

Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, June 24, 2019

Well we received on average half to one inch of rain last week, and then last night, Sunday, we received around a half inch give or take a few tenths. Every time the fields get dry enough to not mud it up too bad here comes another round. I noticed quite a few wheat fields last week that had some pretty good ruts in them but it's not as bad as it was in 2015 when you could get lost in one. The wheat and oat harvest are at about 80 percent complete with farmers only able to get in the field 3 or 4 days a week since harvest started over three weeks ago. Wheat yields are coming in at above average numbers with reports of 60-70 bushels and test weights averaging 58. Oats are hanging in around 80 bushels and test weights averaging in the mid to upper 20's. The Corn is somewhere between the silking and denting stage depending on how early or late it was planted in between all the rains this spring. Our farmers who sell handpicked sweet corn were busy gathering it up last week and it was selling like hot cakes. As for the Milo some looks good and some not so good. It just depends on how much water it had to stand in as some fields were swamps. I noticed last Friday that some of the early planted milo is starting to boot and head. Again the spring rains had planting scattered out so it's in different growth stages with the later planted looking the worst. The pastures and hayfields are looking pretty darn good right now with lots of grass. There was a lot of hay made this spring in between all the moisture and about half of it got rained on at least once. The Coastal Bermudagrass pastures and hayfields are looking pretty good with the warmer temps here lately. It just depends on what part of the county you're in and soil type, as fields in sand and sandy loam pastures look the best. I walked through a patch of Kleingrass last week that looked dang good, it was thick but headed out. The native grass pastures look good too. Spring calving should be over for most producers, with the exception of those that calve year round, and fall calving only about 3 months away. Everyone has their own time table but the majority of our ranchers calve from February-March through April-May and therefore their breeding season is from end of April into May, to the first to the middle of July depending on the length they want their calving season. I've always used a 90 day calving window in the spring beginning around first part of Feb and a 60 day in the fall with it starting around Oct 1. Calving season should be matched to your forage production as your calves will have their stomachs(rumen) and be ready to start utilizing grass when six to eight weeks of age and your cows will be in peak lactation at that time too. Matching your forage base to animal demand is just smart business and will vary depending upon the kind of grass you grow, the weather and other input variables, so plan accordingly. You're the boss!

In the markets as of June 22- Slaughter cattle trade down \$3 at \$110. Current feed yard closeouts were \$145 in the red. The live cattle futures for June were down a hair at \$107, while Aug Feeder futures were down a hair at \$134. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were steady at \$1.30 and 550 lb. stocker steers were down \$2 at \$1.49. Slaughter cows were \$55-69, Bulls were \$73-90.

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Visit www.cattlerange.com for all the latest market reports and Ag news.

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