

# April Newsletter

Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Harrison County–Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**2022**

**Farm City Week  
Update**

**Upcoming  
Programs**

**Weed of the  
Week**

**Cattle Market  
Updates**

**Gardening Tips**

**Keep in Touch  
903-935-8413  
102 W. Houston  
Marshall, TX**



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

# FARM CITY WEEK UPDATE

The grand champion steer was exhibited by Savannah Parker and purchased for \$14,000 by Kenny Knox and Casey Slone Construction. He was also named the Champion County Bred Steer.

The reserve grand champion steer was exhibited by her brother Bear Parker and purchased for \$11,000 by Bud McCracken. He was also the winner of Champion County Bred Steer Honors.

Both students were members of Marshall FFA.

The grand champion hog was exhibited by Skylar Smith of Marshall FFA and purchased for \$4,000 by Marshall Ford/Maverick Chevrolet, and the reserve grand champion hog was exhibited by Preston Rice of Hallsville FFA and purchased for \$3,500 by Parker Fence Company.

The grand champion lamb was exhibited by Preston Rice of Hallsville FFA and purchased for \$3,000 by Patterson Dodge, and the reserve grand champion lamb was Hunter McPherson of Harleton FFA and purchased for \$5,000 by ColdWater Creek Land and Cattle.

The grand champion goat was exhibited by Cord Campbell of Hallsville FFA and was purchased for \$4,000 by Patterson Dodge, and the reserve grand champion goat was exhibited by Addyson Horn of Hallsville FFA and purchased for \$3,500 by Patterson Dodge.

The grand champion rabbit was exhibited by Allison Beltran and purchased for \$2,000 by Brad Burris Century 21, and the reserve grand champion rabbit was exhibited by Cloey Davis and purchased for \$2,000 by X-Torc Energy Services.

The grand champion broiler was exhibited by Kolton Robinson and purchased for \$2,250 by S&R Construction, and the reserve grand champion broiler was exhibited by Kolby Robinson purchased for \$2,500 by Parker Fence Company. Both students were from Elysian Fields FFA.

The grand champion ag mechanics project made by Tucker Soules of Hallsville FFA sold for \$5,250 to Mike Smelley. The reserve grand champion ag mechanics project made by Cody Hess of Waskom FFA was sold for \$1,100 to Carolyn Stroman.



If you catch a bass with ink-like spots, please snap a pic and report location to [cynthia.fox@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:cynthia.fox@tpwd.texas.gov).

Researchers are collecting data on hyperpigmentation/melanosis, a.k.a Blotchy Bass Syndrome, in freshwater bass species associated with a virus. The virus has never been identified in humans or common domestic pets. As long as the fish are in good condition, they're safe to handle and eat if cooked properly.

# Seeing bass with spots?

## PLEASE REPORT

### *Blotchy Bass Syndrome*



*Send picture, location and date caught to:*  
[cynthia.fox@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:cynthia.fox@tpwd.texas.gov)



# Production Facts in Texas: *Eggs*

Poultry farms are primarily located in East and South Central Texas. Shelby County in East Texas ranks seventh in the United States for poultry and egg production at \$448.6 million.





# Reid's Ram-blings: April 2022

*Reid Redden, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Sheep and Goats*

## **Risk Management**

As I am writing this article, the world seems to be in complete disarray. The news from Ukraine is absolutely heartbreaking. Inflation and fuel prices are out of control. And the drought across the sheep and goat region of Texas is worsening by the day.

On the bright side, the sheep and goat market has remained strong through all this turmoil. While we hope that this market is the new normal, it is prudent we recognize the possibility of a down turn. Trying to predict the market is risky business but it is the reality for industries that are price takers.

I keep thinking back to 2012, when the market collapsed. Two years prior, I had just taken my first academic position at North Dakota State University. The ethnic market had established itself as a major part of the US lamb industry, a historic drought in Texas was greatly impacting supply of lamb, and US dollar had weakened which reduced import pressure. As a result, lamb and goat prices hit all-time highs. All we could talk about at industry meetings was "This market is here to stay, and we need to capitalize on it!"

As with most commodities, the high prices started to reduce demand and harvest volumes slowed. Lambs in the feedlots got heavier and heavier. The US dollar started to gain strength which further enticed the oceanic countries to ramp up imports into America. And as quickly as our domestic market climbed; it came crashing down. The traditional lamb industry was hit the hardest, the non-traditional lamb industry to a lesser degree, and the meat goat trade came out mostly unscathed.

I am not necessarily predicting a major market crash in the near future. Factors are very different, and potentially more favorable in 2021 compared to 2011. For me the real question is "How high can the market climb without negatively impacting consumer demand?" Based on presentation at the ASI convention in San Diego, restaurant and retail markets are reducing orders and/or switching to cheaper import product. The ethnic market for lamb and goat tend to not compete with imported product. But a rising tide lifts all boats; therefore, it isn't fully immune to it either. And the same principles of supply and demand for both consumer and producer apply.

It is also prudent that we consider the seasonal market flux here in Texas. The yearly market data we collect and publish on our website indicates strong markets in the winter markets and weaker markets in the summer. As we transition to spring, the volume of animals sold at auction will go up with the natural production cycle and it will likely have a negative impact. In addition, the ethnic holiday seasons are now earlier in the spring and early summer.

*Continued on next page.....*

For me, the greatest risk for the sheep and goat industry in today's market is buying high priced breeding animals. As long as someone is making this purchase with a long-term approach, they should be fine. But new or expanding producers that are relying on high priced lambs or goats in the short term might find themselves a tough situation, if a market correction occurs in the near future.

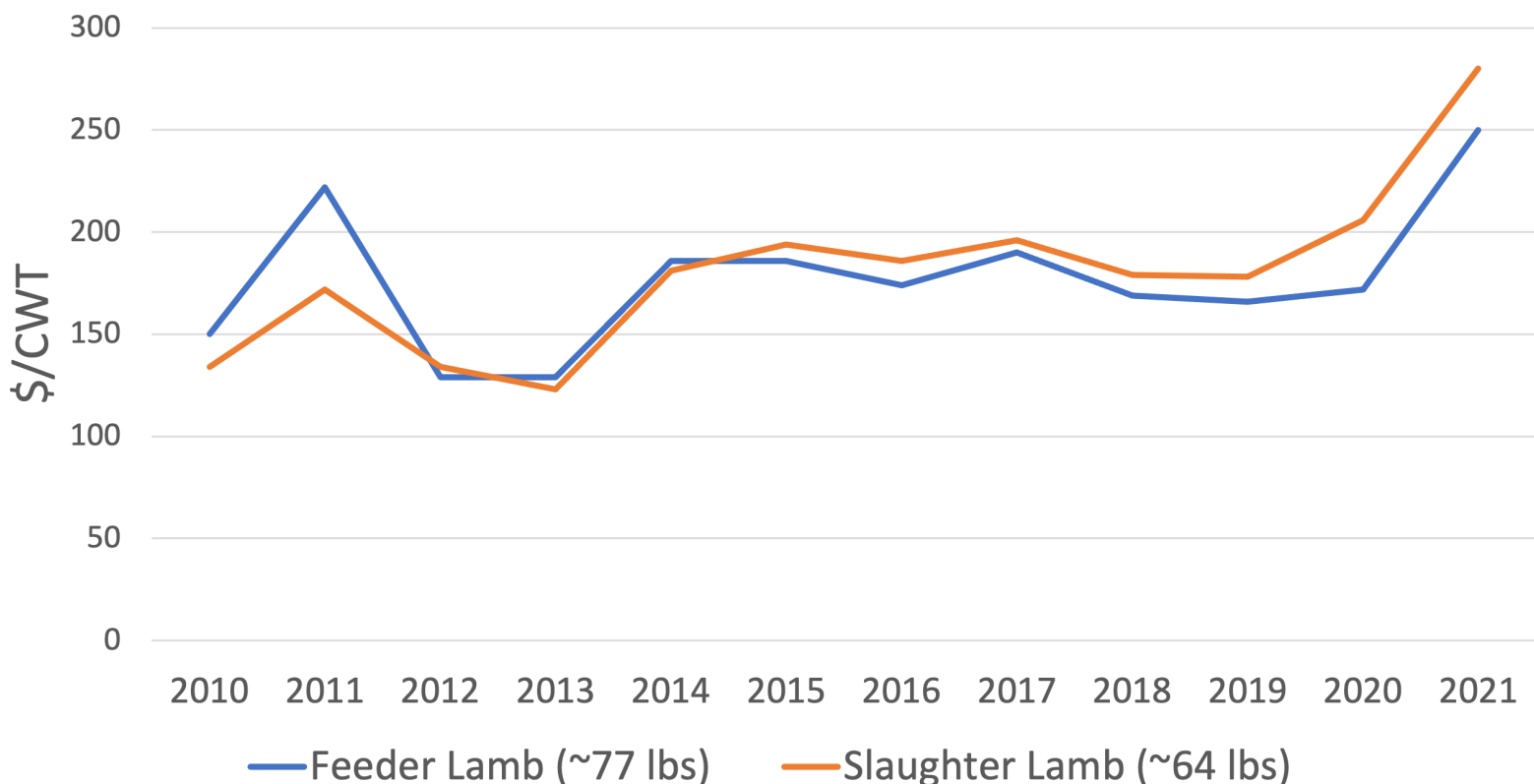
While, I tend to be an optimist and look at the glass half full, I also feel obligated to share my experience from being too optimistic in the past. In full transparency, I was concerned last year that the market was going to see a correction and it didn't.

As an industry, we must be able to weather the highs and lows of the market, along with drought, parasites, predators, just to name a few. Hence the reason that raising livestock takes a special breed of people. Time and time again history has showed us that business' that manage their assets and expenditures to be robust against price crashes are able to persist long-term.

Time will tell what our future holds. Hopefully, that includes a stable and sustainable market for all segments of the industry. Just as importantly, I pray spring rains are right around the corner to quench the thirst of this droughty landscape.

<https://agrilife.org/sheepandgoat/>

## Lamb Market in San Angelo, Texas





**\$15**

# Lady Landowners Program

Join us for a program designed to empower female landowners. Registration includes the 5 digital programs. Each program will begin at 5:30pm. The 6th and only in person session will be held on a Saturday and will include Lunch and one CEU. The cost of this session will be \$25.

**Session 1- April 28, 2022**

**Legalities of Landownership**

**Session 3- May 12, 2022**

**Beef Cattle for Beginners**

**Sheep and Goat Management**

**Session 5- May 26, 2022**

**Bee Keeping 101**

**Managing Home Orchards and Gardens**

**Session 2- May 5, 2022**

**Land Use**

**Landowner Resources**

**Session 4- May 19, 2022**

**Backyard Chickens**

**So You Think You Want Horses?**

**Session 6- June 4, 2022- \$25 \*CEU Offered**

**In-Person Program:**

**Tractor Maintenance**

**Hooking Up Implements**

**Hooking Up a Trailer Safely**

**Trailer Tire Maintenance**

**Backing Trailers**

**Spray Rig Maintenance and Calibration**

**To Register:**

**<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/3650>**

**903.756.5391**

Note: Dates added or modified are indicated with



## District 5 4-H Contests/ Events

Date	Event	Location
<b>2022</b>		
March 1 – April 15	Spring Flower Photography & ID Contest	District-wide (virtual)
March 1-August 31	Virtual Fishing program	District-wide
March 4	District Photography entries due	4HOnline
March 25-26	State Indoor Archery Meet	Carthage Civic Center, Carthage
April 2	Horse Judging	TAMU, College Station
April 23	Meat Judging	TAMU, College Station
April 23	Livestock Judging	Brazos County Expo
April 26	Event Orientation: Come Alive in D5	Virtual - Zoom
April 28 – 30	Come Alive in D5	Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Tyler
Day 1 Contests: 1:00 – 4:00 pm Fashion Show and Awards: 4:00 pm	Robotics Challenge Fashion Show Storyboards Duds to Dazzle Fabric & Textile Creations	Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Tyler
Day 2 Contests: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Share the Fun and Awards: 4:00 pm	Food Show Horse Quiz Bowl Livestock Quiz Bowl Nutrition Quiz Bowl Consumer Decision Making (added) Ag Products ID Horticulture ID Entomology Collection Photography Judging Leaders 4 Life Share-the-Fun	Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Tyler
Day 3 Contests: 8:00 am –4:00 pm Awards: 4:00 pm	Food Challenge Ag Products ID Horticulture ID Consumer Decision Making Entomology Collection Photography Judging Educational Presentations Public Speaking	Cross Brand Cowboy Church, Tyler





## District 5 4-H Contests/ Events

Date	Event	Location
<b>2022</b>		
May 7	Shotgun Games Rifle Games & Silhouettes	5H Shooting Range, Frankston
May 14	The Ronald Barlow Memorial 3D Archery Meet	Fairway Farms, San Augustine
May 31-June 1	Horse Show and Clinic	Henderson County Fairgrounds, Athens
June 22-24	Senior Leadership Lab	TBD
July 14	District Record Book Judging	Rusk Civic Center, Rusk
August 8	State Record Book Judging – East Region	Tyler
September 10	District Leaders College	TBD

Find all  
 information  
 here!

For District 5 event, contest, and training registration information

- follow us on Facebook at **District 5 Texas 4-H**
- visit our website at <https://d54-h.tamu.edu>

## District 5 4-H Training Opportunities

Date	Opportunities	Audience	Location
<b>2022</b>			
January 22 1 to 3 pm	Finishing Touches to Your Opportunity Scholarship	Youth	Nacogdoches Extension Office – Registration required <a href="https://forms.gle/rexzSSpAL2UCbYX38">https://forms.gle/rexzSSpAL2UCbYX38</a>
February 10 5:30 to 7 pm	Developing a ZSuites Record Book	Youth	Virtual - Zoom
February 26-27 8 am to 5 pm (2 days)	Hunting Education Coach Certification	Adult leaders & Assistant coaches (14-20 years old)	Hawkeye Hunting Club, Center
March 5 1 to 4 pm	Developing a Project Record Book workshop	Youth	Nacogdoches Extension Office

## District 5 4-H Training Opportunities

Date	Opportunities	Audience	Location
<b>2022</b>			
March 19-20	Leading a Sportfishing Project	Adult leaders Teen leaders	Texas Freshwater Fishery Center, Athens
June 14	Record Book Judges' Certification	Adult leaders	Virtual - Zoom

## Texas Stock Show Dates

Date	Event	Information
<b>2022</b>		
January 14-February 5	Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo	<a href="http://www.fwssr.com">www.fwssr.com</a>
February 3-20	San Angelo Stock Show	<a href="http://www.sanangelorodeo.com">www.sanangelorodeo.com</a>
February 10-27	San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo	<a href="http://www.sarodeo.com">www.sarodeo.com</a>
February 28-March 20	Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo	<a href="http://www.rodeohouston.com">www.rodeohouston.com</a>
March 12-26	Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo	<a href="http://www.rodeoaustin.com">www.rodeoaustin.com</a>
March 10-20	Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show	<a href="http://www.rgvls.com">www.rgvls.com</a>

## State 4-H Contests/ Events

Date	Event	Location
<b>2022</b>		
January 7-9	4-H Teen Retreat	Brownwood
January 7-9	State 4-H Council Workshop	Brownwood
February 15	Opportunity Scholarship Applications Due	4H Foundation Website
March 1 – August 31	Virtual Fishing program	Statewide
March 25-26	State Indoor Archery Meet	Statewide
April 15	State Photography contest entries due	4H Online
April 15-17	Shooting Sports Extravaganza	Brownwood
April 29-May 1	Opportunity Scholarship Interviews	College Station
June 6-9	Texas 4-H Roundup Lead Academy Opportunity Scholarship Banquet Volunteer Award of Excellence Banquet	College Station



## State 4-H Contests/ Events

Date	Event	Location
2022		
June 10-15	GLOBE Tier I	Costa Rica
June 19-20	State Outdoor Challenge	Brownwood
June 21-24	Horizons Camp 1	Brownwood
June 26-30	Horizons Camp 2	Brownwood
June 27-29	Mission Possible Camp	Brownwood
July 1-10	Texas 4-H Cultural Experience	Eastern Europe
July 3-8	Texas 4-H Shooting Sports State Games (Rifle, Pistol, Muzzle loading, Hunting Skills)	Manor
July 10-13	Prime Time I	Brownwood
July 11-16	Texas 4-H Shooting Sports State Games (Shotgun and Archery)	San Antonio
July 13-15	Prime Time II	Brownwood
July 17-20	Texas 4-H Congress	Austin
<b>July 17-22</b>	<b>GLOBE Tier II (CANCELLED)</b>	<b>Costa Rica</b>
July 19-20	State Outdoor Challenge	Brownwood
July 24-29	State Horse Show	Bryan
July 25-28	State 4-H Council Workshop	Brownwood
August 8	State Record Book Judging	Statewide



For Texas 4-H event, contest, and program information

- visit our website at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/>

## National 4-H Contests/ Events

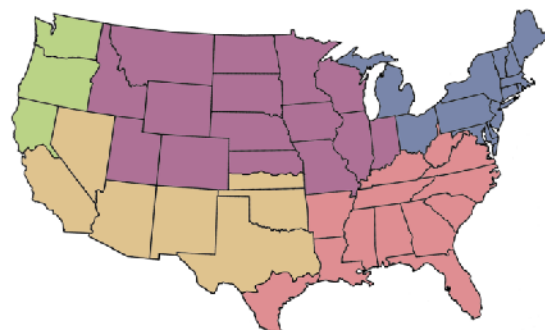
Date	Event	Location
2022		
March 26-31	National 4-H Congress	Virtual
April 17-23	National Volunteer Week	Nationwide



## GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

### MARSHALL, TEXAS

- Remove any winter-damaged branches or plants that have not begun to grow yet. You can prune spring-flowering plants when they finish blooming.
- Transplant citrus trees, ideally 2 to 5-year-old trees.
- Thin fruit to 6-inch spacing for better fruit size. Also, remember to provide adequate soil moisture for your fruit trees during April and May for good fruit size.
- Continue fertilizing established roses.
- Warm-season lawns can be established in late April from sprigs, plugs, or sod. Start mowing established lawns.
- Begin fertilizing Bermuda and warm-season grasses this month.
- Annual flowers can be seeded now. You can sow the seeds directly in the flower beds, but remember to keep the soil moist until the seeds germinate.
- Thin out flower seedlings so that the plants have enough space to grow. You can transplant the extra seedlings to another area.
- Prune winter damage on your herb plants. Look for new growth developing on the lower part of the herbs, and cut the plant back by 1/3 to 1/2 to the healthy new shoots.
- Remember to water your plants more frequently as the weather warms up and the days lengthen.
- Continue planting vegetables, such as beans, carrots, cucumbers, melons, peppers, squashes, and sunflowers.
- Plant okra toward the end of the month, as it does better with warmer soil.
- Plant vegetables in successive plantings so that you can have a continuous harvest throughout the growing season.
- Remember to thin out your vegetable plants so that they have enough room to grow. If they are too crowded, the plants will become weak.
- Beware of insects and other pests in your garden. Keep an eye on your garden for aphids, spider mites, etc., and take action when necessary to eliminate the pests.



- Pacific Northwest
- Southwest
- Midwest/Mountain
- Northeast
- Southeast

# Cattle Price Trends

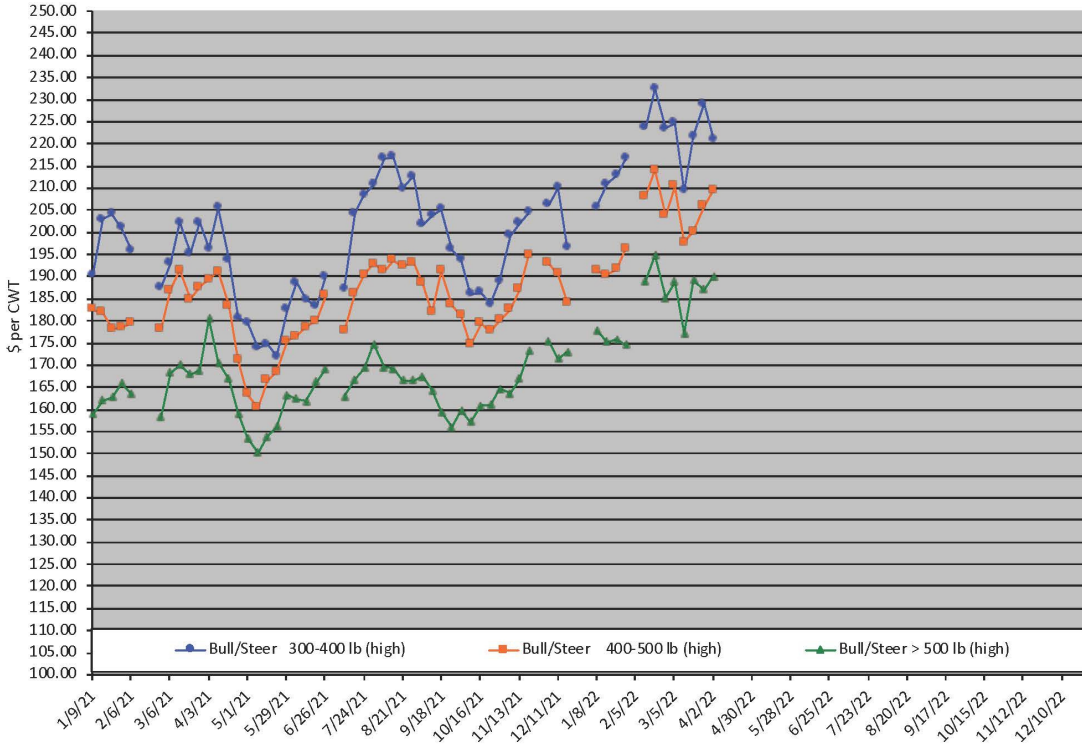
Cattle price trends for the week ending 4/2/22. The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas.

## 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

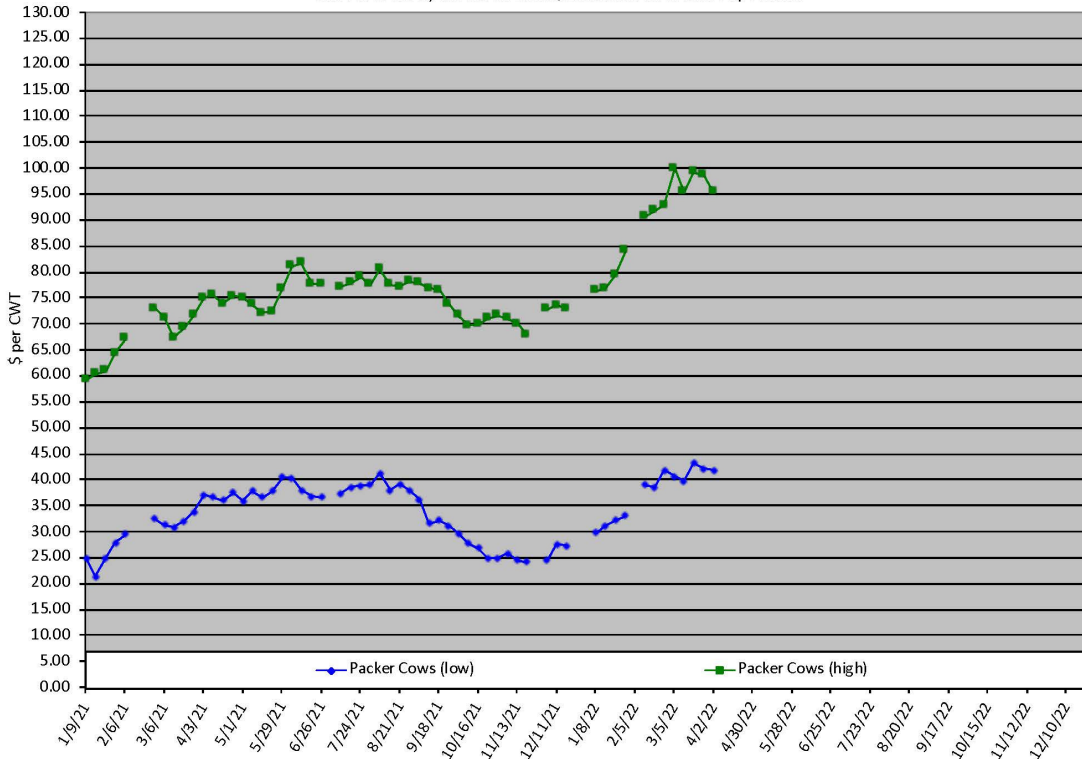


## Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of High 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





# Ag in the Evening Virtual Program

Brought to you by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Offices of: Houston, Gregg, & Tyler Counties

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

April 12, 2022

Weed Control Options  
for Drought Mgmt

Zoom Meeting

**SPEAKER:**

**Dr. Vanessa Olson**

April 26, 2022

Drought Considerations  
& Planning for Limited Forages

Zoom Meeting

**SPEAKER:**

**Dr. Jason Banta**

May 10, 2022

Fertilizer Blends &  
Purchase Considerations  
with Cost Spreadsheet

Zoom Meeting

**SPEAKER:**

**Dr. Jason Banta**

**All Programs start at 6pm**

**Click TITLE of each program to register**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension Program should contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office at 936.544.7502 at least one week prior to the program or event.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

**Harrison County**

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

**102 W. Houston Marshall, TX**

**903-935-8413**

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