

What's Up, Doc?

Grayson County Ag and Natural Resources Newsletter

Vol 1: Issue 3 (August 2022) by D. Chad Cummings

Contents:	Page
Grayson county USDA crop report summary.....	2
In the news.....	3
It's big, but it's not a 'murder hornet'.....	3
Potential for significant wildfires continues.....	4
Common grazing mistakes webinar.....	5
US drought monitor & 3-month climate prediction.....	6
Plants, insects, and diseases active now.....	7
Events Coming Up in Ag and Nat Resources.....	8

Grayson County USDA crop report summary

July 29, 2022

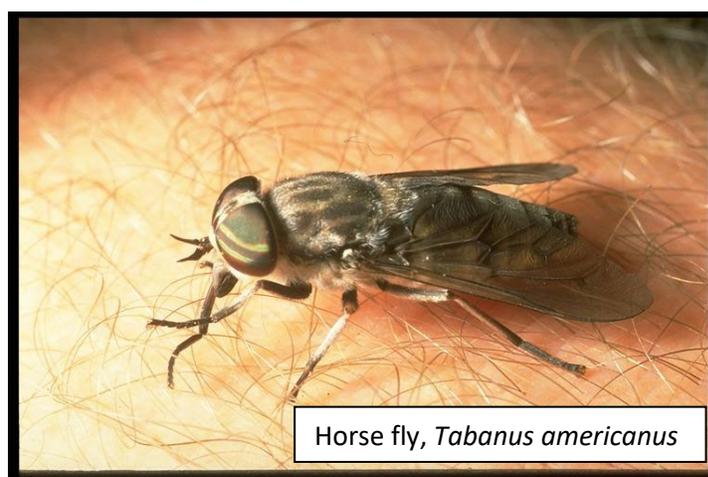
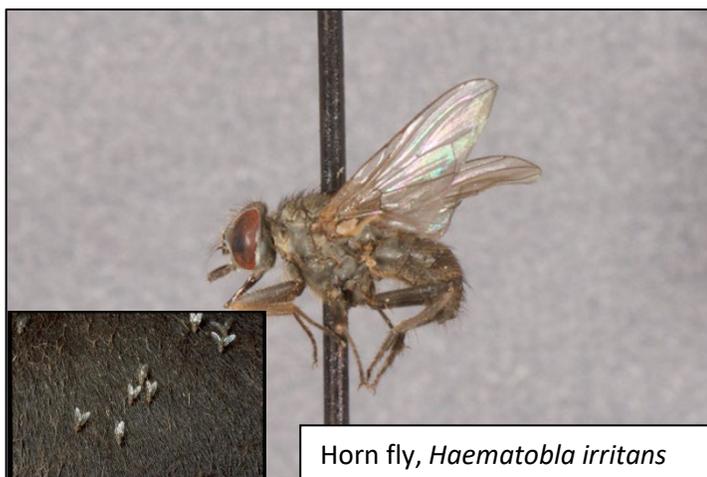
Crop conditions are poor. Much of north Grayson county moved into D3 Extreme drought with the rest of the county in D2 Severe drought. Corn has completed maturity. Corn yields from Grayson County ranged from 35 to 90 bu/A and test weights were from 50 to 58 lb/bu. Some fields were so short that ears were touching the ground at harvest. The majority of the soybean acres have been cut and baled for forage hay. Just a few hundred acres were kept for bean harvest and pod fill is continuing to be positive in those low valley locations. Much of the grain sorghum is being cut for hay or silage due to drought conditions.

No real insect or disease pests have been problematic to crops. Horn and stable flies continue to increase in the livestock populations.

Livestock condition continues to hold. Forage and hay in the area are unavailable - minimal grass growth and hay stocks are depleted. Culling and beginning stages of liquidation are occurring throughout the county with livestock auction inventory numbers being high for all classes and species. Prices remain stable at this time. Stock tanks and ponds are beginning to shrink rapidly in the area, but well maintained depth ponds are surviving to date.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office has received two reports of pond fish die off events (one less than 50, one over 200 fish various sizes and species).

Common summer nuisance insects (horn flies, horse flies)



In the News.....

It's big, but it's not a 'murder hornet'

Texas A&M AgriLife experts say Texans mistakenly identifying cicada killer wasps

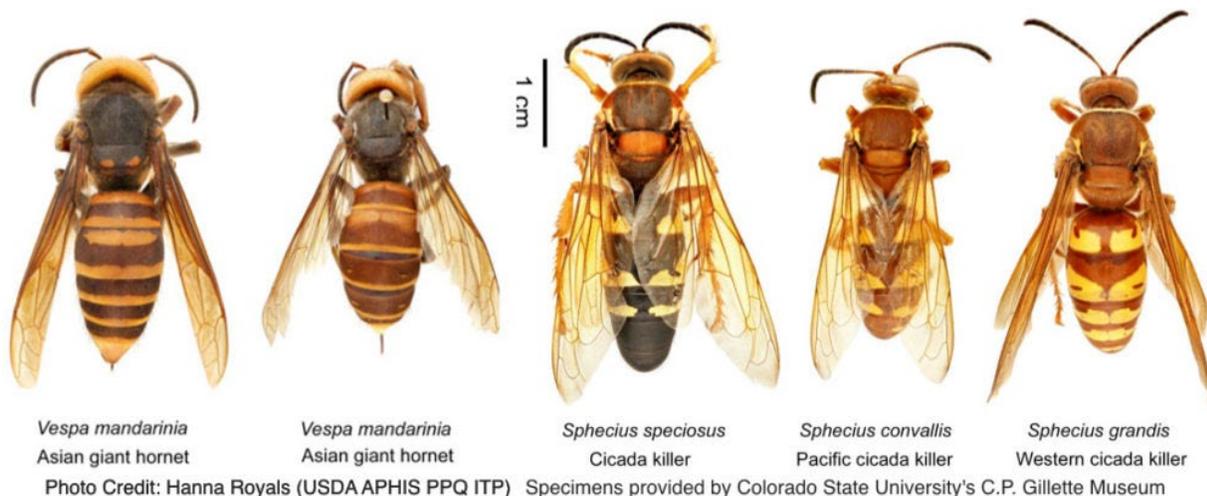
JULY 28, 2022

Each summer since the release of information about Northern giant hornets being found in Washington state in 2020, [Texas A&M AgriLife](#) entomologists have been inundated with questions and reported sightings.

But these sightings of Northern giant hornets, which were formerly named the Asian giant hornet and commonly called "murder hornet," are nothing more than cases of mistaken identity, said Molly Keck, [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) integrated pest management specialist and entomologist, San Antonio.

Keck and other AgriLife Extension entomologists said people are most likely mistaking cicada killers, which are large native Texas wasps, for Northern giant hornets.

To Read more visit.....[It's big, but it's not a 'murder hornet' - AgriLife Today \(tamu.edu\)](https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/28/its-big-but-its-not-a-murder-hornet/) (https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/28/its-big-but-its-not-a-murder-hornet/)



Potential for significant wildfires continues for much of North, Central and East Texas

Firefighters work to contain several new fires

JULY 19, 2022

The wildfire environment, characterized by critically to extremely dry vegetation and critical fire weather, will support significant wildfires this week, [according to Texas A&M Forest Service](#).

Areas of concern include the eastern Rolling Plains, Cross Timbers, Central Texas, North Texas near the Waco and Dallas-Fort Worth areas, and south along the I-35 corridor near the Capital region. The risk for significant wildfires is also expanding east to include portions of East Texas, including areas near Palestine, Crockett, Huntsville, Tyler and Marshall.

Currently, 99% of the state is experiencing some level of drought. The rainfall received last week was minimal and offered only a temporary reprieve from the dry conditions in some areas.



A smoke plume can be seen from the Nelson Creek Fire. (Texas A&M Forest Service photo)

To Read More visit.....[Potential for significant wildfires continues across - AgriLife Today \(tamu.edu\)](https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/19/potential-for-significant-wildfires-continues-for-much-of-north-central-and-east-texas/)
(<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/19/potential-for-significant-wildfires-continues-for-much-of-north-central-and-east-texas/>)

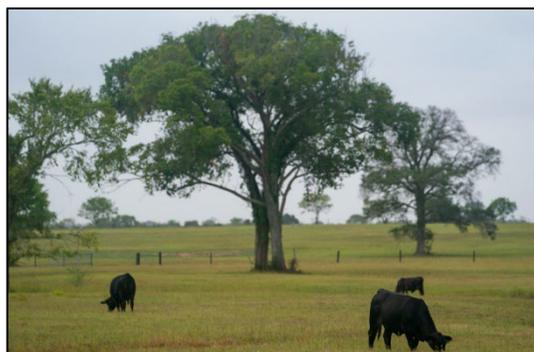
Common grazing mistakes topic of Aug. 4 webinar

Part of ongoing Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management stewardship series *JULY 21, 2022*

[The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#) will present the webinar “10 Common Grazing Management Misconceptions” on Aug. 4 as part of its ongoing [Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management](#), RWF, Stewardship Series.

The event will run from noon to 1 p.m. Cost is \$35, and advance registration is required by Aug. 1. Participants must register at <https://tx.ag/RWFMAugWeb22>.

After payment has been received, a follow-up email will be sent from the event organizer with instructions on how to access the webinar. For questions, contact Morgan Treadwell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension range specialist, San Angelo, at morgan.treadwell@ag.tamu.edu.



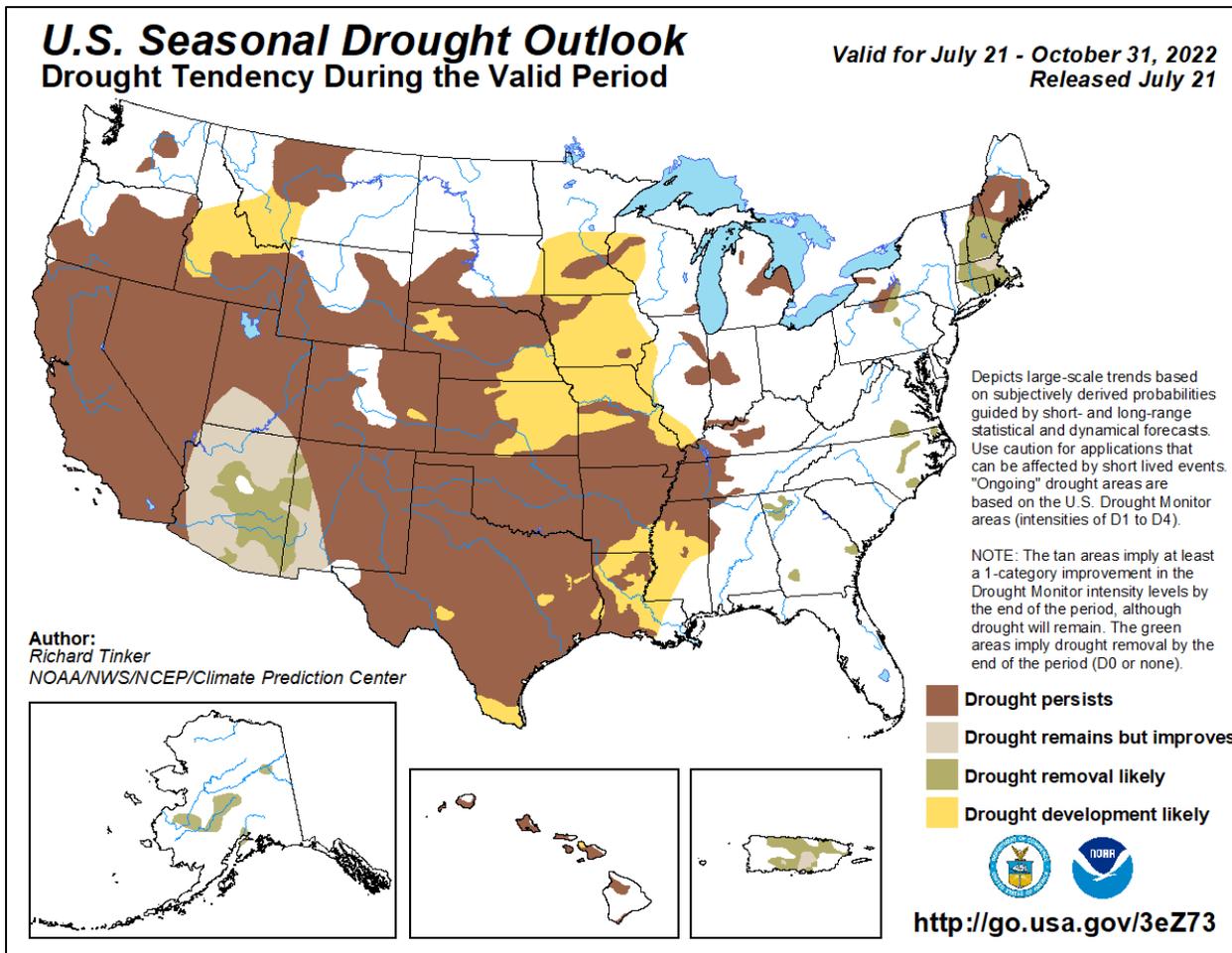
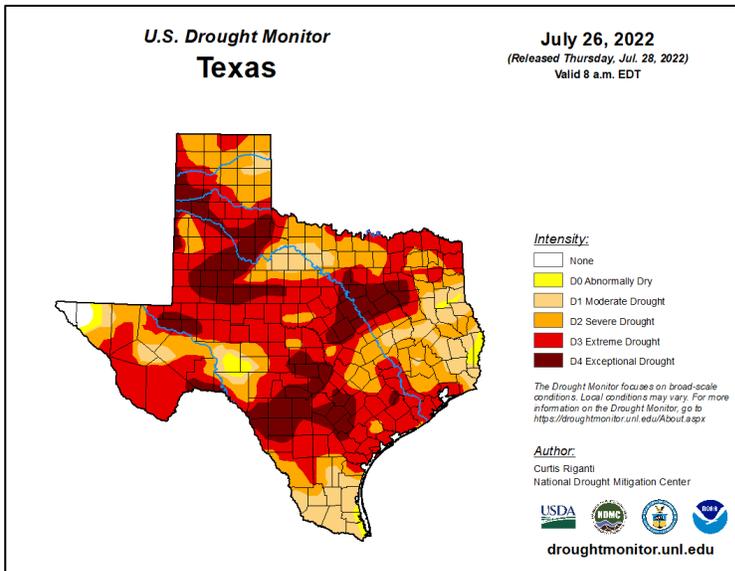
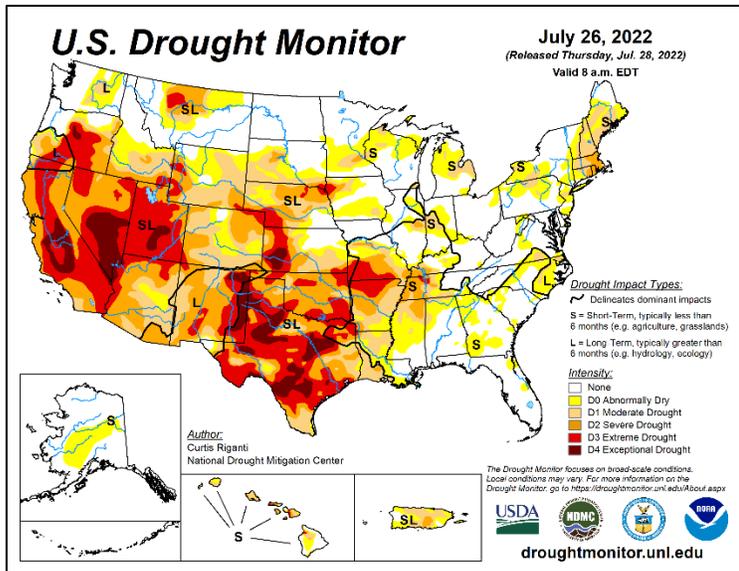
The Aug. 4 webinar will cover the 10 most common grazing management mistakes. (Texas A&M photo by Courtney Sacco)

“Oftentimes, the ecological barriers to production on a ranching enterprise are some of the easier to address,” Treadwell said. “Other times, it’s perceptual misconceptions that can affect an operation the most.”

One general [Texas Department of Agriculture](#) continuing education unit will be available.

To read more visit..... [Common grazing mistakes topic of Aug. 4 webinar - AgriLife Today \(tamu.edu\)](https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/21/common-grazing-mistakes-topic-of-aug-4-webinar/)
(<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2022/07/21/common-grazing-mistakes-topic-of-aug-4-webinar/>)

Current US drought monitor & 3-month climate prediction



Plants, insects, and diseases active now

Plants

Warm season weeds like crabgrass, foxtail, woolly croton (doveweed), ragweed, johnsongrass, and pigweed are completely drought stressed due to the hot, dry weather. Johnsongrass is putting on a seedhead in the bar-ditches and in some fields, regrowth johnsongrass has slowed growth significantly. Nightshades like silverleaf nightshade, buffalobur, ground cherry, and Horsenettle are in reproductive stage. Vegetation in general has dried down and slowed growth significantly due to hot, dry conditions. There are a few exceptions for low lying pastures or crop fields, where moisture and shade have allowed persisting growth.

Insects

Web worms and other tree pests are still increasing across the area. Low grasshopper populations are increasing in some areas with the dry weather, but populations are still lower than normal. No armyworm or cutworm issues have been reported area wide. Horn fly and stable fly infestation levels are on the rise for humans and livestock.

Diseases

No real disease issues currently in any crops.

D. Chad Cummings, PhD

chad.cummings@ag.tamu.edu

Events Coming Up

Jul 30

- Landscaping Seminar (*Pottsboro Library – Master Gardeners hosting*)

Aug 1-3

- Beef Cattle Short Course (*College Station*)

Aug 19

- Collin County Landowner 101: Principles of Livestock Mgt (*McKinney*)

Aug 25

- Cooke County Fall Ranch Management Program (*Gainesville*)

Aug 26

- Special Valuations and Grayson County Landowners (*Douglass Distributing Conference Center; Sherman*)

Sep 24

- Frontier Day (*Pottsboro Park – Master Gardeners participating*)

Visit our website at [Welcome to Grayson County - Grayson \(grayson.agrilife.org\)](https://grayson.agrilife.org/) (<https://grayson.agrilife.org/>) to sign up for the events.