



Randall County Ag News



MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

Dr. J.D. Ragland
 County Extension Agent
 Agriculture and Natural Resources Randall County
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
 200 North Brown Rd. Canyon, Texas 79015
 (806) 468-5543 <http://randall.agrilife.org/>



**December 2020 Edition
 -Year-End Recap-**

News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk

Howdy! It's been a while since we last visited and I want to personally apologize for that. Needless to say COVID19 has brought its many challenges at our office and the way we've traditionally delivered educational programs. It's been different but has been good in many ways as it has forced us to learn new methods of how to deliver our programs.



One example is our RC Extension Staff "Grilling 101" educational program series. This program was a six week program in which we developed five educational videos related to improving summertime grilling experience. Each video focused on a different outdoor grilling topic. These topics included: Introduction to Path to Plate; Meat Preparation/Marinades/and Food Safety; Meat Cut Selection; Types of Grills and Special Features; Preparing Your Grill/Proper Temp and Tips for Avoiding Cross Contamination. Each week a door prize was provided to a selected viewer that had commented on the previous weeks video.

The series concluded with a grand prize drawing. A total of 33 RC Employees (target audience) participated and 19 evaluation responses were received. This program proved to be very successful. Clientele can be looking for more Extension programs to be delivered through this method in the future.

Current Crop Conditions

DRY has been the common theme for agriculture production so far for this year's entire crop season. According to the National Weather Service Randall County has received only 8.38 inches of rain fall thus far for 2020. As we compare



that to 2019, we had received just a little over 22.9 inches up to this point. Therefore this puts us 14.52 inches behind from where we were this time last year. All crop harvest yields much lower this year due to the extreme dry conditions throughout the growing season.

Corn/Silage: Silage-Corn harvested was lower this year. Yield reports indicated corn yielding around 130-140 bushels per acre across the board.



Cotton: Just as we've been reporting all year with the drought this season cotton yields across Randall County were lower as well. Minimal dryland acres were harvested and at best perhaps only yielding 1/2 bale per acre. Irrigated acres were around 2 bales per acre to slightly higher.

Sorghum: Sugar Cane Aphid infestations were a concern again this year across Randall County fields. As in the past and once again this year, SCA populations increased late season and cause damage late season. Minimal dryland sorghum acres reached harvest with irrigated acres averaging around 3,000 lbs. per acre.

Pesticide Applicators Training/CEU Opportunities

We know that during late fall and early spring is the best time for many producers and workers to obtain their Texas Department of Agriculture Private Pesticide License.

The first thing you need to do is go through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service training program. However during this time we are unable to offer face-to-face training. So we encourage you to take advantage of the online option. Here is the link for this online course:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_agrilifelearn.tamu.edu_product-3Fcatalog-3DAGCH-2D015&d=DwIFAg&c=r_tSStIHV2ie60z4DgB-pQ&r=I5unFigL0LNUdYvMtV95G-QaNOWp_MU1eiE_ezWwBA&m=mm9kbFjO47ElgRdRqPjFO

All TDA Pesticide Applicator Courses offered on-line may be taken at any time based on your convenience. Available courses require you to self register on-line and pay all necessary course fees. All fees vary depending on number of hours of the course you plan to take. It is also very important to make sure you know and understand what category and number of hours being offered for each course. (i.e. General, IPM, Drift Minimization, and Laws and Regs.). At the conclusion of the course, be sure to print a certificate of completion and maintain a copy in your personal record file. **This is the ONLY way you can prove you have taken any of the on-line courses!** Hopefully, AgriLife will be able to host face-to-face meetings again real soon.



San Angelo, College Station, Commerce), at least one additional fee-based test site will be offered in South Texas mostly likely Weslaco in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Major Concern from 2020 Texas Hemp Cropping was heat impact that affected much of the Texas hemp crop. The scientific and commercial literature on hemp suggest optimum growing conditions are 70 to 80° F. So, most Texas hemp this year routinely experienced temperatures 20° warmer. Some of this was due to later planting. Dr. Tostel estimate the typical field of Texas hemp in 2021 will be planted up to two months earlier than in 2020.



Caution Tips with Prussic Acid/Nitrate Poisoning when Grazing Forage Sorghums

- ⇒ Concern is with any stressed forage crop situation (i.e. drought, hail, freeze). Johnsongrass is a major host as well.
- ⇒ Raising hay cutting bar 8-10 inches in any potential hot field will help lower risk, but not eliminate possibilities.
- ⇒ Causes severe respiratory issues and likely death in cattle
- ⇒ Testing is the only assured way to know if there is toxic levels present. Take test in center of bale with hay probe. Serv-Tech Lab, Amarillo (806) 677-0093.



North Region AgriLife Launches "Ranch to Retail" Beef Cattle Podcast- NOW AVAILABLE!

Welcome to our all new North Region AgriLife Extension "Ranch to Retail" Beef Cattle Podcast. To-date there's only been (2) episodes produced with more to come.



Episode 1: released 11/24
Dr. Jason Smith, AgriLife Beef Cattle Specialist– *Cows Nutritional Needs during Pregnancy*; Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLife Agronomist– *Concerns with Prussic Acid*

Episode 2: released 12/9
Dr. Jason Smith, *Nutritional Impacts on Calving* ; Drs. Anderson and Benavidez, AgriLife Economist– *Investing into Reproduction*

Each episode is approximately 1 hr. in length, but is developed as a Stop-N-Go listen style format. It's quick and easy to access, just simply login to the web site address below and look for the above promotion/picture logo.

<https://agrilifeforthregionag.libsyn.com/>

2020 Hemp Variety Testing Wrap-Up & 2021 Trials

The following information is provided by Dr. Calvin Trostle, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist & Hemp Specialist– Lubbock Texas

Hemp variety trial results at San Angelo (cannabinoids) and Lubbock (cannabinoids and fiber) will be completed shortly after the first of the year. Dr. Trostle will provide detailed results in my January hemp newsletter. Results will also be posted at <http://varietytesting.tamu.edu/hemp/> AgriLife will update program information for the 2021 round of variety trials in January. In addition to test sites offered in 2020 (Lubbock,

2020 Texas A&M AgriLife Forage Sorghum Silage Grain Yield Trial– Bushland

The following information is provided by Dr. Jourdan Bell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist– Amarillo, Texas

Yields for all hybrids evaluated as a percent of the trial's long-term grain sorghum check Pioneer 84G62. 2020 84G62 yield: 7,588 lbs./acre; 11 year average: 8,149 lbs./acre)

HYBIRD	TYPE	BMR	GRAIN YIELD (lb/ac) 13% GM
Richardson 9500W	Forage Sorghum	NO	8655
Dyna-Gro Seed	Grain Sorghum	NO	8492
TAMU Check DKS 37-07	Grain Sorghum	NO	7588
Richardson XF381	Forage Sorghum	YES	6511
MOJO X714	Forage Sorghum	NO	6367

**Randall County Ag. Producer Pre-Plant
(On-Line) Conference
Wednesday January 27, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

Featured Guest Presenter: Texas Ag. Commissioner, Sid Miller



3 CEU's for Private Applicators (2 General; 1 Laws/Regs)

Program Agenda

9:00am- Welcome and Opening Remarks- Dr. J. D. Ragland, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Randall Co., Canyon, Tx

9:05am- Overview of 2020 Cotton, Forage Sorghum Silage Trials- Dr. Jourdan Bell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist Amarillo, Tx.

9:40am- Current Challenges Facing Texas Agriculture and Opportunities Ahead- Mr. Sid Miller, Texas Ag. Commissioner

10:00am- Lessons Learned from 2020 Cotton Weed Control- Key Strategies for 2021- Dr. Peter Dotray, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Weed Specialist Lubbock, Tx

10:40am- Pesticide Applicators Licensing and CEU Requirements Update- Kyle Thompson, ACP Inspector for TDA, Amarillo, Tx

11:15am- Wrap Up/ Conclude- Dr. J. D. Ragland, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Randall Co., Canyon, Texas



Instructions for Registering:

- 1) Simply call the Randall County Extension Office (806) 468-5543 to register by 5:00 p.m. , Monday , January 25, 2021
- 2) You will need to provide us with all contact information as well as Pesticide Applicator License number. CEU Certificates will be directly mailed to you following the conference
- 3) Additionally at time of registration you will be provided an on-line link address to use for your login to be able to join the meeting. This address will be forwarded to you preferably via e-mail.

NO Registration Fee will be required!

Thanks to Happy State Bank for their Cost Recovery Sponsorship for all Participants!



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Herbert F. & Jeannie Kuhlman Extension Center
200 N Brown Rd.
Canyon, TX 79015

Return Service Requested

Randall County Ag News

MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

In This Issue: *December Edition-Year-End Recap-*

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

-Current Randall County Crop Conditions

-Pesticide Applicators Training/ CEU Opportunities

-2020 Hemp Variety Testing Wrap-Up & 2021 Trials

-Prussic Acid/Nitrate Poisoning when Grazing Forage Sorghums

-Randall County Ag. Producer Pre-Plant (On-Line) Conference; January 27, 2021