



Randall County Ag News

TEXAS A&M
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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/>



April 2019 Edition

News and Views Straight From the County Agent's Desk

Howdy! First let's recap a few highlights of the on goings with the Randall County Extension Service since our last newsletter. 2019 has started and we've been in full swing since New Years! This was our third year to host the RC New Years Classic Swine Jackpot Show held at the Happy State Bank-Randall County Event Center Dec.29 & 30. Entries were record breaking with 400 hd. exhibited on Saturday and 325 on Sunday. Exhibitors came from several states including Oklahoma and Louisiana. We then moved right into the 2019 RC Stock Show held January 15-21, and once again broke an all time record of 233 exhibitors with 565 livestock entries.



We've also conducted/hosted (4) Producer Meetings throughout January and February. Those include: A two-day "Beef Cattle Marketing Workshop" held Jan. 8-9 with a total attendance of 38; "Pre-Plant Producer Update Mtg." held Jan. 30 with 17 attended; "Cotton Insurance & Marketing Workshop" on February 12 with 11 in attendance. In between all this, Randall County has also had an outstanding year of our 4-H youth exhibiting livestock at all the Major Stock Shows.

Current Crop Conditions

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to recognize the fact that it still remains extremely dry! According to the National Weather Service, Randall County has only received 2.45 inches of rainfall since January 1, 2019. However if weather history holds true, we usually have a good chance to receive early Spring rains over the next couple of months. Let's all keep praying for moisture



which is desperately needed as we approach this years upcoming planting season.

2018 Ag. Increment Report /Summary

Each year, in December the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service requires the completion of what is known as the Agricultural Increment Report. All 254 counties are required to indicate all acres, yields with total dollar amounts for each commodity and livestock produced within the county. The final figure represents the total dollar amount of Agricultural Income for each individual county. The following is the 2018 summary for Randall County.

Corn/Ensilage: Harvested yields were about the same as 2017. A total of 1,536 acres of corn was harvested in Randall County in 2018. Average yield was 166 bushels/acre with price holding around \$3.92 per bushel. Ensilage acres harvested was 330 acres yielding 21 tons per acre at \$35.47 per ton.

Cotton: Harvested acres for 2018 were 3,968 with average yields at 739 lbs. per acre. Average price received .75 per lb. This was all irrigated acres of course. There were virtually no dryland acres harvested in Randall County in 2018.



Sorghum: Harvested acres for 2018 were 9,206 with average yields at 3,800 lbs. per acre. Average price received, \$3.35 Sugar Cane Aphids still remain to be an issue throughout the season. Many producers sprayed once and in some cases even twice this past season.

Hay: A total of 14,503 acres produced (wheat, or hay grazer type forage). Average yield 21 tons, and price \$125 pre ton.

Total dollars obtained in 2018 from all commodities, including dairy and beef cattle for Randall County was \$185,348.60. This figure was down (about 29,000.00 from 2017) which was \$214,287.60.

Preplant Options for Weed Control in Cotton

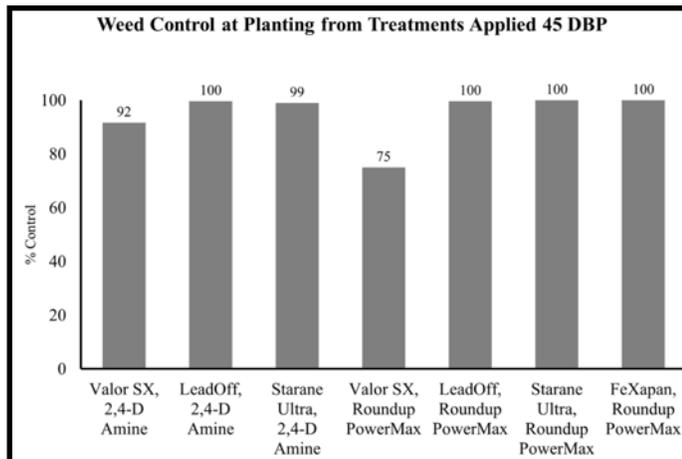
The following information is provided by Dr. Peter Dotry, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Weed Specialist – Lubbock, Texas

As we prepare for the upcoming 2019 cotton planting season we want to remind producers of a few recommended herbicides suggested by AgriLife to assist you in controlling weeds. As always, if you have specific weed species then make sure the herbicide your applying provides effective control for your troublesome weed. Be sure to follow all recommendations on all labels.



Preplant Weed Herbicide Options in Cotton	
• Roundup	• Valor
• 2, 4-D Amine, Enlist Duo,	• FirstShot
• Clarity, Xtendimax, Engenia, FeXapan	• Afforia
• Gramoxone	• LeadOff

The following chart illustrates study results targeting a selected group of cotton herbicides with various mixtures and their respected percentage of weed control for each. All herbicides were applied 45 Days Before Planting .



Germination- Is Key to Cotton Seed Quality

Producers need to be aware of the **warm** and **cold** vigor index that's indicated on the tag of each bag of cotton seed. Here is an example of how to determine **seed vigor** of a variety.

Example 1: Warm 92% + Cool 68% = 160

Excellent	160>
Good	140-159
Fair	120-139
Poor	<120

Example 2: Warm 84% + Cool 35% = 119

Top 5 Reasons for Culling Cows from Herd

The following information is provided by Stephen Boyles, Extension Beef Specialist- Ohio State University

Following the spring calving season is an excellent time to make cow culling decisions to improve efficiency and profitability within the herd. Culling is one of the tools for increasing the efficiency of a cow herd. But on what criteria should a producer base their culling decisions? The following are guidelines for culling.



1. Open/nonfunctional cows:

Open cows are the greatest contributors to low weaning percentages (see table). The first cut will be to eliminate open cows and those that lost calves due to excessive calving difficulty. On the average, a cow that does not breed one time will lose fifteen to twenty percent of her lifetime production potential. It will take the net return from two to three productive cows to pay for the maintenance of the open cow.

2. Late Calvers: You will need to look at your calving distribution and find those cows that calved during the third, fourth, or later calving cycles.

3. Old Cows: A potential third reason for culling is age. You don't automatically cull cows at ten years of age. However look at her and ask yourself, "Can this cow compete and make it through another winter?" Cows need to be shipped out when they still have salvage value and a dead cow does you no good. If she can produce, a commercial cattle producer should probably keep her in the herd. A cow with few teeth isn't necessarily an automatic cull if she's in excellent body condition.

4. Based on Herd Performance Records: Based on the records and performance data of your herd, cull cows most likely to produce poor quality calves with lower average weaning weights.

5. Disposition: Cows that have poor attitudes will generally be poor producers. Their body condition scores are

2019 Grain Grading Workshop– April 23/24, 2019

This two day workshop (select your preferred day) is designed to assist grain handlers recognize features that affect it's grade. The workshop will be held at the AgriLife Center in Amarillo (6500 Amarillo Blvd.) from 8:30am-4:30pm each day. Registration fee is \$75 per person and the deadline is Friday April 19. Registration can be found at: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Grain> Each day is limited to 40 participants .

For more information contact (806) 677-5667

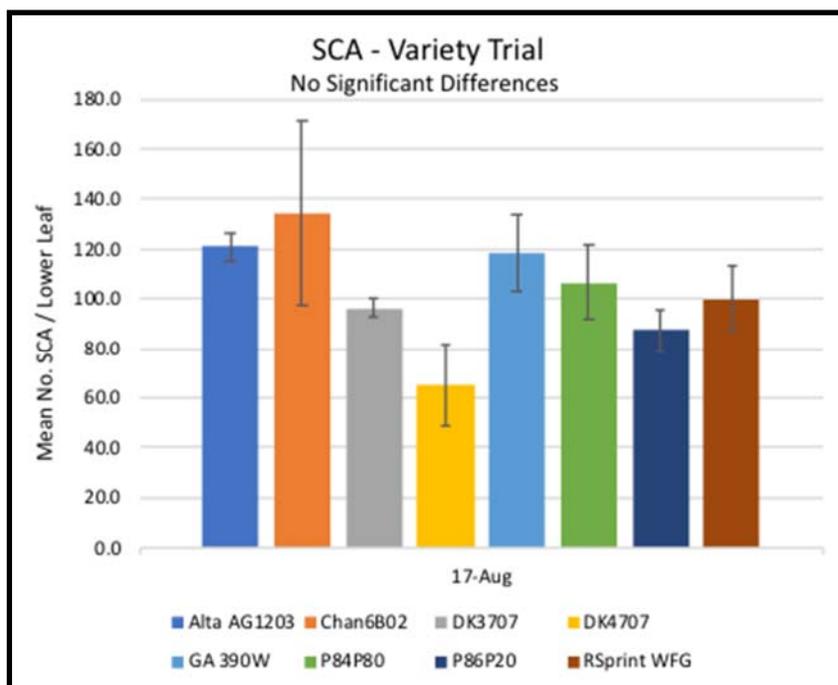
2018 Randall County AgriLife Extension Service- Irrigated Sorghum Variety Trial (SCA Tolerant)

Harold Artho Farm Umbarger, Tx.

Purpose of Study: To determine sugar cane aphid tolerance levels in 8 selected sorghum varieties along with obtaining at-harvest yield results for each

Method: **Planting Date:** June 28, 2018 (*field conditions at planting; extremely dry*)
Planting Rate: 6 lbs./ Acre
Row Spacing: 40 inch rows
Herbicide: 1 ¼ Atrazine; 1 pt. Prowl (*applied at planting*)
Previous Crop: Wheat
Irrigation: Watered up after planting; applied an additional 2 inches on August 16 and 17
Harvest Date: November 28, 2018

Plot Design: Each Variety Plot is 12 rows each (*double row*); All varieties are replicated 3 times



Irrigated Grain Sorghum Variety Test Plot - SCA Tolerance (Replicated)

Harold Artho's Farm Umbarger, Tx

Planting Date: 6/28/2018

Harvest Date: 11/28/2018

Variety	Yield (lb/A)	Adjusted Yield (13%)	Avg. % Moisture	Avg. (lb/Bu)	Avg. Temp
DK 3707	3,417	3,453	12.1	54.6	76.6
Pioneer 86P20	3,340	3,358	12.5	59.4	77.7
DK 4707	3,264	3,274	12.7	53.1	77.2
Channel 6B02	3,176	3,217	11.9	55.0	74.4
Golden Acres 390W	3,154	3,180	12.3	55.8	76.6
Pioneer 84P80	2,829	2,813	13.5	52.9	77.2
Alta AG 1203	2,593	2,609	12.6	54.3	75.4
Richardson Sprint WFG	2,575	2,598	12.2	55.8	76.4

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

Return Service Requested

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