What’s Your Beef

Howard County Extension Office
Howard County Beef and Forage Newsletter

Super Cow Summer Series

The last installment of the series will be Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the EH Center. The topic will be... “Cattle marketing option: Which one fits your needs?” A light meal will be served, so please call the office at 870-845-7517 if you plan to attend.

Pesticide Applicator Training

A Pesticide Applicator Training will be held November 3, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. in Nashville at the EH House. I should have two more later on in the winter/early spring.

4 State Cattle Conference

We are still getting it together, but I wanted to get the date on your calendar. It will be held Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the 4 State Fairgrounds in Texarkana. Last year we had an awesome attendance. This will be our 3rd year to conduct the conference and it continues to grow. Look for more details coming up.

In This Issue:
- Super Cow Summer Series
- Pesticide Applicator Training
- 4 State Cattle Conference
- Stockpiling Warm Season Grasses for Grazing
- Did You Know?
- Health Calendar and Cattle Vaccinations
- My Funny Bone
- Join Us on Facebook

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**STOCKPILING WARM SEASON GRASSES FOR GRAZING**

Stockpiling forages to reduce hay feeding may be one of the most cost-effective pasture management practices available. Demonstrations on farms across Arkansas have shown average savings of $20 per AU or more by grazing stockpiled forages compared to feeding hay. In well-managed systems, over 100 animal grazing days per acre are possible on stockpiled forages. Bermudagrass and bahiagrass can be stockpiled in late summer for fall grazing. For stockpiling bermudagrass or bahiagrass, clip or graze the pasture short in early August, apply 50-60 lbs. N per acre and allow the forage to grow until mid-October before grazing. Early fertilization is important because warm night temperatures are required for good warm-season grass growth rates. Waiting until September to fertilize can reduce potential forage yields by 60 to 80 percent. Forage quality of stockpiled bermudagrass and bahiagrass remains good even after frost occurs. However, continued cold weather will cause deterioration of the forage over time and will cause forage quality to decline. These grasses are best grazed during fall up to mid-December. Forage quality of stockpiled forage is very good when managed as described.

Cattle can be continuously grazed (given full access to the stockpiled pasture) or strip-grazed. In many demonstrations, producers that strip-grazed the stockpiled pastures got twice as many grazing days per acre as those that continuously grazed the stockpiled pasture.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Did you know that body condition scoring is a useful management tool to determine nutritional needs of cattle in your herd. A cow’s body condition score (BCS) can be especially useful during this spring breeding season to help determine which cows may need extra supplementation. Body condition is assessed on a 1 to 9 scale with 1 being very thin and 9 being very obese, please see this link for more information: [https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/MP373.pdf](https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/MP373.pdf)

- Research has shown that cow’s exhibiting a BCS of 4 may have pregnancy rates as low as 50%. At a BCS of 5, pregnancy rates will be close to 80%. At a BCS of 6, pregnancy rates may be 88% or higher.

- Ag and forestry utilize more than 95% of AR land resources 14.5 M acres of farmland, 6.2 M acres of crops, 8.3 M acres of livestock & hay, 18.1 M acres of forest.

- Agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry, adding around $16 billion to the state's economy each year.

- U.S. cattle producers raise 20% of the world's beef supply with just 7% of the world's cattle.

- Red meat is a rich source of vitamins B and D and iron and zinc.
HEALTH CALENDAR AND CATTLE VACCINATIONS
For Spring-Calving Beef Herds

THROUGH OCTOBER
   a. Sprays, backrubbers, dusters, ear tags.
   b. Use approved products according to label instructions.
2. Minimize pinkeye.
   a. Clip pastures, provide shade, control flies.
   b. Treat clinical cases immediately.
   c. Treat all cattle to clear carrier animals.
   d. Treat all additions to herd.
3. Consider Anaplasmosis-Antibiotic control program.

AUGUST
1. Pregnancy examine heifers (near August 1).
   a. Estimate calving date by early examination.
   b. Cull open heifers.
   c. Sell surplus pregnant heifers.
2. Brucellosis vaccinate heifer calves.
   a. Must be done by veterinarian or official technician.
   b. 4 to 12 months of age.
3. Castrate bull calves if not done earlier.
4. Implant steer calves with growth implants.
   a. First time at castration regardless of age.
   b. Every 90-120 days thereafter until sold.
5. Deworm all calves.
   a. Most Arkansas calves need deworming.
6. Vaccinate calves for leptospirosis.

SEPTEMBER
1. Pregnancy examine cows (near September 1).
2. Physical examine cows and mark for culling.
3. Vaccinate cows for leptospirosis.
4. Grub/lice treat all cattle with recommended product – follow recommendations on products available.
5. Vaccinate calves.
   a. IBR-PI3 (intranasal vaccine)
   b. Blackleg 7-way

NOVEMBER
1. Wean and weigh calves.
2. Deworm and implant steer calves to be held over.
3. Select replacement heifers (50 to 75 percent extra).
   a. Calculate feeding program to reach breeding weight by March 26.
   b. Feed in groups to achieve projected gain.

**MY FUNNY BONE**

The school of Agriculture’s dean of admissions was interviewing a prospective student. “Why have you chosen this career?” he asked.
“I dream of making a million dollars in farming, like my father,” the student replied.
“Your father made a million dollars in farming?” echoed the dean, much impressed.
“No,” replied the applicant, “but he always dreamed of it.”
JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

I try to post updates at least once a week with what’s new in the world of agriculture whether that is the emergence of armyworms in the county, or new research that has been released; and from time to time a funny for all to enjoy. Here is the link: [https://www.facebook.com/HowardCoUaexAgNaturalResources](https://www.facebook.com/HowardCoUaexAgNaturalResources)

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

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