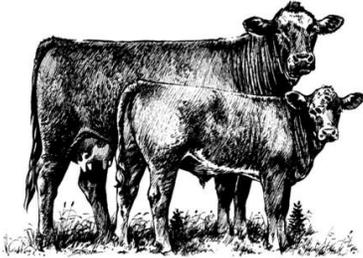


# Beef Cattle News

Izard County Cooperative Extension Services 79  
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**August 2018**

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## Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)

You can become BQA certified by taking the online course which is free or I will be hosting a BQA class at Ozarka College on August 30th at 6:00 pm for \$10.00. Call the Extension office for more information or questions.

BQA is an educational program focused on the best management practices for beef production. It is also required to be BQA certified in order to be eligible to participate in the GoGreen Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program.

### Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program- GoGreen

It is no secret that quality calves that received a recommended vaccination protocol and were weaned for 45-60 days bring a premium price. Why is that? Because as these calves move to the next sector of beef production (being stocker or feeder operation depending on size) sickness, death loss and performance all drastically improved.

In an effort to bring recognition to Arkansas calves being raised under Best Management Practices from calthood through marketing with the Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program. This program also known as GOGreen identified by the GREEN NSPCP Tag for each qualifying calf.

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## Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program-GoGreen

What producers must do to participate:

- Become BQA Certified (Online or Class on August 30th in Melbourne)
- Adopt Best Management Practices
- Complete the Qualifying Form
- Tag your Calves with the UNIQUE GREEN NSPCP TAG
- Provide Copies of the Qualifying Form and Receipts at Sale

### What is the NSPCP?

The Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program improves the image and welfare of Arkansas calves by adopting Best Management Practices from calffood through marketing.

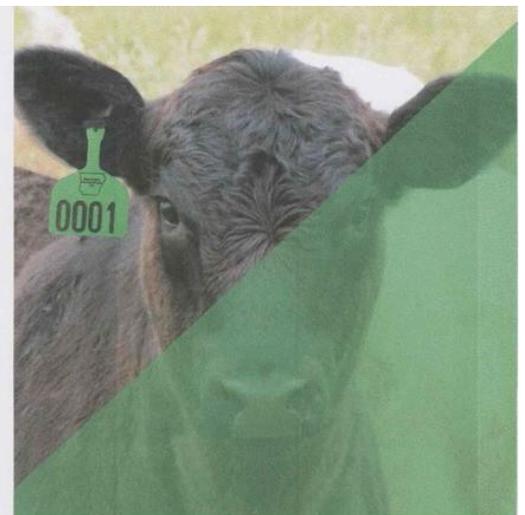
**“When preconditioning is done right, everybody wins.”**

Buyers spend less time and money treating sick cattle, sale barns provide healthier cattle and attract new business, and sellers often receive market incentives that cover vaccine costs and short-term retained ownership may advance market weights and total sale dollars.



If you're ready to **GoGREEN**, visit your local county Extension office to get started and visit the GoGREEN website at [www.uaex.edu/gogreen](http://www.uaex.edu/gogreen) for additional program details.

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**GoGREEN**  
with the  
Natural State  
Preconditioned  
Calf Program

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# Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program-GoGreen



## How To Enroll

To participate, the rancher must first be Beef Quality Assurance certified. Training is available through local county Cooperative Extension Service office sessions this summer or online at [www.bqa.org](http://www.bqa.org).

Once enrolled in the **GoGREEN** program, ranchers should develop a calf management plan based on the criteria listed on the qualifying form and must have documentation of health products purchased and dates administered. After all the best management practices have been documented, tags can be picked up from the county extension office.

To participate in the **GoGREEN** program, there is a ranch enrollment fee of \$10 for 3 years and a \$2 per calf qualifying fee.

## GoGREEN for Sellers

1. Become BQA certified.
2. Adopt a few Best Management Practices like castrating bull calves, removing horns, vaccinating calves for respiratory diseases and blackleg, treat calves for internal parasites, and keep calves at least 45 days after weaning before marketing.
3. Complete the qualifying form and visit your county extension office to pick up your Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program **GoGREEN** TAGS.
4. Tag and provide all documentation at market.

## GoGREEN for Buyers

1. Look for the Official Green Natural State Preconditioned Calf tag.
2. Ask sale barns for copies of the qualifying form.

## GoGREEN for Sale Barns

1. This program is about what we're marketing, not where and when we're marketing.
2. Sale barns do not need to enroll in the program or have special sales to market calves enrolled in the program.
3. Sale barns are free to use the Natural State Preconditioned Calf Program to create special sales to attract sellers and buyers.
4. Ask sellers for copies of the qualifying form.
5. Provide buyers with copies of the qualifying form.

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## Drought Survival

The past year has been quite a challenge. We have experienced extremes in our weather pattern that have not fit our typical forage production windows. Hay and forage are in short supply in most areas. We still have opportunities ahead but we need to be ready to capitalize. Stockpiling forages may be the best tool we have to survive.

**Warm season grasses:** Graze or mow pastures in late July leaving 2-3 inches of stubble. Apply 50-60 lbs of nitrogen per/acre on or around August 1st. It doesn't take that much rain for stockpiled forage to produce good forage. This one is definitely worth taking a chance on. Stockpiled bermuda will be ready to graze in October. Stockpiled bermuda can produce 3,000 to over 5,000 lbs dry matter/acre for fall grazing.

**Cool season grasses:** Graze or mow pastures in late August leaving 3-4 inches of stubbles. Apply 50-60 lbs of nitrogen per acre September 1st. This one also is definitely worth taking a chance on. Stockpiled fescue can produce 2,000 to 3,000 lbs dry matter/acre by late November and can be grazed from late November through February depending on acreage.

Winter annuals are also an option, especially if your operation is mostly warm season grasses.

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## Drought Survival....Continues...

Dr. John Jennings Extension Forage Specialist shared some good information on winter annual use.

“Forage turnip and rape must be planted early for fall grazing,” said John Jennings, professor-forages for the University Of Arkansas System Division Of Agriculture. “Brassicas planted in late August to early September can produce graze able 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 grain, ryegrass

Jennings said that small grains and ryegrass intended for grazing by Nov. 1-15 must be planted before Sept. 15. Planting on a tilled seedbed or no-tilled into harvested crop fields is required for this to work. Apply 50 pounds per acre of nitrogen after the stand comes up to ensure growth. Apply phosphorous and potassium according to a soil test.

“However, if no soil test is available, be sure to apply at least 50 pounds each of potassium and phosphorous,” Jennings said. Apply 50 pounds more nitrogen in February for sustained growth into spring.

“Due to the tillage requirement, this option will not fit every case or every field,” he said. “

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## 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 Sept. 15 to Oct. 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 pounds per acre of nitrogen after the stand comes up to ensure growth. Apply phosphorous and potassium according to soil test. If no soil test is available, be sure to apply at least 50 pounds each of phosphorous and potassium. Apply 50 pounds more nitrogen in February for sustained growth into spring.

## For grazing 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

## Culling Cows

If you are short on hay or pasture the first move to provide some relief is culling out the bottom end of the herd. Reasons to cull: reproduction performance (open or late breeding), bad feet, bad attitude, udder and teat quality, or quality and size of the calf she weans.

## Armyworms

I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for armyworms. They have had some heavy infestations in parts of southwest Arkansas. If you see turkeys or birds feeding in a field or a change in color it would be wise to investigate.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michael Paskewitz'.

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Michael Paskewitz  
CEA-Staff Chair



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