

# OCHILTREE COUNTY AG NEWSLETTER

## TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

### BEGINNING QUICKBOOKS ONLINE TRAINING FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

**Course Information**

QuickBooks Online is a powerful farm accounting software that helps small and medium-sized businesses manage their inventory, bookkeeping, financial reports, and more. The primary goal of this QuickBooks course is to help farmers and ranchers improve their financial record-keeping and analysis capabilities, allowing them to make better decisions.

**Online Course**

Enroll today to learn how to make QuickBooks Online help your business!

---

**COURSE DETAILS**

**COST:** \$55.00

**PACE:** SELF-PACED

**DURATION:** 3 HOURS

**REGISTRATION:**

[HTTPS://TX.AG/BEGINNINGQUICKBOOKSONLINE](https://tx.ag/beginningquickbooksonline)

AGRILIFELEARN.TAMU.EDU

**LESSONS**

- UTILIZE PROGRAM FEATURES & ACCOUNTING TERMS
- IDENTIFY LIST BASICS AND HOW TO NAVIGATE THE CHART OF ACCOUNTS
- IDENTIFY THE FORMS AND REGISTERS MOST OFTEN ENCOUNTERED IN QUICKBOOKS ONLINE

**CONTACT**

**DEDE JONES**  
AGRI LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAM SPECIALIST

806.677.5600

[djones@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:djones@ag.tamu.edu)

### Preparation and Response to Wildfires *"It's more than a Wildfire Meeting"*

**November 9 – 200 N. Ballard Pampa, TX (806-669-8033)**

*Satellite locations:*

Garza County Extension Office (225 Main St., Post, TX.) 520-405-0221  
Lubbock Co. Office (916 Main, Ste. 201, Lubbock, TX.) 806-775-1740 ext. 401  
Crosby County Extension Office (201 W Aspen, Crosbyton, TX.) 806-675-2347  
Potter County Extension Office (3301 SE. 10<sup>th</sup>, Amarillo, TX.) 806-373-0713  
Hansford County Extension Office (223 Main, Spearman, TX.) 806-659-4130

---

**Registration: 9:00 a.m.**

9:30 a.m. – Strategies for wildfire preparation utilizing grazing and fire  
– Dr. Laura Goodman, OSU State Range Extension Specialist

10:15 a.m. – Effects of wildfires on rangeland and how to manage pastures post fire  
– Adam Isaacs, Hemphill County rancher

11:00 a.m. – Brush Management impact on fire prevention  
– Jason Abraham, Rancher, Owner and Founder of Bush Bullet

Noon – Lunch Provided by Capital Farm Credit (Pampa site only)  
– Dr. Brandon Dukes

**NRCS updates on EQIP opportunities and CRP**

1:00 p.m. – Panel Discussion – Preparing for the Response and Understanding Roles – Ranchers, County Officials, Texas A&M Forest Service, Fire Chief, EMC, Volunteers, Etc.)

**Please RSVP to location (\$10 fee at door)**

## AGRILIFE WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE MEETING NOVEMBER 9

IN-PERSON AT EDC IN PAMPA AND SATELLITE LOCATIONS AROUND THE REGION (SEE BELOW)

The [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) will host the AgriLife Wildlife Preparation and Response workshop Nov. 9 at locations in the Panhandle and South Plains region. The speakers will be in person at the Pampa location with virtual satellite locations, along with numbers to call to RSVP, listed below. Please RSVP by November 4 if you plan to attend.

**There will be a \$10.00 charge to attend any of the locations.**

- Economic Development Corporation (In-person), 200 N. Ballard, Pampa, Tx. (806-669-8033)
- Garza Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 225 Main, Post, Tx (520-405-0221)
- Lubbock Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 916 Main, Suite 201, Lubbock, Tx. (806-775-1740 ext. 401)
- Crosby Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 201 W. Aspen, Crosbyton, Tx. (806-675-2347)
- Potter Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 3301 SE. 10th, Amarillo, Tx. (806-373-0713)
- Hansford Co. AgriLife Extension Office, 223 Main, Spearman, Tx. (806-659-4130)

**REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M. AT EACH LOCATION.**

This program will provide information to prepare for a wildfire event and learn more about the players that respond and how the process works. "This is more than a wildfire meeting with education on grazing management, prescribed burn, controlling brush in pastures, CRP, and EQUIP programs offered from NRCS. Along with testimony from those that have experienced past fire events."

---

## TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

---

### ON THE AGENDA -WILDFIRE PREPARATIONS

THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M. THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AND SPEAKERS ARE ON THE AGENDA:

9:30 A.M. – STRATEGIES FOR WILDFIRE PREPARATION UTILIZING GRAZING AND FIRE.

- DR. LAURA GOODMAN, OSU STATE RANGE EXTENSION SPECIALIST

10:15 A.M. – EFFECTS OF WILDFIRES ON RANGELAND AND HOW TO MANAGE PASTURES POST FIRE.

- ADAM ISAACS, HEMPHILL COUNTY RANCHER

11:00 A.M. – BRUSH MANAGEMENT IMPACT ON FIRE PREVENTION

JASON ABRAHAM, RANCHER, OWNER AND FOUNDER OF BUSH BULLET

NOON -- LUNCH PROVIDED BY CAPITAL FARM CREDIT (PAMPA SITE ONLY)

- DR. BRANDON DUKES

NRCS UPDATES ON EQUIP OPPORTUNITIES AND CRP

1:00 P.M. – PANEL DISCUSSION – PREPARING FOR THE RESPONSE AND UNDERSTANDING ROLES - RANCHERS, COUNTY OFFICIALS, TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE, FIRE CHIEF, EMC, VOLUNTEERS, ETC.)

---

## ARTICLES OF INTREST

---

### HAY TESTING...KNOW WHAT YOU'RE FEEDING

Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson-Forage Extension Specialist,  
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

One of the first considerations when purchasing hay is that it should be based on individual animal requirements. For optimal production, forage quality should be matched as closely as possible to the nutritional needs of the animal. Low quality forage can result in reduced animal performance and increased supplemental feeding costs. Whereas hay of sufficient quality, little or no supplementation will be necessary to meet the animals' nutritional needs.



Keep in mind that not all forage or hay is created equal. There is great variation between forages and nutrient content can vary dramatically even within a particular type of forage. Several factors influence hay quality, such as maturity (time of harvesting), forage species & variety, fertilization, temperature, leaf to stem ratio and weather at harvesting/baling.

Regardless if you are buying hay or feeding the hay you raised it is a good idea to test the hay to determine what if any supplementation will be needed when the hay is fed. When collecting samples a good practice is to sample approximately 10% of the bales from a particular cutting or load using a hay probe. Samples should be taken from bales that would represent hay from the entire field. After taking samples from 10% of the bales combine the samples and remove a portion of the composite to send off for analysis.

Crude protein content is the most common thing people think about when testing hay. While crude protein content is important, a good estimate of TDN (total digestible nutrients) is as important and in many cases more important than crude protein. There are a multitude of both commercial and university forage labs around the country. The [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory](#) does offer forage analysis College Station, TX. For additional information on forage testing or available forage labs contact your local county extension agent.

If you haven't done so already, now is the time to get a nutrient analysis of all available hay and forage, sort your cattle based on their nutrient requirements, properly match available forage and hay to the different groups of cattle and make sure their nutrient requirements are being met. Feeding cattle is never cheap but producers with information about what they are feeding can be more efficient.

---

## **USDA NASS PUBLISHES CASH LEASE DATA FOR 2023**

Tiffany Lashmet-Ag Law-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Each year, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a nationwide survey to gather data and compile a report showing average cash rental rates across the United States. These results are based upon the survey responses from landowners and producers around the country. Please note that all reported cash rent amounts are listed in a per acre/per year format.



To view the database with the data for each state, [click here](#).

To view the database with data for each county in the US, [click here](#).

To see a chart listing the cash rents by county for Texas, [click here](#). Here's how things broke down in the Lone Star State.

### **Pastureland**

The statewide average for pastureland was \$8.50/acre, which is up from \$7.70 last year. The highest pastureland rental rates were reported in Falls County at \$24.50/acre, Red River County at \$23.00/acre, and Matagorda and Lamar Counties each at \$22.50/acre. Conversely, the lowest reported pastureland lease averages were in West Texas with Brewster County at \$2.20, Val Verde County at \$2.60, and Irion County at \$2.90.

### **Irrigated Cropland**

The Texas average lease rate for irrigated cropland was \$113/acre, up \$1 from 2022. Just like last year, for 2023, the highest average reported lease rates were in Hartley County (\$199/acre) and Sherman County (\$210/acre). The lowest reported rates for irrigated cropland came from Knox County (\$52.50/acre) and Armstrong County (\$60.50/acre).

## Non-Irrigated Cropland

Statewide non-irrigated cropland lease rates averaged \$31.00/acre, which remained the same as last year. The highest reported rental for non-irrigated cropland was found in Dawson County at \$54.50, Terry County at \$51, and Lynn County at \$50/acre. On the other hand, the lowest rates came from Sterling County at \$5/acre and Lampasas County at \$6.60/acre.

## District Summary

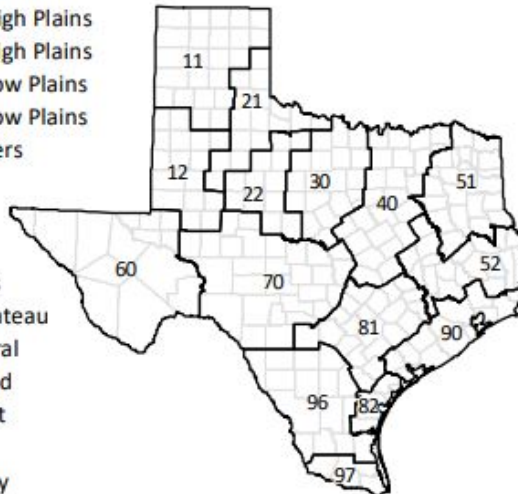
Dr. Greg Kaase pulled together the following table showing the average cash lease rates for 2022 and 2023 for each of Texas' regions.

**Cash Rents District Estimates, Dollars per Acre, Texas 2022 and 2023**

District	Pasture		Cropland			
			Irrigated		Non-Irrigated	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars	dollars
Northern High Plains	8.45	12.27	117.43	111.77	24.74	28.95
Southern High Plains	5.81	6.14	113.15	127.73	36.58	40.38
Northern Low Plains	7.49	8.27	(D)	(D)	21.32	25.05
Southern Low Plains	7.86	8.40	(D)	77.33	24.05	23.79
Cross Timbers	10.76	11.03	(D)	(D)	17.94	19.06
Blacklands	13.80	15.76	(D)	(D)	25.46	27.60
North East	14.82	16.03	(D)	(D)	19.80	19.15
South East	12.47	13.54	(D)	(D)	17.47	19.09
Trans-Pecos	3.00	4.53	(D)	133.17	(D)	(D)
Edwards Plateau	5.11	5.40	(D)	(D)	18.85	18.42
South Central	12.04	12.61	79.50	(D)	22.54	23.63
Coastal Bend	11.63	11.80	(D)	(D)	52.00	62.37
Upper Coast	11.40	12.52	73.42	71.58	34.69	38.73
South	7.35	7.98	(D)	121.87	20.43	23.14
Lower Valley	11.15	14.43	99.17	114.00	50.75	54.25
<b>State</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>8.50</b>	<b>112.00</b>	<b>113.00</b>	<b>31.00</b>	<b>31.00</b>

(D) Withheld due to insufficient number of reports.

- 11 Northern High Plains
- 12 Southern High Plains
- 21 Northern Low Plains
- 22 Southern Low Plains
- 30 Cross Timbers
- 40 Blacklands
- 51 North East
- 52 South East
- 60 Trans-Pecos
- 70 Edwards Plateau
- 81 South Central
- 82 Coastal Bend
- 90 Upper Coast
- 96 South
- 97 Lower Valley



## More Information

For more information on agricultural leases, we've got a number of resources available. If you'd like to see another report that includes average lease rates, [click here](#) to see a blog post about the Texas Rural Land Value Trends Report. To read about agricultural leases, check out Chapter 11 of the *Owning Your Piece of Texas Handbook* or our *Ranchers Agricultural Leasing Handbook*.

### Useful Links for Cash Lease Data and Land Values

The American Society of Rural Appraisers tracks this information. Their land value publication has been recently updated and can be accessed at <https://www.txasfmra.com/rural-land-trends>. Also, for general information on crop and livestock insurance, commodity markets, government programs, and just general Ag news, <https://proudtofarm.com/>. It is a one stop shop for all things related to farming and ranching.

## Should Cows Receive a Nutritional Boost in the Fall?

Britt Hicks, Area Extension Livestock Specialist -Oklahoma State University-Texas County

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.

Assessing 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. Since 1st-calf-heifers have only reached about 85% of their mature weight after calving and require additional nutrients to support growth, it is recommended that they be fed so they are a BCS of 6 at calving. 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.

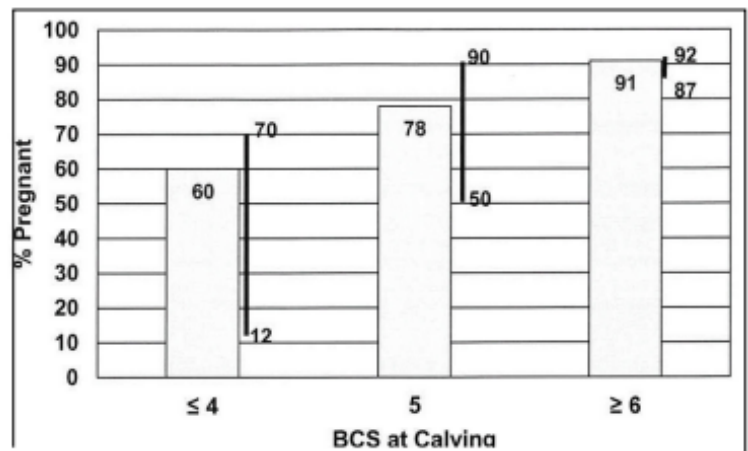


Figure 1. Effect of Body Condition Score (BCS) at calving on pregnancy rate. The lines represent the variation in pregnancy rates between trials. Adapted from Kunkle et al., 1994.

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 declines rapidly (see Figure 2).

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

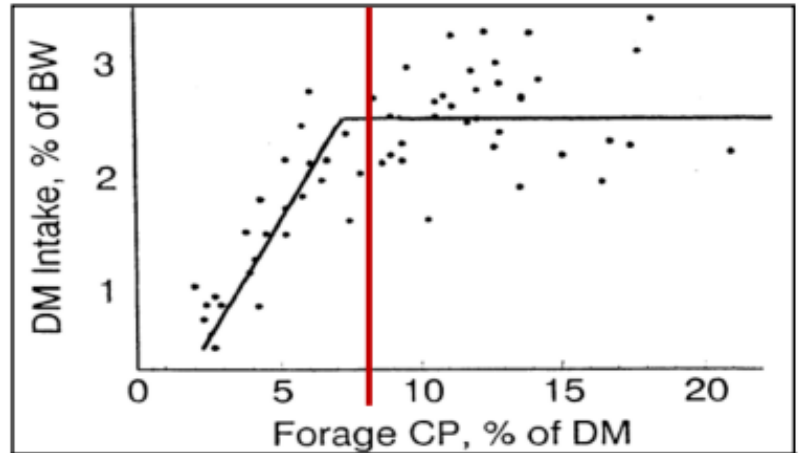


Figure 2. Forage intake in relation to crude protein concentration in forage. Adapted from Moore and Kunkel, 1994.

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.

### Texas Poison Center Network

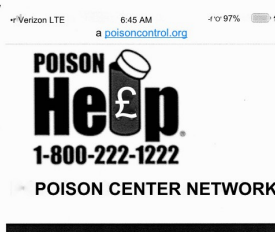
Ⓜ <http://www.poisoncontrol.org>

☎ (800)222-1222

☑ Save this in your

cell phone!

If you are blinded and can't see you can still voice dial (or call 9-1-1).



### Ready Source of Chemical Label Information

- ⦿ Labels for herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, seed treatments, growth regulators, etc.—access through <http://www.cdms.net>, click “Product Databases +” then conduct either of two searches:
  - ⦿ **A)** Enter product name then choose the specific product then its label or supplemental label (most common use)
  - ⦿ **B)** Click “CDMS Advanced Search” to search by active ingredient (looking for a generic?), find a class of chemicals labeled for a particular crop, etc.

Scott Strawn  
 County Extension Agent -Agriculture  
[scott.strawn@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:scott.strawn@ag.tamu.edu)