

“Spotty” would be the best word to describe rainfall across Goliad County this year. In what may be one of the few times on record, the western half of the county received rainfall totals comparable to – and in some cases exceeding – those in the eastern portion.

The official town gauge recorded 23.8 inches for the year. Just three miles away, my gauge measured 32.2 inches, a difference of more than 9 inches. Reports from the CoCoRaHS network further highlight this variability:

- 26.97 “ in the southwest, north of Berclair
- 27.93" in the southeast part of the county*
- 29.84 " in the northern part of the county
- 29.99 “ in the west, Charco
- 31.13 “ in the east, Fannin*

*US Weather Stations

There are now eight active CoCoRaHS observers reporting rainfall data in Goliad County, providing a much clearer picture of how localized rainfall continues to be.

While totals were uneven, the timing of rainfall was anything but. After the first week of July – essentially the second half of the year – rainfall amounts shifted noticeably. Instead of 4" and 3" events, totals were all in tenths.

I did not record another significant rainfall over 1 inch until December 18, when 1.5 inches finally fell. The Goliad site ended the year 12 inches below normal, receiving only 66% of average rainfall, with July through November ranging from 15% to 38% of normal.

A brighter spot in 2025 was the cattle market. Livestock auction barns recorded the highest prices ever across all steer weight classes. Prices began the year around \$2.65 per pound and steadily climbed, peaking in October at \$3.72, before easing back – following much the same path on the way down as they did on the way up.

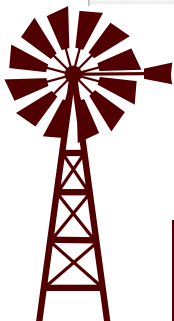
The CME (Chicago Mercantile Exchange) Feeder Cattle Index finished the year at \$3.50 per pound, based on an 800-pound feeder steer. Meanwhile, the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service lowered Goliad County’s cattle inventory estimate to 42,000 head, down from 44,000 the previous year. These figures are derived from producer-completed Census of Agriculture surveys.



continued page 4

Table 1 - Goliad Co Groundwater District TX-GD-17

	MONTH												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Recorded	2.68	0.58	4.2	1.38	3.11	5.44	1.43	0.93	1.54	0.43	0.72	1.37	23.81
Average	2.7	1.3	2.6	2.5	3.7	3.3	3.8	3	5.4	2.8	2.6	2.2	35.9
% of Norm	99%	45%	162%	55%	84%	165%	38%	31%	29%	15%	28%	62%	66%
Departure	-0.02	-0.72	1.6	-1.12	-0.59	2.14	-2.37	-2.07	-3.86	-2.37	-1.88	-0.83	-12.09
Acc RF	2.68	3.26	7.46	8.84	11.95	17.39	18.82	19.75	21.29	21.72	22.44	23.81	
Acc Norm	2.7	4	6.6	9.1	12.8	16.1	19.9	22.9	28.3	31.1	33.7	35.9	
% Acc Norm	99%	82%	113%	97%	93%	108%	95%	86%	75%	70%	67%	66%	
Departure	-0.02	-0.74	0.86	-0.26	-0.85	1.29	-1.08	-3.15	-7.01	-9.38	-11.26	-12.09	
ACC RF =	accumulated rainfall									72 year rainfall average			35.64
ACC NORM =	accumulated normal rainfall									(1954-2025)			



Goliad County Agricultural Newsletter

Jan★ Feb★ Mar★ Apr

Goliad County Extension Office
Franklin Street Courthouse Annex
329 West Franklin Goliad, TX 77963

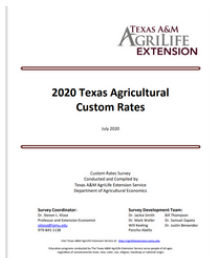
Tel. 361.645.8204 Fax. 361.645.2427
goliad-tx@tamu.edu

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2025 Custom Rate Survey

Complete our short online survey:

tx.ag/crs2025



The 2025 Custom Rates Survey was launched. Some of you may have received a hard copy for the survey. I would encourage you to fill out this survey online. Takes less than 15 minutes for most participants. Individual responses are confidential.

For over 40 years, the Texas Custom Rates Survey has been an important resource for farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses across the state, providing accurate information on current rates paid or charged for a wide variety of agricultural custom work, machine operations, and services.

To see the results of the 2020 survey



Endangered Species Protection Act

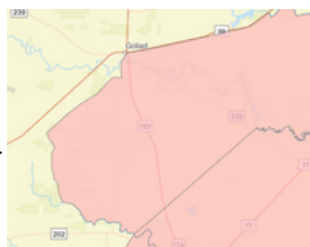
As of early 2026, standard rangeland and pasture herbicides—do not require checking **EPA's Bulletins Live! Two** system for Endangered Species Protection Bulletins. These older registrations lack the specific label language mandating consultation of the site for geographically limited use restrictions (PULAs) to protect threatened or endangered species.

EPA's 2024 Herbicide Strategy is gradually adding requirements to new or reviewed products, but common pasture labels remain unchanged for now.

Always read your container's label—if it directs you to Bulletins Live! Two, compliance (including documentation) is mandatory.

!!!The south half of Goliad Co. is listed as a PULA!!!

At this time it would be only for Enlist applied to corn or soybeans.



I greatly encourage new landowners or those inheriting land to take the Generation Next: Our Turn to Ranch online course. The curriculum is specifically designed to empower new landowners with the knowledge and resources needed to start a new agricultural operation, improve an existing one or manage the land to meet their specific stewardship goals.

This 12-week course is instructor-led (Megan Clayton and Annette Cayard, program coordinator) with many Extension Specialists, outside organizations, and mentor ranchers included as lesson instructors. Topics include starting an ag business, tax and insurance needs, financial management, basic land management and resources, ag law and leases, and transition planning among others. Each week a new topic is opened. Participants may complete the lesson and activity at any time, day or night, and can always work on past lessons. This is often a game-changer for those who are lost on what direction to take their land or want to get their dreams down on paper. It also has created much open dialog between owner generations and given new landowners the right questions to ask when starting.

The next course starts on January 26, 2026, but the time to register is now! More information about the course, including the link to register, can be found at

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Course fee is \$300

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

continued from page 1

Cropping patterns shifted again this year. Corn was the dominant crop, with more than 3,300 acres planted, down about 200 acres from last year. Yields averaged 75 bushels per acre, matching the county average, with at least one report exceeding 100 bushels.

Milo yields were slightly above the county average at approximately 4,500 pounds per acre, though planted acreage declined to 2,400 acres, down 600 acres. Cotton acreage increased significantly, with 1,750 acres planted, up 1,000 acres from last year. Cotton yields averaged just over 2 bales per acre. While soil moisture was good prior to planting, the growing season remained mostly dry. Fortunately, timely rains allowed producers to harvest a crop, much like last season.

Commodity prices were mixed compared to 2024. Corn harvest prices averaged \$4.20 per bushel, while sorghum brought \$7.30 per hundredweight. Cotton prices declined sharply to \$0.675 per pound, down 22.5 cents from last year.

Hay production started strong, and final yields were fair, with most producers able to achieve two cuttings. Hay supplies were abundant, yet prices remained elevated due to higher production costs, with round bales selling for nearly \$80. Quality was good overall, highlighted at the Tri-County Hay Show, where the champion sample – sourced from a coastal field in western Goliad County – posted a Relative Feed Value of 102.

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Agent's side

As we look ahead to the coming year, the hope across Goliad County is simple: a return to something close to average.

Average rainfall, average growing conditions, and steady markets would go a long way toward restoring balance after a challenging season. Timely rains, manageable heat, and a few well-placed weather events can make all the difference for crops and pasture alike. With cattle numbers tight and producers continuing to manage costs carefully, a stable year would be welcome across the board.

Best wishes to all our farmers, ranchers, and landowners for a safe, productive year, good luck with your crops and cattle, and may the year ahead bring favorable conditions and solid returns.

I hope you find this information useful. If I can assist you in anyway please contact me!

Sincerely,



Brian D. Yanta

Goliad County Extension Office

Franklin Street Courthouse Annex
329 West Franklin • Goliad, TX 77963

Tel 361.645.8204 • Mbl 361.649.2302
brian.yanta@ag.tamu.edu

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES INFORMATION

If you need any special accommodation, please contact Brian Yanta at 361-645-8204, 10 days prior so we can consider your request.

If you have any special dietary needs, please contact Brian Yanta at 361-645-8204, 10 days prior to the event.