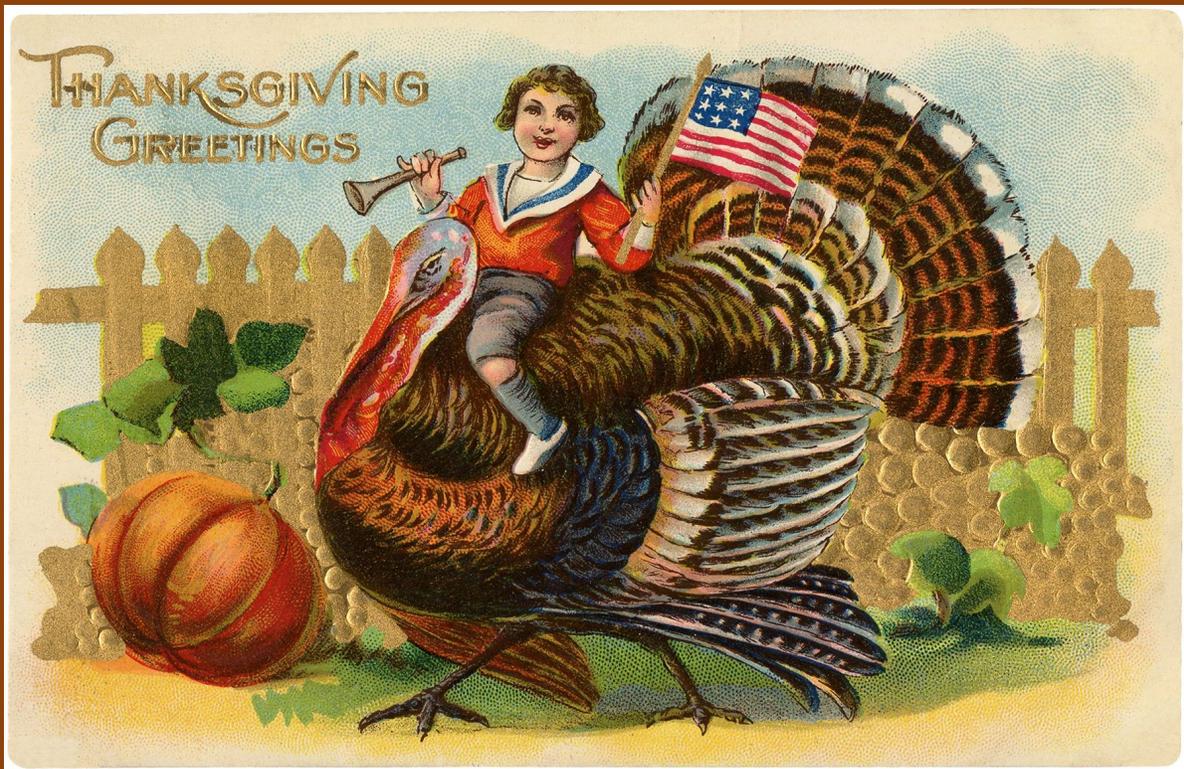


# Harrison County AG/NR Newsletter

## November 2021



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

**102 W. Houston**  
**Marshall, TX 75670**  
**903-935-8413**

# **TEXAS HONEY PRODUCTION DIPS SLIGHTLY**

**Molly Keck, AgriLife Extension entomologist and Beekeeping 101 instructor, Bexar County, said Winter Storm Uri in February and drought conditions in early spring negatively impacted honey production.**

**Keck said the combination of stressful conditions occurred at a critical time for overwintering bee colonies.**

**“The winter storm caused delayed wildflower bloom and that certainly impacted honey production,” Keck said. “It likely caused honeybee losses, especially in South Texas where bees are not acclimated to that type of freezing cold. But the lack of rain through the winter into late-April exacerbated the lack of forage availability for bees as hives became more active.”**

**The annual U.S. Department of Agriculture Department honey report in March showed there were 157,000 honey-producing bee colonies across the state in 2020. Texas honey contributed 8.9 million pounds with a value of \$17 million to overall U.S. production, 147.5 million pounds worth more than \$299 million.**

**Keck said the reduced production could mean higher prices for retail honey, but that local conditions and production success or failure could play into what consumers ultimately pay for locally produced honey. Texas beekeeping falls into three categories – hobbyists, sideliners and commercial. The actual amount of localized honey production is difficult to quantify due to the number of hobbyists and sideliners who do not participate in reporting.**

**Hobbyists are backyard beekeepers who keep bees, typically less than 10 hives, to meet Texas’ agriculture exemption for property taxes and/or to produce honey for their household, to share and/or sell locally. Sideliners typically have 50-250 hives but also maintain a full-time job.**

**Commercial beekeepers keep 500 colonies or more. Their livelihood depends on bee husbandry and by moving large numbers of hives around the state and nation to pollinate crops and/or produce honey.**

**A commercial beekeeper in Texas, for example, may deliver hives in the Rio Grande Valley to pollinate watermelon fields and move those same hives to the Texas Plains to pollinate cotton later in the growing season. Then in the summer they may move their colonies to South Dakota or North Dakota for clover honey production.**

**Keck said beekeepers around the state should be preparing their hives for winter.**

**September rains and warmer weather provided a late bloom that Keck said is helping colonies in some areas of the state stock away food stores to get them through December, January and February. But beekeepers should be monitoring colonies for any supplemental needs.**

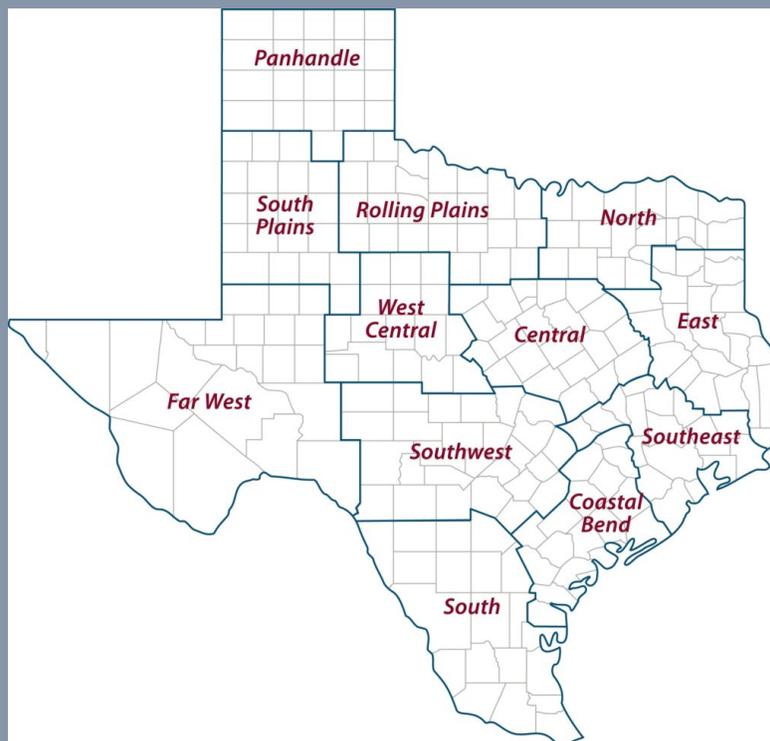
**Keck said it is equally important that beekeepers monitor colonies for mites and reduce any infestations prior to overwintering.**

**“Bees are much like livestock in that we are responsible to provide what nature is not providing,” she said. “In parts of the state, especially the southern half, flowers may be blooming into December, but most hives are closed up at Thanksgiving and not opened back up until around Valentine’s Day. It’s not too late to help make sure you have done your part to help healthy colonies emerge next spring.”**

# AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summary:

## EAST

Drought conditions worsened. Most counties showed signs of drought stress. Pasture and rangeland conditions were fair. Subsoil and topsoil conditions were short. Planted winter pastures were struggling. Houston County reported producers were waiting to plant due to lack of moisture. They also reported problems with high horse fly populations on the east end of the county. Ponds and creeks were drying up. Livestock were in fair to good condition with some supplemental feeding. Wild hogs remained a problem for most producers.



# Expect higher prices, fewer options on Thanksgiving turkeys

Consumers can expect higher prices and fewer options for whole turkeys leading into this Thanksgiving, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock economist, Bryan-College Station, said turkey production was down 5% compared to last year, but prices have risen significantly. Fewer turkeys combined with higher food supply chain and logistical costs like feed, fuel and labor have pushed prices upward.

The national wholesale average for whole hens is \$1.35 per pound compared to \$1.14 per pound this time last year, Anderson said. The five-year average per-pound price is \$1.06 for those turkeys.

Wholesale boneless, skinless turkey breasts were up to \$3.45 per pound compared to \$1.80 per pound last year with a five-year average of \$2.74 per pound.

Anderson said both turkey numbers and pounds produced are at the lowest point since 2015, a response to slipping demand. "This has a lot to do with the fact they are producing fewer turkeys," he said. "Other factors are a part of that, but this is more to do with years of per-capita consumption dipping and longer-term demand-side issues for the turkey industry."

## **Holiday demand dips for whole turkeys**

Anderson said marketing and economic changes for turkey have been driven by consumer choices around the holidays, which has historically driven the whole bird market.

The pandemic clearly impacted the number of holiday gatherings last year, which did not help the industry, but over the past several years, consumers have gone with other meat options, especially for traditional get-together style holiday lunches and dinners beyond Thanksgiving.

"We typically think of Thanksgiving and Christmas when we talk about whole turkeys, but a growing number of consumers have chosen other options like prime rib or brisket or an entirely different menu that used to represent that second bird," he said. "It doesn't take a large percentage of that among 330 million consumers to be a big deal."

Anderson said the other big part of turkey consumption – as deli meats – has grown slightly over recent years but is being outpaced by other grocery store and restaurant offerings.

## **Fewer options for centerpiece turkeys**

Anderson said prices for pork, beef and chicken are also up, but that other factors from bottlenecks to feed prices and higher demand are driving those increases. Aside from hitting consumers in the pocket, lower supplies of whole birds could mean finding the prototypical centerpiece turkeys could be more difficult this Thanksgiving.

Lower supplies and higher costs could also mean individual grocery stores may not offer feature specials on whole birds that are typically used to attract shoppers in hopes they fill their shopping carts with other related items.

"They may not be able to find certain size birds they are used to, or it may be frozen rather than fresh," he said. "This year, buying a turkey may require being more flexible according to what is available."



# Three tips to recycle fall leaves:

## Mow the leaves into the lawn to recycle their nutrients-

The simplest, easiest way to use the leaves is to mow over them with a mulching mower so that the leaf pieces can fall down between the grass blades. The leaf pieces will release nutrients as they decompose, explains Skip Richter, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulture agent, Brazos County, and host of Garden Success, KAMU FM/HD-1. "Most people have a St. Augustine lawn, which tends to be coarse," he said. "If you had a golf-course green, you wouldn't be able to mow the leaves into it. But for most lawns, it's easy. It requires no extra work because you're mowing anyway."

## Collect and mulch the fallen leaves

The next-simplest alternative is to collect the leaves and spread them around shrubs, trees or vegetables so they can work as mulch. "I run over the leaves a few times with my mower to try to break them down," Richter said. "When you grind them up a little bit, it gives them a nicer look, and they're less likely to blow away." Mulch moderates soil temperature, prevents erosion and evaporation, greatly reduces weed problems, and provides nutrients for plant roots as it decomposes over time.

## Use the leaves as compost

A third option for using falling leaves is to compost them, Richter said, pointing out that AgriLife Extension has plenty of information on how to compost at home. He has even created an online resource on composting for kids.

Composting leaves takes more commitment than mulching them, but it creates a nutrient-rich mix that can be mixed with soil to help plants thrive.

"Think about it like what happens in a coffee pot," he said. "When water goes on top of the composted leaves, what comes out is nutrient-rich water that roots can use."

"Most people don't think of dead leaves as useful," Richter added. "They think it's a mess, but it's not a mess. It's nature's own, free, slow-release, plant-based fertilizer."

The leaves have so many uses in the garden, Richter said, that he sometimes stockpiles them during "leaf season."

"Your neighbors are so kind," he said. "They bag the leaves up and set them right on the curb for you."





# TDA Private Applicators Class

When: **November 19, 2021** Registration starts at 8 AM and class starts at 8:30 AM

Where: Harrison County Extension Office

903-935-8413

102 W. Houston

Marshall, TX 75670

Make checks payable to:  
**HARRISON 4-H**

Cost: \$25

RSVP: *By November 12, 2021*

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**TDA Private Applicators License on November 11, 2021.**

**Must RSVP by November 9, 2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CASS~MARION~HARRISON~UPSHUR~GREGG

# PINEYWOODS

## Hay Show

FREE Educational  
Program- Call  
903.756.5391 to RSVP  
by November 5th.

Submit Forage Samples  
along with \$5 analysis  
cost to your County  
Extension office by  
October 15th. A visual  
sample must be  
included.

Attend the FREE  
Program (whether you  
enter the hay show or  
not) on November 9th  
at 6 pm.

### FORAGE AND SOIL ANALYSIS PROGRAM

**NOVEMBER 9TH, 2021**

Speakers will be addressing how to use soil analysis and forage analysis to your benefit. This information will be useful for hay growers, livestock owners, or recreational property owners!

**MEAL SPONSORED BY ROZELL  
AGRITECH**

### Submit Forage Samples

Submit your forage sample to your county extension office, along with your \$5 testing fee. All samples must be submitted by October 15th.

### Attend the Program

The program will be held on November 9th at 6 pm at Enoch Stomp Winery in Harlton, Texas.

### Win Prizes

Hay samples will be judged and prizes will be awarded in each class.

**CONTACT YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION**



# TEXAS

## MASTER GARDENER

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



# NEW INTERN ORIENTATION



The Texas Master Gardener program, Offered through Texas A&M University, provides intensive horticultural training to individuals who then volunteer as Master Gardeners in their communities by giving lectures, creating gardens, propagating plants for plant sales, conducting research, and many other projects.

Registration will cost \$150. This cost will cover your registration and learning materials for your first year. Once you complete your first year as an intern you will become an official Master Gardener. Each year after the annual dues will be \$12. Harrison County Master Gardeners will meet for an orientation January 2022 with the location TBD.

Send forms to:  
"2022 MG Class"

Harrison County Extension Office  
102 W. Houston  
Marshall, TX 75672

 Name:  Address:  City:  Zip:  Phone Number:  Email: 

**Please make checks payable to**  
**Harrison County Master Gardener's Association.**

# Harrison County



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI**LIFE  
EXTENSION

## HEART LIKE HUFF HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

### INFORMATION

In partnership with KMHT Radio, Meadowbrook Funeral Home, Marshall Homecare and Hospice and The Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce we are participating in the first ever Heart Like Huff Holiday Food Drive to benefit Mission Marshall! You are welcome to drop off donations at the Harrison County Extension Office 903-935-8413.

The main drop will be December 20th but we would like to invite you to start donating now so we can do a drop before Thanksgiving!

Mission Marshall provides food at no cost for low-income families, senior citizens and individuals in need throughout our county. I encourage you to join us in our efforts to help our neighbors. These past couple years have shown us many uncertainties and many families using Mission Marshall may not have had to use them previously. Let's come together and make a difference!

### ACCEPTED DONATIONS

CANNED PUMPKIN-CEREAL  
CANNED YAMS-PEANUT BUTTER  
CANNED CRANBERRY SAUCE  
BOX STUFFING-DESSERT MIXS  
DRY MACARONI-CANNED PEAS  
CAN TUNA/CHICKEN-SPAGHETTI SAUCE  
CANNED GREEN BEANS-OATMEAL  
RICE-CANNED VEGGIES-CORNBREAD MIX  
CREAM OF SOUP-CANNED FRUIT  
EVAPORATED MILK-BOX POTATOES  
GRAVY MIX-CRACKERS  
JELLO/PUDDING MIX

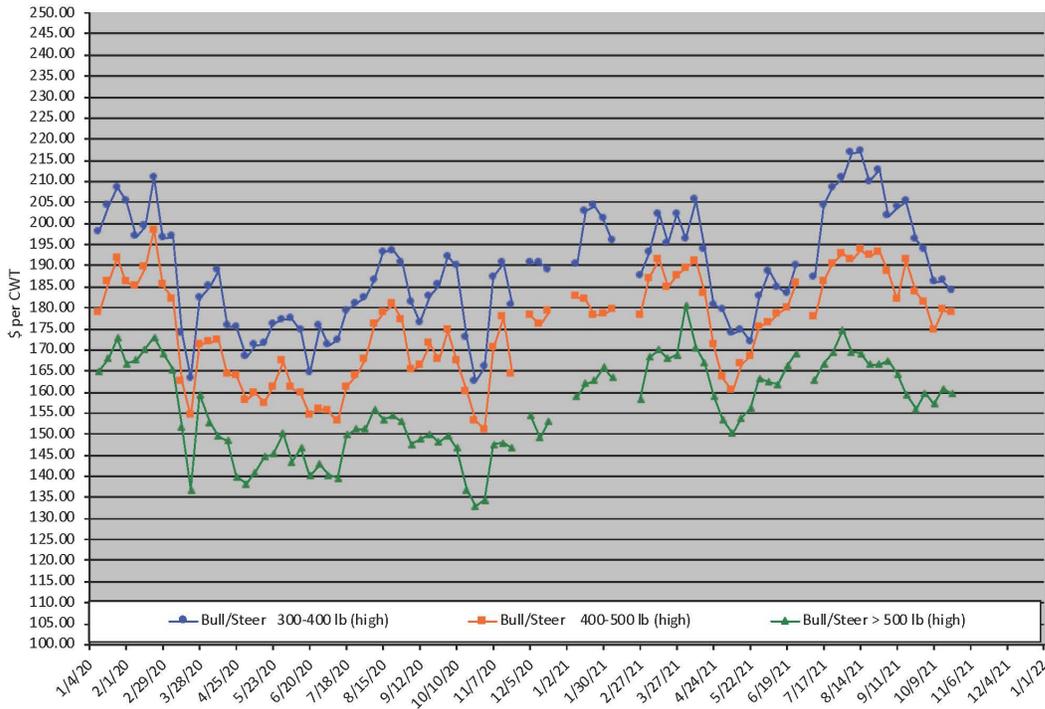
# Cattle price trends for the week ending 10/23/21

The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas. [beeffax.tamu.edu](http://beeffax.tamu.edu)

## Calf Price Trends

Trend of the **Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves**, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

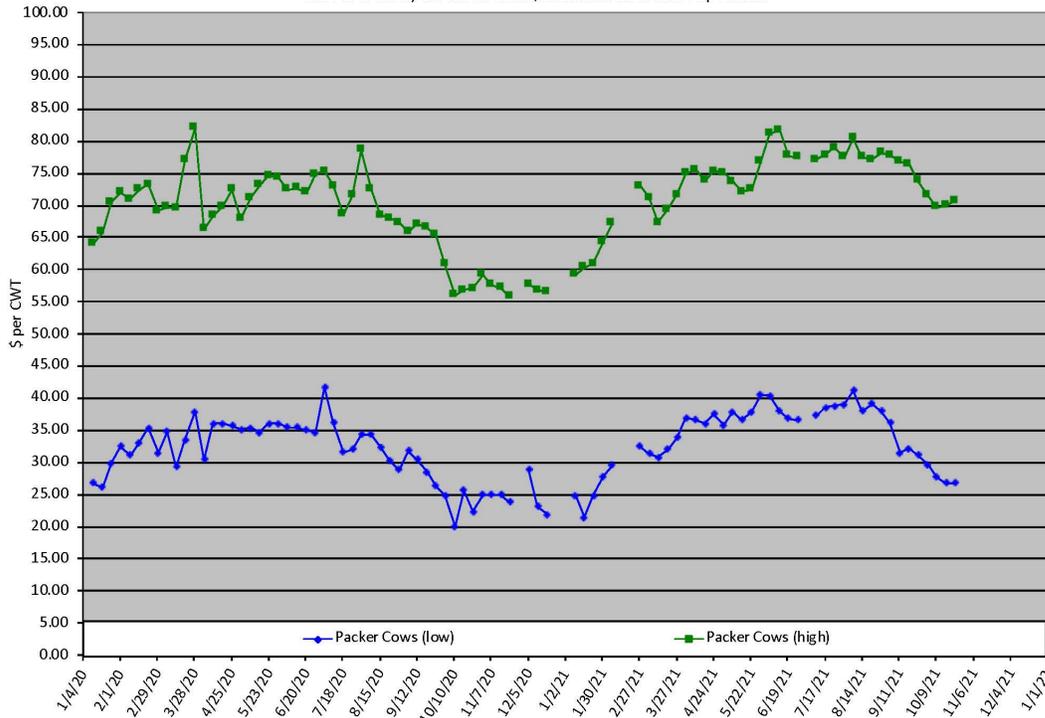
For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent  
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



## Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of **High and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows**, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent  
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



# Cool Season Annual Forages: To Plant or Not To Plant...Now or Later?



Ideally we would like to plant to soil moisture. Summer pastures should be overseeded in October and early November depending on location. Delaying planting may give us an opportunity to plant to soil moisture depending on rainfall. Delaying planting too late (late November or December) will decrease overall forage production as well as result in a shorter grazing period.

If we do have adequate moisture this winter be prepared to manage any winter forages planted, especially those overseeded into existing warm season perennial sods (bermudagrass, bahiagrass, etc). Late (April/May) ryegrass or legume forage production can slow down the spring recovery of our warm season perennial grasses. Be prepared to increase stocking rate or harvest excess forage at that time to allow for warm season perennials to break dormancy.

***[foragefax.tamu.edu](http://foragefax.tamu.edu)***



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**[kelsie.hopkins@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kelsie.hopkins@ag.tamu.edu)**