## Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, March 4, 2019

Well its dang sure cold! Temperatures were in the teens last night and a high today of right at freezing, and it was a miserably cold and wet weekend. Temps will gradually climb up during the week and Saturday should be near 70 with an 80 % chance of Thunderstorms. What?? The wheat, oats and winter grasses are looking a little better but are still behind where they should be. Corn Farmers have planting on their mind but it’s just too wet and cold right now. A lot of folks that got their soil testing done early are planning their fertilize & weed control program. If you haven't pulled soil samples yet it’s not too late. Check daily to see when it’s dry enough to get a good sample of soil that is not muddy or waterlogged. We have the sample bags and forms here at the office free of charge, and the directions are on the back for pulling soil samples. The basic test (Routine Analysis) at our Texas A&M Soil Testing Lab will cost you $12 per sample and includes results for pH, Conductivity, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and Sulpher. This test is satisfactory in most cases and it’s what we recommend for pastures and hayfields to determine fertilizer recommendations and lime needs to correct low for low pH(acidity of soil). If you want to test for the micro-nutrients, it will cost $19 per sample and includes the routine analysis ($12 test) along with Zinc, Iron, Copper and Manganese. This test is important for folks with pecan and fruit trees, and other major crops like Corn, Soybeans, etc… The processing time for the above two test analysis can run anywhere from one to two weeks depending on how busy the lab is at that particular time. There are other more specific analysis you can add to the routine test like for Boron, Salinity, Organic matter, and Texture, but these usually require more time for processing, and they are more expensive. We also have test forms for Water (routine analysis is $25), Plant/Forage(starting at $5 for protein, $12 for protein plus nitrates, $14 for Protein + ADF + TDN(energy), $18 for Protein + Minerals, and others). For you Homeowners and Gardeners we have an Urban Soil testing form available that is geared toward small plots like gardens and lawns. I would be happy to email you any form you need or if you would like to come by the office to pick one up, we can visit about your specific needs and get you the information you need.

 **In the markets as of Mar 2-** Slaughter cattle trade at $128. Current feed yard closeouts were $56.82 in the black. The live cattle futures for April are at $130, while Mar Feeder futures were $141. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at $1.43 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at $1.63. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls, $1-3 higher, cows at $58-64 while bulls were $81-88

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

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.

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