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### **Headline: Summer Management Considerations**

**WARSAW, Mo.** – Summer has now arrived which brings opportunities to take care of some management items around the farm or ranch.

Pasture weed control is certainly a consideration this time of year. It is important to identify the target species, select appropriate herbicides, and time their application correctly. Summer spraying is recommended for many brush species, and there are several effective herbicides on the market. Many broadleaf weeds are also susceptible to herbicides this time of year, although chemical recommendations may be different between brush and weeds.

MU has an excellent publication IPM 1031, “Weed and Brush Control for Forages, Pastures, and Noncropland”. It is available on-line for \$15 or can be ordered through local MU Extension Centers. The publication contains color pictures and descriptions of summer annual broadleaf weeds, biennial broadleaf weeds, perennial broadleaf weeds, and woody shrubs, vines and brush species. This publication also includes tables on weed and brush response to various herbicides, information on various herbicides, and crop replant restrictions. MU also has an excellent weed id app which can be found at <http://weedid.missouri.edu/>.

Fly control can be an issue on some operations. Face flies and horn flies are the major fly pests of concern while cattle are on pastures. A variety of application methods are available, including fly tags, dust bags, back rubbers, sprays, and feed additives. In some cases, multiple control methods are needed to get fly populations under control.

There are two basic types of chemicals used in livestock fly control. These are pyrethroids and organophosphates. To prevent resistance to a particular chemical class, it is recommended to rotate between the two chemical types. Also, if additional control is needed at some point during the summer, use a different chemical class for the rescue treatment. The University of Kentucky has an excellent publication, ENT 11, which provides information on the various fly control products available to cattle producers.

Pasture and hay production seems to be extremely variable this year. Some producers have indicated a very heavy hay crop with excellent regrowth. Other producers have reported just the opposite. If you are one of those producers with low spring forage production, you may consider using a summer annual for grazing or hay production. Realize it will take 45 to 60 days for those crops to produce enough forage for safe harvest.

Pasture shortages can also be dealt with by early weaning calves. Calves can be weaned as early as 90 to 120 days of age. Weaning reduces cow energy requirements by approximately 20%, so this can be a big benefit if pasture availability is limited. Early weaned calves need special care and feeding, so be thinking about how early weaning might be implemented if conditions warrant that step.

These are a few management items for you to consider in the upcoming weeks. Consider possible scenarios a few weeks down the road and develop strategies to cope with those before they are needed. This helps avoid knee-jerk reactions, which aren't always in the best long term interest of an operation.

If you desire further information on any of these topics, contact me by e-mail at [schmitze@missouri.edu](mailto:schmitze@missouri.edu) or by phone at (660) 438-5012.

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