

## Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, May 20, 2019

Well there was a quite a bit of hay rolled up last week right up until Saturdays Rain when we received an inch over most of the county with totals closer to two inches in some locations. It was mostly winter grass hay as the warm season grasses have been slow to come on this year because of cool nights and slow to rise soil temps. Coastal Bermuda will be coming on strong once we get the winter grass off of it and nights continue to warm up. The winter grass has sure been good this year with the Ryegrass being the best I have seen in several years. You either love it or hate it! Of course if you're cutting hay fields with Ryegrass in it you learn to tolerate it, but if it's in your crops, well that's a different story, you hate it. I always had it in my Coastal Bermuda pastures and it no doubt save my bacon more times than I can remember. You just have to be on your toes to manage it where it doesn't hold your Bermuda back. With it raining every week or few days then it's a little harder to do. The worst thing about ryegrass is it loves nitrogen and will eat up a lot of it and rob the crop the nitrogen was intended for. I hear that some cotton and beans have been planted and the rest of the sorghum forages got put in the ground looks like. As for corn one farmer said that there is no worm or insect pressure but all the water we have had this spring is binding nitrogen and pruning roots in some fields. He said it was worst the further east you go. I guess all the water is drowning all the bugs. Ha Another farmer said this morning that some of his milo looks ok and some is hurt by water and ryegrass. I tell you all this moisture has took its toll on all crops this year. Wheat and oats are no exception but have held up relatively good considering, and they are in the last phase right before harvest which is right around the corner. If we can keep avoiding any hail or wind storms and the rain lets up, the harvest might be decent. Of course there has been some lodging in low lying areas from flooding but overall most is still standing. I don't care much for the summer heat, but we could use a little warmer weather for our crops and grasses, but the weather is one thing we cannot control. Cattle are fat and happy with grass so tall in places that you can't see the calves. There were some folks that took advantage of the nice break in the weather last week to get their cattle worked, that is if they were not too busy in the hay patch. I'm still not complaining about all the moisture because one day it will be dryer than a bone and we will all be wishing for some. It seems its either feast or famine here in the Lone Star State, but it's still the best!

**In the markets as of May 18-** Slaughter cattle trade \$3 lower at \$117. Current feed yard closeouts were \$48 in the red. The live cattle futures for June were \$1 lower at \$111, while May Feeder futures were over \$2 lower at \$135. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were \$1 lower at \$1.34 and 550 lb. stocker steers were \$3 lower at \$1.63. Average dress slaughter cows were steady to \$5 higher at \$56-65, while bulls were \$1-4 higher at \$71-89

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