

Marion County Extension Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 1

February 13, 2012

Texas Master Naturalist

President - Rosanna Salmon

<http://txmn.org/cypress/>

Beef Committee

Chairpersons - Robert and Dalette Schmidt

<http://marion.agrilife.org/>

Agriculture Programs

President - Cindy McNeely

Jefferson Farmers Market

President - Matt Cadman

<http://www.facebook.com/JeffersonFarmersMarket>

4-H Association Leader

Chairperson - Beje Foster

<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>



Brock A. Fry

County Agent - AG/NR

bafry@ag.tamu.edu



Topics Covered:

- Field Sandburs	page 2
- Soil Sampling a must 2012	page 4
- Beef Today	page 5
- Brand Registration	page 6
- Beef Management Practices	page 6
- Drought Tax Implications	page 6
- Overweight and Obesity	page 7
- Upcoming Events	page 8
- Publication Credit	page 9

Field Sandburs

Lately I've been getting a lot of phone calls with questions on when to apply and how much Prowl H2O to apply on coastal Bermudagrass hay pastures for sandbur (grassbur) control. The following is some important information about sandburs, rates of Prowl H2O and timing of application:



Field sandbur (grassbur) is a summer annual grassy weed that can be found in coastal fields and along roadsides. This weed is especially adapted to dry, sandy soils but can be found growing in other types of soils as well. The big problem with this weed is the sharp, spiny burs that are part of the inflorescence. These burs can be painful to livestock and deadly to horses. Field sandbur (grassbur) generally start germinating in the spring and will continue to germinate until summer and even into early fall months. This weed will continue to grow until the first hard frost or freeze occurs in the fall.

Field sandburs (grassbur) are generally not a problem in well maintained turf grass areas. With proper fertilization, mowing and irrigation, you can produce a turf that is dense enough to prevent sandbur (grassbur) from becoming a problem. However, if field sandbur (grassbur) do become a problem there is an effective herbicide that can be used to control this particular weed. The most effective and efficient method of control is to use a pre-emergent herbicide, such as **PROWL H2O**. *To be effective, Prowl H2O needs to be applied before weed seeds germinate -- generally when the soil temperature (NOT the air temperature) reaches and average of 52 degrees F. This usually occurs in southern areas of the state by March 1st, by March 15th in the Central Texas area and in North Texas areas by April 1st.*

Apply Prowl H2O at 2.1 to 4.2 quarts/acre (not pints but quarts) to dormant Bermudagrass prior to green up. Applying Prowl H2O early is OK but will only shorten your residual control in season. NOW is the time to start applying Prowl H2O, prior to the germination of the sandbur. Of course, rainfall is necessary to incorporate the herbicide, and with Prowl H2O that is 1" or more of rainfall or irrigation. Not applying enough water after application of a pre-emergent herbicide is one of the main reason for failure to effectively obtain control of the annual grassy weeds such as sandbur (grassbur). Another reason for failure is proper spray volumes. The label calls for 10 gpa (minimum), but volumes of 15-20 gpa are preferred. Spray volumes should be significant enough to penetrate any thatch and fall to the soil surface.

Restrictions and Limitations

- **DO NOT** apply **Prowl H2O** if surface water is present in the field.
- **DO NOT** exceed a cumulative total of 4.2 quarts of **Prowl H2O** per acre per year.
- **DO NOT** harvest Bermuda grass hay until **60 days** after treatment with **Prowl H2O**.
- **DO NOT** harvest for forage or allow livestock to graze Bermuda grass until **45 days** after treatment with **Prowl H2O**.
- Use only on Bermuda grass grazing areas that are controlled/fenced and livestock are excluded for a minimum restriction period of 45 days after treatment with **Prowl H2O**.
- Use of **Prowl H2O** on rangeland is prohibited.



• See the main label for directions for Rotational Crops. For crops which can be rotated the following year after application of **Prowl H2O**, the minimum plant back interval is 270 days after treatment. Follow the most restrictive language for Rotational Crops in this supplemental label and the main product label.

Note: In South Texas and even in Central Texas during mild winters, the field sandbur plants will survive and act like a perennial weed. In these cases, a pre-emergent herbicide will not be effective in controlling these particular plants, but will work on any of the seeds that try to germinate. A Post applied herbicide would then be required to control any surviving sandbur that has come back from the root system as a perennial plant.

According to Dr. Paul Baumann, Texas A&M Professor and Extension Weed Specialist, DO NOT Expect 100% control of sand bur and also, he says, if you ever have sand bur, you will always have sandbur.

1. Irrigation or rainfall prior to sandbur emergence is essential.
2. Do not expect 100% control, there may be some escapes that can make the treatment look like it is not working. With this said, Prowl H2O will certainly help tremendously, especially in heavy infestations, providing from 80 to 90% control or more at the rates labeled.
3. In some locations where sandbur germination can be expected throughout the summer, I would recommend applying the higher rate (3.2 quarts per acre), since it will be going out early.
4. Lastly, nothing helps control more than a well growing bermudagrass stand. The competition from the bermudagrass goes a long way toward keeping the influence of sandbur to a minimum.



*(Paul A. Baumann, PhD
Professor and Extension Weed Specialist)*

Soil Sampling a must in 2012 for pasture reestablishment

Dr. Vanessa Cooriher Forage Specialist

Soil testing should have been everyone's New Year's Resolution! It's a lot easier than all those failed diet plans. And it could be considered exercise! Another question I have gotten recently: if I have bare spots in my Coastal/Tifton 85 pasture/hay meadow and I broadcast seeded bermudagrass and fertilize will the hybrid bermudagrass out compete the seeded? The answer is NO! They will end up with a mixed stand. That may be okay for someone with a pasture. However, most of our hay producers like/prefer those pure stands. How long to pasture recovery? With good moisture (3-4" received a month) potentially 8-12 months. One year for good recovery. Even under those circumstances some producers may still need to re-establish depending on previous management. With the currently projected persistent drought: no recovery in 2012! Re-establishment will be very likely!

Optimum temperatures for bermudagrass seed germination is when daily low temperatures reach 60°F which is about May 1 for the Overton area. Planting after mid-June is discouraged because of normally hot and dry weather conditions because bermudagrass seed is so small, it is best to broadcast the seed on a prepared seedbed and roll it with a packer to press the seed in to the soil surface. If the seed bed is not firm (boot heel imprint is deeper than ½ in.) also roll before broadcasting seed.

Weeds, especially crabgrass, are a major problem in getting good stands of seeded bermudagrass. There are no preemergent herbicides that selectively control seeds without harming emerging bermudagrass seedlings. One option is to prepare a seed bed and roll it with a packer. Weeds will emerge with the first rain. Before the weeds exceed 2 to 3 in. tall, spray glyphosate (1 pt/acre). The weeds will turn brown in about 7 days. One to 2 days after spraying, broadcast the bermudagrass seed and roll to press the seed in the soil surface. Additional weeds will emerge with the next rain, but the initial big flush of weeds will be eliminated. Yields of most available seeded bermudagrass lines and blends are similar to Coastal but less than Tifton 85 bermudagrass. Tifton 85 has superior drought tolerance and higher nutritive value than Coastal and seeded bermudagrasses. Hybrid bermudagrass varieties (Tifton 85, Coastal, Jiggs) prefer warm temperatures.

So sprigs should not be dug and planted until night temperatures reach the mid to upper 50's (consistently) or when dormancy is broken and greenup begins. Sprigs should be planted into a clean prepared seedbed (similar to seeded varieties). Plant 30-40 bushels of sprigs (hopefully into a moist seedbed). Plant 2 to 2.5 inches deep. DO NOT PLANT DEEPER THAN 3"! Roll the seedbed to ensure good sprig-soil contact. Use 1.5 to 3.0 pt/acre of Direx 4L or Diuron 4L preemergent herbicide within a day or two of planting. An alternative, use 1 to 2 qt/acre of Weedmaster within the same time period. When sprigs green up, apply 40-60 lbs of actual N/acre. Allow forage to go into winter with 6-8 inches of stubble!

Contact the Marion County Extension office at 903-665-2421 for soil sampling information.

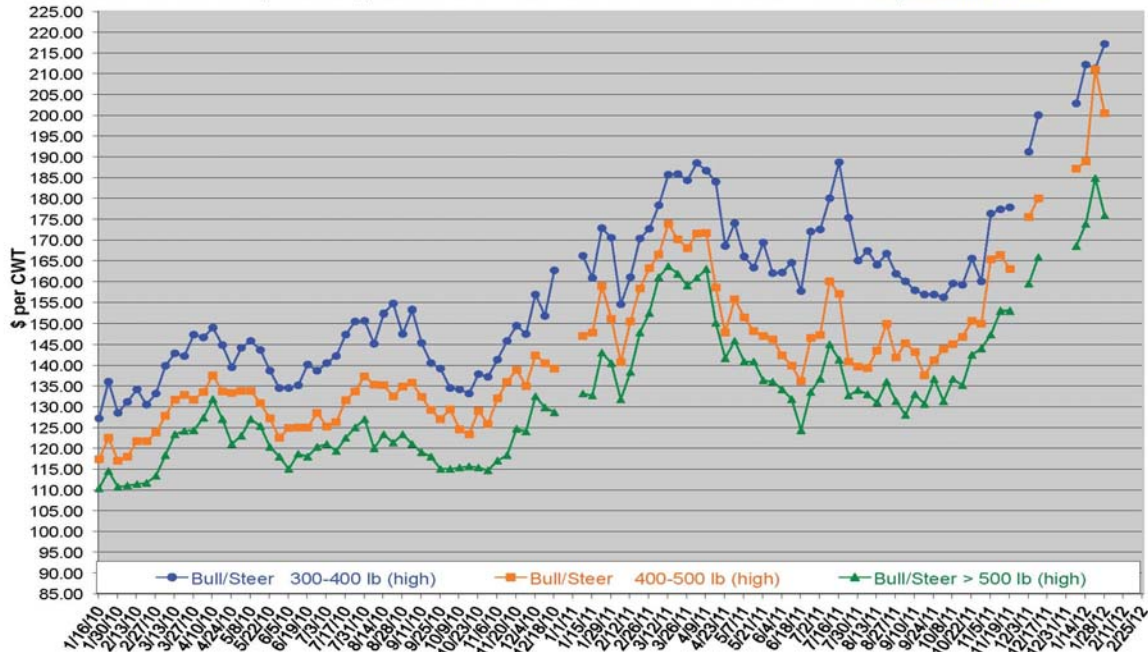
Beef Today

Calf Price Trends

Trend of Highest Prices Reported for Various Weight Calves, Average of 3 East Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart, please contact your Local Texas AgriLife County Extension Agent

For information on beef cattle production, please visit the Texas A&M Extension Beef Cattle Website: <http://beef.tamu.edu>

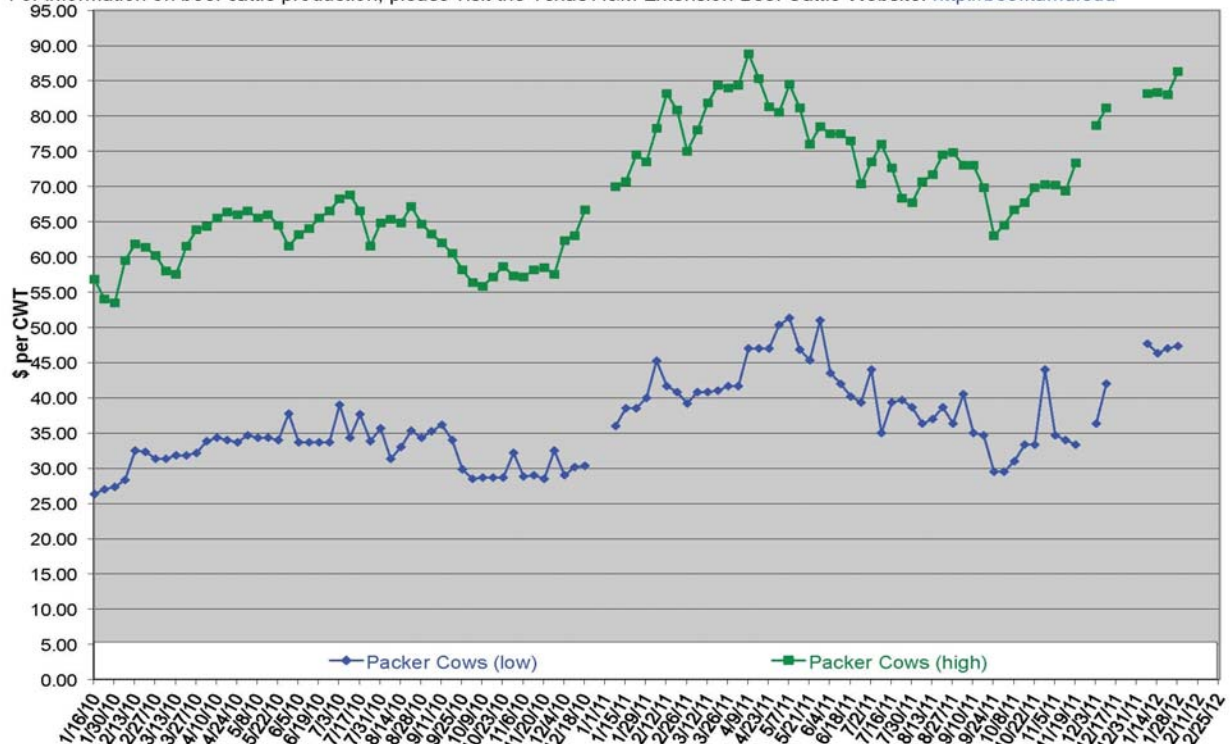


Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of High and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows, Average of 3 East Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart, please contact your Local Texas AgriLife County Extension Agent

For information on beef cattle production, please visit the Texas A&M Extension Beef Cattle Website: <http://beef.tamu.edu>



Dr. Stephen Hammack, Professor & Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Emeritus

Brands must be re-registered at the county courthouse every 10 years in the state of Texas. The deadline for re-registering is February 29, 2012. If registration expires it is unlawful to continue its use, and an expired brand can be registered for use by another producer. Also, for operations in multiple counties, the brand must be registered in each county. Information on registering brands can be found at www.tscra.org.

- Preform Physical Exams (Body condition, udder, feet, teeth, eyes)
- Culling evaluations (based on physical)
- Vaccinate (5-Way Lepto, 7-Way Clostridia)
- Identifications (ear tag or tattoo, brand)
- Nutritional evaluations (protein, minerals, fecal pad, hay, forage, soil test results)
- Strategic worm control evaluations
- Strategic fly control evaluations

Calving

- Observations (nursing, colostrum intake)
- Birth weights
- Physical exams (behavior, navel)
- Sanitation evaluation

Post Calving

- Castrate (knife or band)
Dehorn (hot iron or tube)

Drought Tax Implications

New in the tax code for 2011, some changes have been put in place to help those cattlemen that were forced to sale during the 2011 drought. Check with your financial professional or tax preparer for details. For more information contact the Marion County Extension Office at 903-665-2421.

Forage Calenders Available

Order your copy from:
<http://agrilifebookstore.org>
 Publication # B-6250
 888-900-2577(toll-free)
 \$12.50 + tax and shipping



This beautiful, full-color calendar is the tool for you. You'll learn not only how to manage your property for forage production, but also when to perform critical management tasks.

Use the calendar to record your management activities, and you'll have invaluable data for measuring success, as well as documentation for tax purposes.

Whether you own a few acres or thousands, you'll find this management calendar indispensable.

Order your copy from:
<http://agrillifebookstore.org>
 Publication # B-6250
 888-900-2577 (toll-free)
 \$12.50 + tax and shipping

Overweight and Obesity

Overweight and obesity have tremendous consequences on our nation's health and economy. Both are linked to a number of chronic diseases, including coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers. Most American communities are characterized by unhealthy options when it comes to diet and physical activity. We need public health approaches that make healthy options easy, affordable, and available for all Americans.

- CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO) currently funds 25 states to address the problems of obesity and other chronic diseases through statewide efforts with multiple partners. The program's primary focus is to create policy and environmental changes to increase: physical activity, consumption of fruits and vegetables, and breastfeeding; and to decrease: television viewing, consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, and consumption of high-energy dense foods (high calorie/low nutrient foods). Texas has received funding for this program since 2000.

The Burden of Obesity in Texas

Texas' estimated 2007 total population is almost 24 million, with over 17 million adults. Of those adults, 37% are considered overweight and another 29% are considered obese, according to 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data. Problems are also seen in factors related to obesity and other chronic diseases.

Almost three-in-ten adults report no leisure time physical activity in the past month.

Only one quarter of Texas adults eat fruits and vegetables at least five times a day.

Also, the National Immunization Survey shows that Texas is not meeting four of the five Healthy People 2010 goals for breastfeeding based on children born in 2005.

The problem is not limited to adults alone. Sixteen percent of Texas youth (9th–12th grades) are overweight, and another 16% are obese, according to 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data.

Only 45% of the youth in these grade levels are meeting current physical activity recommendation levels.

Only 17% eat fruits and vegetables five or more times a day.

Thirty-eight percent drink at least one non-diet soda each day.

Almost 40% watch three or more hours of television each day.

Obesity also affects the state's economy. In Texas, the medical costs associated with adult obesity were \$5.3 billion in 2003 dollars.

What is Texas Doing about Obesity?

The Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention Program (NPAOP) incorporates all its activities under a new initiative/theme known as "Texas! Bringing Healthy Back." In regards to fruits and vegetables, one unique Bringing Healthy Back intervention coordinated by the department is the Farm to Work program which delivers farm fresh produce to employees where they work. The program addresses key barriers many employees face when trying to add more fruits and vegetables to their diets like time, access, and freshness. Farm to Work currently serves 15 worksites including DSHS (Austin campuses), Lance Armstrong Foundation, and the City of Austin. Over 1700 employees have participated and Texas farmers have made over \$250,000 since the program started.

As another part of the department's Texas Communities! Bringing Healthy Back initiative, NPAOP funds four community projects and two hospital obesity prevention projects to create environments supportive of healthy choices. One project is the El Paso Baby Café which is a community drop-in center for moms seeking breastfeeding support. The project provides one-on-one interaction with lactation professionals and is expected to reach 5,000 new mothers each year. Other funded projects include farmers' markets in Brownsville, Fort Worth, and Pantego; a 5-acre community garden and walking trail in San Antonio; and hospital/worksites breastfeeding policy promotion in Austin and Dallas.

Through all these activities, Texas DSHS and CDC are working to prevent obesity by making healthy foods and an active lifestyle the easy choice in Texas communities.

For more information:

Maribel Garcia Valls, MPH

NPAOP Team Lead; Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention Program

Texas Department of State Health Services

Telephone: 512-776-3434

Fax: 512-458-7618

E-mail: Maribel.Valls@dshs.state.tx.us

Web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/obesity

Upcoming events:

Private Pesticide Applicators "Last Chance Videos"

Get 8 hours of CEU on one day

Kelly Park Community Center; 8 A.M.- 5 P.M., February 23, 2012

Cost: \$20.00 includes meal

Farm Pond Program Drought Management During a Drought

Dr. Billy Higginbotham - Extension Specialist Wildlife and Fisheries

Bring your aquatic plants to this program to have them identified and control questions answered.

Kelly Park Community Center, 10 A.M - 2 P.M., May 2, 2012

Cost: \$20.00 includes Catfish meal

4-H Low Cost Shots and Coggins Testing

Jefferson Livestock Association Arena, Hwy 49 E. 3 mile from Jefferson

Shots cost vary and Coggins will be \$20

Please R.S.V.P. 903-665-2421 or email bafry@ag.tamu.edu

Hay Production and Purchasing

Friday, April 27, 2012

Overton, TX

9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Register at: <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>

Keyword: hay

Cost: \$60.00

2 Pesticide CEU (1 IPM and 1 General)



Published Quarterly By:
Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service,
Marion County Office
130 Kelly Park Road, Suite A
Jefferson, TX 75657 - 6667

Office: 903-665-2421 or 903-665-2272

Fax: 903-665-1256

marion.agrilife.org

Brock Fry: bafry@ag.tamu.edu

“Improving Lives. Improving Texas.”