

Texas producers hit hard by drought

Economic impact over \$550 million

Fort Worth, Texas -Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association President Jon Means released the following statement today after the Texas AgriLife Extension Service released a drought impact report estimating the

current economic impact of the drought to Texas livestock producers at \$569 million.

"Even though the past week has brought much needed rain to our pastures, cattle ranchers across Texas are still coping with historically

dire drought conditions. Unlike previous droughts, these particular conditions amass on top of already dismal conditions for rural Southeast Texas producers after Hurricane Ike took out thousands of cattle last fall.

"The cattle industry is critical to the Texas economy and accounts for almost half the total cash receipts for all agriculture products in Texas.

"Our members are forced to either buy supplemental

feed, which is extremely expensive, or put parts of or their entire herd on the market early. Both of these options affect the industry economically. Since producers across the entire state are experiencing some sort of drought conditions, large amounts of cattle are entering the supply chain earlier than normal, ultimately driving the price way down.

"Members of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association were relieved to see Governor Perry ask U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack to designate all 254 counties in Texas as disaster areas.

"The new administration will have to answer the

Governor's call in order to release any federal emergency funds to our producers. We are hopeful this task will be carried out in a swift manner. In the mean time, members of TSCRA will continue to work the state and federal funding chain, and do what we always do during times of drought... pray for more rain."

According to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the economic impact of drought for livestock is estimated to be \$569 million from November, 2008 until March 1, 2009. When drought losses from earlier in 2008 are added to those this winter the total loss is \$829 million.

Chute 'n the Bull *by Tommy Neyland*



Tommy Neyland

With the 2009 Spring calving season nearing, Robert Wells, Ph.D., a Livestock Consultant with The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, offers cattle producers a few tips for improving the life and production of replacement, first-calf heifers. "With margins tightening, producers must make sure to maximize lifetime cow profit potential starting with the first calf," Wells said. "Taking care of the heifer's health needs is top priority." Vaccinations serve

as the first line of defense. Wells suggests vaccinating open heifers for respiratory diseases, blackleg, Vibriosis, Leptospirosis and Brucellosis. Internal and external parasites (flies, lice, ticks, worms and flutes) should also be treated. Wells stressed that before introducing them into a replacement program, beef producers should test for persistently infected (PI) bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV). The next step is to conduct proper breeding. This includes breeding a heifer to a bull with high-quality genetics and low calving birth weight. Wells recommended that heifers be bred to calve at least 30 days prior to the main herd. This allows the heifer extra time to start cycling and to be rebred at the beginning of the next breeding season. Additionally, she should have older, heavier calves at weaning every year from then on. Heifer diet plays another key role in the process. At calving and breeding times, the heifer should be in a body condition score (BCS) of 5.5 to 6. Correct feeding will help her

reach and maintain the right BCS. A heifer that is in proper condition will provide the best opportunity to rebreed for her second calf. "Keeping the heifers on your best pastures and feeding them adequately with high-quality hay or supplemental feed will ensure that they will gain the proper amount," Wells said. "A heifer should be gaining at a rate of 1.5 to 1.75 pounds per day." Wells said that a common misconception is that producers can reduce calf size and calving difficulty by restricting a heifer's nutrition; however, genetics predominantly dictate calving difficulty. Wells offered one final tip: Keep the heifers separated from the mature herd. "Bred heifers require a little more attention than the mature cows," Wells said. "It is much easier to provide proper care if they are not commingled with the mature cow herd." If possible, Wells suggested, continue supplementing feed and keep the heifers separated from the herd until after peak lactation (90-100 days post-calving). "For many

producers, having heifers on their operation is frustrating at best," Wells said. "But with a few simple considerations, developing first-calf heifers can be financially rewarding over the productive lifetime of the cow in the herd. If you take care of her, she'll take care of you." You can find this and past articles on the web at www.mycountrytractor.com for your reference. Extension programs serve of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

On the Set

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Sudoku Solution #46

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BUFFALO LIVESTOCK REPORT

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sale Date: 3-14-09 | Choice Pairs.....N/A | 600-700 lbs.....90-99 |
| Head Count: 276 | Good Pairs.....825-990 | 700-800 lbs.....81-88 |
| Last Week: 1109 | Plain Pairs.....525-750 | Heifer Calves & Yearlings |
| Sellers: 45 | Bred Cows 3-6 Yr Old.....500-800 | <i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i> |
| Buyers: 31 | Steer/Bull Calves & Yearlings | 150-200 lbs.....85-130 |
| Cutter Cows.....43-53.50 | <i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i> | 200-300 lbs.....85-125 |
| Fat Cows.....43-53.50 | 150-200 lbs.....105-135 | 300-400 lbs.....85-110 |
| Canner Cows.....30-49 | 200-300 lbs.....105-130 | 400-500 lbs.....85-112 |
| Slaughter Bulls Steady/Down | 300-400 lbs.....102-129 | 500-600 lbs.....78-105 |
| Heavy Bulls.....62-63.50 | 400-500 lbs.....101-123 | 600-700 lbs.....74-91 |
| Light Bulls.....55-55.50 | 500-600 lbs.....96-114 | 700-800 lbs.....65-80 |
| Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Cows | | |

GROESBECK LIVESTOCK REPORT

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Date of Sale: 3-12-09 | Young Bred Cows.....750-1000 | 500-600.....98-105 |
| Head Count: 314 | Older Plain Cows.....450-770 | 600-700.....90-102 |
| Cut/Boner.....40-46 | Good Choice Pairs.....1000-1200 | 700-800.....87-92 |
| Canner Cow.....44-48 | Common Medium Pair.....650-850 | <i>Heifers Good & Choice</i> |
| Breaker Utility Com Cow.....45-51.50 | Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings | Up to 200.....----- |
| Thin Cows.....34 | <i>Steers Good & Choice</i> | 300-400.....95-105 |
| Bulls Yield Grade 1&2.....56-60 | Up to 200.....----- | 400-500.....90-103 |
| Bulls Yield Grade 3&4.....53-55 | 300-400.....100-124 | 500-600.....85-92 |
| Stocker Cows | 400-500.....100-115 | 600-700.....80-85 |

ANDERSON CO. LIVESTOCK REPORT

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|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date of Sale: 3-11-09 | 400-500.....87-112 | 500-600.....80-96 |
| Head Count: 211 | 500-600.....85-106 | 600-700.....75-80 |
| Buyers: 32 | 600-700.....80-99 | 700-800.....67-70 |
| Sellers: 45 | 700-800.....75-84 | Slaughter Cows.....28-50 |
| Steers/Bull Calves & Yearlings | Heifers Calves & Yearlings | Slaughter Bulls.....45-59 |
| 200-300.....95-122 | 200-300.....90-105 | Stocker Cows .. 425.00-800.00 |
| 300-400.....92-114 | 300-400.....85-100 | Pairs..... 675.00-950.00 |
| | 400-500.....82-98 | |

EAST TEXAS LIVESTOCK REPORT

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Date: 3-10-09 | Slaughter Bulls47.50-59.50 | 305-400.....95-102 |
| Volume: 952 | Bred Cows520-740/hd | 405-500.....84-97 |
| Tested: 247 | Cow/Calf Pairs700-1000 | 505-600.....80-93 |
| Sellers: 161 | Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1's | 605-800.....73-84 |
| Total Buyers: 59 | 150-200.....120-144 | |
| Packer Buyers: 4 | 205-300.....115-116 | |
| Order Buyers: 10 | 305-400.....102-114 | |
| Cattle Companies: 19 | 405-500.....96-112 | |
| Feeder Orders: 121 | 505-600.....85-103 | |
| Slaughter Cows | 605-800.....79.50-93 | |
| Canners.....21-34.00 | Feeder Heifers - Large Frame#1 | |
| Boning/Utility.....35-42.00 | 150-200.....118-132.50 | |
| Cutters.....43-49.50 | 205-300.....110-107 | |

Compared to last week:
All classes of feeder steers and heifers ended steady to firm. Slaughter cows finished \$2 higher with the slaughter bulls \$1.50 higher. Buyer demand was decent on a mostly thin and mixed quality offering.

TDA Market Recap March 9, 2009

AUSTIN - (March. 9, 2009) For the week ending March 7, 2009, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were again uneven and up and down the board, from \$4 lower to mostly steady to \$7 higher. Fed cattle cash prices were near unchanged. Uncertainties about future beef demand and volatile grain prices pressured cattle markets. Cotton cash prices were unchanged from a week ago and grain prices ended the week modestly higher. Stock markets and crude oil prices continue to be the primary drivers behind fluctuating grain markets. As for futures markets, feeder cattle, finished cattle and cotton were lower, while wheat, corn and lumber were

higher. No significant rain fell anywhere in the state as drought conditions continue to spread. The entire state is in abnormally dry to exceptional drought conditions and topsoil moisture was reported in mostly very short to short supply statewide. Spring fieldwork continued with field preparations and planting underway in many areas. However, dry conditions have slowed progress. Corn planting was 20 percent complete compared to 33 percent at this time last year and 15 percent on average. Grain sorghum was 6 percent planted, well behind the 22 percent a year ago and normal 11 percent.



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DONALD CARR BUYER'S GROUP OF BUFFALO 2009

The name has changed, but the Donald Carr legacy continues in support for the youth of Leon County. This group is made up of local businesses as well as many individuals. If you wish to make a contribution for this year's sale, please follow the instructions below.

Checks should be made to:

Leon County Youth Livestock Show

Please deliver checks by noon, Wednesday April 1st to Lori Reid's office. (J.P. office in Buffalo 903-322-4795)

Your support is greatly appreciated!

For more information, please contact:

Larry Lynch: 903-322-5245 office

Lori Reid: 903-322-4795 office

Robbie Robinson: 903-322-3101 office

Johnny Williams: 903-322-4406 home

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