Atascosa Ag Newsletter

Courtesy of: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
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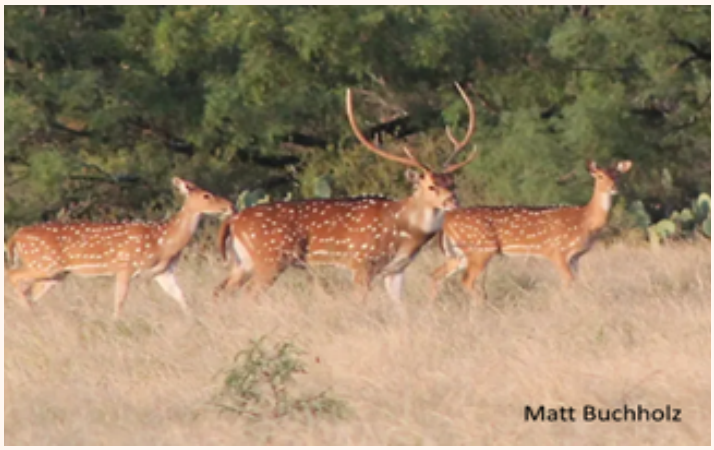
Jacob Dykes

MALE & FEMALE AXIS DEER IN TEXAS

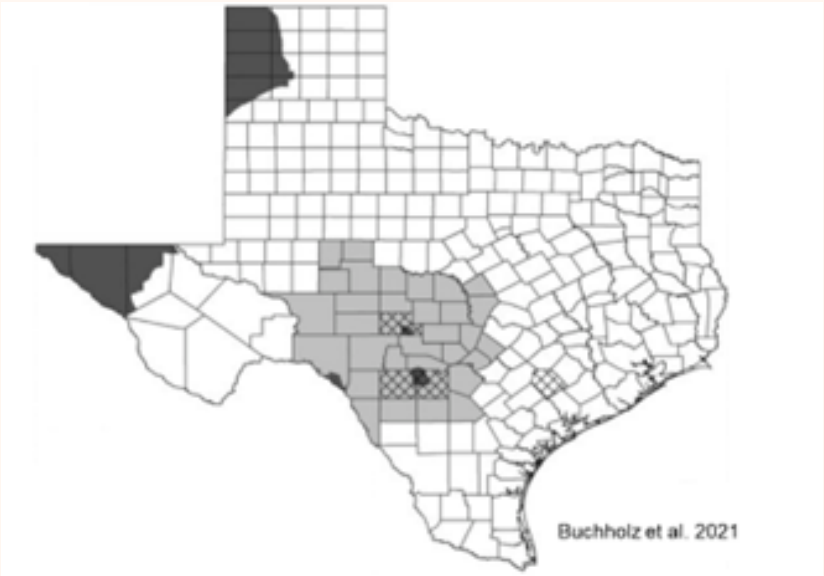


- Mating can occur year-round, but peak rut occurs June and July.
- They are considered the most abundant exotic ungulate in Texas with an estimated 15,000 free - living individuals.
- 80% of Fawns are born between January and may

Axis deer negatively impact white-tailed deer because they eat forbs and other high-quality forages that white-tailed deer rely on. However, axis deer can subsist on grasses when the high-quality stuff is gone, and white-tailed deer cannot.

Did you know Axis Deer were introduced to Texas in the early 1930s and are native to South Asia which includes India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka? They were initially introduced to containment areas for food and hunting, but they eventually escaped and established in Texas.

- It is believed, there are more axis deer in Texas than anywhere else in the world.
- They Typically live 9 to 13 years but have lived to 20 years in captivity.
- Bucks with antlers can be found year around.



LIGHT GREY REPRESENTS THE DISTRIBUTION OF FREE-RANGING AXIS

Higher Calf Prices Projected in 2023

Strong demad for beef continues despite higher retail prices

Written By: AgriLife Today

Drought conditions in Texas and throughout the U.S. continue to take a toll on cattle numbers, with higher calf prices and less beef production projected for 2023, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock economist.

"Most of the country is in some form of drought," David Anderson, AgriLife Extension economist in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, Bryan-College Station, told attendees at the recent South Central Texas Cow-Calf Clinic in Brenham.

"Drought affects all aspects of the cattle business. The reason we have culled so many cows this year is because of drought and the cost of corn. High corn prices will lead to high feed cost environment into next year. Production costs have also increased faster than calf prices."

Drought-Related Culling Affects Future Calf Prices

Anderson's price outlook calls for tighter supplies of cattle going into 2023.

"In a couple of years, we will be talking about record calf prices again," he said. "We will likely see over $2 a pound in 2023 for 550-weight calves simply because there are fewer cattle, tighter supplies."

Anderson said that's being driven by more culls cows and heifers being slaughtered due to the drought. "Drought is really affecting where wheat pasture is planted," he said. "That's also affected calf prices. Right now, there's more value in heavier - weighted calves. Why? Feed is expensive."

This is resulting in the biggest slaughter since 2012, which is about 80,000 cows a week, Anderson said. U.S. beef production is on track to eclipse 28 billion pounds.

"Right now, we are producing a record amount of beef," he said. "We are getting a little more beef from dairy, and with regards to beef cows, we are culling a bigger percentage of the herd. When the January U.S. cattle inventory numbers come out, I think we will have at least 3% fewer cows."

"We've placed a lot more light-weight animals, and there are fewer total cattle on feed than a year ago," he said.

Strong Consumer Demand

Consumer demand continues to be steady as these record amounts of beef produced due to the forced selling in drought-stricken regions. That demand is helping keep cattle prices high and helping to offset the higher production costs.

However, Anderson said, the effects of inflation have caused some consumers to cut back or become choosier with grocery purchases.

"You do have some consumers in a bind, " he said. "When do people quit buying because the price points is to high?"

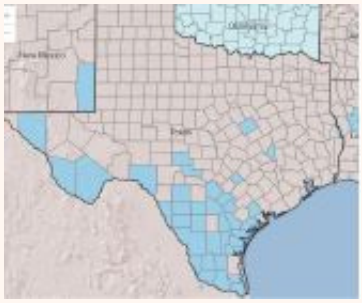
Attendees throughout Region

The south-central Cow-Calf clinic, Sponsored by AgriLife Extension, drew hundreds of beef cattle producers from Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Grimes, Lee, Waller, and Washington Counties.

A Scholarship raffle with $34,000 in prizes was also held to support youth in sponsoring counties and the cow-calf clinic youth program. Keynote speaker was Temple Grandin, Ph.D., Colorado State University, who discussed grazing cattle, sheep and goats that are part of a sustainable agriculture future.

Rangeland Plant Identification

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION



Distribution Map Credit: USDA Plants Database @ plants.usda.gov

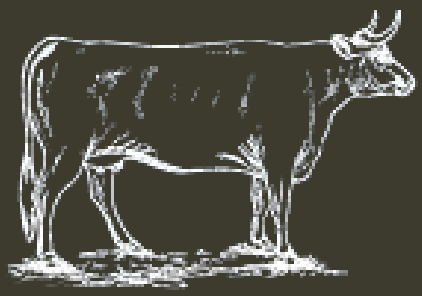
Buffelgrass

Pennisetum ciliare

Buffelgrass Distribution

Buffelgrass is found throughout most of South Texas and the far western counties. It is a non-native invasive grass that is highly adaptable, growing across a multitude of soil types.

Buffelgrass was introduced to South Texas in the 1940s following extreme drought conditions, when people were seeking drought tolerant grasses that would help reduce soil erosion and provide forage for livestock. Best seeding method research was conducted in the 1970s and by 1976, buffelgrass was 90% of the seeded rangeland south of San Antonio.



Buffelgrass easily seeds in disturbed areas. Seed germination occurs at low water potential and the highest seedling production occurs when seeds are on the soil surface and up to 0.4 inches below the soil surface. Seeds are easily disbursed by wind, water, animals, humans, & vehicles.

Plant Identification Tips

The buffelgrass inflorescence or seed head looks like a long, cylinder-shaped, purplish colored feather duster. The spikelets, or flower/seed containing structures, have dense purplish colored bristles. When the spikelets are removed from the rachis, or the central stem of the inflorescence, it is rough to the touch and has a zig zag pattern.

It's a perennial, non-native invasive bunch grass that is typically 3 feet in height. The bunchgrass looks messy because stems branch a lot at the nodes (like our elbows). The leaves are about 0.1-0.4 inches wide and can be 4-18 inches long. If you pull the leaf back from the stem and look on the interior of the leaf collar, then you'll see a thin membrane and white hairs around the leaf collar that often extend on the upper side of the leaf blade. When dormant, turns golden-brown.

Livestock & Wildlife Value

moderately palatable forage for livestock during growing season.
can provide cover for wildlife

ISSUE WITH BUFFELGRASS — Monoculture Decreases Diversity

Non-native, invasive grass that out-competes other species, forms monocultures, which reduces diversity of plants, insects, and wildlife species. Easily seeds across a variety of soil types and can double in percent cover every 2-3 years.

Parts of this article were derived from:
1 scherner et al. 2017. https://www.jstor.org/stable/26420886
2 USFS, 2014. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5410107.pdf

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UPCOMING EVENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Brush Country Beef 706

Session Two of the Beef 706 program is just around the corner.
Session two will take place on **February 4, 2023 at 9:00am** at the Texas Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, TX. Lastly **Session three** will be held as a 1.5 day program on **May 2-3, 2023** at Texas A&M University Rosental Meat Science Center beginning at 9 am on Day 1 and 7:30am on Day 2 ending at 1pm.
To read more about each session and the Brush Country Beef 706 Program see attached Flyer. If you would like to Sign up for session two call the **Live Oak County Extension Office at 361-449-1703 by January 27th.**

2023 Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife Photography

Our wildlife photography contest has opened up and will run from October 1, 2022, to April 15,2023. if you are interested in entering a photo the cost is $20 per photo for adults and $10 per photo for the youth. Categories include Wildlife Portraits, Landscape/Scenic, Motion, Game Camera, & Mobile Phone. The Contest is open to all photographers at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Age 8-17 years must obtain verified parental or guardian contest regardless of division entered. 18 years or old are prohibited from entering the youth division. Entries must be submitted as digital files and emailed along with the entry form to atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com

Preparing for the Spring Growing Season Workshop

The Atascosa Cattlemen's Association and the Atascosa County Extension Office will be offering a spring workshop that will give you the ability to earn 6 CEU hours towards your Private Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicators License. The workshop will take place December 13th, with the Early Bird Program starting registration at 7:45 and program at 8 followed by the registration at 9 and the program at 9:15 am. The fee is $40, and you must RSVP by December 8th to our Extension Office.

Location For Program:
Atascosa County Extension Office
25 East 5th Street
Leming, Texas 78050

Preparing for the Spring Growing Season Workshop

Sponsored by: Atascosa Cattlemen's Association, Atascosa County Extension Office

6 CEU's to be offered for Private, Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicator's

(Including the Picolinic Acid Training if you attend (5 hours if you do not attend))

Tuesday December 13, 2022

Early Bird Program 7:45 a.m. the Lobby will open program start at 8:00 a.m.

The Lobby will open at approximatly 9:00 a.m. program will start at 9:15 a.m.

$40 Registration Fee

Please RSVP by December 8, 2022

Time	Topics	Presenter
7:45 a.m.	Early Bird Registration Begins	
8:00 a.m.	Early Bird Session Picolinic Acid Chemistry Training (Required Training to use Bayer Invora, 1hr Laws and Regulations)	Dr. Megan Clayton, Professor & Extension Range Specialist
9:00 a.m.	Normal Registration Begins	
9:15 a.m.	Brush and Weed Management during Droughts: Things to Consider/Herbicide Update	Dr. Megan Clayton, Professor & Extension Range Specialist
10:15 a.m.	Integrated Pest Management in Pasture/Rangelands and Crops	Dr. Dalton Ludwick, Assistant Professor & Extension Entomologist
11:15 a.m.	Managing Weeds and Grass Burs in Improved Pastures during	Dr. Josh McGinty, Associate Professor & Extension Agronomist
12:15 a.m.	Drought and Best Management Practices for Recovery	
1:15 a.m.	Lunch	
	Pesticide Laws & Regulations Update	Perry Cervantes, Coordinator for Pesticide Certification and Compliance
2:15 a.m.	Break	
2:20 a.m.	Weed Control Update in Crops and Variety Updates	Dr. Josh McGinty, Associate Professor & Extension Agronomist

Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of the mentioned activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 830-569-0034 at least 12 days before all programs for assistance.

BRUSH COUNTRY BEEF 706

Series of Three Field Trips/Workshops

The Texas Beef Council and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension have teamed up to present the Brush Country Beef 706 program. This three-part series of hands-on sessions, focusing on beef quality management and marketing opportunities, is available for all beef cattle producers.
This checkoff-funded program is designed to help producers maximize profits and have a better understanding of the production process after their cattle enter the feed yard.

Session one will be held Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Live Oak Livestock Market Auction, 3795 U.S. 281, Three Rivers, TX (4 miles south of Three Rivers, TX on Hwy 281 or 6 miles north of George West on Hwy 281, located on the west side of Hwy 281) beginning at 6:00 pm with dinner. Speakers will discuss factors affecting feeder calves and the value they receive at auction based on their expected performance in the feedyard. Producers will then choose and bid on a calf for the feedyard and processing sectors. Please RSVP by September 8, 2022 by calling 361-449-1703.

Session two will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 9:00 am at Texaana Feeders Ltd. 3493 FM 539 Floresville, TX. During this session, producers will get to review their cattle as nearly finished market steers and learn about factors that impacted feed yard performance and impact finished steer value. The program will start with a feedyard tour at 9:00 am. Please RSVP by January 27, 2023 by calling 361-449-1703.

Session three will be held May 2-3, 2023 at 9:00 am at Texas A&M University Rosenthal Meat Science Center beginning at 9:00am on DAy 1 and 7:30am on Day 2 and ending at 1:00pm. This 1.5-day session will allow producers to participate in a hands-on exercise that takes their chosen feeder calves from session 1, now finished steers, through the harvest, grading and fabrication process. Please RSVP by April 21, 2023 by calling 361-449-1703.
There will not be a cost to attend the workshop but individuals must participate in the complete series.

Questions

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830-569-0034

Warren Kopplin
Live Oak County
361-449-1703

Atascosa County
Live Oak County
McMullen County
Wilson County
Karnes County
Bee County
Bexar County
San Patricio

To Register Call
Live Oak County
361-449-1703

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

BEEF LOVING TEXANS
TEXAS BEEF COUNCIL

Let's Enjoy the Outdoors and Wildlife! Photography Contest

Hosted by Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Coop

Get Started Right Away ...

Entry Period is open now through April 14, 2023

Adult & Youth Categories are

- Wildlife Portraits
- Landscape/Scenic
- Motion
- Game Camera
- Mobile Phone

Photos must be captured in Texas. For a complete set of rules and official entry form visit atascosa.agrilife.org and look at upcoming events on the home page.

Who is Eligible?

This contest is open to all photographers who are at least 8 years of age and reside in Atascosa County. Entrants 8 to 17 years of age MUST obtain verified parental or guardian contest regardless of division entered. Entrants 18 years or older are prohibited from entering the youth division.

How to Enter?

Entries must be submitted as a digital files and emailed along with entry form to atascosawildlifephoto@gmail.com

Entry Fees: Youth $10/photo or Adults $20/photo. Youth may compete in the adult division but cannot compete in both divisions.

Payment Methods: Payment and entry form may be submitted via check payable to Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries, PO Box 379, Leming, Texas 78050. Cash is accepted in person at 25 E. 5th Street Leming, Texas 78050. Payment may be submitted online through Eventbrite at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/418067329637. Please note Eventbrite charges an additional fee for their services. Please remember to email us your entry form.

The Atascosa Wildlife & Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Coop are non-profit organizations created to connect adults and youth with nature, promote responsible stewards of wildlife, and encourage conservation efforts.

Atascosa Wildlife Photography Contest Entry Form

Contestant Information

Name _____ Phone Number : ( ) _____

Email _____ Physical Address: _____

Age Division (check one) Youth ☐ Adult ☐

Payment Method (check one) CASH ☐ Check (# _____) Online ☐

Number of Photos Submitting: _____ Total: $ _____

I AGREE TO THE RULES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PHOTO CONTEST: ☐

INITIALS:

Photo Infomration

Photo ID or File Name: _____

Photo Description: _____

Category Entered: _____

Edits Made: _____

Photo Infomration

Photo ID or File Name: _____

Photo Description: _____

Category Entered: _____

Edits Made: _____

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION