

Stormy weather ahead?

When considering all the factors that could affect the potential of production agriculture, one rises to the forefront of many farmers' minds. Water scarcity and drought have always been a concern for farmers, but in recent years the severity of the issue has continued to grow at a staggering rate.

Though the immediate forecast calls for more dry conditions, there is a spark of hope coming from official predictions for the next several months.

Justin Weaver, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Center in Lubbock, is hopeful that predictions for favorable chances of precipitation in May are accurate.

"I would consider decreases in below level precipitation chances good news. Most forecasts that we've seen over the last few years have all shown below normal precipitation," he says. "We're starting to see forecasts that are at least showing the chances

of below level precipitation are decreasing."

With current precipitation at 0.9 inches in Lubbock, 1.16 in Amarillo, 2.95 in Harlingen and 3.93 in Dallas, climatologically normal weather would be welcomed.

"The good news is that we typically don't get much rain until May anyway," Weaver says. "Lubbock's normal rainfall to date is only 3.9 inches, which means that we're 3.0 inches below normal so far this year."

Weaver also cautions producers against outbreaks of severe weather that will accompany the much-needed moisture.

"May and June are typically when we get the majority of our severe weather. Usually, along with that heavy rain, comes big hail, lightning and tornadoes," Weaver says. "Be on the lookout for severe weather and be aware of it. It's that time of year too."

Weaver adds that decent rains could be seen from May through October.

continued on p. 3

From the Texas Corn Producers Board
and the Corn Producers Association of Texas
May 2014

the kernel



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CORNER Comments

David Gibson.....	2
Scott Averhoff.....	2
Texas Farmer Yield BIG	3
The Voice: Association News	
President: Jimmy Wedel	4
College Scholarships.....	4
Lesser Prairie-Chicken	5
TCP in South Texas	6
Odds & Ends	7
Upcoming Events	8

CORNER Comments



David Gibson
TCPB Executive Director
CPAT Exec. Vice President

The High Plains of Texas, where annually 150 million bushels of corn are grown, is

entering this growing season with very dry soil conditions. The soil moisture levels are likely at historic lows. For the growers in that area, this will be one of the most challenging years they have seen as producers. Balancing the water regulations of water districts, their acreage with the available water, and managing the crop to fit these conditions will certainly be a tough test this year.

Some other areas of Texas have had moisture, and their crop is proceeding along at a rapid pace, but nearly all areas have producers reporting the need for additional moisture to adequately mature the crop.

With these production challenges facing the producer, one pleasant surprise so far this year has been the corn market. Currently, the market is \$0.75 to \$1.00 better than many experts had predicted. Several factors have contributed to this, including the wetter and cooler weather than expected across a lot of the Midwest. The Ukrainian situation has contributed to the support as well, and other countries wanting to buy more of our grain. A long-term concern I have for the market is the decline in numbers of cattle on feed, and the lowered demand for corn from that sector. I only hope when good rainfall returns to

continued on p. 5

The Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed ruling on the Clean Water Act is troubling at best. The following quote from our country’s fourth president, James Madison, is a precise statement about the potential impact of these type of rules, “It will be of little avail to the people... if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood.”

TCPB has been monitoring this proposed ruling, and has submitted comments against it as well. Over-reaching regulatory rules rarely accomplish their desired effect, and quite frankly impose burdensome restrictions on economic activity.

I am a firm believer that local control is the best option, whether it be schools, groundwater or environmental. Farmers and ranchers know one thing for sure; they aren’t making any more land so it’s up to them to preserve this asset.

Speaking of the environment, this has been one of the coolest spring seasons I can remember in a long time. With a lack of rainfall, it has certainly helped crops in the north central area not be extremely stressed. I am sure of one thing, it will eventually get hot. Hopefully timely abundant rainfall will accompany the warmer weather.



Scott Averhoff
TCPB Chairman
Waxahachie, Texas

Spring is a busy time of year. Remember, **SAFETY FIRST.**

Weather outlook, continued

However, the potential for El Niño to develop later in the year may increase chances of precipitation. If those conditions continue to develop, that could be good news heading into the latter part of the year.

“In El Niño conditions, it’s warmer across the eastern portion of the Pacific Ocean. That tends to affect weather patterns all over the globe, but here in Texas usually that results in cooler and moister weather,” Weaver says. “The prospects of El Niño condi-

tions developing are as high as 80 percent. Conditions would begin developing during the summer and continue to develop into the fall and winter. Typically, this wouldn’t impact weather until fall or winter time.”

Forecasters are hoping the weather heading into October, November and December 2014, as well as January 2015 will see higher levels of precipitation than usual for that time of year.

“It won’t help growers much this year, but that would help

out substantially for pre-planting moisture for next spring,” Weaver says. “Of course, surface water supplies are in horrible shape as well, so any rainfall we get would be helpful. We really need to get that water.”

Given the lack of moisture across the U.S. in the last several years, the possibility of any precipitation at all could mean brighter prospects for an industry that touches the lives of so many people both state and nationwide. ●

Texas farmers yield BIG

Despite the ongoing drought, heat and usual high winds in our state, Texas farmers fared well in the 2013 National Corn Yield Contest held by the National Corn Growers Association.

Double ‘SA’ Farms in Hart,

Texas, topped the contest’s irrigated division with a yield of 418.34 bu/a!

At the state level, yields were equalling well achieved. Congratulations to all the Texas farmers who participated in the 2013 contest!

Winners in the contest received national recognition at the 2014 Commodity Classic, as well as cash trips or other awards from sponsors.

Those interested in entering in the 2014 NCYC can visit www.ncga.com. ●

Rank	Entrant Name	City	Hybrid Brand	Number	Yield
Division A: A Non-Irrigated					
1	Iowa Family Farms	DeKalb	Pioneer	P2088YHR	217.8898
2	Lesa Kautz	Arthur City	Pioneer	P2088YHR	194.1198
3	Todd Kimbrell Jr	Itasca	DEKALB	DKC64-69	173.0176
Division C: A No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated					
1	Toby Kautz	Arthur City	Pioneer	P1498YHR	222.7866
Division I: Irrigated					
1	Double ‘SA’ Farms	Hart	Pioneer	P1625CHR	418.3376
2	Bonanza Farms	Sunray	DEKALB	DKC62-08	331.4076
3	Cartrite Farms	Sunray	Pioneer	P1625CHR	318.9423
Division E: No-Till/Strip-Till Irrigated					
1	Buckley Farms	Dimmitt	Pioneer	P1625CHR	314.6417
2	Donny Carpenter	Dimmitt	Pioneer	33Y77AM1	311.8713
3	Kris Batenhorst	Dalhart	Channel	217-08VT3PRIB	297.7993

THE VOICE: Association News

A note from the President...

Over the past two years, I have opened each commentary with a comment about the farm bill, aka the Agriculture Act of 2014. So to be consistent, I guess I should mention it again. The wheels of Washington turn slow, and in the case of farm bill implementation, that is probably a good thing. With the multitude of changes to the new program, it will take time for the rules to be written. As this farm bill gives producers more choices than any previous farm bill, it is very important that each producer carefully analyze which program option is best for each farm. A “farm bill overview” document, which demonstrates the decision making process, is available at TexasCorn.org.

Both surface water and groundwater issues continue to stir at almost any meeting where water users are present. The upcoming 2015 legislative session in Austin will

likely have several bills filed relating to water. Since agriculture is the largest user of water, it will be important for CPAT to monitor those issues and respond accordingly.

Altering the Renewable Fuel Standard has been one of the hottest news topics, since the EPA proposed changes to the Renewable Volume Obligation almost 6 months ago. Please tell your legislator that renewable fuels now represent almost 10 percent of the nation’s fuel supply, support 852,000 jobs, and generates over \$14.5 billion in state and local tax revenue every year. Renewable fuels help support local farmers and local communities. The ethanol tax credit expired 2 years ago, yet oil has received subsidies for 101 years!

The drought continues to be a major concern over most parts of the state. However, enough rainfall has allowed most of the dry-land produc-



Jimmy Wedel
CPAT President
Muleshoe, Texas

ers to at least get their crops started this year. The High Plains is still under extreme drought conditions, and establishing healthy stands on weak water have become very challenging.

If you have not yet joined CPAT, you can sign up online at TexasCorn.org and receive a **FREE** bag of seed! 🌽

College scholarship applications being accepted from youth members

The CPAT is proud to again sponsor two scholarships for its youth members. This year, the CPAT will award one **\$1,000** scholarship in each of the following categories:

- High School junior or senior as of August 1, 2014
- College undergraduate student as of August 1, 2014

Applicants are eligible for the scholarship if they are a youth member of CPAT and attend/plan to attend a Texas college or university full time.

The application process is simple - just complete an essay on “what you believe is a pertinent issue/problem facing corn producers today and

ways the industry can overcome the challenge.”

The deadline to submit applications is 5 p.m. November 30, 2014.

Application details, form and further information is available at TexasCorn.org. 🌽

Lesser Prairie-Chicken listed as threatened

The Department of Interior United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced a final listing of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on March 27.

Two-thirds of federally listed species have at least some habitat on private land, and some species have most of their remaining habitat on private land. The USFWS and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service have developed an array of tools and incentives to protect the interests of private landowners, while encouraging management activities that benefit listed species and other at-risk species.

The NRCS has entered into an agreement with the USFWS referenced as the Working Lands for Wildlife partnership. The special 4(d) rule issued by USFWS will allow landowners who are following conservation practices considered compliant with a WLFW conservation plan to receive ESA Predictability.

ESA Predictability protects the landowner from incidental take of Lesser Prairie-Chicken, provided the landowner is applying conservation practices as planned in the WLFW plan.

The voluntary partnership through the WLFW between the USFWS, NRCS and private landowners/producers works to help restore populations of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken, while strengthening rural economies by protecting the productivity of working lands.

Landowners interested in the WLFW should contact their local NRCS Service Center. An NRCS planner would then determine if habitat on the property is suitable or can be improved or created to benefit the



Lesser Prairie-Chicken. If so, the NRCS planner and the landowner will jointly develop a conservation plan that will recommend a combination of conservation practices and measures for the landowner to apply in order to create or improve the habitat for the species.

Additional information is available through the NRCS website at <http://1.usa.gov/R5cUwt>.

Gibson, continued from p. 2

the range country we can see cattle numbers increase, and therefore put more cattle back in the feedlots. However, this will be a slow process as the cow herd numbers have to be rebuilt before we see the feed numbers move back up.

I encourage all producers to use good management tools

as this year progresses. With the water issues many face, the management of the crop will be critical. For the producers in central and southern parts of the state, management for prevention of aflatoxin will be important this year. I encourage growers to investigate and use

one of the atoxigenic products that are available to control this aflatoxin problem.

I hope all have a good year and the weather changes to a wetter pattern as some forecasts show for later in the growing season.

Texas Corn Producers in South Texas

Last month was an eventful one for the Texas Corn Producers. April kicked off with the Corn Corral BBQ in Sinton, and the spring board meetings for the Texas Corn Producers Board and the Corn Producers Association of Texas.

Corn Corral BBQ

With a mere 1 percent of the population working hard to produce the food our state, country and world need, it's more important than ever to ensure the farmer's voice is heard in Austin and D.C.

Coastal Bend corn farmers gathered to help raise funds for such efforts at the CPAT's Corn Corral BBQ benefitting the Texas CornPAC.

The event was held Monday, April 7 at the Welder Wildlife Refuge Rotunda in Sinton, Texas. It drew a crowd of approximately 60, and included a meal, entertainment and a silent auction.

The Texas CornPAC supports legislators who help defend agriculture at both the state and national level. The Texas CornPAC enables CPAT to strengthen relationships with policy makers, ensure representatives know contributors are farmers, and influence policy to ensure a future for Texas farmers.

The Texas CornPAC is handled by the CPAT, which is the advocacy arm of Texas corn farmer representation – actively giving farmers a voice at a regional, state and national level.

Farmers unable to attend the event that would still like to give to the Texas CornPAC can mail contributions to: Texas CornPAC, 4205 N. Interstate 27, Lubbock, Texas 79403.*

TCPB and CPAT Meetings

The TCPB board met on Tuesday, April 8 in Corpus Christi.

At the meeting, new director Daniel Berglund of Wharton, and re-elected directors Robert Gordon of Dalhart, Wesley Spurlock of Stratford, Dee Vaughan of Dumas and Steven Yoder of Dalhart were sworn onto the board by Lance Williams with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The board discussed a number of ongoing programs and research efforts, as well as moved to broaden its programming efforts.

The board voted to expand its consumer outreach programs by enlisting agricultural volunteers to join in the national CommonGround program (see details in *Odds and Ends*), and will launch a new young leader initiative this year.

The CPAT board met on Wednesday, April 9. The



TCPB directors sworn onto the board. Pictured (l-r) Steven Yoder, Robert Gordon, Wesley Spurlock, Dee Vaughan and Daniel Berglund.

board discussed the myriad of issues facing the state's corn industry, and how the association could provide the best representation for the state's farmers.

For CPAT to continue making a strong impact on state and federal legislation for producers, continued membership and growth is imperative. The CPAT is solely funded through memberships. The association will be amping up its recruitment efforts throughout the state. If you're not already a CPAT member, visit www.Texas-Corn.org for information on the many benefits (including a **FREE** bag of seed) and to join TODAY!

**According to FEC rules, corporate account contributions cannot be accepted. Texas Corn PAC contributions must be paid for with a personal check. Voluntary contributions may be accepted from any U.S. citizen. However, solicitation for contributions is limited to Corn Producers Association of Texas memberships.*

ODDS *AND* ENDS



TexasCorn.org revamped, online resource

The Texas Corn Producers recently launched its revamped website, www.TexasCorn.org.

The site is a valuable tool for farmers and consumers alike. It features the latest industry news, as well as ag markets, weather and upcoming events.

The site also highlights some of the issues facing the industry and useful legislative resources for producers.

Information on CPAT membership and its benefits are also available to producers.

Additionally, when the farm bill decision aid tool being developed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University is available, farmers can access it from our site.

Consumers have access to an abundance of learning materials about corn production and uses.



Female agriculturalists needed for consumer outreach effort

At its April Board meeting the Texas Corn Producers voted to pursue a state initiative that is part of the national CommonGround program.

CommonGround strives to create conversation between volunteer farm women who grow food,

and the women who buy it. The goal of the program is to help consumers understand where their food comes from (not a factory!), and help consumers understand and trust the process.

Additional information about the national

initiative is available at findourcommonground.com.

If you're interested in becoming an advocate as part of the state program, please contact the TCP office at info@texascorn.org or 806.763.2676.

TCP holds farm bill seminars in High Plains and Panhandle

Last month the Texas Corn Producers hosted a series of farm bill seminars across the High Plains and Panhandle region.

The sessions highlighted the key changes in the 2014 farm bill, and gave a preview of the available tools farmers will have to aid in making decisions for their farming operations.

The sessions were held April 21-23 in Dimmitt, Tulia, Dalhart and Dumas. Approximately 250 area produc-

ers attended the event.

Joe Outlaw, Ph.D., the co-director of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University, spoke at each of the sessions. He worked closely with the House Ag Committee staff during the development of the legislation and has a thorough knowledge of the final bill.

Though the industry is still waiting the USDA-Farm Service Agency's interpretation of the legislation, the TCP encourages producers to begin get-

ting acquainted with the new farm bill. There are important decisions to be made on every farm, and the decision-making process when sign up begins will be much easier for those that are familiar with the new farm programs.

The AFPC will have a decision aid available soon, and TCP will make it available on its website, TexasCorn.org. Additionally, TCP has developed a brief overview that is currently available on the site.

Directors

Scott Averhoff, *Ellis Co.*

Jay Beckhusen, *Milam Co.*

Daniel Berglund, *Wharton Co.*

David Ford, *Hartley Co.*

Robert Gordon, *Dallam Co.*

Mark Howard, *Parmer Co.*

Larry Mason, *Dallam Co.*

Joe Reed, *Swisher Co.*

Charles Ring, *San Patricio Co.*

Wesley Spurlock, *Sherman Co.*

Max Swinburn, *Castro Co.*

Bart Thoreson, *Hansford Co.*

Wesley Valerius, *Cameron Co.*

Dee Vaughan, *Moore Co.*

Jimmy Wedel, *Bailey Co.*

Bruce Wetzel, *Grayson Co.*

Steve Yoder, *Dallam Co.*

Staff

David Gibson

Executive Director

Stephanie Pruitt

Communications Director

Kaci Bearden

Business & Finance Coord.

Hallie Bertrand

Industry Relations

Angie Martin

Industry Relations

Lynsey Meharg

Communications Intern

Taylor Niemeyer

Administrative Intern

Upcoming Events

With the farm bill passed, there are a number of preliminary educational sessions being planned. South Texas is also moving into field tour season. TCP encourages you to visit www.TexasCorn.org for the most up-to-date list of events.

Support our Corporate Members



Attebury Grain

Learn how you can become a corporate member at www.TexasCorn.org



www.TexasCorn.org
[Facebook.com/TexasCorn](https://www.facebook.com/TexasCorn)
[Flickr.com/TexasCorn](https://www.flickr.com/photos/TexasCorn/)
[Twitter.com/TexasCorn](https://twitter.com/TexasCorn)
[YouTube.com/TexasCorn](https://www.youtube.com/TexasCorn)

4205 N. Interstate 27
Lubbock, Texas 79403
806.763.CORN (2676) phone
800.647.CORN (2676) toll free
806.762.2674 fax