Nutrition–Parturition–Reproduction, Oh My!

Thus far, winter weather conditions in Arkansas have been mild, not adding much environmental stress to the herd. While attention is focused on calving, don’t neglect to monitor body condition and adjust supplemental feeding rates, especially for first-calf heifers. The nutrient density of the diet is about 7% greater for those first-calf heifers compared to mature cows; so, hay quality may be adequate for lactating cows, but not those 2-year-old mothers. Even very good quality hay can be inadequate in energy content for young mothers.

To calve within 365 days, cows should have entered the calving season in at least moderate body condition and first-calf heifers should have been in slightly fleshy condition. Both mature and 2-year-old cows need to be managed after calving to avoid excessive body condition loss. Sometimes this necessitates feeding first-calf heifers separate from mature cows beginning at calving to keep supplemental feed cost from being excessive.

When choosing a supplement, don’t get caught in the Practical Protein Trap. Self-fed supplements are very effective at delivering supplemental protein, but product consumption limitations and cost can make them a poor choice for energy supplementation. When it comes to supplementing energy, in most cases ‘If it’s easy, it ain’t enough’. If supplemental feeding is necessary, don’t pour feed in the trough and drive away. Use this time to make sure you have enough trough space to feed both the sprinters and lagers and monitor individual animal health.

If you’re not sure what type of supplement the herd needs, start by testing your hay for nutritive value since it comprises nearly all of the winter diet. A routine forage analysis costs $18 and our office can assist with submission and interpretation of results.

Pesticide Tips for Forage Producers

- Apply or re-apply burn-down herbicide to dormant bermudagrass.
- This is very important for keeping bermudagrass pastures clean of broadleaf weeds as much as possible. Herbicide of choice is glyphosate before bermuda greenup occurs. Use only broadleaf herbicides such as 2,4-D.
- Use maximum rates according to the label; Bermudagrass should not be mowed/grazed for 60 days after glyphosate application after bermuda greenup, so time herbicide application accordingly.

MP 44s and 144s are available at the Extension Office. These are annual FREE publications with all the up to date pesticide recommendations. I encourage you to come by and pick one up.
It is getting to be the time of the year when producers are preparing to plant their spring time crops. One of the most important factors when choosing what to plant is much more than just production, but disease resistance as well. Last year alone we had several producers lose entire crops to disease.

When choosing your produce, consider what diseases they may be susceptible to, and look into varieties that are resistant to that disease.

For instance, last year we were hit hard by Late Blight in tomato production. All of the Mountain series of tomatoes from North Carolina are disease resistant.

In pecan trees, the best long term recommendation to control scab, powdery mildew, and downy spot is to plant a resistant variety.

When it comes time to choose, feel free to call the office and I can help you choose a variety that is disease resistant to help improve your chances of having a healthy crop this year.

Even once you have chosen a resistant variety, be sure to manage spray programs to keep down any other diseases or insects that can plague your production. Spray management plans and MP Books are available through the office.

Abandoned Pesticide Program – March 15th-20th

Hot Spring County producers will have the opportunity to dispose of their outdated and unused pesticides during collection events on March 15th at the Saline County Fairgrounds, March 16th at the Clark County Fairgrounds, March 17th at the Garland County Fairgrounds, or March 20th at the Grant County Fairgrounds. Producers can drop off at whichever location is the easiest for them.

The pesticide collection is free and is made available through funding from the Arkansas Abandoned Pesticide Trust Fund. Products that will be accepted are outdated, discontinued or unwanted agricultural pesticides. These pesticides may include older products that are more toxic, such as arsenicals, DDT, silvex, heptachlor, dieldrin, lindane and toxaphene.

Many old pesticides cannot legally be used or disposed of through usual means, such as landfills. If you have pesticides that fall into this category, plan on bringing your pesticides to this event.

The purpose of this collection is to promote a safer and cleaner environment by reducing the amount of pesticides that could potentially contaminate the drinking water, groundwater, streams, rivers and lakes across the state. To date the pesticide collections have brought in over 771,000 pounds of unwanted materials from sixty-six (66) counties.

If you’re interested in bringing your pesticides to the event, contact the Hot Spring County Farm Bureau office at 501-332-5086 and ask for Marla to pre-register. Any identifying information, such as name and address, will be removed from the registration form so that anonymity may be provided. Contact Rachel at 501-332-5267 for information on safely transporting your chemicals to the event location.

If you have large amounts or cannot safely bring it, there is a way to have them picked up at your location. Just call for more information.
NAP Program Deadline Approaching by Randy Floriani

Randy Floriani, County Executive Director for the Hot Spring, Garland Grant, Saline, Ouachita, Union, Dallas and Cleveland County Farm Service Agency, reminds local farmers that March 15, 2017 is the deadline to make an application for 2017 NAP insurance coverage on pasture and hay crops.

NAP provides catastrophic level coverage on the amount of loss that exceeds 50 percent of the expected production at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop. Eligible causes of loss include natural disasters such as drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive winds, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of $250 per crop or $750 per producer per administrative county.

The service fee is waived for the following groups: beginning farmers, who have not operated a farm for more than 10 years; limited resource farmers, for the years 2014 and 2015 whose direct and indirect gross farm sales were less than or equal to $173,900 and household adjusted gross income is less than $24,300 (All counties except Saline which is $29,258); and targeted underserved farmers, who are a member of a group whose members have been subject to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities, including women.

If a 2017 acreage report was not timely filed, a $46 late filed fee per farm will be charged.

For more information concerning the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) contact: Hot Spring Garland Grant Saline County FSA Office located in Malvern at 501-337-7381.

Southwest Arkansas Grazing School & Field Day – April 7th at Hope

This year Hot Spring County producers have been invited to attend the Southwest Arkansas Grazing School & Field Day. This is a multi county effort put on by Ouachita District Agriculture Agents.

The event will start at 9:30AM at the Southwest Research & Extension Center in Hope.

We will cover 300 Day Grazing Research, Soil Fertility & Forages, Electric Fence, Winter Annuals Harvest Data, Field Observation of Winter Annual Plots, and Establishment Techniques for forages.

Dr. Paul Beck, Dr. John Jennings, Kenny Simon, and area agriculture agents will all be presenting at this field day.

Lunch will be sponsored by Mine Creek, Pike, Hempstead, and Nevada County Conservation Districts.

There will be a $10 Pre Registration by March 31st or $15 the day of the event to cover the cost of materials.

This year we did a variety trial of several winter annual forages, and this is our opportunity to share our results with everyone. You will actually get to see side by side stands of several of these annuals.

Call our Extension Office with any questions or to pre register!
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.

4th Quarter 2016 Stumpage Prices ($/ton, statewide average)

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<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pine Sawtimber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak Sawtimber</td>
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<td>Pine Chip-n-Saw</td>
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<td>Pine Pulpwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardwood Pulpwood</td>
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Time Series by Quarter Since 2014

Trends: Overall, stumpage prices remained stable or increased for all products in the 4th quarter of 2016. Pine pulpwood demand remains low, with stumpage prices ranging from 4 to 8 dollars per ton based on distance to a mill. However, there is optimism for pine markets moving forward, with over 2 billion dollars in softwood mill infrastructure development planned in Arkansas since 2015. These investments are planned for new mills, mill upgrades and re-openings across the state. Hardwood pulp rebounded slightly. The market for hardwood sawlogs remained strong and was again reflected in the stumpage prices.
Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events this Year!

March 7th- 5:30pm Bismarck High School– Bismarck Beef– Herd Health–
   Dr. Heidi Ward & Dr. John Jennings–

Please Call and RSVP by Friday, March 3rd for the meal count

March 15th– 8:00am-1:00pm Saline Co Fairgrounds– Abandoned Pesticide Drop Off
March 16th– 8:00am-1:00pm Clark Co Fairgrounds– Abandoned Pesticide Drop Off
March 17th– 8:00am-1:00pm Garland Co Fairgrounds– Abandoned Pesticide Drop Off
April 3rd-5th– Brucellosis Vaccinations—Please Return Cards by March 6th.

April 7th— 9:30am– 3:00pm SWREC– Grazing School/Field Day–
   Kenny Simon, Dr. Paul Beck, Dr. John Jennings

April 10th– 1:00pm & 6:00pm 4-H Center– Pesticide Applicator Training
April 18th– 9:00am Location TBA– Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation Clinic
May 11th– 6:00pm 4-H Center– Summer Weed Control and Sprayer Calibration–
   Blair Griffin & Jason Davis

June 8th– 6:00pm 4-H Center– Armyworm and Fly Control– Dr. Kelly Loftin
July 6th– 6:00pm 4-H Center– Cool Season Forages– Kenny Simon
August 3rd– 6:00pm 4-H Center– Reproductive Soundness in Beef Cattle – Dr. Heidi Ward
October 9th– 6:00pm 4-H Center– Pesticide Applicator Training
October 23rd-25th– Brucellosis Vaccinations
November 14th– 9:00am Location TBA– Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation Clinic

Bismarck Beef– Tuesday, March 7th at Bismarck High School

This year the focus will be on Herd Health. Dr. Heidi Ward will be discussing the efficacy of certain wormers and rotation schedules, Dr. John Jennings will be discussing fescue toxicity, and Rachel Bearden will discuss vaccination schedules. This will be an excellent learning opportunity for all beef producers.

Dinner will be sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim. Please call and RSVP for a head count for dinner by Friday, March 7th.
With spring already trying to pop up, it is about to get very busy for everyone! I hope you keep track of the calendar and take advantage of the educational opportunities that are coming up this year. Now is the time to start planning and preparing for hay season, spring grazing, and production. Keep in mind I am here to serve y’all! If you need help calibrating a sprayer, weed identification, or anything else, don’t hesitate to call!

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