



# Randall County Ag



## MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF AGRICULTURE IN RANDALL COUNTY

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### August 2018 Edition

### News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk

**Howdy!** Man I guess I just thought July was busy, but my calendar is already completely full for the entire month of August! O' well, as they say "Time Flies When Your Having FUN"! Speaking of fun, we are excited to have Erin Jones-Gray join our staff as our new Randall County Extension Horticultural Agent. Erin is a native of Nazareth, Texas and a graduate of WTAMU. She will hold a joint appointment with WTAMU and RC Extension. We are excited to have Erin as part of our Extension team and we invite each of you to stop by and say *Hello!*



Last month I had an opportunity to attend our Randall County Master Gardener Tour held on July 14. The tour consisted of three home garden sites open for viewing in Amarillo and one in Canyon. This was a great educational opportunity for interested homeowners to see various garden designs and a variety of assorted plants. One interesting fact is, did you know Randall County has its very own Banana Tree? That's right RCMG Dr. Rolf Habersang has his very own Banana Tree in his nursery and was the featured attraction during this year's garden tour. Be sure to have your ice cream ready this summer for a fresh delicious banana split!



### Current Crop Conditions

Continued drought coupled with extreme heat continues to take its toll on all crops in Randall County. During June and July, we did receive some scattered showers. According to the National Weather Service, as of this writing Randall County has only received 5.26 inches since January 1, 2018. Comparatively speaking up to this point in 2017, we received 13.30 inches. Resulting in a total of 8.04 inches behind where we were this same time last year.

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**Corn/Silage:** Most corn has reached the dough stage with denting approaching 65 %. Irrigation is still in progress as producers are anxiously awaiting for fields to reach 100% full dent so drying down can occur and harvest can begin. Silage harvest should get underway within the next couple of weeks and field corn harvest close after that. Harvest is expected to be slightly below average this season, which usually is around 160 bushels per acre.

**Cotton:** As we've been reporting all season long, this year's cotton crop in Randall County is all over the board. Some of the better cotton of course is the irrigated fields where dryland has suffered from lack of moisture. All fields have set squares, and boll development is occurring at this time. By mid-August, all fields will have reached cut out which marks the end of any additional boll development.



**Sorghum:** Due to the later planting window with sorghum which typically is between June 15– July 1, this crop has been able to take advantage of the late scattered showers we've recently received. However, once again the irrigated fields have been able to keep up with crop water needed but dryland is suffering here as well. Sorghum Producers need to be scouting for the sugar cane aphid as infestation levels have been confirmed in the Lubbock and Plainview areas where some spraying has been occurring for the last two weeks.

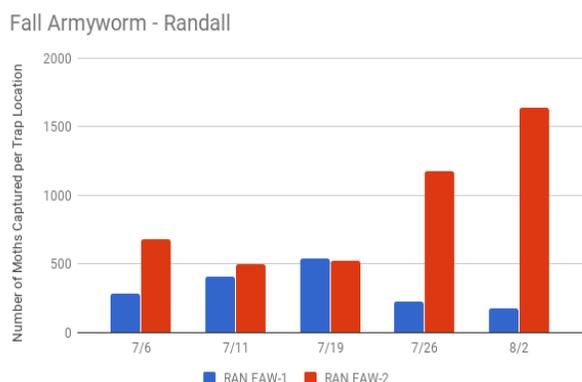
**Wheat:** Fields are currently being prepared for planting, and I would expect early planting to be underway as soon as August 15 if not sooner, especially if significant moisture is received between now and then.

**Range/Pasture:** Remarkably enough our area pastures for the most part look pretty good especially with the current dry conditions, particularly the buffalo grass. The recent scattered showers have made a huge impact on recent growth and development of native grasses. It just goes to show you what this part of the world can do if we just get a little help from Mother Nature every once in a while!

## Randall County Moth Trap Counts

Since 2012 I have personally been conducting the weekly *Moth Trapping Program* and keeping track of infestation levels during the growing season. Each year we identify two corn fields in Randall County and work with local producers in setting up (3) moth traps in each field. The pheromones are targeted for capturing (3) different moth pest species: *Fall Army Worm*, *Southwestern Corn Boar*, and *Western Bean Cutworm*. This year's traps are placed on the David Winters Farm (located on Country Club Rd.) as well as the Ed Axe Farm (located at the corner of Western and McCormick).

The chart below indicates (weekly moth trap counts) specifically for the *Fall Army Worm* from both Randall County fields for the past 30 days



## What Is Up with All the Earworms in BT Corn?

The following information is provided by Dr. Ed Bynum, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomology Specialist – Amarillo

**The first question we are getting is what to spray, but the better question would be whether to spray.** Corn earworm is usually an ear tip feeder, and on its own is seldom an economic pest of corn. However, this year we are seeing earworms doing more than just tip damage and feeding lower in the ear. The reason(s) for this change in behavior are unknown.

Corn earworm eggs are laid on silks, and the small larvae feed on silks as they move toward the tip of the ear. Silks continue to grow for several days, so new growth will not have insecticide residue on it. That is in part why sweet corn growers often spray on a three-day schedule. Once inside an ear the larvae cannot be reached with insecticides. They only leave the ear when fully grown as they move toward the soil surface to tunnel in for pupation, but by this time all of the damage is done. And these fully mature larvae don't feed much, so they won't get an insecticide dose except by direct contact.

**The second question we are getting is why all of the earworms?** One answer would be that they have become resistant to most of the toxins in Bt corn. The one Bt toxin that is still highly effective on corn earworm (cotton bollworm) and western bean cutworm is Vip3a.

## 2018 Northern Texas High Plains Dryland Wheat Trials– Top 5 Varieties

Rank	Dryland Avg. Yields (bu/ac)	Bushland Avg. Yield (bu/ac)	Test Weight (lb./bu)	Wellington Avg. Yield (bu/ac)	Test Weight (lb/ bu)	Hereford Avg. Yield (bu/ ac)	Test Weight (lb./bu)
1 Plains Gold Avery	26.3	25.9	61.3	31.8	61.0	21.3	60.2
2. TAM 112	26.2	25.6	62.0	24.4	61.7	28.6	61.0
3. Long Branch	24.2	28.3	60.6	25.0	62.5	19.3	58.2
4. Croplan Exp 69-19	23.5	23.2	61.6	25.5	62.5	24.8	58.9
5. Sy Monument	22.9	23.9	60.5	25.2	59.4	19.6	59.6

## 2018 Northern Texas High Plains Irrigated Wheat Trials– Top 5 Varieties

Rank	Irrigated Avg. Yields (bu/ac)	Bushland	Test Weight (lb./bu)	Dumas	Test Weight (lb/ bu)
1 TAM 304_18	91.0	102.3	61.6	79.7	55.6
2. TAM 114	88.1	99.7	63.5	76.6	58.9
3. Long Branch	88.6	98.3	59.4	74.9	56.4
4. TAM 112	85.6	93.2	61.4	77.2	58.4
5. TX12V7415	85.2	95.2	64.0	75.3	59.3

**42nd Annual**  
**Randall County Ag Day and Crops Tour**  
*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Randall County*  
Kuhlman Extension Center  
**Tuesday, August 28, 2018**



Palo Duro Soil and Water  
Conservation District No. 147  
2315 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Canyon, Texas 79015

3 C.E.U.'s Available (2-General; 1-Drift)

Please RSVP your attendance by calling the Randall County Extension Office before 5pm **Friday, August 24** (806) 468-5543

Thank You to the following Major Tour Sponsors: **Happy State Bank** (all participants cost recovery fee), **Wells Fargo Bank** (noon meal) and **Palo Duro Soil and Water Conservation District** (tour bus)

8:30 a.m. - Registration: Donuts & Coffee sponsored by Plains Land Bank

9:00 a.m. - "2017-18 North Region Crop Trials and Results"

Presented by **Dr. Jourdan Bell**, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agronomist- Amarillo

9:30 a.m. - Break- View Exhibits/Door Prizes Trent Johnson, Randall County FSA Director

9:45 a.m. - "Introduction to In-Fight Drones and It's Capabilities in Agriculture"

Presented by **Jack Bush**, Senior Research Associate and **Shannon Baker**, Research Associate, Texas A&M AgriLife Research- Amarillo

10:15 a.m. - "Ag. Policy Update: Latest Developments on the New Farm Bill"

Presented by **De De Jones**, Texas A&M AgriLife Risk Management Specialist- Amarillo

10:45 a.m. - Break- View Exhibits/ Door Prizes Ryan Wieck, Randall County Producer

11:00 a.m. - "Pasture Range & Forage (PRF) Grazing Insurance Rules and Guidelines"

Presented by **Rachel Myers**, Myers Crop Insurance- Claude

11:30 a.m. - "Grazing Management for Stocker Cattle & Cow/Calf Producers during Current Drought Conditions"

Presented by **Dr. Ted McCullum**, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Beef Cattle Specialist- Amarillo

12:15 p.m. - Luncheon/ Producer Awards; Featured Speaker:

"Randall County's Increasing Growth and Its Impact for Canyon ISD"

Presented by **Dr. Darryl Flusche**, Superintendent CISD

### Afternoon Tours

1:30 p.m. - Agricultural Equipment Display and Presentations

To be held just south of Kuhlman Extension Center

#### STOP 1:

2:30 p.m. - Sorghum Variety Trial with Emphasis on Sugar Cane Aphid Tolerance (Plus)

Official In-Flight Drone Demonstration- Harold Artho Farm

2.5 miles West of Canyon on Hwy 60; Exit FM 1062 for 6 miles; Turn north on Westline Rd. Continue north for ½ mile.

Sugar Cane Aphid Update Presented by **Dr. Ed Bynum**, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Entomologist-Amarillo Amarillo

#### STOP 2:

4:00 p.m. - "Tour of All New Agricultural Science Facilities/ Buildings; WTAMU Campus

Paul Engler College of Agricultural and Natural Sciences- WTAMU

600 WTAMU Drive Canyon

5:30 p.m. - Bus will return to Extension Office

-After Tour Social, Kuhlman Barn

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating





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