

VOL. 14 | FEBRUARY 2021

# OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



## OVERVIEW:

- From the Agent
- Texas Speaks
- Horticulture Corner
- Producers Coral
- Good Read
- Programming
- Get Involved

## *From the Agent*

Howdy!

I realized this month that I have been leaving an important part of my reader group out in my newsletter, and that is my cattle producers. I'm so sorry yall! This month I have included the Producers Coral where you can find end of January market close prices on steer and cow/calf pairs.

The good news is we are back in business! Feel free to call for site visits and I will be more than glad to come out and take a look. Also this month launches Texas Speaks, a survey that helps me better understand the needs of the community for programming. If you have about 10 minutes please go take the survey to help us out!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie A. Pace'.

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent



# TEXAS SPEAKS

## STATEWIDE SURVEY Identifying the Strengths & Needs of Texas Communities

### WHAT IS TEXAS SPEAKS?

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TexasSpeaks is a state-wide online survey conducted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with the purpose of listening to Texas citizens as they identify the strengths and needs of their communities.

Data from the survey will be aggregated at local levels and provided to local stakeholders. Additionally, statewide data will be aggregated and made available to state agencies and decision makers.

### WHAT IS THE GOAL?

To engage as many Texas citizens as possible to create the most accurate and helpful data to support Texas communities at both the state and local levels.

### QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE SURVEY

- Online
- Open to the public
- Anonymous
- Takes 10 minutes
- Includes an opportunity to collect open-ended feedback



**PARTICIPATE TODAY!**  
<http://tx.ag/texasspeaks>





# HORTICULTURE CORNER

## In the Garden

Cut back perennials and ornamental grasses before new growth begins

Fertilize pansies and other cool season flowers

Check compost pile and turn

Apply pre-emergent herbicide in mid- to late February to lawns to control annual weeds

Apply Horticulture Oil now to ward off spring pests

## Native Texans



As we start to get ready for spring it is never too early to start thinking about what our butterflies and other pollinators would like to see in our gardens. Flame Acanthus or Hummingbird Bush is a small heat loving shrub that is beautiful from

summer all the way to the first fall frost. A great choice for sites with poor soil that are constantly baked in the sun. It doesn't like having wet roots so keep that in mind before planting. While it can handle drought very, watering will promote flowering in the hot summer.

### What should I plant this month?

Transplant

Tomatoes

Broccoli

Cauliflower

Strawberries

Collards

Lettuce

Roses

Fruit Trees

Pecan Trees

Blueberries

Blackberries

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Hardin County  
Spring & Fall Vegetable Planting Guide**

<b>Name of Crop</b>	<b>Inches Between Rows</b>	<b>Inches Between Plant In Row</b>	<b>Spring Planting Dates</b>	<b>Fall Planting Dates</b>	<b>Approx. Days to Maturity</b>
Beans (Bush)	18-30	3-4	March 5 - April 30	Aug. 1 —Sept . 20	50-70
Beans (Pole)	24-30	12-18	March 1-April 15		50-90
Beets	12-24	2-3	Feb. 1– March 1	Sept. 15—Nov. 1	60-70
Broccoli	24-30	12-20	Feb. 1—Feb 15	Aug. 15—Oct. 1	70-100
Brussel Sprouts	24-30	12-20		Sept. 1—Oct 1	100-110
Cabbage	24-30	12-20	Jan 15-Feb 15	Sept 1—Nov 15	70-100
Carrots	12-24	2	Jan 15—Feb 15	Oct 1—Nov 1	80-90
Cauliflower	24-30	12-20	Feb 1—Feb 15	Sept 1 — Oct 1	80-100
Collards	12-24	6-12	Feb 1—Feb 28	Sept 1 — Oct 1	60-90
Corn (Sweet)	24-36	8-12	March 5—April 15	Aug 1—Aug 15	80-100
Cucumber	36-48	18-36	March 15-May 1	Aug 15—Sept 20	60-80
Eggplant	18-30	18-24	March 1—April 15		90-100
Garlic	12-24	2-4		Sept. 15—Oct 15	150-160
Kohlrabi	12-24	3-5	Jan 15– March 1	Sept. 15 --Oct 20	65-85
Lettuce (Leaf)	12-24	2-3	Feb 1—April 1	Sept 15—Oct 15	50-90
Mustard	12-24	4-6	Feb. 15—April 1	Sept 1—Nov 1	40-50
Okra	30-40	18-24	April 1—to July 15		65-75
Onion (Seeds)	12-24	2-3		Sept. 1 —Nov 15	100-130
Onion (Plants)	12-24	2-3	Jan 15—Feb 15		90-130
Peas (English)	18-30	1	Jan 10—Feb 15	Oct 1—Nov 1	65-105
Peas (Southern)	24-36	3-5	April to May 20	Aug 1 —Sept 1	70—90
Pepper (Transplants)	24-36	18-24	March 1 to April 25		70-100
Potatoes (Irish)	24-36	8-12	Jan 15-to Feb 20	Aug 15 —Sept 1	90-110
Potatoes (Sweet)	30-36	10-14	April 1 to May 20		110-140
Radish	12-24	1	Feb 1 to April 15	Sept 1 —Oct 15	35-50
Spinach	12-24	3-4	Jan 1 to Feb 15	Sept 1 — Nov 1	50-70
Squash (Summer)	30-40	14-30	March 20 —May 1	Aug 1 —Sept 1	60-70
Tomato (Transplants)	24-40	18-30	March 1 to April 20	July 15 to Aug 1	80-100
Turnip (Greens or Root)	12-24	2-3	Jan 15 to March 15	Sept 1 to Oct 15	40-70

\*1st Fall Frost November 30th

\*Last Spring Frost March 3rd

\*Revised 1/28/21

# PRODUCERS

## Coval



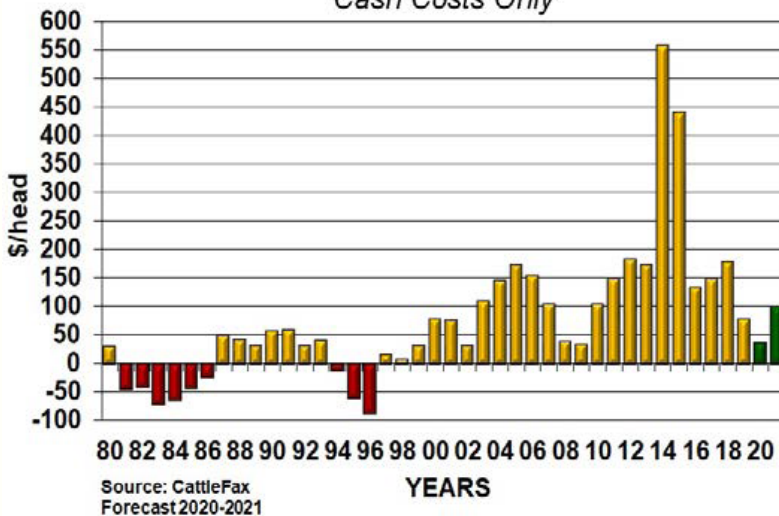
# Cattle Market

## MARKET PRICES



	Current	Change vs Month Ago	Change vs Year Ago
(\$/cwt, U.S. avg)			
550# Steers	162.72	0.75	(5.78)
750# Steers	134.39	(3.15)	(10.91)
Fed Steer	109.59	2.63	(14.71)
Ut/Comm Cows	55.01	(0.13)	(1.80)
Omaha Corn	5.04	0.81	1.18
USDA Hay Forage	136.00	4.00	(1.00)

Average Cow/Calf Profit (Loss)  
Cash Costs Only



### When will she calf?

February 1-21 → November 10-30

February 22-28 → December 1-7

### What to do with the herd this month?

**Feed High Magnesium Mineral Supplement to prevent grass tetany**

**Rotate grazing when grass is down to 4"**

**Collect Soil Samples on summer pastures and hayfields to plan spring fertilization**

**Monitor heifers closely if spring calving**

**If you had fall calves make sure any over 3 months old get their blackleg shot**

GOOD  
read

## **Texas Soon to be Home to Nation's Largest Wool Testing Lab**

Texas will soon have the largest wool testing facility in the nation. The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) partnered with the Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension Service's, Bill Sims Wool & Mohair Research Laboratory in San Angelo to build a testing lab that can service the entire nation's commercial wool testing needs. Currently, most of the U.S. wool industry relies on a lab in New Zealand for testing, according to ASI President Benny Cox. This means there was a dire need for an U.S. based lab to test properties such as fiber diameter, length, strength, as well as calculate clean wool content and clean wool yields.

"Angus McColl, owner of Yocum-McColl Testing Laboratories, in Denver was the wool testing lab for most people for the longest time. But now Angus is 92 years old, and they didn't have a transition for someone to take that over," Cox said. "Texas A&M University has a research center just north of San Angelo, which had a wool lab, but it was not big enough to service the entire industry." Although a few other universities have sheep and goat research centers or facilities, Montana State University and Texas A&M are the only two academic wool labs remaining in the U.S., according to the USDA's National Sheep Industry Improvement Center.

Texas is the top sheep-producing state in the nation, with USDA data showing a statewide inventory of more than 730,000 head at the beginning of 2020. It's fitting that the lab will be located near San Angelo, said Cox, who is the sheep sales manager at Producers Livestock Auction Company, the largest sheep and goat auction in the nation.

That's because the majority of Texas sheep are raised in the South Central and Hill Country areas, where the hardy animals thrive in the mostly arid but temperate climate. Although there has been a shift in sheep production over the past few years toward more hair breeds, which are raised for meat, wool production remains important to the Texas sheep industry. In 2018, the latest year for which values are available, wool production contributed \$3.17 million to the state's economy.

The American Sheep Industry Association is currently helping Texas A&M University's AgriLife Extension Service purchase equipment for the new testing laboratory, which should be fully operational by 2022.

# Upcoming Programs for *Nardin County*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has suspended face-to-face programming. As we are allowed to do hold events again, we will let everyone know.

The entire agency has been working together in an effort to bring you CEUs and great online programs! I have included just a few that might be of interest to you, but there are so many more coming up on [agrilifeextension.tamu.edu](http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu)

There are also many different programs on [agrilifelearn.org](http://agrilifelearn.org)



TDA has allowed AgriLife to create a completely online Texas Private Pesticide Applicator Training. This training is \$75 on the AgriLife Learn Portal [agrilifelearn.tamu.edu](http://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER





# Bison and Exotics Seminar

February 2nd and 4th, 2021  
Each seminar starts at 6pm

## Topics Covered

### February 2nd

Difference Between Exotics and Wildlife

*Dr. Maureen Frank, Assistant Professor  
& Extension Wildlife Specialist*

Bison Industry

*Mark Kossler, V.P. of Ranch Operations  
Turner Enterprises, Inc.*

Bison Research in Upshur County

*Kaitlyn Slover, County Extension Agent  
Dr. Thomas Hairgrove, Professor  
& Extension Veterinarian*

### February 4th

Fever Tick Update

*Dr. Sonja Swiger, Associate Professor &  
Veterinary/Medical Extension Entomologist*

Current Research on Exotics and Fever Ticks

*Dr. Tammi Johnson, Assistant Professor of  
Wildlife Disease Ecology*

Nilgai Research at Texas A&M Kingsville, Ceasar

*Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute  
Dr. John Goolsby, Research Entomologist - USDA*

Texas Animal Health Commission

*Dr. Andy Schwartz, State Veterinarian*

To register, click on the link below:  
[https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjUvd-GorD8uE9Teg4igDIX4Rd7hCqXBJqXS](https://agrilife.zoom.us/j/9234567890)

For questions, please email:  
[kaitlyn.slover@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kaitlyn.slover@ag.tamu.edu) or  
[samantha.shannon@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:samantha.shannon@ag.tamu.edu)

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE

# Multicounty Spring Pasture Forage Management Seminar

**Date:** February 2, 2021

**Time:** 8:30 AM Registration

**Place:** Online Via ZOOM—A link will be provided the week of the event.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service will be hosting a Multicounty Spring Pasture Forage Management Seminar on February 2, 2021. There will be a Zoom link invitation sent out to participants that are signed up. The link will open up at 8:00 AM and the first speaker will begin at 8:45. Please register online at : <https://springpasturemgmt2021.eventbrite.com>. R.S.V.P. by January 29, 2021.

The presenters for this event include Nikki Fitzgerald, Chambers County CEA, she will be discussing pond & aquatic weed management to improve water quality; Zachary Howard, will be discussing Smutgrass Control Updates for the Gulf Coast; Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Associate Professor & Extension Forage Specialist, will be covering weed management in Spring forages; Dr. Barron Rector, Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist, will discuss weed & brush ID for Southeast Texas; Mark Matocha will speak on laws and regulations.

Please call the Liberty County Extension Office at 936-334-3230 if you need assistance in signing up online or have any questions.



# GARDENING ON THE GULF COAST

Join our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture agents and specialists online as they discuss gardening in the Gulf Coast Region of Texas.

February 3 at 10:00am - Seasonal Landscape Pruning  
by Stephen Brueggerhoff  
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County

February 17 at 10:00am - Best Practices for Citrus Plants  
by David Oates  
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Jefferson County

March 3 at 10:00am - Vegetable Gardening: More Bounty, Less Work  
by Skip Richter  
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazos County

March 17 at 10:00am - Composting Done Right  
by Stephen Brueggerhoff  
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Brazoria County

March 31 at 10:00am - Spring Lawn Care  
by Michael Potter  
AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent in Montgomery County

Online via Microsoft Teams

**[Register Here](#)**

Registration Questions? Please email Janice Anderson at  
[janice.anderson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:janice.anderson@ag.tamu.edu)



# East Texas Pasture Management

Friday, February 19, 2021  
**Online Program**

- Forage Fertilization Considerations
- Weed Control in Pastures and Hay Meadows
- Laws and Regulations of Pesticide Use
- Effects of Alternative Nutrient Sources on Bermudagrass Production
- Active Ingredients, Application Rates, and Herbicide Costs



**Registration Cost: \$25/ person**  
deadline February 18, 2020 at 1:00 PM

**Register online at:** <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Overton>  
or call Extension Conference Services @ 979-845-2604

**The program will be divided into 2 sessions to allow attendees to have a break between sessions**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

5 Pesticide CEUs Available  
Pending TDA Approval  
(1 IPM, 1 L&R, 3 Gen)  
Must attend both sessions.

Two practices sessions will be held on Thursday February 19 to allow attendees the chance to connect to zoom and make sure all technology is working.

For more information on this program please contact Michelle Sensing@ 903-834-6191.



# Floral Fridays

Join Horticulturist  
**Stephen Brueggerhoff**  
*and*

## *Celebrate Plants in Bloom*

This is an ongoing Facebook Live program  
**Every Friday at 11 AM**  
[www.facebook.com/brazoriacountyextension](http://www.facebook.com/brazoriacountyextension)



If you need special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

For the most up to date  
information and programming  
efforts:

*Follow Us!*



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- **Hardin AgriLife Extension**
- **Hardin County 4-H Youth  
and Development**



YouTube

**Hardin County 4-H**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

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

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the Hardin County Extension Office at (409) 246-5128 two working days prior to the meeting to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

# *Get involved with Hardin County Extension*

Please consider joining the Hardin County Agriculture Committee to provide leadership and suggestions for upcoming programming. You don't have to make a large time commitment, with as few as four meetings per year, but we would love to hear your ideas and for you to share input on your county!

Please contact the office to update your email address, or if you know someone that would like to be added to this list, at (409) 246-5128, or by email [katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:katie.pace@ag.tamu.edu). We also welcome suggestions for upcoming newsletters!

PO Box 610 | 1135 Redwood | Kountze, TX 77625

p: (409) 246-5128 | f: (409) 246-5201

<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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