

September 11, 2007

COWCHIP

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September

25 Nutrition Seminar, Crowley, 7:00 p.m.

October

6 Cattle Festival Beef Show, Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building, Abbeville, 7:30 a.m.

6 KD Cattle Angus Bull and Crossbred Heifer Sale, Clinton, LA, 11:00 a.m.

13 Dominique's Stockyard Female Sale, Baton Rouge, 5:00 p.m.

18 Acadiana Cattle Producers' Field Day, Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building, Abbeville, 5:00 p.m. (See flyer)

27 Dominique's Livestock Sale, Bulls and Heifers, Carencro, 11:00 a.m.

30 Nutrition Seminar, Crowley, 6:00 p.m.

WINTER PASTURE:

It's time to make plans and begin preparations for winter grazing. Ryegrass seed prices are up, fertilizer is high and fuel for plowing is high. So we need to consider these costs before committing to a ryegrass program for this winter. If you have some fall calving cows or are developing weaning replacement heifers you really don't have a choice. You need some ryegrass planted early and well fertilized to meet the nutrient requirements of these cattle. But you might consider planting only enough for these cattle and use feed and hay to winter the dry brood cows. You should price some bulk by-product feeds to compare with the costs of ryegrass. LSU budgets show a \$93/acre cost for ryegrass on a prepared seed bed. Attached are winter pasture recommendations for your use. Give me a call if you need help in planning a wintering program for your cattle.

CALF PRICES:

The cattle market will remain strong for the foreseeable future. With droughts causing culling of cows the last two years, there is and will be a shortage of cattle. Short term fed cattle supplies will decline from September into November due to limited placement over the last 60 days. Fed cattle should trade in the mid 90's this fall with increasing seasonal demand and

short supply. Feeders are in high demand and moisture conditions will be good to start the wheat planting season in the Midwest so calf prices should stay strong this fall. We will see some downward trend with the normal heavy calf marketing but should not see as large a drop in price as most years.

Statewide, calves were bringing steady money last week with 500 lb. steers bringing \$1.20/pound and 500 lb. heifers bringing \$1.12/pound on average.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Our field tour will be Thursday, October 18th at the barn. Fire ant, Johnsongrass and sedge control will be highlighted along with talks on using by-products to winter brood cows and understanding the heat cycle in cattle. It should be a good day. A flyer is enclosed.

Also, the nutrition series continues in Crowley with Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 p.m. featuring nutrition for weaned calves and Tuesday, October 30th at 6:00 p.m. featuring the use of bulk commodity feeds. All of us should attend the bulk feeds session as this is one of the best ways to cut winter feed costs and if you raise your own replacement females you should be in attendance on September 25th. Call the office if you want more details.

VACCINE HANDLING AND ADMINISTRATION:

We often get complaints about infertility in beef cattle. When concerns about nutrition and bull fertility are resolved, diseases affecting reproduction are considered as a possible cause. Leptospirosis, Vibriosis, the viruses BVD and IBR and Brucellosis can all cause infertility and abortions.

Vaccinations for these diseases are common practices for cattle producers. In addition, vaccinations of calves for the virus complex IBR, BVD, BRSV and PI₃ and Blackleg are also becoming normal operating procedure. When giving vaccines cattle producers expect protection against diseases however even the best quality vaccine will fail to give immunity to disease if not handled and administered properly.

The modified live virus vaccines are especially sensitive to mishandling. Total loss of effectiveness is not uncommon. Killed product and bacterin effectiveness are also compromised by mishandling resulting in less than satisfactory immunity to disease.

Handling and administering vaccines properly are cheap insurance for the time and money spent on protecting the herd from what can be devastating diseases.

Here are tips for vaccine handling:

- Keep it cold and in the dark. Transport purchased vaccine in a closed refrigerated container. This rule also applies chute side. Keep the working bottle in a cooler with syringes as well as any unmixed product. Consider using two coolers, one for unmixed product and extra syringes and one for a working bottle and syringes in use.
- Don't disinfect with chemical sterilants. Chemical sterilants will kill modified live vaccines and damage killed products. Do not use alcohol, betadine, chlorox or soaps to clean reusable

syringes or needles. Only use boiling water on components. This is especially important for disinfecting multi dose syringes.

- Use sterile syringes. Avoid continuous feed syringes, they do not allow for vaccine protection and the tubes they use are nearly impossible to sterilize. Consider using one dose disposable syringes and one needle per animal. These are our best option. Anaplasmosis can be spread by reusing a needle on several animals.

- Never reenter the vaccine bottle with a used needle. When using a multi dose syringe change to a sterile, sharp needle for each draw or leave a sterile needle in the working bottle and use it to draw vaccine into the syringe.

- Read labels and dose properly. Some products have lower dose rates than others and the routes of administration (under the skin or in the muscle) differ. Read the label every time you purchase new product.

- Minimize injection site blemishes. Use products with subcutaneous (under the skin) routes of administration whenever available. If intramuscular (IM) products must be used, inject the product in front of the shoulder 2-3 inches below the top of the neck and 4-6 inches in front of the shoulder blade. Sub Q injections should also be given here.

- Use the right needle. Always use the smallest needle possible. Use 1 inch needles for calves and 1½ inch needles for yearlings and mature cattle. A ¾ inch needle can be used for sub Q injections if it pierces the hide in a perpendicular or 90 degree fashion. A 16 gauge needle has a larger diameter than an 18 gauge needle and should be used for oil based products. Most vaccines are water based and an 18 gauge needle should be used.

Proper management can increase the percentage of cattle that respond to the vaccine with sufficient immunity. Besides the above mentioned vaccination practices producers should give vaccines to healthy cattle, avoid giving vaccines during stressful periods (just after weaning or co-mingling), timing of vaccinations is important (i.e. don't vaccinate calves until they are older than 2 months, vaccinate and booster calves with the virus complex before weaning etc.), proper nutrition is critical.

KEEP YOUR CULL COWS FOR A WHILE:

Cull cow sales account for 15-30% of income to the cow-calf operation. While most producers sell their cull cows at weaning or right after the fall pregnancy check this may not be the best choice. The cull cow market changes significantly during the year. Cull cow prices are lowest in the fall and highest in the spring. The value of cull cows are also determined by grade. Thin cows are worth less. Most spring calving cows are thinnest at weaning in the fall and therefore worth less at that time. If we delay the marketing of cull cows until spring, seasonal prices will be higher and the cows should be fatter and grade higher.

Studies were conducted by LSU AgCenter Scientists Dave Sanson at the Rosepine Research Station and Sid DeRouen at the Hill Farm Research Station to evaluate the performance and economic implications of feeding cull beef cows until the spring. The studies were conducted over three years using about 70 cows each year. The cows were purchased from

local sale barns. The cows were fed a broiler litter based diet with hay offered free choice. They were fed for about 100 days each year from mid November to mid March.

Death losses were significant with these purchased cows (from 3-9%) and should be considered when feeding your own cows as 3 of 14 cows that died were from uterine infections or prolapse. This is a threat even in our own cows. Six cows died from respiratory infections which would be less likely to occur in cows originating from our own herds.

Sale prices per pound increased significantly from fall to spring. The average fall purchase price for the cattle was \$.36/pound while the average sale price in March was \$.45/pound. The cows gained an average of about 100 lbs. and gained about a ½ of a condition score. The cows sold for about \$100 more after the wintering period than the purchase cost in the fall. The performance on these broiler litter diets was less than expected and less than one could achieve on some other wintering program. Also, the stress of going through the sale barn may have influenced performance. The ultimate question is can you winter cull cows for less than \$100.00. If so, we should consider holding these cows and selling them in the spring. Using the broiler litter diets and taking into account death loss profits reported from these studies ranged from \$2.00/head up to \$40.00/head depending on the diets used.

FENCING SUPPLIES:

The Vermilion Parish Cattlemen’s Board of Directors would like to make available to its members, truckload prices for posts and barbed wire. The following is a list of products and prices being offered:

- Gaucha barbed wire - ¼ mile roll - \$38.50
- 3-3½” wooden post – \$2.10
- 5½-6” wooden post – 8 ft. long - \$6.75
- 6 ft. T-post - \$3.45

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please fill out the attached form and return it by October 1st. Please pay the full amount by check with the order blank. We will not cash the check until we receive your shipment. If delivery dates vary we will fill orders in the order they were received. Call if you any questions.

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.

**TO ORDER FENCING SUPPLIES RETURN BY OCTOBER 1, 2007 TO:
 ANDREW GRANGER
 1105 W. PORT ST.
 ABBEVILLE, LA 70510**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____

PHONE _____ **CELL PHONE** _____

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT COST</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
_____	T-Post	\$ 3.45	_____
_____	Barbed Wire	\$38.50	_____
_____	3-3½” Wooden Posts	\$ 2.10	_____
_____	5½-6” Corner Posts	\$ 6.75	_____
	TOTAL		_____

Make check payable to Vermilion Parish Cattlemen’s Association for total amount.

Acadiana Cattle Producers' Fall Field Day

Cecil McCrory Exhibit Building, Abbeville

Thursday, October 18, 2007

5:00—9:00 p.m.



Program Topics:

● **Field tour**

- **Grass and sedge weed control in hay meadows and pastures**—Dr. Ed Twidwell
- **Fire ant control in pastures**—Mr. Andrew Granger
- **Beef cattle mineral survey**—Dr. Jason Rowntree
- **Perennial peanut establishment**—Mr. Bryan Simon

● **Educational presentations**

- **Understanding the beef estrus cycle**—Dr. Glen Gentry
- **Using by-product feeds for wintering brood cows**
—Dr. Dave Sanson

● **SUPPER PROVIDED — DOOR PRIZES**

For additional information, please contact your local county agent or research station:

*Vermilion—Andrew Granger (337-898-4335), Lafayette—Stan Dutile (337-291-7090),
St. Landry—Keith Normand (337-948-0561), Iberia—Jimmy Flanagan (337-369-4441),
Iberia Research Station—Wayne Wyatt (337-276-5527)*

Table 1. Recommended Varieties of Cool-season Pasture and Forage Crops for 2007-2008.

Crop	Varieties
Grasses	
Tall Fescue	AU Triumph, Forager, Georgia 5, Penngrazer, Jessup, Kentucky-31
Oats	Horizon 321, Plantation Seed Horizon 474
Cereal Rye	Bates, Maton, Maton II, Oklon, and Wintergrazer 70.
Annual Ryegrass	Diamond T, Dyna Gain, Big Boss, Jumbo, Striker, Ed, Graze-N-Gro, Gulf, Jackson, Marshall, Passerel Plus, Prine, Rio, TAM 90, 4X and Verdure. Promising varieties include Angus I, Attain, Flying A and Maximus. (No commercial varieties have been tested in recent years).
Wheat	
Legumes	
Alfalfa	Cimarron VR, AmeriGraze 702
Arrowleaf Clover	Amclo, Meechi, Yuchi, Apache
Berseem Clover	Bigbee
Crimson Clover	Chief, Dixie, Tibbee, AU Robin
Red Clover	Kenland, Kenstar, Renegade, Cherokee, Concorde, Acclaim, Cinnamon, Southern Belle
Subterranean Clover	Mt. Barker, Nangeela, Tallarook, Woogenellup
White Clover	LA S-I, Osceola, Regal, Canopy, California, Durana

Table 4. Mean dry forage production from annual ryegrass entries at three locations in Louisiana during three growing seasons, 2004-2007.

Brand/Variety	Trial Locations			3-Year Mean
	Franklinton	Jeanerette	Winnsboro	
----- Dry forage, lbs./acre -----				
Big Boss	11995	5511	7758	8131
Prine	11738	5650	7750	8106
Marshall	11954	5326	7890	8084
Striker	11797	5533	7536	8013
Passerel Plus	11012	5487	8071	7920
Wax ME94	11268	5402	7772	7873
Jumbo	10600	5929	7454	7788
Graze-N-Gro	10766	5542	7672	7749
Rio	10787	5642	7471	7734
4X	10852	5013	8073	7683
Dyna-Gain	10762	5433	7487	7648
TAM 90	10698	5445	7507	7640
Gulf	11114	5578	6754	7592
Ed	10661	5613	7035	7554
Diamond T	10593	5174	7616	7532
Jackson	10067	5701	7318	7496
Verdure	10292	5305	7582	7484
WMN97	10065	5213	7814	7449
Mean	10946	5472	7586	7749
LSD (.05)	NS	415	585	492
CV %	14	9	8	13

Table 5. Seeding Rates for Cool-season Pasture and Forage Crops

Crop	Seeding Rate (lb/A)	
	Planted Alone	Planted in Mixture
Grasses		
Tall Fescue	30	20
Oats	100	60
Cereal Rye	90	50
Annual Ryegrass	30	20
Wheat	90	60
Legumes		
Alfalfa	20-30	---
Arrowleaf Clover	8	5
Berseem Clover	20	15
Crimson Clover	15	12
Red Clover	12	8
Subterranean Clover	15	12
White Clover	5	3

**Table 6. Planting Dates for Cool-season Pasture and Forage Crops**

Crop	Planting Dates for	
	Prepared Seedbeds	Sod Planting
Grasses		
Tall Fescue	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	---
Oats	Sept. 1-Oct. 15 (N LA) Sept. 15-Oct. 15 (S LA)	Approx. Oct. 15 Approx. Oct. 15
Cereal Rye	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	Approx. Oct. 15
Annual Ryegrass	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	Approx. Oct. 15
Wheat	Sept. 20-Oct. 15	Approx. Oct. 15
Legumes		
Alfalfa	Oct. 5-Oct. 20	---
Arrowleaf Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Berseem Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Crimson Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Red Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
Subterranean Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15
White Clover	Oct. 1-Nov. 15	Oct. 15-Nov. 15