Scott Strawn CEA-AG
402 Expo Dr
Perryton, TX 79070
Tel: 806-435-4501
scott.strawn@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Upcoming Meetings

5-State Beef Conference-Pampa

The 11th Annual 5-State Beef Conference on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at Pampa, TX: Registration will begin at 9:30 am with program running from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
The program follows:

- Market Update, Derrell Peel, OSU
- Managing Around Wildfire, Tim Steffens, WTAMU
- The Cow Calf Perspective on Bovine Respiratory Disease, John Richeson, WTAMU
  Water Quality in the Southern Great Plains, Robin Cox, ServiTech Laboratories
- Water for Cattle: Quality, Quantity, and Efficiency, Paul Beck and Britt Hicks, OSU
- Research Updates: Kendall Samuelson, WTAMU and Jenny Jennings, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

A meal will be served. The RSVP registration deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 13; Registration fee is $30
To register contact the Ochiltree County Extension office at 806-435-4501 or email scott.strawn@ag.tamu.edu

Northeast Panhandle Beef Conference-Perryton

The Northeast Panhandle Beef Conference will be held on Thursday, December 10 at the Ochiltree County Expo Center in Perryton. Dr. Tiffany Lashmet will speak on Range Laws & Fencing. Dr. Jason Smith will speak on selecting cows for their environment. Registration is at 9:30 am and programs begin at 10:00 am.

Amarillo Farm Show-CEU program

**All pesticide applicators needing CEU'S have a great opportunity to get 6 of them during the Amarillo Farm Show on Tuesday,
December 3. Mark your calendars, more details to follow**

Private Applicator Training-Perryton

All producers needing a private applicator license will have the opportunity to attend a training to prepare them for testing in Perryton at the Ochiltree County Expo on Wednesday, December 11 at 8:00 am. **To participate in this program you must pre register by calling the extension office on or before November 15, 2019 at 806-435-4501.** Cost for the training us $40

NOVEMBER 2019

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Ochiltree Crop Profitability & Farm Bill Sign Up Seminar

Mark your calendar for Tuesday January 14, 2020 for a crop profitability and farm bill seminar. This will be held at the Ochiltree Expo Center. Participants will get the latest crop budgets and market outlooks. In addition to that, participants will have the opportunity to bring their records and run the Farm Bill Decision Aid tools. Bring your laptop and laptops will be provided.

AgriLife Extension offers farm bill sign-up help, decision tool

Writer: Kay Ledbetter, 806-677-5608, skledbetter@ag.tamu.edu
Contacts: DeDe Jones, 806-677-5667, dljones@ag.tamu.edu
Justin Benavidez, 806-677-5614, justin.benavidez@ag.tamu.edu

Implementation of the newest farm bill has been slow, but the regulations are written, and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced sign up officially began Sept. 3.

However, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is l producers at meetings around the state that since so much is still undecided, it may be prudent to wait when they can sign up for 2019 and 2020.

The 2014 farm bill, which covered 2014-2018, expired at the end of 2018. The new 2018 farm bill passed in December and covers 2019-2023 crop years. Sign-up in 2019 was delayed by the government shutdown and is only beginning this month. But, waiting until October will provide producers the opportunity to enroll for both 2019 and 2020. Some programs are tweaked for the better, some not, enhancements have been made to Agricultural Risk Coverage, ARC, and updated yield options are offered on Price Loss Coverage, PLC.

ARC is a “shallow loss” program that covers drops in income relative to a benchmark revenue, while PLC is a “deep loss” program that covers losses in income due to national price declines of a covered commodity below established reference prices.

Producers will not be allowed to update or reallocate base acres, and base acres planted to pasture or grass will no longer receive payments. That only affects farms where all base acres were out of production from Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2017, and these farms can apply to participate in a grassland incentive contract under the Conservation Stewardship Program for $18 per acre.

The Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M, or AFPC, College Station, can help producers work through their options with the 2018 Farm Bill Decision Aid.

The AFPC Farm Bill Decision aid will address two major decisions that must be considered under the 2018 farm bill. The first decision for producers to consider is whether or not they want to update their payment yields. The decision aid allows producers to enter their 2014 PLC payment yield, and the information associated with the chosen crop, practice, acreage and yield for that farm. The tool will use that information to calculate an updated payment yield based on the regulations in the farm bill.

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Farm Bill Continued from pg 2
The second decision the decision aid can help address is the choice between ARC and PLC. Using the higher of either the updated yield or the yield set under the 2014 bill and a preset price or a self-set projection of price, the tool will provide producers with expected payment outcomes for ARC and PLC.

There are a few important things producers should remember when using the tool.
First, the tool is only set for the 2019-2020 crop-year decision, the first to be made under the 2018 farm bill. Second, expected payments produced by the decision aid do not account for a government sequester, payment limits or interactions with crop insurance.

Another tweak this year is in the 2014 farm bill is producers can choose either ARC or PLC for each covered crop by farm number in 2019-2020, then make changes again in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Another change beginning in 2019, ARC payments will be based on the physical location of a farm rather than the administrative county, which is an improvement over the 2014 farm bill.

Also, in the 2018 farm bill there was little change to crop insurance subsidies or payment limits. Payment limits remain at $125,000 per person, and the adjusted gross income limit to be eligible for program payments is still $900,000 per person.

There's also an improvement in conservation programs, including a gradual increase in the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, acreage from 24 million to 27 million acres. More money was also added to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, EQIP, which benefits many Texas producers.

Should Cows Receive a Nutritional Boost in the Fall?

Britt Hicks, Ph.D., Area Extension Livestock Specialist, OSU, Guymon, OK

For spring-calving herds, weaning season has arrived. Weaning would be an excellent time to evaluate the body condition of your cows. Body condition scoring (BCS) is a practical management tool to allow beef producers to distinguish differences in nutritional needs of beef cows in the herd. Simply put, BCS estimates the energy status (fat cover) of cows. The scoring system used is a 1 to 9 point scale where a BCS 1 cow is extremely thin while a BCS 9 cow is extremely fat and obese. A BCS 5 cow is in average flesh or body condition. Most commercial range cows will have scores ranging from 4 to 6. A BCS of 5 to 6 is a logical target for most cow herds. A change of 1 BCS is equivalent to about 90 lb of body weight.

Accessing BCS at weaning can be useful to determine which cows or heifers need the most gain prior to calving providing producers an opportunity to give spring-calving cows, especially first- and second-calf cows, a little nutritional boost if needed. The BCS of beef cows at the time of calving has a huge impact on subsequent rebreeding performance. It is recommended that the target BCS at calving should be at least 5 for mature beef cow and 6 for 1st-calf-heifers. Data presented in Figure 1 (summary of seven trials, cow and heifers) illustrates the effect that BCS at calving has on pregnancy rate. These data clearly show that the variation in pregnancy rate narrows considerably as BCS approaches 6.

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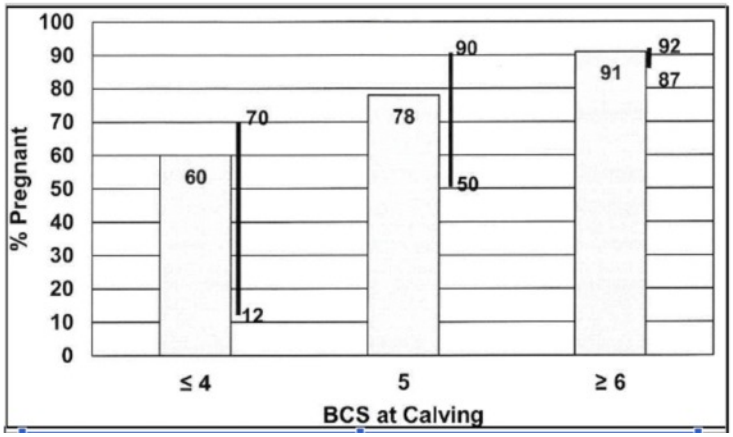

Figure 1. Effect of Body Condition Score (BCS) at calving on pregnancy rate. The lines represent the variation in pregnancy rates between trials. Adapted from Kunkle et al., 1994.

The time period from weaning to calving has proven to be the easiest and most economical time to add condition to cattle since nutrient requirements are at the low point of the production year. In addition, weather is not as stressful and forage value of warm-season grasses is still decent enough to put some condition on a cow. So evaluate body condition and determine whether a little boost might be beneficial. As pregnancy advances, it becomes more difficult to add condition.

This nutritional boost can come from feeding a low rate (pounds per day) of a high protein supplement at a time most producers are not feeding supplement. If forage availability is adequate and a cow can achieve a full intake daily, a key nutrient lacking in the forage is crude protein (CP). The cow requires protein, but just as importantly, the ruminal microorganisms require protein (nitrogen) to digest the forage providing energy and protein to the cow.

Low dietary protein can reduce microbial activity, which in turn, reduces forage digestion and intake which results in reduced energy consumption by the cow. Crude protein content declines as warm-season forages grow and progress to dormancy. As rule of thumb, when forage crude protein drops below 7 to 8% (dry matter basis), the rumen is nitrogen-deficient and forage intake de-clines rapidly (see Figure 2).

Providing a small amount of supplemental crude protein can elicit a very efficient response.

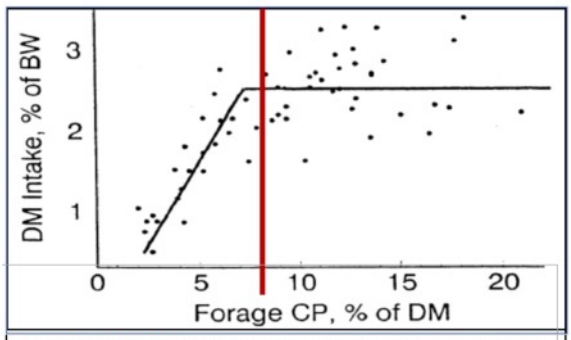

Figure 2. Forage intake in relation to crude protein concentration in forage. Adapted from Moore and Kunkel, 1994.

The total amount needed is about 0.35 to 0.4 pounds of supplemental CP per day, or about 1 pound per day (7 pounds per week) of a supplement containing 35 to 40% CP. The supplement does not have to be delivered to the cattle daily. When feeding cubes, the week's allotment of supplement can be divided into two or three feedings.

The supplement can also be delivered in a self-fed product such as a liquid, a poured tub, or a block. If the supplement contains non-protein nitrogen (NPN), then feed the dry supplement more frequently and allow cattle to adapt to the self-fed products. With low to medium quality forages, natural protein sources are better utilized than protein provided by NPN (urea). Research results and field experience suggests that that the CP equivalent of NPN should be discounted by 50 to 70% in range and pasture supplements.

Choose your method of delivery based on the cost per unit of crude protein in the supplement and the cost to deliver to the cattle. If calves are still on the cows, the supplement will act as a creep feed for the calves. Not all cows will need a push. But some may benefit from a little push in the fall to put on additional condition before the winter sets in.

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Following is the results for Uniform Corn Hybrid trial that was conducted south of Spearman on the
Travis Patterson Farm. If you have questions contact Scott Strawn @ 806-435-4501

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Soil & Crop Sciences

Spearman
2019 Corn
Performance Trial

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Brand	Hybrid	GE Trait(s)	Days to 50% Silk	Plant Height (in)	Ear Height (in)	Plants per Acre	Moisture %	Test Weight (lb/bu)	Yield (bu/acre)
Dyna-Gro	D54SS74	SmartStax	74	93	35	33,136	20.9	57.6	284
Dyna-Gro	D55VC80	Genuity VT Double PRO	75	95	38	29,916	20.7	57.6	282
LG Seeds	67C45	SmartStax	75	98	41	29,925	22.1	58.8	276
Dyna-Gro	D54VC14	Genuity VT Double PRO	73	91	33	29,428	20.5	59.1	270
REV	25LPR26	Leptra	76	103	40	27,517	21.0	57.6	270
Dyna-Gro	D53TC19	Genuity Trecepta	72	91	36	28,482	19.0	58.6	270
Dyna-Gro	D58VC65	Genuity VT Double PRO	74	96	38	29,864	22.6	57.8	268
Progeny	EXP1913	Genuity VT Double PRO	73	94	38	27,748	19.7	58.8	268
Integra	6588	Genuity VT Double PRO	75	99	37	30,549	22.6	57.9	267
Dyna-Gro	D52VC63	Genuity VT Double PRO	74	95	35	30,114	20.0	57.6	267
LG Seeds	64C30	Genuity Trecepta	72	98	40	27,290	21.3	58.2	266
Progeny	PGY9117	Genuity VT Double PRO	75	97	37	30,483	22.0	57.9	265
REV	24LPR70	Leptra	73	89	37	29,948	21.0	59.0	265
REV	26BHR30	Optimum Intrasect	76	97	35	29,412	22.5	59.2	264
Dyna-Gro	D57VC17	Genuity VT Double PRO	75	94	38	30,038	22.8	59.0	264
Integra	6533	Genuity VT Double PRO	73	96	39	28,450	20.7	58.9	262
Integra	6695	Genuity Trecepta	72	93	37	29,053	21.3	58.6	260
Dyna-Gro	D53VC33	Genuity VT Double PRO	72	99	37	31,049	17.9	58.7	259
Integra	6410	SmartStax	73	88	32	30,015	20.5	58.7	257
B-H Genetics	8721	N/A	74	95	34	29,848	21.8	58.2	255
Integra	6720	Genuity DG VT Double PRO	75	96	37	31,070	22.4	58.8	253

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Brand	Hybrid	GE Trait(s)	Days to 50% Silk	Plant Height (in)	Ear Height (in)	Plants per Acre	Moisture %	Test Weight (lb/bu)	Yield (bu/acre)
LG Seeds	5643	Genuity VT Double PRO RIB	74	97	36	28,902	19.8	57.2	253
Integra	CX801115	Genuity DG VT Double PRO	73	96	36	27,276	20.5	57.7	252
Progeny	PGY8116	SmartStax	77	97	43	30,351	22.7	58.7	252
Dyna-Gro	D55VC45	Genuity VT Double PRO	74	97	39	31,064	21.3	58.6	252
Progeny	EXP1915	SmartStax	75	91	36	28,871	21.4	60.0	251
Dyna-Gro	D51VC67	Genuity VT Double PRO	72	90	35	28,736	19.4	57.7	249
Dyna-Gro	D52VC15	Genuity VT Double PRO	72	90	34	30,169	17.4	58.8	248
Dyna-Gro	D52VC50	Genuity VT Double PRO	73	94	35	28,156	20.7	57.5	247
Dyna-Gro	D52VC91	Genuity VT Double PRO	72	92	34	27,914	19.9	59.6	247
Progeny	PGY9114	Genuity VT Double PRO	72	92	32	31,276	20.4	59.1	246
LG Seeds	66C32	Genuity VT Double PRO	76	95	37	25,796	22.9	57.1	242
Pioneer	P1395R	RR2	74	99	35	27,700	19.2	59.9	237
Dyna-Gro	D49VC70	Genuity VT Double PRO	72	90	33	28,471	18.6	58.7	237
Dyna-Gro	D50VC30	Genuity VT Double PRO	73	95	39	27,061	17.7	58.9	217

Brand	Hybrid	GE Trait(s)	Days to 50% Silk	Plant Height (in)	Ear Height (in)	Plants per Acre	Moisture %	Test Weight (lb/bu)	Yield (bu/acre)
		Mean	74	95	36	29,288	20.7	58.5	258
		C.V. %	1.0	2.9	6.2	5.9	3.3	0.8	4.7
		P>f (hybrid)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
		L.S.D.	1.0	3.8	3.1	2,447.9	1.0	0.6	17.2

Agronomic information

Plant Date	5/2/2019
Harvest Date	9/25/2019
Irrigated	Yes
Row Spacing (in)	30
Number of Rows	2
Seeds per Acre	32,000
N (lb/ac)	270
P2O5 (lb/ac)	70
K2O (lb/ac)	0
Precipitation (in)	24
Irrigation (in)	20

Herbicide

8 oz/ac 24D + 32 oz/ac Roundup applied as burndown. 2 oz/ac Valor applied in March. 3oz/ac Balance Flexx + 5 oz/ac Starane + 32 oz/ac Roundup applied right after planting.

Trial Notes

*0.5lb/ac Zinc applied when strip-tilled

Soil Type	Silty clay loam
Tillage	Strip-tilled
Previous Crop	Cotton

Cooperator Travis Patterson

Four replications of each hybrid are planted in a randomized block design. Model : yield = hybrid blk. LSD provided when hybrid significant at p < 0.05. Yields highlighted in yellow are not statistically different from the top ranked hybrid. Plots were planted using a SRES Advanced planter with Monosem units. Plots were harvested with a JD 3300 plot combine fitted with a Harvest Master GrainGage System. Precipitation data was recorded from January 1 through the harvest date.
For additional information contact:
Dr. Ronnie Schnell / Katrina Horn
ronschnell@tamu.edu / khorn@tamu.edu
979-845-2935 / 979-845-8505

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