



Livingston Parish  
P.O. Box 158  
Livingston, LA 70754  
(225) 686-3020  
Fax: (225) 686-3019

# *Chewing the Cud*

---

**August 28, 2009**

## **Cool Season Pastures**

You still have time to get your soil samples analyzed before you plant ryegrass. You will need to go ahead and do that now; it is taking about 10 working days to get results back.

The cost of fertilizer is still high so you will want to know exactly what nutrient levels you need.

I have called around and averaged a few prices to give you an idea of the cost of planting ryegrass this year. If you need a moderate nutrient level of 50-60-60 the fertilizer cost is about \$89.10/ acre.

If however you only need half as much P & K then you would apply 50-30-30 and the fertilizer cost would be \$59.19/acre. Some fields have adequate P or K and may not require any of one or the other which would make the cost even lower. It is impossible to know without a soil test.

Ryegrass seed prices were quoted at about \$35/cwt for Gulf and as high as \$49/cwt for some of the other varieties. At a rate of 40# of seed per acre that will give you a seed cost of \$14 to \$19.60 /acre.

For our examples the cost of planting an acre of ryegrass is estimated to be in the range of \$73.19 to \$108.70. There is certainly enough difference to cover the \$7.00 soil testing cost.

**Cool-season Pasture and Forage Crop Varieties Suggested for Consideration in 2009-2010.**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Varieties</b>
<b>Grasses</b>	
Tall Fescue	AU Triumph, Forager, Georgia 5, Penngrazer, Jessup, Kentucky-31
Oats	Plotspike LA 9339, LA 99016.
Cereal Rye	Maton, Maton II, Oklon, Wintergrazer 70
Annual Ryegrass	Big Boss, TAMTBO, Prine, Marshall, Maximus, Attain, Jumbo, Gainer, Diamond T, Jackson, Flying A, 4X, Verdure, Rio, Passerel Plus, Gulf, Ed, Dyna Gain, TAM 90. Varieties showing promise include Beefbuilder III and DH3.
Wheat	(No commercial varieties have been tested in recent years).
<b>Legumes</b>	
Alfalfa	Cimarron VR, AmeriGraze 702
Arrowleaf Clover	Amclo, Meechi, Yuchi, Apache
Berseem Clover	Bigbee
Crimson Clover	Chief, Dixie, Tibbee, AU Robin
Red Clover	Kenland, Kenstar, Renegade, Cherokee, Concorde, Acclaim, Cinnamon, Southern Belle
Subterranean Clover	Mt. Barker, Nangeela, Tallarook, Woogenellup
White Clover	LA S-1, Osceola, Regal, Canopy, California, Durana
Ball Clover	Common

---

**Mean dry forage production from annual ryegrass entries at three locations in Louisiana during three growing seasons, 2006-2007 through 2008-2009.**

Brand/Variety	Trial Locations			3-Year Mean
	Franklinton	Jeanerette	Winnsboro	
	----- Dry forage, lb/acre -----			
Big Boss	13331	11551	7646	10914
TAMTBO	12584	11770	7778	10817
Prine	12459	11813	7724	10780
Marshall	12938	11184	8042	10768
Maximus	12390	11408	7883	10645
Attain	12681	11397	7580	10637
FL/NE X2006 (Misc. 2X) LRCT	12744	11277	7611	10618
ME4	12592	11144	7899	10605
Jumbo	11944	11652	7678	10547
Gainer	12368	11198	7844	10543
Diamond T	12544	11125	7638	10505
Jackson	12208	11247	7787	10497
Flying A	11801	11381	7835	10443
4X	12078	11067	7950	10435
Verdure	11780	11499	7639	10425
Rio	12487	10894	7676	10406
Passerel Plus	12037	11138	7573	10338
Gulf	11903	11308	7415	10319
Ed	11745	11357	7507	10318
ME 94	12254	11018	7383	10298
Dyna Gain	11651	11208	7632	10268
TAM 90	11981	10816	7547	10185
Mean	12295	11293	7694	10514
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS
CV%	11	8	8	9

## Seeding Rates for Cool-season Pasture and Forage Crops

Crop	<u>Seeding Rate (lb/A)</u>	
	Planted Alone	Planted in Mixture
<b>Grasses</b>		
Tall Fescue	30	20
Oats	100	60
Cereal Rye	90	50
Annual Ryegrass	30	20
Wheat	90	60
<b>Legumes</b>		
Alfalfa	20-30	---
Arrowleaf Clover	8	5
Berseem Clover	20	15
Crimson Clover	15	12
Red Clover	12	8
Subterranean Clover	15	12
White Clover	5	3
Ball Clover	5	3

## Planting Dates for Cool-season Pasture and Forage Crops

Crop	<u>Planting Dates for</u>	
	Prepared Seedbeds	Sod Planting
<b>Grasses</b>		
Tall Fescue	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	---
Oats	Sept. 1-Oct. 15 (N LA) Sept. 15-Oct. 15 (S LA)	Approx. Oct. 15 Approx. Oct. 15
Cereal Rye	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	Approx. Oct. 15
Annual Ryegrass	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	Approx. Oct. 15
Wheat	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	Approx. Oct. 15
<b>Legumes</b>		
Alfalfa	Oct. 5-Oct. 20	---
Arrowleaf Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Berseem Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Crimson Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Red Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Subterranean Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
White Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Ball Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15

## THE LOUISIANA CALF TO CARCASS PROGRAM

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Project is entering into its 2009–2010 feed-out year. There were over 600 calves consigned to the 2008–2009 program. The feed out and carcass information provided to producers through this program is very useful in making management decisions on breeding, genetics, nutrition, and herd health. In addition, valuable marketing information is obtained about a producer's product. The exposure to preconditioning and retaining ownership of one's calves, plus the educational tour in the spring, makes the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program an outstanding educational program for Louisiana's cow/calf producers. Since implementing preconditioning of all cattle going to the feedlot, we have clearly seen its benefits with a reduction in death loss.

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program will accept nominations for steers. There are some major changes this year. When completing the attached Nomination Form, please indicate the number of steers as well as which preconditioning site you will be sending your cattle to.

Electronic identification of cattle leaving the premises is going to be mandatory so we will continue to use electronic identification tags on the cattle. It also helps us in collecting carcass data accurately.

The method of selling the cattle, cash sale or value based grid sale, will be determined this year when the cattle are sold. The decision will be made by Taylor Cox, Tim Page and Hitch Feedyard personnel. The historical data from the program and the marketing conditions at the time of the first sale will be used to obtain what is believed to be the best price for the cattle consigned to the program this year.

The following is a brief overview of the program. (More details can be found later in this paper.)

- 1) **Nomination fee is \$85.00** per head and payment must be made at the time of nomination. (We have to have this money to pay for the trucking and preconditioning feed.) This is different from previous years. We have been charging \$35.00 per head and then we bill you for the preconditioning later. The feed companies are wanting their money in a more timely manner, therefore, we are asking for part of the preconditioning money up front.
- 2) **Nomination deadline** with fee: postmarked by **August 17, 2009 or until full.**
- 3) **A minimum of three (3) steers.** If you have heifers you want to put in the project, you may call Dr. Tim Page at (225)578-7906 or Darrin Goodwin at (337)475-8004 or (337)302-5759. We will try to accommodate you and place your heifers with other producers that want to nominate heifers. **DO NOT** send nominations in for heifers unless you have cleared that with Dr. Page or Mr. Goodwin.
- 4) It is recommended that you have a Premise ID number. You may get one by contacting the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at: [www.ldaf.state.la.us/programs/premises.asp](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/programs/premises.asp). The preconditioning site will assist you in getting a Premise ID number.

- 5) **Source and Age Verification.** This will be required this year. If you do not take care of this, we (Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program/Louisiana Cattlemen's Association will Source and Age verify your cattle for you. It will cost you approximately \$3.00/head if we Source and Age verify your cattle. The last few years, cattle that were Source and Age verified received \$30-\$42 per head premium at slaughter time. We are not guaranteeing a premium, but we strongly feel that it will still be available this year. You need to have the earliest calving date recorded as well as individual calf ear tags to be eligible for Source and Age Verification.
- 6) You must provide either individual birthdates on your calves or provide the calving season (EX: first calf born - December 12, 2007; last calf born - March 5, 2008).
- 7) **Preconditioning** as outlined in the attached document is **required**. If you opt to precondition your cattle at home, you **must** follow the guidelines we have established for preconditioning. Your county agent and/or Tim Page will work with you on preconditioning at home. A form has been provided for you and your county agent to sign that ensures that the calves followed the established guidelines for preconditioning.
- 8) **Loading points** will be at the preconditioning sites.
- 9) Length of the **preconditioning period** will be approximately 45 days.
- 10) **Preconditioning fee** will be **due in full** at the end of the preconditioning period. We **must** have this money at that time in order to reimburse the preconditioning sites their costs. You will have paid \$50 up front already toward these costs.
- 11) All calves must have **producer identification** (i.e.: ear tag, legible brand) upon arrival. All cattle **MUST** be dehorned and castrated and healed before arrival at the preconditioning site.

## **SITES:**

### 12) **McNeese State University Site:**

**A.** Receiving dates are 9/8/09 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. MSU requests producers to call ahead of time if they have a definite time they would like to come. **B.** Ship out dates: Week of 10/19/09. **C.** MSU Farm will accept steers weighing 575 lbs. or heavier. They CAN NOT accept steers that weigh less than 575 lbs. **D.** The preconditioning period will be approximately 45 days. **E.** All cattle will be weighed upon delivery. Any steer that does not make the minimum weight will not be accepted. **F.** MSU Farm will take all necessary steps to fill truckload lots. **G.** Producers who prefer to precondition their steers at home, but would like to ship them from MSU, must have their steers weighing as much as the average weight of the steers at MSU. **H.** Cost hay: \$40/bale. MSU Farm estimates 50 bales for 75 head of 650 lb. steers. Hay charges will be billed on a per bale basis at the conclusion of the preconditioning phase. **I.** MSU Farm will accept the heifers only if a pre-arranged group can be put together to equal a truckload prior to the heifers arriving at the MSU Farm. Please contact Darrin Goodwin (337)302-5759 or Dr. Tim Page (225)578-7906 to place heifers. **J.** If you are sending your steers to McNeese State University, you need to send your nomination form and nomination fees to McNeese State University, 2907 McNeese Farm Road, Lake Charles, LA 70607. Make the check payable to MSU Calf to Carcass. McNeese will handle the trucking,

feeding and settlement payments for those producers placing their cattle with them.

**13) Nicholls State University:**

**A.** The first 68 head nominated will be selected. **B.** At least 3 steers per producer. **C.** Must weigh at least 600 lbs. **D.** Must be weaned at least 5 days before delivery. **E.** Must be delivered to Nicholls State University Farm on October 5, 2009. They will be shipped the week of November 18, 2009. They will be preconditioned for approximately 45 days. **F.** Steers must be dehorned and castrated and healed. **G.** Send your nomination and fees to Dr. Tim Page, Louisiana State University, 102 Francioni, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Please make checks payable to: Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program, LCA.

**14) Dean Lee Research Station and/or University of Louisiana at Monroe:**

**A.** Cattle must be delivered on October 5, 2009 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. **B.** Cattle must weigh at least 600 lbs. **C.** Cattle must be weaned at least 5 days prior to delivery. **D.** Cattle must be dehorned and castrated. **E.** Cattle will be preconditioned for approximately 45 days. They will be shipped the week of November 18, 2009. **F.** Send your nomination and fees to Dr. Tim Page, Louisiana State University, 102 Francioni, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. Please make checks payable to: Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program, LCA. **NOTE:** We thought we had lost use of the ULM farm for the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program. They recently informed me that the program can use the farm for one more year to precondition 1 truckload.

For additional information contact Dr. Tim Page at 225-578-7906.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Sharpe  
County Agent  
Livingston Parish