TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

San Patricio Agriculture

"Agriculture Affects Everyone"

219 N. Vineyard, Sinton, TX 78387; Phone: 361-587-3400; Fax: 361-364-6237

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST: September, 2022

- Southeast Region Row Crop Team Grain and Cotton Marketing update **3rd Wednesday** of month - Link - https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/93705592814?pwd=WGFkTjErOVh4UFdCa2xLNGt1RlhiQT09
- Oct. 17 - Nov. 18 Coastal Bend Soil Testing Campaign

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email instead of by U.S. Postal Service, please contact the Extension Office at 361/587-3400 or by email - sanpatri@ag.tamu.edu

County Website: http://sanpatricio.agrilife.org

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Hello Again,

It has been longer than normal since I have sent out a newsletter but sometimes things just don't line up. As we all know it has been a very peculiar year. Due to the continued dry weather pattern, crops did not perform very well even though we did harvest some decent grain sorghum. Corn was well below normal yields and what cotton was taken to harvest; it also was well below the norm. One of the positives is commodity prices have been high and that has helped the bottom line of crop producers. Cattle production also took a big hit with many a head of cattle heading to market before producers wanted to send them. Tight hay supplies, high feed cost and for many basically no forage production from March till August was hard on cattle production systems. There was a lot of hard decisions made during this time. We are thankful currently for pastures green and growing and the opportunities we have available going forward. It looks like we should have some hay supplies as we move into fall and winter but for most it will possibly be one maybe two cuttings. If you bale your own or buy it, testing it for quality will be to your advantage. Knowing what you have will benefit your bottom line and your decision making.

I am including in this newsletter the results from our County Grain Sorghum and Corn Trials, as well as the results from the Gregory 2022 Grain Sorghum Performance Trial conducted by the AgriLife Research Crop Testing Program. If you would like more information or look at other trials across the state, you can go to varietytesting-new.tamu.edu and find an array crop trial results. This year the County Cotton RACE Trial was failed out, but I do want to thank our cooperators, Andrew Miller Farms, Ring Bros Farms, and Rieder Farms for their continued support of these efforts. Technology continues to be used for various tasks and we recorded the yield monitor results from the John Deere S790 combine that was used to harvest the County Grain Sorghum Test and compared them to our Par-Kan weigh wagon. It is interesting the mean was 5lbs/ac. That comparison is also included.

Also, included is the flyer for our Fall CEU Conference, in which we will be offering 5 TDA CEU's and 5.5 CCA CEU's as well. We look forward to seeing you there on October 6 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 10345 Hwy 44, Corpus Christi and registration will begin at 8:00 am. If you plan to participate virtual, it is necessary for you to register via Eventbrite and the link is on the flyer. We also encourage our in-person participants to register there as well, or RSVP and we will register you at the door. We will be using Microsoft TEAMS to telecast the conference and that meeting link will be sent to the virtual participants on October 5th. If you use Apple products and you have not already you will need to download the Microsoft TEAMS app.

Fertilizer prices look to continue to be high this next crop year and many fields because of reduced production or lack thereof will probably have residual nutrients you will want to take advantage of. This year looks to be a good time for soil testing. The Coastal Bend Soil Testing Campaign will be October 17 - November 18. During this time, we will get your samples to the lab and the lab fees are reduced if you will bring the samples to the office. This campaign is for samples from farms, pastures, hay fields, etc., and is not directed at residential needs. We will have forms and bags at the Extension Office. Please contact us if you have any questions.

On a final note, Dr. Joe Paschal, long time Extension Livestock Specialist in Corpus as many of you know, is retiring. I just wanted to say thank you for making County Agents look good and for your devotion to the continual education of many in the livestock industry not only in the Coastal Bend but across the country. Thanks Doc!

As fall approaches, things in the ag world are looking better. Good soil moisture, good grass, good prices are welcomed blessings at this time in the Coastal Bend. Hopefully things will start to cool down and less humidity will be the norm and you can enjoy the many activities South Texas affords.

Till Next Time

Bobby R. McCord

So often in Agriculture, there is not a simple answer to a simple question.

2022 San Patricio County Grain Sorghum

Company	Hybrid	Moisture %		Test Weight lb/bu		Yield lb/A	
Dekalb	DKS54-07	15.7	bc	60.0	bc	4191	a
Dekalb	DKS44-07	15.8	b	62.7	a	4003	ab
Pioneer	85P81	15.8	b	60.7	ab	3861	abc
Dyna-Gro	M63GB78	15.6	bc	60.0	bc	3648	bcd
BH Genetics	BH 5755	15.8	b	60.0	bc	3625	bcd
Sorghum Partners	SP SD348	15.3	d	56.3	d	3586	cd
BH Genetics	BH 4055	15.4	cd	59.7	bc	3584	cd
Sorghum Partners	SP 72M42	16.4	a	58.0	cd	3530	cd
Dyna-Gro	M71GR91	15.6	bc	60.0	bc	3439	d
	Mean	15.7		59.7		3719	
	P>F	0.0001		0.0035		0.0152	
	LSD (0.05)	0.3		2.4		394	
	CV (%)	2.12		3.38		8.39	

Comparison of Combine Technology & Conventional Weigh Systems

Company	Hybrid	Weigh Wagon Yield lb/A		Yield Monitor lb/A		Yield Difference lb/A	
Dekalb	DKS54-07	4191.4	a	4190.8	a	1	a
Dekalb	DKS44-07	4003.4	ab	3979.1	ab	24	a
Pioneer	85P81	3860.9	abc	3816.8	abc	44	a
Dyna-Gro	M63GB78	3648.0	bcd	3643.5	bcd	4	a
BH Genetics	BH 5755	3625.1	bcd	3632.6	bcd	-7	a
Sorghum Partners	SP SD348	3586.4	cd	3694.1	bcd	-108	b
BH Genetics	BH 4055	3583.7	cd	3561.0	bcd	23	a
Sorghum Partners	SP 72M42	3530.0	cd	3531.8	cd	-2	a
Dyna-Gro	M71GR91	3438.7	d	3373.5	d	65	a
	Mean	3718.6		3713.7		5	
	P>F	0.0152		0.0339		0.0287	
	LSD (0.05)	394		438		84	
	CV (%)	8.39		8.65			

2022 San Patricio County Corn Hybrid

Brand	Hybrid	Moisture %		Test Weight lb/bu		Yield bu/A	
LG Seeds	LG66C44	13.1		55.3	bc	50.9	a
Dekalb	DKC65-99	13.1		53.7	d	49.1	ab
Dekalb	DKC69-99	13.7		56.0	ab	48.5	abc
Dyna-Gro	D57VC53	13.8		56.7	a	43.6	bcd
Dyna-Gro	D54VC14	13.2		55.3	bc	42.2	cd
Pioneer	P1718VYHR	13.1		54.3	cd	39.6	d
	Mean	13.3		55.2		45.7	
	P>F	0.0659		0.0008		0.0239	
	LSD (0.05)	NS		1.0		6.8	
	CV (%)	3.14		2.53		11.32	

2022 Grain Sorghum Performance Trial - Gregory

Brand	Hybrid	Days to 50% Flower	Plant Height (in)	Head Ex (in)	Lodging (%)	Moisture (%)	Test Weight (lbs/bu)	Yield * (lbs/acre)
Integra	G3665	66	47	4	0	14.5	59.4	4,736
Dyna-Gro	GX21965	70	48	3	0	15.4	60.7	4,683
DEKALB	DKS 44-07	68	45	3	0	14.9	61.1	4,672
Dyna-Gro	M67GB87	68	50	4	0	14.4	59.7	4,344
DEKALB	DKS 50-07	69	50	4	0	15.4	61.7	4,253
Golden Acres	3180B	67	45	4	0	14.5	59.6	4,198
DEKALB	DKS 36-07	63	49	6	0	14.9	60.9	4,171
Dyna-Gro	GX22934	68	50	3	0	15.3	60.8	4,076
Dyna-Gro	M60GB31	68	45	4	0	15.1	61.2	4,067
Dyna-Gro	GX22932	67	52	4	0	15.5	61.4	4,032
DEKALB	DKS 54-07	70	52	3	0	15.0	60.9	4,009
DEKALB	DKS 40-76	63	47	6	0	15.1	60.4	4,001
DEKALB	DKS 45-60	67	48	6	0	15.5	61.9	3,969
Scott Seed	S75N495	N/A	53	4	0	14.9	60.1	3,810
Alta Seeds	ADVG 2165	70	47	2	0	15.4	61.0	3,778
Integra	G3711	70	51	3	0	15.2	61.3	3,737
Scott Seed	S75N75	67	55	5	0	15.0	61.5	3,703
Dyna-Gro	M71GR91	70	49	3	0	14.9	60.3	3,635
Scott Seed	S78A30	68	46	2	0	15.4	60.5	3,579
Dyna-Gro	M63GB78	64	45	4	0	14.8	59.5	3,496
Golden Acres	4880R	70	50	4	0	14.9	60.7	3,491
Dyna-Gro	M72GB71	70	49	2	0	15.1	61.7	3,450
Alta Seeds	ADVG 2168IG	66	41	4	0	14.9	60.4	3,392
Dyna-Gro	M59GB94	62	48	7	0	14.7	60.3	3,080
Scott Seed	S75A60	70	51	2	0	15.0	61.7	2,794

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

Heifer Placements & Cull Cow Slaughter Implications

By: **Dr. Yuri Calil, Extension Economist, Corpus Christi, TX**

The increased number of heifers in the feedlots (Fig. 1) and cull cow slaughter (Fig 2) will affect cattle supply in the coming months and next year. The beef cow slaughter in Region 6 (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arkansas) is 30% higher year-to-date in 2022 than in 2021. Consequently, expect the calve prices to go up. However, the recent rains may slow down culling in the upcoming period.

Feedlots may struggle to fill pens with the dwindling supply of cattle replacement and higher grain prices (Fig. 3). Fertilizers and diesel costs prevent corn prices from falling. Currently, the hay stock is tight because of the decline in yield (drought). Nevertheless, a farmer who can afford a place to stash the heifers may foresee some profit margin.

High feed costs, inflation, and rising interest rates concern the industry, making the market wary. In addition, Beef buyers may be concerned about how beef fits into squeezing household budgets. September presents higher levels of product available in recent years due to fed slaughters and reasonable steer carcass weights, contributing to a record production year (Fig. 4). However, prices tend to be firm during the month as beef buyers start to book products for fall and the upcoming holidays.

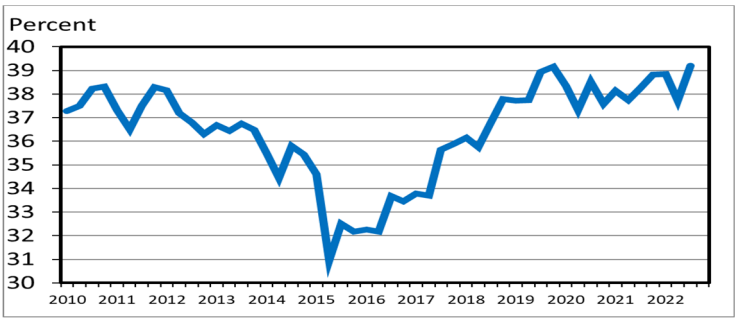


Figure 1 - Heifers on Feed as a Percent of Total Cattle on Feed, U.S., Beginning of Quarter
Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled by LMIC Livestock Marketing Information Center

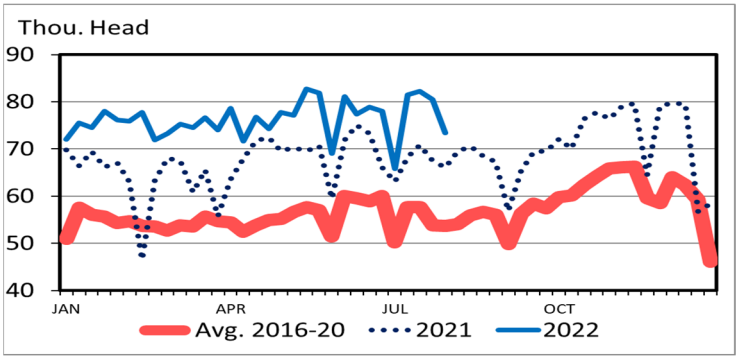


Figure 2 - Beef Cow Slaughter, Federally Inspected, Weekly
Data Source: USDA-AMS, USDA-NASS, Compiled by LMIC Livestock Marketing Information Center

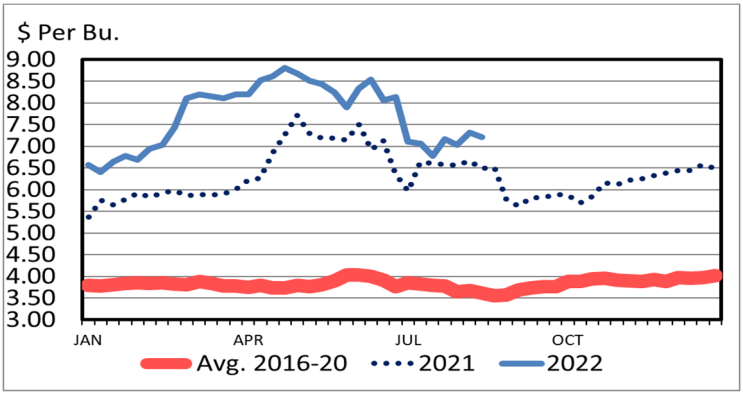


Figure 3 – Shouter Plains Corn Prices, Weekly
Data Source: USDA-AMS, Compiled by LMIC (Livestock Marketing Information Center)

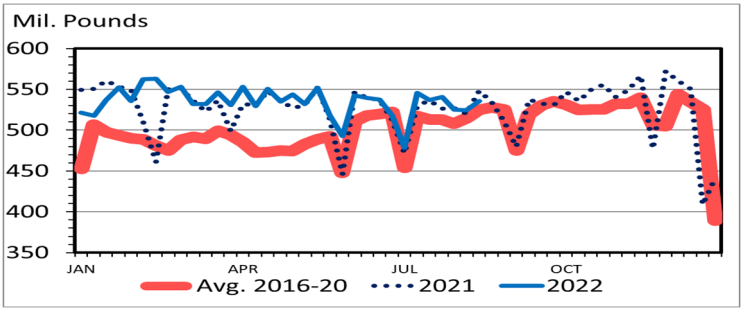


Figure 4 - Beef Production, Federally Inspected, Weekly
Data Source: USDA-AMS, USDA-NASS, Compiled by LMIC Livestock Marketing Information Center

By: **Dr. Joe C. Paschal, Extension Livestock Specialist & Dr. Steve Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist**

Beef Quality Assurance National Rancher Survey: Program Participation, Best Management Practices, and Motivations for Joining Future Sustainability Programs

Translational Animal Science, Volume 6, Issue 3, July 2022, txac094,
https://doi.org/10.1093/tas/txac094

The most successful rancher educational program has been the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program with over 137,000 participants. The BQA program was established in the mid-1990's to improve animal health and welfare with a primary objective to reduce the incidence of injection site lesions by instructing producers to administer injections in the neck only. This study investigated the reasons for this success to use in future rancher education programs about agricultural sustainability. An online multistate survey was administered to cattle ranchers in collaboration with state cattlemen's associations to better understand rancher motivations for adopting new practices and to gain insight on current involvement in BQA. In total, the survey consisted of 45 questions and was divided into 3 sections: (1) rancher demographics, (2) BQA participation and current best management practice (BMP) application, and (3) willingness to join new rancher educational programs. Data from 842 respondents are including in this study. Of the survey participants, 70% were currently BQA certified or had been BQA certified at one time, and 30% had never been certified. Ranchers who were BQA certified at any time were less likely to administer injections in areas other than the neck compared to ranchers who were not certified ($P < 0.05$), demonstrating the effectiveness of the BQA program. More than 80% of survey respondents who joined the BQA program stated they believed the BQA program improved animal health and welfare on their operation ($n = 617$). Among those who had not joined the BQA program, 40% believed BQA practices did not align with their ranching operation, while 38% had not heard of the BQA program ($n = 256$). The survey indicated that male ranchers, those with more years ranching, those with a larger percent of income coming from ranching, and ranches with larger total acres grazed were more likely to be BQA certified at any time ($P < 0.05$).

Finally, ranchers who were BQA certified at any time were more likely to state that joining a rancher sustainability program would be beneficial to their operation. In conclusion, not only did the survey provide valuable insight into BQA program adoption but highlighted how BQA program structure may be a suitable framework for creating future rancher sustainability program.

Ed. Note. The Texas BQA Program begun in 2001 is conducted collaboratively by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension with the Texas Beef Council and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. For more information contact Dr. Jason Banta (Jason.Banta@ag.tamu.edu or 903) or go to https://texasbeefquality.com/

Fall Armyworm Control in Pastures

By: **Dalton C. Ludwick, Sonja L. Swiger, & David L. Kerns, Extension Entomologists, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**

Biology and Damage

Figure 1. Window-paning by FAW caterpillars. Image by Holly Davis.

There are two strains of fall armyworms (FAW): the corn strain and the grass strain. The corn strain usually appears in the spring and early summer and feeds on crops such as corn, sorghum, and cotton. The grass strain, which is the strain that infests hay fields and pastures, generally shows up after significant rain events from mid-July through fall. The corn strain is known for being resistant to pyrethroids, while the grass strain is susceptible to pyrethroids. FAW caterpillars survive and develop better in areas with fertilized or well-watered grasses which can lead to outbreak scenarios. Multiple generations can occur in a short time-period.

FAW caterpillars live for two to four weeks depending on the temperature. Freshly emerged caterpillars will begin to feed on the leaves and make small transparent areas (windowpanes; Fig. 1) giving the grass a frosted appearance. As they grow and molt, the caterpillars will begin to consume the entire leaf. The larger the caterpillar, the more damage they cause. Smaller caterpillars are easier to control. During their last few days as a caterpillar, when they are 1-1.5" in length, they consume about 80% of all the leaf tissue they will consume in their lifetime.

Identification and Scouting

Figure 2. FAW caterpillar with inverted "Y" pattern. Image by Pat Porter.

FAW caterpillars are primarily identifiable by two features. The head will have apparent white markings that form an upside down "Y" pattern (Fig. 2). The second feature is that the last couple segments of the caterpillar will have black bumps that form a square or rectangle.

Figure 3. FAW caterpillars in a sweep net. Image by Gus Lorenz, University of Arkansas.

There are multiple methods that are available to scout for FAW caterpillars. The more common method is to get on your hands and knees and closely inspect the grass. During hot days, check the lower parts of the plant or soil surface where they may be hiding from the harsh temperatures. Sweep nets are a very good and easy to use tool for sampling for FAW in tall grass (Fig. 3). Another method is to run your hands across a 1-2 square foot area and knock the caterpillars to the soil surface. Then, simply inspect the soil for dislodged caterpillars.

Regardless of the scouting method, take note of the size of the caterpillars. Smaller caterpillars (<1/2 inch) are less damaging. Larger caterpillar (>1/2 inch) should be treated soon to prevent greater damage. If using a sweep net, then treat at 2 or more caterpillars ½ inch or larger per sweep. If making visual inspections, then treat if you have 2 or more FAW caterpillars per square foot. If you are picking up larger numbers of small caterpillars, then treatment is also justified. Most of the time fields are either well below or well above threshold.

Control Options

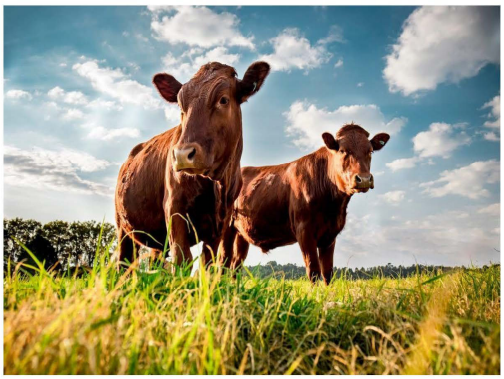
If the grass is being used for hay and is near harvest, then harvest early to prevent extra feeding damage. However, be aware that the caterpillars may consume the cut hay, so this is not always a wise option.

Insecticide applications should be made early in the morning or late in the evening if possible, to ensure caterpillars come into contact with insecticide. During hotter parts of the day, caterpillars may be out of the canopy and avoid maximum insecticide exposure.

There are many insecticides that can be used to control FAW caterpillars. Pyrethroids are relatively cheap and readily available. These insecticides take roughly three days to achieve maximum effectiveness against small and large caterpillars. Pyrethroid insecticides tend to have a short residual period and can be washed off by rains. This lack of rain fast protection can be a problem with the recent weather and possible overlapping generations of fall armyworm caterpillars. Addition of a product like Dimilin (or generic products with diflubenzuron) can increase the residual control period to 10-12 days, eliminating caterpillars that emerge in that timeframe. Neither pyrethroids nor Dimilin will continue providing control if rain occurs though. Another fairly inexpensive option is Intrepid (or generic products with methoxyfenozide). This product will provide residual control for about 7 days, but it must be eaten to kill the caterpillar and is not rain fast.

If rain is a continuous issue, the only truly rain fast options are products such as Prevathon, Vantacor, or Besiege. All of these products contain the active ingredient chlorantraniliprole, but Besiege also contains a pyrethroid. These products are absorbed by the leaf tissue and are rain fast upon drying. While these products are more expensive, they do provide excellent residual activity and will persist longer at the higher rate. For example, Prevathon at 14 fl-oz/ac will typically provide 14 days control, and a 20 fl-oz/ac rate will provide 20-21 days of control.

For additional questions about FAW control, please reach out to your local County Extension Agent, IPM Agent, or Extension Entomologist. Always use an insecticide according to the label. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is not responsible for insecticide applications, damages, or other issues encountered.



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

2022 Fall CEU Conference

Hosted By:
Nueces and San Patricio County AgriLife Extension

Texas A&M Extension Service
Nueces County
361-767-5220
https://nueces.agrilife.org
Jaime.lopez@tamu.edu

Jaime Lopez, CEA-ANR
Nueces County
710 E. Main, Suite 1
Robstown, TX 78380

Bobby McCool, CEA-ANR
San Patricio County
219 N. Vinyard St.
Sinton, TX 78387

5 TDA CEU's
&
5.5 CCA CEU's
will be offered

Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center
10345 Hwy 44, Corpus Christi, TX

Thursday, October 6, 2022 8:00am - 3:30pm

This years conference will feature Mr. Brian Bledsoe with updates on current long-range weather outlook as well as discussion on how weather prediction models are developed. Program will provide sessions of interest to those involved in Range Management and Row Crop Production.

Participation fee of $25 for online participation or $40 for in person with lunch. Seating is limited.

Highlighted Topics include:

- **Weed and Brush Management**
- **Pesticide Laws and Regulations**
- **Feral Hog Biology and Control**
- **Internal Parasite Management**
- **Insect Identification and Control**
- **Special Long Range Weather Forecasting Presentation**

Please register at:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-fall-ceu-conference-tickets-412033973707?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

or

by calling Stella at 361.767.5223 on or before September 29th



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

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
219 N. Vineyard Attn: Ag/NR
Sinton, Texas 78387
(361) 587-3400

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Bobby R. McCool
County Extension Agent
Agriculture/Natural Resources
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, San Patricio County
So often in Agriculture, there is not a simple answer to a simple question.