



Randall County Ag

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AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

Dr. J.D. Ragland
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources Randall County
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
200 North Brown Rd. Canyon, Texas 79015
(806) 468-5543 <http://randall.agrilife.org/>



July 2018 Edition

News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk

Howdy! First let's bring everyone up-to-date on the what's been happening at the CEA Office since we last visited. Most recently on June 26, we hosted a morning breakfast for a group of six Texas A&M Administrators. Among those were: Dr. Patrick Stover, Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences; Dr. Susan Ballabina, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Agriculture and Life Sciences; and Dr. Parr Rossen, Interim Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The group took part in a full day of tours at WTAMU, Nance Ranch, and RC Event Center. The group was most impressed with all aspects of Agriculture and Educational Program opportunities provided throughout the Texas Panhandle Region.



Also, on July 2, **Erin Jones** begin her new position with the Randall County Extension Service as new Horticultural Agent. Erin is a native of Nazerath, Tx and graduate of WTAMU. She will hold a joint appointment with WTAMU and RC Extension. We are excited to have Erin as part of our team and we invite each of you to stop by and say **Hello!**

Current Crop Conditions

The severe drought throughout Randall County continues. According to the National Weather Service, Randall County has only received 2.35 inches since January 1, 2018. As we compare to 2017, we had received 11.28 inches. An interesting fact to note is that in 2011, which is the lowest rainfall year ever recorded at this time we had only received 1.78 inches. So we are only 57/100's above the 2011 mark.



Corn/Silage: Most corn has reached the tasseling stage and ears are starting to obtain complete fill. With irrigation in full swing, somehow the corn fields are hanging on. However fields are highly stressed with hot temperatures and dry conditions.

Cotton: A mixed bag of goods here. Many fields have received damage due to blowout, and hail out! Some dryland fields never reached emergence. Irrigated fields are seeing some progress, but the hot, dry, windy days are taking their toll on our current Randall County Cotton Crop. Hard to say for sure at this point, but I'd say we've lost approximately 20% of an estimated 14,000 planted acres.



Sorghum: As you are aware, sorghum is planted much later than cotton. Therefore most sorghum has just recently been planted and is near completion at this time. An estimated 40-50,000 acres have been planted in RC this year. Again, irrigated fields are off to a pretty good start but dryland is suffering at this time and needs a good rain!

Considerations Behind Failed Cotton

Randall County Cotton Producers that may have lost cotton due to harsh weather and should consider the following list of helpful tips when making replant decisions.

- ⇒ Evaluate damaged crop 10 days after storm event
- ⇒ Is there enough growing season remaining to allow me to produce the considered crop?
- ⇒ Look at insurance options and how it effects alternative crop options
- ⇒ What herbicides have I already applied that may impact the replant crop I'm considering?

(2) Upcoming Randall County Producer Mtgs.

- Ag. Policy Update Mtg. (Thursday July 12)** 9-10am RC Ext. Office
- 42nd Annual RC Crops Tour (Tuesday August 28)** Details Soon

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Randall County Producers Mtg.

- *Ag Policy Update Regarding Seed Cotton changes in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*

(This will affect producer decisions this year!)



DeDe Jones



DeDe Jones, AgriLife Extension Risk Management Program Specialist in Amarillo, will update cotton producers on what actions they may need to take in the very near future. She will discuss how the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 authorized changes to seed cotton as a covered commodity that requires farmers to act on their generic base acres. Beginning with the crop planted this year, seed cotton is a covered commodity just as other crops and eligible for either Price Loss Coverage, PLC, or Agricultural Risk Coverage, ARC.

9-10 a.m. Thursday, July 12, 2018

Randall County Extension Office

200 N Brown Rd / Canyon, TX

806-468-5543

Program is Free / No need to RSVP

No meal provided



1 CEU in Laws and Regs

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Herbert F. & Jeannie Kuhlman Extension Center
200 N Brown Rd.
Canyon, TX 79015
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