

State Hay Show

Congratulations to Carroll Charpentier, James Pierce and Don Robichaux for their placings in the State Hay Show. Carroll placed first in the clover/grass hay category. This entry was named overall champion of all categories. James Pierce placed third in the clover/grass hay category and Don Robichaux placed fourth in the clover/grass category. This is great! If you submit a hay sample for analysis between now and September I will enter it into the state hay show.



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Livestock and Pasture Field Day

Mark your calendar for April 10, 2014. This is the date for the 2014 Livestock & Pasture Field Day. The field day will be held at Philip Plaisance's farm in Valentine. We've established a ryegrass and clover variety demonstration for you to observe, we'll discuss Long Tom Paspalum control and more. You will receive more information as time nears.

Extended Release Injectable Parasiticide

Merial has released a new wormer called Long Range. The active ingredient is eprinomectin. It's for the treatment and control of internal and external parasites of cattle on pasture with persistent activity for 100-150 days, depending on the parasite species. I am not promoting this product, I am just making you aware of new mediums as they are released.

2014 Select Heifer Sale

Following is the flyer for the sale being held on March 8, 2014 at Zero Brahman Ranch. There will be some great heifers for sale and most of them will be pairs, bred or exposed. Make plans to attend.

Upcoming Event:

29th Annual Select Heifer Sale

March 8, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Zero Brahman Ranch Sale Barn
 Thibodaux, LA



29th Annual Select Heifer Sale

March 8, 2014—1:00 p.m.
Zero Brahman Ranch Sale Barn
Thibodaux, LA

120 HEIFERS CONSIGNED

107 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
3	Brangus heifers - registered
10	$\frac{3}{4}$ Angus $\frac{1}{4}$ Brahman

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

18	2 yrs. old or older with calves or bred
63	15-23 month heifers – some open, some exposed, some bred
39	12-14 month heifers - open

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

CONSIGNORS INCLUDE: Sylvia Naquin, Zero Brahman Ranch/Don Robichaux, Zero Brahman Ranch/David J. Robichaux, Jr., Double G Farms, Rene' Hebert, Paul Dufrene, Randy Touns, South Louisiana Farms/David C. Robichaux, Neal Schexnayder, B & B Farms, Jared Kling, Laurel Valley/ Kevin Trosclair

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Timing of Herbicide Application

Ran across this herbicide experiment and thought you might find it interesting. The bottom line from the results below indicate that late summer applications of non 2-4D herbicides work best. 2-4D should not be used in late summer because it is volatile and will turn into a gas and drift on to non target plants at temperatures above 80 degrees.

Table 2. Broadleaf weed control with nonphenoxy herbicides in 2007 and 2008.

	Horsenettle		Pigweed	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Treatment	-----% control ^a -----			
Surmount (June)	77	57	72	80
Surmount (August)	94	92	95	92
Surmount (June + August)	99	98	98	91
PastureGard (June)	70	50	75	85
PastureGard (August)	94	87	91	87
PastureGard (June + August)	93	90	98	80
Cimarron (June)	57	47	88	82
Cimarron (August)	82	68	96	98
Cimarron (June + August)	90	82	99	96
Remedy + Overdrive (June)	63	57	93	90
Remedy + Overdrive (August)	87	85	96	83
Remedy + Overdrive (June + August)	88	85	98	96
LSD (P-0.05)	10	17	15	13

^aVisual ratings were taken on 10/27 and 10/31 in 2007 and 2008, respectively.



How can I improve rebreeding rates of my first-calve heifers?

Once a heifer becomes pregnant, she should continue to grow and gain weight. Before calving, she should be in a body condition score (BCS) of at least 5 or preferably 6 (where 1 = very thin, 5 = average, and 9 = very fat), and she should be maintained in a group of similar cows during the winter rather than thrown in with the mature cow herd. Improving BCS from 3 or 4 before calving up to a BCS of 5 or 6 has been shown to increase rebreeding rates from 17% (BCS of 3 or 4) up to 75 % in first-calve heifers. Heifers should be bred to calve 1 month earlier than the mature cow herd, giving them an additional 30 days to get ready for their second breeding season.

Two cattle sayings deal with first-calve heifers.

1. It does not matter whether you calve a heifer first at 2 or at 3 years of age. They will both have their second calf when they are 4.
2. It is pretty easy to get a heifer to calve initially at 2 years of age. The tough part is getting her to breed back for calving at 3 years.

The lowest priority a cow or heifer has in her productive life is to rebreed. If a female is under any nutritional stress, the first productive capacity she loses is the ability to rebreed. While it can be difficult to get a heifer to rebreed after her first calf is born, it is quite possible, with good management practices, to have a rebreeding rate of 80% or above in 2-year-old first-calve heifers. To attain this high level of rebreeding, proper management must continue following the initial breeding season after the heifer gets pregnant. After becoming pregnant, these heifers must continue to gain weight and grow in an ongoing effort to reach an expected mature body weight.

Rebreeding for a heifer is much more difficult than for a cow, since a heifer must milk for her calf, and continue to grow. If a heifer becomes pregnant for the first time at 650 pounds, you should attempt to get her to gain at least 1 pound per day during her pregnancy. This will get her to a weight of at least 900 pounds at calving. More importantly, she must be in a BCS of at least 5, and preferably 6. There is no advantage in rebreeding rate for heifers with a BCS above 6.

You might ask why a BCS of 5 and 6 is so critical. Research reported that a group of heifers with a BCS of 3 and 4 just prior to calving had rebreeding rates of 17%, while their herd mates with a BCS of 5 and 6 had rebreeding rates of 75%. After calving, half of these heifers with a BCS of 3 or 4 were placed on full-time ryegrass grazing plus 6 pounds of corn per day, and still only 17% rebred. At calving, cows cannot eat enough under normal circumstances to meet all of their productive demands for milking, repairing their body, etc., unless they use their own stored body fat. Heifers and cows will pull energy from body fat reserves to make up for, at least partially, this energy deficiency. One of the triggering mechanisms for heifers to reach puberty is elevated levels of propionic acid in the rumen. As body fat is broken down, its main derivative is propionic acid. Acetic acid comes from the breakdown of forage in the diet and from breakdown in the body of sugars and starches. Therefore, it would appear possible that the breakdown of body fat into propionic acid by heifers would help trigger the animal to begin cycling once again to allow for rebreeding. To do this, she must have some body fat to trigger the production of propionic acid.

Once a heifer has calved, it is virtually impossible to feed her enough early in lactation to get her to increase in BCS and to produce milk for her calf while continuing to grow. It is rather easy to increase the BCS of a heifer or cow before calving, so that should be part of the management plan. Fattening before calving is easier and less expensive.



2014 Pasture and Warm-Season Forage Crop Variety Suggestions

Variety selection is an important decision producers must make when establishing forages in pastures. Many varieties of forage crops are marketed in Louisiana and scientists with the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center periodically conduct variety trials with warm-season forages. This information is used to make suggestions each year concerning warm-season forages for producers to consider utilizing. Suggested varieties listed are ones evaluated in Louisiana and found to perform satisfactorily. Suggested seeding rates are made assuming the use of good quality seed that meets the germination and purity seed standards as determined by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Seed Commission.

Perennial Grasses

The optimum planting date for these grasses is from March 1 to June 1, but they can also be planted anytime during the growing season when soil moisture is adequate.

Bermudagrass

Seeded varieties should be planted at a rate of 3 to 5 pounds of hulled seed per acre. The hybrid varieties should be planted with enough plant material to give about 7,500 plants per acre.

Hybrids: Alicia, Brazos, Coastal, Grazer, Tifton 44, Tifton 85, Russell, Jiggs, Sumrall 007 and Little Phillip #1

Seeded: Common, Cheyenne II, Mohawk, Rancho Frio, Sungrazer Plus

Bahiagrass

It should be seeded at a rate of 15 pounds per acre. Argentine, Pensacola and Tifton 9

Dallisgrass

Seed germinate slowly, often taking four weeks or longer for emergence. There are no varieties of dallisgrass; all seed is "common" and is imported from countries outside of the United States and seed availability is often limited. Dallisgrass should be seeded at a rate of 5 pounds per acre.

Annual Grasses

These grasses should be planted between April 15 and August 1.

Pearl Millet

Pearl millet should be seeded at a rate of 25 pounds per acre if drilled and 30 pounds per acre if broadcast. This species does not cause prussic acid poisoning in livestock, but nitrate accumulation can cause toxicity under some circumstances.

Sorghum Sudangrass

Sorghum sudangrass should be seeded at a rate of 30 pounds per acre if drilled and 35 pounds per acre if broadcast. Nitrate accumulation or prussic acid can cause toxicity under some circumstances.

Warm Season Legumes

Alyceclover

Seed are planted at a rate of 15 to 20 pounds per acre in May or June.

Warm Season Silage and Green Chop Crops

Forage Sorghum

This species should be planted from April 15 to June 15 in south Louisiana and from May 1 to June 15 in north Louisiana. It can be planted at a rate of 8-12 pounds per acre if drilled and 15-20 pounds per acre if broadcast. It can also be planted at a rate of 6-8 pounds per acre if planted in 40-inch rows.

Corn for Silage

This species should be planted from March 1 to April 15. It should be planted at a rate of 12 to 20 pounds per acre planted in 30 to 40-inch rows.



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The **PRIME** Times...

a beef cattle newsletter

We're on the web!
lsuagcenter.com

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