

State Hay Show

Congratulations go out to Carroll Charpentier for having the overall champion hay exhibit at the state hay show in December. Carroll won this honor for his first place ryegrass hay entry. Other winners from our area were 1st Place Legume Hay – Shannon Doucet and 3rd Place Bermudagrass Hay – Sheldon Price.



If you put up some quality hay this spring and summer, give me a call and I'll test it for you. If it tests real good we'll enter it in the 2012 state hay show. It is a good idea to test your hay regardless of whether you want it in the hay show or not. The results you get will help determine how much (if any) supplements you need for the winter. The cost of the sample is \$20.00.

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Waste Tire Recycling

Over the last 2 years, many of you participated in the waste tire recycling program I conducted. In those 2 years, we collected over 6,800 tires! I thought I had gotten them all, but a few of you have inquired if I would have the program again. If there are enough waste tires out there, I will do the program again. Call me at 446-1316 and let me know how many truck, trailer and automobile tires you have to get rid of. If there are enough, I'll put the program on again.

Stinging Nettles

Every year, cattlemen throughout the area bring in a weed that, when touched stings and burns the person touching it. Cattle don't eat it and it is difficult to control. It is called stinging nettles. It is starting to show up in pastures now and will be tall and vigorous in about 6 weeks. In some pastures it is light green while in other pastures it appears to be purplish. Whatever the color it is the same weed. I have found that Remedy or Crossbow works well. Apply at a rate of 1 quart per acre or if you are spot spraying, make a 2% solution (2 gal of herbicides to 100 gal of water) and hose the plant until it is wet. I have not seen good control with just 2,4-D. It doesn't seem to be strong enough to kill the nettles.

Upcoming Event:

27th Annual Select Heifer Sale

March 10, 2012
1:00 p.m.

Zero Brahman
Ranch Sale Barn
Thibodaux, LA



27th Annual Select Heifer Sale

March 10, 2012—1:00 p.m.
Zero Brahman Ranch Sale Barn
Thibodaux, LA

112 HEIFERS CONSIGNED

83 F ₁ 'S	Brahman X Angus F ₁ 's, Brahman X Hereford F ₁ 's, Most certified – All from registered or purebred cows and registered bulls
16	Brangus heifers purebred and registered
12	$\frac{3}{4}$ Angus $\frac{1}{4}$ Brahman
1	Ultra Black

*******CONSIGNED HEIFERS ARE*******

19	2 yrs. old or older with calves or bred
41	15-23 month heifers – some open, some exposed, some bred
52	12-14 month heifers - open

All heifers calfhood vaccinated for Brucellosis – From Brucellosis certified or clean herds.

CONSIGNORS INCLUDE: Sylvia Naquin, Zero Brahman Ranch, Laurel Valley Plantation, Ronald Chiasson, Double G Farms, Indian Ridge Ranch, Rene Hebert, Paul Dufrene, Randy Toups, Art Melancon, Jeff Hymel

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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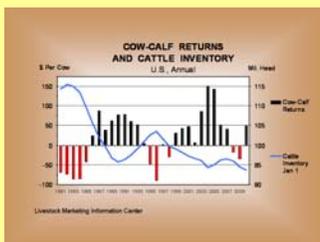


Parasites in Cattle

Mild weather this fall and winter has provided ideal conditions for immature worms to survive in pastures, and signs of illness caused by stomach and intestinal worms have appeared in animals on many farms and ranches. Calves and yearling-age cattle – as well as sheep and goats of any age – are particularly susceptible to blood loss and other effects caused by large numbers of parasites. Mature cattle are somewhat resistant to parasite damage as long as they receive adequate nutrition.

Diarrhea, weight loss, weakness and accumulation of fluid under the jaw are signs of severe stomach worm infection in cattle. Economic loss caused by reduced weight gains and poor appetite often go unrecognized. With prices the way they are we want to keep every pound we can on our cattle and calves.

Excellent products are available for treatment. Parasite drug resistance is not usually a problem in cattle, however, it is a good idea to change wormers from time to time. Anemic animals also need additional protein in their diet and should not be returned to the same pasture where large numbers of immature worms are present.



The Markets

The fed cattle market was weaker last week, particularly on dressed weight sales in the North. 5-area fed steer prices on a liveweight basis averaged \$127.87 per hundredweight, down 16 cents for the week. Dressed weight prices declined \$1.67 for the week to average \$200.73.

The wholesale beef market was stronger last week with lower supplies and good demand for loins and ribs. Choice boxed beef rallied \$6.38 to average \$195.42. The Choice-Select spread continued a seasonal decline and closed down \$1.28 at \$3.71. Feeder cattle prices were generally firm to higher as demand remains good for the shorter supplies. Corn prices in Omaha in Thursday rallied 6 cents a bushel to \$6.51. DDGS prices increased \$5.63 per ton in Nebraska to \$214.13.

<i>Data Source: USDA-AMS Market News</i>		Week of 2/24/12	Week of 2/17/12	Week of 2/25/11
5-Area Fed Steer Price	all grades, live weight, \$/cwt	\$127.87	\$128.03	\$111.02
	all grades, dressed weight, \$/cwt	\$200.73	\$202.40	\$179.76
Boxed Beef	Choice Price, 600-900 lb., \$/cwt	\$195.42	\$189.04	\$169.91
	Choice-Select Spread, \$/cwt	\$3.71	\$4.99	\$0.46
700-800 lb. Feeder Steer Price	Montana 3-market average, \$/cwt	\$153.99	\$152.55	\$124.10
	Nebraska 7-market average, \$/cwt	\$159.44	\$158.98	\$131.16
	Oklahoma 8-market average, \$/cwt	\$158.31	\$156.96	\$131.03
500-600 lb. Feeder Steer Price	Montana 3-market average, \$/cwt	\$187.94	\$183.70	\$147.90
	Nebraska 7-market average, \$/cwt	\$191.66	\$195.44	\$153.73
	Oklahoma 8-market average, \$/cwt	\$185.53	\$185.35	\$152.60
Feed Grains	Corn, Omaha, NE, \$/bu (Thursday)	\$6.51	\$6.45	\$6.64
	DDGS Price, Nebraska, \$/ton	\$214.13	\$208.50	\$204.38
	MWDGS Price, Nebraska, \$/ton	\$106.50	\$105.80	\$102.13



Alyceclover for High Quality Forage in Late Summer

Alyceclover is a summer annual legume that was widely grown in the Gulf Coast Region a number of years ago. It made a good quality hay that could be grown in the lower South. The advent of low-priced nitrogen fertilizers in the 1960's resulted in a sharp decline in the use of all legumes. The current high price of nitrogen fertilizers has resulted in a renewed interest in all legumes, including alyceclover, white clover, red clover, and many others.

Because of this new interest in legumes, a study to evaluate alyceclover for hay production, to compare herbicides for controlling weeds and grasses in alyceclover, and to compare alyceclover to millet and sorghum-sudangrass as a grazing crop was undertaken by Experiment Station scientists at the Rosepine Research Station.

Alyceclover has poor seedling vigor, and for plantings to be successful, the crop should be planted on a prepared seedbed at a rate of 30 pounds of seed per acre. Alyceclover should be planted from early May to mid-June and is ready to graze approximately 7 weeks after planting. Using alyceclover to double-crop with ryegrass keeps seedbed preparation minimal. Alyceclover does well when planted in mid- to late May following ryegrass and could be disked under in September to plant ryegrass.

High quality forages are not readily available during mid- to late summer. While lightweight steers do well on bermudagrass, steers weighing more than 800 pounds and beginning to fatten perform poorly on bermudagrass and bahiagrass. Summer annual crops, like alyceclover and millet, are higher in quality and will increase livestock performance.

Controlling Grass Tetany

Grass tetany is a nutritional disease that occurs in beef and dairy cattle and sometimes sheep. Deficient levels of magnesium in the diet cause the disease, which is responsible for the deaths of many cows in the United States and other countries. Grass tetany is sometimes called hypomagnesemic tetany, lactation tetany, grass staggers, or winter tetany.

Cows are particularly susceptible to tetany when nursing a calf or producing milk. Sometimes pregnant animals die from the condition. Older cows are more susceptible than those with their first or second calves. Also, cows that are herded or worked may be more susceptible to the disease.

Recognizing Grass Tetany

Cows are most likely to get grass tetany soon after they are turned out on spring pasture. The problem may also occur when animals are on field crop aftermath or poor quality hay. In mild cases, milk yield is decreased and the animals are nervous. These signs may indicate the need for preventive measures. In more severe cases, affected cows may avoid the rest of the herd, walk with a stiff gait, and lose their appetite. They are nervous, have staring eyes, and keep their head and ears in an erect position. Also, they stagger; have a twitching skin, especially on the face, ears, and flanks; and lie down and get up frequently. Animals may be irritable and behave aggressively.

After a time, extreme excitement and violent convulsions may develop. Animals lie flat on their side, the forelegs pedal periodically, saliva flows freely, breathing is labored, and the heart pounds. If treatment is not given at this stage, animals usually die during or after a convulsion.



Controlling Grass Tetany (continued)

Grass tetany should not be confused with nitrate toxicity. In cases of nitrate toxicity, the blood is brown. Also, there is a grayish to brownish discoloration of white areas on the skin and on the non-pigmented mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, eyes, and vulva. On some pastures, the hazard from nitrate toxicity and from grass tetany may occur at the same time.

Treatment

Treatment of tetany cases can be successful if given early and without excessive handling of the affected cows. Under range conditions, 200 cubic centimeters (cc) of a saturated solution of magnesium sulfate (50 percent) injected under the animal's skin places a high level of magnesium in the blood in 15 minutes. A mag block will also help prevent the problem.

Anaplasmosis in Cattle

Anaplasmosis is caused by the blood parasite, *Anaplasma marginale*. Anaplasmosis is characterized by anemia, which is caused by the destruction of the red blood cells by the *Anaplasma marginale*. The disease is transmitted by insects such as flies, mosquitoes and ticks and by surgical and vaccination procedures. Outbreaks usually occur during the summer months and the incidence of anaplasmosis is reported to be more prevalent during rainy years when the insect vectors are more numerous.

Cattle of all ages are susceptible to anaplasmosis but the severity of the infection is directly related to age; the older the animal the more severe the infection. An infection of the young animal does not result in any clinical signs and recovery is usually certain. These animals do become carriers of the disease and therefore reservoirs of infection for other animals. The disease is most severe in cattle two years of age or more. Loss of cattle can range from 20% to 50% during an outbreak.

Many cattlemen have found AUREOMYCIN an effective tool for preventing this costly disease. It should be noted that tetracycline does not clear the infection, it only lowers the chance of having clinical disease.

It is recommended to use .5 milligrams per pound of body weight daily to prevent anaplasmosis. This translates into about .02 oz./head/day. If you have 100 cows and they average 900 lbs. each you would add about 14 lbs. of aureomycin to every 150 lbs. of minerals to prevent anaplasmosis in 100 cows (averaging 900 lbs. each). Remember, this needs to be available to the cattle every day for the entire vector season to do a good job of prevention. In addition, you should clean castration and dehorning equipment after each animal and use a clean needle for each animal.

Another way to control the spread of anaplasmosis without antibiotics is to vaccinate your cattle, especially your bulls and prized cows. Your veterinarian is able to obtain the vaccine but he/she will most likely have to order it. Give them a call.

Extra – label drug use of a feed additive is illegal in food producing animals. You need to find a product that has the anaplasmosis prevention protocol on the label. Withdrawal times listed on label must be strictly adhered to.