## Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, February 25, 2019

Well we received light rains last week only totaling from .5 to 1 inch over the county, but with already saturated soils it looks like we received much more than that with water standing in pastures and fields once again. This has been a repeated pattern throughout the fall and winter and looks to continue with some chances of rain in the forecast for the next week to ten days. Winter crops such as Wheat and Oats continue to look stunted with little growth, and winter pastures look the same way. When soils are water logged there is no room for Oxygen which needs to be present to encourage good microbial activity. This limits nutrient uptake and so results in little to no growth, or stunted plants. That fertilizer you put out is not doing the plant any good with saturated soils. If it ever has a chance to dry out a little and we get some warmer days and sunshine, it will be interesting to see what it will do. Some folks are afraid it’s not going to amount to much whether for grazing, or for harvest, but only time will tell. Ranchers continue feeding hay and wishing for spring to get here. Hay is running short now for some folks and one can hope the winter grasses come on or they have enough hay to get to spring grass. The cost of hay is still quite expensive. Cattle look a little rough and it’s to be expected considering the conditions they have had to deal with this winter. A lot of folks are calving now so your cow’s nutrient requirements are increasing daily. Make sure they get the adequate amount of protein and energy to meet their maintenance and milking requirements. This is critical in getting the calf off to a good start to hit those scales weighing heavy as possible in the fall. Of course there are a lot of other factors that make one weigh heavy but a good start will get them off on the right foot and hopefully keep them healthy to boot. The heavier they weigh the more the pay.

**In the markets as of Feb 23-** Slaughter cattle trade at $126. Current feed yard closeouts were $34.75 in the black. The live cattle futures for Feb are at $129, while Mar Feeder futures were $143. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at $1.42 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at $1.65. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls, $1-3 lower on light test, cows at $55-64 while bulls were $78-86

**Bred Cows**: 1-4 yr old 1000-1150 lb 4-7 months bred 975.00-1200.00, 825-1100 lb 2-7 months bred 810.00-1000.00; 5-7 yr old 1000-1375 lb 5-6 months bred 710.00-935.00 **Pairs:** Not well tested

**Hay report:** Coastal Bermuda: Small Squares: FOB: Good to Premium 297.00-400.00/ton , $9.00-12.00 per bale. Large Rounds: FOB: Good to Premium 140.00-200.00/ton, $70.00-100.00 per roll; Fair to Good 120.00-140.00, 60.00-70.00 per bale.

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