

Brazos County Agriculture News and Events

By Chadd Caperton

Brazos County Extension Agent- Ag and Natural Resources

May 2022

Greetings from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension office!

“Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful and most noble employment of man.”

- George Washington

Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.

- HEBREWS 6:7

USDA data: Cattle sale revenues grew 16% in 2021

By AGDAILY Contributors Published: April 29, 2022

Following two Congressional hearings on the beef and cattle markets largely focused on prices producers receive for their cattle, the North American Meat Institute said the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture annual report on livestock income clears up misconceptions about the state of cattle markets and shows cash receipts for the sale of cattle and calves increased 16 percent, from \$63.1 billion in 2020 to \$72.9 billion in 2021.

“As our members said in their testimony, prices are improving for cattle producers due to supply and demand reflecting the cyclical nature of cattle production,” said NAMI President and CEO Julie Anna Potts. “Due to the shrinking herd and sustained consumer demand, cattle prices are at seven-year-highs without federal intervention in the market.”

Cattle prices today are the highest they have been since the record highs in 2014 and 2015, when the overall cattle herd was at its smallest since 1952. Those record prices incentivized rapid herd expansion among producers which led in part to the oversupply of cattle in 2020.

The report, compiled by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service, is the Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income 2021 Summary.

It says, “Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased 16 percent, from \$63.1 billion in 2020 to \$72.9 billion in 2021. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 61.4 billion pounds in 2021, up 4 percent from

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2020. Total 2021 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 23 percent to \$101 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 72 percent of this total and hogs and pigs accounted for 28 percent.”

The report also breaks down cattle revenue by state. Many states’ producers saw increases higher than the nationwide aggregate of 16 percent. For example: Nebraska’s producers’ earnings grew 18 percent, Montana 22 percent, Kansas 18 percent, Kentucky 21 percent, North Dakota 28 percent, and South Dakota 26 percent.

“More and more data are showing that while the industry had to overcome significant challenges in 2020, markets behaved predictably,” said Potts. “As our members told Congress, the markets will continue to improve for producers.”

Read the full article here: <https://www.agdaily.com/livestock/usda-data-cattle-sale-prices-grew-16-percent-2021/>

The positive effects of gardening on mental health

By Agrilife Today: Experts explain the many psychological benefits of plants and gardening
APRIL 25, 2022

Getting outdoors and gardening can do more than just provide some physical activity and produce food for the table; it can be beneficial to the mind as well.

A man with a brimmed hat and maroon shirt, Skip Richter, showing geranium plants in a garden setting
Research shows participating in gardening and other horticultural activities gives people a more positive outlook on life. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

Although there are many functional benefits of gardening and the inherent ways in which plants improve the quality of life, Texas A&M AgriLife experts say a particularly important aspect is how plants enhance mental health and a person’s overall outlook.

“As many people already knew and others discovered during the pandemic, plant-related hobbies like gardening offer an opportunity to enjoy nature and give a person a more positive outlook on life,” said Charles Hall, Ph.D., professor and Ellison Chair in International Floriculture in the Department of Horticultural Sciences of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bryan-College Station.

Hall has done extensive research on how plants and gardening can improve both physical and mental health.

Research by Hall, presented in an article published in the Journal of Environmental Horticulture, outlines the numerous psychological benefits of plants and the activity of gardening in a variety of categories. These benefits include:

Anxiety and stress reduction.

Attention deficit recovery.
Decreased depression.
Enhanced memory retention.
Improved happiness and life satisfaction.
Mitigation of PTSD.
Increased creativity, productivity and attention.
Reduced effects of dementia.
Enhanced self-esteem.
Hall said the pandemic was partly responsible for an increased interest in gardening as more people were becoming involved in at-home activities.

He said being in naturalized settings and engaging in activities like gardening have a positive impact on people's feelings of vitality and energy.

"Consequently, this has a significant positive effect on a person's overall mental health," Hall said.

He also noted the activities of gardening and plant care help distract the mind and put it into a quieter and more relaxed state.

"When young gardeners have the experience of planting and caring for something from seed to harvest, they get a sense of accomplishment, pride and ownership. It's a real esteem-builder for them."

— Randy Seagraves, Junior Master Gardener Program

Read the full article here: <https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/04/25/the-positive-effects-of-gardening-on-mental-health/>

Your Input Matters

The Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas is conducting an independent study to assess reported flooding problems along the Navasota River. Part of this study is a survey of landowners to represent their experiences with flooding. The survey is available here: https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_brLqeO1rOYNEA98. No personal identifying information is collected so responses are anonymous.

Upcoming Events

O.D. Butler Forage Field Day

Date: May 20th

This year's O.D. Butler Field Day (Friday, May 20th) will be an in-person event. This year's field day will address high input cost such as fertilizer & preparing for this years predicted drought. The field day will be held at the Camp Cooley division of Circle X Ranch. The GPS location of the ranch is 4297 Camp Cooley Ranch Rd, Franklin, TX 77856.

The format for the day's activities will be like past field days. We will gather at the sale headquarters from 8 to 9 am to register and visit with Ag Industry booths and view farm equipment displayed outside of the sale pavilion. We are expecting 25 to 30 industry booths, and 5 to 7 farm equipment dealers to be present. Three CEU's will be awarded (2 General & 1 Laws & Reg's) to eligible participants.

After some brief introductions and instructions, we will proceed to three outside tour stops. We will have trailers available to transport participants to the stops. Each stop is scheduled to last about 45 minutes. Below is more information for each location.

- Pasture Weed Control Products. Dr. Scott Nolte will tie together new products and how they can save fertilizer dollars and save forage if we get into a drought situation, as is predicted.
- Saving Your Fertilizer Dollars. Dr. Vanessa Corriker-Olson will address ways to use fertilizer dollars more wisely. Discussion items will include alternative fertilizer sources, can we adjust type of commercial fertilizer used, the value of timing of application and use of weed control.
- What can we do to Minimize Hay Loss? Dr. Larry Redmond will discuss the benefits of hay barns, wrapping hay & pads to store hay. Every pound of hay we save will reduce fertilizer cost & save hay during times of drought.

Late morning, we will return to the A/Cat the sale pavilion. We will have brief updates from participating farm equipment dealers on new farm equipment and technology available to producers. Following the brief farm machinery presentations, we will have lunch and time to visit with the Ag Industry booths. We will also have a contest for field day participants. You will have a chance to win cash if you finish in the top three placings.

After lunch, Dr. Don Renchie will discuss Pesticide Laws & Regulations presentation. His program will include new and updated laws and regulation information. If you have not heard Dr. Renchie before, you are in for a real treat.

Our final speaker will be Dr. Barron Rector. Barron will give the results of the contest. He will also address why proper weed and brush identification is important to save us chemical dollars, fertilizer dollars and help produce valuable pounds of grass during drought periods.

Pre-registration & pre-payment is required. The Cost of the program registration will be \$30. You can register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/35th-annual-dr-od-butler-forage-field-day-tickets-329769668957> Please feel free to call the Robertson County (979-828-4270) or the Brazos County (979-823-0129) Extension Offices for registration information or information about the program.

*****Full Flyer ,next page**



Brazos Area Hay Producers Association



35th Annual Dr. O.D. Butler Forage Field Day Friday, May 20, 2022

Circle X Land & Cattle Company
Camp Cooley Division
4297 Camp Cooley Ranch Rd, Franklin, Texas

**3 CEU's
1 hour of
Laws & Regs
& 2 hours
of General**

To register visit:



[https://
www.eventbrite.com
/e/35th-annual-dr-od-
butler-forage-field-
day-tickets-
32976966857](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/35th-annual-dr-od-butler-forage-field-day-tickets-32976966857)

**Payment is required
when registering.**

To register in
person call or
visit the
Robertson County Office
(979) 828-4270
or the
Brazos County Office
(979) 823-0129

Counties Involved

- Brazos
- Burleson
- Falls
- Grimes
- Leon
- Limestone
- Madison
- McClennan
- Milam
- Robertson
- Washington

<u>Program Agenda</u>	
8:00am-9:00am	Registration & Sponsor Booth Visitation \$30 Registration fee
9:00am-9:15am	Welcome, Introductions & Instructions Chris Duewall –Chairman, Brazos Area Hay Producers Association
9:15am-11:30am	Tour Demonstration Plots and Program Stops <u>Stop #1</u> –Making the most out of your Fertilizer Dollars <u>Stop #2</u> –Weed Control, Drought & Fertilizer Cost <u>Stop #3</u> - Eliminating Waste & Hay Spoilage
11:30am –12:15pm	New Farm Equipment Highlights
12:15pm–12:45 pm	Lunch, Sponsor Booth Visitations and Contest
12:45pm-1:40pm	Laws & Regulations Effecting Pesticide Applicators
1:40pm –2:30pm	Proper Weed & Brush ID for more effective control
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Evaluation, Final Door Prizes, Announce Contest Winner and CEU Certificate Distribution
2:45pm	Adjourn

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["Robertson County Agricultural News & Events"](#)
 To stay up to date on all upcoming agriculture

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Other events:

Fish Management Strategies for Ponds

Date: May 17, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM CST

Location: Online (Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Fisheries Management)

Registration: online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3483>

Cost: \$35.00

For additional information contact: Brittany Chesser brittany.chesser@tamu.edu

Houston County 2022 Landowners Program Series

Date: Several (see below)

Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM CST

Location: Houston County (Crockett)

Registration: online at <https://tamuagrilifeextension.wufoo.com/forms/2022-landowner-program-series/>

Cost: \$45.00 per person / \$65.00 per couple (+ \$10.00 late fee after May 27)

Lunch will be own you own. Each class will require a minimum of 10 registrants to be held.

For additional information contact: Jo Smith jo.smith@agnet.tamu.edu (or) 936-544-7502

June 3, Forage Seminar. Topics include Weed ID, Soil Analysis, Soil Fertility, Hay Baling and Storage Spraying vs. Mowing, Sprayer calibration.

July 1, Beef Seminar. Topics include “Beef 101”, Beef Quality Assurance, Herd Health Program, Bull Selection, Breeding Soundness Exam, and Marketing. *This session will include a trip to East Texas Livestock for hands on experience.*

August 5, General Seminar. Topics include Food Plots for Wildlife; Pond Management, Aquatic Weed ID, Pond Water Testing, Hog Control, Property Tax Valuations/Exemptions as it relates to Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs.

September 9, 5 Hour Pesticide CEU Recertification & Pesticide License Training Class (Cost & Registration is separate)

October 28, Cow Country Congress (Cost & Registration is separate)

Other Items of Interest...

<https://beefcattleshortcourse.com/>





For Immediate Release
April 3, 2022

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Pheasants in Texas

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial pheasant flock (poultry) in Erath County, Texas. This is the first confirmation of HPAI in Texas.

Following an increase in bird deaths, samples from the flock were tested at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and confirmed at the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

The TAHC is working closely with federal animal health officials on a joint incident response. State officials quarantined the affected premises, and birds on the property have been depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. The plan for the control of avian influenza includes coordination of resources and response, and protocols for quarantine, testing, disposal, cleaning, disinfection and monitoring.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections [do not present an immediate public health concern](#). No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States. As a reminder, the proper handling and cooking of all poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 °F is recommended as a general food safety precaution.

"Texas has been actively preparing alongside the USDA to respond to HPAI," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian. "We'd like to encourage Texas poultry owners to educate themselves on this disease and be vigilant in taking steps to protect their flocks from avian influenza."

As part of existing avian influenza response plans, Federal and State partners are working jointly on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flock. The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, and the TAHC and USDA is working to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, live bird markets and in migratory wild bird populations.

Anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds. Owners of commercial and backyard poultry flocks are encouraged to closely observe their birds.

- Report a sudden increase in the number of sick birds or bird deaths to the TAHC at 1-800-550-8242 and/or USDA at 1-866-536-7593.
- Prevent contact with wild birds.
- Practice good [biosecurity](#) with your poultry flock.
- For the latest on the Texas HPAI response, visit https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/poultry/.



In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should create barriers between their birds and wild birds and report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to State/Federal officials. Producers are encouraged to consider bringing birds indoors, when possible, to further prevent exposures, and avoid visits to other premises that also have birds. Additional information on biosecurity for backyard flocks can be found at https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_AI-BiosecurityPoultry.pdf.

Additional poultry resources:

- TAHC Poultry Health page: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/animal_health/poultry/#AI
- 2022 United States detections of HPAI: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai>
- USDA Defend the Flock biosecurity: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/!ut/p/z1/04_iUIDgAgL9CCADyIQSuGj9qLzEssz0x|LM_LzEHP0l_cg0s3hPlyNnQ0_MTOx93L0sLg0BnYwPT0AB342BDc30v_Sj8CsKd9CNTvdxd8sv1C7KjHAE3qyCA/

Additional background:

Avian influenza (AI) is caused by an influenza type A virus which can infect poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, pheasants, quail, domestic ducks, geese, and guinea fowl) and is carried by free flying waterfowl such as ducks, geese and shorebirds. AI viruses are classified by a combination of two groups of proteins: hemagglutinin or “H” proteins, of which there are 16 (H1–H16), and neuraminidase or “N” proteins, of which there are 9 (N1–N9). Many different combinations of “H” and “N” proteins are possible. Each combination is considered a different subtype and can be further broken down into different strains which circulate within flyways/geographic regions. AI viruses are further classified by their pathogenicity (low or high)—the ability of a particular virus strain to produce disease in domestic poultry.

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The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting www.tahc.texas.gov.