

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, April 29, 2019

Well we received about an inch of rain last week over the entire county. I noticed last week and this morning that folks are trying to cut winter grass hay around the moisture and mud holes. The hay doesn't dry out very fast this time of year with the high humidity, dews and cool nights but you have to start sometime. Rain is in the forecast again and for the entire week and chances are 80 and 90 percent so April's total keeps climbing. So far April has brought us on average 7-10 inches and has been spread out for the most part so flooding has been at a minimum. Farmers are hoping we don't receive any floods, hail or high winds with this week's storms as they pass through. Most of the wheat and oats have either headed out or in the process, and looking pretty dang good with very few reports of Rust and bugs this year. The corn and milo has started off looking good this year and it continues to do well with farmers hoping for limited insect and disease damage this year. The few that plant Cotton and Soybeans are gearing up to plant soon as the conditions get better for those crops. The cattle are looking better each day with abundant winter grasses to graze on and are painting the fences. Calves are scouring a little too, but hey it's that time of year. This time of year the cattle are unable to keep up with the grass, which is a great problem to have, because it will change soon enough. It's also the time of year for those pesky horn flies so when you're working your cattle its worth your time to treat for flies. There are good pour-on's that will knock them off immediately, but then use fly tags for months of control. If you use a pour on de-wormer then that will knock the flies off for several days unless rain washes it off. I recommend putting in two fly tags for every head run through the chute. Some say it cost too much, but I say it cost too much- not to do it! You would be shocked at how much weight it keeps on all your cattle and in the end how much heavier your calves will weigh. Use two tags per animal and alternate the type of ear tag insecticide used each year. To avoid flies becoming resistant, Organophosphate (OP) ear tags can be used after a pyrethroid ear tag but do not use organophosphate ear tags for more than 2 successive years. Organochlorine (Avenger) or macrocyclic lactone (XP 820) ear tags are effective alternatives to pyrethroid or organophosphate ear tags and can be part of the rotation. Remove the ear tags when calves are weaned or when the cows are worked in the fall, and treat if more than 200 or so horn flies per head are present when the tags are removed, and use a spray or dust with a different mode of action to reduce overwintering flies. Removing the fly tags will help in battling resistance to that product. Producing pounds of weaned calf is the name of the game!

In the markets as of April 27- Slaughter cattle trade at \$125.50. Current feed yard closeouts were \$16 in the black. The live cattle futures for April are at \$125, while April Feeder futures were \$144. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.45 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at \$1.68. Average dress slaughter cows were \$3-4 higher at \$49-64 while bulls were \$2-4 higher \$72-86

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