

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, October 1, 2018

Well the soils are saturated here in Cooke County so there has been no field work this past week. Looks like we are set to get more rain this weekend about the time it dries out enough to get back to planting winter pasture. A lot of farmers held off planting because they were trying to get past the the Fall Armyworm outbreak,ok,invasion. One long time farmer said this is the worst he has seen the Armyworms in over 50 years. The pastures I have inspected over the last couple weeks it looked like the ground was moving there were so many of them. A lot of folks sprayed their pastures, hayfields and winter grass pastures hoping to save some grass for cattle or hay. Some folks were hoping the 8-12 inch floods we had the weekend of the 22nd would drown some, or at least wash them down the creek, but no such luck. You can throw that theory out the window as they were almost just as thick after as before the floods. Did it wash some eggs down the creek and will we have round two, are the questions I'm getting now. Only time will tell is what I say, because they can be a problem all fall, right up to the first freeze. So keep scouting those pastures and treat if you want to save your grass, or let it go as some have done, guess it depends on how much hay you have stored up. All the cattle are fat and happy with weaning time here for some, and almost here for others. I think calf weights should be fair to middling just from what I have seen lately, of course those areas that were extra dry for longer periods of time during the year may be short several pounds from the average. Calf prices are steady at most markets but not well tested because of low numbers. That will change very soon when folks start hauling in their calves. In the local markets some 520 lb calves selling at \$1.66/lb, and some 615 lb at \$1.59. If you have not tested your hay I highly recommend you do that soon, so you will know what your crude protein and energy levels are going into winter. It could be all over the board the way this year has been but you need to know so you can make a game plan on how to supplement your cows during the winter. You would be surprised how much money a hay test could potentially save you.

In the markets as of Sept 29- Slaughter cattle trade was at \$111. Current feed yard closeouts were \$64 in the red. The live cattle futures are up-Oct at \$113(Dec 119), while Sept Feeder futures were at \$1.58(Oct 1.58). The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.60 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at \$1.60. Cows and bulls were steady with average dress slaughter cows at \$52-61, while bulls were \$80-86

Coastal Bermuda: Small Squares-9.00-10.00 per bale. Large Rounds: 70.00-100.00 per roll

Visit Cooke County AgriLife Extension website at cooke.agrilife.org for our local events, news & updates
Visit www.cattlerange.com for all the latest market reports and Ag news.

****Check out my article on A Weaning Startegy in the local papers and on our website this week(it will be delayed being put on our website until Wednesday or Thursday)

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