Trichomoniasis Regulations

At our recent private pesticide applicator and ag update meetings, several producers had questions about Trichomoniasis (trich) testing of bulls and what the state regulations were. This is most likely due to the fact that many producers will be purchasing bulls in the near future. In summary, trich is a venereal disease of beef cattle which causes cows to abort. Cows will usually shed the virus after a period of time. However, the bulls will remain infected for life. Missouri began enforcing trich regulations for bulls sold, leased, bartered or traded within the state on September 1, 2011. The regulations require all non-virgin bulls and all bulls over 24 months of age to be tested. Producers with virgin bulls 24 months of age or younger must complete the Trichomoniasis Virgin Status Certification Form and submit it to the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Certifications are valid for 30 days, or upon change of ownership of the livestock. The forms are available from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Bulls with a positive trich test, as well as their herds of origin, will be quarantined. Within the quarantined herds, the following exemptions may apply:

- Animals en-route to processing/slaughter facilities may be released from quarantine.
- Females 120 days or less pregnant must remain quarantined and isolated from any bulls for a period of 120 days.
- Females confirmed more than 120 days pregnant or with a calf at side with no known exposure to a positive bull may be released from quarantine.
- Bulls within the positive herd may be released from quarantine following two negative tests for trich.
- Virgin heifers and bulls exempt in one of the above categories may be released from quarantine.

For more information contact the Missouri Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health at (573)-751-3377 or animalhealth@mda.gov.

Magnesium and Grass Tetany

Spring and green grass are hopefully just around the corner and when cows start grazing the lush, first growth in pasture grass tetany can start showing up. Grass tetany is a nutritional disorder that results from inadequate blood levels of magnesium. High magnesium mineral programs should be included in your cowherd management program beginning in late March or early April as the lush spring forage growth starts so acceptable levels will be achieved in the body to prevent problems later in spring. For producers who want to mix their own high magnesium mineral, a mixture of 30% magnesium oxide, 30% trace mineralized salt, 30% dicalcium phosphate and 10% dried molasses fed free choice should achieve the recommended levels of magnesium. Incorporating legumes into pastures or feeding hay that contains red clover or alfalfa will also help minimize grass tetany problems since legumes contain about twice as much magnesium as grasses.
Question of the Week?

Hay and pasture ground is getting harder to rent. I am thinking about building a pit silo and utilizing silage for cattle feed. Do you have anyone or any resources to help with designing one?

Many producers are looking at feed alternatives for their beef cattle operations. We all know that pasture and hay ground is almost impossible to rent and with land prices at record levels it is hard to expand. Figuring our ways to grow more feed with the land resource you have seems to be the logical alternative. The answer to your question is yes, we do have a Natural Resources Engineer that should be able to help with your silo planning. His name is Jim Crawford and his contact information is listed below.

Registration fee is $60 per individual or $110 per couple and does include lunch. For more information, contact Tammie Carr (660)-895-5121 or carrta@missouri.edu.

Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue Renovation School

When: Thursday, April 3, 2014, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Where: MU Forage Systems Research Center, Linneus, MO
What: “A-Z” on why, when and how to kill toxic fescue and replace it with novel (livestock friendly) endophyte fescue

Toxic tall fescue causes more problems than just “fescue foot”. Research studies show reduced weight gains, poor reproductive performance, rough hair coats and diminished immune response due to impaired blood circulation caused by toxin in fescue pasture and hay.

Registration fee is $60 per individual or $110 per couple and does include lunch. For more information, contact Tammie Carr (660)-895-5121 or carrta@missouri.edu.

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