RIVER VALLEY BEEF CATTLE CONFERENCE

8:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Ouachita Livestock Auction, Ola, Arkansas

Schedule:
8:30 a.m. - Registration
9:00 a.m. - Introductions and Welcome – Mr. Jack Clark
9:05 a.m. - Welcome – Mr. Perry McCourt
9:10 a.m. - Calf Health – From Birth to Weaning – Dr. Jason Cater, DVM
9:50 a.m. - Break
10:10 a.m. - What are Cattle Buyers Wanting? Feeder calf demonstration
            Mr. Mark Weddle
11:10 a.m. - What Type of cattle work best for my Feedyard? – Mr. Chris Burris
            Noon - Lunch
1:00 p.m. - Adjourn and evaluations

Pesticide Applicator Training Scheduled

Tuesday, February 24 – 6:30 p.m.
First National Bank Community Center – Paris

Cost is $10 payable at the door – no need to preregister. If you have any
questions, give the Extension office a call.

Tri-County Forage Meeting

9:00 a.m. – Tuesday, February 24
First National Bank Community Center, Paris

Topics include:
Poultry Litter versus Commercial Fertilizer
Costs of Rebuilding the Cow Herd
Farm Bill for Beef producers
Weed control

Call the Extension office at 963-2360 or 675-2787 to preregister. Registration
deadline is Friday, Feb. 20. A free lunch will be provided.
Springs 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.

2015 Pesticide Application Sprayer Clinic
Thursday, February 19, 2015 9:30 a.m. – Conway county Fairgrounds, Morrilton
The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is hosting a Pesticide Application Sprayer Clinic for the Arkansas River Valley. The clinic will be held on Thursday, February 19 at the Conway County Fair Grounds in Morrilton. The clinic will begin at 9:00 am with large group sessions. Lunch will be provided, followed by breakout sessions that will conclude at 2:30. Producers and applicators alike are encouraged to attend to gain valuable information on how to be more productive and efficient in the field. The clinic is free and there will be door prizes. Workshop topics are listed below.

Topics covered will include: Hard to control weeds and grasses, new nozzle technology, new Dicamba and 2,4-D herbicide technology, and methods for controlling and changing droplet size. There will also be a hands-on breakout session demonstrating: proper cleanup procedures, GPS application equipment, proper tip selection, and tank mixing demonstrations.

For more information concerning this event please contact Jason Davis by phone at (501)749-2077 or email at jdavis@uaex.edu.

Artificial Insemination Class
Big Branch Breeders Service will hold a three-day Artificial Insemination and Reproductive Management Training at Arkansas State University in Beebe on April 9, 10, 11.

- 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 please contact us 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, February 27 at the Lake Point Conference Center in Russellville, AR. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the conference beginning at 9:00 a.m. Speakers will include renowned grazing expert Greg Judy, as well as may other Southern producers. Cost is $40 if registered by February 23 and $50 afterwards. Lunch will be provided. For more information: www.argrazinglandscoalition.org or call 501-682-2915.

Grass Tetany
Jeremy Powell, DVM, Associate professor – University of Arkansas

Grass tetany, a disease that commonly occurs in Arkansas in the months of February, March and April, is due to an abnormally low level of magnesium in the cow’s body. This decrease in magnesium can be indirectly caused by heavy fertilization of pastures. When forages are fertilized heavily with potassium (potash), this can decrease the dietary absorption of magnesium in a cow’s gastrointestinal system. Young, rapidly growing forage usually has an increased content of potassium.

These two aspects (fertilization and rapidly growing forage) are the reason this disease is normally seen in late winter and early spring when these causes are abundant. This disease typically occurs in older lactating cows. It more commonly affects cows with either very poor body condition scores or cows that are over conditioned. Other factors that may play a role in the disease are weather – it is usually cloudy, misty and/or cold when this disease occurs – and stressors such as hauling, penning or heavy lactation.

Clinical signs associated with this disease range from slight changes in behavior to death. Early in the disease, cattle affected by grass tetany may show signs such as decreased appetite, decreased milk production, tendency to stay away from the herd, increased alertness and a stiff or unsteady gait. As the disease progresses, cattle may become recumbent and unable to get up. They will exhibit muscle tremors (spasms), protruding third eyelid, increased pulse and respiratory rates and eventually death if untreated.

Treatment
The most important part of treating this disease is to correct the magnesium imbalance. This can be accomplished by administering 500mL of an IV electrolyte solution (CMPK). This solution should be administered slowly, and heart and respiratory rate should be monitored closely. After treating with the IV solution, one can then administer one tube of CMPK gel orally or give another 500mL bottle of solution intraperitoneally to decrease the incidence of relapse. If clinical signs are mild, then Mg imbalances can be corrected by treating with approximately 150cc of a 20 percent Mg sulfate solution given subcutaneously in several injection sites.

Prevention
Prevention of grass tetany can be achieved by providing a salt-mineral supplement containing at least 10 percent Mg. Several mineral feeders should be used if stocking rates are higher for the herd. Mineral feeders should also be conveniently located in the pasture so cattle have access to them. It is also important to review fertilization practices to keep this disease less prevalent. Fertilization should be based on recent soil samples from the farm. For more information about this disease or other diseases, contact the Logan County Extension office at 963-2360 or 675-2787.