1st Quarter 2017

County Agent Comment

“THE TIMES ARE A CHANGING”

Welcome to 2017! A year that will see a new and unorthodox President inaugurated. Hopefully his businesslike approach to the government will bring new growth and new opportunities for the country. “Management Is the Key.”

I hope that your families and farms will benefit in this new year of promise. Remember that regardless who sits in the Oval office, the strength of a nation still depends on the ability to feed the people. The American farmer provides that sustenance and makes American strong.

We in the Union County Extension office, and the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Research and Extension wish you and your families the best in this New Year. Even during time of depressed markets for agriculture commodities, well managed farms succeed. Focus on your management and allow us to assist your efforts as needed. The information contained in this newsletter may give you some ideas and hopefully, useful research based information.

Sincerely,

Robin D. Bridges
CEA/Staff Chair
Union County
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 10  PAT Training—5:30—8:30—County Ext. Office
January 19  Cattlemen’s Mtg. 6:00—UC Fairgrounds
February 7  PAT Training—5:30—8:30—County Ext. Office
February 9  Forestry Landowner Mtg. —6:00 p.m.—UC Fairgrounds
March 7   PAT Training—5:30—8:30—County Ext. Office
April 11   PAT Training—5:30—8:30—County Ext. Office

Union County Cattle Producers

Thursday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. at the Union County Fairgrounds.

Dr. Heidi Ward, UofA Veterinary Specialist will address the latest information on Veterinary required feed director and answer any questions producers may have.

Mark your calendars and call the Extension Office at 870-864-1916 if you plan to attend by noon Monday, January 18th so that we can provide a meal. Ladies don’t forget the desserts!!!

Since this is the first meeting of 2017, membership dues of $50 may be paid at the meeting.
WINTER HAY MEETING

Any Union County producer interested in having their hay analyzed and discussing ration balancing with a specialist, please call 870-864-1916 to indicate your interest. If enough interest is generated, a date will be set and appointments for assistance with ration balancing will be established. Hay samples for this activity will have a $10 fee.

UNION COUNTY FORESTRY LANDOWNERS MTG.

WHEN: Thursday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Union County Fairgrounds
WHO: Speaker Dr. Michael Blazier
     Forestry Specialist with LSU Ag Center
PROGRAM: Managing Expenses When Replanting Forestry Stands

All Forestry Landowners are encouraged to call 870-864-1916 and indicate your plan to attend. Dr. Blazier will also answer questions related to fast growth hardwood as companion for pines. Please mark your calendar and call the office.
SEE YA THERE!!!

2017 FORESTRY FORUM
AT AG EXPO

WHEN: January 13, 2017, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
WHERE: West Monroe Convention Center
         901 Ridge Avenue
         West Monroe, LA
CONTACT: Luke Stamper—LSU Ag Center
         318-744-5442
COST: $15.00 per person, $20 at door
General Management:

Winter is a good opportunity to catch up on equipment maintenance including lubrication and fluid change of tractors, packing wheel bearings on trailer equipment and checking tires on trailers, field equipment, etc., and replacing floors in stock trailers.

During December, some days are better spent indoors than outdoors. Now is a time to summarize herd records for the year and compare to previous year to determine the production direction of the herd. Valuable summaries include changes in 205-day adjusted weaning weights, monthly calving distributions, culling percentages, calf crop percentages, cow age and body condition and calving internal changes.

December is a good month to summarize your financial records. Determine your cost for mineral, supplemental feed, vet medicine, fertilizer, hay, weed control, etc. Knowing your cost to maintain a cow per year is very important and will aid in marketing decisions.

Plan next year’s budget and production plans.

Proper free choice mineral and fresh water is just as important in the winter time as in the summer time.

Do not use frost-damaged Johnsongrass as pasture for seven days after the first killing frost. Delay pasturing for least seven days or until the frosted material is completely dried out and brown in color. The Johnsongrass may contain prussic acid which can cause sudden death in cattle.

Deworm cattle to prevent weight loss and inefficient use of hay and feed supplements going into the winter. For most locations in Arkansas the weather this past summer and fall were ideal for parasites and therefore cattle are probably carrying higher numbers than normal.

Monitor cattle closely for signs of respiratory disease. The large variations in temperatures can contribute to decreases in respiratory immune function which may lead to pneumonia.

Exclude cattle from access to oak trees whenever possible. Acorns are falling and are toxic to cattle causing kidney damage and death.

- Turn bulls in with cow herd. Watch bulls behavior carefully. Be sure they are seeking cows in estrus and are able to mount and breed cows.

Breeding fall calving heifers should be about over by the end of December. It is important for heifers to breed early in their first breeding season and it's a good idea to breed heifers 30 days before the mature cow herd. Heifers should have had three chances to breed by the end of December.

Monitor body condition especially if December is cold and wet. Winter weather can bring an increase in TDN and dry matter intake. Additional hay and supplement maybe necessary to maintain proper body condition and performance.
Tips for Spring Calving Herds:

Deworm cows prior to calving.
Evaluate heifer weights - it is important heifers weigh 65% of their mature weight at breeding time. Monitoring heifer development and weight gain ensure heifers will reach their target weight. Some pregnant heifers may actually calve in late December. It is very important to watch pregnant heifers very carefully and assistant when necessary. To learn more about calving and when and how to assist during calving read Fact Sheet 3105.

Forage/Grazing Management Tips:

Pasture Management

- Soil fertility management
  - Fall and winter is a good time for correct imbalances in pH
  - Soil fertility and pH should be monitored regularly
    - pH in pasture soil drops relatively fast because of leaching of calcium carbonates and lack of soil mixing like in a cropping system with frequent tillage
    - Correcting pH will take several months so it is wise to check lime requirements before next year's growing season
  - Collect at least 15 subsamples per pasture using a zig-zag course
  - Mix the subsamples then submit one composite sample to the county extension office
  - Use appropriate crop code
  Refer to Fact Sheet 2121

- Weed control
  - Winter annual weeds such as buttercup, thistle, and henbit are germinating now.
  - Start spraying pastures where there were problems in the past.
  - Late fall and winter spraying is very effective.
  For identification and control recommendations, refer to MP 522

Hay management

Protect hay when feeding to reduce waste. Feed hay in rings to reduce hay waste. Unrolling hay increases hay waste unless it is done on a limit-feeding basis.

- Consider using a temporary electric wire fence wire to reduce waste from trampling and increases utilization of the hay.
  - Unroll the bale, then string up an electrified polywire down the length of the line of hay.
  Place the wire about 30 inches high over the hay.
  Cattle will line up as if eating at a feed bunk.
Livestock & Grain Market News

Federal-State Market News, 2301 S. University Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72204, (501) 671-2200

December 19, 2016
Last report of the year. Next report will be January 9, 2017.

12/21/16-12/26/16
This Week Last Year Feeder Year Stock Slaughter Year Avg
Market Week Test Agg Calves Lngs Gows Cows Bulls
Heber Springs (M) 405 400 327 320 43 17 22 3
FT. Smith (M) NR NR NR
Hebly (S) NR NR NR
Searcy (S) 1056 1723 571 735 150 85 70 16
Pocahontas (T) 412 1335 366 257 38 40 73 4
Ratcliff (W) NR NR NR
Charlotte (W) 342 415 278 261 41 15 19 6
Green Forest (W) 568 1879 560 562 150 55 70 31
Hope (TH) 1655 1627 549 492 565 25 150 23
Glenwood (TH) 543 560 325 425 50 25 40 3
Ozark (TH) NR NR NR
Siloam Springs (TH) 2185 975 573 1300 585 140 140 30
Springdale (F) 970 415 619 457 60 15 65 10
Ash Flat (F) 857 1103 617 657 72 37 78 13
Ola (F) NR NR NR

This Week 9030
Last Week 10760
Year Ago 5330
Year to Date 2016 307196 223000 87140 20260 33095 5290
Year to Date 2015 345193 294855 83094 20624 29478 I 4767

Price Trends: Compared to last report: Feeder steers sold mostly steady to 4 lower. Feeder heifers sold mostly 1.00-6.00 lower. Slaughter cows sold steady to 2.00 lower. Slaughter bulls sold 3.00 lower.

Following prices are for Medium and Large 1. Feeder cattle, mostly English and exotic crosses in normal flesh and fill. They comprise about 75 percent of the feeder cattle receipts. 2’s discounted $5-$10, 3’s discounted $10-$20, and Small frame discounted $15-$25.

Feeder Steers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Weighted Average Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300-349 lbs</td>
<td>154.00-197.50</td>
<td>177.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350-399 lbs</td>
<td>150.00-185.00</td>
<td>169.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>400-449 lbs</td>
<td>142.00-170.00</td>
<td>156.78</td>
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<tr>
<td>450-499 lbs</td>
<td>137.00-160.00</td>
<td>149.32</td>
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<td>500-549 lbs</td>
<td>130.00-153.00</td>
<td>140.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>550-599 lbs</td>
<td>118.00-142.00</td>
<td>133.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>600-649 lbs</td>
<td>115.00-135.00</td>
<td>124.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>650-699 lbs</td>
<td>116.00-129.00</td>
<td>122.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>700-749 lbs</td>
<td>113.00-125.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>750-799 lbs</td>
<td>122.00-121.00</td>
<td>117.08</td>
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</tbody>
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Feeder Heifers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Weighted Average Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300-349 lbs</td>
<td>125.00-166.00</td>
<td>141.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>350-399 lbs</td>
<td>125.00-151.00</td>
<td>135.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-449 lbs</td>
<td>130.00-145.50</td>
<td>131.12</td>
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<td>450-499 lbs</td>
<td>118.00-135.00</td>
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<td>500-549 lbs</td>
<td>112.00-130.00</td>
<td>120.75</td>
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<td>550-599 lbs</td>
<td>108.00-126.00</td>
<td>117.08</td>
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<td>600-649 lbs</td>
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<td>114.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>650-699 lbs</td>
<td>106.00-121.00</td>
<td>115.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-749 lbs</td>
<td>105.00-116.00</td>
<td>112.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>750-800 lbs</td>
<td>NA-NA</td>
<td>NA-NA</td>
</tr>
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Replacements Cows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Sale</th>
<th>Year Ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>650-700 lbs</td>
<td>83.00-87.00</td>
<td>83.00-87.00</td>
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Cash Markets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Year Ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/12/16-12/16/16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Area Weary Accumulated, Negotiated, Dir Strt Cattle Wind Acre

Steers, Beef Breeds

| Live Basis | 109.57 | NA | NA | 110.44 | 110.23 | 116.56 |

Dressed Basis | 169.92 | NA | NA | 170.87 | 170.31 | 183.36 |

Hollows, Beef Breeds

| Live Basis | 109.42 | NA | NA | 110.02 | 110.94 | 116.65 |

Dressed Basis 119.84 | 172.60 | 170.87 | 170.00 | 183.37 |

Boxed Beef Cut-Outs

| Choice 900-999 lbs | 189.56 | 191.73 | 190.88 | 193.46 | 194.63 | 194.14 |

Select 600-900 lbs | 173.95 | 173.74 | 176.37 | 176.54 | 181.09 | 186.35 |

Cutter Cow Cutout | 153.90 | 155.52 | 152.63 | 152.97 | 153.11 | 158.15 |

Cattle Kill (LD) 115 | 114 | 116 | 114 | 107 | 110 |

Hide OFF Value

| Per lb Live | 11.67 | 11.47 | 11.57 | 11.57 | 11.65 | 10.57 |

Market Situation and Outlook

HAY PRICE COMMENTS AND FEEDING OPTIONS

Alfalfa hay prices and to some extent, grass hay prices, have trended considerably below their year ago levels for the majority of calendar year 2016. A combination of fairly stable hay production, two years of relatively mild winter conditions, and favorable conditions for spring and summer grazing lowered the need of livestock producers to purchase hay. Although, unfortunately for hay producers, relatively lower feed costs has been a welcome situation for cattle producers who have dealt with extremely tight margins this year.

According to the monthly Agricultural Prices report published by USDA-NASS, the national average price for a small hay in October was $1.35 per ton, $20 below the year ago average price and $50 below the past five year average price. The average price for other hay (mostly grass type hays) was $1.21 per ton, even with year ago levels. It is important to remember this is a national average price, and hay prices are rather variable between regions and quality grades.

From a cattle or small ruminant producer standpoint, some opportunity could be found in purchasing relatively lower quality/lower cost hay and using a protein supplement for the winter feeding program. Protein supplements that could be evaluated include soybean meal, dried distillers grains, and cottonseed hulls, depending on the region of the U.S. Many producers have a choice between more than one protein feedout. Current weekly prices for soybean meal in Central Illinois were $325 per ton, slightly lighter than the year ago price $302, but still significantly below the recent five year average of $387. Weekly DOG prices of Chicago were at $156 per ton, compared to $239 a year ago. According to the USDA-NASS monthly Ag Prices report, in October cottonseed prices averaged $107 per ton, compared to $235 a year ago. So, of course depending on the nutritional test of hay, there may be the opportunity to pencil-out lower winter feeding costs this year.

Source: Livestock Marketing Information Center (www.lmic.info)
The Arkansas Timber Price Report is a quarterly report of timber stumpage prices in Arkansas. Survey data for this report are provided by Timber Mart-South. The price summary is provided to illustrate current, statewide market trends in timber product values for standing timber. These values may not reflect the stumpage values for a particular tract of timber. Timber prices may vary greatly depending on many factors including: location in the state, species, products, access, distance to mills, and site conditions. To obtain a report visit www.uaex.edu and go to the Environment and Nature tab, or www.afrc.uamont.edu. You can also contact your local county Extension agent. If you have questions about the report, please contact: Dr. Kyle Cunningham at 501-671-2145 or ktcunningham@uaex.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pine Sawtimber</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Sawtimber</td>
<td>$51.00</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Chip-n-Saw</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Pulpwood</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardwood Pulpwood</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3rd Quarter 2016 Stumpage Prices ($/ton, statewide average)**

Time Series by Quarter Since 2014

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**Trends:** Overall, stumpage prices remained stable for all products in the third quarter of 2016. Pine pulpwood demand remains low, with stumpage prices ranging from 4 to 8 dollars per ton based on distance to a mill. Hardwood pulp continued its downward trend. The market for hardwood sawlogs remained strong and was again reflected in the stumpage prices. Housing starts continued to increase (up 5% in the South versus same period one year ago), which is good news for the pine sawtimber market. Dry weather in late summer and early fall could allow mills to increase supply heading into the winter season.
All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension Office as soon as possible prior to the activity.