

HOT SPRING COUNTY AGRICULTURE

HSC Extension Office

Fall 2016

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Tips for Spring Calving Herds

Cow herd performance is an opportunity to use production data to aid in replacement heifer selection or cull cows due to poor performance. A herd performance test involves weighing cows and calves, frame and muscle scoring calves and body condition cows.

Walk through your cattle working facilities and take note of repairs and maintenance before fall weaning. Test all weak spots. These are supposed to be "working" facilities not "work-out" facilities. Facilities should be maintained for your safety and well as safety for your cattle.

Start making plans for weaning calves. Retained ownership can often increase gross income, but to be profitable, cost of feed

cannot be too excessive. Hay and supplement based programs are more costly than pasture and supplement programs, so good fall pasture management is important.

Consider fence line weaning suckling calves. This reduces stress on the cows and calves. In addition calves continue to gain weight and respiratory disease is greatly reduced compared to conventional weaning. Training cattle to respect electric fencing prior to weaning can facilitate the weaning process. Fenceline weaning also allows high-quality pastures to be used as weaning facilities in place of dusty drylots.

Implement a precondition program. Precondition programs include weaning calves at least 45 days to sale or according to

the requirements of the specific preconditioning program, castrating bull calves, dehorning if necessary and a vaccination program. Preconditioned calves will sell for higher selling price. Remember to follow BQA guidelines when giving vaccinations.

Pregnancy tests all cows. Cull all open cows and cull all cows with physical problems such as bad eyes, poor udders, lameness, missing teeth, etc.

Select replacements heifers based on pre-weaning performance and phenotypic expression. Also select heifers that were born early in the calving season.

Vaccinate heifers for brucellosis.

Forage test and plan for winter feeding program.



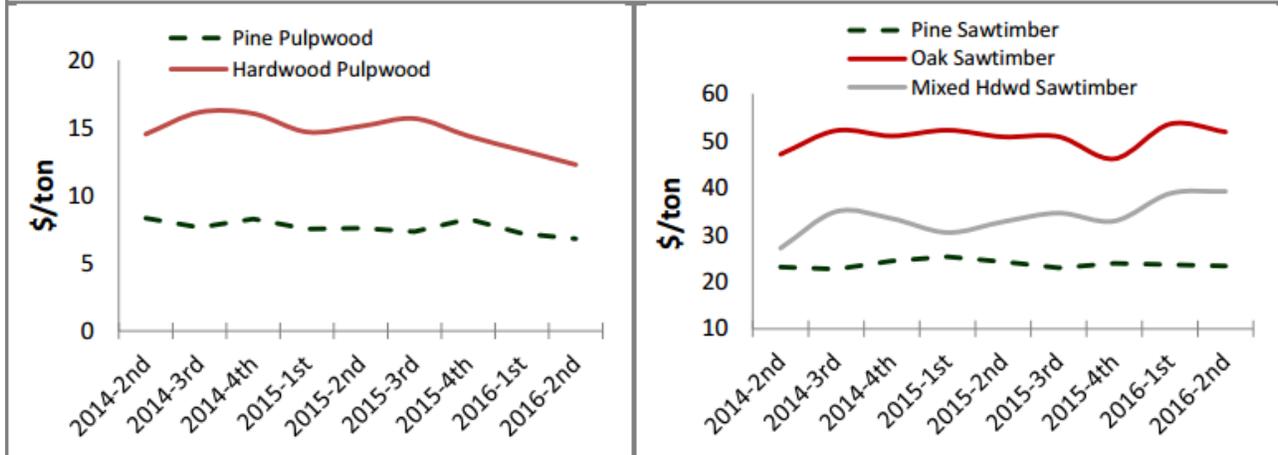
Arkansas Timber Price Report- Arkansas Forest Resources Center

The Arkansas Timber Price Report is a quarterly report of timber stumpage prices in Arkansas. Survey data for this report are provided by [Timber Mart-South](#). The price summary is provided to illustrate current, statewide market trends in timber product values for standing timber. These values may not reflect the stumpage values for a particular tract of timber. Timber prices may vary greatly depending on many factors including: location in the state, species, products, access, distance to mills, and site conditions. To obtain a report visit www.uaex.edu and go to the Environment and Nature tab, or www.afrc.uamont.edu. You can also contact your local county Extension agent. If you have questions about the report, please contact: Dr. Kyle Cunningham at 501-671-2145 or kcunningham@uaex.edu.

2nd Quarter 2016 Stumpage Prices (\$/ton, statewide average)

Product	Price	Change
Pine Sawtimber	\$ 23.00	-4 %
Oak Sawtimber	\$ 52.00	-4 %
Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber	\$ 39.00	0 %
Pine Chip-n-Saw	\$ 16.00	0 %
Pine Pulpwood	\$ 7.00	0 %
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$ 12.00	-8 %

Time Series by Quarter Since 2013



Trends: Overall, stumpage prices remained stable for all products in the second quarter of 2016. Pine pulpwood demand remains low, with stumpage prices ranging from 4 to 10 dollars per ton based on distance to a mill. Hardwood pulp experienced a price decrease for another successive quarter. The market for hardwood sawlogs remained strong and was again reflected in the stumpage prices. Housing starts continued to slowly increase which is good news for the pine sawtimber market.

Timber Mart-South has more detailed data available by subscription that contains products and regions not included in this report. TMS is compiled and produced at the Center for Forest Business, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, under contract with the Frank W. Norris Foundation, a non-profit corporation serving the forest products industry.

Now is the Time to Soil Test!

Regardless of whether you are a horticulture producer, livestock producer, homeowner, or just plant the occasional food plot near your deer stand, soil testing goes a long way to help your stand. Without the right pH, even the fertilizer you're using may not be able to be taken up by the plant. Also, by knowing the exact amount of fertilizer required, you could save major dollars by not using too much of a certain nutrient, or wasting what you

are using by not having enough of something else. And who wants to waste money?

Soil testing is a free service and the office has 3 probes that are all available for check out to pull samples. It normally takes 7-10 days to get soil sample results back.

Each soil box can cover up to 10 acres to create one sample. When taking

the sample, we recommend going in a zig zag pattern in order to create a representative sample rather than only one area.

The fall is an excellent time to apply lime in order for it to activate for spring and summer growth.

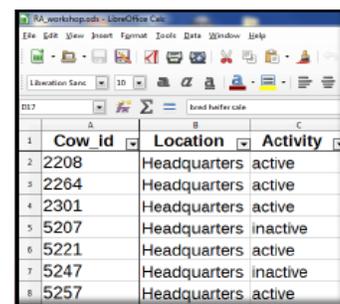
If you have any questions or would like help pulling a soil sample, feel free to contact Rachel at the Extension Office.

Extension Animal Science Offers Basic Spreadsheet Skills for Cattle Recordkeeping

A new workshop is being offered through county Extension offices covering the basics of using a spreadsheet program for recording and summarizing beef cattle production records. The program is designed for cattle producers who are seeking a DIY (do-it-yourself) approach for basic recordkeeping. The hands-on class provides examples in Microsoft Excel and LibreOffice Calc. For the budget minded, LibreOffice is an open source, fully functional office suite that includes a spreadsheet program. The program is free to download over the

internet. The four-hour class includes working with an example cow herd inventory to create a layout, enter records, apply formulas, sort and filter and utilize pivot tables to summarize herd records. While the workshop focuses on how to build spreadsheets, the class also discusses some disadvantages of spreadsheets on a local device for recordkeeping in comparison to other options available today. The workshop fee is \$50 and covers the costs for a 45-page workbook with step-by-step

instructions, a USB drive with example worksheets and refreshments. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops to the class, and laptops will be available to use during the workshop for participants who own desktop computers. If you are interested, let Rachel know at the Extension Office.



	Cow id	Location	Activity
2	2208	Headquarters	active
3	2264	Headquarters	active
4	2301	Headquarters	active
5	5207	Headquarters	inactive
6	5221	Headquarters	active
7	5247	Headquarters	inactive
8	5257	Headquarters	active

“The Clock is Ticking” at AFGC Fall Forage Conference & Forage Tour on Oct. 28

There never seems to be enough time during winter on the farm. Time gets spent feeding hay, fixing feeding equipment, and then doing it all over again. The Arkansas Forage and Grassland Council Fall Forage Conference and Forage Tour is a program you don't want to miss. Producers will get a chance to see and hear about fall and winter pasture options that save time and money.

The program will be Friday, October 28 at the Crossroads Cowboy Church in El Paso, AR. The morning program will feature talks on fall and winter pasture, better ways to supplement hay, and new results on how much time the average producer spends on harvesting and feeding hay. In the afternoon program, attendees will take a bus tour of local farms to see fall and winter forage options in practice. They will see how hay quality and winter pasture compare

for quality and yield. Experts will also show how to use winter pasture as a homegrown supplement for low quality hay to maintain livestock through winter.

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the welcome is at 9:00 a.m. Registration can be paid at the door by cash, credit or debit card, or check. The registration fee is \$45 per person, \$60 per couple, and \$10 for students and includes lunch, bus transportation, and conference materials.

Commercial exhibits and booths will be set up for attendees to see the latest forage management products. Pre-registration is

encouraged to help with conference planning, but is not required for attendance.

Anyone wanting to improve their forage system should attend this conference and tour. For more information about the conference or to pre-register, call Linda McCargo at 501-671-2171. The Crossroads Cowboy Church is located at 3071 Arkansas 5, El Paso, AR 72045. To reach the church take Hwy 64 from Conway or Beebe to El Paso and turn north on Hwy 5 approximately ¼ mile.



Arkansas Forage & Grassland Council

Forage/Grazing Management Tips

Planting of winter annual grass forages

Plant small grains such as rye, wheat, or oats. Provide forage for grazing between November and March.

Establishment of winter annual legume forages

Legumes such as crimson clover, arrowleaf clover, and hairy vetch potentially provide multiple benefits, including grazing and improving soil fertility.

Planting in middle to late September, in southern Arkansas until middle of October.

Legumes can be no-till drilled into warm-season grass stubble (bermudagrass).

No-till drills need to be

kept clean and in good working order to plant at consistent depth and seeding rates.

Plant forage brassicas: turnip, turnip hybrids, or rape:

Plant between August 25 - mid September.

Seeding rate: 2-3 lbs/ac if planting with ryegrass or small grains; 5 lbs/ac for pure stands.

Grazing turn-in 14-16"; if regrowth is desired rotate livestock out at 6-8".

Fescue

Stockpile fescue for winter grazing.

Clip or graze fescue pastures to 4" stubble by September 1 and fertilize with 50-60 lbs/acre of nitrogen.

Defer grazing until December.

Strip-grazing will yield twice as many grazing days as will giving access to the whole pasture.

Bermudagrass Winter Pasture

Prepare bermudagrass pastures for interseeding ryegrass or small grains to use as winter pasture.

Graze bermuda to a 2-3" height in September.

Plant winter annuals with no-till drill or broadcast/drag in early October.

Plant small grain at 100 lbs/acre. Plant ryegrass at 20 lbs/acre.



Upcoming Events

October 24th-25th- Brucellosis Vaccinations—

These are for heifers 4 to 12 months of age. It is a free service by the ALPC. If you would like to get on the schedule, please contact Rachel ASAP.

November 1st- Private Pesticide Applicator Training- 4-H Center at 6:00

November 3rd-Private Pesticide Applicator Training- Bismarck High

School- 6:00pm — This is for first timers to get their license or those looking to renew a current license. There is no difference in the classes, other than their location. Choose the one that works best for you. I will also be bringing along a sprayer to talk about sprayer calibration.

**November 10th- Bull
Breeding Soundness
Evaluation Clinic at Hickman
Farm**— This is a great opportunity to have your bull

tested for reproductive soundness. Each Bull Test includes a dewormer. Bull Test is \$50, with an optional trich test for an additional \$60. If you would like to participate, please sign up by November 1st by calling the office.

Poultry Workshop

Learn the fundamentals of backyard poultry flocks, disease recognition, treatment, and other husbandry with Dr. Dustan Clark. **Date and Time TBA.**

Fall Armyworms are Widespread This Year by Dr. Kelly Loftin

Fall armyworms are abundant this year and is occurring in most regions of the state. In many cases, their population is well above the treatment threshold of three worms per square foot and of mixed sizes. Infestations are often overlooked when caterpillars are small and eating very little. Once caterpillars grow large and consume more grass, damage becomes significant. Fall armyworm infestations may continue through September.

Clues to fall armyworm infestations include: 1) field appears "frosted", 2) presence of birds in the field or 3) the field smells like freshly cut hay. Armyworm outbreaks often occur in waves about 30 days apart. However, when mixed worm sizes are found, overlapping generations are present and new infestations occur more frequently than 30 days. Scouting for fall armyworm presence is critical to avoid forage losses. Grass blades, stems and organic debris at plant base and soil should be examined carefully. It is best to take at least 10 one-foot-square random samples across the pasture or hay meadow. Make note of the armyworm size and number as this will help make good management decisions.

There are a few tips to remember about fall armyworm control. Do not treat when armyworms are tiny, however, get prepared. Natural enemies such as parasites, predators and pathogens occur

and can possibly eliminate or reduce populations in a short period of time. Occasionally, armyworm abundance declines after a population of small larvae has been observed. Remember, the fall armyworm has about six larval instars. The last few (5th and 6th) instars are the stages that do the most damage to pastures and hay fields. Of the total grass consumed, greater than 80% to 85% will be eaten by these stages. The best advice is to not get overanxious and treat before necessary. Likewise, do not wait until the worms become too large. Harvesting an infested hay field is a good option when the hay is mature. In contrast, if the field is not ready to cut and you have about three very small (1/8 inch) fall armyworm caterpillars per square foot, continue scouting. If their abundance does not decline below threshold (three worms/square foot) by the time they reach 1/2 inch, then treat. Don't wait until armyworms are 1 1/2 inches long because they are about ready to

pupate and have likely caused most of the damage they will do. In addition, large worms are harder to kill than smaller ones. Additional information on armyworms can be found in *Managing Armyworms in Pastures and Hayfields* and is available at <http://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/FSA-7083.pdf>. Per-acre insecticide cost will vary from as low as about \$3.00 up to over \$10.00. When calculating cost, always consider the cost per acre and not the cost per gallon of product. Also consider residual activity of the product, especially if you are seeing overlapping generations (all sizes of fall armyworm caterpillars) and heavy armyworm pressure. Pyrethroid insecticides such as Karate® (lambda-cyhalothrin), Mustang Max® (zeta-cypermethrin) and Baythroid XL (beta-cyfluthrin) have shorter-duration residual activity. In contrast, products such as Prevathon® (chlorantraniliprole), Besiege® (chlorantraniliprole and lambda-cyhalothrin) and Intrepid®

(methoxyfenozide) have longer-duration residual activity and can reduce the number of applications necessary to produce a hay crop. A section 2 (ee) label for Prevathon® recommends 10 to 13 ounces of product per acre for control of fall armyworms, which is considerably less than the product label rate. Research has shown that this lower rate is effective.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://UAEX.EDU/COUNTIES/
HOT-SPRING/](http://uaex.edu/counties/hot-spring/)

Now that fall is upon us, most people are wrapping up hay season and beginning to prepare for winter. Keep in mind there will be PAT classes, a Bull Breeding Soundness Clinic, Poultry Workshop, and Brucellosis Vaccinations this fall. If you would like to get your hay sampled for nutritional value, I can also help with that. Never hesitate to call if there's anything you need.

Thanks,

Rachel Bearden

Rachel Bearden

County Extension Agent- Agriculture/4-H



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