TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

MARCH 2021
AG/NR NEWSLETTER

HARRISON COUNTY

HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION
OFFICE102 W HOUSTON
MARSHALL, TX 75670
903-935-8413

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

MARSHALL, TEXAS

- Fertilize cool-season lawns, such as bluegrass and ryegrass. Do not fertilize warm-season lawn grasses yet.
- Now is the time to plant almost every kind of landscape plant. Remember, the sooner you plant, the sooner your plants will become established.
- Water lawns and gardens deeply once to twice a week, depending on the amount of rain. Do not overwater.
- To help avoid weeds in your lawn, establish a regular mowing schedule now. Avoid mowing your lawn when it is wet, however, to prevent the spread of fungal problems.
- Prune evergreen and summer-flowering trees and shrubs. Prune spring-flowering shrubs only after they finish blooming.
- Divide and replant summer- and fall-blooming perennials.

- Add new flowers to your garden, such as bee balm, black-eyed Susan, cosmos, marigold, sunflower, and zinnia.
- Finish planting any cool-season vegetables, such as beets, carrots, cabbage, peas, and potatoes.
- Summer vegetables can begin to be sown toward the end of the month: beans (lima and snap), corn, cucumbers, melons (cantaloupe, muskmelon, and watermelon), okra, green onions, peanuts, pumpkins, summer squashes, and sunflowers.
- Plant transplants such as: artichokes, eggplants, peppers, and tomatoes.
- Plant herbs such as: basil, chamomile, chives, lavender, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, sage, savory, thyme, and yarrow.
- Apply mulch around the base of edibles and flowers to conserve moisture (and prevent weeds).
- Fertilize deciduous fruit trees when they leaf out.
- Once the fruit on your trees set, thin out the fruit to about 6 inches apart. This thinning encourages the fruit to grow bigger.
- Prune frost-sensitive citrus trees after new spring growth. Plant new citrus trees.
- Beware of pests that are attracted to new growth, such as aphids and cutworms.
- Continue fertilizing established roses, watering the day before and after application.

Vegetable gardening in containers is perfect for those with limited space.

Crop selection

Vegetables that are ideally suited for growing in containers include, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, green onions, beans, lettuce, squash, radishes & parsley.

Containers

Almost any type of container can be used.

Seeding & Transplanting

Vegetables that can be easily transplanted are best suited for container culture.

Fertilization

Choose time-release or water soluble.

Watering

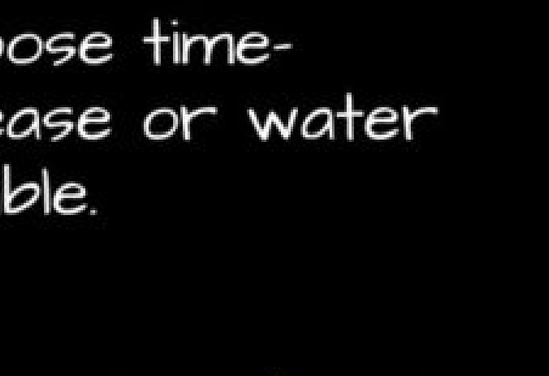
One watering per day is usually adequate.
Be sure to have good drainage.

Light

Nearly all vegetable plants will grow better in full sunlight.

Harvesting

Harvest the vegetables at their peak of maturity.



Diseases & Insects

Vegetables grown in containers are susceptible to the same insects & diseases that are in any garden..

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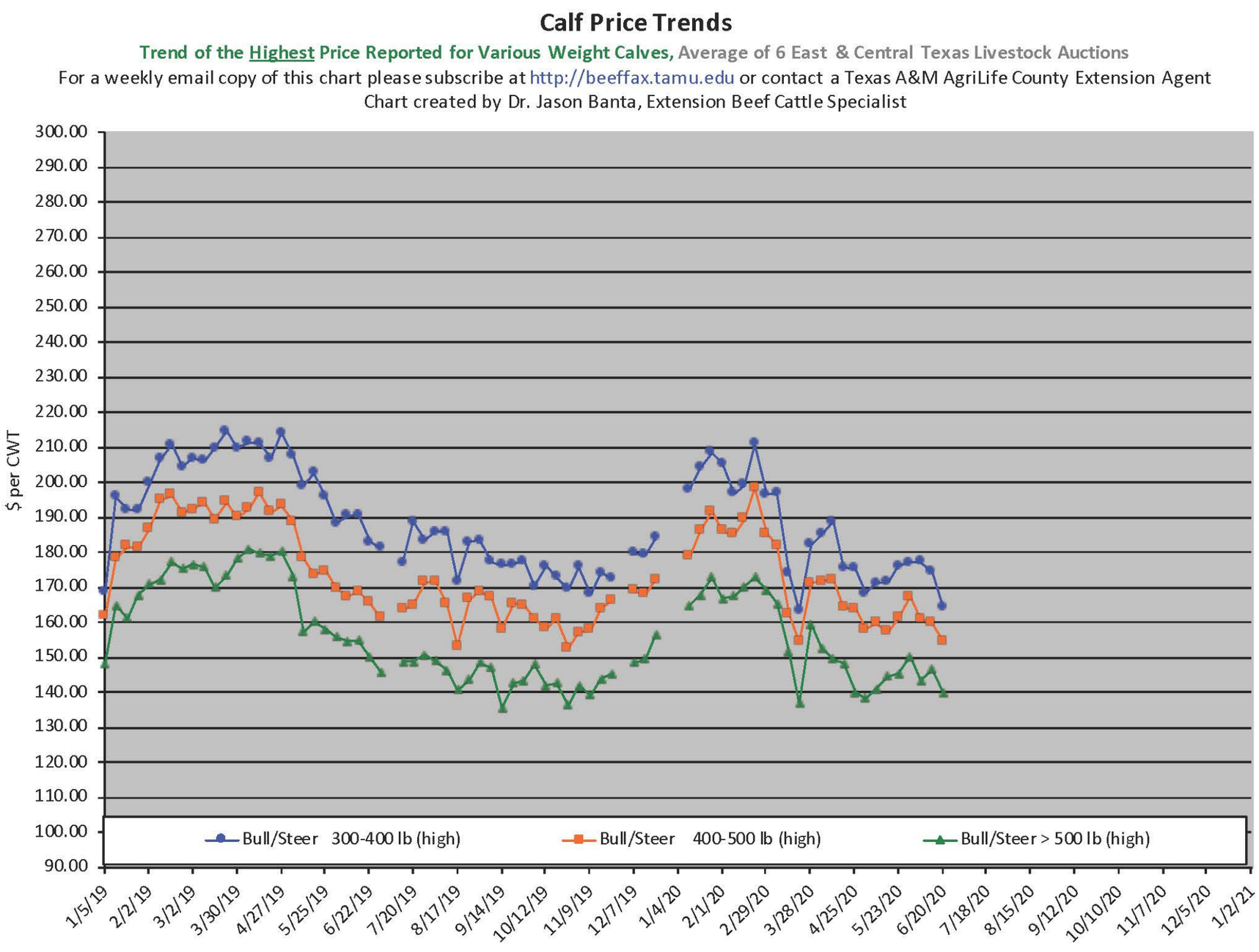
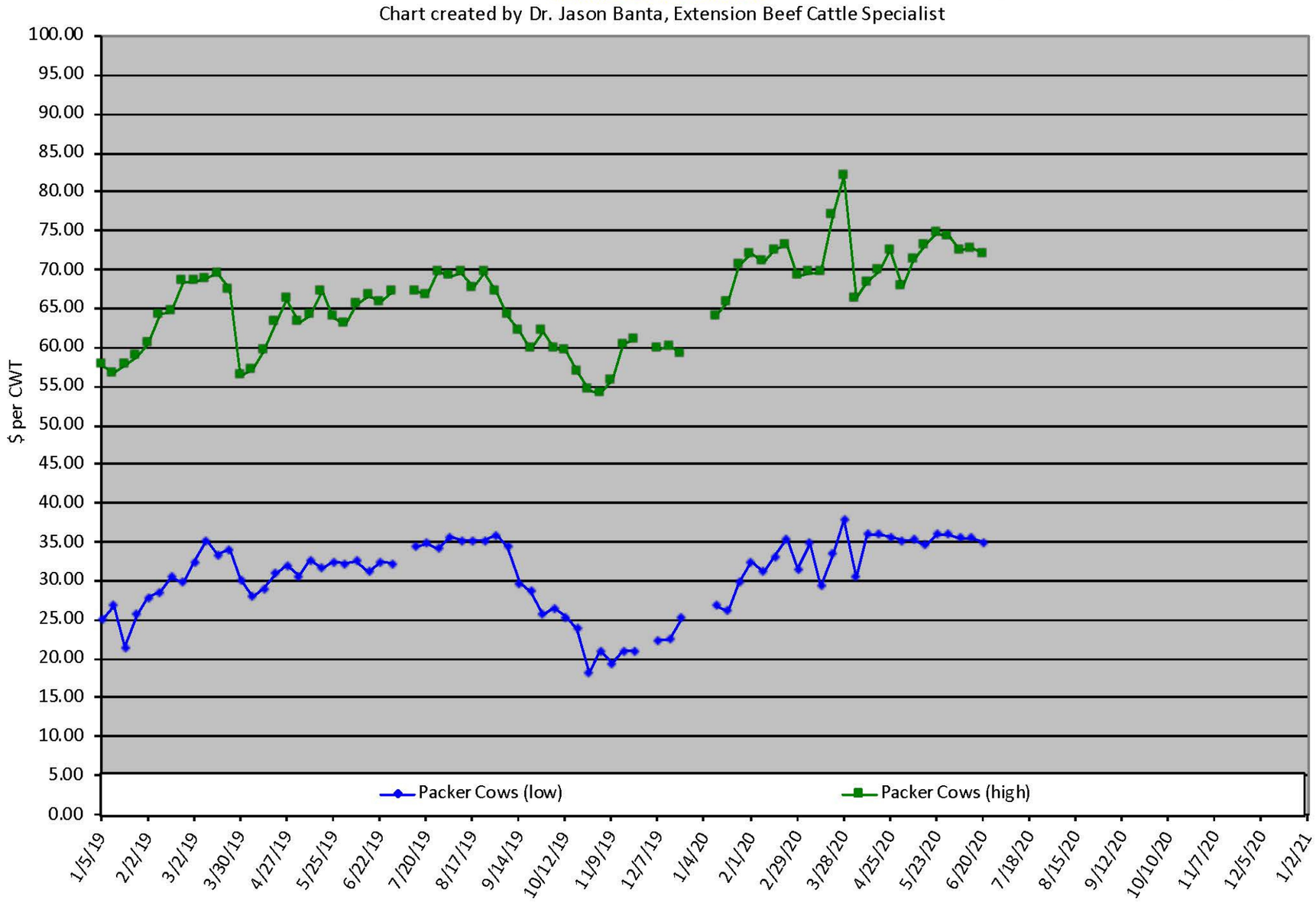
CONTAINER GARDENING

Cattle Price Trends





Cattle price trends for the week ending 2/6/21. The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas. If you have any questions please let me know.

beeffax.tamu.edu

Renovation

During the dormant season we often get anxious for warm weather and green pastures so we start thinking about renovation. Renovation is a practice or series of management practices which “restores the vigor” or “makes new again.” In pasture management, renovation refers to improvement of a permanent pasture by changed management.

Renovation of bermudagrass pastures may be as simple as soil testing and applying proper fertilization; or, it may be as complex and intensive as destroying the existing sod, preparing a seedbed and sprigging again.

Some Renovation Practices

1.Soil Testing & Fertilization

First renovation practice should be extensive soil testing and fertilization in accordance with the soil test recommendations. With current cattle value and fertilizer prices now is the time to renovate with fertilization.

2.Weed Control

Weeds compete with bermudagrass for water, nutrients and sunlight. Scouting and identifying weeds early is critical in order to match the best method of control and to potentially have effective control.

3.Prescribed Burning

Burning during the dormant period will remove excess dead forage; destroy some insects, winter weeds, and weedy grasses. However, burning can be a fire hazard, remove stubble that protects the grass from late freezes and allows potential for more soil erosion. Timing is critical and must be done after weeds have emerged but before bermudagrass green-up. Waiting until later decreases yields. The potential fire hazard (buildings, hay, forest, etc) can be major liabilities make sure to contact local authorities (police and fire department) before burning.

4.Subsoiling, Chiseling, Discing, Plowing

Subsoiling and chiseling will eliminate compaction layers (more common in heavier clay soils). More intensive discing or plowing will incorporate organic matter in the soil, incorporate fertilizer and lime, destroy grassy weeds, scatter cut sprigs, and increase soil water penetration. There is limited to no comparative research data to show a bermudagrass production advantage to discing. Any of the above renovation practices should be done during grass dormancy (winter), with care taken to conserve soil moisture, especially in a drought. In NE Texas that is typically February-March however in SE Texas that time could be earlier. Keep in mind that anytime we disturb the soil we are potentially promoting the germination of weed seeds so be prepared for weed control.

5.Replanting

Replanting of bermudagrass stand should only be considered when inadequate live rhizomes are left (<25% stand)

https://foragefax.tamu.edu/2021/02/19/renovation/

PEACH TREE PRUNING SEMINAR

March 13, 2021 @10:00AM

GY RANCH
7028 HWY 80 W.
MARSHALL, TX

1 Available CEU

Please bring CLEAN pruning sheers
Class will conclude at Noon

Please call the office to RSVP
903-935-8413

Learn about topics like:
Why prune?
Proper Pruning
Fruit Thinning
Insect & Disease Managment

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FARM CITY WEEK

MARCH 22-25

HARRISON COUNTY

JR. LIVESTOCK SHOW

FARM CITY WEEK

RABBIT VALIDATION

March 2nd @ 5:30pm

Hallsville Ag Shop

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

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MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

There WILL be a Master Gardener Plant Sale. The date at this time is unknown. The plans are to have an online sale and also sell at the Farmer's Market. For all Master Gardener updates please follow

www.facebook.com/groups/1385396569606 45

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