

Ochiltree County Ag Newsletter July 2018

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

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Decade of Beef Cow Herd Dynamics

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The January 1, 2018 beef cow herd inventory of 31.723 million head was very close to the 2009 herd size of 31.794 million head a decade earlier. However, the industry has been through quite a bit since then and some short and long term changes are evident in the current situation among major beef cow states.

For more than half of the last decade, the U.S. beef cow herd continued a nearly uninterrupted liquidation that began in 1996 and continued until 2014. The only exception was a short-lived expansion attempt in 2005-2006, that added a minimal 171 thousand head to the herd size before resuming liquidation in 2007. From 2009 to 2014, the U.S. beef cow herd dropped by 2.708 million head, with the final two million head the result of severe drought in the Southern Plains from 2011 through 2013. Overdue herd expansion began in 2014 with a total recovery of 2.638 million head by 2018. However, some interesting short and long run trends are evident among major beef cattle states in the last decade.

Texas, the largest beef cow state, had a beef cow inventory of 5.17 million head at the beginning of the decade in 2009. By 2014, the Texas beef cow inventory was down 24.4 percent to 3.91 million head, the lowest state beef cow inventory since 1958. Since 2014, the Texas beef cow herd has added 675 thousand head, recovering 54 percent of the 1.26 million head decrease from 2009-2014. The current state inventory is 4.585 million head of beef cows. Texas has recovered proportionately less than any major beef cow state since the drought of 2011-2013.

From year to year, Missouri and Oklahoma vie to be the number two beef cow state. On January 1, 2018, Missouri had an inventory of 2.166 million head, slightly more than Oklahoma, at 2.131 million head. Over the past decade, Oklahoma ranks number 2 with a slightly higher average inventory of 1.938 million head, compared to 1.916 million head for Missouri. Both states suffered drought reduced inventories in 2010-2013; more pronounced in Oklahoma where the beef cow inventory dropped by 18 percent before recovering by 26 percent from 2013-2018. The 2018 Oklahoma beef cow inventory is at the highest level since 1983 while Missouri is currently at a level equal to the herd size in 2006.

Nebraska is the number four beef cow state with a 2018 herd inventory of 1.910 million head; quite stable over the last decade. Number five South Dakota has shown recent growth in the beef cow herd with a 2018 inventory of 1.801 million head, well above the decade average of 1.656 million head. The current South Dakota beef cow herd is the largest since 2002.

Kansas is the number six beef cow state with a current beef cow inventory of 1.501 million head, down year over year from 2017. The Kansas beef cow herd has been more variable over the last decade with a drought low of 1.328 million head in 2013. The decade average beef cow herd in Kansas is 1.465 million head.

Montana has a 2018 beef cow inventory of 1.497 million head. Montana has maintained a very stable beef cow herd size, averaging 1.481 million over the last decade. Kentucky is the number eight beef cow state with a current beef cow inventory of 1.033 million head, very near the decade average of 1.029 million head.

Florida ranked number nine over the past decade but recent decreases in the beef cow inventory have pushed Florida out of the top ten in 2018. The current Florida beef cow herd of 886,000 head is the smallest since 1964. North Dakota moved into the number nine spot in 2018 with a beef cow inventory of 984,500 head. This is the highest North Dakota beef cow inventory since 2002. Iowa ranks number ten in 2018, and has for the last decade among major beef cow states, with a current inventory of 970,000 head. Other states with a beef cow inventory over 900 thousand head include Arkansas (924,000) and Tennessee (910,000).



Garden Tips for July!

Landscape

- Water deeply; one inch per application.
- Cultivate and mulch.
- Protect trees from lawnmowers and weed eaters by mulching or using protective aerated covers.
- Vigorous unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened. Forks in young trees can be corrected to encourage a central leader.
- Softwood cuttings of new growth of many shrubs and trees can be rooted.
- Remain alert for insect damage. Spider mites, fall webworms. Cutworms possible.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed again in mid-July.
- Find someone to water plants in the house and garden while on vacation. Harvesting vegetables and mowing the lawn are a must and imply that someone is home.
- Pinch back leggy annuals to encourage new growth. Fertilize and water appropriately.
- Feed established mums and other perennials.
- Stake tall perennials before toppling winds arise.

Turfgrasses

- Fertilize warm season grasses. Don't fertilize fescue and other cool-season grasses during the summer.
- Seeding of warm season grasses should be completed by the end of June.
- Brown patch disease of cool season grasses can be a problem.
- Post-emergent control of crabgrass and summer annuals is best performed on young plants.

Trees and Shrubs

- Vigorous, unwanted limbs should be removed or shortened on new trees. Watch for forks in the main trunk and remove the least desirable trunk as soon as it is noticed.
- Pine needle disease treatments are needed again in mid-June.
- Remove tree wraps during the summer to avoid potential disease and insect buildup.
- Softwood cuttings from new growth of many shrubs will root if propagated in a moist shady spot.
- Protect trees from lawnmowers and weed eaters by mulching or using protective aerated covers.

Flowers

- Pinch back leggy annuals to encourage new growth. Fertilize and water appropriately.
- Feed established mums and other perennials.
- When picking fresh roses or removing faded ones, cut back to a leaflet facing the outside of the bush to encourage open growth and air circulation.
- Stake tall perennials before toppling winds arise.



Private water well screening set for July 17 in Perryton

Contact: John Smith, 979-845-2761, johnsmith@tamu.edu

PERRYTON — The [Texas Well Owner Network](#) is hosting a water well screening from 8:30–10 a.m. July 17 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office for [Ochiltree County](#), 402 Expo Drive in Perryton, to give area residents the opportunity to have their well water screened. The cost for each sample is \$10.

A meeting explaining screening results will be held at 7 p.m., July 18 at the Ochiltree County AgriLife Extension office.

The screening is presented by [AgriLife Extension](#) and [Texas Water Resources Institute](#) in partnership with the AgriLife Extension office in Ochiltree County.

Area residents wanting to have their well water screened should pick up a sample bag, bottle and instructions from the AgriLife Extension office in Ochiltree County. Bottles and bags will be available at least a week before the turn-in date.

The samples must be turned in by 10 a.m. on the day of the screening. Samples will be screened for common contaminants, including total coliform bacteria, E. coli, nitrate-nitrogen and salinity. In addition, the samples also will be screened for arsenic.

It is extremely important for those submitting samples to be at the meeting to receive results, learn corrective measures for identified problems and to improve understanding of private well management.

For more information, please contact the AgriLife Extension office in Ochiltree County at 806-435-4501.

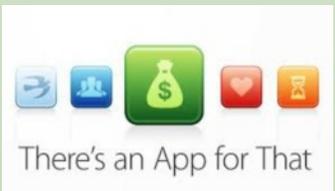
To learn more about the programs offered through the network or to find additional publications and resources, please visit <http://twon.tamu.edu>.

Funding for the Texas Well Owner Network is through a state nonpoint source grant provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The project is managed by the [Texas Water Resources Institute](#), part of [Texas A&M](#)



Wheatheart Wheat Conference

The annual Wheatheart Wheat Conference will be August 9, 2018 at 8:30 am at the Ochiltree Expo Center. More information will be provided at a later date.



Choice Website-Grain Marketing Plan App

Another tool can be added to your marketing and risk management toolbox. The Grain Marketing Plan App was developed by the University of Nebraska allowing smartphone users to create marketing plans for wheat, corn and soybeans. The app features daily updates allowing plans to be modified based on current market conditions.



Choice Publications-2018 Alternative Crop Options

The 16th annual edition of the “2018 Alternative Crop Options and Late Season Crop Planting” is now available from Dr. Calvin Trosfle at <http://lubbock.tamu.edu>

The primary objectives of this publication provide producers with the following:

- 1) Guidelines for crop replant options after failure
- 2) Assist with late season planting decisions with various crops
- 3) Provide alternative crop contract information for marketing and contracts.

If you need more information on how to obtain this publication contact the Ochiltree County Extension Office.

Panhandle Model Farms Update

There has been an annual study that evaluates the short and long term financial situations of six representative Texas Panhandle farms through the FARM Assistance Strategic Planning program. While results were not pretty, operation that more effectively controlled operating expenses during times of weak commodity prices fared better than those that did not.

The full study can be found at <https://farmassistance.tamu.edu/files/2018/02/2018-1-1.pdf>

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