

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, April 1, 2019

Well we just got a dab of rain last week so things are drying out a little with all the winter grass sucking the moisture out. As everyone knows Ryegrass is a moisture and nitrogen eating machine. The winter wheat and oats are looking much better now that their feet are drying out and the warmer sunny weather lately, well except for this weekend. Reports of temps getting down to 31-33 degrees over most of the county Sunday morning, but don't think it will hurt anything, well maybe the fruit trees. No Rust in wheat and oats yet but I have heard reports that Green Aphids and Bird Cherry-Oat Aphids are on the prowl in some fields so it's a good idea to scout for these every couple days. Good insecticides to spray pastures are ones with Lambda-Cyhalothrin(LambdaStar, Lambda-Cy, Grizzly, Silencer etc..) and this is usually the cheapest route. Chlorpyrifos(Govern, Hatchet, Lorsban), or products with a combination of this and Lambda-Cyhalothrin (Bolton, Cobalt or Cobalt Advanced) are good but a little more expensive. Other products are Besiege, Dimethoate 4E, Declare, Proaxis, Sivanto Prime, Malathion, and the list goes on and on, all with different active ingredients. Be sure to read the label before you choose your product for rates, target pests, grazing and haying restrictions and other vital information. Always remember that the "Label is the Law"

Most of the corn got planted over the last couple of weeks and the first of it is breaking the crust on its way out. It seems a little slow in coming. Bermuda grass pastures are slow as well but there are spots where it is starting to break dormancy. If you are managing for Bermudagrass pasture or hay and you have winter grasses like Ryegrass in it, don't jump the gun by putting out fertilizer before it has a chance to green up. You want the Bermudagrass to get some of the nitrogen too as Ryegrass will hog it up. I used to bale over 1200 acres every year of Coastal and Ryegrass mix pastures and let me tell you it is a balancing act of when to fertilize to get the most out of both grasses. It takes some good management strategies to not hurt or hold back your Coastal. Pay attention, You're the boss!!!

Stocker operators are smiling once again since the wheat has come on and doing better, cattle are leaving the hay bales and chasing the green stuff. The winter pasture grasses should be getting more strength to them now so weight gains should continue to improve. Most Cow calf producers are nearing the end of calving season and happy to see all the winter pastures popping. Some have enough grass to stop putting out hay and then, some don't. Cattle sure have had a battle with lice this winter!

In the markets as of Mar 30- Slaughter cattle trade a tick higher at \$126. Current feed yard closeouts were \$14 in the red. The live cattle futures for April are at \$126, while April Feeder futures were \$145. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.40 and 550 lb. stocker steers were up 5 at \$1.65. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls, \$5-8 lower, cows at \$46-55 while bulls were \$69-83

Hay report: Unchanged-Coastal Bermuda squares 9.00-12.00 per bale. Large Rounds 70.00-100.00/roll

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