

Arkansas County Cooperative Extension Service

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BEEF NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2020

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- **Brucellosis Clinic May 4*
- **Black Fly/Buffalo Gnats*
- **4-H Livestock Club*
- **Record Meat Supplies*

Enclosure:

*Forage Herbicide Quick
Reference Guide*



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The UA Division of Agriculture Extension Service agents are still working and are still here to serve you. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

ON-FARM BRUCELLOSIS CLINIC

Currently our Spring Brucellosis Vaccination is scheduled for May 4. With the Covid-19 pandemic we will be taking extra precautions while implementing this program. As of now the plan is for our vaccinator Brian Gibson and Extension agent to arrive in separate vehicles and meet you at the site. We are to keep a distance while working and finish the job and leave. It's always a great time meeting and visiting with each of you, but we may have to handle it differently this time. I'm sure we will be getting more instructions before the vaccinations. Postcards will be sent closer to the date, and you will need to return or call to be included in the schedule.

BLACK FLY/BUFFALO GNAT MANAGEMENT

Once again Buffalo Gnats are a big problem in our county. Hopefully the warmer weather this week will give the relief that is needed. Here are a few points to remember.

- Control is difficult due to vast breeding area
- Animals can be sheltered in barns, etc.; black flies will not enter structures.
- Pyrethroids applied to animals provide temporary relief.
- In many instances, smoke is the only method of relief.

Managing Heavy Use Cattle Feeding Areas: With all of the rain we are getting, we have some muddy situations out there in feeding areas. Here are some tips on feeding this time of year. Cattle tend to defecate near where they are fed; therefore, management of the feeding area is a major portion of the manure management aspects of a beef program. When feeding grain or a mixed ration, use feed bunks or troughs. Permanent bunks or feeding sites may need to be on a concrete or geotextile mat. Move portable feeders as needed to allow these areas to recover. Beef producers should also rotate hay feeding areas throughout the feeding season. Portable hay rings can be used to help reduce waste, but they do not totally eliminate it as cattle tend to pull hay out of the ring and tramp it into the ground. Waste can be reduced by limiting the number of cows fed at one time. Two feet of space is needed for each mature cow to access hay in a ring. This limits the number of cattle that one hay ring can

efficiently feed to approximately 15 head. Moving the portable rings on a regular basis to reduce excessively muddy conditions, spreading the manure over a large area and minimizing long-term damage to the pasture are important. Unrolling round bales is another hay feeding option. This enables more cattle to feed at one time and allows small calves to have a better chance to compete for hay. It also spreads the feeding area resulting in cattle distributing manure over a larger area. The disadvantage to unrolling hay is that daily feeding is required and that it is not suitable for all producers. After the hay feeding season is over, producers should drag and smooth the feeding areas. A tire drag is an inexpensive and quite effective tool for this job. It does not clog up with debris but rather breaks up clods, spreads cow patties and helps level rough areas. Spreading the cattle manure smooths the ground and helps reduce spot grazing.

CORONAVIRUS – KEEPING THE HOME SAFE

What every American can do now to keep the home safe and decrease the spread of the coronavirus:

Encourage your family members to...

- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their face and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Households with vulnerable seniors or those with significant underlying conditions

Significant underlying conditions include heart, lung, kidney disease, diabetes; and conditions that suppress the immune system.

- Have the healthy people in the household conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions. For example, wash hands frequently before interacting with the person, such as by feeding or caring for the person
- If possible, provide a protected space for vulnerable household members
- Ensure all utensils and surfaces are cleaned regularly

Households with sick family members

- Give sick member their own room if possible, and keep the door closed
- Have only one family member care for them
- Consider providing additional protections or more intensive care for household member over 65 years old or with underlying conditions

Information provided by Alta Lockley, CEA-4-H/FCS from:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf>



WASH YOUR HANDS



4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB

Youth in Arkansas County have the opportunity to become a member of the 4-H Livestock Club. A member joins with others who have an interest in raising animals to share in learning experiences and opportunities. 4-H is available for all youth ages 5-19. Contact Phil Horton at the Arkansas County Extension Service to learn how to become involved in the 4-H program.

RECORD MEAT SUPPLIES IN 2020

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

Disruptions in normal activities due to COVID-19 have produced a surge in at-home food demand. Recent reports indicate a 77 percent year over year increase in grocery meat sales in mid-March. The spike in grocery demand has overwhelmed the retail meat supply chain resulting in temporary shortages of meat in many grocery stores. The shortages are due to the tremendous logistical challenges of shifting meat supplies from food service channels to retail grocery channels.

It is critical for consumers to know that there is no shortage of meat in the U.S. In fact, production of beef, pork and poultry are projected at record levels in 2020 and are at record levels in the first quarter of the year. Production of all meat is projected at 109.3 billion pounds in 2020, up 4.3 percent year over year. Total meat production in the first quarter of 2020 is estimated at 26.9 billion pounds, up 6.9 percent year over year. Total meat production includes, beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton, broiler, other chicken and turkey.

Broiler production, which represents about 88 percent of total poultry production, is projected at 46.0 billion pounds in 2020, up 5.8 percent year over year. Broiler production is up due to both increased slaughter and heavier bird weights so far this year. Broiler production in the first quarter is up 7.7 percent year over year.

Pork production in 2020 is projected to total 28.9 billion pounds, up 4.4 percent year over year. Hog slaughter is up 4.7 percent thus far in 2020 and carcass weights are heavier this year. First quarter pork production is estimated to be 7.6 percent higher year over year compared to one year ago.

Beef production is projected to be 1.9 percent higher year over year in 2020, totaling 27.7 billion pounds. Increased beef production is concentrated in the first half of the year. Total steer and heifer slaughter is up 3.9 percent year over year for the year to date. Steer carcass weights for the year to date are up over 21 pounds year over year with heifer carcass weights up over 12 pounds. First quarter beef production is estimated to increase 6.6 percent year over year over last year.

Poultry, pork and beef production are all at record levels of production. Total domestic meat consumption in 2020 is projected at 228.2 pounds per capita (retail weight), up 2.1 percent year over year and a record level. While COVID-19 is changing how and where meat consumption happens and is temporarily overwhelming certain supply chains, supplies of all meats are assured in 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Arkansas County Extension Office is closed to the public at this time. We are still available to assist you via phone or email.

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You can also contact any of the Extension agents through phone call, text or email. Their contact information is listed on the front page of this newsletter.

***A drop-off container is provided outside our office door for any soil samples or other materials you may need to deliver to us. We can also leave materials there for you to pick up at your request. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the health safety of our clientele and employees is of utmost importance at this time.**