

Nueces Agriculture

“IMPROVING FOOD & FIBER PRODUCTION”

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“Cotton Edition”

Did you know that.....

- * Euro notes feel a little different compared to paper money of old. That’s because they are made from cotton for longevity!
- * Chinese astronauts have been able to grow cotton on the Moon. They planted seeds in the rock and found that cotton was sprouting some years later!
- * Cotton remains a popular choice for clothes and bedding thanks to the fact that it’s naturally hypoallergenic, and that it can conduct heat.
- * The cotton plant has actually evolved massively over the years. Weirdly, it’s all in the DNA! Modern cotton plants, for example, are said to have double the chromosomes they originally grew decades ago – strange stuff, indeed!
- * Cotton is a huge employer – it’s said that upwards of more than 100 million different people are employed in the picking and production of cotton somewhere in the world. It’s an industry that’s always growing, too.
- * The first practical incandescent light bulb was a major invention by Edison and his teams. Interestingly, he used cotton for manufacturing the filament that was necessary for those light bulbs.
- * Cotton’s been a part of our global industry for what many believe to be millennia. Did you know, for example, that there’s evidence suggesting we were using and wearing cotton fibers as far back as 3,000 BC?



PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING

When..... Tuesdays, 9/6/22, 12/6/22 Pre-Registration Required.....(361)767-5223
Time8:00 am—11:30 am Where.....A&M AgriLife Ext. Office,
710 E. Main, Robstown, TX

Fee: \$50.00 (Includes study manuals)

A Private Applicator is defined by law as a person who uses or supervises the use of a restricted-use or state-limited use pesticide for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity.

FARM WORKER PROTECTION SAFETY TRAINING

When.....Friday, 9/2/22 Time9:00 –10:00 am
WhereTexas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

Pesticide handlers and workers must be trained every year unless they are certified applicators. All participants in this training will be issued cards verifying they have successfully completed the required training and given a copy of the sign-in roster for their employer’s files.

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USDA Makes it Easier for American Farmers to Grow Food, Ease Burdens for Families

Expands insurance coverage for double cropping for 2023 to support food production, lower costs for American families

PUBLISHED ON JULY 12, 2022

Administration announced additional steps it's taking to support U.S. farmers in their work to stabilize food prices and feed Americans and the world amidst continuing challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is reducing the economic risk of raising two crops on the same land in one year, making it easier for U.S. farmers to grow food in America, increase food supply, and lower food costs for American families. This action is part of a broader [set of commitments made earlier this year by President Biden and Secretary Vilsack](#) to increase domestic food production amid potential global food shortages related to the invasion of Ukraine.



To reduce the risk of raising two crops on the same land in one year – a practice known as double cropping – USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is expanding double crop insurance opportunities in over 1,500 counties where double cropping is viable.

“In May, I joined President Biden at the [O'Connor farm in Kankakee, Illinois](#), to announce a series of actions to help farmers do what they do — grow food for American families and the rest of the world. Today, USDA is making good on one of those commitments and making it easier to plant double crops and sharing some of the financial risk by making crop insurance more available in over 1,500 counties,” said Secretary Vilsack. “We live in a challenging time, but I put my trust in the American farmer and U.S. agriculture to help keep the food we need affordable and available. The Biden administration and USDA will continue to find ways to ease burdens on American farmers and lower costs for American families such as expanded double crop options through crop insurance.”

Improvements include:

- For grain sorghum, double crop coverage will be expanded to or streamlined in at least 870 counties that were initially targeted for review. Similar to soybeans, most of these changes included streamlining the administrative burden and requirements to obtain written agreements. Written agreements provide the producer with the maximum flexibility by allowing them to obtain crop insurance coverage, but not requiring the coverage of both the spring and winter crops as in permanent double crop counties.
- RMA will also work with the crop insurance industry and farm organizations to highlight the availability and improvements in written agreements as an option for any farmer that grows a crop outside the area where a policy is automatically offered.

This expansion of coverage was guided by extensive outreach to nearly 70 grower groups covering 28 states. This includes a wide array of stakeholders such as producers, agents, university extension and other agricultural experts, commodity associations, state departments of agriculture and insurance companies. USDA may add additional counties as it explores these options with farmers this summer, with the final rules being locked in by the fall. Since farmers need to plan ahead for adding a winter crop to a rotation, USDA wanted to make sure they had time to consider this option and consult with local extension and agriculture experts and their crop insurance agent.

Additional resources released today by USDA include [frequently asked questions](#) as well as the [Helping Farmers Address Global Food Insecurity webpage](#) on [farmers.gov](#).

Beef 706 Program Aug. 8-9 Helps Cattle Producers Enhance Economic Viability

AGRILIFE TODAY, JULY 4, 2022

The long-running Beef 706 educational program designed to teach cattle producers about the food side of their business is set for Aug. 8-9 on the Texas A&M University campus. Beef cattle producers get a chance to learn more about the value of their product at the annual Beef 706, set this year on Aug. 8-9 in College Station. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Blair Fannin)



Beef 706 is designed for beef cattle producers and managers, ranchers and ranch personnel, feed yard personnel, allied livestock business personnel, veterinarians, teachers, AgriLife Extension personnel and college students, said Dan Hale, Ph.D., [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) associate director and meat specialist, Bryan-College Station.

The program was created in the Texas A&M [Department of Animal Science](#) in conjunction with the [Texas Beef Council](#). The council pays for most of the course; therefore, registration is only \$50 per person.

Attendees should register at <https://tx.ag/Beef706Aug22Reg>. The program will run from 7 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on Aug. 8 and 7 a.m.-2 p.m. on Aug. 9. The workshops will be held primarily at the Texas A&M Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center, 488 Olsen Blvd., College Station.

“This is our 30th year of Beef 706 programs,” Hale said. “It all started in 1993, a year after the release of the finding from the National Beef Quality Audit. The goal then as now is to help cattle owners and managers understand the best management practices for producing high-quality beef, for being good stewards of land, animal, water and people resources, and enhance their economic viability.”

Learning the value within the beef chain

Participants learn the importance of producing a more consistent and high-quality beef product through a series of hands-on lessons presented by various meat science faculty, staff and graduate students.

This information allows them to evaluate the value differences calculated between animals, actually seeing cattle value from market steer to fabricated boxed beef, Hale said.

Some of the topics and speakers, all from the Department of Animal Science, will be:

- Beef Carcass Grading, Hale.
- Market Cattle Evaluation, Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist.
- Beef Harvest Floor Demonstration, Jade Cooper, AgriLife Extension meat specialist.
- Hands-on Beef Grading, Hale and Cooper.
- Introduction to Meat Cutting, Davey Griffin, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension meat specialist.
- Fabricating the Forequarter and Hindquarter, Griffin.
- Effective Stockmanship, Ron Gill, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist.
- Feeder Calf Beef Quality Management, Gill.
- Eating Appeal of Beef, Cooper.
- Finished Steer to Carcass on the Grid, Hale.
- Finished Steer to Boxed Beef Value, Griffin.

“For producers, it is often an eye-opening experience to see parts of the beef cattle production chain that they may not have experienced before,” Hale said. “This program takes them from the cow having the calf to beef on the consumer’s table.”

Our Turn to Ranch Online Course Starts Aug. 15

JULY 1, 2022

Our Turn to Ranch is an online school in which participants work toward developing a business plan with the support of professionals who specialize in each field and topic.

The program costs \$300 and is limited to the first 100 registrants. Participants should register as soon as possible at <https://tx.ag/GenNextOurTurntoRanch>.

The program requires approximately two hours of participation per week, but participants can complete the lessons and activities at any time. A computer with internet access is required.

At the end of the series, participants will receive a certificate of completion and a Generation Next T-shirt.



Who is Generation Next?

“The Generation Next curriculum targets new landowners, those who are inheriting land or those who are looking to start a new agricultural operation on an existing ranch,” said Megan Clayton, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist, Uvalde, who organizes the series with Annette Cayard, Generation Next program coordinator, Corpus Christi.

Attendees will hear from experts who will cover land management techniques and identifying their natural resources, alternative ranching, ecotourism opportunities and direct marketing.

“Not everyone who becomes a landowner in Texas is immersed in its history or involved in agriculture production,” said Clayton. “We’ve developed this Generation Next curriculum with the understanding that land throughout Texas is changing hands all the time.”

Course topics

The online course will cover a wide range of topics including:

- How to start an agricultural business.
- Understanding business taxes.
- Insurance needs for your ranch.
- Tracking your finances.
- Evaluating your land resources.
- How to set up grazing and wildlife management leases.
- Basic ranch laws – fencing, water, etc.
- Land management techniques.
- Alternative operations to add to your business.
- Setting goals with measurable objectives for success.

For more information, contact Clayton at 830-988-6123 or Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu.

Cleveland: Don't Give Up on Cotton

By [Dr. O.A. Cleveland](#) | July 18, 2022

Patience, patience, patience.

Most all cotton fundamental signals weigh in on the side of higher prices, but not all. In fact, compared to last season, the weaker fundamentals have shifted to the demand side of the price equation and the stronger variables affecting price come from the supply side of the equation.



Too, despite all the drama associated with the “record sell-off” coming just a month after historic high prices, December 2022 prices are 100 points higher than the December 2021 contract was a year ago at this time. That is, just to say, don't give up on cotton. Yet, its nose has been bloodied and its face all but battered in, but up from the mat she has risen to stand tall and prepared to throw a few punches of her own now.

However, remember this market is blood stained, and straight up is not the path of least resistance. Nevertheless, we have called this a strong market, and a strong market it is. Despite all the drama, cotton prices are 100 points above the price a year ago. While 87 cents held last year, the weakening demand allowed this years' prices to slip to 81 cents. We have written of the market holding one since the low 90s, and now it is finally time.

There will be a few more bearish trading days, especially as one focuses solely on demand. But the supply demand interaction, as reflected by carryover stocks, call for yet higher prices. Many see December topping out at 102-103 cents. I will continue to keep the 110-cent level hat on. I am not sure it fits me, but I will continue to wear it. Knock it off if you can.

We know that bullish markets find their roots from the demand side of the equation. But we also know that the current U.S. economy suffers from rampant inflation and slowing demand, with stagflation likely on the horizon and bookended by concerns regarding just how deep the ongoing/upcoming recession is. Usually, we don't generally know if we have suffered through an economic recession until it is almost over, but this economy is touching all the necessary bases to date to call for a recession. That gobbledygook economic stuff – stuff I love – is said just to suggest the December 2022 contract is looking for price guidance from U.S. and world production.

In its July supply demand report, USDA lowered its estimate of the 2022 production one million bales, down to 1.5 million from 16.5 million. USDA also lowered U.S. ending stocks for 2022-23 to 2.4 million bales, down 500,000 – a significant reduction and a stock level that is

considered very market bullish. Likely, the August report will reflect a crop that is closer to 14.5 million bales, and USDA is expected to lower carryover down to 1.9 to 2.2 million bales – all but the absolute lowest stocks can go (there are always stocks in transit, stocks in domestic warehouses, and unsold U.S. stocks in foreign warehouses, i.e., stocks can never go to zero). Thus, the market can continue to expect upward price pressure from ever-declining stocks.

While USDA increased world ending stocks, the increase was associated with declining consumption in four of the world's largest consuming countries: China, India, Bangladesh, and Vietnam. World consumption was decreased to 119.9 million bales, down from the prior estimate of 121.5 million. World carryover was increased from 82.8 million bales, up to 84.3 million.

World production was reduced nearly 1.3 million bales. Additional production declines could come in China, Brazil, India, Pakistan, and Brazil. Thus, it is noteworthy that the crop in the world's leading producing countries is somewhat behind the eight ball. Granted, it is still early, and the crop is fruiting well. But it is July, and it is supposed to fruit well in July.

There will be a few headaches along the way. The Fed will continue with interest rate hikes, and that will reflect a higher value for the dollar vis-a-vis other currencies. Thus, cotton for export will become even more expensive to foreign buyers. Yet, exports will be just as big “as the U.S. crop is.” We will sell all that is produced and likely another 1.0 to 1.5 million bales. U.S. carryover stocks are going to be low for another two years.

The basis remained strong throughout the sell-off, reflecting that the price disaster was related to the futures market (speculators and funds riding the trend), not the cash market. December and Red December will get their rally. The market will give you another chance above the dollar mark.

Patience, patience, patience

Give a gift of cotton today.



Feral Hog Abatement Program

Nueces County has instituted a feral hog trap loan out program for county landowners. The program is using traps fully complete with M.I.N.E.™ Gate control box and M.I.N.E.™ wireless digital camera capable of remotely triggering the M.I.N.E.™ gate using a cell phone. Any landowner in the county is encouraged to take advantage of the trap loan out program at no cost. Three traps are available and will be lent out on a first come first serve basis, with priority given to landowners within the Lower Nueces and Oso Creek Watersheds, followed by agricultural producers experiencing the most significant feral hog damage.

The trap loan out program is being administered by the County Demonstration Assistant, JR Cantu, within the Nueces County Agricultural Extension Office. Landowners can schedule appointments with the County Demonstration Assistant to obtain and setup the trap by calling 361.767.5223. There is no cost to borrow a trap and JR will work with landowners to deliver and setup the trap. The trap borrower will be responsible for baiting the trap, game feeders are available for use. Participating landowners must work with the County Demonstration Assistant to assess and document feral hog damage on the property, follow proper trapping procedures, and report trap catch numbers.

The landowner will be instructed on proper use of the trapping system and baiting procedures. The landowner will be given full access to the trap's remote triggering capabilities for their use and discretion, enabling the landowner the ability to close the trap gate when the entire group of hogs is in the trap and it is convenient for them.

All captured feral hogs will be required to either be harvested by the landowner or secure alternate harvest methods approved by Texas Animal Health Commission. Research suggests that control methods must eliminate 75% of the population in order to keep up with the hog's annual reproductive capacity; however, the Noble Research Institute has found conventional trapping has an insufficient capture rate of 49%. By trapping the entire sounder at once the landowner reduces the likelihood of developing a trap wise population of feral hogs. Through the practice of pre-baiting the trap and the use of the wireless digital camera and remote trigger gate capture of an entire sounder is possible. Additional benefits of the camera's remote-control technology includes: allowing the users to send messages back to the camera, the ability to remotely check the battery charge and cellular signal strength, and remotely turn off the camera after the hogs are captured. This technology saves fuel, time and labor by allowing 24-hour surveillance without wasting daily travel time and expenses to multiple bait sites. Traps are currently available for loan to any county landowner; call to schedule your use today.



Nueces County
710 E. Main St., Ste. 1
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<http://nueces.agrilife.org>



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Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-767-5223 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
710 E. Main, Suite 1 Attn: Ag/NR
Robstown, Texas 78380
(361) 767-5223



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jaime Lopez'.

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