

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, April 22, 2019

Well we received a good rain last week from 2-4 inches mostly throughout the county, with a few reports of close to 5 inches. A strip in the south eastern part of the County received the largest amount with totals of 3-5 inches. Everywhere else it was a good 2-3 inch rain. The winter grass is belly deep to a giraffe, well it seems that way! It's amazing how fast winter grass shoots up this time of year. The wheat and oats are looking much better with the some in the boot stage, some heading, with no reports of any rust so far in wheat although some are spraying as a preventative measure. Most of the corn is about a foot tall now and looking great. Farmers finished getting their Milo in the ground before the rain last week and the last of it should be emerging before the weeks end. I haven't heard of anyone planting any beans yet but once it dries out enough I am sure they will be hitting it hard, and the same goes for cotton. The cattle are looking fat and happy now with calving season over and calves taking off. All the hay fed this past winter is just a slow fainting memory for most. Ranchers should be getting their medicines and Vet supplies ordered for branding coming up in May. All calves should be at least 2 months old to get the full effect of the vaccines, any younger and you might as well squirt it out on the ground because their immune system just isn't ready. While giving that blackleg shot, please remember to include a respiratory vaccine while you're at it, it only cost a couple dollars more and could save you a lot of time and money treating that calf later, or even worse it could die. A lot of folks give a Clostridia to cover blackleg, but fail to give a respiratory vaccine to cover pneumonia viruses. Use a 7 or 8 way Clostridia to cover blackleg and use a 5 way to cover respiratory disease, which includes IBR, BVD Types I and II, PI3 and BRSV. This will keep your calves healthy and putting on the pounds instead of being in the sick pen. I have always worked my cows too, and I strongly recommend it. Give them a 7 or 8 way Clostridia and a 5 or 6 way respiratory vaccine that includes Vibrio and Lepto(which protects against reproductive diseases). Vaccines are cheap insurance to keep your cattle healthy and on track to produce the most pounds possible and the buyers will definitely reward you for your efforts. Another important aspect when working your cattle is de-worming and this time of year they have the greatest parasite load. There are several options, pour-ons, injectables and oral de-wormers so visit with your Vet to choose the right one. Don't forget about the danged ole flies as cattle are already bunching up so consider fly tags and other options to relieve the pressure. Ralgo is back so consider growth implants and keep out a good mineral. All of these practices pays dividends come pay day!!! You're the boss!!!

In the markets as of April 20- Slaughter cattle trade at \$126. Current feed yard closeouts were \$36 in the black. The live cattle futures for April are at \$128.50, while April Feeder futures were \$146. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.48 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at \$1.69. Average dress slaughter cows were steady-\$4 higher at \$46-59 while bulls were steady-\$1 higher \$69-84

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