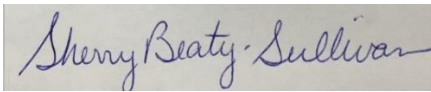


UPCOMING SPECIAL CATTLE SALES

- February 18th Magnolia Hereford Sale- Noon-SAU Rodeo Arena, Magnolia, AR
- February 25th 44 Farms Spring Sale- 11:30 a.m. Cameron, TX
- March 3rd Express Ranch Spring Bull Sale—10a.m. Yukon, OK
- March 4th LBJ Spring Turnout Sale- 1:00 p.m. Hope Livestock Auction
- March 4th Satterfield Charolais & Angus Sale—1:00p.m. Evening Shade, AR
- March 11th Northeast Texas Hereford Sale—Noon Mt. Pleasant, TX Fairgrounds
- March 18th Northeast Arkansas Angus Sale—Noon Batesville Stockyard, Charlotte, AR
- March 18th Texoma Beefmaster Sale—Noon McAlester, OK
- March 18th Landon Hays Memorial Angus Sale—12:30 p.m. Arcadia, LA
- March 21st KW Cattle Company --Noon
- March 25th Belle Point Ranch—Ft. Smith, AR
- March 25th Arkansas Bull Sale & Commercial Heifers—Noon Heber Springs, AR



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What's Your Beef
 LITTLE RIVER COUNTY BEEF AND FORAGE NEWSLETTER
 Winter 2017



Well, I don't know about you but 2017 is starting very strange! This weather is ridiculous hot then cold, then hot. I can't ever remember turning on my AC in February!

The first part of the year is going to be fast and furious. Like many of you Scott and I have begun our spring calving season. That in itself can be a load, but we have two really good hands to help us out. On the Extension side of things it is busy as well, there will be lots of educational opportunities for you to participate in and I hope you take advantage of them. Sherry

Forage Workshop

Getting More from Your Pasture

- Grazing Management
- Stockpiling
- Winter Annuals
- Clovers
- Weed Management

Call to register

March 7, 2017
 UA Cossatot-Millwood Room
 Tel: 870-898-7224


 Cooperative Extension Service

March 31, 2017
 8:30a.m. - 3:00p.m.
 4 States Fairground
 Texarkana, AR

Southern States Forage Conference

Topics on Pasture/Forage Management

Cost: \$30/person or \$50/couple (includes lunch)

TEL:870-898-7224




Southwest AR Grazing School & Field Day

TEL:870-898-7224

Topics Include:

300 Days of Grazing	Soil Fertility & Forages
Electric Fencing Demonstration	Winter Annual Harvest Data
Establishment Techniques	
Field Observation of Demonstration	



APRIL 7, 2017 AT SOUTHWEST EXTENSION & RESEARCH CENTER-HOPE, 9:00A.M.-3:00P.M. \$10/PERSON LUNCH PROVIDED

THE TIME IS NOW...TO KILL WINTER WEEDS

With this warm weather there is no excuse not to be spraying winter weeds (unless the wind is gusty). This is a good time to get rid of thistles, red sorrel, buttercup, henbit, and all those other pretty little winter flowers.

Pasture Weed Control Schedule	
January-March	Apply Round-up Ultra or Gramoxone Extra herbicide for winter annual weeds (cheat, little barley, etc.) in dormant bermudagrass.
February-March	Apply pre-emergence herbicides to dormant bermudagrass. Spray 2,4-D or similar product for buttercup and other winter annual weeds.

QUALITY BULL SELECTION – YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

In the process of saving on inputs, some producers might cut back on the money spent for replacement bulls. But using a bull of reduced quality could impact profitability for the next several years due to heavier birthweights, lower weaning weights, lower carcass quality or less desirable replacement heifers. Those who produce calves with desirable genetics and value-added traits will have the greatest likelihood of remaining profitable.

How can you justify spending more on a quality bull in difficult economic times? Researchers at the Noble Foundation say consider two scenarios. Scenario one: Use an average quality bull that costs \$2750. Scenario two: Purchase a high quality bull in the top 20% for weaning weight EPD that cost \$3500. Both bulls will remain in the breeding herd for four years and breed 25 cows per year, totaling 100 calves. The annual cost for each bull on a cow basis is \$35.60 and \$43.10 for scenario one and two, respectively. The scenario two bull only costs \$7.50 per cow more annually compared to the lower quality bull in scenario one.

On the revenue side, calves are weaned in early October. Calves from scenario one wean at 535 lb., valued at \$135/cwt, or \$722/head. Scenario two calves had heavier weaning weights at 600 lb., valued at \$132/cwt, or \$792/head—an increase of \$70 per calf from the better bull. Calves from scenario two have a positive net difference of \$62.50 more per calf (\$70-\$7.50).

MY FUNNY BONE

- Cows have best friends and get stressed when separated from each other.
- Q: What is a cow's favorite deli meat?
A: Bull-ogna
- Q: Where do cows go to eat lunch?
A: The calf-eteria.



FENCELINE WEANING: LESS STRESS ON COWS & CALVES

I realize that many of us are just now starting our spring calving season, however for those who have both fall and spring calving seasons, it's a good time to think about weaning calves and ways to reduce stress in both cows and calves. By reducing stress we reduce the risk of sickness.

Weaning a calf from its mother can be a stressful situation for all involved – including some of you guys. But some techniques make for a gentler road than others.

Weaning puts stress on both the cow and calf if weaning is handled abruptly. But there's a simple way for minimizing weaning stress, called 'fenceline' weaning, which basically means that during the weaning process, there is a fence between the cows and calves.

The technique offers several advantages, including allowing cows to maintain audio-visual and olfactory contact with their calves, which greatly reduces stress, and typically results in less "bawling" from both cows and calves.

The weaning process itself takes about five to seven days, with about three days for cows to adjust and reduce milk production. It may take one to two weeks for the animals to become fully accustomed to the new situation.

Keeping calves beyond weaning is also economically advantageous. In a demonstration project at the Batesville Research Station, calves returned an extra \$66/head for the additional 60 days of retained ownership and grazing, thereby putting on extra weight before sale.

Depending on the season, select a pasture that has enough forage to hold cows and calves for a couple of weeks. Stockpiled fescue works well in the fall – preferably novel-endophyte or non-toxic fescue.

Move the cow-calf pairs into the working facility and separate cows from calves. This is a good opportunity to preg check, get calf weights, etc.

Set up a double wire electric (polywire) fence so that the double strands are just below the head of the calf. If the calf pushes, it will learn to avoid the fence wires. Use posts that make it easy to put the wire back in place when animals topple them—this sort of fence can easily be cross-fence in a larger pasture or paddock. The wires should carry enough charge to deter animals from crossing over. The wire can be hooked up to the electric perimeter fence or hooked up to a portable charger.

After cows and calves are separated to their respective sides of the fence, they may want to periodically bawl, but this will only take place during certain times during the first days of the weaning process, and should be short-lived.

