What’s Your Beef

Howard County Extension Office
Howard County Beef and Forage Newsletter

Pesticide Applicator Trainings

Friday, February 28, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Extension Homemakers
Educational Center - Nashville

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Extension Homemakers
Educational Center - Nashville

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Remember to “Like” Us on Facebook!!

We now have a Howard Co. UAEX Ag & Natural Resources Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/HowardCoUaexAgNatural-Resources I try to post relevant articles and upcoming events for Howard County and surrounding counties, if I think it will be of interest to our producers. It is for all agriculture and natural resources, so you may find beef and forage topics, gardening topics, environmental topics, beekeeping, etc. It’s just another resource tool for you. It will be research based information, so you can trust that it will be unbiased and proven information. I try to post pictures, as well.

Upcoming Sales

Magnolia Hereford Sale - February 15, 2014 - SAU Rodeo Arena Magnolia, AR
Four State Cream of the Crop Sale - March 8, 2014 - Hope, AR

Northeast Arkansas Angus Association Sale - March 15, 2014 - Charlotte, AR
Landon Hays Memorial Angus Sale - March 15, 2014 - Arcadia, LA

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Pasture Management

Good land management starts with a clear and attainable goal, but this is one of the most challenging steps in resource planning. The primary concern of pasture management is vegetation. Pastures are dynamic — they are always changing and responding to climatic cycles, weather, fire, insects, grazing or browsing, and soil disturbances caused by animals and humans. Therefore, it is important to set achievable and measurable goals. Goal setting helps land managers better understand where they are now relative to what they want to achieve. Pasture goals can include sustained forage and browse production, fish and wildlife habitat, watershed enhancement, prevention or control of invasive species, recreational opportunities, and other uses on pastures. No matter the goals, proper management is dependent on maintaining healthy soil condition, functional watersheds, and desirable plant communities.

Upcoming Events

“Your Farm, Your Legacy” - Estate Planning Workshop - March 4 & 6 at 6:00 p.m. each night. Cost is $15 per person or $20 per couple. A meal is provided each night. Topics covered will be: Getting Started on an Estate Plan; Probates, Trusts, & Farm Transfer; Taxes & Long-term Care; Transfer of Non-Titled Property; and Planning Ahead for End of Life (Advance Directives, Living wills). Registration is due February 24.

Beef Workshop
The beef workshop is set for April 11, 2014. It will be an outdoor activity on Cattle Handling, Beef Quality Assurance, and much more. More details to come, but save the date.
**Pasture Grazing Management Guidelines**

Livestock grazing is one of the most widespread and important uses of rangelands. Renewable plant resources provide forage for ruminant livestock like cattle, sheep, and goats; and the ruminant animals subsequently provide food and fiber for people. Rangeland livestock, however, must be managed properly to ensure the long-term sustainability of the soil-plant-animal resource base.

There are a set of basic grazing management principles and a set of grazing management guidelines that should be considered.

**Grazing Management Principles**

The art and science of grazing management involve manipulating the grazing animal, the forage plant, and the soil complex to obtain specific ecological and economic objectives. The successful grazing manager must thoroughly understand how plants grow and reproduce if he wants to understand how grazing animals affect plants through defoliation, hoof action, and other aspects of the grazing process. In addition, managers must understand the grazing animal, specifically its nutritional needs at critical points of the production cycle and its behavioral characteristics. Then managers can begin to consider the following:

- When should grazing occur? (timing)
- How often should defoliation occur? (frequency)
- How much forage should be removed, or how much residual plant material should remain after grazing? (intensity)
- How many and what type of livestock should be grazed? (stocking rate and type of livestock)

How plants respond to grazing is determined by the timing, intensity, and frequency of grazing as well as the physiological and morphological characteristics of the plants and how these characteristics affect plant growth before and after grazing events.

**Grazing Management Guidelines for Sustainable Pasture**

Guidelines have been developed through research and experience. They include timing of grazing, frequency of grazing, intensity of grazing, type of livestock, number of animals, animal distribution, grazing selectivity, and grazing systems.
All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.

Sincerely,

Sherry Beaty-Sullivan
County Extension Agent-
Agriculture

Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture, and County Governments Cooperating

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