



# Randall County Ag News

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

## MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

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April 2020 Edition

### News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk

**Howdy!** There's defiantly been a tremendous amount of *change* at the Randall County Extension over the past 30 days. We, like the rest of the world have been learning to adopt due to the coronavirus pandemic. But first let's focus on a few positive impacts that's taken place since January 1. On December 5, our staff hosted the newly State Extension Director, Dr. Jeff Hyde and his entire State Extension Administrative team on a half a day visit and tour of our Randall County Extension Office, WTAMU and the Randall County Event Center.



We then moved right into the 2020 RC Junior Stock Show, held January 14-20. This year, we had another successful show and sale with 247 exhibitors and 576 livestock entries, representing the largest exhibitor group ever and the second largest number of entries in history of the RCJLS! Additionally another record breaking premium auction sale totaling over an overwhelming \$400,000 in gross funds contributing to our RCJLS youth exhibitors. Thanks to all of you who continue to support our program that we are so grateful and proud of.

A huge highlight of the 2020 San Antonio Livestock Show were top honors awarded to the Randall County 4-H Beef Skillathon and Commercial Steer exhibitors. This year Miles Huffhines received (2) \$10,000 San Antonio Scholarships.



Randall County Producer Meetings were held late last fall and through January. Highlights included: "Lease Contract Workshop" was held December 17, where 24 Randall County Ag Landowners and Potential Tenants were taught needed requirements and State Laws in-place for establishing a viable lease agreement. The *Pre-Plant Producer Update Mtg.* was held on January 29, where 34 attended and learned the latest corn, sorghum and cotton herbicide control recommendations, cotton insect update along with introduction and demonstrating helpful Farm Bill decisions aid tools that are currently available through AgriLife Extension.



### Coronavirus and Its Impact on Agriculture

The following information was obtained from the Texas A&M University Agricultural and Food Policy Center, College Station, Texas

**Overview:** The commodities that have been affected the most thus far are weaned calves, stocker calves, feeder steers, sheep and goats, fruits and vegetables and dairy products. That is, these commodities are currently selling at substantially lower prices than prior to the pandemic. Row crops in Texas are either planted and growing in most regions or are about to be planted in the northern part of the State. The only losses row crop farmers would currently be incurring are from the sale of 2019 crops from storage.

**Cattle/Beef:** Both futures and cash prices of cattle, feeder cattle, and calf prices dropped dramatically as the societal impacts of COVID-19 took hold. Live cattle futures dropped from \$120.80/cwt on February 19, 2020, to \$83.82/cwt on April 6, 2020. The reality of packing plants going offline or slowing considerably in order to accommodate worker safety concerns introduced a second round of volatility. Cash fed cattle prices have experienced significant weekly volatility, falling to \$105/cwt, climbing to \$119/cwt, and then collapsing to \$95/cwt in the three weeks leading to April 13.



**Dairy:** Texas is the 5th largest milk producing state in the United States. The nation's dairy industry struggled over the last few years from low profits driven by large production. The shift from restaurants to grocery store sales has hit the industry especially hard. School closings across the country have reduced the estimated 7 percent of fluid milk that ordinarily moves through school lunches. While those students may be at home and consuming milk, the container sizes are different, going from small, single-serving containers to half gallon and gallon containers. A large share of milk products, including cheese and butter and other products, goes through food service (e.g. pizzas). The loss of those orders means that milk processing plants have quickly found themselves with more milk than they can sell as finished products. Milk, being a highly perishable product, has been forced to be dumped after milking in some areas of the country. Falling product prices will be felt in coming months as lower prices are translated to lower Class prices in the federal milk marketing order system.



**Row Crops:** The timing of the pandemic falls almost exactly in the middle of two different crop production cycles. As a result, it is important to distinguish the immediate impact on 2019 crop production from the potential impact on the 2020 crop year. In most cases, the bulk of the 2019 crop had already been sold prior to the market declines which started in late February 2020. But, for the 10-25 percent of old crop production that was yet to be marketed, an immediate loss in value can be attributed directly to COVID-19. Other commodity-specific supply chain disruptions may continue to impact the remainder of the 2019 marketing year. Looking forward to 2020 crop production, unfortunately, the worst may still lie ahead. Producers who have already endured several years of depressed commodity prices now face the potential for even lower revenues and increased financial stress.



**Summary:** The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have already resulted in reduced profitability for anyone who has agricultural output that has need to be marketed such as cow-calf operators, stocker operators, feedlots, lamb raisers and fruit and vegetable producers. However, if prices for all agricultural products do not return to pre-pandemic levels, the losses for Texas agricultural producers will be devastating. With most market prices for livestock and crops grown in Texas falling 25 to 30 percent, losses in the range of \$6 to \$8 billion could easily be realized, if not more. The next report in this series will provide estimates of these losses.

## Preplant Options for Weed Control in Cotton

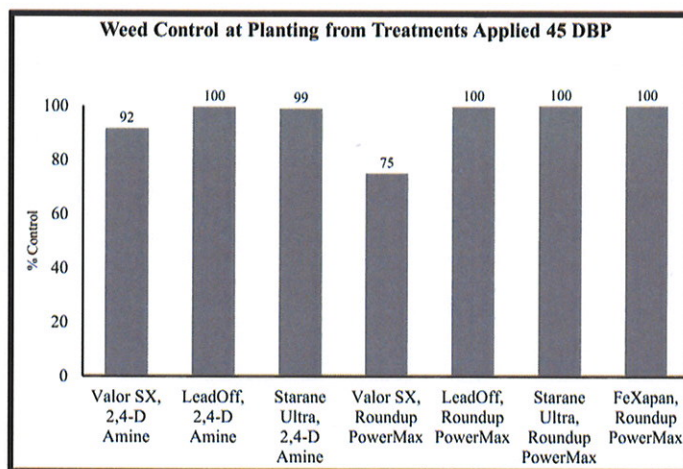
The following information is provided by Dr. Peter Dotry, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Weed Specialist – Lubbock, Texas

As we prepare for the upcoming 2020 cotton planting season we want to remind producers of a few recommended herbicides suggested by AgriLife to assist you in controlling weeds. As always, if you have specific weed species then make sure the herbicide your applying provides effective control for your troublesome weed. Be sure to follow all recommendations on all labels.

### Preplant Weed Herbicide Options in Cotton

• Roundup	• Valor
• 2, 4-D Amine, Enlist Duo, Enlist One	• FirstShot
• Clarity, Xtendimax, Engenia, FeXapan	• Afforia
• Gramoxone	• LeadOff

The following chart illustrates study results targeting a selected group of cotton herbicides with various mixtures and their re-spect percentage of weed control for each. All herbicides were applied 45 Days Before Planting.



## Germination- Is Key to Cotton Seed Quality

Producers need to be aware of the **warm** and **cold** vigor index that's indicated on the tag of each bag of cotton seed. Here is an example of how to determine seed vigor of a variety.

Example 1: **Warm 92% + Cool 68% = 160**

Example 2: **Warm 84% + Cool 35% = 119**

Excellent	160>
Good	140-159
Fair	120-139
Poor	<120



## 2019 Randall County AgriLife Extension Service- Irrigated Sorghum Variety Trial (SCA Tolerant)

**Danny Hicks Farm– West of Canyon, Tx.**

**Purpose of Study:** To determine sugar cane aphid tolerance levels in 10 selected sorghum varieties along with obtaining at-harvest yield results for each

**Method:** **Planting Date:** June 6, 2019 (*field conditions at planting; extremely dry*)  
**Planting Rate:** 70,000 seeds Per Acre  
**Row Spacing:** 40 inch rows  
**Herbicide:** 1 Atrazine; 1 pt.  
**Insecticide:** 1 Aphid Application  
**Previous Crop:** Cotton  
**Irrigation:** Drip Irrigation, first year  
**Harvest Date:** November 4, 2019

**Plot Design:** Each Variety Plot is 8 rows each. All varieties are replicated 3 times

### Drip Irrigated Grain Sorghum Variety Test Plot-SCA Tolerance (Replicated)

**Danny Hicks Farm- West of Canyon, Texas**

Planting Date: June 6, 2019			Harvest Date: November 4, 2019	
Variety	Bushel Wt.(lb./Bu)	Adjusted 13% Moisture	Yield (lb./A)	Test Ranking
Channel 7B20	53.6	12.9	6,383	1
Golden Acres 2840B	49.8	14.9	6,105	2
Warner W5911	50.4	13.9	6,084	3
Channel 6B02	51.3	13.5	6,075	4
Sorghum Partners 68M57	47.6	15.2	5,942	5
Alta Ag 1203	49.1	14	5,914	6
Alta Ag 2106	48.6	14.3	5,788	7
Richardson 260E	53.3	14.1	5,694	8
Channel 5C42	49.2	12.9	5,646	9
Golden Acers 4880R	53.1	14.1	5,500	10
<b>Total Plot Average:</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5,913</b>	

### Corteva- "MezaVue"

#### Promising for Pricklypear Control

The following information is provided by Jodie Stockett, Sales Rep. and Consultant -Corteva and Dr. J. D. Ragland, CEA Randall County

Last year was the first treatment year for MezaVue herbicide, the new standard in pricklypear control. Ranchers like it especially for the early signs the herbicide is working. Not only do ranchers get control of the cactus but also the herbicide controls many broadleaf weeds and provides residual activity to control broadleaves that germinate even after spraying. MezaVue is absorbed more thoroughly and causes a distinct yellowing of pear pads in just 3-4 months after application. However good application coverage is key. Ideally applications are best to



occur in early spring, but can be applied any time.

Last spring, Randall County cattle operator, Jeff Lewter cooperated with AgriLife Extension-Randall County in conducting a pricklypear study on his range/pasture land located south of Canyon. The pasture was heavily infested with pricklypear. The study was established on June 25, 2019 and consisted of three plots utilizing 3 different herbicide treatments. All plots were applied at the 8 oz. rate. These were: Plot #1: Tordon, Plot #2: Surmount and Plot #3: MezaVue. Plot results/ratings indicated the following: Slight/Moderate control with Tordon application, No/Minimum control using Surmount, and Good/Excellent control utilizing MezaVue.





# 2020 Beef Management & Economics Series

## presented online via Zoom

All Programs 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (central time)

One time \$10.00 pre-registration fee (attend one or all sessions)  
(credit cards are charged a fee of \$2.24)

Or send check to Randall Ag Committee, 200 N. Brown Rd., Canyon TX 79015

**Register Here:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/102698491954>

Upon registration, participants will receive email confirmation with additional instructions

### HEALTH & REPRODUCTION

**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### Reproductive Development & Herd Health

Breeding Soundness Exams and Bull Fertility  
Preventative Herd Health Management for  
Reproduction

Economics and risk involved with  
reproduction decisions

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Keep / Cull Decisions / Body  
Condition Scores

Potential Predator Issues  
and Control Options

Economics and risk involved with  
management decisions

### FORAGE HEALTH & GRAZING CONSIDERATIONS

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Integration of livestock into farming practices  
cover crops / water conservation / water management  
soil health / weed management  
opportunities and challenges

Budget analysis of no till, limited till, cover  
crops, and livestock diversification

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

Creating a Better Grazing Management Plan

Using supplementation to strategically  
influence grazing distribution

Risks associated with prussic acid in forages

Economic decisions impacting forage  
availability

### NUTRITION & SUPPLEMENTATION

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting the nutrient requirements of  
beef cattle in a forage-based setting

Making economical supplementation  
decisions

Economics and risk involved with  
nutrition decisions and  
supplementation decisions

### BEEF QUALITY & EFFICIENCIES

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**

A look at the efficiencies of a  
dairy farm

Research and Carcass Data

Dairy/Beef Cross Calves

Update on quality and management to improve  
carcass quality

Beef/ Industry Panel – Opportunities  
and Challenges

Market outlooks for 2020 and  
economics of quality beef  
improvement through genetics

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The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.



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### In This Issue:

- News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk
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- Germination– Is Key to Cotton Seed Quality
- 2020 Beef Management & Economics (Six Part) Series- via on-line delivery
- 2019 Randall County Irrigated Sorghum Variety Trial (SCA Tolerant) -Study Results
- 2019 Randall County Range/Pasture Pricklypear Control –Study Results



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