

VOL. 24 | DECEMBER 2021

OUR BACKYARD

An agricultural newsletter by Hardin County AgriLife Extension



From the Agent

Howdy!

How is it already the end of the year? I keep thinking that time will slow down but it seems it has only gotten faster. Now if the weather would just cooperate with us!

In case you call, the office will be closed during the week of Christmas as we take time to enjoy it with our families. As we approach this most joyous season, I hope everyone's will be filled with laughter and memories.

Katie A. Pace | Hardin County Extension Agent

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HORTICULTURE *Corner*

In the Garden

Cut dead perennials and topicals back to the ground

Drain gas from equipment for winter storage

Order seeds for next year from catalogues and websites

Stock bird feeders with black oil sunflower seeds to help our feathered friends with some energy

Native Texans



As we are seeing some beautiful fall colors from all of our plants, lets talk about another one that can bring some of that color into your yard; strawberry bush. Don't let the name fool you, these are not strawberries for eating! During the fall you can expect to see beautiful dark red leaves, with the bright red fruits opening up to show the orange seeds. This Native Texan can thrive in low sandy thickets and even swamps, so don't be scared to place a strawberry bush in a low area of your yard. Keep in mind this is a shrub and without proper trimming can get out of hand easily. While it does not readily spread, it can grow up to 12 feet tall!

What should I plant this month?

Landscape Transplant:

Shrubs

Vines

Spring Blooming Perennials

Transplant:

Kale

Broccoli

Greens

Spinach

Herbs (Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, etc.)

Pot Pre-Chilled:

Daffodils

Dutch Iris

Hyacinth

Tulips

GARDEN HARVEST

Cooking

Cabbage and Meatballs

Ingredients

- 1 pound of Frozen Meatballs
 - (You use your favorite fresh ones)
- 1 head of cabbage, cut in pieces
- 2 15oz cans tomato sauce
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- Salt and Pepper to taste



Instructions

1. After cutting your cabbage place 1/2 of it in a large pot, add meatballs, then add remaining cabbage.
2. In a bowl, mix tomato sauce, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Pour over your meatball/cabbage mixture.
3. Simmer uncovered for 30-35 minutes, until meatballs are done and cabbage is at your desired doneness. Stir gently during cooking as to not break the meatballs

Balsamic Glazed Carrots

Ingredients

- 2 cups carrots
- 1 Tbs olive oil
- 2 Tbs balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbs brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme

Instructions

1. Preheat sauté pan to medium-high heat with oil. Add carrots and cook for 10-15 minutes until slightly soft.
2. Add balsamic vinegar, brown sugar, and thyme to carrots, stirring gently. Cook for an additional 5 minutes, or until all ingredients are well combined.



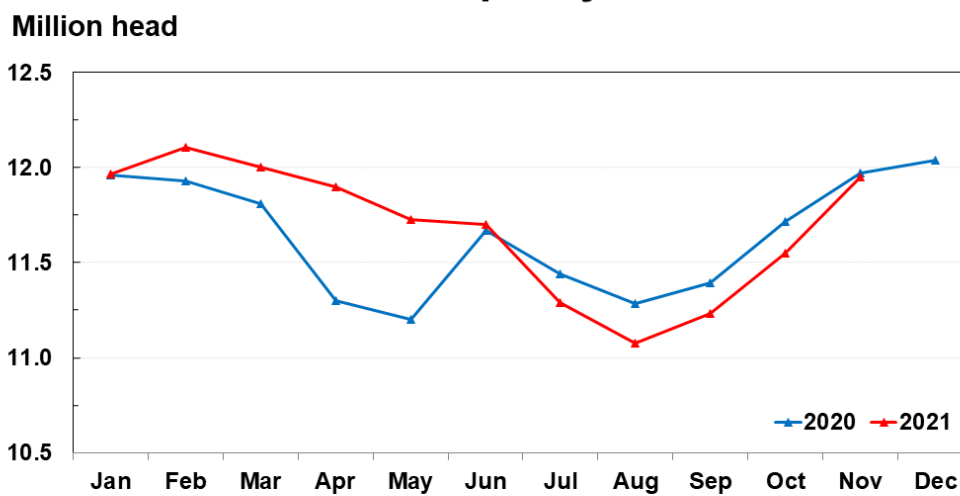
PRODUCERS

Coval



Cattle Market

United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



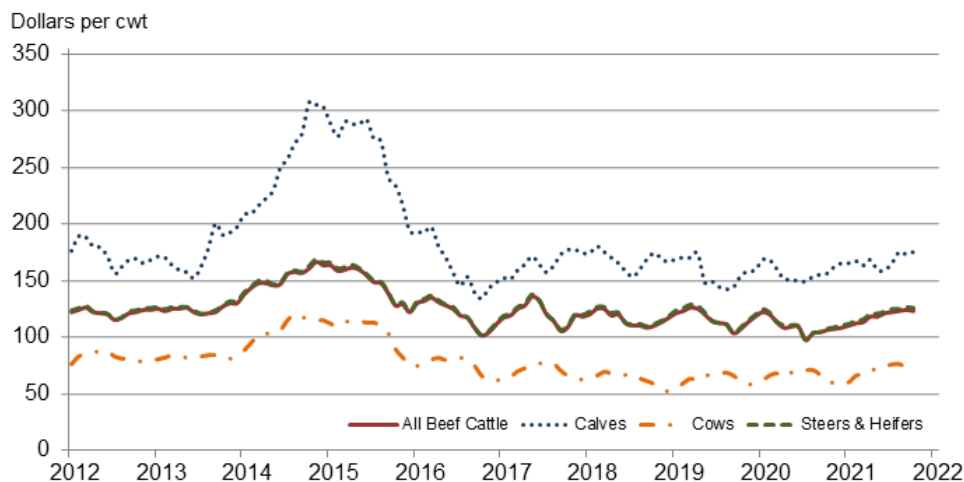
What to do with the herd this month?

Feed alfalfa hay, or a protein supplement, for cows grazing as pasture quality decreases

Continue to monitor body condition of all females as we get into winter weather

Make sure older thin cows are getting their share of the rations

Prices Received for Cattle by Month – United States



BQA Tip

Don't overlook cow size when it comes to stocking rates, as a 1,000 pound cow will consume on average 5 acres less of forage than a 1,400 pound cow.

When will she calve?

Dec 1-22 → Sep 9-30

Dec 23-31 → Oct 1-9



Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Limit Foreign Ownership of U.S. Ag Land

By: Jennifer Whitlock

Foreign ownership of American agricultural land doubled from 2009-2019, according to **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) data**. Since 2015, foreign holdings have increased an average of nearly 2.3 million acres annually, with nearly 35.2 million acres across the U.S. held by foreign owners. That has American farmers, ranchers and legislators increasingly concerned.

Congressmen Ronny Jackson and Filemon Vela, both of whom represent Texas, introduced the Foreign Adversary Risk Management (FARM) Act to combat foreign interference in the agricultural supply chain. “Foreign interference in America’s agriculture supply chain poses a serious national security threat, especially given that the worst proponent is the Chinese Communist Party. I represent the top-rated agriculture district in Texas, so protecting this vital industry and its overarching supply chains will always be among my top priorities in Congress,” **Jackson said**. “Our adversaries are working overtime to undermine American interests, and the FARM Act will be an important step to secure America’s food supply by identifying and responding to inappropriate interference.”

The Lone Star State’s largest farm and ranch organization, Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), supports the FARM Act. “As Texas has experienced a surge of foreign investors buying agricultural land, it is critical that proper oversight is provided to ensure our national security. We are pleased this bill accomplishes this goal, while in turn protecting private property rights of landowners who wish to sell their property,” TFB President Russell Boening said. “We appreciate these congressional leaders for their steadfast leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with them to secure passage of this bipartisan legislation.”

Through the FARM Act, the legislators seek to modernize the **Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S.** (CFIUS). CFIUS, created in 1950, is an interagency federal committee which reviews transactions involving foreign investment in U.S. businesses and real estate transactions. The committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury and contains members from several other federal agencies including the Departments of

Defense and Homeland Security. The Director of National Intelligence and Secretary of Labor are non-voting, ex-officio members of CFIUS.

Currently, if CFIUS determines a transaction presents national security risks, the committee may enter into an agreement with or impose conditions on parties to mitigate those risks, suspend the transaction or refer the case to the president for a decision.

Under the new bill, CFIUS would be required to monitor foreign investment into agriculture more closely and add the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the committee. The FARM Act also would require the USDA and Government Accountability Office to investigate and report to Congress on the national security implications of foreign investment into American agriculture. Foreign ownership of agricultural land could easily become an issue of food security, Vela noted.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans saw food supply chains stretched and weakened. In the future, foreign agricultural landowners could use those tensions against the U.S. if allowed to purchase more land unchecked, according to the lawmakers. “Our food systems are vital to our national security, and we must be vigilant to preserve their integrity. As we saw following the pandemic, food processing plants were forced to close and shipping routes for agricultural inputs were delayed. It disrupted the supply chains farmers use to get products from the farm to consumers, which contributed to declining food security in the United States,” Vela said in a statement. “This bill increases federal scrutiny of foreign investments in U.S. industry that could undermine our agricultural supply chains by adding the Secretary of Agriculture to CFIUS and designating agricultural supply chains as key infrastructure under the CFIUS review process.”

The move comes in the wake of criticism of foreign-owned agribusinesses as Brazilian-owned JBS SA received USDA assistance through “trade aid” programs. Chinese-owned Smithfield Foods also would have received aid from USDA, but the company voluntarily requested to terminate a contract before that money was received.

A 2018 report by USDA’s Economic Research Service said China’s need for agricultural resources and technology is behind Chinese investment in foreign agriculture and food sectors.

In less than a decade, China's agricultural investments abroad grew more than tenfold. Now, China holds about 192,000 acres, or \$1.9 billion worth of U.S. farmland, according to the latest USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) foreign agricultural land holdings report. Forestland accounted for almost half of all foreign-held acreage, with 25% going to cropland and another 24% classified as "other agricultural land," comprised of pastures, rangeland and the like. The remaining 2% of foreign-owned is made up of non-agricultural land holdings.

The top country holding American agricultural land is Canada, with 10.5 million acres or 29% of all privately-held land in the U.S.

USDA attributes most purchases of agricultural land by foreign countries for use as wind farms.

Texas has the largest amount of foreign-held agricultural land in the U.S. at over 4.4 million acres. Maine is the second largest at 3.3 million acres, and Alabama comes in third at 1.8 million acres. More than 500,000 acres of Texas farmland were purchased by foreign investors in 2019 alone.

Upcoming Programs for *Hardin County*

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

JANUARY 28, 2022
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM

1135 REDWOOD
KOUNTZE, TX 77625

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

**TRAINING
COST \$60**

The three and a half hour training will give participants the needed information to take the private applicator license test which is administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Private Applicator License is for producers or land owners who wish to apply restricted use pesticides to their property.

**PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 20, 2022-
HARDIN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT (409) 246-5128**

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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!

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<http://hardin.agrilife.org>

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