

Beef Cattle News

Izard County Cooperative Extension Services
79 Municipal Drive Melbourne AR 72556

August 2020

Michael Paskewitz CEA, Staff Chair (870) 368-4323



Please support our local 4-H and FFA kids that have raised some amazing Fat Hogs. This project has provided a true agriculture experience for these kids. Raising livestock that goes directly from their farm to your plate. The kids receive 100% of the money from their hog. Challenges from Covid this year has required us to sell these hogs by taking call in bids. Winning bidder will be responsible for the processing fees. We have appointments reserved on August 31st, for each hog at Bailey's Butcher Shop at Sage. Hogs will be delivered to Sage at no charge. Phone bidding closes on Friday August 28th, at 4:30 pm. Please call Michael at 870-368-4323 to place a bid on one of these awesome locally grown hogs.

Unfortunately, fall armyworms are being found in high populations not far from Izard County. Keep an eye out, especially in quality forages.

Fall Armyworm Control

Control decisions should be based on treatment thresholds derived from sampling the field. In general, insecticide treatment is warranted if three or more half-grown armyworms per square foot are present. If conditions allow, harvesting for hay can be a control option. The best way to conduct sampling is to make at least 10 random samples across the field. When choosing insecticides, producers should consider grazing or harvest restrictions, local availability, cost, and residual activity. Insecticides cost can range from \$3-\$10 per/acre. Pyrethroids (Mustang Max, Respect, Karate, etc.) work quickly but have little residual activity. If heavily infested and multiple growth stages present it may be more economical in the long run to choose an insecticide with longer residual such as Prevathon, Besiege, Intrepid, etc. For further information consult the MP 144 or call the Extension office at 870-368-4323.

Beef Cattle News

How many bales are needed?

How many bales are needed? A general rule of thumb is that a dry cow will eat about 2% of her body weight per day in forage dry matter. So, a 1000 lb. non-lactating cow will consume 20 lbs dry forage per day. But when you factor in moisture content of the hay and hay waste during feeding, more hay is required. For example, if the hay moisture content is 12% and 20% is wasted during feeding, the daily amount of hay for that 1000 lb. cow is closer to 29 lbs.

Bale weights vary considerably with bale size, forage type, moisture content, baler, and operator. The average weight for a typical 4x5 large round bale is approximately 750 lbs. We have weighed some much lighter and some heavier. Weights of 1000 lbs for 4x5 round bales are uncommon. In many hay weighing demonstrations, we have found that estimates of hay weight almost always exceed actual weights when the bale is placed on the scale. A 5x6 round bale has 1.8 times more volume than a 4x5 round bale and can reach a weight over 1,300 lbs.

Number of 4x5* round bales of hay needed per month for feeding different size cow herds			
Number cows	Cow body weight (non-lactating cow)		
	1,000 lbs.	1,200 lbs.	1,400 lbs.
Number of bales per month			
25	29	34	40
50	58	68	80
100	116	136	160

*assumes 750 lb bale weight, 12% moisture, and 20% waste during feeding

Bale Size

At first glance, one would think the difference in a 4x4 bale and a 4x5 bale would be quite small. However, the fact is that a 4x5 bale has 33% more total volume of hay than a 4x4 bale. University of Florida's Matt Hersom did a great job creating a visual chart (below) showing how much each 6-inch layer around the bale contains. This also helps us better understand the losses we incur from weather spoilage.

Beef Cattle News

In a 5 ft diameter round bale

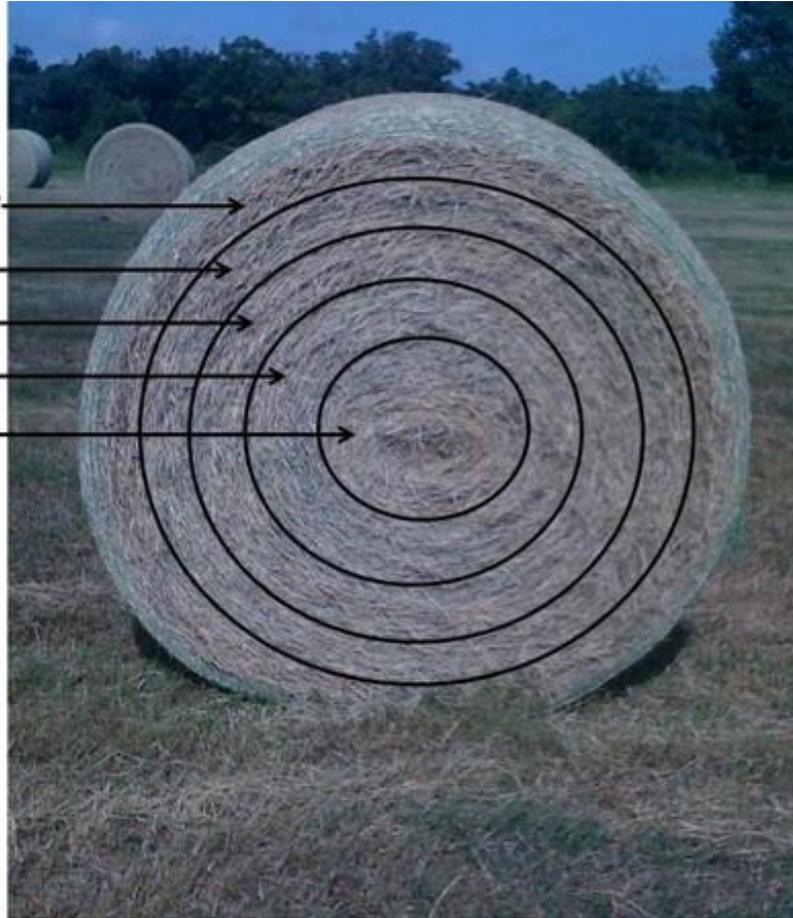
33.1% of the bale is in the outer 6"

26.4% of the bale is in the next 6"

19.9% of the bale is in the next 6"

13.2% of the bale is in the next 6"

7.4% of the bale is in the inner 6"



Management for Stockpiled Bermudagrass

1. Remove existing forage residue in late July to early August to leave a stubble of 2-3 inches
2. Fertilize with 50-60 pounds of nitrogen per acre in early to mid-August (late August in south Arkansas)
3. Defer grazing until late October to allow growth to accumulate
4. Strip or rotationally graze to extend the grazing period of the stockpiled forage
5. Grazing period is October to December

Management for Stockpiled Fescue

1. Remove existing forage residue in late August to early September to leave a stubble height of 3-4 inches
2. Fertilize with 50-60 pounds of nitrogen per acre in early September (mid to late September in south Arkansas)
3. Defer grazing until late November to allow growth to accumulate
4. Strip or rotationally graze to extend the grazing period of the stockpiled forage
5. Grazing period is late November to February

Beef Cattle News

Determining when and how much winter annual forage acreage to plant

John Jennings and Paul Beck

University of Arkansas Department of Animal Science

Matching winter annual production with livestock needs 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.

Beef Cattle News

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.

"The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer."



Michael Paskewitz
CEA-Staff Chair