## Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, February 18, 2019

Well we received another inch or so of rain last Sunday and Monday added on top of the previous week’s rainfall so fields and pastures are still wet. I know, Sounds like a broken record. Early planted winter pasture is looking half decent with the rest of it trying to take off. The saturated soils, more freezing temperatures and very little sunshine is hindering growth. Those that didn't get to top dress are still looking for a window of opportunity to do so. There seems to be more stocker calves on wheat than it will support in most pastures. Operators may have jumped the gun anticipating more growth than actually has occurred so far. Most of the winter pastures I saw this week are severely over grazed for the time being but hopefully that will improve soon with some good weather to promote growth. In the cow calf sector folks are still feeding lots of hay and cows are in decent shape for the most part, although there are some that look pretty rough. There are quite a few folks calving now so even more hay will be needed in the days to come unless the winter pastures take off soon. We are still 6 weeks or so away from spring green up so folks are hoping their hay supply holds out. This is the time of year to do your soil test if you can find a window where it’s dry enough. It is recommended that you do a soil test at least every two years to determine your fertilizer blend and amount needed for optimum production. Whether you are grazing it or making hay, a soil test will pay dividends for you. Fertilizer is an expensive input so don’t put out more than you need and we sure don’t want to short our grass of nutrients. We have soil sample bags and forms at the office so come by and get what you need. And as always I will be happy to answer any questions that might be on your mind.

 **In the markets as of Feb 9-** Slaughter cattle trade is at $125. Current feed yard closeouts were $22.43 in the black. The live cattle futures for Feb are at $127, while Mar Feeder futures were $143. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at $1.42 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at $1.63. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls were $2-4 higher, cows at $53-62 while bulls were $80-91

**Bred Cows**: 2-4 yr old 875-1325 lbs 5-6 months bred 735.00-875.00; 5-7 yr old 1175-1300 lbs 4-7 months bred 790.00-910.00, Pkg 6 yr old 1275 lbs black 5 months bred 1125.00; **Pairs:** Not well tested

**Hay report:** Coastal Bermuda: Small Squares: FOB: Good to Premium 297.00-400.00/ton, 9.00-12.00 per bale. Large Rounds: FOB: Good to Premium 140.00-200.00/ton, 70.00-100.00 per roll; Fair to Good 120.00-140.00, 60.00-70.00 per bale.

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