

## Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, July 1, 2019

Well the one inch rain last Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> was nice as a line of thunderstorms moved through North TX, but we missed the rain this past Saturday evening here as they built up east of us. This is the time of year where a rain once a week is welcomed but is usually not the norm. The long range forecast has been saying all along that this summer will be wetter than normal with below normal temperatures. It wouldn't hurt our feelings if they were right, would it? The warm season pastures are looking really good so far, especially the Coastal Bermuda grass hayfields. Our Bermuda demonstration hay patch at NCTC looks awesome and we collected data as we clipped and weighed last Thursday. We are measuring forage production on the Coastal bermudagrass to see what type of fertilizer works best including both treated and untreated fertilizer. We plan on having a forage management program later on this year to reveal our findings and discuss this and other principles to increase our production and quality of our grasses. The oat harvest is complete with the average yield around 80, so we were down from the last few years. The wheat harvest is nearing completion but there were a few fields that had not been cut as of last Friday. Yields are way above average at 70 bushels and weights are about normal at 60 pounds. This has been another good harvest for our farmers who work hard putting in long hours and it's great to see them rewarded with a good wheat crop. The corn harvest will be right around the corner and looks to be a good crop with minimal damage from insects and ear worms. I often wondered every time we had a hard rain with standing water in the fields how it would affect the corn crop, but it weathered the rain real well and has done good with its feet wet most of the season. The milo is looking ok with most of it in the boot to heading stage now, but it all depends on when it got put in the ground as a lot of planting was delayed from the rains. I looked at some good soybeans last week and they were loaded so the yields should be above average on what I saw. There are some farmers that will be planting some late soybeans as a double crop behind the wheat. The cattle are still looking great with all the excess forage they have had this spring. The grass has been a little washy with all the rain but now is getting stronger with longer intervals between the rains. There were a lot of stockers shipped to the feedyards the last couple weeks and the weights and average daily gains were real good this time. The cow calf operations are finished working their cattle and set for the summer, and most are done weaning and shipping their fall calves, and breeding season is over or almost over for most. It has been one of the wettest winters and early springs but all in all, it has been a pretty dang good year, so far! I hope everyone has a safe and happy Fourth of July celebrating our freedom!!!

**In the markets as of June 29-** Slaughter cattle trade down \$1 at \$109. Current feed yard closeouts were \$155 in the red. The live cattle futures for June were up at \$110.50, while Aug Feeder futures were up a hair at \$137. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were steady at \$1.31 and 550 lb. stocker steers were up \$4 at \$1.53. Slaughter cows were \$55-71, Bulls were \$76-99.

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