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

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TEXAS A&M
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Refugio County
107 East Roca Street
Refugio, Texas 78377

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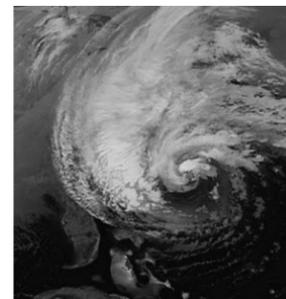
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THE REFUGIO COUNTY AGRICULTURE CONNECTION

<http://refugio.agrilife.org/>

July-August 2013

Hurricane Season has Officially Begun: Be Prepared



In its 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook issued on May 23, 2013, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an active or extremely active season this year.

For the six-month hurricane season, which begins June 1, NOAA's Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook says there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher).

These ranges are well above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes.

Information was collected from the NOAA National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center.



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Texas Beef Council - Beef 706

This program is paid for by your Beef Checkoff dollars. **There is no additional charge for this class or your meals.** You are responsible for your lodging if needed.

Register to attend BEEF 706

**August 13-14, 2013
August 15-16, 2013
Sept 19-20, 2013**

Register online at:

<http://texasbeef.org>

under "Programs" link



CALL:
1-800-846-4113
or
EMAIL:
jhodgkins@txbeef.org

Dear Texas Beef Producer,

Do you consider yourself a cattle producer or a beef producer? You may consider yourself both. But ultimately your cattle will be harvested, sold through a retail or foodservice outlet, and enjoyed by a consumer. Being a beef producer is not something we think about on a continual basis, but we probably should.

Beef 706 is a Beef Checkoff funded program available to you! You can learn about beef quality and safety issues and how they affect your operation. By attending Beef 706 you will have a unique opportunity to not just see, but to experience the quality challenges facing the beef industry. You will learn what factors affect beef's palatability and get information to help you utilize your herd's genetics, feedyard performance, and carcass characteristics. In addition, you will work with other Texas beef producers to fabricate a carcass with the help of a cutting instructor. By the time you leave the program you will have created a new network of industry professionals. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about your beef industry.

Sincerely,

Jason Bagley
Beef Quality Manager
Texas Beef Council

Hotel Accommodations

Ramada BCS, 506 Earl Rudder Fwy South, College Station, TX.

Please ask for Texas Beef Council/Beef 706 room block to receive the rate of \$60.00/night plus tax.

Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations.

You can reach the hotel at (979) 846-0300.

Preharvest Sprouting or Weathering of Grain Sorghum

Dan Fromme

Assistant Professor and Extension Agronomist

Throughout the Texas Gulf Coast, producers know that when inclement weather develops at harvest time the chance for preharvest sprouting of grain sorghum is increased. Preharvest sprouting is defined as the germination of physiological mature or ripe grain before harvest.

Preharvest sprouting of grain sorghum occurs when there is a period of prolonged rainfall, high humidity, high temperature and alternate periods of wetting and drying that last for several consecutive days. Weather variables that affect the amount of preharvest sprouting include the amount of rainfall, humidity, temperature, and wind that is received.

Visual confirmation of sprouting includes the protrusion of the radicle through the seed coat. Following several days of dry weather, the radicle becomes shriveled and inconspicuous except upon close inspection. Typical changes that occur as grain sorghum weathers include changes in the kernel causing breakdown of kernel structure and eventual loss of viability. Weathered grain is usually discolored in external appearance, has a dark discolored embryo, and the inside of the kernel is chalky in appearance due to partial hydrolysis of starch and protein.

The most obvious damaging effects of sprouting are yield losses due to shattering, and lower grades and bushel weights. A lower grade will result in a lower price per cwt of grain sorghum. Also, the growth of fungi can occur increasing the incidence of mycotoxins. The conditions that favor sprouting often compound the problem by delaying harvest. At harvest time, weathered grain tends to be trashier and has a higher percentage of fines and broken kernels.

Differences in the ability of grain sorghum hybrids to resist field deterioration have been documented. Certain plant and kernel characteristics provide resistance to field deterioration. The characteristics include: open heads with seed completely enclosed with long papery glumes, seed color, seed size, and seed with thin, smooth, translucent pericarp can affect the amount of weathering.

To evaluate grain sorghum hybrids on weathering favorable environmental conditions for weathering must occur. In general, subjective field ratings of hybrids can provide reliable information on weathering; however, conclusions may be confounded by differences in maturity and interactions of diseases and insects. For example, a late planted or late maturing sorghum hybrid may not show signs of sprouting as severely as others. This hybrid may not be genetically resistant, but merely escaped extensive deterioration because it was less mature and not exposed to adverse environment for as long. Therefore, maturity must be considered when evaluating for weathering. **All grain will weather with prolonged exposure to inclement weather.**

Grain sorghum is not significantly altered nutritionally by weather damage. For livestock feeding purposes only slight differences in nutritive value or chemical composition have been found when comparing nonweathered to weathered grain sorghum. Also, livestock and poultry feeding trials have shown that weathered grain sorghum does not hinder animal performance.

Few remedies are available for preventing preharvest sprouting when weather conditions promote germination. Prompt harvest of the grain is usually the best solution to prevent sprouting but this is easier said than done in our environment. Also, grain sorghum can be harvested when it is wet (high moisture) but it must be dried which is an extra expense.

TRENDS IN COMPOSITION AND PRICE AT AUCTION BARN

Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus

Data were collected in 2000, 2005, and 2010 at 10 weekly auctions involving a total of 137,894 head. Some results were:

- premiums for steers and discounts for heifers were highest in 2010;
- percentage of horns declined over the years and discounts for horns increased;
- percentage of large frames was 56% in 2000, 66% in 2005, and 60% in 2010;
- from 2000 to 2010, percentage straight Angus increased by 160% and blacks by 69%;
- premiums for black and black baldies were lower in 2000;
- spotted and striped calves were more highly discounted in 2010;
- fewer calves were sold as single lots in 2010 than 2000;
- premiums for group sales were higher in 2005 and 2010 than in 2000;
- discounts for full or tanked calves were higher in 2005 and 2010 than in 2000;
- discounts for very thin calves were highest in 2010 and for fleshy calves in 2005;
- discounts for fat calves were highest in 2000;
- less than 5% of calves were identified as being not healthy;
- premiums for preconditioned calves increased over time.

(Univ. of Arkansas Extension Beef Cattle Research Newsletter, March, 2013)

Refugio County Livestock and Range Committee Meeting

August 5, 2013

7 A.M.

Extension Office

EFFECT OF AGE AND CASTRATION ON PERFORMANCE AND CARCASS

Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus

Calves were: castrated at 3 months of age, 8 months of age, or left intact; fed on a high-concentrate ration; and slaughtered at 10, 12 or 14 months of age. Castration at either age reduced ADG and feed efficiency. Bulls had heavier carcasses, less carcass fat cover, higher percent lean, higher percent bone, and lower marbling. Compared to castration at 8 months, 3-month castrates had lower ADG, no difference in efficiency, slightly more fat cover, lower percent lean, and higher marbling. Cattle slaughtered later (fed longer) had higher feed consumption, lower efficiency, no difference in ADG, greater fat cover, lower percent lean, and higher marbling. Immediately after slaughter there were some differences in tenderness, but this was not true after aging for 7 days. NOTE: Bulls are often fed for slaughter in some other parts of the world. However, due to considerations of some management problems and lowered carcass quality, bulls are rarely finished in the U. S. (J. Animal Sci. 91:1129; Spanish Institute for Agricultural Research)

Refugio County 4-H Awards Banquet



August 4, 2013

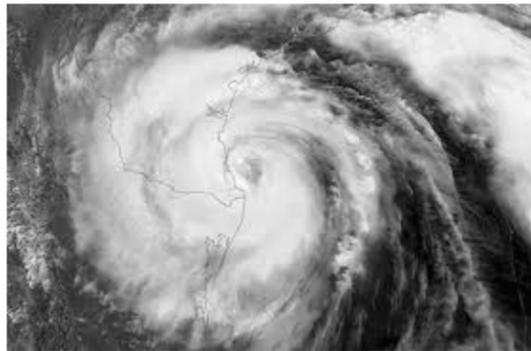
5:30 P.M.

Refugio County Expo Center



Hurricane Preparedness for Livestock

Joe C. Paschal
Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist
The Texas A&M University System



There is much livestock owners can do to prepare for hurricane season. Then, if a hurricane threatens, you will be ready.

Make sure your animals are current on all vaccinations (blackleg, leptospirosis, tetanus, encephalitis). Several days before a hurricane is expected to make landfall, purchase additional feed, hay and water supplies. These items might not be available after a hurricane. Also stock up on basic veterinary supplies (bandages, topical antibiotics, tetanus toxoid) and have restraint equipment (ropes, halters) ready for restraining injured animals that need veterinary assistance.

Prepare barns and pens by replacing loose boards or sheets of tin, or nailing them down. Remove wire, fence posts and other loose items from barns, pens and pastures to reduce the chance of injury to livestock. Most damage to buildings and animals comes from wind and flying objects.

Barns can be strapped down to ground ties (in the same way trailers are) to reduce wind damage. Equipment should be placed under cover if possible. Immediately before landfall, turn off all electrical power and water in the barn. Do not turn off the electricity to fences.

It is best to evacuate livestock well in advance of a storm. Make sure your trailer is safe for hauling and equipped with good floor mats, safe tires, a spare tire, and working lights. Take along your extra

feed, hay, water and veterinary supplies. Don't plan to return until the storm has passed and it is safe to do so.



If large livestock can not be evacuated, turn them loose in larger pastures or pens on high ground with some solid shelter or tall brush and large trees for cover. Livestock should never remain in a closed barn. If the barn is damaged by wind the animals could be injured or

killed. Turning livestock loose is not as safe as evacuating them, but it is preferable to leaving them in small pens or barns.

Smaller animals (sheep, goats, swine, and rabbits) can be brought indoors for protection if necessary. Use wooden pallets to build temporary pens in a garage.

Make sure feed and hay are well protected from wind and water. Move hay bales to high ground or stack them on posts or tires. Cover bales to prevent water damage. Do not put yourself at risk by checking on livestock during a storm, but do check on them immediately after the storm. Most animals are used to being outside in bad weather and will simply need clean feed, a dry place to stand, and water to help them recover from stress. Electrolytes and vitamins may also help them return to normal. However, you should be prepared for the worst. If animals are injured, be ready to render first aid. Most owners can deal with minor injuries such as cuts. If animals are more severely injured call your veterinarian. Young animals are more susceptible to stress than older animals and may need more care. Also, bad weather often causes pregnant females near term to give birth, so watch for little ones.

With the right preparation you can protect your livestock from injury should a hurricane occur.