

Young Farmer & Rancher Fall Tour set for September 6-8

by Justin Walker
Texas Farm Bureau Communications Specialist
Young producers will get a look at West Texas agriculture through the 2019 Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Young Farm & Rancher (YF&R) Fall Tour. It's an opportunity for farmers and ranchers between the ages of 18 and 35 to meet with fellow producers and learn about other agricultural perspectives.

This year's tour is set for September 6-8 in San Angelo and will focus on livestock and

crop production, along with current research efforts in agriculture.

"The tour is an opportunity to help strengthen relationships, form new friendships and learn from other producers across the state," Whit Weems, TFB director of Organization, said. "Production agriculture plays a crucial role in the state's economy. Crops, livestock, value-added products—it all adds up to impact Texas."

And in the Lone Star State, agriculture revs the economic

engine to the tune of more than \$100 billion annually.

"That's an impressive number and a market young farmers and ranchers can jump into," Weems said. "But learning from other farmers and ranchers through the Fall Tour will allow them to take home new ideas they can implement. This event can also help them evaluate what they're doing back at home by visiting someone else's farm."

The Fall Tour also helps offer a greater understanding of the diversity in Texas agriculture.

"We all face many of the same challenges, but each region of our state has challenges that are unique to that area," Melody Kneupper, TFB YF&R Advisory

Committee chair, said. "There's so much to learn, and even if it doesn't relate exactly to what we do, we can study those ideas, production practices or budget strategies. It can be a starting point to help get you where you want to go."

The three-day tour will feature farm and ranch visits, industry tours, discussions on current agriculture research and opportunities to network with other participants.

"Visiting this area of Texas will give young agricultural professionals - farmers, ranchers, business owners, teachers or anyone interested in agriculture - a glimpse into producers' management strategies and

production methods," Weems said.

Registration is open through August 15. There are two registration packages participants may select from that will include lodging, meals, transportation and the cost of all tours. A third registration package is available for those who do not require lodging.

Interested members can learn more and register for the tour online at www.texasfarmbureau.org/YFR.

For assistance with registration, contact Chrystal Gardner at 254-751-2489 or youngfarmers@txfb.org.

Contact Weems at 254-399-5030 or wweems@txfb.org with questions.

App released to help ranchers sell sheep, goats

by Justin Walker
Sheep and goat producers now have an app to help decide when to sell their livestock.

The Lamb and Goat Market Forecast app helps producers select the best time to sell based on a projected marginal revenue.

The app, developed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the San Angelo State University information technology department, is free and available for iPhone users.

"This app addresses the basic question producers face: 'Should I sell them now, or do I retain ownership and sell them a little bit later down the road? And if I do wait, what would be my reasonable expectations for change in value?'" Bill Thompson, AgriLife Extension economist, said.

Gross revenue is optimized through the app by analyzing eight years of statistical data based on time of year, animal weight and cost of gain. Similar features exist in apps for cattle markets, but this is the first app designed for sheep and goats, Thompson said.

The idea for the app began when Thompson and a group of specialists wanted to put research data in ranchers' hands. Dr. Reid Redden, a sheep and goat specialist; Dr. Dan

Waldron, a retired animal breeding and genetic specialist; and Dr. Robert Hogan, an economist, helped in planning.

The team gathered more than

1 million data points of market information to create the app, including more than 667,000 lamb and 631,000 goat sales.

The app allows ranchers to predict the change in value as each animal gains weight,

Redden said.

"Livestock producers commonly brag about what they got per pound when they sold an animal, but the real take home is how much per animal did you get," Redden said. "For

example, many people think the best time to sell lambs is at 55 pounds, but the app shows you in one example that if you waited a month and went up to 70 pounds, it could have added an extra \$30 of revenue per animal."

Water Weekly

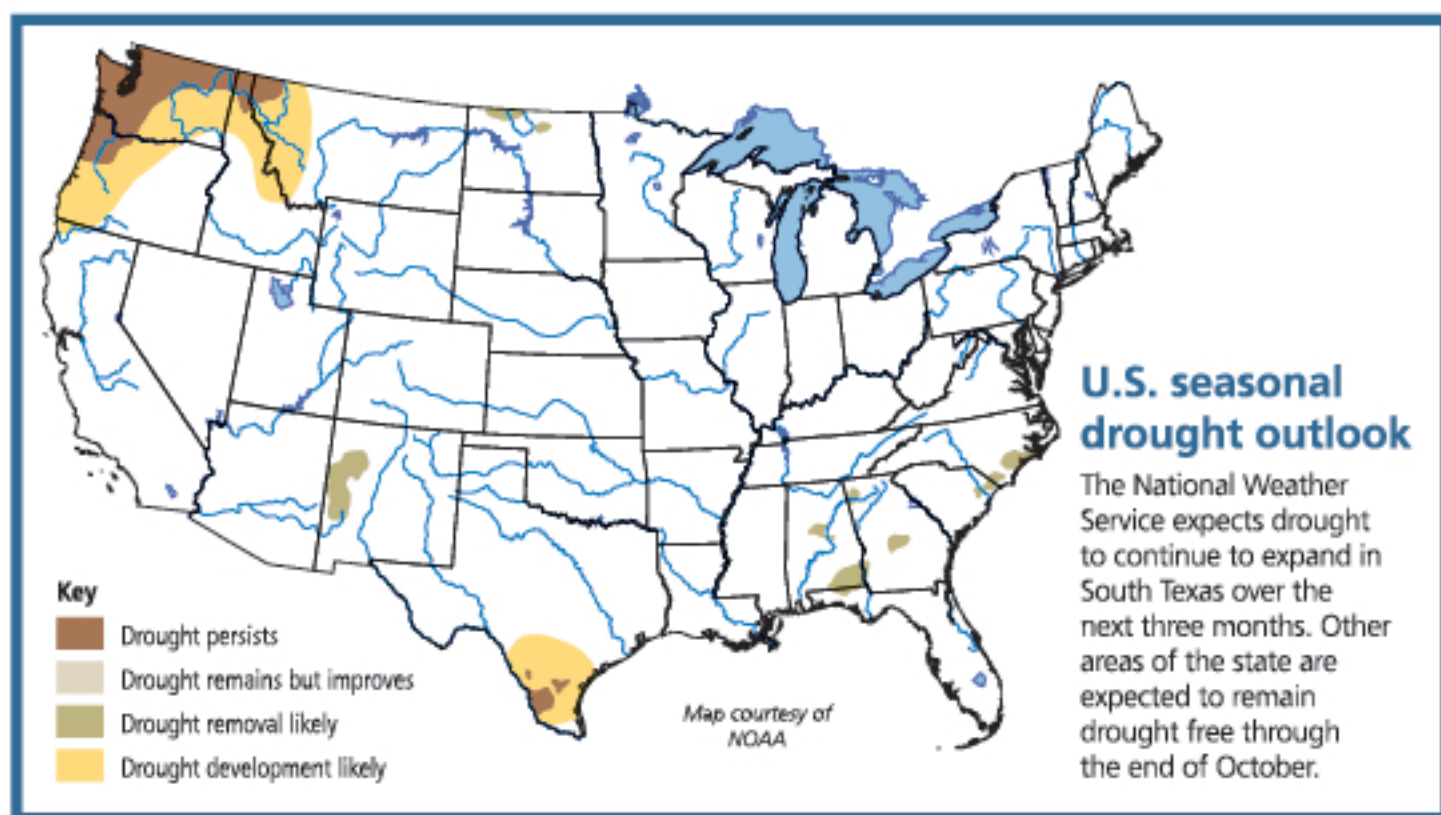
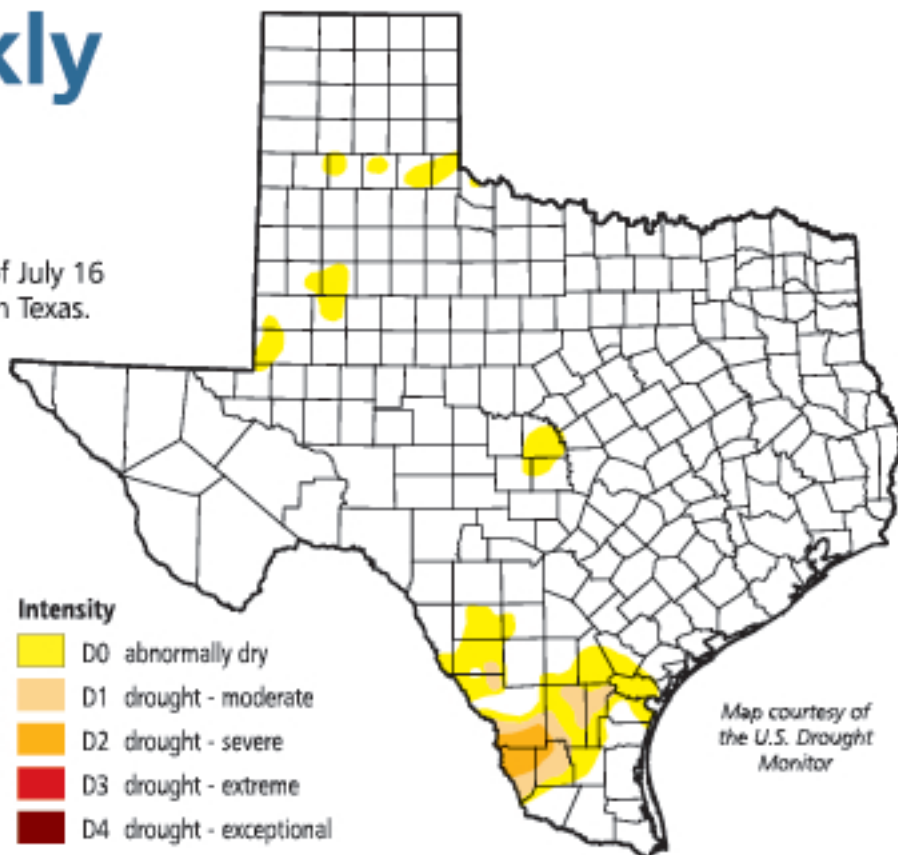
For the week of 07/22/19

Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of July 16 shows some expansion of drought in South Texas. Severe drought is now present in four counties in that part of the state.

Drought conditions

- ▲ 2% now
- ▲ 1% a week ago
- ▲ 5% three months ago
- ▲ 46% a year ago



Written by Dr. Mark Wentzel — Dr. Mark Wentzel is a hydrologist in the TWDB's Office of Water Science and Conservation.

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