

AG INDUSTRIES NEWSLETTER

Serving the Agricultural Industry in Armstrong County



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Sincerely,

Whitney White
County Extension Agent
Agriculture
Armstrong County

Armstrong County Ag Conference

March 2, 2012

8:00 am to 10:30 am

Registration Fee \$10

Program Specialist

Cattle and Range Management

Ted McCollum, Beef Specialist

Implications of a Declining Cattle Inventory for the 2012 Market and Beyond

Steve Amosson, Economist

Sorghum-Sudangrass Hay Production

Brent Bean, Agronomist

Please RSVP to Extension office 226-3021 by
February 28, 2012

GRAIN SORGHUM MEETING

March 6, 2012

9 a.m to Noon

Registration Fee \$10

Lunch will be provided.

Sorghum Weed Control

Brent Bean, Agronomist

Price Outlook and Marketing Considerations for the 2012 Sorghum and Cotton Crops

Steve Amosson, Economist

Dryland Soil Water Considerations

Nich Kenny, Irrigation Specialist



DROUGHT MAY MEAN MORE DRYLAND COTTON IN TEXAS HIGH PLAINS

COLLEGE STATION – Ironically, fears of another drought may result in fewer irrigated and more dryland cotton acres in the Texas High Plains this year, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Typically, the Texas High Plains cotton acres will be nearly evenly split between dryland and irrigated, said Mark Kelley, AgriLife Extension cotton specialist, Lubbock. This adds up to about 2 million dryland cotton acres planted, with the same number of irrigated acres.



[Two-Minute Texas Crop and Weather Report for Jan. 31, 2012](#)

“Last year, we had 4.6 million acres total, with about 55 percent being dryland,” Kelley said. “Usually our acreage would be split with about a 52/48 percent mix of dryland and irrigated. Looking ahead there’s a chance that we’ll see a little more dryland than irrigated this year.”

With the area remaining dry, fears of continued drought are the biggest issue facing producers and will be at the heart of any additional shifts in planting, he said.

“They will go ahead and plant, but if we don’t get some help from Mother Nature, a lot of the irrigated producers here have indicated they will just wait and see how things look before committing to an irrigated practice in 2012,” he said.

The “wait-and-see” game could play until July 15, which is the latest date producers can certify a crop as dryland for crop insurance purposes, he said.

The producers he has talked to have indicated they plan to plant for irrigation, which is about four plants per row foot on row spacings of 40 inches, which works out to about 52,000 plants per acre, Kelly said. “Typically, Texas High Plains cotton growers will ‘pinch back’ a little for dryland, and plant about three plants per row foot.”

Input costs are considerably higher on irrigated cotton due to pumping costs, but the potential profits are higher too, so most producers with irrigation will probably go ahead for an irrigated crop, he said.

“Then they (those planting for irrigation) will play the wait-and-see game, and as the situation develops, if there hasn’t been enough rain to fully augment their normal irrigation capacity, they will squeeze back on what they can manage with their irrigation,” Kelley said.

“I would highly recommend that they stay in conversation with their crop insurance agent, and make sure everything they’re doing is communicated, so that can be insured properly,” he added. “They need to stay in contact with their insurance agent throughout the process. We don’t want anyone getting to the point where their crop is uninsurable.”

More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries:

Panhandle: The region was mostly dry and windy. Temperatures varied from seasonally normal to above normal. The high winds depleted what little moisture was received from rain and snow in previous weeks. Soil moisture was mostly very short to short. Winter wheat was in good to very poor condition, with most counties reporting poor to very poor. Farmers were preparing fields for planting. Rangeland and pastures continue to be in poor to very poor condition. Producers continued supplemental feeding of livestock.

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The Texas A&M University System
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Beef Nutritional Management 2015

Beef Nutritional Management 2015 is a series of educational activities for people involved in the Beef industry. Whether one is in the cow/calf, stocker, cattle feeding or allied industry sector, an owner, a customer-based operator or an employee; the program offers an opportunity to learn more about factors influencing beef quality and value through nutritional management. The program will consist of four meetings beginning March 1, 2012. All activities will be held at the AgriLife Extension office in Potter County, 3301 E. 10th Ave.

March 1, 2012- Introduction to Nutritional Management

March 27, 2012- Feedstuff

April 17, 2012- Forages