



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * March 26, 2015
Grass Growers Gathering
- * April 9 - 10, 2015
Generation Next
- * April 14, 2015
South Texas Agriculture Symposium
- * April 15, 2015
Municipal Irrigation Workshop
- * April 15, 2015
Residential Irrigation Workshop
- * April 22, 2015
Coastal Bend Grain Storage & Handlers Safety Conference

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

Hello again,

It has been a strange winter. Cool, wet weather and green grass. Some have experienced a killing frost in the western part of the county, but in most of the county perennial forages have retained green color throughout the winter and cool season annuals have been growing well.

Due to the continued wet weather pattern, planting has been delayed but some corn and a small amount grain sorghum has gone in the ground.

I know that several of our area producers were in attendance at the Field Crop Symposium and this is old news, but during this event Texas A&M AgriLife Extension presented an award to Hunt Farms in Gregory. This award was presented by Dennis Pietsch, Crop Testing Director, College Station, for over 50 years of allowing grain sorghum variety testing to be done on their farm. The Hunt's continued cooperation has impacted grain sorghum production in the Coastal Bend. Thank you, John and Allan.

I have included a recent grain outlook from Dr. Mark Welch, Extension Economist, College Station, and a cotton outlook from Dr. John Robinson, Extension Economist, College Station. I hope for no other reason these outlooks can serve as benchmarks as our crop year progresses.

Nueces and San Patricio County AgriLife Extension is hosting a Wheat Field Day on April 7, 2015 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. With increasing interest in spring wheat production in the Coastal Bend, Jason and I have put together this event. We will register and begin the program at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi and end with a tour of the spring wheat variety trial in Odem. We are hoping planting is completed and you can join us. More detailed information is included in this newsletter.

We have several other programs on tap in March and April and have included fliers for these events. Please RSVP if you wish to attend.

Final note the San Patricio Crop Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2015, and I hope you will add this to your events to attend.

Until next time,

Feed Grain Outlook

Mark Welch, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Economist



Feed Grain Outlook

February 24, 2015

Volume 24, Number 11

Feed and residual use is up only 25 million bushels (+0.5%) even though total livestock and poultry production is forecast to increase by 3.2% in 2015. Ethanol production is projected 25 million bushels lower as gasoline consumption is trending higher in light of lower gasoline prices. The bright spot in corn use is exports, where USDA projects this market to increase 100 million bushels in the next marketing year.

Table 3. Corn Supply, Demand, and Price, 2012/13-2015/16

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 1/	2015/16 2/
Area planted (mil. ac.)	97.3	95.4	90.6	89.0
Area harvested	87.4	87.5	83.1	81.5
Yield (bu./ac.)	123.1	158.1	171.0	166.8
Production (mil. bu.)	10,755	13,829	14,216	13,595
Beginning stocks	989	821	1,232	1,827
Imports	160	36	25	25
Supply	11,904	14,686	15,472	15,447
Feed & residual	4,315	5,036	5,250	5,275
Ethanol 3/	4,641	5,134	5,250	5,225
Food, seed & other industrial	1,397	1,367	1,395	1,410
Total food, seed & industrial	6,038	6,501	6,645	6,635
Total domestic use	10,353	11,537	11,895	11,910
Exports	730	1,917	1,750	1,850
Total use	11,083	13,454	13,645	13,760
Ending stocks	821	1,232	1,827	1,687
Stocks/use (percent)	7.4	9.2	13.4	12.3
Season-avg. farm price (\$/bu.)	6.89	4.46	3.65	3.50

1/ Acreage, yield, production, and beginning stocks are estimates from the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Imports, use, ending stocks, and season-average farm price are projections from the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*, February 10, 2015. The season-average price is the midpoint of the projected range from the same report.

2/ Projections based on analysis by USDA's Feed Grains Interagency Commodity Estimates Committee.

3/ Corn used to produce ethanol and by-products including, distillers' grains, corn gluten feed, corn gluten meal, and corn oil.
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

2015/16 Fundamentals, Outlook, and Caveats

Dr. John Robinson ~ http://agrilife.org/cottonmarketing/2015_16-fundamentals-outlook-and-caveats

USDA usually does not start prognosticating publicly about the 2015 crop market outlook until their Outlook Forum (circa February 2015) followed by the May '15 WASDE report. This year, however, they released their long-run projections in December, which gives us a glimpse of their tentative view of the 2015/16 cotton supply and demand picture, as seen in the yellow highlighted table column below.

Table 1. U.S. Upland Cotton Long-Term Projections by USDA

Item	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Area (million acres)						
Planted acres	10.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.9
Harvested acres	9.7	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.4
Yield (lbs/harvested acre)	783.0	800.0	805.0	810.0	815.0	820.0
Supply & Use (000 bales):						
Beginning stocks	2,325	4,967	4,937	4,757	4,527	4,447
Production	15,819	13,800	13,900	14,000	14,300	14,400
Imports	5	5	5	5	5	5
Total Supply	18,149	18,772	18,842	18,762	18,832	18,852
Domestic use	3,775	3,825	3,875	3,925	3,975	4,025
Exports	9,450	10,000	10,200	10,300	10,400	10,500
Total use	13,225	13,825	14,075	14,225	14,375	14,525
Ending stocks	4,967	4,937	4,757	4,527	4,447	4,317
Stocks/use ratio, percent	37.6	35.7	33.8	31.8	30.9	29.7
Farm price	0.600	0.595	0.605	0.620	0.640	0.655

The implication of USDA's 2015/16 projection is for stable ending stocks, year over year, which further implies that cotton prices should continue to trade in a similar range as during 2014/15. Since this projection was released, we have had three more recent developments. **First**, the National Cotton Council released the results of their grower planting intentions survey. The survey measures cotton growers planting intentions as of the mid-December to mid-January time period. The NCC report indicates a notable 14.6% year-over-year reduction in U.S. planted cotton acreage, down to 9.43 million acres. This includes major reductions in upland plantings for regions such as the West (-46.6%), Mid-South (-25.9%), Southwest 9-13.5%), and Southeast (-10.6%). Some of the individual state reductions are surprisingly large - e.g., I am still wondering about the possibility of only 203,000 planted cotton acres in Arkansas. Also, the estimated 13.8% reduction in Texas plantings seems large to me. But, there is still time for either Mother Nature or market prices to influence these intentions. In other words, time will tell. The **second development** was the boost in U.S. cotton exports in the old crop balance sheet, as projected in USDA's February WASDE report. Relative to the January projections, 2014/15 U. S. cotton exports were raised a notable 700,000 bales to 10.7 million. This has two effects on the new crop outlook. First, it supports the idea of having somewhat higher exports in the 2015 crop balance sheet. Second, it lowered the carry-in to the new crop balance sheet by 500,000 bales. These developments reinforce the conclusion of the USDA projection above that there will be little change in ending stocks for the new crop marketing year. This, in turn, suggests little change in the projected range of the new crop prices, compared to the 2014 crop. The **third development** is a refinement in USDA's projected 2015/16 U.S. cotton balance sheet, which they published on February 19. Here, they also forecast a neutral ending stocks/price scenario, meaning that they see little change in ending stocks between the '15 crop versus the '14 crop, and hence little reason for a different price range.

Future prices. We also have the futures market as a guide to the 2015 market. Dec '15 cotton futures since last fall have traded a small premium over old crop cotton futures. If the futures market was reflecting the full cost of carry (assume 80 points per month to store cotton), that spread should be wider. Still, the fact that the market is no longer inverted, as it was in the first half of 2014, suggests that the tentative commercial outlook for Dec '15 is a little less bearish. Perhaps that reflects expectations of recovering demand, perhaps stimulated and/or the whittling down of a lot of Chinese government reserves.

Using Top Guard to Control Root Rot: Pay Attention to That Label

Dr. Thomas Isakeit, Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist ~ February 27, 2015

Topguard (flutriafol) finally has a section 3 (full registration) label for control of *Phymatotrichopsis* root rot of cotton ("cotton root rot"). This label is permanent and will permit Topguard use in all states where cotton root rot is a problem, not just Texas. Additionally, there is also a section 18 label for Texas for 2015, which was requested just in case full registration was not granted in time for the growing season.

However, the intention of the makers of Topguard, Cheminova (under review to be merged with FMC) was that the full registration would be used with a *different* formulation of Topguard, known as "Topguard Terra". This formulation is approximately 4 times as concentrated with the active ingredient, flutriafol, as Topguard that was sold with the section 18 label. There are no appreciable differences in the performance of the active ingredient and the properties of carriers between the formulations. Since both formulations will be sold for the time being, it is very important that whatever formulation the grower buys, the grower pays attention to use rates printed on that container. Eventually, probably by next year, only Topguard Terra will be available for cotton.

The Topguard that has been used for the past few years has 1.07 pounds active ingredient per gallon and is used at a rate of 16-32 fluid ounces per acre. Topguard Terra has 4.17 pounds active ingredient per gallon and is used at a rate of 4-8 fluid ounces per acre. Containers of these formulations will be clearly labeled (see figure 1). Although instructions on both labels are similar, the major and obvious difference is product use rate per 1000 row feet, based on row spacing. For example, with a 16 fluid ounce per acre rate of Topguard and a row spacing of 40 inches, 1.22 fluid ounces is applied per 1000 feet of row. To apply that same amount of active ingredient of flutriafol in that same 40 inch row spacing, Topguard Terra would be applied at 4 fluid ounces per acre, or 0.31 fluid ounces per 1000 feet of row.

There are no differences in the use patterns between the two Topguard formulations. Both are still labeled for at-plant applications only, either by a T-band or modified in furrow technique. The modified in-furrow technique may perform better under conditions of low rainfall than the T-band technique. The T-band technique may be preferable with fields that are sprinkler irrigated. Ideally, irrigation or rain occurs shortly after crop emergence (several days to two weeks), to redistribute the fungicide. The crop should never be planted dry, then watered in, because of an enhanced risk of phytotoxicity. Unfortunately, phytotoxicity as delayed or reduced emergence may occur if there is rain before crop emergence. Research is on-going to determine strategies to prevent such phytotoxicity, including other methods of application.

We have observed performance problems caused by clogging of application orifices. This problem can inadvertently show that the fungicide is working (see figure 2). Growers should pay attention to this problem, particularly first-time users. Flow meters could identify when clogging occurs. Different application products may alleviate the problem (e.g. larger orifices in the rebounder, or a T-band spray nozzle set higher). First-time users should also consider leaving a small, non-treated area in the field to identify performance and allow comparisons of crop emergence.

If you have any questions, contact me at (979) 862-1340 or t-isakeit@tamu.edu.

<http://agriflife.org/texasrowcrops/2015/02/27/using-topguard-to-control-root-rot-pay-attention-to-that-label/>

Entomology Update from South Texas

Robert Bowling (Robert.bowling@ag.tamu.edu) ~ March 5, 2015

This year two insecticides have been approved for use on sugarcane aphid in sorghum. Sivanto® received registration from the EPA and this product. Numerous efficacy studies have revealed that Sivanto provides excellent sugarcane aphid control in sorghum when used at Section 2ee labeled rates of 4 to 7 oz/ac. Bayer CropScience indicates that this product is compatible with many beneficial insects and predatory mites. Sivanto has a preharvest interval (PHI) of 21 days for dried grain, stover or straw, and 7 days for forage. The EPA granted a Section 18 on Transform for Texas. This Section 18 runs through October 31 and allows for two in-season applications of Transform for sugarcane aphid in sorghum. Labeled rates range from 0.75 to 1.5 oz/ac. The Section 18 allows for **two applications per acre per year and not to exceed 3 oz/ac**. A higher rate range is recommended for heavy sugarcane aphid populations. This product has a 14 day PHI for grain or straw harvest and 7 day PHI for grazing or forage, fodder, or hay harvest. Insecticide applications are suggested when sugarcane aphid densities average 50 to 125 aphids per leaf. Please monitor all sorghum fields (including forage sorghum, sudangrass, and haygrazer) carefully throughout the season as this aphid can build its populations to high numbers in a very short period of time.

<http://agrilife.org/texasrowcrops/2015/03/05/entomology-update-from-south-texas/>

WHEAT FIELD DAY

April 7, 2015

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center

10345 State Hwy 44, Corpus Christi, TX 78406

\$20 Participation Fee - Includes a boxed Lunch

Registration: 8:30 am

9:00 - 10:30 am Growing wheat in the Coastal Bend - Dr. Clark Neely, Small Grains & Oilseed Extension Specialist, College Station and Dr. Josh McGinty, Extension Agronomist, Corpus Christi

10:30 - 10:45 am Break

10:45 - 11:45 am Tour Wheat Plots at Research Center

11:45 - 1:00 pm Lunch and travel to Odem

1:00 - 2:00 pm Tour Wheat Variety Trial in Odem

*** 3 CEU's (2 General and 1 IPM)**

Beef Cattle Browsing

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

ARE CATTLE NUMBERS FINALLY INCREASING?

January 1, 2015 numbers released by the National Agriculture Statistics Service of USDA say yes, if one year represents a trend. Numbers (and % comparison to Jan 1, 2014) are as follows:

- All cattle and calves 89.4 million (+1%)
- Beef cows 29.7 million (+2%)
- Milk cows 9.3 million (+1%)
- All heifers \geq 500lb 19.4 million (+1%)
- Beef replacement heifers 5.8 million (+4%)
- Milk replacement heifers 4.6 million (+1%)
- Other heifers 8.8 million, (down slightly)
- Steers \geq 500lb 15.8 million (+1%)
- Bulls \geq 500lb 2.1 million (+3%)
- Calves \leq 500lb 13.7 million (+1%)
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter 13.1 million (+1%)

(More detailed information for 2015 and preceding years is available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID+1017>)

BEEF IS OK SAYS AHA

The American Heart Association has officially certified beef as “part of a heart-healthy diet”. That is, some beef. The following items meet their certification:

- Extra Lean Ground Beef (96% lean)
- Bottom Round Steak (USDA Select)
- Sirloin Tip Steak (USDA Select)
- Top Sirloin Boneless Petite Roast (USDA Select)
- Top Sirloin Strips (USDA Select)
- Top Sirloin Filet (USDA Select)
- Top Sirloin Kabob (USDA Select)
- Top Sirloin Boneless Steak (USDA Select)

Note these cuts, except for the ground product, require USDA Select grade. Perhaps this AHA certification could lead to higher consumption and greater value to the beef industry for product not qualified for high-quality branded programs, such as Certified Angus Beef®, which typically require mid-Choice grade or higher. At least, it can't hurt.

(<http://beefboard.org>)

NUECES AND SAN PATRICIO COUNTIES

GRASS GROWER'S GATHERING

March 26th

9:00 to 2:00

To be held at the
Johnny Calderon
Building,
710 East Main,
Robstown, TX.

*A participation fee of
\$20 which includes lunch
will be charged at the door.
Please RSVP by March
20th to:*

Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
Nueces County

710 East Main Street

Suite 1

Robstown, TX 78380

Phone: 361.767.5223

Fax: 361.767.5248

E-mail: j-ott@tamu.edu

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Providing Solutions.*



Workshop Topics

Forage Quality and Anti-Quality Factors
Affecting Livestock Performance

Complimentary Livestock and Wildlife
Grazing Systems

Enhancing Forage Quality and Yield

Determining the Real Value of Forage

Forage Management for Water Quality

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Available In

San Angelo: March 5th-6th

Stephenville: March 12th-13th

Corpus Christi: April 9th-10th

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South Texas Agriculture Symposium

2 TDA
CEUs
Offered

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension
Center

10345 Hwy 44 , Corpus Christi, TX

April 14, 2015

8:30—2:00

Will be available at the
Extension Office in
Sinton for \$10 per
participant.

Program Topics:



When is Black Red?

An overview of current discoveries in beef cattle genetics and genomics, when a gene is not THE gene (is black really black?), can nutrition “whip” genes, and how many EPDs do you really need? Some basic knowledge inheritance (like knowing why you look like your parents) is recommended.

What Drives Calf Prices in South Texas

Rising consumer demand and serious drought have pushed calf prices to record highs. This presentation discusses the impact of various genetic, managerial, and marketing factors on calf prices in South Texas.

Why Did She Eat That?

A ground to ground level view of the passage of feed through a cow’s digestive tract including diet selection, digestion, requirements and supplementation.

King Ranch & Kleberg Bluestem Management

The widespread invasive of old world bluestems has created land management issues for most of the state. Learn what is known about their response to different management practices and how to deal with them once you have them!

Economic Feasibility of Commercial Aquaponics in South Texas

This presentation presents the results of an analysis of the economic feasibility of a commercial scale aquaponics facility in south Texas. The analysis is based on an aquaponics system being tested at the Weslaco AgriLife Center.

The Crop Analyzer Tool

This presentation will describe the best scenarios for using the Excel-based tool. Additionally, a step-by-step demonstration of how the tool works will be given.

The Sugarcane Aphid: A Review and Update

This presentation will provide a review of sugarcane aphid biology and direct and indirect damage to sorghum. The presentation will also provide an update on sugarcane aphid activity, insecticides available (registered and those with a section 18), as well as projects and demos for the upcoming season.

Know Your Enemy: Herbicide Resistant Weeds

An update on the current status of herbicide resistant weeds will be given, as well as a discussion on the mechanisms of resistance, why these problems occur, and management strategies.

Pre-registration required by April 10th by calling

(361) 767-5223

Fee: \$20 (includes lunch)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Nueces County

710 East Main Street
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Robstown, TX 78380

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E-mail: j.ott@tamu.edu

TEXAS A&M
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COASTAL BEND GRAIN STORAGE & HANDLERS SAFETY CONFERENCE

Wednesday
April 22, 2015

8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Location: San Patricio County Fairgrounds—Civic Center
219 W. 5th Street, Sinton, Texas

Fee: \$20 (Includes Lunch) payable at the door

Pre-Registration required by April 17, 2015 by calling (361) 364-6234

TOPICS

- ♦ OSHA Updates - Marianne McGee, OSHA compliance Assistance Specialist
- ♦ Sweep Augers & Grain Bin Safety - James Shepard, Texas Cotton Ginners Trust
- ♦ Fumigation Hazards - Bill Ordner, Town & Country Pest Control
- ♦ Confined Spaces - Jason Lee, Planters Coop
- ♦ Trauma Response - Dr. James Mobley, MD, MPH, San Patricio County Health Director
- ♦ Live Grain Engulfment Demonstration - Planters Coop - Sinton Facility

Lunch will be at Butter Churn Restaurant, 207 West Sinton, Sinton, TX 78387

Sponsored by: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Nueces, San Patricio and Refugio County Farm Bureau, Woodsboro Farmers Coop, South Texas Country Elevators Assoc.

For further information you can also contact Michael Donalson, Refugio County-CEA 361-526-2825 or Jason Ott, Nueces County-CEA 361-767-5223

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Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-364-6234 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

2 CEU's

219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387
361-364-6234



Bob McCool
County Extension Agent
Ag/Natural Resources

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
 219 N. Vineyard Attn: Ag/NR
 Sinton, Texas 78387
 (361) 364-6234

Bobby R. McCool
 County Extension Agent
 Agriculture/Natural Resources
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, San Patricio County

Bobby R. McCool

