

August Announcements

- Beef Nutrition Shortcourse being offered through distance education sites throughout LA, MS, AL and FL. See page 3 for a list of dates.
- Check out the sites and dates for Calf to Carcass Preconditioning
- Master Cattle Producer Courses near you! Become a Certified Louisiana Master Cattle Producer this year. Check the website to find out more about courses being offered



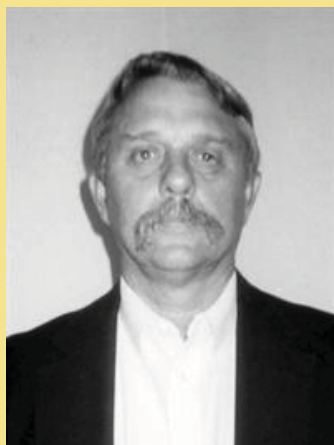
Animal Health - Preconditioning

For the last few years, producers have been hearing about how preconditioning programs and the elimination of persistently infected BVD calves can decrease health problems in the feedyards. It's true these are major factors, but just because calves were preconditioned and BVD tested does not guarantee they will stay healthy throughout the feeding period. Factors such as genetics and cow nutrition during gestation also influence calf health. Treating sick calves

in the feedyard is expensive, and sick calves don't gain as well. With rising feed and other costs, buyers are increasingly linking health records with the source of the calves because calves that stay healthy through the feeding period are more profitable. Added to this, is the trend of the consumer to seek out and pay more for products "untainted" by antibiotics and vaccines. All of these issues point to the need for producers to pay attention, not only to feedlot gains, carcass data, etc., but to

health records as well. The price differential for calves from herds with a proven good health record and those without is expected to continue to grow. So invest in the future by evaluating your herd health and nutrition programs at the farm, and using the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program to evaluate your calf performance in the feedyard.

*Article Written by Christine B. Navarre, DVM, MS, DACVIM
State Extension Veterinarian*



Agent/Producer of the Month

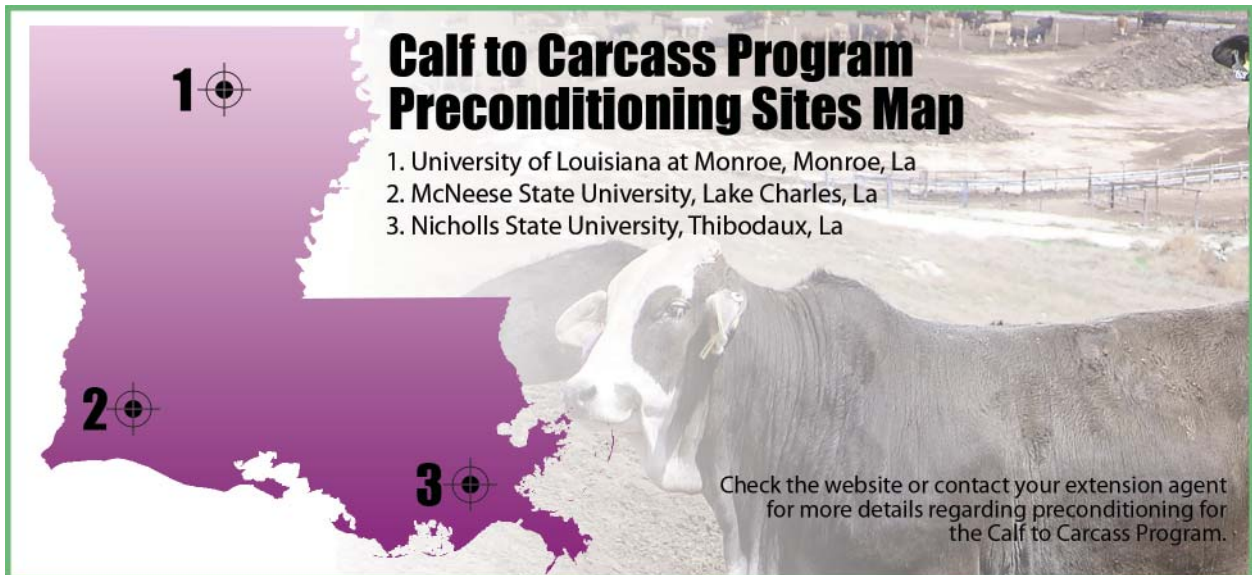
Tommy Shields began working for the AgCenter in 1983 as an assistant county agent in Calcasieu Parish working with 4-H youth. As a 4-H agent, Tommy provided educational opportunities for youth in a variety of programs. He has managed the one of the largest parish livestock shows and sales in the state and conducted many clinics on management, feeding, selecting and grooming animals.

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Calf to Carcass Program

2007-2008 Louisiana Calf to Carcass Schedule and Information

- **September 6th, 2007:** Cattle arrive at preconditioning sites (cattle will be weighed, vaccinated, tagged and treated for parasites)
- **September 20th, 2007:** Cattle receive booster vaccinations
- **October 8th, 2007:** Cattle preconditioned at home must arrive at preconditioning sites by 10:00 a.m. (feeder cattle grades and dollar value will be assigned to all calves)
- **October 9th, 2007:** Cattle will be loaded and shipped to Henry C. Hitch Feedlot in Guymon, OK.



September Checklist for Beef Cattle

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Quality of bermudagrass and bahia declines rapidly from now to frost. Keep an eye on heifers and supplement as needed.
- Begin planting winter grazing.
- Take stock of your hay supply so additional cuttings or purchases can be made. (Send samples in for analysis.)
- Keep a close check on supplemental feed prices. Corn and by-product feeds such as cottonseed can usually be bought cheaper in the fall.
- Plan where winter grazing will be over-seeded into pastures. Graze these areas close or clip prior to planting.

SPRING CALVING

- Wean calves depending on pasture conditions and marketing plans.
- Wean heifers and select replacements based on weaning weights. Use weights to project needed gain between now and breeding (March).
- Consider options for selling weaned calves, back-grounding or maintaining ownership through the feedlot.
- Deworm calves at weaning.
- Calfhood vaccinate heifers for brucellosis at 4-8 months of age.
- Separate cull cows at weaning.
- For late calves (weaning in late Oct or Nov), consider creep feeding and vaccination for respiratory diseases 45 days prior to weaning.

FALL CALVING

- Move heavy-springing heifers to clean pastures where they can be checked 2-3 times daily.
- Establish an ID system and tag calves at birth.
- Gather and clean your calving supplies. Be ready to assist with calving difficulties and to castrate, implant and deworm calves at birth.
- Feed requirements increase 10-15% during the last 30-45 days prior to calving (i.e., about 1 lb of extra TDN per day). On fall pastures, cows may need a small amount of supplemental feed.

Planning for Winter Pastures

Although climatic conditions in Louisiana are such that forages can grow almost all year there is not any one grass or legume that will grow during all periods of the year. To provide forages for grazing throughout the year both warm-season and cool-season forage species must be used. Potential quantity of forage produced per area by cool-season forages is normally less than that from warm-season forages but forage quality will generally be higher in cool-season forages. It would be beneficial to devise a strategy to take advantage of the quality parameter to enhance animal productivity such that it improves the entire operation. Perennial cool-season forages are not well adapted through most of Louisiana but producers in

some areas of the state may be able to use a forage such as tall fescue for winter pasture. It has not proven feasible to effectively utilize perennial warm- and cool-season forages on the same land area so the capability of using tall fescue presents challenges as well as benefits. Since perennial cool-season forages are not a widespread option in Louisiana most producers will have to rely on annual cool-season forages such as annual rye grass, wheat, oats, cereal rye or a clover species for winter pasture. Annual cool-season forages can be planted on prepared land or overseeded (sod-seeded) into warm-season grass sods. Overseeding does not necessarily imply 'no preparation' because it is important to graze or mow the warm-season sod to a rela-

tively short stubble (preferable 4 inches or less) to minimize shading the seedlings at emergence. Although cool-season annual forages can be quite productive in the fall when planted in a prepared seedbed, research has shown these forages grow much slower initially when overseeded into a perennial warm-season sod. This does not mean overseeding should not be used but it must be realized that significant amounts of forage will not be available until probably late winter. It has been shown that increasing early season nitrogen rates will not greatly enhance early season productivity of forages overseeded into perennial warm-season grass sods.

PASTURE, Continued on Page 4

Beef Cattle Nutrition Short Course - Sept-Nov 2007 Schedule

Hosted over interactive video at sites throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida from 6:00-8:00 PM or 7:00 – 9:00 PM each evening.

SEPTEMBER 25TH, 7-9 PM

Weaned Calf Development and Economics

- WEANED CALF NUTRITION
- MINERALS AND FEED ADDITIVES
- BACKGROUNDING / STOCKER COST OF GAIN

OCTOBER 30TH, 6-8 PM

Commodity Feeds in Detail

- FEEDING DISTILLER'S GRAINS
- COMMODITY FEED SUPPLEMENTATION

NOVEMBER 27TH, 6-8 PM

Applied Nutrition Tools

- HEIFER AND BULL DEVELOPMENT
- COWCULATOR AND STOCKER RATION BALANCERS

** For information on participating distance education sites or other short course questions contact your local Extension office or contact the person listed on the registration form under your particular state.*

PASTURE, *continued from Page 3*

Increases in seeding rate can enhance productivity somewhat when planting in a prepared seedbed or overseeding and the increase in forage production occurs primarily early in the season. Although the increase in amount of forage may not be large its impact might be significant since it primarily occurs during the period when production is least. It appears there is a limit to the seeding rate beyond which forage

production will not increase accordingly. Early planting does not appear to greatly enhance forage productivity and can have a negative impact when overseeding so the date of planting should not be pushed into periods when climatic and environmental conditions might be stressful. Decisions concerning what, how and where to grow winter pasture will impact potential productivity and it is important to understand how these

factors affect forages so plans can be made to use them in a manner to optimize benefits to a livestock operation.

Information provided by M. W. Alison, Coordinator, Macon Ridge Research Station

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He currently manages the Southwest District Livestock show, serves as a beef superintendent for the LSU Livestock Show and the State Fair and assists with the Beef Educational Trip to the North American annually.

Since 1988, he has worked with Adult programs with multi-parish responsibility in livestock and forages. Result demonstrations in forage varieties, pasture weed control, hay production, parasite control, and herbicide application methods have been conducted by Tommy as well as state-

wide programs on cattle handling, heifer development, calf management, and sprayer calibration.

Since its inception, Tommy has been a vital asset to the Calf to Carcass program. This program allows producers to participate in a feeding program for their cattle and gain valuable information about their cattle. Working with McNeese State University, Hitch Feedyards, LDAF, feed companies and pharmaceutical companies, a backgrounding program was initiated for cattle participating in the program. Producers participating in the program obtain information

on their cattle such as daily gains, yield grades, quality grades, carcass weights, and rib-eye areas. This information enables producers to make selection decisions based on the data received and an annual tour of the feedyard allows producers to see their cattle during the feeding phase.

We appreciate all of the hard work, time and effort Tommy has given to our beef cattle extension program, our 4H youth and adult programs throughout the state.

Louisiana Market Report - August

The big news at the cafes in La is our corn crop. The northeast part of the state looks like Iowa in the Fall with corn stacked everywhere. According to NASS (crop reporting people) at the middle of August, 45% of the corn in La was harvested, compared to 67% last year, but remember we planted 133% more corn acres this year. Cattle receipts at the local auctions markets were slightly lower than last year during August. Slaughter cow prices were \$4.50-\$5.00 higher than this time last year. Compared to the same time frame last year, feeder steer prices started the month \$2.00-\$5.00 higher but closed \$1.00-\$3.00 lower. Heifers were \$1.00 higher early but closed \$5.00 lower. The good news is demand for our feeders will continue good through the Fall and as we get into October buyers will be looking for graze out cattle to put on wheat and ryegrass. Supply of stockers during this time frame should be light, which will help the price. Who would have thought in January 2007 our feeder calves would be selling for almost the same price as 2006 right now?

Article Written by Dave Foster, USDA Market News.



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