

KLEBERG-KENEDY AGRICULTURE



First Quarter
Vol. 1

February 6, 2015

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension
Kleberg-Kenedy County
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*** FARM BILL***

“Make **DECISIONS** based
on your operation and
NOT your neighbors”

Deadlines:

February 27: base acre-
age reallocation or to
update yield histories

March 31: sign-up for
either ARC (Agricultural
Risk Coverage) or PLC
(Price Loss Coverage)

Crop Decision Aids Data
Collection Tool

[https://afpc.tamu.edu/
pubs/7/648/
DataRequirements.pdf](https://afpc.tamu.edu/pubs/7/648/DataRequirements.pdf)

Farm Bill Help Desk for
producers:

(844) 229-7373
or (888) 890-5663

The second number of-
fers more detailed help.

Pre-plant Workshop for Row Crop Producers

2 CEU's offered
1 laws & regulations
1 IPM

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Where: Gulf Coast Coop

Cost: \$10/person (pay at the door)

RSVP: Please let us know if you are coming

Meet & Greet

Come meet the new Agronomist (Josh McGinty)
and Entomologist (Robert Bowling)

Topics:

* Sugarcane Aphid

Last year much of the sugarcane aphid population was visible in the northeastern part of the country....Do varieties play a significant role in attracting this pest...

* Pigweed - Best Management Practice

Weeds continue to be a huge problem in row crop production...What are some management strategies/practices...



Kingsville Farmers Market



February 28, 2015

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

325 N. 6th Street (pavilion adjacent to the xeriscape garden)

Every fourth Saturday of the month

Vendor applications are available at the extension office.

NO Vendor Fees!

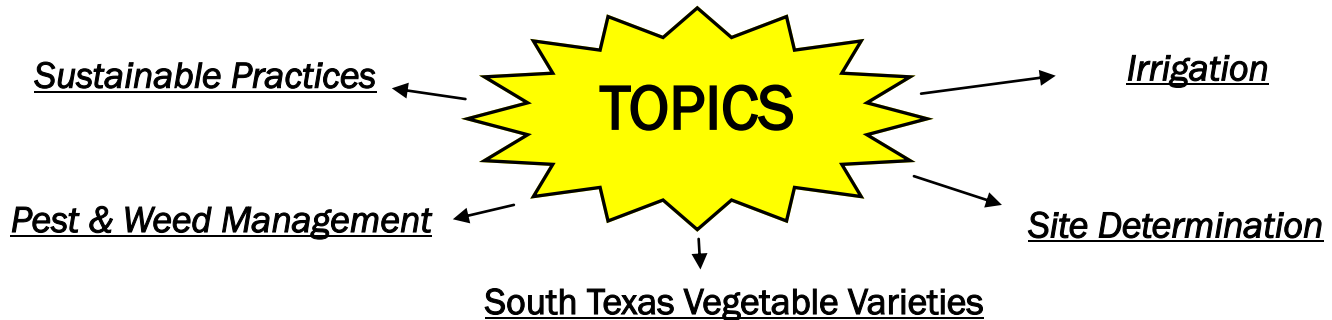
Backyard Vegetable Gardening Workshop

Part of the Home Series Program

Sponsored by



2 CEU's offered for pesticide applicators-1 IPM, 1 general



When: Thursday, February 12, 2015
Where: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (729 E. Yoakum)
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Cost: \$15/person or \$25/family

Must RSVP by February 9th (361) 595-8566

Farm Worker Protection Safety Training

Pesticide handlers and workers must be trained every five years unless they are certified applicators. Participants attending this training will be issued cards verifying they have successfully completed the training.

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (729 E. Yoakum)
Cost: \$10 /person
RSVP: No later than February 20, 2015 (361-595-8566)

****upon completion EPA handlers cards will be issued****

Pesticide Applicators - CEU opportunity

Applicators seeking to obtain their required CEU's can attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Training

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2015
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Where: County Extension Office (729 E. Yoakum)
Cost: \$10/person (due by deadline)
RSVP: No later than February 27, 2015 (361-595-8566)

3 CEU's offered: 1 General, 1 Laws/Regulations, 1 IPM

US BEEF HERD EXPANSION OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY

By Southeast Farm Press

The nation's cattle producers are expanding the herd at a somewhat faster rate than had been anticipated. In the semi-annual update of cattle numbers, USDA said that the total number of cattle and calves had increased by somewhat more than one percent. This is the first increase in the cattle inventory since 2007.

The declining cattle numbers from 2007 to 2014 were due to poor brood cow margins as a result of high feed prices and due to lack of pasture and forages in the Southern Plains from extended drought.

There were multiple incentives to expand in 2014. These were led by record high cattle prices, with finished cattle averaging near \$155 per live hundredweight and Oklahoma 500-550 pound steer calves averaging \$250 per hundred. The other part of the incentive was more abundant feed due to a retreating drought in the Central and Southern Plains that restored range conditions and to favorable feed crop production in 2013 and 2014 which lowered corn and protein feed costs.

The most significant expansion is underway in the beef herd where beef cow numbers are up two percent from year-ago levels. The number of beef heifers being held back to enter the breeding herd is up four percent. Significantly, the number of those retained heifers that will calve this year is up seven percent. This means that 61 percent of the beef heifers that have been retained to enter the breeding herd were already bred at the start of this year.

Producers in all areas of the country are expanding beef cows, except for the Northeastern region and the Western region where the drought and thus forage supplies remain a concern. There were 610,000 new beef cows added across the country in 2014. The Southern Plains had lost the most cows since 2007 and are now the strongest region to rebuild. The Southern Plains expanded their cow numbers by 375,000 head in 2014, and this represents about 60 percent of the country's expansion. Texas cow numbers were up 270,000 head (7 percent) and Oklahoma cow numbers were up 105,000 head (6 percent).

The Western Corn Belt added 96,000 cows, led by Missouri, 61,000 cows, and Iowa, 25,000 cows. The Central Plains were led by Kansas with 63,000 new cows and by Colorado with 35,000 new cows. Eastern Corn Belt beef cow numbers expanded by three percent (40,000 cows) and the Southeastern U.S. added 32,000 head.

While producers expanded cow numbers more than expected in 2014, the expansion of the beef herd is likely to continue for multiple years. It is common for the beef herd to be in expansion for four to six years. With 2014 registering as the first year of expansion, expansion could continue through most of this decade. If so, peak beef production on this cycle would not be expected until early in the next decade.

Dairy cow numbers were up one percent and the number of dairy heifers being held back to enter the herd were also up one percent. The 2014 calf crop was larger than anticipated as the calving rate of 88.5 percent of total cow numbers at the start of 2014 was the highest in a number of years. This larger than expected pool of calves will increase slaughter supplies, especially late in 2015 and into 2016.

Beef supplies in 2015 may not be down as much as the nearly two percent USDA has been anticipating due to the larger calf crop and to anticipated heavier marketing weights this year. Most recently, in December and January, marketing weights have been up one to two percent. With feed prices in 2015 expected to be the lowest in 5 years, those higher weights will likely continue and beef supplies for 2015 could be in a range from down one percent to up one percent.

Beef will face strong competition from higher supplies of competitive meats in 2015, where poultry supplies could be three percent higher and pork four to five percent higher. On the other hand, beef demand should benefit from moderate growth in consumer incomes and from lower fuel prices.

With beef supplies not much changed in 2015, one might anticipate prices to be near the \$155 finished cattle price for 2014. However, 2014 was an exceptional year, and meat prices in general may be lower. Currently, futures markets are heavily discounting cash cattle prices, suggesting 2015 average finished cattle prices in the higher \$140's. However, I expect finished cattle prices to average \$150 to \$157 in 2015, with prices in early spring in upper \$150s and the lower \$160's and then to fall to near \$150 in summer and then end the year in the mid-\$150s.

Given the uncertainties in the U.S. and world economies, concerns about commodity deflation, an unusually high priced year in 2014, and a period of rapidly rising competitive meat supplies, it seems like a time of caution for beef market participants.



Private Pesticide Applicator Training



Date: Tuesday March 10, 2015
Time: 9:30 A.M.
Where: County Extension Office (729 E. Yoakum)
Cost: \$50.00 / person (due by deadline)
RSVP: No later than February 27, 2015 (361-595-8566)

**** Information on Test scheduling & preparing will be provided****



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

FSA ACCEPTING EMERGENCY LOAN APPLICATIONS

January 13, 2015

Aransas, Bee, Jim Wells, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, McMullen, and Webb Counties were declared eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster emergency loans based on damages and losses caused by **drought January 1, 2014 and continuing**. Generally, that means that farmers who have lost at least 30 percent of their **production or suffered any physical loss** due to the **drought January 1, 2014 and continuing** are eligible for FSA loans. Proceeds from crop insurance and/or hazard insurance are taken into consideration when determining a producer's eligibility and total loss.

FSA Farm Loan Manager, **Roel Garza**, is urging farmers who are interested in receiving an emergency loan to submit their applications into FSA as soon as possible. **Garza** said, "We hope farmers will get their applications in early rather than waiting until near the deadline, which is **September 8, 2015**. The longer they wait, the more chance there is for long delays. If the applications come in early, we can avoid backlogs and speed up the process."

The FSA Office is at **2287 N. Texas Blvd., Ste. 3** in **Alice**. The telephone number is **361-668-8361 Ext. 2**.

Is it profitable to reduce cotton seeding rates?

By Southeast Farm Press

“Farming by the seed” – it’s a concept cotton producers should seriously consider as costs continue to soar.

“The reason we became interested in this primarily is because cotton seed no longer is \$50 to \$100 per bag, it’s gone up to \$500 to \$600 per bag,” says William Birdsong, Auburn University Extension agronomist. “Increasing seed costs have prompted a lot of producers to try and reduce their seeding rate and stretch it out to reduce the cost per acre. The big question is, do you make money or do you lose money by doing that?”

Research conducted during the past several years at the Wiregrass Research and Extension Center in southeast Alabama has focused on the impact – on yield and cost – of various cotton seeding rates, says Birdsong.

“We’ve got new weed control technologies coming out, and while they’re not saying how much it’s going to cost, my personal opinion is that the seed is going to cost more,” he says. “We no longer have the luxury of stringing out four seed to the foot of row and being insured of making pretty good yields – those days are gone for good.”

Different maturities were selected in choosing cotton varieties for the study, says Birdsong, and they included Deltapine 1252 and 1050, Phytogen 375 and 499, FiberMax 1944, and Stoneville 4946. They were planted at seeding rates of 1.7, 2.49, 3, 3.5 and 4.5 seed per foot of row. Most were irrigated studies, but in 2012, researchers compared dryland versus irrigated.

“Looking at irrigated cotton from 2012, we saw the highest yield from Deltapine 1252 at three seed per foot, with 1,423 pounds per acre. On dryland, we used the same concept as with corn, where we spread out the seed to get a bigger ear, hoping for better water utilization. But we saw that the thicker the stand, the higher the yield in respect to Deltapine 1252. Phytogen 499 peaked out at 1,492 pounds per acre at 2.49 seed per foot on irrigated.

“The take-home message here is that just because it’s dryland, it doesn’t necessarily mean we need to stretch it out, because we actually gained some yield when the stand was thicker.”

While one year’s worth of data provides a good snapshot, an even better picture comes into view when you consider the full four years of the study, says Birdsong.

The results showed that in most years and certainly over the span of the test, seeding rates did affect yield and revenue per acre, he says.

The seeding rates of 2.49 to 3.5 seed per foot were acceptable, with the rate of 3 seed per foot giving the highest return for the investment, says Birdsong.

“In 2012, the dryland trial with Phytogen 499 did not show the differences that we have seed with other varieties. However, the seeding rate of 3.5 seed per foot was the highest-yielding treatment.”

The results from all treatments of irrigated cotton from 2010 to 2013 showed that a seeding rate of three seed per foot was the best from a yield and return-on-investment standpoint, regardless of the variety planted, he says.



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Please contact our office with name, address, phone number changes or to be added or removed from our mailing list.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
<http://kleberg.agriLife.org>

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any AgriLife Extension event, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office(361-595-8566) at least two weeks in advance of the program to see how reasonable accommodations can be made.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



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Or call 979-845-2604

NEW TRICHOMONIASIS RULES

Texas Animal Health Commission has adopted some changes to the Trichomoniasis control program as follows:

- ⇒ If a bull is sold and later found to be infected, other bulls from the herd of origin may be required to be tested if the bull was not exposed to females after its sale and prior to testing by the new owner.
- ⇒ If a bull has strayed onto the property not owned or managed by the bull's caretaker and is found to be infected then the other bulls from the unit of origin and bulls on the premises where the bull was last located must all be officially tested.
- ⇒ The TACH can evaluate the effectiveness of a herd control plan to monitor progress
- ⇒ All premises under a Trich Herd Certification Program must have perimeter fences adequate to control movement in and out of the premises.