TEXAS COUNTY AG NEWSLETTER

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HOOKER AND OPREC DRYLAND VARIETY TRIAL RESULTS

The initial yield information is listed in the following charts from the Hooker dryland plots and the OREC dryland plots. Thank you to Ernest and Dan Herald for having the Hooker plots on their field.

Results from Hooker Dryland Wheat Variety Trial, 2007

VARIETY	YIELD (bu/ac)	TEST WEIGHT (lb/bu)
TAM 112	75.3	61.9
Duster	72.2	61.5
Endurance	69.8	61.5
OK Bullet	66.9	62.3
TAM 111	64.6	62.1
Danby	61.7	62.2
Jagger	60.9	58.5
Intrada	60.4	62.2
Trego	59.9	62.0
Avalanche	59.3	61.8
TAM 110	58.1	60.7
Jagalene	58.0	62.0
Mean	64.0	61.5
CV%	6.4	1.4
L.S.D.	5.9	1.3

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Cow-Calf Production Record Software

Keeping good records is a vital part of cow-calf production. It is also one of the most overlooked, tedious, and un-exciting aspects of cow-calf production. Choosing a record keeping software program can be difficult, but an OCES publication is available to assist producers.

Current Report 3279, Cow-Calf Production Record Software, was updated in March 2007 and compares eight commercially available software programs. Producers can use this publication to determine which program best fits their information needs. Contact Steve Kraich for a copy of this publication, or find it on the web at: http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document=1926/CR-3279web.pdf

Results from OPREC Dryland Wheat Variety Trial, 2007		
VARIETY	**YIELD (bu/ac)**	**TEST WEIGHT (lb/bu)**
Duster	**83.8**	**60.2**
Fuller	**78.2**	**59.9**
OK Bullet	**77.8**	**60.5**
Stanton	**77.8**	**60.0**
Overley	**77.0**	**59.2**
Endurance	**77.0**	**59.4**
Cutter	**76.0**	**60.2**
OK00611W	**75.9**	**60.6**
OK02522W	**75.4**	**60.1**
Jagalene	**75.4**	**60.0**
TAM 111	**74.7**	**59.2**
Fannin	**74.6**	**60.9**
JEI 110	**73.0**	**58.6**
Intrada	**72.9**	**61.7**
Danby	**72.6**	**60.9**
TAM 112	**71.6**	**59.3**
Deliver	**71.5**	**57.6**
OK Bullet 06ERU	**71.5**	**60.2**
Ike	**71.4**	**59.2**
Santa Fe	**71.0**	**58.1**
Protection CL	**70.6**	**56.7**
2174	**69.9**	**60.4**
Trego	**69.6**	**60.3**
OK05737W	**69.6**	**59.5**
Guymon	**68.3**	**61.1**
Lakin	**67.9**	**58.2**
TAM 110	**67.6**	**57.9**
Shocker	**67.4**	**58.2**
Jagger	**67.3**	**58.0**
Avalanche	**66.9**	**61.0**
Okfield	**64.6**	**58.0**
Doans	**64.1**	**60.5**
Centerfield	**58.3**	**58.6**
Mean	**71.8**	**59.5**
CV%	**13.7**	**2.6**
L.S.D.	**13.8**	**2.2**

MARC RELEASES 2007 ACROSS-BREED EPD CALCULATIONS

USDA's Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) has released its table of adjustment factors to be used to estimate across-breed expected progeny differences (AB-EPDs) for 16 breeds available at the Texas County OSU Extension Office.

Using the table values, bulls of different breeds can be compared on the same EPD scale by adding the appropriate adjustment factor to the expected EPDs produced in the most recent genetic evaluations for each of the breeds.

These adjustment factors were updated using EPDs from the most recent national cattle evaluations conducted by each of the 16 breed associations. The breed differences used to calculate the factors are based on comparisons of progeny of sires from each of these breeds at MARC in Clay Center, NE. The analyses were conducted by MARC geneticists Larry Kuehn and Mark Thallman, with the assistance of Dale Van Vleck and Larry Cundiff.

As an example, suppose a Simmental bull has a weaning weight EPD of + 25 lbs. (which is slightly below the average of 32.9 lbs for Simmental cattle born in 2005), and a Gelbvieh bull has a weaning weight EPD of + 45 lbs (which is slightly above the average of 41 lbs for Gelbvieh cattle born in 2005). The across-breed adjustment factors for weaning weight are 24.4 lbs for Simmental and 7 lbs for Gelbvieh.

Thus, the AB-EPD is 25 lbs + 32.9 lbs = 57.9 lbs for the Simmental bull and 45 lbs + 7 lbs = 52.0 lbs for the Gelbvieh bull. The expected weaning weight difference when both are mated to cows of another breed (e.g., Angus) would be 57.9 lbs - 52 lbs = 5.9 lbs.

The AB=EPDs are most useful to commercial producers purchasing bulls of more than one breed to use in cross-breeding programs. Uniformity from one generation to the next can be improved by selecting bulls with similar AB-EPDs. Selection for uniformity is especially important in rotational crossbreeding systems for traits such as birth weight to manage calving difficulty, and for traits related to cow size and milk production to effectively manage feed requirements in cow herds.

In terminal cross-breeding systems, AB-EPDs for growth traits can be used to identify bulls across breeds whose progeny should have the highest growth potential.

Birth weight AB-EPDs are useful for selecting bulls for use on first-calf heifers to decrease the likelihood of dystocia.

Most breed associations publish EPDs on an annual basis. These EPDs predict differences expected in performance of future progeny of two or more bulls within the same breed for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, and maternal milking ability (as reflected in progeny weaning weight).

Normally, the EPDs of bulls from different breeds can't be compared because most breed associations compute their EPDs in separate analyses and each breed has a different base point (where the average EPD = 0). The across-breed adjustment factors allow producers to compare the EPDs for animals from different breeds for these traits; these factors reflect both the current breed difference (for animals born in 2005) and differences in the breed base point.

OK Ag Technology Field Day

August 9, 2007 -- Grady County Fairgrounds in Chickasha, OK

The Grady County Fairgrounds and Event Center is located in Chickasha, OK just southwest of Oklahoma City on the H. E. Bailey Turnpike (I-44). The fairgrounds location allows easy access to the Interstate, downtown Chickasha, and the Oklahoma City Airport.

This location is ideally suited to host the 2007 Ag Technology Field Day. The air conditioned exhibit building has ample vendor space and capacity for lunch and presentations. The community building also has meeting rooms for presentations. There is plenty of parking space and an adjacent area for ride and drive demonstrations.

Educational programs and demonstrations regarding precision agriculture technology will be scheduled throughout the day. The field day will feature the latest precision agriculture technologies and experts that have developed, evaluated, and used these technologies. Educational topics include Sensor Based Nitrogen Management, Strategies to Reduce Sprayer Drift, Economics of Sprayer Control Systems, Selecting a GPS Guidance System, and Using Technology for On-Farm Comparisons. Along with the educational programs, participants are encouraged to use the 'ride and drive' area to try out the latest GPS guidance systems. There will also be demonstrations of automatic boom section control and automatic boom height control for sprayers. You can't miss this one of a kind field day. Lunch will be available on site.

For more info contact: Randy Taylor at (405)744-5277 or email at Randy.Taylor@okstate.edu

LAWNS INCREASE HOME VALUE

Nearly every homeowner contemplates ways to increase the value of their home and most of them also spend significant time and money each year creating a beautiful yard. Few people, however, make the connection between the two, not realizing that a healthy and beautiful lawn and garden can improve the value of their home by **up to 15 percent.**

News published by organizations agrees that a healthy and beautiful lawn improve home value:

- According to Money magazine, while remodeling a kitchen or a bathroom may return only 75% and 20% of its cost respectively, landscaping investments are estimated to return at least 100% and up to 200% of their costs. [Money Magazine, May 2003]
- A study of 2,000 realtors by Homegain.com found an investment of $500 in lawn improvements would likely yield 400% of that total when selling your home. [Homegain.com study, 2000]
- Ninety-five percent of the member of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers say landscaping adds to property value, while 99% agree landscaping increases speed of home sales. [Society of Real Estate Appraisers study, 2002]

A couple of online sources provide further facts:

- The national Gardening Association cites a study from Michigan state that reveals that a 'good' landscape increased home values from 5 to 11 percent.
- The popular site realtor.com says that homeowners know that grass is the 'crown jewel" of curb appeal. Even in a modest yard, the return on your investment can be substantial. For under $100 and about 2.5 hours a year for the average size lawn, homeowners can create a beautiful, healthy lawn.

A few simple tips apply:

- **Feed your lawn**. Lawns, like other living things, need nutrition. Agronomists suggest feeding your lawn at least four times a year, depending on your location.
- **Mow your grass tall.** Set your mower on one of the higher settings. Your grass will thank you by growing deeper roots to match the increased top growth.
- **Solve problems that sneak up.** Weeds and tiny insects can get the better of your lawn before you know it.

WHEATLAND STOCKER CONFERENCE

August 22, 2007 ---- 8:30 a. m. --- Cherokee Strip Conference Center, Enid, OK
Pre-Registration deadline: August 17, 2007

8:45 am --Everything You Wanted to Know about Ethanol Co-Products

9:40 am --Myriad of Factors Affecting the Beef Markets

10:30 am -- Assessing Wheat Pasture Lease Agreements

11:15 am -- What I Have Learned in the Stocker Business

1:00 pm -- Preventive Health Program in Stocker Cattle

1:45 pm -- The Big Picture of Treating Respiratory Disease in Stocker Cattle

For more information and to re-register call Greg Highfill at (580)237-7677 or email: Greg.Highfill@okstate.edu

WHEAT AND CATTLE PROGRAM

Producers that raise wheat and cattle will want to attend the Wheat/Cattle Program on August 2, 2007 at the Hooker Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Hamburgers will be served.

This year Rick Kochenower, OPREC Agronomist; Britt Hicks, OPREC Livestock Specialist; and Hailin Zhang, OSU Extension Soil Specialist will cover topics that include wheat variety trial results, progress on current wet distillers grain trials at Oklahoma Panhandle Research and Extension Center and other current cattle management topics. Soil fertility will also be addressed, along with the results of the free soil tests back to participating producers.

GARDENS AND ORNAMENTALS IN JULY

Vegetable Garden

- Make fall vegetable garden plantings in late July. Fact Sheet HLA-6009 gives planting recommendations.

Lawn

- Brown patch disease of cool-season grasses can be a problem. (HLA-6420)
- Meet water requirements of turfgrasses. (HLA-6420)
- Fertilization of warm season grasses can continue if water is present for growth. (HLA-6420)
- Vegetative establishment of warm-season grasses should be completed by the end of July to ensure the least risk of winter kill. (HLA-6419)
- Mowing heights for cool-season turf grasses should be at 3 inches during hot, dry summer months. Gradually raise mowing height of bermudagrass lawns from 1½ to 2 inches.
- Sharpen or replace mower blades as needed. Shredded leaf blades are an invitation to disease and allow more stress on the grass.

Trees and Shrubs

- Control bermudagrass around trees and shrubs with Poast, Fusilade or Glyphosate herbicides. Follow directions closely to avoid harming desirable plants.

Fruits

- Continue insect combat and control in the orchard, garden and landscape. (EPP-7306, EPP-7313, EPP-7319)
- Check pesticide labels for "stop" spraying recommendations prior to harvest.
- Harvest fruit from the orchard early in the morning and refrigerate as soon as possible.

Flowers

- Divide and replant crowded Hybrid Iris (Bearded Iris) after flowering until August.

General Landscape

- Water plants deeply and early in the morning. Most plants need approximately 1 to 2½ inches of water per week.
- Providing birdbaths, shelter and food will help turn your landscape into a backyard wildlife habitat.
- Insect identification is important so you don't get rid of the "Good Guys." (EPP-7307)
- The hotter and drier it gets, the larger the spider mite populations!
- Expect some leaf fall, a normal reaction to drought. Water young plantings well.

Crop and Forage Recordkeeping Software

Advancements in technology have given the agricultural community tools to improve the efficiency of production agriculture. With the development of several crop and forage recordkeeping software programs, producers are able to keep detailed records for each field of the operation. Equipped with this information, producers can identify the most and least productive areas of the operation and take steps to improve trouble areas.

Choosing the right program can be a daunting task. Current Report 2133, Crop and Forage Recordkeeping Software, compares nine of the commercially available programs in an attempt to simplify the decision-making process. Common and advanced features of each software program are listed side-by-side for ease of comparison. Please contact Steve Kraich for a copy of this publication, or find it on the web at: http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-3300/Cr-2133web.pdf

Steve Kraich, Ag/4-H Educator
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