

Wheat and Stocker Cattle Production Challenges

- Stocker cattle grazing wheat pasture are an important part of the economy in the Texas Rolling Plains region.
- Wheat and stocker cattle business decisions are impacted by a variety of issues, including cattle and wheat prices, animal health, weather, wheat forage availability, disease, insect infestations, and cost of production.

AgriLife Extension's Response

- The Cattle Trails Wheat and Stocker Conference was organized by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service to address wheat and stocker cattle production and economic issues in the Rolling Plains of Texas and Oklahoma.
- The conference, held annually on a rotating schedule between Texas and Oklahoma, is a one-day educational program that provides wheat and stocker cattle producers with up-to-date market and economic information and teaches management practices that influence operational profitability.

- Key leaders from the beef industry and extension specialists discuss various topics, including cattle and wheat market analysis, economics, risk management, animal health, wheat varieties and production, grazing practice considerations, and animal welfare issues.
- In 2015, approximately 65 stocker cattle and cow-calf producers attended the conference in Wichita Falls, Texas.
- Participants own or manage more than 35,900 head of stocker cattle and 58,000 acres of wheat.

Economic Impacts

- Based on program evaluation responses, 63% of the participants said they expect to change their production and/or marketing practices as a result of information they received at the conference.
- The potential increase in net returns resulting from the adoption of selected wheat and stocker cattle management and marketing practices is estimated at \$208,000 annually.

