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livestock specialists.....



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DATES TO

REMEMBER:

- June 10-11—
Management Intensive
Grazing School, Alba-
ny
- June 18-21—Beef
Improvement Federa-
tion Meeting, Lincoln,
NE
- July 9—Market Out-
look and Risk Manage-
ment Meeting for Beef
Producers, Maryville
- July 22—Northwest
Missouri Livestock
Insurance and Risk
Management Pro-
gram, Savannah
- July 31—Gentry Coun-
ty Cattlemen's Associ-
ation Day Tour, Pella,
IA

Northwest Missouri Management Intensive Grazing School

The Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of Missouri Extension are holding the Northwest Missouri Management Intensive Grazing School in Albany, Missouri on Tuesday, June 10 and Wednesday, June 11. Management intensive grazing is a system where grazing is managed for both the benefit of the livestock as well as the forage. A basic system may have four or five pastures/paddocks while a more management intensive grazing system could have 10-20 pastures/paddocks or even more. This grazing school offers participants the chance to exchange information with other livestock producers involved in rotational and/or management intensive grazing and to gain information on how to properly design and layout a grazing system specific to your operation. Additionally, topics such as the art and science of grazing management, evaluating the resources available on your farm, challenges and opportunities with properly designed grazing systems, plant diversity that occurs in rotational grazing systems, livestock nutrition will be discussed throughout the two-day program. Properly designed and managed grazing systems can increase the quality and quantity of forages available for your livestock as well as help you as a livestock producer keep your costs lower. Contact Nathan Bilke at 660-582-7125 to register.

When Grass Seed Heads Appear, Hay Quality Drops

The following are comments from Dr. Rob Kallenbach, University of Missouri Extension State Forage Specialist, concerning forage production this spring (or lack of) across the state.

- So far, it is a bad hay year.
- Cool weather, lack of sun and dry soil slowed grass growth.
- Dry matter per acre is about one-third of normal.
- Plentiful seed heads are a signal that pastures or hayfields are not producing. For grass quality and quantity, the seed head tiller should be nipped early from the plant. If seed heads emerge, that signals the end of vegetative growth and the start of reproduction. Leaf growth stops and nutrients flow from leaf to seeds.
- For grass to grow again, seed heads must be mowed off.
- Cows won't eat seed heads unless forced to do so.
- After seeds are removed, grass restarts leaf growth.
- By cutting bad hay now, quality hay growth can restart.
- Normally, Dr. Kallenbach is not a fan of spring nitrogen application because in normal weather it produces more grass than cattle can graze. However, since grass growth was slow this year, some nitrogen might help. After mature hay is cut, applying 50 pounds of nitrogen per acre on the stubble could boost yields.
- This time of year, with normal weather, one pound of nitrogen makes 15 pounds of forage dry matter.
- Although he has had few takers on this idea, Dr. Kallenbach continues to urge making grass hay the first week of May. That cuts seed heads before they emerge and makes better feed in many ways.



KSU Focus on Feedlots Report

Kansas State University Extension recently released their April 2014 closeout information in their latest Focus on Feedlots report which includes data from ten different Kansas feedlots. The 26,461 steers averaged 1350 pounds, 163 days on feed, 3.39 average daily gain, 6.09 feed/gain dry basis, 1.58% death loss and \$94.94 average cost of gain. The 26,576 heifers averaged 1215 pounds, 159 days on feed, 3.07 average daily gain, 6.29 feed/gain dry basis, 2.49% death loss, and \$99.90 average cost of gain.

Watch for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) damages fruit, vegetable and row crops. This pest has a wide range of hosts that it feeds on including many different types of trees. It also will seek shelter in homes and be a real nuisance that is very difficult to get rid of. The insect has spread to forty-one states. The pest has been found in Missouri, and should be carefully scouted for in northwest Missouri. This insect is an invasive species that originated in Asia. The stink bug has five nymphal stages and legs and antenna of the nymphs are black with white banding. Early stage nymphs have dark-reddish eyes and a yellow-reddish underbelly with black stripes. BMSB can overwinter as adults and emerge in the spring and are brown with small white and black alternating stripes on the rear section of the pest. For more information, contact your regional MU Extension agronomist.



Adult BMSB



BMSB Nymphs

??Question of the Week??

I had quite a problem with pinkeye last year. Is there anything I can do to help prevent it?

Anything that can help reduce the number of adult face flies is a good prevention strategy (insecticidal ear tags, pour-ons, back rubbers, dust bags, knock down sprays). Remember that face flies can develop resistance to pesticides over time, so switching drug classes is important. Clipping pastures to reduce seed heads and decrease eye irritation is also a good idea. Shaded areas can help decrease ultraviolet light exposure. In some cases, medicated mineral mixes have been reported to decrease the incidence of pinkeye. A good overall herd-health/vaccination program can help as well.

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