

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, April 8, 2019

Well we received a few showers a couple days last week but it didn't amount to much, but hey it doesn't take much to get things muddy does it? We got about .3 tenths of rain south of HWY 82 line and .6 north of that line. I was out in some wheat fields early this morning and everywhere I went it was dang sure wet. No signs of any Rust that I could see and the wheat and oats look pretty good I thought. For those that are grazing it doesn't look as good but its getting tromped in the mud a little. Most of the seed wheat I looked at is in the process of producing a flag leaf so we are at growth stages between 8 and 9 on the Feekes scale. The growth stage 8 begins when the last leaf (flag leaf) begins to emerge from the whorl. This stage is particularly significant because the flag leaf makes up approx 75 percent of the effective leaf area that contributes to grain fill. We just had our monthly Texas Wheat Webex meeting with all the experts and the ones from our area here in the blacklands said they have seen very little Stripe or Leaf Rust. It's nice when you have to really look hard for it. They said most of the wheat and oats look pretty good and think the yield could possibly be better than once expected but there are still lots of variables that come into play from now to harvest, like the weather! The Experts also said that some of the early planted wheat is in the boot stage and trying to head in certain areas. I visited with one of our commercial applicators and he has not sprayed for any insects so far he said. I would keep scouting every few days for insects and rust. There have been a few scattered reports of Bird Cherry-Oat Aphids in North Texas and a little rust too. After the wheat flags out up to heading, but prior to flowering(10.5), is a good time to spray a fungicide for Rust. There are lots of fungicides out there so do some research and talk to some Reps. I noticed several farmers sticking some Milo in the ground in between the showers last week. I talked to one farmer this morning and he said everyone is just about finished planting, so the end is in sight. The corn is up and coming along nicely according to my source. The cattle producers are waiting on the Spring grasses to come on, much of it has broken dormancy this past week. Cattle are looking much better and Ranchers are almost done calving with good success for the most part. It will be time to spray for weeds and fertilize soon for most folks that are using liquid fert. Weeds need to be 4-6 inches for optimum kill using the least amount of product.

In the markets as of April 6- Slaughter cattle trade lower at \$124. Current feed yard closeouts were \$48 in the red. The live cattle futures for April are at \$126, while April Feeder futures were \$146. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at \$1.44 and 550 lb. stocker steers were up a tic \$1.67. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls were steady, 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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Marty Morgan, Cooke County Ag Agent for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Call 940-668-5412 or email- marty.morgan@ag.tamu.edu