

Marion County Extension Newsletter

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Texas Master Naturalist

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

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

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From the Garden

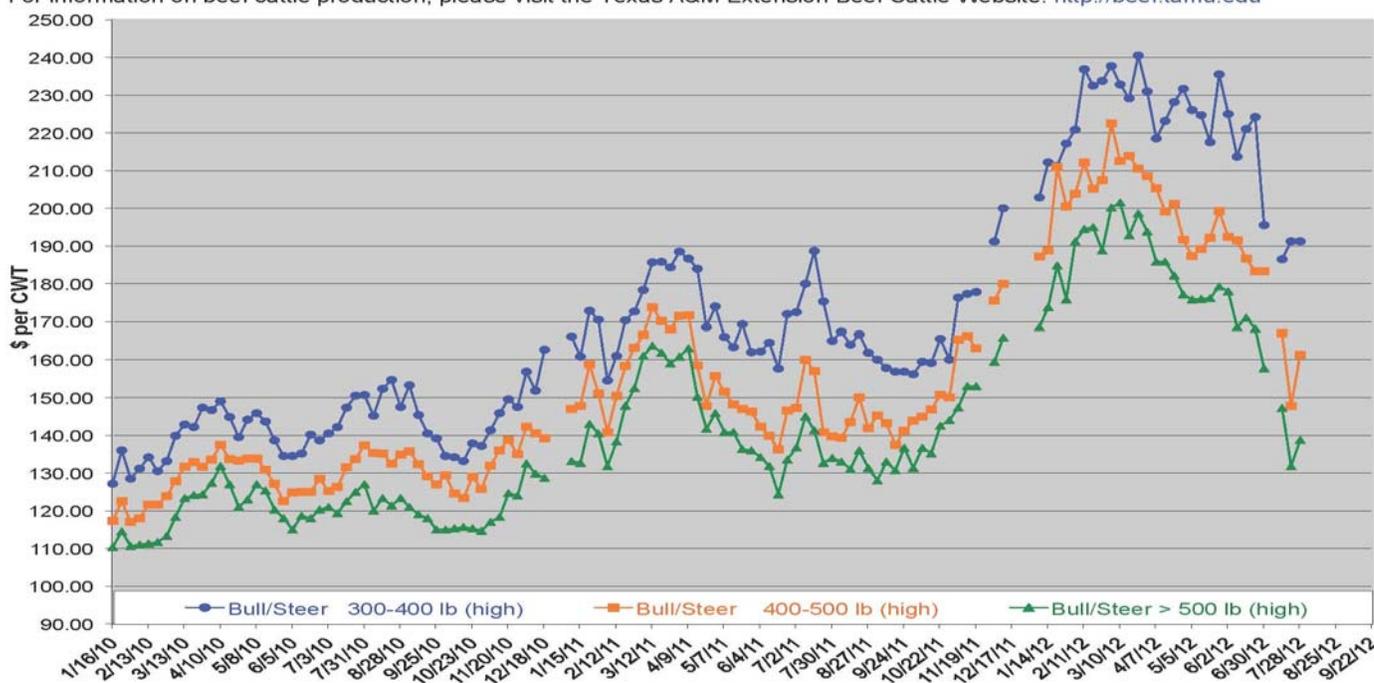
It is time to start thinking about a fall garden. Those precious spring plants are now huge and hopefully bared lots of good vegetables and need to be pulled up. You may want to leave okra, cherry tomatoes and pole beans if the foliage is healthy. Don't try to compose old plants, it will invite diseases and insects into the new garden. For the best of the fall plants to grow you will want to allow for 8 hours or full sunlight. Crops such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, beans and cucumbers may not produce anything if grown in the shade; plants will grow tall and spindly. Some plants do tolerate a little shade and those include greens, broccoli, cauliflower, root crops (carrots, turnips). If selecting a new gardening site all the turf must be completely removed, other wise your garden will be a disaster before you even plant. Even a well tilled pulverized garden that had bermuda seeds it will come up in the garden. You can use a chemical "glyphosate" to kill grass and weeds before tilling and this will work. Once you have a clean area to work dig down about 10-12 inches and add a layer of sand and organic matter. Then put the quality soil back on top and use 2-3 pounds of a slow release fertilizer (19-5-9, 21-7-14, 25-5-10) per 100 square feet of garden area. You may still want to add some ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) every three weeks at the rate of one tablespoon sprinkled around each plant and watered in. You are just about have the soil ready all that is needed is a good 2 hour sprinkling of water then wait a couple days and you are in excellent shape for a bountiful fall garden.

Beef Today

Calf Price Trends

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

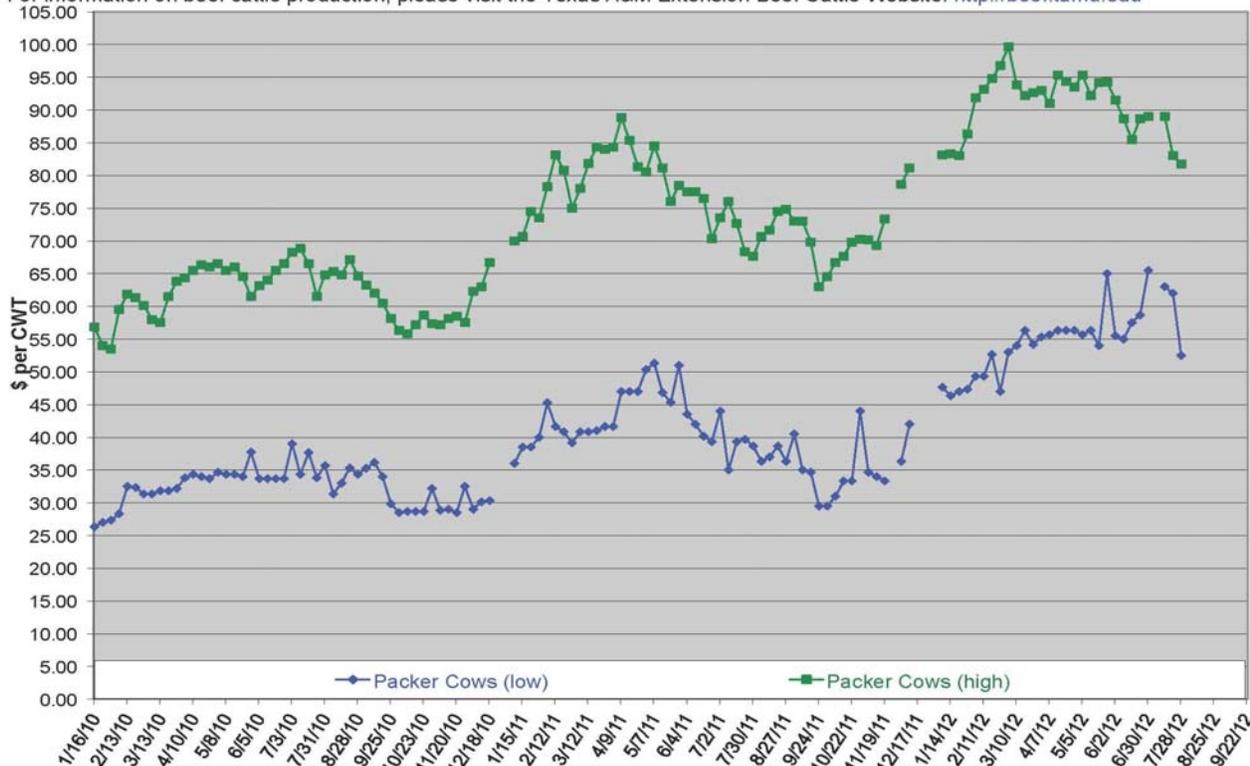
For a weekly email copy of this chart, please contact your Local Texas AgriLife County Extension Agent
 For information on beef cattle production, please visit the Texas A&M Extension Beef Cattle Website: <http://beef.tamu.edu>



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>



Cattle prices are anything but stable. There seems to be a trend over the past couple of year that in the spring prices increase. You may have heard about the 26 state declaring drought disaster and yes this is not helping the feed and fuel prices. Expect input cost to be higher. There is not a guarantee that cattle prices will follow, lets hope they do, if people continue to consume beef at a high level or export markets are strong. Enjoy your cow herd regardless of what happens.

Hay Analysis

It is that time once again to test your hay. The Marion County Extension Office offer hay analysis for \$5 per sample and Brock Fry will come visit and take the hay sample. We have been fortunate up to this point in the year to have received some rain that helped with early cuttings of hay. Please contact the Extension Office and schedule a time for a farm visit. 903-665-2421

2012 A.I. (Artificial Insemination) and Pregnancy Determination School

Location	Company	Date
College Station	Bovine Elite, LLC	Sept. 11-14, 2012
Clarendon	American Breeders Srvc	Oct. 1-4, 2012**
College Station	Bovine Elite, LLC	Oct. 16-19, 2012
College Station	Bovine Elite, LLC	Nov. 13-16, 2012

*Contact Vernon Fredrich at 940.727.1056 or fbsvern@ntin.net.

**Contact Max Payne at 806.669.4284 or mkpayne@wildblue.net.

Bovine Elite, LLC contact: Carl Rugg at 979.693.0388

or <http://www.bovineelite.com/aipalp.asp>

Prussic acid poisoning in Tifton 85

An apparently isolated incident of prussic acid poisoning in cattle grazing a pure stand of Tifton 85 bermudagrass was reported in late May in Bastrop County, Texas, resulting in 15 cattle deaths. Several popular media reports with incorrect or misleading information caused undue alarm among producers and the public in general. Tifton 85 is a hybrid bermudagrass released in 1992 by Dr. Glenn Burton at the USDA-ARS station in Tifton, Georgia. Dr. Burton also developed Coastal bermudagrass, released in 1943, at the Tifton station. Tifton 85 has the potential of producing prussic acid, but it has been planted on millions of acres throughout the South and no prior prussic acid problems have been reported.

This specific incident may have been due to a particular combination of conditions. The pasture was severely drought-stressed last year. After good rains over the winter and early spring, the pasture was moderately fertilized in April and received about five inches of rain over 30 days before the incident occurred. The pasture was in hay-harvest stage of growth. Generally, prussic acid poisoning has been associated with young flush growth after drought or growth following frost. Cattle had been off feed during the day before being placed on the pasture. Subsequent analyses of other Tifton 85 pastures in other areas of Texas have revealed no prussic acid. (Texas AgriLife Today, 6/26/12)

Home Energy Savings

If you stay at home during the hot summer you may want to consider a job or riding on the tractor, visiting a library, or something so your home energy bill does not cause you to panic. The electric bill can either be a variable cost or stable cost over a month, either way if you are racking up high energy bills it will show. Hot tips to help save energy at home: Turn everything off that is not in use. How many clocks do we really need if you have more than one like the Coffee Maker and Microwave oven, consider unplugging one. If you have dogs inside your house during the day while you are at work consider placing it in a pen that is secure with plenty of water and shade. Cut your AC off while you are at work. If you leave your 27 inch screen TV or bigger TV on for the animals in the house while you are work, try switching to a radio, this move will save your TV life and will cost a lot less in energy.

There are some benefits to letting your house get really hot during the hot months of the year. It is what is know as a heat treatment which on 100 + degree days your home can reach temps of 95 - 100 degrees. This is very hot but don't worry your carpet and TV will be fine. The insects in your home do not like this one bit and will seek out other ways of staying cool than being in your home. This will really help with a flea population, the flea likes temps right around 70 - 75 degrees to reproduce and live. If your home stays at this temperature year round it is likely that many other insects will like it too.

Healthy Living

If you have not check out the <http://healthyliving.tamu.edu/> website you are missing it. Great receipts to try tonight with dinner tonight videos.



Dinner Time Dilemma

The balanced approach to parenting is the most effective way to help your kids develop healthy eating habits. In this approach both parents and kids share responsibility.

The parent's responsibility is to:

- Provide a selection of healthy foods
- Pick times for meals and snacks
- Offer new foods up to 10 or 11 times
- Be a good role model
- Create a positive atmosphere



The child's responsibility is to:

- Pick which foods they want to eat
- Decide how much to eat

Helpful Tips

- Be a good example
- Don't give up
- Create a positive environment
- Involve kids in food preparation



Balance in Action

- Pick a color and offer foods of the color you chose
- Choose a letter and offer foods that begin with that letter



Education programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

Up Coming Events

Private Applicators Pesticide Licencing

September 13th at the Morris county annex. Registration at 8:30. You can pick up your private applicators manual and laws and regulation books at the Marion County Extension Office for \$50 you must purchase the books or you can not take the class. \$10 cost for program. For more information contact the Extension Office 903-665-2421.

Hay Program

September 18th at the Marion County Extension Office. Cost is \$10. Gregg County Extension Agent Agriculture - Hugh Soape, Topic is drought stressed hay management. Time 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Kelly Park Community Center. Riverport BBQ will be served.

Jefferson Bass Assassin's 4-H Club

September starts a new 4-H year and will be the start of the race for qualifying for the Texas High School Bass Championships in 2013. Our first meeting will be September 6, 2012 at the Kelly Park Community Center start time will be 6 P.M.

Poultry Program

4-H members wanting to show chickens in the 2012 Marion County show will want to attend this workshop on August 21 at 6 p.m. at Kelly Park. Learn about raising and showing chickens.



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“Improving Lives. Improving Texas.”