

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANDREW COUNTY LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Agriculture continues to provide a solid base for the economy of Northwest Missouri. Livestock production continues to be a significant part of that economy. According to the most recent survey, Andrew County has 9,800 head of beef cows, 1,200 head of dairy cows and 24,000 head of cattle all together.

## FIXED-TIMED ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROJECT

During 2008 two beef producers from Andrew County participated in the Fixed-Timed Artificial Insemination project that combined the efforts of State Specialists from the University of Missouri Extension with that of the Andrew County Extension Council. These two beef producers provided approximately 300 beef cows to be estrus synchronized using the CO-Synch + CIDR program and then artificially inseminated 66 hours after CIDR's were removed. The purpose of this project was to demonstrate to area beef producers that fixed-time artificial insemination technology has improved significantly and successful conception rates can be achieved when beef cows have been on proper planes of nutrition, in adequate body condition and receiving proper vaccinations. Research from previous fixed-time AI programs has shown 61% of calves were born in first 21 days of the calving season and 94% of calves born in first 63 days of the calving season. Based on the pregnancy checks using ultrasound our producers are in line to meet or exceed these numbers.

## GRAZING WEDGE AND DIGITAL PASTURE PLATE METER

Beginning in Spring 2008 Bob Kelly and Jim Humphrey obtained a Digital Pasture Plate Meter from New Zealand. With the help of four area beef and dairy producers we started measuring the density and quantity of forages on four different rotational grazing systems located in Andrew County. These four systems had 27 paddocks we were measuring twice a month until through late fall. In addition to the forage measurements we were obtaining we kept track of management practices producers were performing on their individual operations. This information is being kept as baseline data for future years. In the process of taking our bi-monthly measurements we noticed two paddocks that were not re-growing as fast as their counterparts. Upon further investigation through soil and forage sampling and analysis we found soil nutrient deficiencies. We are working with this producer on correcting this situation. Once forage measurements were taken they were entered in a web based program developed by the University of Missouri Extension Plant Sciences Division called the "Grazing Wedge". Additionally, the grazing wedge creates charts that allow producers to monitor and track forage growth and yield over multiple months and years.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**  
**Grazing Wedge**



Home

**Welcome**

- Pasture Based Dairies
- History
- Grazing Wedge
- Grazing Models
- Newsletters
- Resources
- Protocols
- Conference
- Calendar
- Contacts

The grazing wedge is a key tool for managing feed on a pasture based dairy farm. It visually represents the quality and quantity of forage dry matter available both now and during the next round of grazing.

University of Missouri Extension developed an online grazing wedge calculator for producers. Users can set up an account, input their paddock measurements and add other key indicators of grazing management for their farm.

E-Mail Address:

Password:

[Create New Account](#)

[Forgot Password](#)

[Report Problems](#)

[User Guide](#)

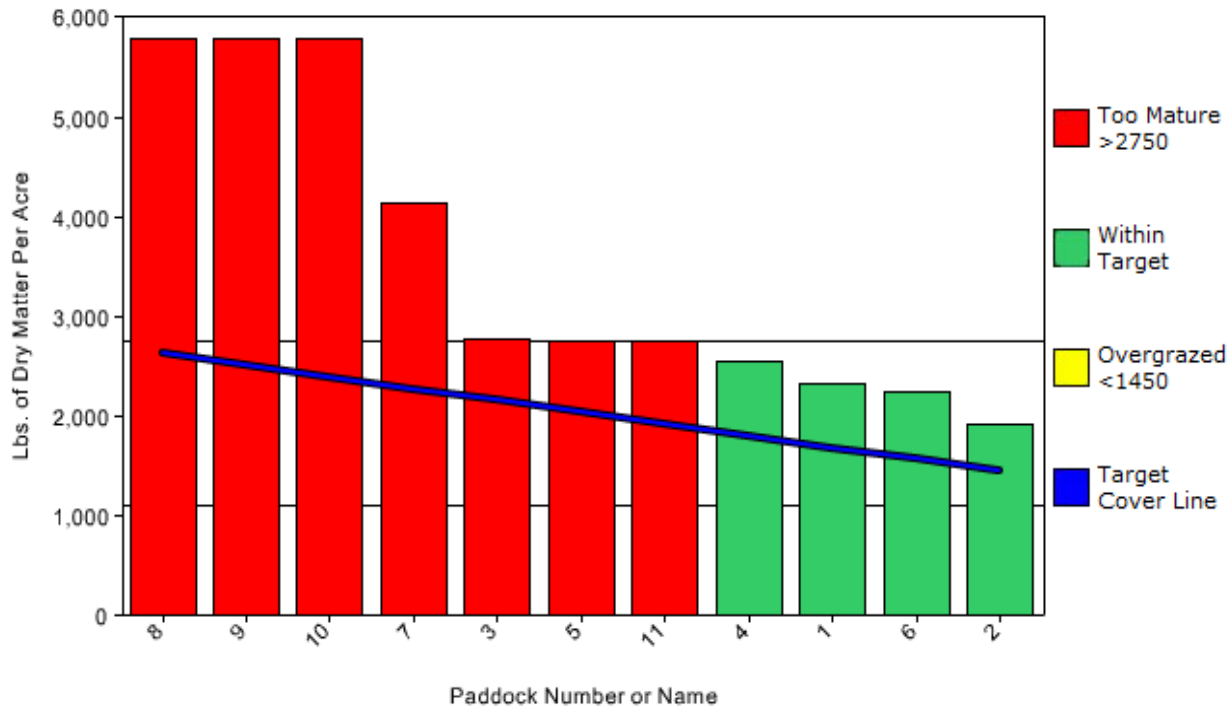
**Search the Public Grazing Wedges**

<p>1. Select Year  <input type="text" value="2008"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Reset"/></p>	<p>2. Select Farm  <input type="text" value="Choose Farm"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Summary Table"/></p>	<p>3. Select Date  <input type="text" value="Choose Date"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Grazing Wedge"/></p>
--	---	---

Year and Farm are required fields to view a year-to-date summary table.

Year, Farm and Date are required fields to view a grazing wedge.

**Grazing Wedge  
 JH Farm  
 06/18/2008**



### DAIRY PRODUCTION

In February, approximately 20 dairy producers attended the annual Northwest Missouri Dairy Group Meeting in Savannah at the Fire Station. Topics presented by University of Missouri State and Regional Specialists were Dealing with High Feed Costs and Better Utilization of Forages. This program is very well attended by local dairymen as well as students and instructors from Northwest Missouri State University. Additionally, the local DHIA group hold a business meeting following the program.

### MISSOURI STEER FEEDOUT

Over the last few years we have had several beef producers participate in the Missouri Steer Feedout Program. Producers only need to enter 5 head of steers to participate. During the steer feed-out process participants get feedback and documented data of how their cattle perform in the feedyard. Additionally, producers get approximately 20 different data points on their cattle at harvest time. During the feedout phase we make at least one trip to the feedyard where our cattle are being fed so producers can develop a relationship with feedyard managers/owners. We encourage participants to contact the feedyards on a regular basis to further develop their understanding of retaining ownership through the feeding phase of beef production. We also work with producers that want to take the next step and feed an entire pen of their own cattle. This program is a cooperative effort between Iowa State University, Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity and University of Missouri Extension.

### SHOW-ME-SELECT REPLACEMENT HEIFER PROGRAM

Several beef producers from the area continue to participate in the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program in Northwest Missouri. We held a sale in December, with heifers averaging \$1098/head. Our group has already scheduled the spring calving heifer sale for December 2009 with a possible sale for fall calving heifers scheduled in late spring 2009. This program is open to any beef producer in Missouri.

### MEAT GOAT POCKET GUIDE

The Andrew County Extension Council, University of Missouri Extension and Kaeco Group, have continued their efforts on the Meat Goat Pocket Guides, with over 6,500 guides distributed throughout Missouri as well as several other states. These guides are designed to help meat goat and sheep producers keep better records on their operations. Additionally, we have been receiving very positive comments on the pocket guides and continue to get requests on a regular basis.

### YOUTH LIVESTOCK

In 2008 we held a Beef Fitting Clinic and Meat Goat Clinic at the Andrew County Fairgrounds, we had over 50 youth and adults attend these clinics. Clipping and fitting demonstrations were provided by area producers with nutrition, ethics, handling and quality assurance topics covered by extension personnel and area producers.