LSU AgCenter
St. Landry Parish
BEEF CATTLE CONNECTION
November 2023

St. Landry Parish

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Opelousas, Louisiana 70570

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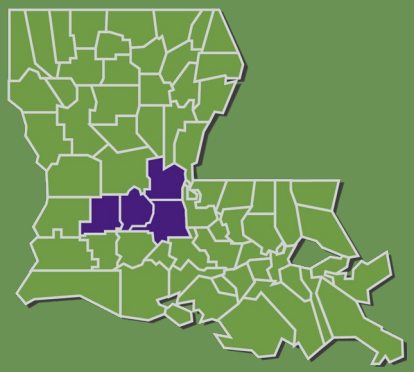
www.LSUAgCenter.com

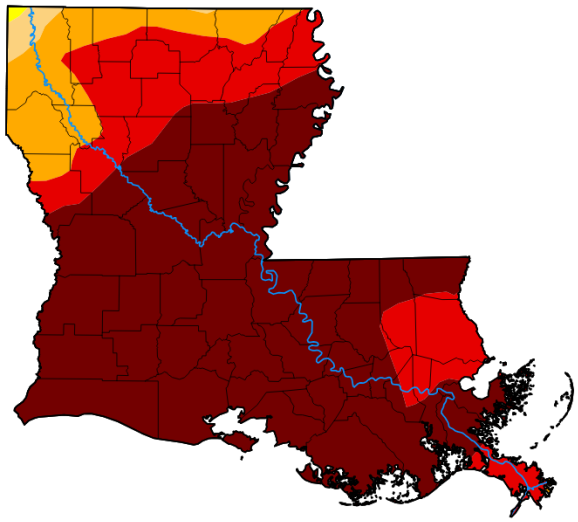
**To be added to our email list, please call the office or email Brittany Zaunbrecher at bzaunbrecher@agcenter.lsu.edu.

October 2023 Events
21: Acadiana Beef and Forage Field Day (Iberia Research Station)
25-29: State Fair Beef Cattle Show

November 2023 Events
1-5: State Fair Beef Cattle Show
9: Bull Breeding Soundness Exams (Dominique's Opelousas)
17-18: Jim Bowie Livestock Show
19: Evangeline Beef Classic



Latest Drought Map



Map released: Thurs. October 26, 2023
Data valid: October 24, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity
- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors
United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):
Rocky Bilotta, NOAA/NCEI

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):
Ahira Sanchez-Lugo, NOAA/NCEI

The latest drought monitor map shows Allen, Avoyelles, Evangeline, and St. Landry parishes in D4 Exceptional Drought. Be sure to check with your local FSA Office to determine if you qualify for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing) that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. View the Livestock Forage Program Factsheet for more detailed information.

Preparing for Winter Feeding

With record breaking heat and extreme drought conditions, making plans and preparations for winter feeding needs for your herd is as important as ever. We are estimating a 60% reduction in average hay production this year due to the drought. With less hay available for the winter, many producers will have to supplement with feed and winter forages. It's important to **have your hay tested** to determine the nutrient content and see where and how much you will need to supplement with in order to continue to meet the nutritional requirements of your herd while maintaining body condition scores. We have a probe available for checkout in both the St. Landry and Evangeline offices. A routine analysis by the LSU Forage Lab cost $15 per sample. Usually about four core samples will fill a quart size bag.

Understanding the Forage Sample Analysis

A routine forage sample analysis includes important nutritional components such as dry matter content, crude protein, total digestible nutrients, fiber (acid detergent and neutral detergent), relative forage quality, dry matter intake, and mineral concentration.

The forage analysis will have 2 columns, **as received** and **dried sample basis**. When interpreting a forage analysis report for developing a supplemental feeding strategy, all interpretation is based on the dried sample basis column, as this is your sample with the moisture removed. Moisture levels may vary across samples, so comparing forages on a 100% dry matter basis allows for a more equal comparison among forage types.

All values on the analysis are reported as percentages. The first item you'll see is dry matter content. Samples are weighed as received, then dried out at 135° F for 72 hours. The sample is then weighed again now that all the moisture has been removed. The different between dry matter content as received and dried sample basis is your moisture content. With the high humidity levels we are faced with in Louisiana, we tend to have a higher moisture content in our hay than what is considered ideal. A goal of 85% dry matter is preferred for hay, while 40-60% dry matter is acceptable for baleage.

Next is **Crude Protein**, shown as CP. Crude protein is the total nitrogen in a forage sample multiplied by a 6.25 correction factor. Protein is important for growth, milk production, and muscle development. A lactating cow needs a diet containing 11% CP on a daily basis during the first 60 days after calving. During mid-to-late lactation, CP needs decrease to 9%. A dry, pregnant cow has the lowest CP needs (7%) until the last 60 days before calving when nutrient needs begin to increase again. While the crude protein value is important, energy value and intake of forages is more important.

Energy value is shown on the forage analysis as **Total Digestible Nutrient**, or **TDN**. TDN is calculated based on ADF(Acid Detergent Fiber) and CP. Typically, the greater the value, the more energy-dense the forage is considered. Low-quality hay is generally 45 to 52% TDN. Mid-quality hay is generally 52% to 58% TDN, and high-quality hay is greater than or equal to 58% TDN. A dry cow requires a minimum of 48% TDN, and a lactating cow needs a diet that is at least 60% TDN per day.

Dry Matter Intake, shown as **DMI**, is calculated based on ADF, NDF(Neutral Detergent Fiber), and CP. It is expressed as a percentage of live body weight of the animal and varies depending on the quality of the forage. Ideally, you want this number to be higher than 2%, about 2.2-2.5. DMI is correlated with the amount of NDF in the forage: as NDF increases, intake decreases.

Neutral Detergent Fiber, shown as **NDF**, is the residue or insoluble fraction left after boiling a feed sample in neutral detergent solution. The NDF contains plant cell wall components except for some pectins. The NDF is considered a close estimate of the total fiber constituents of feedstuffs since it measures cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin, silica, tannins and cutins. As previously stated, NDF is negatively correlated to intake, so high NDF values in your dried sample basis will lead to lower DMI.

Acid Detergent Fiber, shown as **ADF,** is the residue remaining after boiling a forage sample in acid detergent solution. The fibrous component represents the least digestible fiber portion of forage. This highly indigestible part of forage includes lignin, cellulose, silica and insoluble forms of nitrogen but not hemicellulose. Forages with higher ADF are lower in digestible energy than forages with lower ADF, which means that as the ADF level increases, digestible energy levels decrease.

St. Landry Cattlemen's Association

Dominque's Stockyard

Lafayette Cattlemen's Association

BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM

Thursday November 9, 2023
8:00 A.M. – Until Completed
Dominique's Stockyard - Opelousas, LA

Cattlemen from throughout the Acadiana area are invited to bring their bulls. Pre-Registration Required!
(Scan QR Code or Visit: https://forms.office.com/r/v1vhfbypQR)

All bulls will be semen tested, visually evaluated, and will have scrotal measurements taken with a written soundness report provided to the producer.

Licensed veterinarians will perform testing at a charge of $50.00 per bull. Additional vaccinations also available for an additional charge.

Additional Benefits:

- No vet road service charges
- Good working facilities provided
- Free help provided to handle & work bulls
- Educational Information

Bulls will be tentatively scheduled by appointment when producers call to pre-register and tested on a first come first serve basis once they arrive. Bulls may be brought in the afternoon prior, but only if special arrangements are made at the time of call in. All Trich test bulls must be tested first on Thursday morning.

Call Lafayette Assistant ANR Agent Lanie Richard (337-291-7090), St. Landry ANR Agent Brittany Zaunbrecher (337-948-0561) or Mike Dominique at Dominique's Stockyard (337-654-4030) to sign up the bulls and make arrangements.

Find out if your bull is fertile before you lose a calf crop!!

ADDITIONAL TEST -- Testing for Trichomoniasis ("Trich") will be available at a cost of $100 per bull. Next year's price will increase to $120. Because Trich testing kits must be ordered in advance, and test kits shipped overnight once the test kits shipped overnight once test is completed, ***producers who want to have bulls Trich tested must sign up ASAP and plan to be tested on Thursday morning.***

Louisiana Forage Farmer

Volume 38, Number 4

Articles

2023 Louisiana Forage Conference

The Louisiana Forage Conference will be held on Friday, December 1 in Alexandria. This conference is being sponsored by the Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council (LFGC) and the Louisiana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (LGLCI). The meeting site will be the Hurricane Evacuation Center, located at the south end of the campus at LSU-A in Alexandria. The campus is located south of Alexandria off of Highway 71.

Presentations will be made on topics such as soil carbon management, beef cattle research, and soil carbon contract considerations. There will also be panel discussions on baleage production and carbon sequestration contracts.

Registration and viewing of commercial exhibits will begin at 8:15 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m. The registration fee is $25. Pre-registration is available at https://www.louisianaglci.org/registration. Cash, check, or credit card payment can be made at the conference. Anyone interested in forage production and management is invited to attend. A catered lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Membership in LFGC will be available at the meeting for $35. Membership in LFGC is not required for attendance. The complete program is published below:

8:15 a.m.	Registration and View Exhibits
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions Dr. Mike McCormick, LFGC President
	LFGC Current & Future Board Members- Mike McCormick/Wink Alison
	LGLCI Board Members- Ellen Harrell/Ted Miller
	2024 AFGC Meeting Update- Dr. Ed Twidwell
9:15 a.m.	Soil Carbon Management in Louisiana Grazing Systems Mr. William Durham USDA-NRCS, Ft. Worth, TX
9:45 a.m.	Beef Cattle Studies Being Conducted at the Dean Lee Research Station Dr. Marcelo Vedovatto Alexandria, LA
10:00 a.m.	Necessity of Forage Management for Beginning Producer Profitability Tara Morris, Slaughter, LA
10:15 a.m.	NRCS Update NRCS Staff Alexandria, LA
10:30 a.m.	Product Update from Exhibitors
10:45 a.m.	Break
11:05 a.m.	Soil Carbon Contract Considerations Dr. Tiffany Lashmet, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Amarillo, TX
12:00 Noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Producer Panel on Producing and Using Baleage
	Mr. Raymond Fontenot, Meaux, LA
	Mr. Ted Miller, Baskin, LA
	Mr. Chuck Wagner, Kentwood, LA
1:30 p.m.	Carbon Sequestration Contract Discussion from Industry Representatives
	Grassroots Carbon
	Indigo Ag
2:30 p.m.	Adjourn and Networking

Online Resources

- **Website**: www.lsuagcenter.com/beefcattle
- **Beef Brunch Educational Series:**
  - www.lsuagcenter.com/beefbrunch
- **YouTube**: LSU AgCenter – Livestock
- **Remind App System**:
  - Text @labeef to 81010
- **Social Media:**
  - Facebook – @LSUAgCenterBeefCattle
  - Instagram – @lsu_agcenter_beef_cattle
  - Twitter – @BeefLsu

St. Landry Parish has a Facebook Page!

https://www.facebook.com/StLandryLSUAgCenter

Membership and participation in activities and events are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, veteran status or disability. If you have a disability that requires special accommodation for your participation in an activity, please contact us at 337-948-0561.

St. Landry Parish

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