



Randall County Ag



MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

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April 2018 Edition

News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk

Howdy! Thought I'd start by sharing with you a few highlights of the on-goings of the RC CEA since the January newsletter. Of course the months of Jan.-March is stock show season and Randall County 4-H was once again extremely well represented in all species divisions. The 2018 RCJLS was held Jan. 16-22. It was a huge success, and the largest ever, with a total of 219 exhibitors exhibiting 524 hd. of livestock throughout the week long show. We were also very fortunate to have the largest in history Premium Auction Sale, which grossed a total of \$370,000. Many Thanks to all those that continue to support our Randall County youth! On March 2nd, we did host a by-county Producers Soil Program in Hereford. Ray Archuleta, a farmer from Seymour Mo., presented information and demonstrated the importance of soil building emphasizing no-till methods and practices for maximizing production. It was a great program with about 100 producers in attendance.



Current Crop Conditions

The drought continues to take its toll across the High Plains region. In fact, Randall County has only received .3 inches of rainfall thus far for 2018. This, coupled with the daily high winds depletes in-field moisture needed for planting.



Corn/Silage: Planting is occurring at this time. Most corn planting begins in mid-April thru early May. Corn producers have been busy applying pre-plant in-field irrigation which is a must for corn plant emergence. Irrigation will continue until plentiful rainfall is received. Approximately 3,000 of corn/silage are expected to be planted in Randall County this growing season.

Cotton: Randall County cotton acres will once again increase for this upcoming growing season. Last year, acreage was around 10,000 and for 2018 some 12,000 acres of cotton is expected to be planted throughout the county. Cotton is an excellent crop of choice for many of our producers. It is a drought friendly crop that offers less risk. Additionally, new advancements with improved varieties are now more suitable for our region and it's an ideal fit for most other crop rotational systems. Cotton producers are currently preparing for planting. For those that have irrigation, pre-watering is in progress as planting will get underway in early May. Dryland producers will have to wait until significant rainfall is received before planting occurs.

Sorghum: For the third year in a row, sorghum acres in Randall County are expected to be lower, with only approximately 35,000 acres. This is primarily due to the expected return of the Sugar Cane Aphid. AgriLife provides (4) recommended tips to aid in control. 1.) Plant Sorghum Early- late April to early May is best, 2.) Plant SCA Tolerant Sorghum Varieties, 3.) Consider In-Furrow Seed Treatments at Planting, 4.) Frequent Scouting/ Apply Insecticide Treatment- when recommended thresholds are first reached.

Informational Producer Meeting– Thursday April 26 2018 Livestock Forage Sign Up Program

This meeting will be held from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Randall County AgriLife Extension Service (located at 200 N. Brown Rd. Canyon). USDA/FSA Randall County Director, Trent Johnson, will present information regarding the 2018 Livestock Forage Program, and CRP Managed vs. Emergency grazing.

Randall County Ag. Agent, J. D. Ragland, will also present information regarding Sugar Cane Aphid Control in Sorghum, and expected weed issues producers will face if it ever rains! (2 CEU's) will be offered: 1-CEU in the General category, 1-CEU for IPM. For those producers who still may need the Auxin Training we will offer it as well. 1-CEU in Laws and Regulations category. The Auxin training is a new requirement this year for all producers planning to apply any of the following three DICAMBA products which include: Engenia, Xtendimax or Fexapan. No RSVP is required.



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