

September 17, 2012

COWCHIP

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September

21 Begin Ryegrass and Clover Seed pickup, T & S Milling in New Iberia

October

13 Cattle Show at Cattle Festival, Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building, Abbeville
13 Braford Association Show Heifer Sale, Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building,
Abbeville

18 Acadiana Cattle Producers' Field Day, Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building,
Abbeville, 5:30 p.m. (Flyer Attached)

21 Last Day to pick up seed

28 Cattlemen's Barbecue, Bub and Sis's Camp, just south of Kaplan on Hwy. 35,
11:00 a.m.

DISTILLERS DRIED GRAINS:

Due to continued high feed prices, we will again offer a group bulk feed purchasing program. We will be offering Distillers Dried Grains that will cost about \$365/ton delivered to Abbeville. DDG is an excellent product with nutrient contents of approximately 86% TDN, 23% crude protein and 12% crude fiber. This product would be an excellent supplement for poor quality hay and is often used in growing rations for calves. It would not be appropriate for use in a self-feeder due to its high fat and low fiber content.

Here is the outline of the program.

- Purchaser provides a super bag or portable container.
- Delivery is uncertain at this time; however, we will be trying for the week of October 22nd.
- Orders for feed are due by October 1st and must be in multiples of a ton.
- A deposit of \$50/ton is required. Deposits are not refundable once the order is placed.

- The group must order at least 22 tons and in multiples of 22 tons above the minimum. A truckload is about 22 tons. We will return your deposit if your order is part of an unfilled truck.

If you are interested in ordering bulk DDG fill out the enclosed order form and return it with proper deposit by October 1st.

WINTER PASTURE:

The use of winter annual grasses and cool season legumes should be considered to help provide high quality nutrition during the winter and spring for cows nursing calves and developing heifers. Even with the high cost of feed it may be more economical to use hay and supplement than growing ryegrass for dry cows.

LSU budgets estimate costs of ryegrass production at \$138.76 per acre for a prepared seedbed and \$123.88 per acre for sod seeding. (The budgets are enclosed and can be altered to fit your program. Adjustments to fuel and fertilizer costs may be needed.) If we get 80 days of actual grazing between December 1st and March 31st and we plant an acre per cow then it would cost \$1.55 per head per day for sod seeded grass and \$1.73 per head per day for prepared seedbed grass. Dry cows would require about 4 pounds of cubes per day to supplement average hay and would eat about 25 pounds of hay per day. If you are paying \$480 per ton of cubes and \$60 per ton or \$30 a bale for hay then per day cost for hay + supplement is \$1.71. Lactating cows would need almost twice the levels of supplement so ryegrass would be the cheaper alternative. Also, first calf heifers and weanling heifers you're keeping would need the extra nutrients supplied by ryegrass.

If you need help in making winter feeding decisions don't hesitate to call.

EXTRA RYEGRASS SEED:

We have 7,650 pounds of extra Prine Ryegrass seed and 550 pounds of Gulf. The bid prices were 50¢ a pound for Prine and 43¢ a pound for Gulf. It will be sold on a first come first served basis. Call Tammy or me if you need some at 898-4335.

CATTLE PRODUCER FIELD DAY:

We have an excellent program planned with some very timely topics. We will be facing the most expensive wintering costs ever this winter and a couple of smart decisions could keep considerable dollars in your pocket. Dr. Karl Harborth will compare several alternatives and teach pricing feeds based on nutrient content. Winter pastures can help but which type produces the most efficient gains; Dr. Guillermo Scaglia will discuss his extensive trial findings on various types of winter pasture. You may be considering expansion to take advantage of higher prices. What is the cheapest way to expand your herd? Economist Dr. Ross Pruitt has developed many decision making tools to answer that question. He will discuss them at the field day. Picking the right heifer and bahia and vasey grass control will also be discussed. Check out the flyer and plan on being with us on the 18th.

BEEF CATTLE APPS:

I've noticed many of you carrying smart phones. Are you aware that there are several apps available to help us manage our cattle and make smart marketing decisions? Smartphone apps are particularly useful for ranchers, not just a novelty, because you can be in the pasture recording information, snapping pictures for condition scoring or keeping up with latest market news and issues. Here are some reasonably priced examples.

- iLivestock Manager - \$7.99 – individual cow records including calving date, weaning weight and health
- Beef Producer – free – Marketing News and hot topics
- Beef Market Central – free – futures prices on grains and streaming cattle news
- Beef Cow BCS – free – take pictures and compare with standards, track and organize body condition scores for your herd
- iRanch Calculator – minimal cost – hay use predictions, calf crop break evens, annual cow cost, cow supplementations
- Beef Cattle EPD's – free – Breed average EPD's, definitions of the different EPD's used by breeds

Sincerely,

Andrew Granger
County Agent
Vermilion Parish

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability.

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST TO ANDREW GRANGER, 1105 W. PORT ST., ABBEVILLE, LA 70510

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

Tons of Bulk Feed _____ x \$50/Ton

Amount of Deposit _____

Table 23.A Estimated Costs per Acre, Sodseeded Winter Pastures, Louisiana, 2012.

ITEM	UNIT	PRICE DOLLARS	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DOLLARS	YOUR FARM
DIRECT EXPENSES					
FERTILIZER					
Nitrogen	lbs.	0.63	101.0000	63.63	_____
Phosphate	lbs.	0.70	29.0000	20.30	_____
Potash	lbs.	0.51	35.0000	17.85	_____
SEED					
Ryegrass seed	lbs.	0.48	35.0000	16.80	_____
OPERATOR LABOR					
Tractors	hour	9.60	0.1200	1.15	_____
DIESEL FUEL					
Tractors	gal	3.50	0.3088	1.08	_____
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE					
Tractors	acre	0.09	1.0000	0.09	_____
INTEREST ON OP. CAP.	acre	2.97	1.0000	<u>2.97</u>	_____
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				123.88	_____
FIXED EXPENSES					
Implements	acre	0.00	1.0000	0.00	_____
Tractors	acre	0.58	1.0000	<u>0.58</u>	_____
TOTAL FIXED EXPENSES				<u>0.58</u>	_____
TOTAL SPECIFIED EXPENSES				124.46	_____

Table 24.A Estimated Costs per Acre, Temporary Winter Pastures, Prepared Seedbed, Louisiana, 2012.

ITEM	UNIT	PRICE DOLLARS	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DOLLARS	YOUR FARM
DIRECT EXPENSES					
FERTILIZER					
Nitrogen	lbs.	0.63	101.0000	63.63	_____
Phosphate	lbs.	0.70	29.0000	20.30	_____
Potash	lbs.	0.51	35.0000	17.85	_____
SEED					
Ryegrass seed	lbs.	0.48	40.0000	19.20	_____
OPERATOR LABOR					
Tractors	hour	9.60	0.5106	4.90	_____
DIESEL FUEL					
Tractors	gal	3.50	1.9711	6.89	_____
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE					
Implements	acre	1.70	1.0000	1.70	_____
Tractors	acre	0.67	1.0000	0.67	_____
INTEREST ON OP. CAP.	acre	3.60	1.0000	<u>3.60</u>	_____
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				138.76	_____
FIXED EXPENSES					
Implements	acre	3.75	1.0000	3.75	_____
Tractors	acre	4.11	1.0000	<u>4.11</u>	_____
TOTAL FIXED EXPENSES				<u>7.86</u>	_____
TOTAL SPECIFIED EXPENSES				146.62	_____

Acadiana Cattle Producers' Fall Field Day

Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building, Abbeville

Thursday, October 18, 2012

5:30 p.m.



Program Topics:

- ***Bahiagrass and Vaseygrass Control in Pastures – Dr. Ed Twidwell and Mr. Andrew Granger***
- ***Sustainable Winter Supplementation – Dr. Karl Harborth***
- ***Replacement Heifer Grading and Selection – Mr. Stan Dutile and Mr. Vince Deshotel***
- ***Herd Rebuilding or Expansion Options – Dr. Ross Pruitt***
- ***Economic Comparison of Winter Grazing Alternatives – Dr. Guillermo Scaglia***

- ***A MEAL WILL BE SERVED – DOOR PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED***

For additional information, please contact your local county agent:

*Vermilion – Andrew Granger (337-898-4335), Lafayette – Stan Dutile (337-291-7090),
St. Landry – Vince Deshotel (337-948-0561), Iberia – Blair Hebert (337-369-4440)*