

JUNE 2020

**TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION -
HARRISON COUNTY**




**AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Check us out on Facebook
[@HarrisonCountyAgriLifeExtension](#)

*102 W. Houston Marshall, TX 75670
2nd Floor - 903-935-8413*

heifer & steer

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VALIDATION

June 16th 4-6PM June 17th 8-11AM

We are looking forward to another successful season of validation! We plan to keep everything operating smoothly while still taking extra safety precautions. We will validate first come first served. Please stay in your vehicle when you arrive @Garrett Ranch-5505 Elysian Fields Road Marshall, TX. A validation committee member will come to your vehicle to assist with paper work and give further instructions. It is still recommend you wear a mask, though not mandatory.

R E M E M B E R !

*ALL signatures on your paperwork

*Heifer exhibitors need \$15 at validation

*Send COLOR copy of ORIGINAL Heifer registration in a PDF and email to the office (matt.garrett@ag.tamu.edu)

WEED OF THE WEEK: BAHIAGRASS (PASPALUM NOTATUM)

Bahiagrass is a warm season perennial that grows in Texas. Bahiagrass spreads by J-shaped purplish rhizomes and seed. The seed head consists of two or three spikes. Bahiagrass can be very aggressive and take over quickly especially in areas where competition is weak. Bahiagrass is very tolerant of low fertility and soil acidity. Bahiagrass can be utilized for grazing. Some of its attractions for producers include its excellent adaptation, ease of management, persistence under low fertilization and close grazing. Bahiagrass is adapted to sandy to clay soils with low to high fertility. Tolerates pH of 5.5 to 6.5.

Select Herbicide Options: ChaparralCimarron, PlusCimarron, XtraCimarron and MaxPastora. REMEMBER: THE LABEL IS THE LAW! Always read the pesticide label before using.



BAHIAGRASS SEED HEAD



J-Shaped Rhizome

FORAGEFAX.TAMU.EDU

June 16

**What's Hot in Turf
Zoom Meeting**

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjAtd-vqz8jGdKgvDwfs0nkPCf58iZ2cHkF>

**SPEAKER:
Dr. Chrissie Segers**

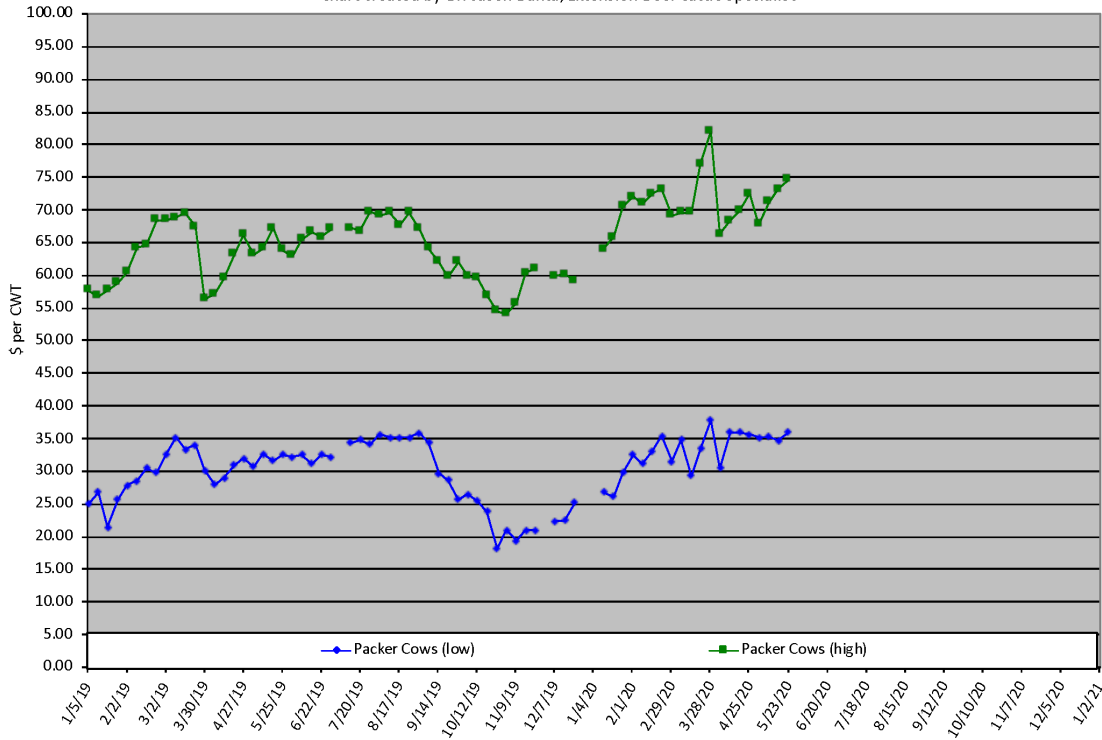
Don't miss the chance to get some great information on turf grass. Coming June 16th at 6 PM. This is one part of a 4 part series called Ag in the Evening.

CATTLE PRICE TRENDS

Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of Highest and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

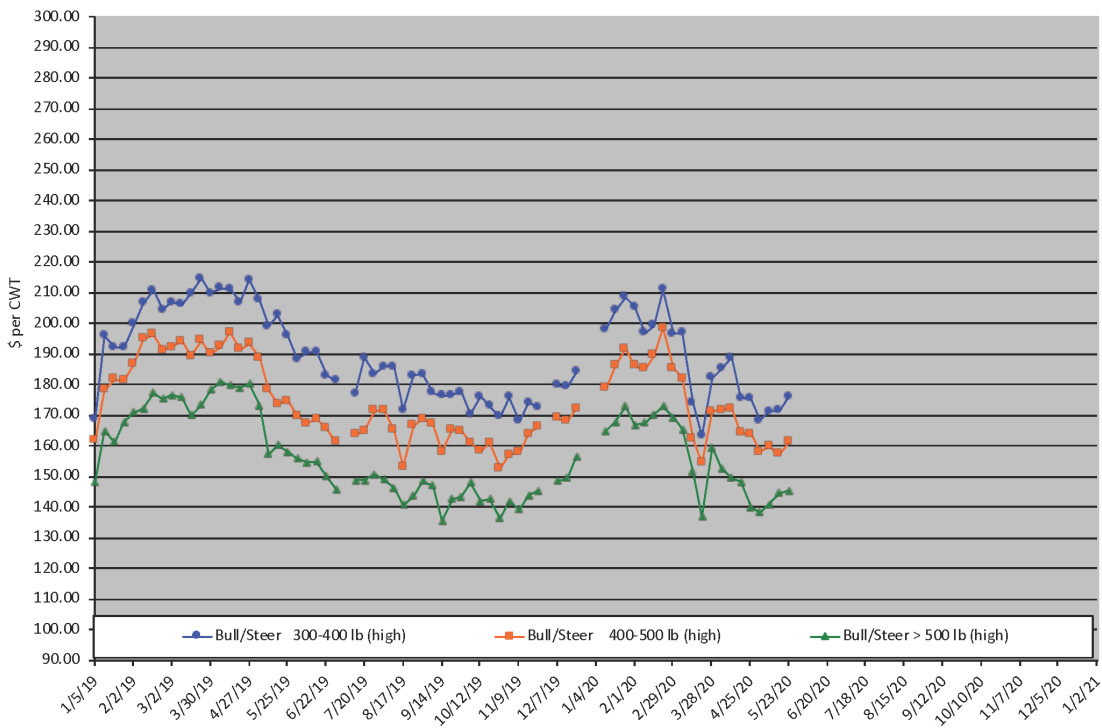
For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M Agrilife County Extension Agent
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Calf Price Trends

Trend of the Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M Agrilife County Extension Agent
Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



Trend of the Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

THE GOOD, THE BAD & POND WEEDS



As late spring rains raised water levels, ponds and lakes are now full or brimming over and becoming choked with weeds and the weed problem will be made worse if pond owners follow usual pond management practices, said Dr. Billy Higginbotham, wildlife and fisheries specialist with Texas Cooperative Extension. "Pond owners should not begin or continue with their annual fertilization program if aquatic weeds are already actively growing," Higginbotham said. "Fertilizing prior to weed control in this scenario will just result in more weeds."

Fresh samples may be submitted to the local county Extension agent or fisheries biologist for identification and control recommendations. Pond owners with Internet access can visit Extension's Web site. Called "Aquaplant," the site provides photos, sketches, descriptions and control options for more than 50 common weed species. In addition, labels for various herbicides can be downloaded to help determine the best course of action. The Web site address is <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>.

"Do not treat more than 25 percent of the surface area during a summertime treatment," Higginbotham said. "Too much decaying vegetation over too short of a time may result in oxygen depletion."

Higginbotham said there are three major reasons why aquatic weed control efforts: incorrect identification of the target species, inaccurate calculation of the area or volume of the site to be treated, and improper application of the control technique. "Don't guess at what you're trying to control. Get a positive identification of weed species, then assess your options as to whether to go with chemical, biological or mechanical techniques," he said.

HONEY BEES

The honey bee is a truly social insect that lives in colonies. The honey bee life cycle consists of egg, larva, pupa, and adult stage. Within a colony there is a single queen, thousands of workers and a few hundred seasonal drones. The queen is the only female that can lay fertilized eggs and can live 2 to 5 years. She controls the colony by releasing chemicals called pheromones.

Without a queen, a colony will rapidly decline and eventually die. Drones are the only male bees and there are many of them in healthy colonies during the spring and summer months. During winter months, drones may not be found at all because they consume more food than a colony can support in the cold season.

A honey bee colony consists mostly of worker bees. Workers are infertile females, but can lay unfertilized eggs if the queen is absent or declining. Workers perform many functions based on age. When they first emerge from their cells as adults, worker bees act as house cleaners. As they age, they progress through roles of nurses, construction workers, guards, and eventually foragers. Worker bees gather food and produce honey and wax. A healthy colony can have as many as 60,000 workers.

In Harrison County we have a Bee Keeper's Association. If you notice a hive in/near your home or business call the Harrison County Extension Office and we will get you in touch with someone to come out and remove them for you. PLEASE don't harm the bees. They are a vital part to our ecosystem 903-935-8413



Honey bees can construct large wax nests rapidly once they enter a home. For this reason, honey bees and nests should be removed as soon as possible. (Photo courtesy of USDA-ARS)



Honey bees are valuable pollinators and rarely sting when they are away from the nest searching for nectar. (photo courtesy of Molly Keck)

PROTECTING CATTLE FROM HORN FLIES

Excerpts from Jeffery K. Tomberlin, Texas A&M, report on horn flies



For cattle in Texas, the most damaging insect pest is the horn fly. Research has shown that a calf infested with more than 200 horn flies will gain 15 to 50 pounds less than normal from birth to weaning and sale (about 4 to 6 months). Horn flies can also reduce milk production in dairy cows by up to 20 percent. To control horn flies effectively and economically, it is helpful to know how to distinguish them from other flies, what control methods to use for different stages of their life cycle, when to take action and how to reduce the pest's resistance to chemicals.

Identifying Horn Flies

Horn flies look like houseflies and stable flies, but horn flies are slightly smaller. However, they do have piercing mouths like that of the stable fly. To distinguish horn flies from stable flies, observe their feeding behavior. Horn flies rest on a cow between feedings; stable flies remain on the cow only while feeding. Also, horn flies feed most often on an animal's back, shoulders and sides, whereas stable flies feed principally on the legs.

Controlling Horn Flies

Three types of control methods are used to suppress horn flies: biological, cultural and chemical. Producers who use all three methods (that is, they employ integrated pest management practices) will reduce horn fly populations the most while incurring the least expense. Biological control: Parasitic wasps and fire ants suppress horn fly populations naturally. Producers wanting to use parasitic wasps for controlling horn flies can order fly pupae parasitized with the wasps from insectaries in Texas or across the United States. However, to date, no research results have been published showing that releasing parasitic wasps suppresses horn flies. The parasitized pupae can be spread around barns near where the pest flies are developing. These pupae should be placed in areas where they will not be stepped on and where they will be out of direct sunlight. Cultural methods: Removing and properly disposing of fresh manure from barns and stalls interrupts the horn fly's life cycle and helps prevent new populations from developing. Chemical control: Several chemical control methods can help reduce the number of horn flies on cattle: ear tags, sprayers and dusters, feed additives and boluses.

raised GARDENS & FLOWER BEDS



Raised garden beds are freestanding beds constructed above the natural terrain. Texas gardeners are discovering that raised bed gardens can help solve many problems. In many areas of the state the soil contains too much sand or clay, or is too alkaline for some plants to grow well. Soil that is poorly aerated because of compaction or poor drainage also may be a problem. Soil quality problems are often aggravated in urban and suburban settings, where topsoil and vegetation have been removed or the grade changed during construction.

Raised bed gardens improve growing conditions for plants by lifting their roots above poor soil. Soil in the beds can be amended to provide a better growing medium for plants, even plants that would not naturally thrive there. The soil in raised beds warms up earlier in the spring and is less apt to be invaded by certain grasses and by tree roots. Also, the height of raised beds may make them easier to maintain.

For tips, tricks and more information on building and maintaining your raised beds check out <https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/raised-garden-beds/>

To the awesome people of Harrison County,

It is very apparent that the novel corona-virus has changed many things in our every day lives. This has forced the extension office to become more present on social media.

Facebook has become an amazing source of information for landowners, gardeners, cattlemen and farmers. Texas A&M Extension Services is going above and beyond to keep the information flowing. Provided, are more free online classes than we can count and also Zoom courses to help acquire CEU's.

If you haven't had a chance to like us on Facebook we encourage you to do so. Join us as we strive to keep the information pertinent, practical and update.

Stay safe all!

Harrison County Extension Office