

VOL. 19 | JULY 2021

OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



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From the Agent

Howdy!

It seems like yesterday was just June! Being out of the office three weeks out of this month for 4-H activities has me feeling like I am playing catch up all month.

I apologize if it took me longer to get to your questions this month, all that traveling has taken it out of me!

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent



HORTICULTURE CORNER

In the Garden

Pinch back fall-blooming plants to increase blooms and density

Make sure to protect your skin from sun damage and stay hydrated when you are out in the garden

Putting that mulch out is important now more than ever to keep preserve moisture and keep the soil cool

What should I plant this month?

Landscape Seed:

Zinnias

Landscape Transplant:

Marigold

Transplant for Fall
Garden:

Tomatoes

Eggplants

Peppers

Seed for Fall Garden:

Pumpkin

Squash

Native Texans



If you are looking for something that can hold up to all the rain we have been getting, then look no further than Sweetscent or Saltmarsh Fleabane. This beautiful purple, or pink, flowering plant is a member of the Aster family and thrives in wet soil conditions. The bonus? They dry great for dried flower arrangements!

Reaching a top height of three feet tall, these flowers will bloom in the heat of the summer from July to October. Pollinators love them, and they are a host plant to several species of moths. (I know we sometimes forget that moths are pollinators too!) There are also herbal teas that can be made from the leaves, and is often marketed as a coffee alternative.

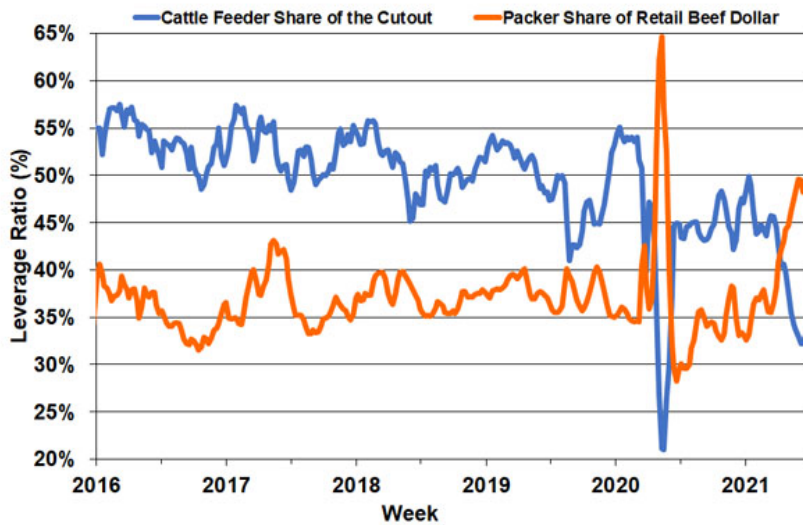
PRODUCERS

Coval

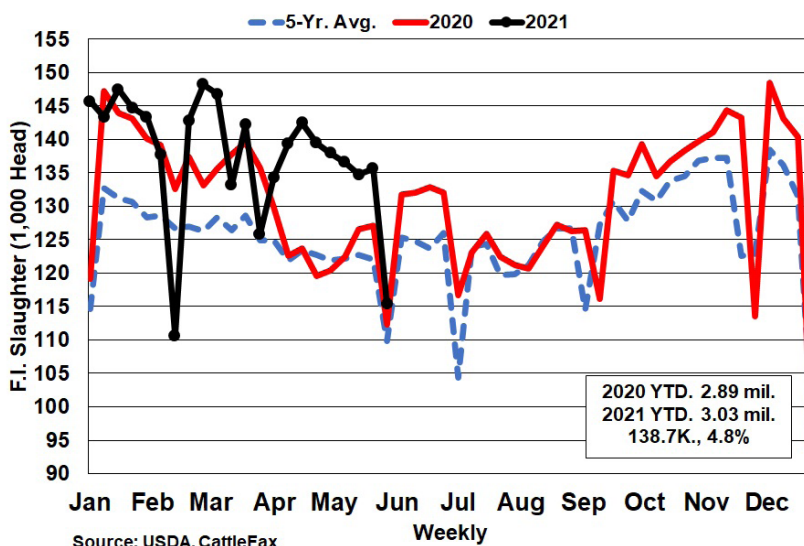


Cattle Market

Beef and Cattle Market Leverage Ratios



USDA Weekly Non-Fed Slaughter



Source: USDA, CattleFax

What to do with the herd this month?

Work cattle early in the morning to reduce heat stress

Start watching for pinkeye, treat as soon as found

Get to controlling those flies!

Be sure you always have a water supply. Black troughs in the sun will evaporate water quickly

BQA Tip

Reduce fly breeding sites to reduce flies! Spread your old hay piles out so they can dry, or spray them with diflubenzuron or another insecticide labeled for suppressing emerging flies.

When will she calve?

July 1-22 → April 9-30

July 23-31 → May 1-9

GOOD read

Bull reproductive soundness may be affected by frostbite

It seems odd that in July we are still talking about Winter Storm Uri, but ranchers should consider conducting breeding soundness exams (BSEs) on bulls to determine if those animals were affected by frostbite. "While always a good practice, conducting a BSE this year is probably more important than ever in the recent past," Dr. Jason Smith, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in Amarillo, said. That's because bulls with frost bitten reproductive organs may contribute to delayed breeding season, lower conception rates and lighter calf weaning rates. Even without observable injury, low sperm count and quality may also occur.

Early reports indicate higher than-usual rates of BSE failure and deferment for retesting in bulls with visible signs of frostbite. The damage is probably from excessive testicular heating as a response to frostbite, Smith said. "We also preliminarily expect younger bulls to be more resilient to the extreme cold, as they have a greater ability to raise their testes to regulate scrotal temperature and prevent frostbite. However, we do not yet have the objective data to support that notion," Smith said.

This year, ranchers should request their veterinarian conduct complete BSEs, including Trichomoniasis testing, sperm motility and morphology and physical defects, according to AgriLife Beef Cattle Specialist Dr. Ron Gill. Even in years without the extreme stress of an Arctic blast, Gill noted a BSE failure rate of 15-20 percent, or about one out of every five bulls, is average.

"A key takeaway from this is to not panic and not immediately cull all bulls that fail a BSE or are deferred for re-test," Gill said. "Once results are known on the initial tests, plans can be made to locate additional sires if needed, or a plan can be developed to rotate sires in and out during the breeding season."

"This extreme weather event is one of many reasons why working with your veterinarian to conduct a pre-breeding BSE on all bulls is always advised, regardless of past performance," Smith said. "This is also true for recently purchased bulls that underwent a BSE prior to the winter storm. For producers who do not routinely conduct pre-breeding BSEs, this would certainly be the year to start."

Upcoming Programs for *Hardin County*



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE

*Register
Now*

July 24, 2021

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

\$25 fee includes lunch

Hardin County Annex Building
1135 Redwood | Kountze | TX | 77625

For more information contact the Hardin County
Extension Office (409) 246-5128

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RICE FIELD DAY

JULY 8 | 5:30 PM TO 8 PM

WINNIE-STOWELL

COMMUNITY BUILDING

1301 PARK ST, WINNIE, TEXAS

****One General Pesticide CEU****

5:30- 6:30 Research Updates Texas A&M AgriLife

Researchers

6:30-7 Fried Fish Dinner

Catered by

Kerry Abney

7:00-7:30 Ag Policy Update

Joe Outlaw

7:30-8:00 Crop Progress Panel

Dorsey Jones, Helena

DeWayne Dopslauf,

Nutrien Ag Services

Sponsored by Chambers & Jefferson Counties

Agriculture Committees

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

RSVP by July 6th for the Agents to have a head count for the meal.

Please call (409) 835-8461 to RSVP or for more information.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Ag in the Evening Program Series 2021

Brought to you by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Offices of:
Houston County, Gregg County, Tyler County

June 8

Scouting for Insects in Forages

Zoom Meeting

https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckd-CvrTMrGtNsAKiGe0rRh_T6NpWSiuRC

SPEAKER:
Dr. Vanessa Olson

July 13

Hay & Feed Testing Factors Affecting Quality

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEud-mpqTIsGdOl4-zgL3PajdJ9QhG9N5eg>

SPEAKER:
Dr. Jason Banta

August 10

Winter Forage Options

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vfugqz0oH9CwqL4KIU8VU-khs6czG9B9k>

SPEAKER:
Dr. Vanessa Olson

September 14

Winter Feeding & Supplementation

Zoom Meeting

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckduqhrD0oGN2xXxWqoWT-THYd4C6qG6fU>

SPEAKER:
Dr. Jason Banta

**All Programs
Start at 6pm
Click Zoom
Link to register**

**Click the links
to register for
each program**

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension Program should contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office at 936.544.7502 at least one week prior to the program or event.

Become a Texas Master Naturalist!

- Fall Initial Training starting soon!
- Introductory meeting: Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in Beaumont
- Become certified and join a group of fun and knowledgeable nature-loving volunteers to help provide education, outreach, and service in our communities.



Scan and go directly to our website to register:

<https://txmn.org/sabine/>



T E X A S

Master
Naturalist™
Sabine Neches Chapter



For more information, contact Randy Beehn at beehner@att.net.

Jelly Making Workshop



Saturday, July 31st

9 am to 12 pm | \$15 Fee

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

1225 Pearl St. Ste. 200, Beaumont,

Texas 77701

**Limited space available. Please mail
payment to the Extension Office by
July 21st.**



**Call (409) 835-8461 for
more information.**

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Cary Erickson, Jefferson County Human Resource Director at (409) 839-2391 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made. The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

**JOIN THE
TEAM!**

**Hardin County Youth Project
Show is looking for team
members to help make the 2021
show better than ever for the
youth of Hardin County!**

COME SEE US!

Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM
John Blair Pavilion
3677 Highway 326
Kountze, TX 77625

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. 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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