

# Beef Cattle News



Garland County Cooperative Extension  
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**Please mark your  
calendar for the  
following dates:** (full  
details are on Page 4)

### Pesticide Applicator Training

Tuesday, November 10, 6 p.m.  
&  
Tuesday, January 26, 6 p.m.

### Brucellosis Vaccination Deadline

October 16, 4:30 p.m.  
(Call 501-623-6841 by  
October 16 to register)

Jimmy Driggers  
County Extension Agent, Staff Chair

## Cowherd Care Impacts Calves and Their Future Calves

Ranchers don't plan to short-change their cows. Yet, the unexpected can leave a herd lacking.

"Typically producers do not want to calve thin cows and do not like cows to lose weight during late pregnancy. We know that is bad," says Allison Meyer, University of Missouri animal scientist, listing the side effects. "But a lot of times we end up in a bad situation late in gestation that results in cows losing weight or not getting as many nutrients as they need."

It could be drought, severe weather, poor forage quality or lack of hay stores, Meyer notes. That sets calves up for challenges both in the delivery and the hours afterward. "If we don't have calves that are as big as they should be when they are born, that haven't developed as they should prenatally, then we're not going to get all of the genetic potential out of them that we strive for in genetic selection," Meyer says. They often lack the vigor and temperature regulation that fully developed newborns would have. Research 40 years ago showed cows on a higher plane of nutrition in late pregnancy had increased calf survival from birth through weaning than those in a "low nutrition" group. More recent work at the University of Nebraska revealed feedlot steers born to un-supplemented cows required treatment at nearly six times the rate of those from better fed mothers. They also achieved higher rates of Choice grading and almost double the amount of Premium Choice. In "tough situations" it can be hard to keep up with energy needs because in the last 90 days of pregnancy, fetal growth takes about 30 percent of the total requirements, Meyer says.

"That is often when we're also battling things like really cold weather and poor forage quality for spring calving herds or really hot weather and poor forage quality for fall calving herds," she says.

"We want to make sure that calves are born at the weight they were bred for and not more or less than that," Meyer says. "The way to change birth weight is not nutrition. It's always using the genetics." But it's about more than just their start, says Kim Vonnahme, North Dakota State University animal scientist. Cowherd nutrition can haunt or help calves all the way through harvest.

## Determining When and How Much Winter Annual Forage Acreage to Plant

Matching winter annual production with livestock need can be a challenge. The following observations from University of Arkansas research and farm demonstrations will be useful for developing a fall and winter grazing program.



### Forage brassicas

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.

### Small grains and ryegrass

#### 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.

#### For grazing by December 1-15

Winter annuals intended for grazing in early December can be interseeded 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. For 50 cows that equals 15 acres. More grazing time requires more acreage. Dr. Paul 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. Of course, some acres can be planted early for fall/winter and spring pasture and other acres can be planted in October for spring grazing to match herd needs.

**Plan now for stockpiling pastures to cut hay feeding this winter**

Hay harvest conditions have been terrible this year and hay quality is low in many cases. This is a similar scenario as 2014. Many producers relied on a good hay crop, of low quality, to winter their herds. But the winter was colder and longer than in recent years so livestock didn't fare well. With scattered rainfall occurring across the state, stockpiling bermudagrass or fescue pastures to produce grazing in fall and winter is a good option.

Many producers cut hay as late as October and begin feeding in November. Stockpiling is similar to managing for a last cutting of hay, but is managed for livestock grazing to reduce harvest cost. Using the stockpiling program, cattle graze the forage through fall and winter. Forage quality of stockpiled bermudagrass can be over 15% crude protein in October and November. Stockpiled fescue quality in February is usually higher than typical hay on hand. For stockpiled bermudagrass, clip or graze fields to a 3" stubble and fertilize by mid-August for the best growth potential. Fertilizer can be applied even during hot weather to produce good forage return. The growth potential of stockpiled forage is usually 2000-3000 lbs. of dry matter per acre so the recommended fertilizer rate is 50-60 lbs. per acre of nitrogen to match that yield potential. Don't delay because waiting until September to fertilize for stockpiled bermuda will reduce yield potential by 60-80%.

Stockpiling forages has been one of the most consistent of all forage management practices in the Arkansas 300 Day Grazing Program. Over 15 years of U of A on-farm stockpiled forage demonstrations, only one out of over 150 failed to pay a positive return over the cost of feeding hay. In recent research at the Southwest Center at Hope, hay feeding was either eliminated entirely or reduced to 30 days by grazing stockpiled bermudagrass and winter annuals. For more information on stockpiling forages for fall and winter grazing ask for FSA 3133 "Grazing Stockpiled Forages to Reduce Hay Feeding in Fall and Winter" at the Garland County Extension office.

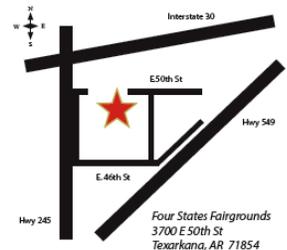


*Coming Soon!*  
**Four States Cattle Conference**  
**December 8, 2015**

Topics Include: Herd Health Program • Cattle Market Outlook •  
 What Feeders and Packers Want in the Cattle They Buy •  
 Managing Winter Hay Feeding • Why Vaccines Don't Work •  
 Feeder Cattle Grading • Tradeshow & more!

**For more information contact:**  
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*Texarkana, Arkansas*



\$30 registration. All those registered by November 25th will be entered into a drawing for a VetGun donated by Agrilabs.

**REGISTRATION**

Registration:  Couple \$50  Individual \$30  4H/FFA Student \$15

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



\$30 registration. All those registered by November 25th will be entered into a drawing for a VetGun donated by Agrilabs.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS  
PERMIT NUMBER 100

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Pesticide Applicator Training (P.A.T.) Restricted Use Pesticides

Two (2) PAT certification/recertification training classes have been scheduled for Garland County. The first will be held on *Tuesday, November 10 at 6pm* and the second one will be held on *Tuesday, January 26 also at 6pm*. Both sessions will be held here at the Extension office at 236 Woodbine St., in Hot Springs. It will not be necessary for you to pre-register, all you need to do is show up for either one. The cost for this training is \$10 payable by check (no cash please) and your check needs to be made out to **Garland County Extension Service**. Give your check to the training instructor at the time of the training. **RE-MINDER**—If you cannot attend either of these sessions due to scheduling conflicts, there are other PAT sessions going on in other nearby counties. Go online to *review* a complete list of dates and locations. You'll find this information by visiting <http://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/pest-management/education-licensing.aspx> and selecting "Private Applicator Training Sessions".

**Keep a Pesticide Record**—**REMEMBER**—records must be kept on Restricted Use Pesticides for 2 years. State Plant Board Representatives conduct random checks on records to ensure users are in strict compliance with the regulations that are set forth.

## Brucellosis Vaccination Time

It's time to schedule Brucellosis Vaccinations. The deadline to register your heifers for this year is *October 16 by 4:30 pm*. A state technician will vaccinate your heifers, ages 4 to 12 months old at no cost to you. **Remember:** We no longer send out the 'yellow' cards for you to return. You only need to call here at our office anytime between now and *October 16* to get them registered. Your name will be added to our list and once the deadline has passed, you will then receive a confirmation letter just prior to the vaccination schedule giving you the exact date and time. You must provide good facilities and assistance to the technician. There are currently no penalties for not vaccinating heifers, but it weakens our guard against BANGS disease. If you know of others who may have heifers in need of vaccinations, inform them of this service and ask them to call our office to sign up. **Remember, please call 623-6841 by Friday, October 16 to register.**