



# BEEF BRIEFING

Cleveland County Beef and Forage Newsletter

Cleveland County Extension Service, P. O. Box 386, Rison, AR 71665

Vol. I, No. 1  
February, 2018

## Time to Control Buttercups

Article excerpts from MP522 Pasture Weed Control

### Why am I getting this?

You are receiving this Newsletter because you live, work, own property, or have other vested interest in what is happening in Cleveland County. If this news brief has come to you by mistake or you no longer wish to receive it, please contact my office and let us know.

Feel free to contact Les Walz at [lwalz@uaex.edu](mailto:lwalz@uaex.edu) or 870-325-6321.

### County Events:

- Bangs vaccination clinic set for March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- County Cattlemen's meeting February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

All meetings and activities in this newsletter are offered to all interested persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

They are coming, those waves of yellow in our pastures. As the temperatures warm approaching spring, you will notice the winter weeds begin to become more noticeable. One of the more recognizable pasture weeds is the buttercup or bitter weed if you prefer. Buttercups usually fly under the radar until they flower and by then it is too late to control them. Cattle will often graze around them because they are bitter but will eat them if the buffet is running a little short. Nursing calves are also not fans of buttercup as it apparently turns mamma's milk bitter when consumed.

### When and how to control buttercup?

February through March is a good time of the year to control this pasture weed. I have heard from many how their cattle don't mind eating buttercups and so they do not control them. Remember though, this weed is competing for moisture and fertilizer with your preferred forages. Buttercup is easily controlled with 2,4-D amine at 1 quart per acre rate. In dormant Bermudagrass, either glyphosate or paraquat will control buttercup at normal use rates.

If you have questions about controlling buttercups, or other cool season weeds, contact your local county Extension office and ask about the MP522 Pasture Weed Control guide or our new 2018 MP44 Weed and Brush control guide.

## Grass Tetany

Article excerpts from **FSA3084** Livestock Health Series

Grass tetany commonly occurs in the months of February, March and April and is due to an abnormally low level of magnesium in the cow's body. This decrease in magnesium can be indirectly caused by heavy fertilization of pastures. When forages are fertilized heavily with potassium (potash), this can decrease the dietary absorption of magnesium in a cow. Young, rapidly growing forage usually has an increased content of potassium. This disease typically occurs in older lactating cows. Other factors that may play a role in the disease are weather – it is usually cloudy, misty and/or cold when this disease occurs – and stressors such as hauling, penning or heavy lactation. Early in the disease, cattle affected by grass tetany may have a decreased appetite, decreased milk production, tendency to stay away from the herd, increased alertness and a stiff or unsteady gait. If you have questions about Grass Tetany contact your local Extension Office.



Beef cattle grazing new spring growth.

# Cleveland Co. Beef Briefing

Pg. 2



## Beef Cattle Fun Fact:

- For the first 3 weeks of a calf's life they only drink momma's milk because their rumen is not yet fully developed. The rumen is one of the stomach chambers in ruminant animals. Between 3-8 weeks the calf goes through a transitional period where they start to eat some hay and grass along with their daily milk. After eight weeks the calf's rumen should be fully functioning. The rumen will grow 25 times larger from birth to adulthood.

## Calendar

The following are management considerations in "March" for Pasture and Beef Management.

### Pasture:

- Fertilize cool season grasses and clover
- Spray for buttercup and other winter weeds
- Graze cool season annuals

### Beef Management:

- Check Body Condition Scores
- Watch for Grass Tetany
- Heifer breeding season

Check us out on  at  
**UAEX Cleveland County**

**ACA 2018 Spring Conference for Area V**  
Ashley, Bradley, Cleveland, Calhoun, Dallas, Delta, Desha/Drew, Lincoln, and  
Ouachita Associations

**UAM Agriculture Building**  
Monticello, Arkansas  
March 22, 2018  
6:00 pm



**"Producing Profitable Pounds-Looking at New Approaches to  
Maximizing Growth"**  
By: **Dr. Doug Hilbig**  
Beef Technical Service Veterinarian, Stillwater OK

Sponsored by: Zoetis

Please RSVP to reserve your STEAK at 501-224-2114. All members and anyone interested in the cattle industry are urged to attend.  
Contact Glynn Gibson at 870-392-7712 or 870-866-3958, if you have any questions.



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

Les Walz  
County Extension Agent –  
Staff Chairman