

Brought to you by your  
livestock specialists.....



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## DATES TO

### REMEMBER:

- September 2—  
MU Extension  
Offices closed in  
observance of  
Labor Day Holi-  
day
- September 17—  
MU Thompson  
Farm Field Day,  
Spickard
- September 25-  
26—Regional  
Grazing School,  
Green Dirt  
Farm, Weston

## Guidelines for Making Quality Corn Silage

The last couple weeks of higher than normal temperatures coupled with lack of rainfall have taken a toll on crops and pastures in the area. While we were fortunate enough to receive early rains and as a result had a decent hay crop, many cattlemen are beginning to feed hay and pasture conditions are deteriorating quickly. Many producers are starting to consider harvesting corn for silage again this year. The following are some tips on making quality corn silage:



- Harvest the corn plant at a stage of maturity that produces silage with 30 to 40 percent dry matter.
- Corn should be harvested for silage after the grain is well dented but before the leaves turn brown and dry.
- Cut corn silage 3/8 to 1/2" long.
- Corn plants are traditionally cut 6" above the surface. Although cutting higher (12-18") will reduce yield 7-15%, the resultant silage will be higher in nutritive value since more of the undigestible fiber (mostly lignin) content will be left in the field. If nitrates are suspected, then cutting at 18" will result in silage that is lower in nitrates since the majority are found in the bottom 1/3 of the stalk.
- The importance of packing when filling a bunker silo cannot be over emphasized. Dry matter loss during storage increases when density of the silage decreases. As a rule, the packing tractor should run at least as many hours as the chopper.
- Covering horizontal silos with plastic as soon as possible after filling will help exclude air and reduce spoilage.
- Water should be added to forage with over 50 percent dry matter to prevent the formation of tobacco-brown silage.
- The fermentation process is usually completed and the silage is ready to feed by three weeks after storage.
- Using silage is a way to salvage some feed from a drought-stricken corn crop that will yield little grain. In some studies, silage from drought-stricken corn yielding as little as 10 bushels per acre has been nearly equal in feed value on a dry-matter basis to silage from a normal crop. In other cases, drought silage has yielded much less nutritive value. Therefore, we encourage producers to conduct a nutrient analysis on silage prior to feeding it. Running a test for nitrate levels may also be worthy of consideration.



**KSU Focus on Feedlots Report**

Kansas State University Extension recently released their July 2013 closeout information in their latest Focus on Feedlots report which includes data from ten different Kansas feedlots. The 29,506 steers averaged 1383 pounds, 160 days on feed, 3.78 average daily gain, 5.62 feed/gain dry basis, 1.54% death loss and \$116.40 average cost of gain. The 28,842 heifers averaged 1235 pounds, 152 days on feed, 3.34 average daily gain, 5.97 feed/gain dry basis, 1.64% death loss, and \$125.02 average cost of gain.

**What is Developmental Duplication?**

In northwest Missouri, the commercial beef cow herds are predominately Angus influenced. There are many reasons for the popularity of the breed. Very recently, the American Angus Association released information on a genetic condition that has been identified and documented in Angus cattle resulting from research initiated in Australia with Dr. Jon Beever at the University of Illinois. This condition, inherited as a simple recessive, has been designated as Developmental Duplication (DD). The homozygous state of this allele almost always results in early embryonic death which would be observed as a reduction in pregnancy rates. However, in a rare number of mildly affected cases, calves with additional limbs have been born and survived, usually exhibiting duplication of the front legs and originating from the neck or shoulder region. The American Angus Association is diligently working to identify carrier animals. Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) and Zoetis Genetics have just released a commercial test that is available through AGI in order to test animals for either free or carrier status. For animals that are potential DD carriers based on pedigree information, results of the test will help purebred breeders and commercial users of Angus genetics make more informed breeding decisions. The main thing for commercial producers to keep in mind is to work with your genetic supplier(s) and avoid the mating of carrier animals.

**??Question of the Week??**

**What is Pasture, Rangeland, Forage (PRF) Rainfall Index Insurance?**

Forage and livestock producers in Missouri can buy insurance to mitigate forage production risk. PRF insurance was developed by UDSA and has been available here since 2009. For Missouri, PRF insurance is based on a rainfall index and provides coverage when the precipitation in an area declines from its long-term, historical norm. The deadline for purchasing this insurance is typically in mid-November the year before the calendar year being covered. There are different options and coverage levels. For more information, contact the Extension Agriculture Business Specialist that serves your county.

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