



Hopkins County Beef Tips

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2012

TEXAS AGRILIFE
EXTENSION SERVICE-
HOPKINS COUNTY

Economic outlook for 2012— New trends on beef production

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With winter in full swing most of our beef producers are heavily relying on grain and hay to maintain their beef herds. The drought has really moved herd reductions all over Texas with many herds reduced to 40% and many others completely sold out. The general recommendation from Texas A&M Beef Specialist is to remain cautious on repopulation numbers and keep an eye on the weather forecast. I

am including a map with the current conditions (see page 2) showing that, even with the recent rain, our rain precipitation is still way below the expected for this time of the year. As part of the drought effect, you will see many weed plants covering your pastures soon. This is a expected situation since weeds can accommodate better to the dry conditions and our bermuda grass became dormant earlier this year. I have also seen many pastures already covered with henbit

a traditionally early spring weed. Henbit is better controlled early in the fall, when the plant size is rather small, but February is the time to control grassburrs so remember to include a pre-emergent herbicide (like Prowl H2O) into your weed control program. The cattle prices outlook looks very promising and I have talked to farmers trying to get into the beef market by using beef semen into dairy cows via A.I. Some of these Holstein-Angus crosses might be in the market soon.

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N.E. Texas Cow-Calf Clinic in Winnsboro, January 25, 2012

Our multi-county cow-calf clinic is scheduled for January 25, 2012 starting at 8:00 am.at the Winnsboro livestock Commission. 2 Private Applicator Continuing Education Credits will be granted (General).

This year topics are “Brand Renewals” by Larry Hand, “So, you think you messed –up? Learn from the mistakes other made” and “Winter Feeding Options” by Dr. Jason Banta, “Proper Handling Techniques”

and “Outlook for the Beef Industry” by Dr. Ron Gill. The cost of the Cow-Calf Clinic is \$15 with lunch included. Call the Hopkins County Extension Office at 903-885-3443 to reserve a guaranteed lunch.

**HOPKINS
COUNTY BEEF
TIPS**

Mario Villarino

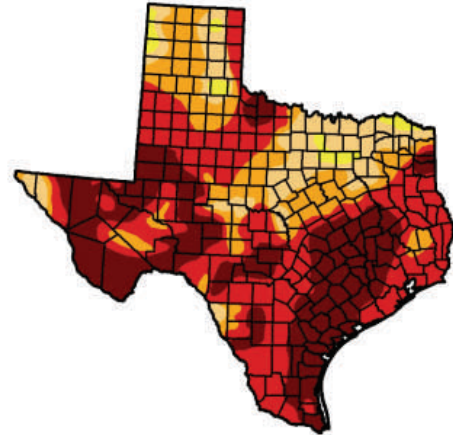
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Texas

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U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

December 27, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.01	99.99	97.83	84.81	67.32	32.36
Last Week (12/20/2011 map)	0.01	99.99	97.85	84.81	69.35	38.84
3 Months Ago (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	7.89	92.11	69.43	37.46	9.59	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.16	96.65	85.75
One Year Ago (12/21/2010 map)	13.61	86.39	73.68	38.41	9.66	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, December 29, 2011
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Up-Coming Events

- North East Texas Cow-Calf Clinic, Winnsboro Livestock Commission, January 25, 2012. Cost \$15.00 2 PAT CEU general.