DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

Drew County Beef Newsletter

Dear Cattle/Hay Producer,

It is my hope to begin this newsletter series on a quarterly basis. Timely information regarding production and upcoming events will be highlighted. Your feedback on its usefulness would be greatly appreciated. With postage costs as they are, and with our budget tight, we would prefer all with email capabilities to let us know your email address. Forty-nine cents adds up quickly and puts a dent in the pocket book. If you find this information useful, please send an email to skelley@uaex.edu requesting the electronic version of this newsletter or visit our county website for future up-dates at http://www.uaex.edu/counties/drew/.

Regards,

Steve Kelley
County Extension Agent, Staff Chair
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Beef/Forage Field Day at SEREC

The Beef/Forage Field Day will be held at the UAM Ag Building the afternoon of Thursday, October 23. A planning meeting was held recently to discuss potential topics and tour sites. A meal will be provided following the tour, and I'm sure Dr. Bryant will be requesting pre-registration for planning purposes. As details are finalized, we will pass them on to you.

Farm Pond Workshop

Maintaining a productive farm pond takes planning, work, and some degree of cost. To address the wide array of issues associated with pond management, we are planning a workshop on Tuesday, September 30. The workshop will be held from 6:00 – 8:30 PM at the Drew County Farm Bureau conference room at 656 Barkada Road.

Topics addressed include: management of aquatic weeds, managing fish populations, and solutions for other common pond issues.

A light dinner will be served from Subway. Cost for the workshop is $10 and can be paid the night of the workshop. However, for planning purposes, the deadline for pre-registration is Friday, September 26. Please call our office at 870-460-6270 or email skelley@uaex.edu to reserve your spot.

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4-H Veterinary Science Program

Part of Dr. Jason Cater's new role as Extension Veterinarian is to support and coordinate the 4H Veterinary Science program. He is working to provide promotional materials, and we hope to have brochures to hand out at the next Cattleman's Association meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2014.

One of the objectives of the Veterinary Science Program is to prepare interested students for further educational opportunities following high school. The program is both curriculum and hands-on based, and involves 100 lessons and 50 activities to learn from. Students volunteer for local veterinarians to gain valuable first-hand experience. Those who complete the process graduate with the title of Veterinary Assistant. Graduates are then qualified to take TVMA's certification exam for the title classification of Certified Veterinary Assistant.

Update from Dr. Cater

The information below is provided by Dr. Cater. His expertise will become a regular portion of this newsletter. We are fortunate to have someone in the UofA System from our area who knows local situations.

This is the time of the year when *Anaplasmosis* is showing up in our area. Monitor cows closely for signs of illness including separation from the herd, drooping ears, lowered head, and weight loss. If *Anaplasmosis* is suspected, extreme caution must be taken when trying to treat the animal due to the fact that even very low levels of stress can cause collapse and sudden death. Also, many times these cows become aggressive due to their inability to carry adequate amounts of oxygen to the brain requiring constant consideration of handler safety.

Oxytetracycline is the treatment of choice but must be administered at the proper dosage early on in the disease to increase the chances of a favorable outcome.

Monitor pastures closely for the presence of perilla mint weed. This plant, pictured above, has a square, purple stem; distinctive minty odor; and green to violet toothed leaves. It is highly toxic to cattle. It prefers to grow in shady areas of pastures along creeks or fence rows. Cattle that ingest toxic levels of this plant usually die within minutes due to Atypical Interstitial Pneumonia.

Since there is no effective medical treatment currently available for perilla mint toxicity, it is very important that this weed be controlled where cattle are allowed to graze. Most often the weed is confined to areas which aren't conducive to desired forage growth. As such, control is relatively easy with products such as Grazon P+D; Trooper; 2,4-D; and Roundup (glyphosate).

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Beef Quality Assurance Program

The following is taken from our website, www.uaex.edu, and describes the Beef Quality Assurance program. Consumers are concerned about the safety of the food they eat. The perception of safety and wholesomeness plays a major role in the buying decisions of a health- and diet-conscious America.

The overall goal of the Arkansas Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA) is to encourage the consistent production of high quality cattle in Arkansas, enhancing the reputation of Arkansas cattle and ensuring their health and wholesomeness. Educational efforts center on cow calf and stocker cattle management practices such as proper handling, injection-site techniques, etc., that affect beef value and quality.

The Arkansas BQA Program offers producers two levels of participation.

Level 1 - Voluntary Participation: Producers can participate in this level by reading the BQA Handbook and adopting BQA guidelines. Participation is voluntary and will place the producer on the BQA mailing list for future updates.

Level 2 - BQA Certification: Producers can participate in Level 2 by successfully completing the Arkansas Beef Quality Assurance Producer Certification Exam, signing the BQA Producer Contract and returning the enrollment form, the exam, and the contract to the address indicated on the form. Upon successful completion of the exam and receipt of a signed contract, the producer will be issued a BQA certification number, BQA certificate, BQA ID card, and property sign. The producer will also be placed on the mailing list for future updates.

Enrollment forms, the handbook, exams, contracts, etc. are also available at http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/beef-cattle/quality-assurance.aspx. If you have questions, or need assistance, give me a call at the office or email me at skelley@uaex.edu.

Trichomoniasis Update

Per Dr. Tom Troxel's email I received a few days ago, 1.9% of cattle tested were positive for Trich. 28 animals were positive out of 1,466 that were tested. To compare our area to the rest of Arkansas, see the map at: https://zmail.uaex.edu/service/home/~/?auth=co&loc=en_US&id=1700&part=4

Arkansas Beef Improvement Program

The following information highlights upcoming ABIP workshops. The two-evening event will be comprised of four hours of instruction by UofA Specialists. If you are interested in either of these, let us know and we will provide more details.

January 20 and 22 – Clark County
>Heifer Development and Management
>Beef Cattle Parasite Control
>Beef Cattle Herd Health

January 27 and 29 – Grant County
>Cow-calf budget
>Beef Cattle Herd Health
>Developing a 300 Day Grazing System

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Bermuda Grass Testing Results from the SWREC in Hope

Dr. Paul Beck conducted a Bermuda grass variety test this summer on the Southwest Research and Extension Center at Hope. The variety test was established in 2013 and continues this year as well. The table below shows the results of the tests from the first two cuttings this growing season.

Variety	Dry Matter Yield 06-12-14	Cut 1 Ranking	Dry Matter Yield 07-11-14	Cut 2 Ranking	Season Total	Season Ranking
Common	2593.34	8	1147.84	11	3741.19	8
Mohawk	2276.38	9	1153.66	10	3430.04	9
Wrangler	2602.95	7	1191.84	9	3794.78	7
Genesis	2636.57	6	1236.07	8	3872.64	6
Cheyenne II	2074.68	11	1258.35	7	3333.02	11
Sungrazer Plus	2650.97	5	1280.45	6	4147.54	5
Sungrazer	2276.38	10	1306.77	5	3367.03	10
Vaughn	3068.79	2	1453.84	4	4522.63	3
Ozark	2910.31	4	1544.55	3	4454.85	4
Tifton 44	2996.75	3	1722.65	2	4719.40	2
Midland 99	3083.20	1	1753.28	1	4836.48	1

How Much and What Kind of Winter Annual Forages to Plant

The following suggestions were prepared by Drs. Paul Beck and John Jennings and are timely as we go into the fall season. Matching winter annual production with livestock need can be a challenge. The observations from the UofA research and farm demonstrations will be useful for developing an autumn and winter grazing program.

For grazing by October 15-31:

Forage turnip and rape must be planted early for fall grazing. Brassicas planted in late August to early September can produce grazeable forage by late October. Tillage is required for good establishment. Light disking may be adequate. Clean tilled seedbeds are best. Brassicas can be grazed from October through December. A combination planting of forage brassica and ryegrass has proven to be an effective practice. The brassica produces forage for fall grazing and the ryegrass produces forage for spring grazing. Forage brassica varieties are much more productive than “garden-type” varieties.

For grazing by November 1-15:

Small grains and ryegrass intended for grazing by early November must be planted before September 15. Planting on a tilled seedbed or no-tilled into harvested crop fields will be required for this to work. Apply 50 lbs per acre N after the stand comes up to ensure growth. Apply P and K according to soil test. If no soil test is available, be sure to apply at least 50 lbs each of P and K. Apply 50 lbs more N in February for sustained growth into spring. Due to the tillage requirement, this option will not fit every case or every field. However, selecting specific fields for this early planting option may fill a void until other forage is available.

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For grazing by December 1-15

Winter annuals intended for grazing in early December can be inter-seeded into warm-season grass sod or planted in crop fields from September 15 to October 1. The grass sod should be suppressed with a low rate of glyphosate herbicide or with moderate disking when planting this early to prevent competition with the small grain seedlings. Planting can be done with a no till drill or by disking followed by broadcast of seed and dragging with a harrow. Apply 50 lbs per acre N after the stand comes up to ensure growth. Apply P and K according to soil test. If no soil test is available, be sure to apply at least 50 lbs each of P and K. Apply 50 lbs more N in February for sustained growth into spring.

For grazing by February to early March

Planting annuals after mid-October into November will allow good establishment, but forage production will be delayed until February or early March. Fertilizer application can be delayed until February since growth potential is limited during mid-winter.

How much to plant

Research has shown that a good measure for determining planting acreage is 1/10 acre per cow per day of the week to be grazed through the winter. For example, if cows will be limit grazed 3 days per week then plant 3/10 acre per cow. More grazing time requires more acreage. Dr. Beck's work has shown that cows limit grazed on winter annuals 2 days per week and fed hay the remaining time perform quite well. In that study, the "grazing day" was an 8 hour day and not a 24 hour period. As forage growth increases during the early spring, cows can be allowed to graze more frequently. This is an effective way to match the increased nutrient requirements of spring calving cowherds and to supplement low quality hay.

For More Information

General information regarding Beef Cattle and other related issues are available at the UofA Division of Agriculture website: http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/animals-forages/beef-cattle/default.aspx

For livestock and grain market news, visit: http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/economics-marketing/markets/market-news.aspx