

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, June 17, 2019

Well we received more rain last week which is testing the patience of farmers trying to get their wheat and oats harvested. Seems like they only get 2-3 days a week where they can get in the fields and do some good. Some are all in, all done, and beat the rain early Sunday morning, while others are hoping to finish up in the next few weeks. Farmers are tired and grumpy which is understandable! The weather predictors change the forecast so often nobody knows when to expect the next round of storms. Rain totals last week were from 2-3 inches across the county which was ok for pastures and hay fields. I noticed quite a bit of hay laid down last week that got rained on early in the week but most of it was baled up before Sunday's storms. The reports I'm hearing on wheat yields are up and down and still hanging in around 40-70 bushels per acre just depending on how wet the fields stayed during the winter and early spring, with test weights coming in from 55-60 pounds per bushel. The harvest is slow and drawn out from all the rain each week. Oats are still around 70-80 bushels and weighing light from reports I'm hearing. Corn and milo are looking ok considering all the moisture they have endured and no reports of much insect pressure so far. Pastures and hayfields are green as a gourd and looking good with rains and slightly warmer temperatures. Everywhere I went on site visits last week there were hundreds of tiny grasshoppers appearing so make a plan to treat if needed. There has been a lot of hay made this season but quality will be affected depending on how the weather treated it and how much fertilizer it actually received. Be sure to test your hay for protein and energy content and buyer beware when purchasing hay. Cattle are doing extremely well as they should be this time of year. Ranchers are in the middle of the breeding season for next spring's calf crop so check your bulls and make sure they are getting the job done. The dangd ole flies are still bad and giving cattle fits with the exception of those that put fly tags in and rotate them each year, then they're not as bad. There are reports that foot rot is pretty bad right now so buy you a bottle of LA-200 to treat it, or a bottle of Drexel if you can afford it. It helps to give Sulpha boluses at the same time you give the shot. Keep out a good mineral with magnesium to avoid Grass tetany (grass staggers) this time of year with the lush fast growing grasses.

In the markets as of June 15- Slaughter cattle trade steady at \$113. Current feed yard closeouts were \$106 in the red. The live cattle futures for June were up a hair at \$108.77, while Aug Feeder futures were down a hair at \$135.50. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were steady at \$1.31 and 550 lb. stocker steers were steady at \$1.51. Average dress slaughter cows were steady at \$55-69, while bulls were steady at \$73-89. The markets didn't move much and held their own.

Visit Cooke County AgriLife Extension website at cooke.agrilife.org for our local events, news & updates
Visit www.cattlerange.com for all the latest market reports and Ag news.

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