

# Ag-Info

**February - March 2009**  
**Northeast Missouri Agriculture Newsletter**  
**serving Clark, Knox, Lewis, Marion, Monroe,**  
**Pike, Ralls, and Shelby Counties**

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University of Missouri,  
 Lincoln University,  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 & Local Extension  
 Councils Cooperating

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## *Calendar of Events*

February 12	<b>Private Pesticide Applicator Training</b> , Bowling Green
February 16	<b>Private Pesticide Applicator Training</b> , Center
February 18	<b>Memphis Dairy Day</b> , Memphis
February 19	<b>Missouri's Complicated Fence Law</b> , Palmyra (ITV)
February 21	<b>Lewis/Marion Cattlemen's Annual Scholarship Banquet</b> , Palmyra
February 23	<b>Private Pesticide Applicator Training</b> , Palmyra
February 23	<b>Ralls County Cattlemen's Meeting</b> , New London
February 24	<b>Private Pesticide Applicator Training</b> , Kahoka
March 2	<b>How to Organize Your Farm Business</b> , Edina
March 2	<b>Private Pesticide Applicator Training</b> , Bowling Green
March 6, 7	<b>Beef Cattle Hoof Trimming Days</b> , Paris
March 11	<b>Youth – Show-Me Quality Assurance Training</b> , New London
March 12	<b>Youth – Show-Me Quality Assurance Training</b> , Bowling Green
March 19	<b>Youth – Show-Me Quality Assurance Training</b> , Paris
March 20 - 21	<b>Women in Boots &amp; Blue Jeans: An Ag Risk Management Conference</b> , Lake of the Ozarks
March 23	<b>Youth – Show-Me Quality Assurance Training</b> , Palmyra
March 28	<b>Performance Tested Bull Sale</b> , Palmyra
March 31	<b>Youth – Show-Me Quality Assurance Training</b> , Monroe City

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# AGRONOMY NOTES

Alix Carpenter

## 2009 Herbicide Update

### Corn

*Balance Flexx* (Bayer CropSciences) contains the same active ingredient as Balance Pro (isoxaflutole), in addition to a safener (cyprosulfamide) which allows application up to the V2 growth stage in corn. This is a 2 lb/gallon formulation, and can be applied from 3 to 6 fluid ounces per acre, depending on the soil type and application timing. It exhibits good control of a variety of common annual grass and broadleaf weeds such as giant foxtail, common ragweed, and waterhemp.

*Bicep* (Syngenta) herbicides can now be applied postemergence to corn up to 12 inches in height; the previous postemergence corn height restriction on all Bicep-branded herbicides was 5 inches.

*Cadet* (FMC) is a PPO-inhibitor (fluthiacet-methyl) for postemergence use in corn. Cadet may be applied at 0.4 to 0.9 fluid ounces per acre to corn from V2 to 48-inches in height or prior to tasseling, whichever comes first. A non-ionic surfactant or crop oil concentrate should be added to all Cadet applications.

*Callisto* (Syngenta) is expected to receive an updated label in 2009, allowing postemergence applications following preemergence applications of Lumax or Lexar. If Lumax or Lexar are applied at foundation rates, no changes in the soybean replant interval will be necessary. If full rates of Lumax or Lexar are applied preemergence and followed by a postemergence application of Callisto, the soybean replant interval will be extended to 18 months.

*Corvus* (Bayer CropSciences) contains Balance Flexx and thiencazuron, a new ALS-inhibiting herbicide. Designed to be a one-pass preemergence herbicide which may be applied from burndown up to V2, Corvus can be applied from 3 2/3 to 5 2/3 fluid ounces per acre, depending on soil type. It should provide good control of a variety of annual grass and broadleaf weeds such as giant foxtail, common ragweed, lambsquarters, nightshade, and waterhemp.

*Ignite 280 SL* is a new formulation of glufosinate which will be registered for use on LibertyLink corn. Ignite contains the same active ingredient as Liberty, but in a higher concentration (2.34 lbs glufosinate/gallon). Ignite may be applied to LibertyLink corn hybrids from emergence through V5 at 22 fluid ounces per acre. No more than two applications and 44 fluid ounces of Ignite may be applied per growing season.

*Impact* (AMVAC) received a supplemental label for postemergence applications at 1 fluid ounce per acre in situations where weeds have grown beyond the size indicated

on the label for the 1/2 or 3/4 fluid ounce rate. In Missouri, soybeans may be planted the season following the 1 fluid ounce application.

*Valor SX* is expected to receive a label for preplant applications 14 to 30 days prior to corn planting; this will be the first time that Valor will be able to be used in corn. It will be labeled for use in minimum or no-till corn, at rates from 1 to 3 ounces per acre. It should be tank-mixed with glyphosate and/or 2,4-D or other burndown products when used in this manner. It provides some burndown and residual control of a variety of broadleaf weed species.

### Soybeans

*Cadet* (FMC) is a new product (fluthiacet-methyl) is labeled for postemergence use in soybeans. It is a PPO-inhibitor, and may be applied at 0.4 to 0.9 fluid ounces per acre to soybeans from the V1 stage of growth to full flowering. A nonionic surfactant or crop oil concentrate should be added to all Cadet Applications.

*Dual II Magnum* will now be labeled for postemergence application in soybeans up through V3. This treatment will only provide control of unemerged weeds and is designed to provide residual control of later-emerging weeds when applied in combination with a postemergence application of glyphosate.

*Flexstar GT* (Syngenta) is a new mixture of Flexstar (fomesafen) and glyphosate which is expected to receive a label for use in soybeans by the 2009 growing season. It will be labeled at rates ranging from 3 to 3.75 pints per acre, and is intended to provide postemergence control of glyphosate-resistant weeds such as waterhemp.

*LibertyLink soybeans* will be available for the first time during the 2009 growing season. This new herbicide-resistant crop designed to withstand applications of Ignite 280 SL, a new formulation of glufosinate which will be registered for use on LibertyLink soybeans. The standard use rate of Ignite will be 22 fluid ounces per acre on LibertyLink soybeans; no more than two applications and 44 fluid ounces of Ignite may be applied on LibertyLink soybeans in a single growing season. Ignite applications can be made from emergence up to, but not including, R1.

*Prefix* now has a postemergence label for use in soybeans, and may be applied at 2 to 2 1/3 pints per acre from cracking up to V3. It will provide very little control of emerged weeds but will provide residual control of a variety of weeds that may emerge throughout the season, such as waterhemp. In Roundup Ready soybeans, Prefix can be tank-mixed with a glyphosate product to control weeds that are present at the time of the application. Crop oil concentrate should not be

added as a spray adjuvant as this will increase the likelihood of crop injury.

#### Grass Pastures and Hay

Chaparral (Dow AgroSciences) will have a limited launch in Missouri in 2009. Chaparral is a mix of aminopyralid (Milestone) and metsulfuron (Cimarron, Ally, Escort, others). The maximum rate of Chaparral will be 3.3 ounces

of product per acre, although it is unlikely that this rate will be suitable for most applications in Missouri as this rate provides the equivalent of 7 fluid ounces of Milestone per acre and 0.5 ounces of Cimarron per acre. Such a high rate of Cimarron can cause significant injury to fescue, especially when applied in the spring. For general weed control, Chaparral will be labeled at 2 to 2.5 ounces per acre.

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## AG BUSINESS NOTES

### Managing Through a Recession

The biggest news maker right now is the economic situation that our country is in. So how does the current economic situation affect the farm? After several years of high grain prices and generous margins, crop producers are facing a 2009 that looks less than rosy. Higher inputs costs and selling prices well below the peaks of 2008 will result in fewer dollars left over to pay landlords and put into savings. Livestock producers have had to endure many months of thin or negative margins, as well.

Below is a list of possible financial management practices and strategies that could come in handy this year.

1. *Prepare an accurate set of financial statements.* Highly variable inventory prices and increasing land values will make this year's balance sheet look quite different from last year's. And for grain farmers, a net income statement for 2008 may be something for you to share with your lender.
2. *Prepare a detailed cash flow budget.* Many crop farmers will have a hard time meeting all their cash commitments from sales in 2009. Higher input costs and rents will increase operating line requirements. Livestock farmers will need to budget feed purchases carefully.
3. *Shop around for inputs.* Depending on when suppliers booked fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and other inputs, prices may vary dramatically.
4. *Consider both cost savings and yield effects when applying inputs.* For example, cutting back on nitrogen fertilizer when costs are high makes sense, but only up to a point.
5. *Know your costs of production.* When profitable selling opportunities arise, lock them in. Watch for opportunities to price crop inputs, feed, and feeder livestock, as well.
6. *Document yields for a possible crop insurance or SURE payment.* Many crop producers will receive an insurance indemnity payment due to falling prices in 2008 as well as from damage caused by rain or floods. Additional payments may be available under the SURE disaster program in the new farm bill.

### Karisha Devlin

7. *Increase crop insurance coverage for 2009.* Higher production costs may require higher levels of protection to assure a breakeven level of revenue. Cattle, hog, sheep and dairy producers can set price floors using *LGM* or *LRP* insurance programs.
8. *Consider enrolling in ACRE.* Under the new farm bill program, Average Crop Revenue Election, crop producers can substitute a gross revenue protection plan for the current price counter cyclical program, with guarantees based on higher price levels and current yields. However, be sure to do your homework about ACRE before making any decision!
9. *Use flexible lease agreements.* Tying cash rents to a formula that takes into account both yields and prices will help protect margins. Land owners can share in high profits when they are available with a flexible lease agreement.
10. *Defer capital purchases.* When margins are narrower, replacing machinery, putting up new storage bins, or bidding on more land may have to wait. Replacement parts and overhauls are cheaper in the short run.
11. *Compare financing rates.* Federal interest rates are at historic lows. There may be wide differences among agricultural lenders. Marketing loans from the Farm Service Agency are also available for short term financing.
12. *Consider refinancing long-term obligations.* Compare possible interest savings to the costs of rewriting the loan. It may be a good time to convert variable rate loans to a fixed rate.
13. *Keep assets liquid.* If gross revenue is not enough to cover production costs and family living expenses this year, keep funds in savings or short-term investments rather than assets that would be hard to convert to cash.
14. *Use equity in land, livestock and equipment.* If cash reserves aren't enough, talk to your lender about borrowing against fixed assets, with a multi-year repayment plan.

This list was written by William Edwards, an Extension Economist at Iowa State University. I thought it was good advice to pass on for 2009! If you have questions about any of the strategies mentioned above, contact me at (660) 397-2179.

### Upcoming Event

Women in Boots and Blue Jeans: An Ag Risk Management Conference – will be held March 20 - 21 at the Tan-Tar-A resort in Lake of the Ozarks, MO. For more information, contact me at (660) 397-2179.

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## LIVESTOCK NOTES

Zac Erwin

### Tips for a Successful Calving Season

As calving season nears, there are several situations producers don't want to find themselves in. However, a few helpful tips can help make such situations less complicated. Ron Skinner, DVM from Hall, MT shared several such tips in the latest issue of BEEF magazine, and I would like to share several of those following.

#### Checking the delivery progress

The first thought is to determine if the calf is alive. This will probably determine your strategy on getting the calf out. When you reach in to find the calf, a live calf will generally jerk its foot when handling the legs or pinch the skin between its toes. You can also stick a finger in its mouth; a live calf will either suck or gag. For calves coming backwards, you should check for muscle tone around the calf's anus. If the sphincter is limp, he is most likely dead.

#### Pulling the calf

For your safety and for the safety of the cow always tie her up or restrain her in a headcatch that allows her to lie down without hanging by the head. It's easiest to check the calf's presentation while she is standing, however once you have determined the calf is in the proper presentation, it's best for the cow to lie down as she can strain more effectively and it's easier when gravity isn't working against you getting the calf out. When pulling a calf, always pull when the cow is straining and rest when she rests. Don't put steady pressure on the calf without periodic letup. It takes time for the cervix to dilate and the birth canal to stretch to its fullest capacity. Just remember in a normal birth situation a cow doesn't just shoot the calf out in a minute or two. She will get up and down, and push and rest. Constant pulling puts constant pressure on the calf, impairing blood circulation. This is why some calves are unconscious and fail to start breathing when born. On really hard pulls when the calf's legs put pressure on its head, letting the pressure off and even pushing it back a little will restore blood circulation and give the calf a better chance of survival. Dropping levels of oxygen in the blood trigger the calf to start breathing, but if too much pressure is put on by constantly pulling, this trigger isn't happening. Cutting this important circulation to the brain results in calves born "brain dead." Once its head is out to its eyebrows then you can finish pulling – because the cow is stretched enough for it to come.

#### Caring for the cow after a hard pull

Pulling a calf too fast and with too much unrelenting traction will increase the chances for a prolapsed uterus. Taking your time to pull the calf will result in the uterus contracting down behind the calf and not so apt to turn inside out. It's important to get the cow or heifer up right after she calves, so the uterus will drop back down into the abdominal cavity. Some animals will lie there and keep straining until they push the uterus out.

#### Other thoughts

One instance in which you need to hurry is when the placenta is coming ahead of the calf. If the placenta detaches prematurely, the calf will lose his "lifeline" and die before birth. Pulling the calf immediately will often save it. Another dangerous situation is the last stages of a backward delivery. The calf's head is still in the uterus when its umbilical cord is pinched off. Pulling slowly to give the cow time to stretch as the calf's hind legs and rump are coming through the cervix may prevent injury of the cow or calf (hurting its back or crushing its ribcage as it comes through the pelvis). But once the calf's rump is emerging get it out as quickly as possible because the umbilical cord is being broken or has already been pinched off triggering the calf to start breathing.

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# LIVESTOCK NOTES

Al Kennett

## Performance Bull Sale

The 37<sup>th</sup> performance tested bull sale at Palmyra is scheduled for Saturday, March 28. It will be held at F & T Livestock Market starting at 1:00 p.m.

We have 54 head of bulls consigned to the sale. This includes 37 Angus; 7 Polled Herefords; 6 Simmentals and Simmental/Angus; 3 Charolais; and 1 Maine Anjou. Complete performance data will be available on each bull, including birth, weaning, and yearling weights, frame score, EPD data and in most cases carcass ultrasound figures.

The bulls will range in age from yearlings to full two year olds. In fact 15 of the bulls are two year olds which is probably more two's than you will find in any other sale in the area.

For catalog and more information contact Zac Erwin or myself.

## Heifer Sale Results

Our Northeast Missouri Show-Me-Select Heifer Sale was held Dec. 13 and in my opinion went real well. We sold 151 heifers for an average of \$1204 per head. Other sales in the state varied a great deal. Southwest averaged \$1069 on 300 head; Southeast \$1286 on 95 head; West Central, \$1326 on 152 head and North Central 167 head at \$1098. All total 865 head sold for an average of \$1167. Top selling heifers at our Northeast sale were \$1500 on two different lots.

One very interesting thing about the NE sale this year was that 26 of the 31 buyers at the sale were repeat buyers and 90% of the heifers went to those repeat buyers. One of those buyers, Curt Mitchell, Clarksville, has purchased heifers in 10 out of the 12 sales we have held since we started the program.

## Heifer Development

I read an article on heifer development recently that was written by Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist at University of Kentucky. Les was born and raised around Monroe City. In fact he was on the Marion County 4-H Livestock Judging Team in 1984 that won the state contest and went on to national. Now he is nationally known as a Beef Reproduction Specialist.

Les made the following points in relation to successful heifer development:

- A key factor regulating fertility is age at puberty. For best fertility and reproductive performance, heifers must have had at least one estrus before the beginning of the breeding season.

- A big factor that regulates puberty in heifers is weight. Heifers should reach a target weight of 65% of their mature weight by the onset of their first breeding season, and 30 days before actual breeding.
- January is the time to determine if your heifers are "on track". Heifers should also be a body condition score of at least 5.0 to 5.5 by their target date (30 days prior to breeding).
- Heifers should have Lepto/Vibrio vaccinations and respiratory shots at least 30 days before breeding. This is also the time to do pelvic measurements and reproductive tract checks. Deworming is also a good idea.
- Producers should consider estrus synchronization and AI. This allows you to use superior bulls, increase weaning weights and pregnancy rates as well as use high accuracy calving ease bulls.

## Come Have A Fun Evening

I suggest you come and join the Lewis/Marion Cattlemen's at their annual scholarship banquet Feb. 21, American Legion Hall in Palmyra. It is a fun evening and is for a very good cause. The trade show and social hour starts at 5:00, dinner at 6:30, and the auction follows. A cattlemen's rib-eye steak dinner is only \$17.00 per person.

The purpose of the banquet is to raise money for scholarships for kids from Lewis and Marion Counties. Last year's banquet was very successful and as a result 10 youth will receive \$1000 college scholarships at this year's banquet.

*Finally:* Smile, as it is the light in the window of your face that tells people you are at home!!