## Cooke County Crop and Cattle Report for Monday, February 4, 2019

Well it finally dried out enough for farmers to get back in the field and finish planting their wheat and oats that was intended to be planted in the fall. Wet fall and early winter conditions had hindered some farmers from completing what they started, so spring oats and wheat was the another alternative. Those producers that were lucky enough to get their wheat put in early in the fall have been able to put some stocker calves on it, although not the normal numbers. Everyone else has had limited to no grazing because the wheat and oats have just sit their saturated or drowning in water. With this dry spell the last week or so the winter crops are looking a bit better with the soil drying out a little, and some sunshine. There is time for the wheat and oats to come out of it and make a decent harvest if the weather treats us right. We do have rain in the forecast for this week and again next week, so more rain and wet weather will play a role in how good our wheat production for grain harvest will be this spring. With winter pastures just sitting there folks have been feeding lots of hay to their cattle and supplementing protein to boot. The cows look pretty rough to me, even with supplementation. The price of hay is high and some say scarce, but I have had several folks call in with hay for sale over the last several weeks. If you are in need of some hay please contact me and I will connect you with those that have some. I have a hay for sale list here at the office that I can email to you. Some ranchers are already calving and more to follow in the weeks to come depending on your program. First calf heifers are usually calved out about a month before the cowherd starts so keep a close eye on them in case they need assistance calving. This is also a good time to start looking for herd bulls if you are in need of one, or if you need to replace one to get some new genetics in the herd. Buying them early might save you some money as they tend to get higher in price the closer we get to breeding season.

 **In the markets as of Feb 2-** Slaughter cattle trade is at $124. Current feed yard closeouts were $15 in the black. The live cattle futures for Feb are at $125.50, while Jan & Mar Feeder futures were $142.50. The cash prices here in Texas for 750 lb feeder steers were at $1.38 and 550 lb. stocker steers were at $1.60. Average dress slaughter cows & bulls were $3-5 higher, cows at $50-58, while bulls were $76-86

**Replacement Cows**: 1-4 yr old 800-1575 lbs 2-7 months bred black 975.00-1000.00; 2-4 yr old 1050-1275 lbs 6-7 months bred 1200.00-1310.00, 675-1050 lbs 3-7 months bred 650.00-875.00; 5-6 yr old 1050-1525 lbs 6-7 months bred black 985.00-1135.00, **Pairs:** 4-6 yr old 725-950 lb cow w/25-75 lb calf 760.00-935.00; 6-8 yr old 875-1000 lb cow w/50-75 lb calf 925.00-1075.00

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

Visit Cooke County AgriLife Extension website at cooke.agrilife.org for our local events, news & updates Visit www.cattlerange.com for all the latest market reports and Ag news.

Marty Morgan, Cooke County Ag Agent for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service marty.morgan@ag.tamu.edu