



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * **November 19, 2015**
Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Day
- * **December 3, 2015**
Beef Cattle Field Day
- * **December 17, 2015**
Crop Marketing Workshop
- * **January 21, 2016**
Field Crop Symposium

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Hello again,

The 2015 crop is in the bin or in a bale, and for the most part, yields turned out good. In the beginning there were many concerns with the over supply of rain and the problems associated with the wet conditions, but in the end most producers have been happy with the yields. However, commodity prices are at levels where profit margins remain tight and look to stay that way for some time.

There are three variety test results, that were conducted in San Patricio in this newsletter and there are several people I would like to thank for their involvement in seeing these test to completion. First I would like to thank Allan Hunt Farms and Bobby Rieder Farms for the use of their resources and management of the trials. I also want to thank Dennis Pietsch and Jonathan Moreno for planting and data collection on the grain sorghum variety test. Finally, I wish to thank Daniel Gonzales and Harvey Buehring with Monsanto, for the scales and help with data collection on the grain sorghum and cotton, Chance Love with Americot-cotton data collection and Dr. Josh McGinty AgriLife Agronomy Specialist for assistance with the cotton data collection and statistical analysis.

Our Coastal Bend Soil Testing will continue until November 20th. If you plan to take advantage of the reduced rate, please turn in your samples as soon as possible.

We have some events coming up in November and December that I hope will be of interest. On November 19, we will be collecting plastic pesticide containers for recycling. We will begin collecting at the Hartzendorf Gin, 9858 FM 796, Sinton, from 10am to 12 noon. We will then be at the Midway Gin, 5455 CR 3567, Taft, from 2pm to 4pm. If you have clean pesticide containers, please consider recycling, and it is free. Please see flyer for more details.

Also on tap is the Coastal Bend Beef Cattle Field Day which will be held on December 3, from 9am to 2:30pm at the Wendland Farms Headquarters, 5634 CR 1360, Taft. We are going to talk cattle, eat pit grilled hamburgers, have fun and hopefully learn something that assists you in your cattle operation. If you plan to attend please RSVP by December 1. Flyer included.

Our final program for 2015 will be a Risk Management Workshop slated for December 17, at the San Patricio County Fairgrounds Civic Center, 219 W. 5th Street, Sinton from 9am-2:30pm. Dr. Mark Welch, Dr. John Robinson and Dr. Joe Outlaw will be here from College Station, and Dr. Levi Russell from Corpus Christi, will discuss risk management plans, strategies, and crop insurance scenarios related to the 2016 crop year.

This is also my last newsletter of 2015 and as before, I hope all have a wonderful and family filled

Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!!!

Till next time,

Beef Cattle Browsing

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

EFFECT OF METHOD AND TIMING OF CASTRATION ON STOCKER CALVES?

A total of 271 crossbred calves (184 bulls and 87 steers) initially averaging 462 lb was obtained from livestock auctions in three groups. For all groups, calves were assigned to treatments as follows:

- calves that arrived as steers;
- bulls castrated surgically at arrival;
- bulls castrated surgically 14 days after arrival;
- bulls castrated with a rubber band at arrival;
- bulls castrated with a rubber band 14 days after arrival.

ADG was calculated over either 43 days, 50 days, or 53 days, depending on the purchase group. Calves arriving as steers had significantly higher ADG. Bulls surgically castrated on arrival had higher ADG than other bull groups. Bulls surgically castrated 14 days after arrival and band-castrated on arrival had lowest ADG. Over the entire feeding periods, fewer steers required treatment with antibiotics; there was no difference among bull groups in antibiotic treatment. NOTE: In some cases (especially during periods of low availability), bulls weighing less than 500lb may not be price discounted. This study indicates they should be discounted.

(Prof. Anim. Sci. 30:457, Univ. of Arkansas)

DO GROWTH IMPLANTS FOR CALVES STILL WORK WITH TODAY'S GENETICS?

Growth implants for calves have been around for over 40 years. Research evaluating implants on calves (almost always showing positive effects) was mostly conducted over 30 years ago. Over the years, genetic selection has generally increased weight, milking potential, and muscling. Researchers wondered if response to growth implants was still the same from current cattle.

At 30 to 90 days of age, 152 male calves were castrated, branded, and vaccinated; one-half of each group was implanted and one-half not implanted. When weaned 134 days after working, implanted calves had gained 20 lb more. This is essentially the same average level of response obtained 30-40 years earlier. Implanting is still as effective with today's genetics. However, industry-wide implementation of implanting suckling calves continues to be at a low rate.

(2015 So. Sec. Am. Soc. Amin. Sci. Meeting Abst. 50; Oklahoma St. Univ., Merck Anim. Health)

San Pat - Gregory supplemental GS trial

Allan Hunt Farms

Brand	Hybrid	Moisture %		Test Weight lb/bu		Adj. Yield lb/acre	
Dekalb	DKS 53-53	16.3	a	57.0	a	2110	a
DynaGro	DG 766B	16.7	a	55.6	a	1978	a
BH Genetics	BH 5566	17.4	a	55.0	a	1867	a
Dekalb	DKS 53-67	17.2	a	57.5	a	1797	a
Alta	AG 3201	18.5	a	54.0	a	1726	a
Pioneer	84G62	17.4	a	53.8	a	1626	a
Mycogen	1G741	17.1	a	52.9	a	1624	a
Terral	RV 9782	17.0	a	54.1	a	1572	a
Dekalb	DKS 37-07	16.5	a	47.6	a	1515	a
Pioneer	83P99	16.8	a	50.8	a	1435	a
Mycogen	1G688	17.5	a	47.5	a	1303	a
	Mean	17.1		53.2		1687	
	Std. Dev.	1.52		6.53		375.95	
	C.V %	8.88		12.27		22.29	
	L.S.D	NS		NS		NS	
	p>f (hybrid)	0.8605		0.4587		0.0765	

* mean separation via Fisher's protected LSD @ 0.05

Adjusted yield standardized to 14% moisture

**Gregory
2015 Grain Sorghum
Performance Trial**

Allan Hunt Farms



Brand	Hybrid	Days to 50% Flower	Plant Height (in)	Head Ex (in)	Lodging (%)	Moisture (%)	Test Weight (lbs/bu)	Yield * (lbs/acre)
Alta Seeds	AG3101	N/A	51	8	N/A	16.3	56.5	2,152
Mycogen	1G741	N/A	48	7	N/A	17.7	54.3	2,041
Pioneer	83P56	N/A	47	5	N/A	17.5	54.7	1,943
REV	9924	N/A	48	6	N/A	16.5	54.9	1,901
Advanta Research	XG02008	N/A	45	7	N/A	15.9	53.6	1,891
Alta Seeds	AG2115	N/A	45	7	N/A	16.2	53.8	1,866
Golden Acres	5613	N/A	44	8	N/A	16.9	54.6	1,845
DEKALB	DKS 53-53	N/A	48	4	N/A	16.8	56.7	1,801
Texas A&M AgriLife Research	ATx2752xRTx430	N/A	47	5	N/A	16.9	55.3	1,791
DEKALB	DKS 49-45	N/A	51	8	N/A	17.2	54.7	1,772
Advanta Research	XG30001	N/A	45	9	N/A	17.5	54.1	1,763
Texas A&M AgriLife Research	ATx378xRTx430	N/A	53	5	N/A	16.8	54.1	1,760
Anzu Genetica	AG 4300	N/A	43	8	N/A	16.7	54.5	1,750
Golden Acres	3545	N/A	45	8	N/A	16.9	54.3	1,728
Alta Seeds	AG3201	N/A	46	9	N/A	16.7	54.9	1,719
Alta Seeds	AG2105	N/A	47	8	N/A	16.6	54.2	1,707
Pioneer	83P73	N/A	46	7	N/A	17.2	55.2	1,609
DEKALB	DKS 41-50	N/A	51	11	N/A	17.0	54.8	1,576
REV	9782	N/A	46	6	N/A	16.5	53.9	1,531
Texas A&M AgriLife Research	ATx399xRTx430	N/A	45	8	N/A	17.4	53.8	1,529
REV	9562	N/A	47	7	N/A	16.7	54.9	1,526
Golden Acres	3637	N/A	48	8	N/A	17.7	54.5	1,412
Anzu Genetica	AG 4223	N/A	39	4	N/A	17.3	53.4	1,394
Advanta Research	XG30003	N/A	44	9	N/A	18.8	55.5	1,362
Anzu Genetica	AG 4333	N/A	45	7	N/A	17.3	54.9	1,320
Alta Seeds	AG1203	N/A	49	4	N/A	16.9	53.8	1,318
Advanta Research	XG30002	N/A	43	9	N/A	18.3	53.2	1,283

Brand	Hybrid	Days to 50% Flower	Plant Height (in)	Head Ex (in)	Lodging (%)	Moisture (%)	Test Weight (lbs/bu)	Yield * (lbs/acre)
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Agronomic information	
Plant Date	4/7/2015
Harvest Date	8/26/2015
Irrigated	No
Row Spacing (in)	38
Number of Rows	2
Seeds per Acre	60,000
N (lb/ac)	40
P2O5 (lb/ac)	0
K2O (lb/ac)	0
Precipitation (in)	39.91
Irrigation (in)	
Herbicide	None

Mean	46	7		17.0	54.4	1,635
C.V. %	3.7	29.6		6.7		16.7
P>t (hybrid)	0.000			0.218		0.000
L.S.D.	2.4					383.3

Trial Notes	
*Yields do not reflect the potential of grain sorghum in this area. Due to prolonged wet soil conditions, the test block was planted about 5 weeks later than the optimum planting date. The test block was flooded three times and reduced potential yields.	
*200 lbs of ammonium sulfate was applied after emergence.	
*The incidence of aphids were minimal thus no insecticide was applied.	
*No flowering notes recorded.	
Soil Type	Raymondville clay loam; 0-1% slope
Tillage	Full conventional till, shred stalks, disked, field cultivated and planted
Previous Crop	Grain sorghum

Cooperator:	Allan Hunt
Four replications of each hybrid are planted in a randomized block design. Model : yield = hybrid . blk. LSD provided when hybrid significant at p < 0.05. Yields highlighted in yellow are not statistically different from the top ranked hybrid. Plots were planted using Almaco meter units on a JD Max-Emerge II units. Plots were harvested with a JD 3300 plot combine fitted with a Harvest Master GrainGage System. Precipitation data was recorded from January 1 through the harvest date. For additional information contact: Dennis Pietsch dpietsch@ag.tamu.edu 979-845-8505	

* Yields highlighted in yellow are not significantly different (L.S.D., p=0.05) from the top ranked hybrid.

Note: These Grain Sorghum Trials unfortunately encountered extremely wet conditions for an extended time.

San Patricio Cotton Race Trial Bobby Rieder Farms

Variety	Yield (lbs/acre)		Turnout %		Micronaire		Length (inches)		Strength (g/tex)		Uniformity		Lan Value (c/lbs)		Lint Value (\$/Ac)	
ST 6182GLT	1133	a	46.6	a	4.7	a	1.10	b	28.9	de	82.3	bc	53.77	ab	609	a
PHY 333WRF	1105	ab	43.6	bc	4.3	bcd	1.11	b	29.5	b-e	82.9	ab	53.70	b	593	ab
PHY 444WRF	1078	abc	44.3	bc	4.0	e	1.17	a	32.3	a	84.3	a	54.80	a	591	ab
DP 1219B2RF	1073	abc	41.7	de	4.5	abc	1.10	b	31.4	abc	82.5	bc	53.73	b	577	abc
ST 4946GLB2	1027	abcd	40.5	e	4.3	cde	1.09	b	31.5	ab	83.5	ab	53.63	b	551	a-d
NG5007B2XF	984	bcd	43.4	bcd	4.5	abc	1.09	b	29.2	cde	82.2	bc	53.23	b	523	bcd
NG 3406B2XF	973	bcd	42.7	cd	4.5	ab	1.09	b	29.8	b-e	83.0	ab	53.28	b	519	bcd
CG 3885B2XF	963	cd	44.6	b	4.6	a	1.08	bc	28.6	de	83.2	ab	52.88	bc	509	cd
DP 1549B2XF	952	cd	43.3	bcd	4.7	a	1.06	c	28.2	e	82.0	bc	52.03	c	495	d
FM 2007GLT	892	d	40.7	e	4.1	de	1.10	b	30.6	a-d	81.2	c	53.38	b	476	d
Mean	1008		43.1		4.4		1.10		30.0		82.7		53.45		544	
P>F	0.0288		<0.0001		0.0001		<0.0001		0.0147		0.0456		0.0057		0.0151	
LSD (P=.05)	136.74		1.7541		0.25338		0.02919		2.2642		1.6282		1.0474		75.597	
STD DEV	124.19		1.89		0.27		0.03		1.81		1.20		0.88		68.62	
CV%	12.20		4.39		6.13		2.94		6.05		1.45		1.66		12.61	

ECONOMIC VALUE OF CASTRATION IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Corpus Christi, 2015

Levi A. Russell
Assistant Professor & Extension Economist
Corpus Christi, Texas

SUMMARY: As cow numbers rebound from the recent drought and calf prices begin to decline, producers will need to evaluate the profitability of various best management practices. Studies conducted over the years in Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas consistently show a significant price discount for bull calves relative to steer calves at market. Relatively little research has been done in Southern Texas to examine this issue. Findings of research conducted in Bee, Karnes, Jim Wells, Live Oak, and Starr counties indicate that there are significant revenue losses for bull calves relative to steers. This is an update from a study completed last year and includes data on more than triple the number of calves as the previous study.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this demonstration is to quantify the revenue gains associated with castration and implantation. This information will aid producers in cost/benefit analyses of implementing this practice in their operations.

MATERIALS/METHODS: Extension faculty collected data in sale barns in Bee, Karnes, Jim Wells, Live Oak, and Starr counties from April 2014 to August 2015. This study included 1,847 head of cattle. Data for this demonstration included price in dollars per pound and weight in pounds.

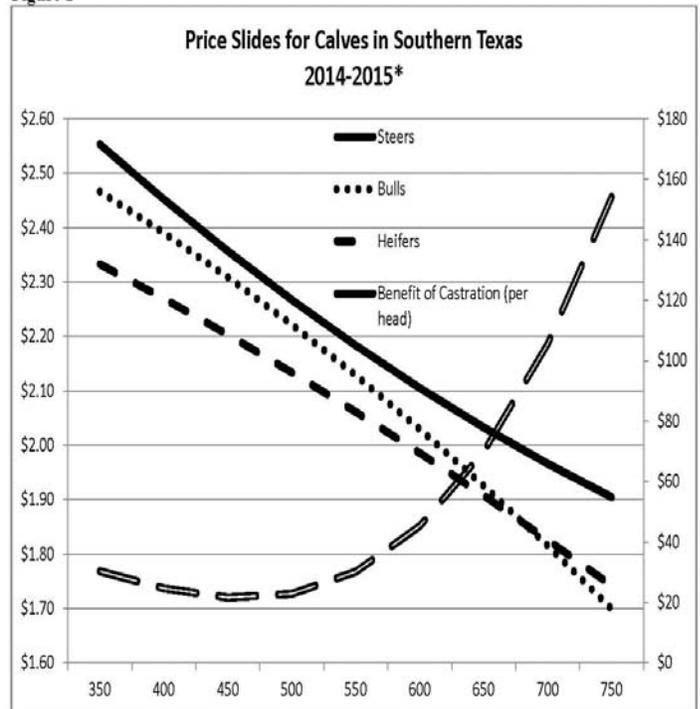
RESULTS/DISCUSSION: Figure 1 shows the relationships between price per pound and weight for steers, bulls, and heifers. These price slides were calculated using a statistical regression of price on weight. Heifer prices were always below steer prices, averaging a \$0.15 per pound discount. From 350 to 500 lbs., bull and steer prices differed by an average of \$0.06 per pound or \$25 per head. Above 500 lbs., bull prices begin to fall relative to steer prices. This effect is so dramatic that the predicted price for bulls falls below the predicted heifer price at 700 and 750 lbs. The financial benefit of castration and implantation (the per-head price difference between steers and bulls) averages \$81 for calves between 550 and 750 lbs. and ranges from \$30 for 550 lbs. calves to \$154 for 750 lbs. calves.

It's important to consider the cost of implantation since this practice is required to ensure that we are making an apples-to-apples comparison. If a bull calf is castrated and not implanted, he will not reach as heavy a weight at weaning as he would if he had remained intact.

The reason for the premium for steer calves over bull calves is that feedlots will almost certainly castrate all male calves. If they do so at higher calf weights, there is increased risk of death loss due to infection and blood loss. The premium observed in the data represents part of the cost to the feedlot of the risk of increased death loss.

These findings suggest two possible marketing strategies: avoidance or management. Producers can either 1) avoid the discount associated with bull calves if they market their calves below 550 lbs. or 2) castrate steers at lower weights (to reduce death loss risk) and receive a premium relative to bull calves at higher market weights. In many cases, the risk of death loss associated with castration of lighter calves and the management cost of castration and implantation is likely much lower than the increased revenue potential at heavier market weights. In these cases, the benefits of castration and implantation outweigh the costs. The decision to castrate depends to some degree on the typical weaning weight of calves for their cowherd.

Figure 1



*Benefit of Castration (per head) is measured on the right axis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: County Agents Jared Alewine, Matt Bochat, Michael Donalson, Frank Escobedo, Bobby McCool, Rogelio Mercado, Omar Montemayor, Brian Yanta, and Makenzie Wyatt; Extension Assistant Justin Sáenz; Extension Program Specialist Mac Young; Extension Livestock Specialist Joe Paschal; and Extension Economist David Anderson are thanked for their efforts associated with this project.

Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Day

Thursday, November 19, 2015

2
LOCATIONS

Hartzendorf Gin
9858 FM 796, Edroy, TX
10:00am - 12:00 noon

Midway Gin
5455 CR 3567, Taft, TX
2:00pm - 4:00pm

1
DAY



- Free pick up for plastic agricultural containers
- 55 gallons or less
- Clean and free of residue

- Any containers not meeting guidelines will be rejected
- Container labels & lids need to be removed & discarded properly
- Stains are allowed on containers as long as no residue present

For more information, call San Patricio County Extension Office at (361) 364-6234.

USAg is supported by Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC). ACRC is a non-profit organization that encourages the proper management of plastic crop protection product containers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bobby R. McCool".

Bobby R. McCool
County Extension Agent
Ag/Natural Resources
San Patricio County
219 N. Vineyard
Sinton, TX 78387



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**2-CEU & BQA's
Offered**

Pre-Registration Required:
361-364-6234 or
361-767-5223
before December 1, 2015

Registration Fee: \$10/person
(includes lunch)



“COASTAL BEND BEEF CATTLE FIELD DAY”

Thursday, December 3, 2015 from 9:00am-2:30pm
Registration: 8:30am-9:00am

Wendland Farms Hq, 5634 CR 1360, Taft, TX 78390

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.

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

Bobby McCool
County Extension Agent AG/NR

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TOPICS:

- ◆ Calf Management & Reproduction Management
- ◆ Cow Herd Re-Building Economics
- ◆ De-Worming - Strategies and Timing
- ◆ Using Genetic Markers to Improve Performance and Profitability
- ◆ Growing & Managing Yearling Bulls
- ◆ Cow\$ Geometry
- ◆ Brush & Forage Management
 - ⇒ Spray Equipment Calibration
 - ⇒ Cut Stump Brush Control
 - ⇒ Fecal Sampling to Reduce Supplementation

Program Sponsored by: Merial Animal Health

Door Prizes Sponsored by: Parker Lumber-Sinton - Ful o Pep Feeds, Lone Star Country Store & Purina Feeds, Lyssy & Eckel Feeds, Texas Ag Finance, & Agri Labs

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
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Crop Marketing Workshop

December 17th
9:00 to 3:00

To be held at the
San Patricio County
Fairgrounds,
219 West 5th Street,
Sinton, TX.

**A participation fee
of \$15 will be
charged at the
door. Please RSVP
by December 14th
to:**

**Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
San Patricio County**

219 West 5th Street
Sinton TX 78387

Phone: 361.364.6234
Fax: 361.364.6237

bobby.mccool@ag.tamu.edu

Looking for a Marketing Edge in 2016?

Make plans to attend our 5 hour program devoted to information directed at assisting Producers with Risk Management decisions. Topics of interest include: Grain and Cotton Market Outlook, Risk Management Implications, Financial Risk Management and Crop Insurance scenarios!

Speakers include:

Dr. Mark Welch, Extension Economist,
College Station

Dr. Joe Outlaw, Extension Economist and
Director of Agricultural and Food Policy
Center, College Station

Dr. John Robinson, Extension Economist,
College Station

Dr. Levi Russell, Extension Economist, Corpus
Christi



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 Sinton, Texas 78387
 (361) 364-6234

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

