

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, March 18, 2019

Well we received more rain the first half of last week. I had reports from 1.5 to 2.5 inches over most of the County so we continue to have a surplus of moisture so its plenty wet. It had finally dried out enough to get a plow in the field but that didn't last long. I know it sounds like a broken record but Wheat, Oats and other winter pastures have been waterlogged all fall and winter and you can sure tell it by how poorly they look. Those trying to graze it can tell you best as they are feeding hay and supplements hoping to get some more grazing from their investment. It's been a rough time for them and everyone is ready for spring to pop. Corn farmers are waiting for the next dry period to plant, if there is such a thing, but we all know the next dry spell is coming one day. Looks like Corn and Milo farmers will be running about the same time this year. Most of the cattle look pretty rough as this winter has been tough on them too, with a lot of hay and supplements being fed. One good thing is we have not had a bad ice or snowstorm this winter. The first day of spring is this Wednesday and forecast calls for the week to be pretty nice but there is more rain scheduled for the weekend. Yee Haw! I noticed the weeds are starting to pop up so everyone should be making plans so they will be ready to put out fertilizer and to spray herbicides to control weeds and undesirable grasses in their pastures and hayfields. It's not too late to do a soil test if you haven't done one, and I highly recommend it. We all tend to get in too big a hurry wanting that grass to pop that we miss a lot of weeds if sprayed too early. With the high cost of fertilizer, herbicides and application, we need to make it count. Most of us use a liquid fertilizer with a post-emergent weed killer and do it all in one pass to save money. If you spray too early hoping to give your grass a head start, you may miss some weeds like Sunflower and Cockleburs who are the last ones to rear their ugly heads. On the other hand if you wait until these two weeds are up and a few inches tall to get the maximum kill, you may miss some growth and quality on your grass. If you need to use a dry fertilizer then you will be able to give the grass a good head start and then you can weed spray when the timing is right and yes its two applications. There are several options so each producer should weigh his and make the best pasture management decision for his operation. Don't worry about what your neighbor is doing; he's not paying your bills. Let me know if you need some help reading your soil test report, or making fertilizer or herbicide decisions.

In the markets as of Mar 16- Slaughter cattle trade at \$127. Current feed yard closeouts were \$11 in the black. The live cattle futures for April are at \$129, while Mar Feeder futures were \$141. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.41 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at \$1.60. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls, \$1-2 higher, cows at \$60-66 while bulls were \$82-89

Hay report: Coastal Bermuda squares 9.00-12.00 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.

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