

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, August 20, 2018

Wow what a difference a week makes!! It went from brown to green overnight seems like, and the cool mornings are nice too! But it's going to get hot again with temps forecast in the upper nineties this week, but hopefully we will not break the 100 mark the rest of the year. We received from 2 to 4 inches of much needed rainfall last Monday and Tuesday and that lifted everyone's spirits. The improved pastures such as Bermuda and Klein grass are coming on now and I think some folks will get another cutting of hay this fall before frost. Will it give folks enough hay to get through the winter? Who knows, it could for some. The ranchers already feeding hay before the rains can hopefully stop feeding before long. Cows were in pretty good shape considering, and what few stockers there were around were not gaining much on dried out pastures. Grass will be a little washy to start with but should get some strength to it before long. Lately, I have been asked the question should I fertilize my hayfields and pastures here at the end of the summer and beginning of fall? Well it really depends on your specific situation and is it economically feasible for your operation. Fertilize prices this morning are \$290 for 32-0 liquid and \$370 for 34-0 dry so put the pencil to it. We have moisture now and that's always key, so I would ask have you done a soil test this year to see what nutrients you are lacking, if any. If you tested in the spring and applied recommended rates then nitrogen is the only nutrient that you should need and will benefit you this fall. How much nitrogen to apply is another question and my answer is "I wouldn't break the bank". Warm season pastures and hayfields will go dormant soon after the first freeze anyway but there is still time for some good growth before then especially if we receive additional rain. If you over seed pastures and hayfields or have some type of winter grass like ryegrass in them then that's a good reason to fertilize more. Another question is should I apply a herbicide and will it do any good? If you have a weed problem such as ragweed, curly dock, crotons, thistles and others, then yes, but keep in mind you will need to apply a higher rate than in the spring to be effective since they are for the most part mature. The rains also produced the perfect hatching environment for the fall army worms so be scouting your pastures and treat if needed. No reason to give them your decent grazing this fall. Please visit our website for more information on these subjects or call me.

In the markets as of Aug 18- Slaughter cattle trade was at \$110. Current feed yard closeouts were \$113 in the red. The live cattle futures for Aug were at \$109(Oct 111), while August Feeder futures were at \$1.51(Sept 1.52). The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.41 and 550 lb. stocker steers are selling on average of \$1.61/lb. while heifers are \$13 back. Cows and bulls were steady with average dress slaughter cows at \$53-58, while bulls were \$82-86

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