

Ozark Stockman

An informal Newsletter for Livestock Producers in the Missouri Ozarks and abroad...
Published by Ted Cunningham, Regional Livestock Specialist, MU Extension

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Greetings Ozark Livestock Producers!!!

If you've just picked up or opened this newsletter and are wondering why you've not seen it before, let me quickly explain. This is the **FIRST** edition of the *Ozark Stockman* newsletter. Welcome!!!

Hopefully you'll find the information in this newsletter beneficial to you and your livestock and agricultural enterprise. As a Regional Livestock Specialist with MU Extension, I've made it my 2007 New Year's resolution to publish a newsletter, and I hope you find this publication to contain timely information that will be of interest to you in some way or another.

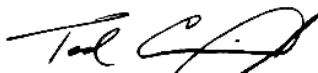
Current plans for this newsletter are for publication on a bi-monthly basis, so look for this publication at the beginning of the even numbered months (Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.). While you may be reading this first edition on paper, due to postage costs, the majority of you will hopefully subscribe to this newsletter electronically by email, or access it electronically on our website at <http://muextension.missouri.edu/dent/>. If accessing this publication electronically is simply not

possible for you, just let me know, and I'm sure we can work something out.

Topics of this newsletter will range from soil fertility to sire selection and everything in between. While the primary goal of this publication will be to inform you the reader with timely topics, I welcome your comments and ideas for stories and discussion. Additionally, look for articles by other regional and state extension staff, as well as other partner organizations such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS, MDC, MDA, and others.

Thanks in advance for reading and supporting this newsletter, and give me a call if I can help you or someone you know.

Best regards,



Ted Cunningham
Livestock Specialist, MU Extension

Need to Buy Hay? A Few Tips to Keep in Mind

Is your hay supply looking low? Are you thinking you might need to purchase some hay? Are you considering selling the hay equipment and just buying hay this next year? There are several things you should keep in mind when you get ready to make a hay purchase.

Here are a few:

Buy Hay by the Ton. This may not always be an option, but I'll guarantee that if you're on the buying side of the transaction, most of the time you'll get a better deal if you purchase hay on a \$/ton basis rather than by the bale. I've witnessed more than a few occasions when a producer thinks

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UPCOMING EVENTS....

February 12
Private Pesticide Applicators Training, Dent County Extension Conference Room, 6:30 pm, call 573-729-3196 to pre-register by Feb. 9th

February 26
Forage and Beef Conference, Cuba Knights of Columbus Hall, 2:00 pm, call 1-800-364-8732, ext. 3 to pre-register by Feb. 9th

March 15
Dent County SWCD Annual Meeting, 6 pm Salem. Call 573-729-4442 for more info

March 27
Crawford County SWCD Annual Meeting, 6 pm, Steelville, call 1-800-364-8732 for more info

Online Resource for Mapping and Aerial Photos

Have you ever wondered how many acres are in a particular field on your farm? Maybe you're getting ready to build some fence, and would like to know approximately how many posts and rolls of wire you'll need, or where to divide a field. Well there's a website that can help you with these problems and more.

The Center for Agricultural, Resource, and Environmental Systems (CARES) offers an online "map room" that allows you to bring up aerial photos of Missouri. While this service is also offered by local Soil and Water Districts and NRCS offices, this is a site that you can use anytime you wish from the comfort of your home.

Once you pull up a map, there are a couple tools that I find very useful. One tool allows you to use your cursor and measure acreage of any given area on the map, i.e.

pasture/field/woods/pond, etc. Another tool will allow you to use your cursor to measure distance between two points. There are other options to allow you to find the elevation at a given point, as well as give you the GPS coordinates for any point on the map.

To use this resource go to <http://www.cares.missouri.edu/>, and click on "enter the Map Room". From there you will want to click on "Missouri". The easiest way to locate your area of interest is then to select your county and enter your section, township, range information. Then select "2004 Aerial Photos", then select "verify data layers", and hit "make map".

For questions or help with using this website, feel free to contact me.

What's New at Wurdack?

Perhaps many of you have heard of, or even been to the MU Wurdack Farm, near Cook Station. For those of you that don't know anything about the farm, let me start with a brief history and some introductory information about the farm.

The Hugo Wurdack Farm is comprised of some 1,200 acres in the northeast Ozarks. It is located on the Meramec river near Cook Station in Crawford and Dent Counties. The farm contains approximately 300 acres of pastures and forage production fields, primarily used for the beef cattle operation. The remaining acreage is predominantly upland hardwood forests.

The farm was given to the University of Missouri in 1962 by Hugo Wurdack, hence the name Wurdack Farm. The Farm was managed for approximately 25 years by various university personnel and departments. In 1986, management of the farm was shifted from Animal Science Department to a Management Committee comprised of area extension and state extension/research faculties. Additionally, the Wurdack Farm Advisory committee was formed to review the forage, livestock, and natural resource components of the farm enterprise and helps guide the Management Committee in its charge to

direct the demonstration, extension education, and research functions of the Hugo Wurdack Farm. Since that time, facilities have been upgraded and substantial education, demonstration, and research programs initiated for the citizens of the region.



One important aspect of the farm is that with the exception of the salary of one full-time employee and a small building/grounds maintenance and upkeep budget, the farm is self-sustaining. Currently, a herd of about 100 beef cows is run on the farm, and is the primary source of income, however, timber sales also account for periodic income. While this arrangement prevents much in-depth costly and labor intensive research, it also allows the farm to operate under similar conditions as other farms in the Ozarks, especially with regard to the cow-herd.

Projects underway at Wurdack include a marketing evaluation project for the cow-herd, evaluation of estrous synchronization protocols and artificial insemination for the commercial cow-herd, a fescue type study, evaluation of novel endophyte fescue, silvo-pasture research, timber stand improvement practices, and much more.



The farm also hosts field days, meetings, seminars. These include the annual Fall Producer Field Day, held the first Friday of October, Grazing Schools, producer meetings, etc.

The farm is managed by Brent Booker, who is a native of Cook Station and has worked on the farm in some capacity for nearly 30 years.

Look for updates on research and demonstration projects that are going on, and upcoming events at Wurdack in coming issues in the *Ozark Stockman*.

For more information about Wurdack Farm, visit the farms website at <http://aes.missouri.edu/wurdack/index.stm>



Hay Buying Tips...(continued from page 1)

they've purchased 1400-1500 lb round bales, only to find out they barely weigh 1000 lbs. This is a huge difference if you just paid \$30 per bale, and the market price for that hay should have been about \$40 per ton. Additionally, knowing what your hay bales weigh will help you better track your inventory and feed expenses for the year.

Get it Tested. While there are several appraisal methods for hay, nothing beats a forage analysis. Hopefully the hay grower will have these available, but if not they can be done at your local MU Extension office for about \$14, and will give you a much better idea of what it is you're buying. A hay test will allow you to compare different hays and feedstuffs on a \$/lb of nutrient basis, weed out poorer quality hays that are poorly digested, determine if you need to supplement and how much you'll need. The typical components of a forage test include, crude protein, total digestible nutrients (TDN), relative feed value (RFV), net energy, acid detergent fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). The bottom line is a forage test will help you better manage your feed resources and ultimately save you money.

Shop Around. A lot of times we get caught doing something because it's convenient. Buying hay should not be one of those things. Just because your

neighbor has hay for sale and it's close to home and seems like an okay deal, doesn't mean it's the best deal. Visit with a hay broker, checkout the MU's online hay listing at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/haylst/index.htm> or just check out the want ads. Always consider trucking costs, and request a forage analysis.

The Value of Manure from Hay. This is a very important economic aspect if you're considering getting out of the hay business and buying all of your hay. MU guidesheet G2083 "*Calculating Fertilizer Value of Supplemental Feed for Cattle on Pasture*" shows how hay and other supplemental feeds can provide an important source of soil nutrients for pasture fertility. In essence, buying hay allows you to import nutrients to your farm from someone else's, and is many times an overlooked aspect of purchasing hay.

This guidesheet estimates that for one cow consuming 30 lbs (as fed) fescue hay for a 100 day period, there would be 23 lbs Nitrogen, 23 lbs Phosphorus, and 67 lbs of Potash deposited back to the pasture. Some quick math shows that if fertilizer is \$250 per ton, you're getting a fertilizer credit of about \$14 per cow, or \$7 per bale (1500 lb bale) just from the fertilizer value of the manure from the cows consuming the hay. Additionally, this guidesheet outlines the steps for you to quantify the manure values from any given hay or supplement based on nutrient content.

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How to receive this newsletter...

Although you may have received this issue of the *Ozark Stockman* via the US Mail, due to postage costs, future issues may only be available via email or on our website.

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If you'd like to receive this newsletter please do one of the following...

1. Email or call the Dent County Extension office and request to be put on the Ozark Stockman email distribution list.
2. Download the Ozark Stockman from our website at <http://extension.missouri.edu/dent/>. Each bi-monthly issue will be posted on this site as well as archived issues.
3. If you wish to receive this newsletter, but simply don't have internet/email access, give us a call and we'll work something out.