

The late spring and early summer months of 2018 presented weather conditions that led to fear of a hay shortage. Many producers have had to dip into emergency hay stores or order hay from out of state suppliers. Whenever the drought conditions finally lifted, there was an almost immediate influx of army worms, which seemed to exacerbate the problem, over shadowing any possible relief the rain could have brought.

We have been lucky to have a warm early fall, allowing hay producers to continue cutting hay into the last week of October in some regions.

While we are running a bit short on hay, the newest projections have us running only 2% short of the 2017 hay production numbers nationally.

With hay prices at a higher level than normal, many cattle producers are having to make cuts in their herds. As more producers are sending their culls to market, we can anticipate a general drop in the prices of slaughter cows and bulls in the coming months.

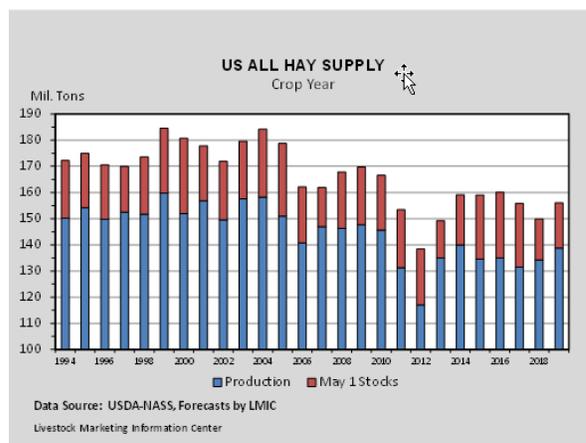
At this time, it doesn't appear to be creating as large of a drop in cattle prices as has been the case in years past, but we are seeing an increase of cattle being put on feed. In fact we are at a 14% higher level of cattle being on feed than is normal this time of year.

**Bovine Tuberculosis is not currently a danger to the white tailed deer population in Texas.**

**Happy Hunting!**

Production			Prices			
Week Ending 10/13/2018	Last	Year Ago	Weekly Average (\$/Cwt)	Last	Wk Ago	Year Ago
FI Cattle Slaughter (Thou Hd)	639	623	Live Steer	110.63	110.95	111.01
FI Hog Slaughter (Thou Hd)	2489	2512	Dressed Steer	173.76	174.83	174.96
FI Sheep Slaughter (Thou Hd)	39	36	Choice Beef Cutout	202.68	204.30	197.50
Live Y Chicken Sl (Mil Hd)	167.5	165.6	USDA Hide/Offal	9.09	9.12	10.35
Slaughter Cattle Live Weight	1359	1362	GA Auction Fdr. Str. (6-7 Cwt.)	135.48	137.42	132.16
Slaughter Hog Live Weight	280	282	Iowa's Minn. Base Hog	62.95	63.39	55.93
Slaughter Lamb/Sheep Live Wt.	136	132	Natl. Net Hog Carcass	69.62	69.24	61.60
Beef Production (Mil Pounds)	527.6	512.4	Feeder Pigs (40 Lbs) (\$/Head)	0.00	40.34	43.14
Pork Production (Mil Pounds)	518.9	528.8	Pork Cutout	79.17	80.27	73.84
Lamb, Mutton Prod. (Mil Lbs)	2.6	2.4	Lamb Cutout	332.16	336.22	346.68
<b>Previous 6 Wk. Moving Avg.</b>			Corn, Omaha (\$/Bu)	3.27	3.20	3.09
Total Beef (Mil Lbs)	524.9	517.0	Wheat, Portland (\$/Bu)	6.10	6.09	5.20
Total Pork (Mil Lbs)	501.7	516.4	Wheat, Kansas City (\$/Bu)	5.24	5.24	3.68
Total Lamb, Mutton (Mil Lbs)	2.6	2.4	Soybeans, Cntrl IL (\$/Bu)	8.12	8.08	9.67

Source: Various USDA-AMS reports. Some data are preliminary.



## Feral Hog Control Program

**Free Program for CCCA Members  
\$10 fee for Non Members  
January 10th, 2019  
Cass County Expo Center  
Atlanta, Texas  
6:00 PM  
1 CEU Offered**

**Presentation by Ken Hale, Boatcycle  
Contact 903.756.5391 for more information**

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## Dangers that Come to Cattle Following a Frost

Prussic acid poisoning is one of the most toxic and rapidly acting of any common poison. It is also called hydrocyanic acid or cyanide poisoning.

Livestock can show symptoms of intoxication within 5 minutes of eating plants with the poison, and may die within 15 minutes. Salivation and labored breathing occur first, followed by muscular tremors, uncoordinated movements, bloating, convulsions and death from respiratory failure.

Although there is usually little danger of prussic acid poisoning, it can accumulate in plants in the sorghum family, such as Johnson grass, sudan grass, forage sorghums and grain sorghum. It is also found in bahia, corn, cocklebur, white clover and other minor plants, but seldom at toxic levels. One problem with prussic acid is that it tends to “come and go” in the plant: It may be present for a short time and then dissipate. It appears to occur when plants are injured by herbicides or frost. Severe drought stress can also cause prussic acid to form. High concentrations of prussic acid may be associated with rapid cell division or rapid growth, such as shortly after a rain or irrigation on previously drought-stressed fields, or warm weather after a cool period. Under good conditions, toxic concentrations can also form in young, rapidly growing plants.

On the positive side, prussic acid dissipates from plants properly cured for hay. However, in hay baled early at high moisture or plants chopped for immediate feeding, the prussic acid may not have had a chance to dissipate.

To prevent prussic acid poisoning:

- Do not graze any of the cyanogenic-accumulating plants (sorghums) that have been subject to drought or injury, unless they are tested for hydrocyanic acid.
- If plants have been damaged by herbicides or frost, defer grazing until they either are well recovered from injury or cut for hay, or after a killing freeze and the plants have been allowed to dry.
- Do not graze plants in the sorghum family until they are 2 to 3 feet tall.
- Graze second-growth sorghums with caution if growing conditions are poor.
- Remove all livestock from the feed source when an animal is found to have died suddenly after grazing forages under poor growing conditions.
- Prevent animals from grazing wilted plants or those with young tillers.
- After plants have grown rapidly, such as shortly after a rain or irrigation on previously drought stressed fields, or warm weather after a cool period, wait at least 2 weeks after the plants begin to grow before grazing.

Forages can be tested for prussic acid either as standing forage or as hay. Prussic acid evaporates quickly so it is imperative that the producer overnight the sample to the lab when a test is desired.

Plant samples may be sent to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL), P.O. Drawer 3040, College Station, Texas 77841-3040. If using an overnight carrier, the street address is TVMDL, 1 Sippel Road, College Station, Texas 77843. Phone: (409) 845-3414