of clovers to the subsequent production of warm season grasses is only accomplished if the grazed plant material is returned to the soil and by grazing livestock via excreta. This returns over 80% of the consumed nutrients by feces and urine. If the clover crop is removed from the pasture as hay, haylage or silage, the clover N contribution is decreased.
- Management strategies for clovers and legumes may fit well into a natural re-seeding with hay harvest for example. Re-seeded clovers provides the opportunity for earlier grazing in the winter-spring and also reduces costs related to new seeding each year.



A steer grazing arrowleaf clover in East Texas

WEED OF THE MONTH: LITTLE BARLEY

Little barley is a native, cool season annual bunchgrass that can be an important inclusion in erosion control seed mixes. Culms (the stem of a grass) reach anywhere from 4 to 15 inches in height, with narrow leaves that range from 1.5 to 4.7 inches in



*Illustration of little barley
(Hordeum pusillum)*

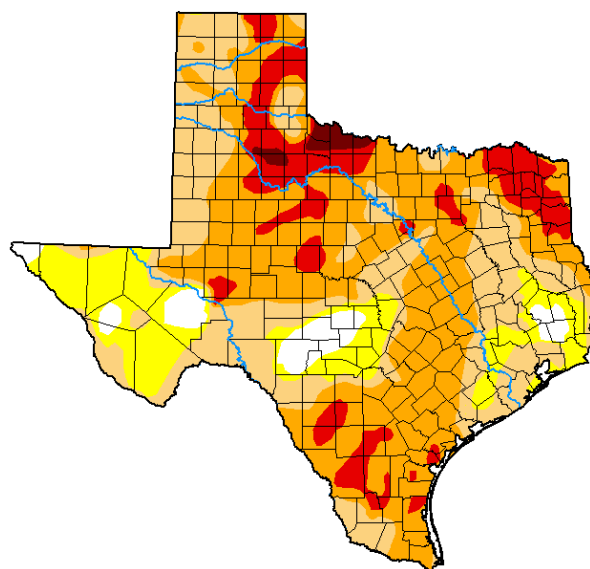
length. Seed spikelets of little barley are narrow but very dense, reaching up to 2 inches in length.

While little barley is generally considered poor grazing for livestock and most wildlife, it's spikelets provide seed forage value for wild turkeys. Additionally, this grass thrives in overgrazed and heavily disturbed soil, making it a choice plant for early erosion control in the fall and early winter. To best control little barley, manage your grazing regime to prevent overgrazing by establishing a rest-rotation system. Active management of little barley can be achieved through applications of glyphosate herbicides.

TEXAS DROUGHT MONITOR UPDATE

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

October 6, 2026
(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026)
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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Need soil, forage, or well water tested? AgriLife can help!

- Select forage, soil, and water tests will be offered at a discounted rate*
- October 7th through October 28th
- Contact the Bastrop County AgriLife Extension office for details
 - 512-581-7186



*Only select tests offered at a discount. Tests will be mailed out weekly. Water bacteriology tests must be submitted the same day as collection on certain days. Bacteriology samples accepted by noon on October 14th, 21st, and 28th.

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Giddings Livestock Commission – October 5th

Weight	Steers		Heifers	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
150 – 300	\$499	\$565	\$441	\$530
300 – 400	\$450	\$540	\$417	\$480
400 – 500	\$399	\$485	\$362	\$422.50
500 – 600	\$349	\$400	\$337	\$435
600 – 700	\$328	\$349	\$315	\$430
700 – 800	\$320	\$333	\$286	\$335
Packer bulls				
	Top	\$170 – 175		
	Medium	\$150 – 165		
Stocker Females				
	Stocker pairs	\$2,900 – 3,850		
	Bred cows	\$1,950 – 5,250		
Packer Cows				
	Top	\$126 – 138		
	Medium	\$118 – 125		
	Thin	\$80 – 117		

Lockhart Auction – October 1st

Weight	Steers	Heifers
<300	\$330 – 640	\$310 – 610
300 – 400	\$320 – 525	\$300 – 485
400 – 500	\$300 – 460	\$300 – 500
>500	\$280 – 415	\$255– 385
	Packer Cows	\$88 – 142
	Packer Bulls	\$152 – 183
	Stocker Cows	\$1,550 – 4,300
	Cow/Calf Pairs	\$1,500 – 4,400

Gonzales Livestock Market – October 3rd

Weight	Steers	Heifers
150 – 300	\$425 – 810	\$375 – 710
300 – 400	\$410 – 570	\$335 – 510
400 – 500	\$335 – 455	\$320 – 425
500 – 600	\$315 – 370	\$305 – 365
600 – 700	\$295 – 360	\$310 – 335
700 – 800	\$305 – 350	
	Yearling Bulls	\$225 – 265
	Stocker Cows	\$2,100– 3,100
	Pairs	\$2,200– 3,700

2026 BASTROP/FAYETTE FALL AG PRODUCERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 6th, 2026

5 CEU's Offered

- Pasture Mealybug Control - 1 IPM
- Laws and Regulations Updates - 1 Laws & Regs
- Invasive Grass Management on Rangeland - 1 IPM
- Recovering from Pasture Mealybug Damage - 1 Gen.
- New World Screwworm Situation Update - 1 Gen.

**Registration begins at
8:30am. Program begins
at 9:00am**



Smithville Veterans of Foreign Wars

557 NW Loop 230
Smithville, Tx 78957

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

Registration: \$40
\$10 late fee after Friday, Oct. 23rd.

Paid to:
Fayette Beef Committee
255 Svoboda Ln #134. La Grange, Tx 78945
or
Bastrop County Ag Demonstration Fund
15 American Legion Dr. Ste. 109. Bastrop,
Tx 78602

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ANNUAL SOIL, WATER, AND FORAGE TESTING CAMPAIGN ONGOING THROUGH OCTOBER 28th

Bastrop County AgriLife Extension would like to invite you to participate in our annual soil, water, and forage testing campaign! From October 7th to October 28th, select forage, soil (for ag production and homeowners), and water tests will be offered at discounted rates. Below lists the offered discounts on soil, forage, and water:

- Soil
 - Routine Analysis – \$12 → \$8
 - (pH, NO₃-N, Conductivity and Mehlich III P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, S, Boron) (This test is a base test for basic fertilizer recommendations.)
 - Routine + Micronutrients – \$20 → \$15
 - (Adds Zn, Fe, Cu, and Mn to test 1.)
- Water
 - Bacteriology – \$15
 - Elemental analysis – \$40 → \$30
 - (Conductivity, pH, Na, Ca, Mg, K, CO₃²⁻, HCO₃⁻, SO₄²⁻, Cl⁻, P, B, Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Nitrate-N. Hardness, and SAR)
- Forage
 - NIR – \$8 → \$5
 - (Protein, Fiber, TDN, IVTD—pure grass, alfalfa, and clovers only)
 - NIR + Nitrates – \$15
 - Protein + Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF) – \$19
 - Protein + ADF + Nitrates – \$29

Please note that bacteriology samples are provided by Aqua Water Supply and must be delivered to the Bastrop County Extension office by 12PM noon on October 14th, 21st, and 28th. Elemental water samples through TAMU will only be accepted by 12PM noon on October 28th. Water samples submitted outside of these days will not be accepted. For any questions or to pick up a sample kit, please visit the Bastrop County Extension Office at 15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx 78602. For questions, please contact Dakota Kempken at 512-581-7186 or by email at Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu.

BASTROP/FAYETTE COUNTY FALL AG PRODUCERS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 6th

Bastrop and Fayette Counties would like to invite you to the Smithville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1309 meeting hall on Friday, November 6th, 2026 for the annual Bastrop/Fayette County Fall Ag Producers Conference. Beef and forage producers, landowners, and stakeholders are invited to participate in fellowship and connection building with stakeholders, specialists, and other producers and landowners, and education in relevant beef and forage education. Topics of discussion will include pasture mealybug control and recovery, invasive grass management on rangeland, and new world screwworm situation updates and control/prevention strategies.

5 continuing education units (CEU's) are being offered to pesticide applicators license holders, including 2 General CEU's 1 Laws and Regulations CEU, and 2 Integrated Pest Management CEU's.

Registration is due to the Bastrop County Extension office (15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx 78602) or Fayette County Extension office (255 Svoboda Ln #134, La Grange, Tx 78945) by Friday, October 23rd. To register, please submit a \$40 payment via exact change or checks payable to:

- Bastrop County Ag Demonstration Fund
- Fayette Beef Committee

Please submit payment to your respective county extension office by Friday, October 23rd by 5:00PM. Late and on-site registrations will be subjected to a \$10 late fee. For any questions, please contact either Dakota Kempken, Bastrop County Extension Agent, at 512-581-7186 or at Dakota.kempken@ag.tamu.edu, or Scott Willey, Fayette County Extension Agent, at 979-968-5831 or at sawilley@ag.tamu.edu.

FERAL HOGS 101 LUNCH & LEARN ON OCTOBER 20th

Join us on Tuesday, October 20th for a casual lunch and learn, running through the basics of feral hog biology and management. Participants will learn introductory information on feral hogs including biology, behavior and identification, and both nonlethal and lethal control strategies. Pesticide applicator license holders will receive 1 Integrated Pest Management CEU at the end of the program. To participate, please submit \$10.00 via exact change or check payable to Bastrop County Ag Demonstration Fund by 5:00PM on Monday, October 19th. For more information, contact the Bastrop County Extension office.

LUNCH AND LEARN: FERAL HOGS 101

Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00am

Bastrop County Community Center
15 American Legion Dr. Bastrop, Tx 78602



- Feral hog ID and behavior
 - hog biology
 - track and sign
 - preferred habitat
- Negative impact of feral hogs
- Integrated Pest Management
 - nonlethal exclusion
 - trapping and trap design
 - lethal control

**1 Pesticide Applicator CEU (Gen.)
offered**

\$10 registration fee

\$10 late registration fee at the door

Exact change or check (payable to Bastrop County
Ag Demo Fund),

Doors open at 10:30am

**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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