



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

Chewing the Cud

May 8, 2009

Replacement Female Sale

The Florida Parish Beef Improvement Association is making plans for its second annual select replacement female sale in November 2009 in Amite. There were 55 heifers sold at the first sale last year. Bred heifers averaged \$1076 and open heifers averaged \$760. The association is taking consignments until June 1, 2009. Any producer who is interested in consigning females that are farm raised can contact Lennie Wales at 225-294-3198.

Swine Flu

According to Dr, Christine Navarre, LSU AgCenter Extension Veterinarian, the H1N1 virus has parts of swine, bird and human flu viruses and from more than one continent. It probably started from contact of people with swine, but is now thought to be contagious from person to person. The good news is that the cases in the US have not been as severe as some have been in Mexico. Either the virus has already mutated again into a less severe form, or people in Mexico were somehow immunosuppressed (malnutrition, other diseases, etc.).

People should use the same precautions as in regular human flu season. WASH HANDS! Wash with soap and water as frequently as possible. Only use the hand disinfectants when not able to wash with soap and water.

As a general rule, anyone traveling to a foreign country should stay away from livestock for 7 days. There are other diseases that could be a problem, not just swine flu.

State Veterinarian, Dr. Henry Moreau, DVM, reports that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture-Veterinary Services (USDA-VS) have asked that he initiate a surveillance plan for Influenza Like Illness (ILI) in swine. To date, no swine in the United States have been diagnosed with the H1N1 strain of influenza virus that is causing disease in humans. However, he asks that if you observe swine exhibiting any of the following signs please contact his office at 225-925-3980. Testing of affected swine by state personnel will not result in quarantine or other regulatory action. Clinical signs include fever, depression, coughing, sneezing and difficulty breathing.

Fertilizing Spring Pastures

Spring rains have kept ryegrass around longer than in many years and producers have delayed fertilizing summer grasses until they cut hay or grazed off the ryegrass.

Some fertilizer prices have come down over last year but others are higher.

Here are price comparisons for the same 2 local farm supplier's average bulk prices:

	<u>May 2008</u>	<u>May 2009</u>
DAP -	\$930.00/Ton	\$500
Ammonium Nitrate -	\$470.00/Ton	\$420
Muriate of Potash -	\$570.00/Ton	\$800 (falling)
17-17-17		\$545

For the average spring pasture fertilization a producer with medium fertility might put out 50-60-60/acre. Using the above prices it would cost :

<u>May 2008</u>	<u>May 2009</u>
\$107.75/acre	\$88.05/ acre

As you can see the average cost of the same fertility program has actually decreased by almost \$20/acre. The cost of phosphorous has come down dramatically over the past year. For those of you who chose the least amount of phosphorous or no phosphorous last year, you should bring your pastures up to speed using your soil test. According to our soil scientist, Jay Stevens, it takes at least 13 pounds of phosphorous per ton of forage produced. The Louisiana average for bahia grass hay yield is calculated between 2 to 2.5 tons per acre. This would mean that you need a minimum of 26-32 pounds of phosphorous per year and I know many producers did not put out any last year. With phosphorous averaging \$430/ ton cheaper, you might be able to catch up some.

Potassium is also in short supply in some fields and that can suppress grass production also. The biggest concern for potassium may be in your hay fields. When you remove the forage, potassium is also removed from the pasture and fed elsewhere. There is no recycling of nutrients. Jay says that it takes 45- 50 pounds of potash per ton of forage removed. Again follow the soil test recommendations.

Feed Prices

Comparisons:

	<u>May 08</u>	<u>May 09</u>
Corn (bu)	\$6.70	\$4.12
Soybeans (bu)	\$12.71	\$11.02
Wheat (bu)	\$7.90	\$5.76
Live cattle	\$91.45	\$82.03

As you can see, commodity prices are down some over last year but cattle prices have also fallen. I think that you have to put a sharp pencil to creep feeding. The market conditions that exist now are usually not economically favorable for creep feeding calves.

Horn Flies

I started seeing horn flies pretty early this year. In a normal year it is usually in May when horn flies reach the economic control level of 100 flies per side (200 flies/cow).

Recommended horn fly controls include:

Sprays - Co-Ral, Permethrin, Rabon, Ravap

Pour-ons – Dectomax, Ivomec, Ivermectrins, Cylence, Saber, Permethrin Pour-On

Backrubber – Co-Ral, Ravap, Permethrin, Lintox-HD

Dust Bags – Co-Ral Dust, Permethrin Dust, Python Dust, Rabon Dust

Ear Tags - **Organophosphate**

X-Terminator (20% diazinon)

Optimizer (20% diazinon)

*Patriot (40% diazinon)

Co-Ral Plus (20% coumaphos + 20% diazinon)

*Warrior (30% diazinon + 10% chlorpyrifos)

Dominator (20% pirimphos-methyl)

Pyrethroid

Python (zetacypermethrin 10% + PBO 20%)

Python Magnum (zetacypermethrin 10% + PBO 20%)

Cylence Ultra (beta-Cyfluthrin 8% + 20% PBO)

Saber Extra (lambdacyhalothrin 10% + PBO 13%)

*More likely to give control to resistant hornflies.

The recommended rotation for ear tags to combat resistance is: 2 years of organophosphate tags and then 1 year of pyrethroid tags.

Remove old tags when they are no longer effective.

Court decision could affect pesticide application rules

A three-judge panel of the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals determined in January that applying pesticides on or near streams and other bodies of water are point-source releases that require a permit.

EPA has requested a two-year stay of the implementation of the ruling to allow time for rule making, but no decision has been made on the request.

If the ruling stands, a farmer would have to get a permit under the Clean Water Act to use pesticides.

In 2007, the EPA determined that the Clean Water Act did not apply to pesticide applications.

Environmental groups disagreed and sued the EPA in lawsuits across the United States that were consolidated before the 6th Circuit.

The court ruled in January that pesticide applications are from a point source, a key factor in the Clean Water Act that determines whether a permit is required.

American Farm Bureau Federation has asked the full Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to review the three-judge ruling.

Email addresses

If you have an email address and are not currently receiving electronic communication from me please email your address to me at ksharpe@agcenter.lsu.edu. Budget constraints make it more important that we reduce mailings and use electronic communication as much as possible.

Electronic users already receive more updates than those who receive mail only.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Sharpe
County Agent
Livingston Parish