

Randall County Ag News Agrillife

MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

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> News and Views Straight From the **County Agent's Desk**

Howdy! This photo was recently taken during the 2023 Randall County Crops Tour on August 29. (left to right) Mr. Paul Gross, retired District 1 Extension Director. Mr. Gross hired me as an



County Extension Agent on January 17, 1987 at Al's Café in Happy, Texas. Dr. Bob Robinson, Randall County Commissioner and former District 1 & 2 Extension Director. Dr. Bob served as my boss for several years. Robert Devin, former Randall County Extension Agent and served as my trainer agent the first four years of my Extension career. All of these gentlemen have made a tremendous impact on my Extension career. I'm extremely blessed and honored to have had each serve as my mentor.

A rare, but great photo that I wanted to share. This photo represents over 120 combined years of Extension work!

Current County Crop Conditions

Overview: What a roller-coaster year it's been for Randall County Ag. Producers. Challenges with adverse weather, continual increase in cost of production and extreme drought with unbearable heat during the growing season has definitely taken it's toll. One thing for certain, a common theme for all agriculture producers at this time is the need for moisture!

In late May, Randall County experienced heavy rains and flooding along with 7.36 inches of rainfall. Many crops were lost affecting corn and cotton the most virtually all cotton was lost and due to the timing of the rain and flooding it was too late for any replanting to occur. Since that time, conditions have remained extremely dry.

Corn/Sorghum Silage: No doubt drought and extreme hot temperatures impacted this years silage yields. Corn results were average at best ranging from 150-160 bushels. Sorghum Silage yields were around 20 tons or 7,000 lbs. per acre.

November 2023 Edition

Cotton: This fall there were no cotton acres harvested in Randall County. As mentioned earlier, all cotton was lost in late May due to heavy rains and flooding. As a result, NO cotton acres were replanted.

Sorghum: Yields here were low as well. Dryland seemed to be around 1,200 lbs. per acre and for irrigated 4,500 lbs. per acre. Again, the lack of rainfall and heat during the growing season was the major contributing factor to lower yields.

Randall County F	<u>kaintaii:</u>
2018– 13.60" for the year	-
2019– <mark>25.88</mark> "	
2020– <mark>12.58</mark> "	
2021– <mark>15.03"</mark>	1 * *
2022– <mark>16.43</mark> "	N.
*5-year Average: 16.70"	
2023– 15.67" thru Oct. 31	- Andrewski

(* 2011– lowest annal rainfall recorded 7.01")

Wheat: Is currently suffering due to lack of moisture. Irrigated fields are not progressing as well as they should. Therefore, wheat pasture grazing is limited at this time.

Range/Pasture: Are currently depleted of any available moisture. We desperately need either rain or snow through the winter months, as it will greatly contribute to early spring grass production. Pastures response aggressively when moisture is readily available in the soil as we move into early spring.

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Prussic Acid and Nitrate Poisoning

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

First let's discuss Prussic Acid. What is it? How does it occur?

Prussic acid becomes an issue at the first heavy frost/ light freeze on anything in the sorghum family. This includes grain sorghum, sorghum/sudan, forage sorghum, redtop cane, hegari, sudangrass, and yes, even Johnsongrass. This releases plant compounds due to cell rupture that frees prussic acid, or cyanide (HCN). Properly cured (dried) forages should not have an issue with prussic acid. Prussic acid is mostly in the leaves, but larger stalks that can't dissipate the prussic acid as quickly take more time to dry.

Prussic acid can also be an issue in the new fresh growth at the base of the plant from a grain sorghum field near and after harvest (Figs. 1A-B). This can also occur from the base of sorghum/sudans for forage or hay. Also, the least-known potential issue with grazed sorghum/ sudans, Johnsongrass, etc. is in the summer. Under drought conditions when the sorghum/sudan is struggling to grow, rains come, and the fresh growth can be hot.



Figure: A

Figure: B

Figures A-B. Basal tiller regrowth in grain sorghum near harvest (A) and after harvest and mowing (B) of stalks. Young regrowth is susceptible to prussic acid development without a frost or freeze. Cattle released into a field with regrowth (A) are drawn to this fresh tender regrowth thus at higher risk.

The bottom line with prussic acid remains: it is a threat to animal health. There is no clear-cut view on how much prussic acid is safe. In the past some labs and animal scientists suggested prussic acid <200 ppm is probably okay to feed. However due to the inaccurate nature of sampling, transporting, and testing prussic acid the results of a prussic acid test have a significant level of uncertainty. Most labs now report the *presence* of prussic acid, and let you decide how to manage your crop or hay. Nitrate accumulates in the bottom of the plant when they are not growing. Plants are still accumulating—but not assimilating—the N into plant proteins or other components. This nitrate concentrates in the bottom (up to 12 inches or so) the stalk. When you mow hay, the nitrate level is fixed. It does not dissipate. When nitrate is high in a forage (near 1.0% and higher) for healthy animals, it can be blended with low nitrate forage. Or at hay harvest one can raise the cutter bar (if a swather) a few inches. This reduces yields but leaves a significant amount of nitrate in the field. Cattle can develop some tolerance to nitrate in forages over time.

Testing for Prussic Acid and Nitrate in Forages:

- **Prussic acid**--they prefer to test leaves only (from 8 to 15 stalks); see specific instructions if sampling standing forage or baled hay. The container you ship in is important.
- Nitrate—they prefer to test only the base of the stalk (from 8 to 15 stalks)
 - Test both prussic and nitrate from the same sam ple ?TVMDL will use the leaves for prussic acid, the rest of the plant for nitrate (this could give a lower value of nitrate.

Where to Send Test:

Among the four TVMDL locations only the College Station lab performs the prussic acid test. Do NOT send your samples to TVMDL in Canyon as they do not conduct these test at this location. Other option is Serv-Tech Lab in Amarillo. Testing fees may range from \$25-\$50.

> Serv-Tech Lab 6921 S. Bell Amarillo, Texas 79109 (806) 677-0093

Upcoming Meetings:

- ⇒ Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show- November 28-30, 2023 (5 CEU's)
- ⇒ Crop Production Mtg.- December 21, 2023; Randall County Extension Office 8:30am-1:15pm (5 CEU's)
- ⇒ Producer Pre-Plant Mtg.– January 24, 2024; Randall County Extension Office 8:30am-1:45pm (3 CEU's)

7 Tips for Wintering Cattle

The following information is provided by Ted Perry, Beef Technical Solutions, Purina Feeds; New Mexico Stockman Magazine

Cold weather impacts your cattle, but they can't put on coats, hats, or gloves to stay warm. They need other ways to keep warm. Winter nutrition and environment manage-



ment will help maintain a cow's core body temperature, keeping cows warm from the inside out.

1.) Focus on Body Condition Score

Having a good body condition score going into winter does two things. First, a cow in body condition score 5-6 has a layer of fat insulation helping her conserve body heat. Second, cows in good body condition likely have good diet, which can result in nice, warm winter hair coat.

2.) Deliver More Cattle Feed

Make sure cows have enough feed and water. A cow's feed intake will increase by 20% during cold weather. A key component is to make sure cattle have plenty of hay or increase feed supplementation prior to temperatures drop.

3.) Separate Thin Cows

Thin cows mixed in with the rest of the herd probably wont get the nutrition they need to maintain or gain body condition. Separate thinner cows– young or old– to help take off feeding pressure. Once separated make sure cows have plenty of forage and access to cattle mineral and cattle supplements.

4.) If Possible Put Up Windbreaks

Wind chill affects cattle just like it affects people. Keep cattle out of the wind if possible. You can put up a homemade windbreak. Create one out of bales of hay or install a permanent windbreak.

5.) Provide Cattle Mineral and Supplements

Proper mineral is critical anytime of the year but especially during winter months because it impacts a cows metabolic process. If cows are short on mineral, their metabolism will slow down. Once metabolism slows, the cow isn't producing as much heat and she may start losing body condition score.

6.) Keep a Clean Environment

During winter months wet, cold and muddy environment

is common. Mud, reduces the insulation factor of a cow's hair coat, and a cow's lower critical temperature goes up as a result. For example, if a cow is clean and dry, she may be okay down to 5 degrees. If a cow is dirty, wet and muddy her lower critical temperature may go up to 20 degrees.

7.) Break Routine

We tend to feed cattle on a routine. We put out a set amount of cattle feed per day because we think that's what the head should need. But, pay close attention to temperature and watch cattle closely. When you know it's going to be cold for the next few days, increase the feed offered at least 24 hours in advance to give cows a head start.

2023 Randall County AgriLife Extension Service Result Demonstration

The following study and results is provided by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil & Crop Sciences and Randall County

The following is the harvest data and results of the 2023 Randall County AgriLife Extension Result Demonstration. This Drip Irrigation Sorghum Variety Trial was, planted on June 22, 2023 on the Danny Hicks Farm west of Canyon.

The study consisted of 30 different varieties all replicated three times. Harvest date November 1, 2023.

Thanks Danny for all your help!

The following is a list of the **Top 5 Performance Hybrids**. A Complete listing of all trial varieties and results is currently available at the Randall County Extension Office

2023 Drip Irrigation Sorghum Variety Test Plot

Variety	<mark>% Moisture</mark>	Test Wt.	Yield
DeKalb 50-07	14.9	61.0	4,933
DeKalb 44-07	16.1	59.6	4,805
Golden Acres 4488OR	14.3	60.1	4,577
Dyna-Gro GX22932	16.8	59.6	4,565
Dyna-Gro M59GB94	14.3	60.5	4,526



EXAMPLE 2023 AMARILLO FARM SHOW CEU WORKSHOP

November 28, 2023

\$40 Registration fee

Be sure to bring your current applicator card for registration!

Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza

<u>Checks Payable to</u>: Potter Ag Committee

Schedule:

8:00 a.m. - Registration begins: 8:45 - Welcome

9:00 a.m. – Texas Department of Agriculture Laws and Regulations update – Cheryl Goswick

9:50 - Break

10:00 - Texas A&M AgriLife and Research professionals share the basics of field scouting and pest control decisions. Scout School will cover cotton, corn, and sorghum - Speakers include: Dr. Jourdan Bell - Associate Professor, Agronomist; John Thobe - Integrated Pest Management Agent; Dr. Jose Santiago - Assistant Professor and Extension Entomologist

Noon – Lunch (provided with paid registration)

1:00 – Scout School continued

1:50 - Break

2:00 – Scout School continued

3:00 -4:00 - Certificates and adjourn

BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY: PLAINS LAND BANK LUNCH SPONSORED BY: PURPLE WAVE AUCTION



5 Texas Department of Agriculture CEU's will be awarded -2 General, 2 IPM, 1 Laws and Regulations.

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2023 AMARILLO FARM SHOW

Grassland Management & Grazing Decision Aids for Landowners

Wednesday November 29th

Location: Amarillo Civic Center - Grand Plaza Free admission

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS:

1:30-	Dr. Laura Goodman - Associate Professor Natural	
	Resource Ecology & Management Extension Specialist	
	for Rangeland Ecology OSU Extension	
3:00	She will cover: Brush control, stockpiling for drought and	
	improving forage quality with patch-burn grazing.	



3:00 BREAK

Local producer panel -

Ranchers Mike Turner and Clint Hoelting.

- **3:15** Will discuss pros and cons of management practices they have implemented in the panhandle
- 4:00 Snack/drinks Sponsored by Purple Wave Auction

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AgriLife Crop Production and Protection Seminar Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service December 21, 2023

(Program approved by TDA for 5 CEU's (1 L&R, 2 IPM, 1 Drift, 1 General) All Panhandle and South Plains Counties (in-person/speakers via TEAMS)

Location: Kuhlman Extension Center 200 N. Brown Rd. Canyon, Tx 79015 Cost: \$35 per/person, includes lunch, payable at door

8:00 a.m Registration
8:20 a.m Update from Plains Cotton Growers
- Kody Bessent
8:30 a.m Know your Pesticide Laws and Regulations - Comprehensive look at the
pesticide laws and regulations, EPA updates, and licensing / certification guidelines. - Dr. Don Renchie
9:20 a.m Weed control mishaps and how to manage success? Potential issues related to
herbicide or management failures in controlling weed pests. (resistance, management
decisions, timing, herbicide selection, application, equipment, and mother nature) - Dr. Peter Dotray
10:10 a.m Update from Texas Corn producers
- David Gibson
10:20 a.m Reducing risk of off target drift, off label decisions, and updates on new regulations affecting pesticide availability. - Dr. Scatt Nolte
11:10 a.m Available tools for management of brush and weed problems in pastures. - Dr. Morgan Treadwell
12:00 p.m Break
12:30 p.m Update from Texas Sorghum Producers - Wayne Cleveland
12:40 p.m Unlocking the genetic potential of com/sorghum hybrids? How to protect your
investment and select technologies that not only optimize yield but mitigate risk from pests such weed, disease, drought, and insects.
- Dr. Jourdan Bell and Dr. Kevin Heflin

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Randall County Producer Pre-Plant Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 KUHLMAN EXTENSION CENTER

(3 CEU's 2 General ; 1 L&R for Auxin Training)

AGENDA

8:30am- Registration

9:00am- 2023 Forage Sorghum & Wheat Trial Results; Dr. Jourdan Bell, AgriLfie Extension Service Agronomist, Amarillo

10:00am- Strategies for Dryland Cotton Production; Dr. Craig Bednarz, Associate Professor and Director of the Semi-arid Agricultural Systems Institute WTAMU

11:00am- BREAK

- 11:10am- Discovery of "Late Season Corn Disease"; Dr. Ken Obossa, AgriLife Extension Service Plant & Disease Specialist, Amarillo
- **11:45am** Key Insects for Close Watch in 2024; Dr. Jose Gonzales, AgriLife Extension Service Entomologist, Amarillo
- 12:15pm- 2023 Randall County Sorghum Trial Summary Hicks Farm; Dr. J. D. Ragland, CEA Randall County

12:15 LUNCH

1:00pm- Annual Required Auxin Training

Please RSVP your attendance by calling (806) 468-5543 Registration deadline is before <u>5:00pm Monday January 22, 2024</u>

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

-Current County Crop Conditions

-Prussic Acid and Nitrate Poisoning Guidelines

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-7 Tips for Wintering Cattle

-Drip Irrigation -Sorghum Variety Trial Results

-Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show-Producer Meeting (Nov. 29-30-23)

-Production and Protection 5 CEU Mtg. (12-21-23)

-Randall County Producers Pre-Plant Meeting (1-24-24)

Canyon, TX 79015 Return Service Requested

200 N Brown Rd.



Herbert F. & Jeannie Kuhlman Extension Center