Beef and Forage Review

Tri-County Forage Meeting
9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 3, 2016
First National Bank Community Center, Paris

Topics include:
- Economic Hay cutting decisions
- Liquid Fertilizer
- Pinkeye/fly control
- Weed control

Call the Extension office at 963-2360 or 675-2787 to preregister. Registration deadline is **Monday, Feb. 29**. A free lunch will be provided.

FIRST Annual Tri-County Beef Meeting
10 a.m., Friday, April 8, 2016
Franklin County Extension Office – Ozark

Topics include:
- Economic value of bulls
- Parasite/fly/lice control program
- Cow/calf vaccination program
- Lick tubs/ mineral supplementation

Call the Extension office at 963-2360 or 675-2787 to preregister. Registration deadline is **Monday, April 4**. A free lunch will be provided.

Pesticide Applicator Training Scheduled
The Logan County Extension will be offering one more Pesticide Applicator Training date in the coming months. You must complete this class in order to get a restricted-use pesticide license. You must have this license to use any 2,4-D products. The dates are as follows:

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016**
6:30 p.m. - Paris - First National Bank Community Center
*Cost is $10 payable at the door – no need to preregister.*

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its 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.
Ditch the Itch in Your Herd
Heidi Ward, Assistant Professor and Extension Veterinarian

Winter is upon us, which means lice are getting prepared to snack on your livestock. Lice infestations typically appear in late fall and peak in late winter, when the air turns colder and cattle stand in groups to keep warm. Winter is also when animals grow extra hair, providing a perfect environment for these pesky parasites. Treating the problem of lice requires time and money, but ignoring the problem leads to economic loss.

There are two types of lice that affect cattle: biting lice (figure a) and sucking lice (figure b). Lice are tiny insects with claws that attach to hair. Biting lice have a large, blunt head with ventral mouthparts adapted to feed on the skin and skin secretions of cattle. Sucking lice have a narrow head with long, piercing mouthparts adapted to feed on the blood and serum of cattle. Lice irritate cattle causing them to scratch and rub their skin, eventually leading to a decline in health.

In addition, lice can carry viruses, bacteria and fungus, which all pose risks for immune-compromised cattle. Animals stressed from growth, pregnancy or underlying disease are most at risk of experiencing secondary health problems from lice. Lice infestations add to the impact of cold weather, poor winter diet, stress from shipping and underlying disease. Infested animals are often restless and distracted by their discomfort, which keeps them from eating. Cattle can be seen rubbing their face, neck, shoulders and rump to alleviate the itching, which often results in patches of fur loss. The energy that lice steal can have a severe impact on an animal’s immune system and health in general. This impact manifests as anemia, delayed recovery from diseases, poor weight gain or overall unthriftiness.

Lice species of concern in Arkansas are the short-nosed cattle louse (Haematopinus eurysternus), long-nosed cattle louse (Linognathus vituli), little blue louse (Solenopotes capillatus) and cattle-biting louse (Bovicola bovis). The life cycle of lice only lasts 20 to 30 days, with the entire cycle taking place on the host. Females attach their eggs (nits) to hairs, which hatch in 5 to 14 days. When the nymphs emerge, they go through three molts within 7 days. In 14 days, the nymphs become egg-laying adults, thus completing the cycle. Fortunately, the short life cycle makes lice easier to kill.

The type of lice infesting the herd is important to know when developing a treatment. Pour-on pyrethroids kill both types of lice, but injectable avermectins mainly kill sucking lice. No matter the product, the label should be followed closely as there might be strict pre-slaughter withdrawal times or environmental precautions. Giving the correct amount is important as these products quickly become toxic to cattle if too much is given. Some products require a second treatment, usually 3-4 weeks after the first treatment, to kill lice finishing their life cycle. Adult lice cannot live very long away from the host. Sucking lice die within a few hours when off the host, but biting lice may live for several days as long as they are not exposed to direct sunlight or cold air. Along with treating the animals, the environment (i.e., trees and frequented fence posts) should also be treated prior to allowing new animals into the area. For best results, follow the advice of your veterinarian.

Control and prevention of lice infestation can be achieved by maintaining cattle on a high plane of nutrition. Cattle with an ideal body condition going into winter have better immune systems and can resist the negative impact of lice. Prophylactic treatment with insecticides in late fall will also help prevent infestation, but cattle should be checked regularly during the cold season for recurrence. By having a plan and paying attention to your cattle, you can ditch the itch in your herd.
**SPRING Bangs Vaccination**

The Extension office will be coordinating a spring BANGS vaccination route with Scott Gotlieb from the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission. The dates have not been set. But it will likely be in the late April to early May range. All heifers that are intended to become replacement heifers should be vaccinated. Heifers must be between the ages of 4-12 months in order to be vaccinated. This service is free of charge to producers. I will get the information out as soon as a date is set.

**Artificial Insemination Class**

Big Branch Breeders Service will hold two three-day Artificial Insemination and Reproductive Management Training courses. The first will be at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville on March 22-24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The next will be at ASU-Beebe farm facility on March 31-April 2.

- To register, send $150 deposit with your contact information
- $500 for first time students
- FREE for former students
- Refresher for those who have attended training from another provider is $85 per day, no semen credit or manual.

In addition to AI Tech Certification, you will receive a 'best in the industry' Reproductive Management manual and $150 credit for any bull in ABS's inventory. The bulls may be viewed at www.absglobal.com. Class size will be limited in order to provide each student individual attention and is booked on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, contact via email at www.bigbranchbreeders.net or at 501-316-3536.

**Arkansas Grazing Lands Conference**

The Arkansas Grazing Coalition is hosting the Arkansas Grazing Lands conference on Friday, March 11 at Arkansas Tech University -Ozark campus, Ozark, AR. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the conference beginning at 9:00 a.m. Speakers will include Jim Gerrish, who will focus on ways to improve profitability by increasing grazing. Cost is $35 if registered by February 23. Lunch will be provided. For more information: www.argrazinglandscoalition.org or call 501-682-2915.

---

**MAILING LIST UPDATE**

Our subject-matter mailing lists update is included with this newsletter. If you would like to receive mailings from our office, please complete the form and return it to the Extension office. You may also email your choices to logan-paris@uaex.edu or call either Extension office at 675-2787 or 963-2360.
RIVER VALLEY BEEF CATTLE CONFERENCE
8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 16, 2016
1-40 Livestock Auction, Ozark, Arkansas

Schedule:
  8:30 a.m. - Registration
  9:00 a.m. - Introductions and Welcome – Cindy Ham
  9:05 a.m. - Welcome – Perry McCourt
  9:15 a.m. – Feeding Antibiotics – The Change is Here – Dr. Heidi Ward, DVM
  9:45 a.m. – Pasture Weed Control – Dr. John Boyd
  10:15 a.m. - Break
  10:30 a.m. – Cattle Market Outlook – Jim Robb
  11:25 a.m. – Heifer Selection – Kent Reading
  Noon - Lunch

No pre-registration required, register at the door
$20 per person