



## National Hay Show

Congratulations to Clay Pierce and Carroll Charpentier for their placings in the National Hay Show. Carroll placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Ryegrass Hay category, 1<sup>st</sup> in the Clover Hay category and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Clover/Grass Mix category. Clay

placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Clover/Grass Mix category. This is excellent. It's no wonder why we have good cattle when we have such good hay!

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## Ticks and Lice

I've seen a couple of instances so far of cattle whose ears are drooping to the side of their head. Upon a closer look, their ears are full of ticks. It appears that environmental conditions this year have favored the increase in tick population. Ticks are blood sucking pests that reduce efficiency in cattle and carry diseases. When working your cattle be on the lookout for ticks.

Blood sucking and chewing lice numbers increase on beef cattle when temperatures begin to decrease during the fall and winter months when the beef animal's hair coat thickens and the skin becomes dry. Conversely, when temperatures begin to increase in the spring the beef animal's hair coat thins and becomes oily, then lice numbers decrease. Where fly control programs have been effective, lice problems usually appear later than normal.

Adult lice mate on beef animals. Females attach eggs to hairs. Each female lays about 90 eggs in her lifetime. Small nymphs emerge from the eggs and begin feeding on cattle. Lice can usually be detected by examining the animal for dark patches of bluish lice, especially on the head and neck.

Heavily infested animals appear in poor condition and have large areas rubbed free of hair, with the remaining hair coat rough and matted in appearance. Heavy infestations of sucking lice cause marked anemia. A small number of cattle in a herd tend to be more heavily infested than the majority of the herd. These animals, called "carriers," act as a reinfestation source for the other animals.

There are several products available for control of lice and ticks on cattle. They are listed on pages 2 and 3.

### Upcoming Events:

**Lafourche Parish Fall Classic Livestock Show**—  
November 14, 2009,  
Thibodaux Civic  
Center, 8:00 a.m.

**Calf to Carcass  
Departure Date**—  
November 19, 2009

**Waste Tire  
Recycling**— Late  
January 2010, Call  
985/446-1316 by end  
of October to register.



## LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK PESTS

Animal and Pest	Insecticides	To Make		Minimum Days	Precautions
		50 gals	3 gals	Treatment to Slaughter	
<b>BEEF CATTLE:</b>					
Ticks <u>Sprays</u>	Rabon (50% WP)	4 lbs.	4 oz.	0	<b>Saber:</b> Do not treat more than once every two weeks or more than four times within a six month period.
	Ravap (23% + 5.7% EC)	1 qt.	2 ozs.	0	
	Amitraz (Taktic 12.5%) (other amitraz formulations available)	1 pt.	1 oz.	0	
	Co-Ral (42%) DIP	1-2 pts.		0	
	Co-Ral (6.1% )	1 gal.	8 ozs.	0	
	Co-Ral (11.6% )	0.5 gal.	4 ozs.	0	
<u>Ear Tags</u>	Apply 1 tag in each ear				
(Ear ticks only)	<u>Brand Name</u>	<u>Formulation</u>			
	Avenger	30% endosulfan		0	
	Optimizer	20% diazinon		0	
	X-Terminator	20% diazinon		0	
	Patriot	40% diazinon		0	
	Co-Ral Plus	20% diazinon + 20% coumaphos		0	
	Dominator	20% pirimiphos-methyl		0	
	Cylence Ultra	8% beta-Cyfluthrin + 20% PBO		0	<b>Ravap:</b> Do not treat more than once every 10 days. Do not treat calves under 6 months of age. Do not treat Brahman or Brahman-crossed cattle with Ravap. Spray cattle with 0.5 to 1.0 gal diluted spray per animal. For dairy cattle no milk, discard is required. Spray dairy cattle with 0.5 gal. diluted spray per animal.
	Saber Extra	10% Lambdacyhalothrin + 13% PBO		0	
	Python	10% Zetacypermethrin + 20% PBO		0	
Lice <u>Sprays</u>	Co-Ral (6.1% EC)	2 qts.	4 ozs.	0	
	Co-Ral (11.6% EC)	1 qt.	2 ozs.	0	
	Ravap (23% + 5.7%)	2.6 qts.	5 ozs.	0	
	Rabon 50%	2.66 lbs.	2.5 ozs.	0	
	Amitraz (12.5%) Taktic (other amitraz formulations available)	1 pt.	1 oz.	0	

(continued on next page)



**LOUISIANA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK PESTS (continued)**

Animal and Pest	Insecticides	To Make		Minimum Days	
		50 gals	3 gals	Treatment to Slaughter	Precautions
<u>Pour-ons</u>					
(Ready-to-use)	Ivomec 0.5% (and other ivermectin products)	Apply 1 ml. per 22 lbs. of body weight.		48	
	Dectomax	Apply 1 ml. per 22 lbs. of body weight.		45	
	Cylence	Apply down back line 8 mls. per 400 lbs. per body weight; 24 mls. for animals over 800 lbs.		0	
	Saber	Apply down back line, 10 mls. per head for cattle less than 600 lbs. 15 mls. per head for cattle larger than 600 lbs.		0	
	Eprinex or Cydectin	Apply 1 ml. per 22 lbs. of body weight along back.		0/0	
	Permethrin Pour-ons	Many formulations; refer to labels.		0	

**Always read the label before applying anything to your cattle.**



## Premise I.D.

Many of you still do not have premise ID numbers for your farm. It is important that you apply for one because more and more programs that are available for cattle producers to participate in require a premise ID number. It is very easy to get one. You can call the LA Department of Ag & Forestry at 225/925-3980 or you can go online at [www.ldaf.us](http://www.ldaf.us) and apply for one. If you need help, come by my office or give me a call.

## Calf to Carcass

Fifty-seven steer calves were delivered to the Nicholls State University farm on October 5, 2009 to participate in this year's calf to carcass program. I asked that calves weigh about 600 pounds. On October 5, the average weight of the 57 head was 598 pounds! That's about as close as you can get. There are 16 more steers from Clinton that will join this group before they go to Oklahoma. The steers were vaccinated with respiratory and clostridial vaccines as well as wormed. They were also tagged with a standard ear tag and an electronic ear tag. All of these steers will be source and age verified which will qualify them for an additional premium if it's given. I'll keep you posted of the group's progress.

## Dying Bermudagrass

During August, several pastures were experiencing dead and dying areas of bermudagrass. Some of these areas were quite large. I sent some samples to the plant pathology lab at LSU. They identified the problem as being Rhizoctonia disease. It is especially prevalent in hot, dry weather which is what we experienced this summer. The disease attacks the root system and works in a circular pattern. There are no labeled fungicides for this disease in bermudagrass pastures. If this happens in your pasture next year DON'T fertilize the pasture because this will enhance the development of the disease. After dry conditions, rainfall will help the grass grow out of the problem.

## Waste Tire Recycling

In January 2010 I will have a waste tire recycling program. If you have waste tires around your farm & want to get rid of them, this is your chance. I will accept all waste tires (vehicles, tractors, etc.). If you are interested I need to know how many tires you want to dispose of as soon as possible. Once I set the date (late January) you will need to bring your tires to the Ag Building in Raceland. I will let you know the exact date and time once I get it all set up. Call me at 985/446-1316 if you want to participate.

## Market Outlook

Cattle futures had a mixed week that ended on an upward trend. Concerns over a freeze and its impact on the corn crop in the northern Corn Belt drove grain prices higher earlier in the week, but this rally ended in the latter part of the week as all appearances continue to point toward one of the largest corn crops on record. This type of volatility may occur until more solid harvest data is known. The rally in the corn market helped keep pressure on cattle prices which closed the week higher. Good news on Wall Street provided some good news to the cattle markets as well, but slow, steady signs of progress will help market psychology in the near term.

Friday was the only day of live trade for fed cattle with week to week increases being seen. There were few reports of discounts for heavy weight cattle in the Northern Plains as with the previous few weeks. Animals in Texas, Kansas, and Colorado sold on a live basis at \$80-\$84, an increase of as much as \$3 for these regions from last week.

Louisiana slaughter cows and bulls were called mostly steady to firm this week. Feeder steers and heifers were mixed, with sales in the early part of this week noted as steady to weak and mid-week sales steady to \$3 higher.



## Leptospirosis

“Lepto” (leptospirosis) has spread in recent years to become one of the most widespread diseases of livestock. It ranks as one of the most serious disease threats from an economic standpoint, and consequently should be well understood and managed by livestock owners.

Animals get “lepto” by taking the organism into their bodies in the food or water they consume, the air they breathe or possibly through contamination of open wounds. The organisms come from infected animals who shed them in their urine from whence they may spread through direct contact or by prompt contact of susceptible animals with contaminated feed or water. Even after apparent recovery, the organisms are shed from the kidney in the urine for a considerable period. In cattle, this period may extend over two or three months. The disease can spread from one kind of animal to another – from swine to cattle and between domestic animals and wild animals (deer) and rodents. Leptospirosis infections in cattle range from severe to mild. Consequently, symptoms are also variable.

Severe “lepto” is marked by sudden fever, depression, lack of appetite, rapid breathing, a marked reduction of milk flow, and development of a pale yellowish color on membranes of eyes and mouth. The temperature may vary from 103 to 107 degrees and persist throughout the illness. The milk from all quarters becomes thick and may be bloody with a pink, red, or brownish tinge. The color of the urine is usually bright red or dark brown. Pregnant animals may abort and usually the afterbirth is expelled with the fetus. Recovery is slow due to continued fever, weakness, anemia, and kidney trouble (nephritis).

Mild “lepto” may escape notice altogether and therefore may be the most serious of the forms. Affected animals are “shedders” of the organism and can contribute to extensive spread of the disease without the owner’s knowledge. If animals are pregnant, abortion is still a threat. The symptoms of “lepto” may cause confusion with other diseases.

Death loss is not the main concern in “lepto”. Death does occur, particularly in acute cases in calves, but the most notable problem is that of abortion and loss of weight and milk production in adult animals.

The only effective means of preventing “lepto” is through vaccination. Animals should be vaccinated anytime there is danger of exposure. Animals held for milk or breeding purposes should be revaccinated at yearly intervals so long as there is danger to exposure.

Leptospirosis produces abortions 10 to 28 days following infection. Therefore abortions can be expected to continue for a period, even after vaccination, since it is likely that some animals will be incubating the disease at the time of vaccine injection. Recovered animals are thought to be immune for life.

After diagnosis in a herd has been made, all normal animals that have not had the disease should be vaccinated. All new cattle going into such a herd should be vaccinated two weeks prior to admission. Revaccination at yearly intervals should be considered if the possibility of re-exposure exists.

Other general recommendations for “lepto” control include frequent changes of bedding for confined animals; barring stock from stagnant ponds and streams; proper drainage of pastures in which water stands; isolation of sick and aborting animals; provision of sanitary feeding and watering places.



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# The **PRIME** Times...

a beef cattle newsletter

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