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AgReview

Mason County Agriculture Newsletter

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Timely rainfall helps cool-season crops establish before winter

Recent rainfall and cooler temperatures allowed producers across the state to plant cool-season crops and get root systems established before winter, said a [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) expert.

Outlook brighter coming out of drought
Throughout the last week, different areas across the state other than the Far West and Panhandle regions, received around 2 inches of rain on average, with some areas getting 3 to 5 inches of rain.

William Baule, Ph.D., [Texas A&M University Department of Atmospheric Sciences](#) regional climatologist at the Southern Regional Climate Center, said forecasts called for more rain and colder temperatures, which will continue to improve soil moisture conditions.

“Coming out of the second hottest summer for Texas, we have seen warmer-than-average temperatures until now,” Baule said. “But we’re seeing better weather trends for much of the state

going into winter.”

Entering the winter season, outlooks are showing an equal chance for above or below normal temperatures, with a higher probability for precipitation entering into the El Niño pattern.

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Livestock guardian dogs: Unsung heroes of the livestock protection business

Livestock guardian dogs are rockstars in the canine world, even if most people never see them perform live. These unique animals are so important to the ranching industry that the [Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in San Angelo](#) created an entire program dedicated to these livestock protection professionals.

Livestock guardian dogs protect the lives of sheep, goats, poultry and other livestock from predators in the area, and reduce financial losses that come with losing livestock. They save the lives of livestock and act as a deterrent to predatory wildlife, thus reducing the need for ranchers to use traps or lethal means to protect their livestock.

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Omega-6 fatty acids may be key to mitigate early embryonic loss in beef cattle

Utilizing omega-6 fatty acids as a management strategy to mitigate early embryonic loss, a major cause of reproductive and economic losses to the U.S. beef industry, is the focus of a new [Texas A&M AgriLife Research](#)-led project.

Omega-6 fatty acids have long been touted as essential fatty acids in human health and are typically derived from vegetable oils, seeds and nuts. How concerned should you be about anthrax? Two [Texas A&M AgriLife](#) experts weigh in and explain what anthrax is and what you should do if you suspect a positive case in your area.

[A team of researchers in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science has determined these same fatty acids could be a management tool in cattle pregnancies, particularly the first 28 days of gestation.](#)



[Reinaldo Cooke, Ph.D., the Burkhart Endowed Professor for Beef Cattle Research in the Department of Animal Science, will lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded project, Unraveling the Benefits of Feeding a Lipid Source Rich in Omega-6 Fatty Acids to Pregnancy Establishment and Maintenance in Beef Females.](#)

Joining Cooke from the Department of Animal Science will be [Rodolfo Cardoso, DVM, Ph.D.,](#) associate professor and reproductive physiologist, and [Ky Pohler, Ph.D.,](#) associate professor and chair of the Pregnancy and Developmental Programming Area of Excellence.

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Texas wildlife dealing with drought and fewer water resources

Texas received rain at the right time for the crucial growing stages of 2023, so in spite of worsening drought conditions, wildlife populations have been able to survive, according to a [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) expert.

Jacob Dykes, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension wildlife specialist, said winter and spring rainfall set wildlife up to have the food, water and cover needed during an extremely crucial period.

Deer populations

Having numerous water resources available during a drought year is extremely important for all species of wildlife, Dykes said. For the deer population, vegetation resources are as important as water resources, because deer get most of their water intake from the vegetation they eat.

“During a drought year, not only do they not get food because vegetation isn’t growing, they’re also not getting water from vegetation like they typically do,” he said. “We got extremely lucky this year when we received rain in the late winter and spring.”



Dykes said receiving the rainfall during the earlier months created enough vegetation to provide bucks with resources needed to recover from the rut and does the nutrition needed to support fawns, as well as created enough protective cover for fawns being born in late summer.

Dove populations

Landowners with available water resources will reap the benefits from last year’s dove hatch, as the number of mourning and white-winged doves in the state has greatly increased compared to 2022 and is above the long-term average for both species, he said.

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Mason County
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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<https://agriflifelife.tamu.edu/>

Upcoming Events

MASON COUNTY BEEF CATTLE WORKSHOP
MASON | OCTOBER 11

HILL COUNTRY CATTLEMAN'S CONFERENCE
SAN SABA | OCTOBER 25

MASON COUNTY RANGELAND FIELD DAY
MASON | DECEMBER 8

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