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Notes**



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Livestock Notes



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Agronomy Notes



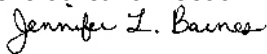
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Horticulture Notes



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Ag Beat

North Central Missouri
Agriculture Newsletter
Putnam, Sullivan, Linn,
and Schuyler Counties

BEEF CATTLE A.I. SCHOOL

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

November 26, 27, 28, 2007

5:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. Each Evening

Forage Systems Research Center

Linneus MO

(See related article in this issue.)

SHOW-ME SELECT BRED HEIFER SALE

Saturday, December 1, 2007

1:00 P.M.

Green City Livestock Market, Inc.

Green City MO

WINTER FEED AND FORAGE MEETING

Saturday, December 8, 2007

10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Forage Systems Research Center

Linneus MO

Farm Management Notes

Joseph Koenen

660-947-2705



FARM RENTS & LEASES – THIS YEAR’S HOT TOPIC!

I don’t believe I have to tell anyone how our current crop and land prices have brought about a topic I get questions on every day. That topic or topics are of course farm rents and leases. Since it is such a concern, let’s go over some thoughts in this article.

A large percentage of our farmers today rent at least some of their land. Farm leases are a big issue and so let’s review *how* those *leases can be terminated* (by either party) *here in Missouri*:

a) oral leases – since these remain the most common, let’s review these first. Hopefully I’ve discussed this enough that you know here in Missouri a written termination is required by law for an oral lease of more than one year in a row to the same person. **The real confusion is that needs to occur 60 days prior to the date the lease was agreed to in the 1st place.** Many people incorrectly assume September 1st is the date because Iowa’s law sets that as the time or January 1st because March 1st has been a tradition here in Missouri. Neither is true! **Don’t forget** that a failure to give/get that notice could lead to another year’s tenancy at the same level. **Keep in mind** that the sale of the land or health of the landlord or tenant does not matter for this termination to be required.

b) written leases – if you have a written lease with a tenant or landlord, there are a couple of ways to terminate it. One is to specifically put in the leases terms a date when the lease is terminated. This is the preferable way as you can include a

timeframe such as 30 days before the contract is up. This helps a tenant that will need to find other land to farm. The other is that is the written lease runs from say--- “October 1 to September 30” then that lease automatically expires after September 30th unless you both renew it. I definitely suggest the 1st option as it causes less hard feelings normally.

c) crop-share leases – if you have a true crop-share (½ of the crop, etc.) then the law recognizes that type of lease as being terminated after the crop is harvested. **Keep in mind** that a tenant has a right to a wheat crop planted in the fall the following spring or a landlord may have to come up with some money to reimburse them for their costs (labor too). The other issue with crop-share arrangements is making certain it is a true crop-share. Sharing the corn and bean crop 50-50 but renting 10 acres of pasture at \$250 to the same tenant means it is no longer a crop-share lease but an oral one (assuming it’s not in writing). A check that has a dollar amount with a memo saying it’s for 5000 bu. of beans will not be enough most likely if you have to go to court at some point.

I still get amazed every day at the number of folks who believe they can just terminate someone when they want because it’s not in writing. Our current increase in rent makes that even more tempting than it was in the past. Finally, keep in mind that the person responsible in case of a lawsuit or damages is the person who agreed to the lease in the

1st place and not the subsequent owner (one who received it) **unless** he/she knew the contract was there.

Now that we've handled lease termination, let's discuss our current rent situation. Our current rise in crop prices and land values have every landlord I know asking about and wanting higher rent from the tenant. Whether you're a landlord or tenant, there are some key points to think about before doing anything:

1) can the current lease be changed or amended? Is it in place after this year, can we negotiate price or have I missed the termination date for 2008? These are all critical things to know beforehand.

2) how does my lease compare to others in my area? Am I getting rent comparable to other like land in our area? Land in North Missouri is not worth the same amount as land in Carroll and Saline County whether we like it or not. Hay and pasture land is not worth the same value as is crop land. A 3 or 5-year average yield is a good start to see how your land is producing.

3) what can my or other tenants afford to pay? Many landlords aren't concerned about this but input prices (seed, fertilizer, etc.) have gone up quite a bit in price as well. If someone comes in and bids much more than others around, will they be able to pay that price? And for how long?

4) what about a flexible rental agreement? Several landlords and tenants are looking at flexible rent where the amount paid varies by yield and price. That can be beneficial to both parties **but** there are some cautions. (a) the tenant may have to track bushels differently (by farm) than he has done before (b) FSA has had some questions and issues with flexible rents and how they make payments and to whom (c) these need to

have some provisions for price that isn't too strict { 1 place or 1 day } and (d) with these type of leases both parties must have some trust with the other.

5) how does my current tenant/landlord compare to others? Income is very important to most folks but a good tenant or landlord can be very hard to find too. If you have one that does some things that aren't normally part of a lease (build fence, maintain grass waterways, etc.) those are worth money to you as well.

Don't forget that University of Missouri Extension has several resources in regard to rents and leases. They are on the web too, you can contact your local office for those addresses. Feel free to ask us specific questions about your situation as well. Some of those are:

Guide 520 - "Verbal Farm Rental Agreements Under Missouri Law"

Guide 427 "Cash Rental Rates in Missouri" (it is just a little dated)

Written lease forms for farm leases

INCOME TAX TIME AGAIN

It's that time of year when you need to think about your taxes. Here's just a quick note to remind you to do an estimate before the year is through and adjust if you need to. It isn't that hard to do. Also remember that your county Extension office will have Farmer's Tax Guides and 1099 forms sometime around the first of the year (Tax Guides maybe sooner).

HORT NEWS
Jennifer Schutter
660-665-9866



A WINTER'S REST: FALL CLEAN-UP OF THE GARDEN

The fall season is in full swing which means football games, fall decorations, picking apples, selecting a pumpkin to carve, and raking leaves. For gardeners it also means cleaning up the garden before winter sets in. Autumn is a good time for reflection. Take note of the season's successes and failures, and make plans now while things are still somewhat fresh in your mind. Cleaning up your garden and landscape is a good way to begin.

Clean-up of the vegetable garden is important to reduce the number of overwintering insects and diseases. Eradication of residues from tomato plants or other vegetation is also a good idea to reduce diseases for next year. Insect pests that feed on these plants during summer and fall often lay eggs on the old plants. If the vines are left on the soil surface, insect eggs will survive the winter and hatch in the spring creating a new crop of insects and problems to deal with. Fall tillage of the vegetable garden may expose potential insect larvae to birds and other critters of prey. This is also an excellent time to incorporate compost needed by many vegetable crops and to apply lime if your soil test shows a need.

If you don't already have a compost bin, I encourage you to consider starting one at this time. You can throw your dead plants in it as well as dried leaves. I also put my kitchen scraps in my compost pile such as

potato peelings, egg shells, banana peels, apple cores, and any plant derived material that I might need to discard. Never put meat scraps in your compost pile and don't throw weeds or diseased plants into it, as this will only multiply these problems down the road. You may need to turn your pile several times during the year to help it break down into a nutrient-rich compost for next season. If you would like more information on composting, contact your county extension center and request MU Guide 6956-Making and Using Compost and MU Guide 6957-How to Build a Compost Bin.

Fall is a good time to get rid of weeds. Weeds that are spread by seed produce thousands of seeds. Lambsquarter can bear up to 72,500 seeds per plant; curly dock can bear up to 30,000, purslane 52,000, and redroot pigweed 117,000. If even 50% of the pigweed seedlings germinated next spring, you'd have 58,000 pigweed plants to pull or otherwise get rid of.

Fall is one of the best times to get a handle on your tough to control perennial weeds. Now that temperatures are cooling down and days are getting shorter, perennial plants start to replenish root reserves. The more root reserves that a plant has, the stronger and healthier it will be. Thus, to better control perennial weeds you want to deplete its root reserve. Applications at this time allows the herbicide to be carried to the roots along with the sugars and both

weakens the main plant and reduces the number of new sprouts that it can generate. Most years you can get the best results by applying a growth regulator type herbicide like 2,4-D, picloram (Tordon), or dicamba (Clarity/Banvel) after the first light frost, but before a killing freeze. This part is important because you need a green, actively growing plant to take up the herbicide. Also, if you have mowed or otherwise damaged the weed, let it grow 4 to 6 inches before spraying because a damaged plant will not take in the herbicide nearly as well.

Annual weeds that germinate by seed can be controlled using PREEN which contains the active ingredient Trifluralin. The chemical attaches to the soil particles and sets up a weed control zone in the top inch of the soil surface where most weed seeds germinate. The chemical interferes with the cell division process in the root tip of the weed seeds. It causes the weed seedling to die before you ever see it emerge from the soil surface. PREEN is good for controlling henbit and chickweed in early spring, grassy weeds such as foxtail, crabgrass and barnyard grass, and broadleaf weeds such as lambsquarter and pigweed. Allow at least six weeks to pass before planting vegetable or flower seed in your garden if you use PREEN. You can use it if you only plant transplants or after all vegetable or flower seeds have germinated.

Your summer flowering plants that grow from rhizomes and bulbs should be dug and stored after the first modest frost. Remove the soil and the let surface dry, then store at cool, above-freezing temperatures for the winter. Dusting them with an all-purpose garden pesticide containing an insecticide and fungicide may prevent pest damage. Place these plants in dry vermiculite, peat, or sawdust for winter.

Fall is also an excellent time to mulch trees, shrubs and perennials. It is also important not stack mulch up too high around trees. Areas of the tree trunk that are covered with mulch may delay dormancy and be susceptible to major injury due to sudden drops in temperatures.

Protect tree trunks against bark splitting. Sunscald is a form of winter injury that affects the bark of many young trees. Shading young, thin-barked trees such as maples and fruit trees on the south and west sides will help prevent bark splits from temperature extremes. The bark tends to split vertically on the sunny side of the tree, because as the temperatures drop rapidly at sundown, the outer bark cools down and contracts faster than the inner bark. Thus, the outer bark must split to accommodate what's below. Wrapping the trunks with commercial tree wrap in late fall provides some protection.

Many perennials should be cut back to about 6 to 8 inches above the ground, however, some perennials actually look quite attractive during the winter. If you're not sure, you might want to leave them be and see if you like the way they look in your garden over the winter. Seed heads of some perennials such as Black-Eyed Susan and Purple Coneflower provide food for finches and other birds, and they look great against a blanket of snow.

One last thing to note, is that it is very important to clean your tools before storing them away for the winter to prevent them from rusting. Wash them good to get the dirt off and oil them if needed.

AGONOMY NOTES

Dr. Leon McIntyre

660-895-5123

SOYBEAN RUST UPDATE

Go to the web-site www.sbrusa.net. This internet address shows a map with green colored counties where soybean rust sentinel plots are located. SBR sentinel plots (one in Linn County) are designated soybean fields where Extension specialists and others scout weekly from soybean flowering to maturity. Specialists collect 100 soybean leaflets and overnight these leaflets to their respective university plant pathologist. The counties colored red are where soybean rust has been positively identified.

Soybean rust has been identified as of today in 19 counties in Missouri, one county in Illinois, 11 counties in Iowa, four counties in Nebraska, five counties in Kansas, and 33 counties in Arkansas. The positive identifications in Missouri and the surrounding states are at very low levels, 1-2 leaves out of 100, and only 2-3 pustules on those leaves.

What do these reports tell us? They just point out that soybean rust spores can be carried by wind up to the northern states and can infest green soybean leaves. This late season infection will have zero effect on 2007 crop soybeans. For the fall of 2007 and winter of 2008, the farther south a killing freeze occurs, the better. A killing freeze 28 degrees F kills soybean rust spores and the plants they grow on. Soybean rust needs living green plant tissue to live on and produce spores for its survival and spread. In the spring of 2008 soybean rust will have to grow and reproduce (south of the freeze line), it needs 60-75 degrees F, cloudy rainy weather, and a minimum of 6 hours of leaf wetness from dew or rain. Soybean rust will have to produce lots of spores and storms will have to move those spores north to soybean fields in Missouri sometime before

the soybeans reach R-6 (full size green beans in the pods), to warrant spraying. In May 2008 start watching the www.sbrusa.net map and the University of Missouri Extension will keep you informed on whether soybean rust is a threat or not.

SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE

Soybean cyst nematode is Missouri's most serious soybean pest. SCN is found in all of Missouri's soybean producing counties.

Estimated losses from SCN are \$34-\$100 million a year to Missouri's soybean producers. This microscopic wormlike pest invades the soybean roots and causes cysts. SCN was brought to the US in soil used for inoculating soybeans.

Yield losses from SCN can be as high as 100% in infested areas, with 15-40% yield loss common on an entire field basis. Yield loss can be as high as 50% without noticeable plant symptoms. SCN damage to soybeans is more severe when drought, herbicide damage, low potassium in soil, (<150 lbs/a), soybean aphid damage, and plant diseases stress soybeans.

Fields in corn/soybean rotations are highly susceptible to SCN damage, especially when soybeans are grown 2 or more years in a row without rotating to corn or other non-host crops. SCN infestation can increase to high levels in a single year with SCN-susceptible soybeans. Rotating to corn for only one year will not bring SCN numbers back down to non-damaging levels.

What should a soybean grower do? Take a SCN soil sample. Samples are taken just like soil samples. Take the samples close to the soybean stubble row. SCN is not distributed evenly throughout a field so do a good job of random sampling, 2-3 samples/ acre, 6-8 inches in depth.

If SCN is found and 1-1,000 eggs/cup of soil, then you should be sure and rotate to non-host crops such as corn, sorghum, wheat, rye, oats, clover (red, white, ladino), forage grasses or alfalfa, also when you plant soybeans, plant SCN resistant varieties.

Those producers who are now using SCN resistant soybeans and are not rotating crops, its possible to get a buildup of high SCN numbers. The reason is that SCN resistant soybeans are usually related to the PI 88788 source and if used frequently, you can get a build up of SCN adapted to resistant soybean lines.

Therefore, it's best to test for SCN in all fields that have grown soybeans for insurance against this yield robbing pest, even if you are using SCN-resistant soybeans.

You can take soil samples in large enough quantity and split in half using one half for soil test and the other half for a SCN test.

You can send SCN soil samples to:

Bob Heinz

Extension Plant Nematology Lab

46 Agriculture Building

Columbia, MO 65211

Web site: www.soilplantlab.missouri.edu

Or call 573-882-0186

A SCN egg count costs \$15.00/sample

APPLYING LIME ???

Lime seems to be a low priority subject. It is the first material that should be added to pasture, hay or row crops that have a soil test showing a pH below 6.0. Most plants grow better at a slightly acid soil test of 6.0–6.5. Remember pH 7.0 is neutral, pH 6.0 has 10 times the acid, pH 5.0 has 100 times the acid, and pH 4.0 has 1,000 times the acid as 7.0. Legumes like red clover, birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa, and soybeans do better at pH 6.0 – 7.0. Alfalfa is very acid sensitive and needs pH of 6.7–7.0 for best production. Alfalfa will yield about twice as much at a pH of 6.7–7.0 as it will at pH 5.0 regardless of the soil fertility. Nutrient availability ranges are the best at the pH of 6.5. Phosphorous availability drops from its highest availability at 6.5 to one fourth that availability at pH 6.0.

Missouri soil tests show lime needed as ENM.

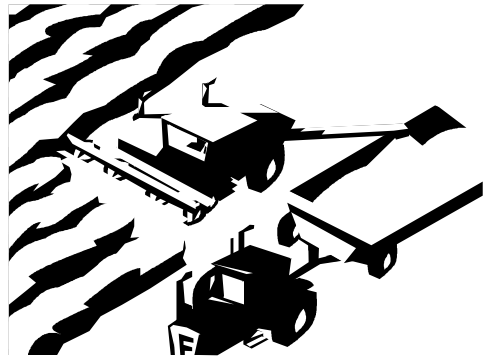
What is ENM? ENM means effective

neutralizing material. $ENM = CCE \times \text{Fineness factor} \times 800$. CCE is the calcium carbonate equivalent. The Fineness factor comes from sifting lime through screens. Lime particle size courser than 8 mesh has a liming efficiency factor of zero, 8-40 mesh has a efficiency factor of 25 %, and 60 mesh and finer has a efficiency factor of 100 %. The ENM of all lime sold in Missouri has to be shown at the quarry. The highest ENM lime found locally was Kelly Lime and Rock Company, Kirksville, MO. with 580. The ENM is not important, it's the cost per ENM. To evaluate the cost per ENM of lime divide the price per ton spread by the guaranteed ENM. Example: \$12.00/ton, ENM of 419, $12.00/419 = .0286$ or 2.86 cents/ENM.

Compare two or more lime sources and use the one that is the cheapest per ENM. Lime can be applied anytime of the year that the fields are not muddy or soft and where soil compaction would be a problem. For row crops or renovating a pasture, lime can be tilled into the soil. When tilled into the soil, lime reacts faster and raises the pH throughout the tilled depth. For established pastures, hay fields, or no-till crops, lime can be applied to the soil surface. Lime moves into the soil at about one inch or more per year. When lime is applied to the soil surface as in a pasture, its recommended not to apply more that two tons/acre per year. Lime application can be divided up into two sequences or it can be put on all at one time, whichever in the most economic. If a soil test calls for 4 tons of lime per acre on a pasture, apply 2 tons the first year and 2 tons the next year or whenever you can afford it, until the full 4 ton requirement is met. If soil needs lime its best to start applying now to improve production even if the lime is applied in 2 or 3 sequences to reach the full soil test recommendation. Check out the MU Guide 9102 "Liming Missouri Soils," and 9107 Missouri Limestone Quality; What is ENM," for more information.

AGRI-BUSINESS SPECIALIST

Darla Campbell
660-457-3469



Grain Marketing

Now is a busy time for producers as they harvest their crops. Hopefully, a lot of producers have reviewed their marketing plan and know what they are doing with their crops as they come out of the field. The volatility in prices over the last year has added some challenges to effective marketing. However, it all needs to begin with knowing your cost of production, knowing your cash flow needs, and understanding your risk tolerance. Cost of production is important so you'll know at what point you are turning a profit.

Knowing your cash flow needs and working with your banker is imperative to successfully putting your money to work for you. Many producers have operating loans that come due right after harvest or when the livestock is sold. Sometimes when you sell is driven by payment dates instead of taking advantage of marketing opportunities. This is a great reason to keep your lender in the loop with what you are doing because there are some real opportunities now to lock in some high prices, but for your lender to go along with these opportunities, they must understand what you are doing and why. If margin calls are a possibility with your marketing plan, explain to your lender that they may not be a bad thing as long as you have a marketing plan that is reasonable and that you implement instead of changing as the market prices change. Do not let greed rule your marketing or you will lose out on peace of mind and profits. Understand your risk tolerance – some people are more willing to risk the market price dropping to hold out for bigger profits, but ask yourself, “Is this a strategy I, my family, and my banker can live with for the next year?” To better understand

the mechanics of this decision making process, there are a couple of basic marketing concepts that form the foundation of any marketing plan. These two things are carry and basis.

Carry is what signals whether to sell or store the crop. You need to look at storage capacity and cost – currently a common figure for commercial storage is \$.04 a bushel a month with a minimum of three months storage required. So you need to look at the market (futures and cash) to see at what point you can cover your storage cost. You can't know what the cash price will be in the future but you can look at the Chicago Board of Trade to see what corn and beans are trading for and if you use these tools, you can lock in a price that should cover storage costs, otherwise why store for marketing purposes? Now if you feed your own crop to livestock that is a different scenario. Carry is the amount of money the market is willing to pay owner's of grain to not sell it. It is a function of space and movement supply and demand, and not overall supply and demand. The other necessary part of the equation is basis. Basis tells us the when, where and how to sell. It is the decision maker in cash sales. When basis is strong – sell cash. When basis is weak – store. When basis is strong (good) utilize cash sales, forward contracts or a basis contract. When basis is wide (weak) utilize storage, hedge to arrive, sell futures or buy a put. Often times, a combination of tools is best to help offset risk. For more details on marketing, see www.extension.missouri.edu Publications G601 - G611 or enroll in Annie's Project II – Women Marketing Grain and Livestock offered annually in the Northeast region.

**2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium
"Kicks-Off" November 30 –
Continues December 1**

The 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium will be held November 30 and December 1 in Kirksville, Missouri. The program features outstanding speakers, a sold out agriculturally related trade show, entertainment by the Bellamy Brothers, and even some free meals!

Garry Mathes is chair of the 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium's 23 member planning committee. According to Mathes, "this year's program is perhaps the best yet." Nationally known experts from 13 states will speak on timely and relevant topics targeted to horse producers, beef cattle producers, sheep and meat goat producers, forage producers, stock dog owners, and consumers in general. There will also be a section of programs featuring wildlife and conservation topics and issues.

The Missouri Livestock Symposium "kicks-off" November 30 when the doors open to the trade show at 4 p.m. A free beef meal will be provided at 6 p.m. followed by the Friday evening program

featuring keynote speaker Max Armstrong of "This Week in Agribusiness" fame.

Doors to the Missouri Livestock Symposium re-open Saturday morning, December 1 at 8 a.m. Educational talks begin at 9 a.m. and a Governor's Style lunch is provided at noon, courtesy of many of Missouri's finest commodity organizations and coordinated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

No pre-registration for the Missouri Livestock Symposium is necessary. No registration costs are charged. The only cost connected with the Missouri Livestock Symposium is for those who want to attend the Bellamy Brothers concert Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. Those tickets are \$10.00 each and sold on a first come first serve basis. Ticket details are available by calling 660-665-9866.

Complete details about the 2007 Missouri Livestock Symposium may be found at <http://missourilivestock.com> or by calling Bruce Lane (660-665-9866) or Garry Mathes (660-341-6625).

**Equal opportunity/ADA
institution**

LIVESTOCK NOTES

Chris Zumbrunnen
660-265-4541

SHOW-ME-SELECT BRED HEIFER SALE

250 Crossbred & Purebred Heifers Sell
December 1, 2007 at 1:00 PM

**Green City Livestock Market Inc.,
Green City MO.**

A.I. Sires Used:

Baldrige Nebraska 901
SS Objective
JWK Sleepy Boy

Sitz New Design 349M
In Focus
GAR Solution



Program Requirements:

- Heifers have met minimum standards for reproductive soundness, pelvic size, body condition and weight and are free of blemishes
 - Heifers have been bred to bulls meeting strict calving ease/birth weight EPD requirements.
- A strict immunization program has been followed including official Brucellosis calfhood vaccination and a negative test prior to the sale.
 - A projected due date will be furnished on every heifer
 - Many have been synchronized and will calve in a short time period.

Chris Zumbrunnen
(660) 265 - 4541

For Information contact:
Jim Humphreys
(816) 324 - 3147

Green City Livestock Market
(660) 874 - 4146

BEEF CATTLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 26, 27 and 28, 2007

**MU FORAGE SYSTEMS RESEARCH CENTER
LINNEUS MO**

CLASSES RUN FROM 5:00 TO 10:00 PM. EACH EVENING

CLASSROOM

TOPICS INCLUDE:

**ESTROUS CYCLE
SEMEN HANDLING
INSEMINATION OF THE COW
REPRODUCTIVE DISEASES**

HANDS ON PRACTICE

CONSISTS OF:

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ID OF REPRODUCTIVE TRACT
HEAT DETECTION
INSEMINATION TECHNIQUES**

SCHOOL FEE \$200.00

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED AND THE CLASS FILLS QUICKLY

**A \$50.00 NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT IS DUE WITH ENROLLMENT FORM
BY NOVEMBER 20th.**

Make checks payable to: Sullivan County Extension Council.

For Additional Information Contact Chris Zumbrunnen @ 660-265-4541

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MAIL ENROLLMENT FORM TO:

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION

COURTHOUSE, THIRD FLOOR
109 NORTH MAIN
MILAN MO 63556**

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If you need special accommodations because of a disability, or if you need materials in an alternative format, please inform me immediately. I may be contacted at: 660-265-4541.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available at your local University of Missouri Extension office or on the website at:

<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/>.

G-302 2006 Custom Rates for Farm Services-MO
G-520 Oral Farm Agreements Under MO Law
G1731 Wood Stove Maintenance & Operation
G1921 Temperature Effects on Storage of Agriculture Pesticides
G2076 Alternative Feeds for Beef Cows & Stockers
G6867 First Aid for Storm Damaged Trees

WEB SITES TO CHECK OUT:

By-Product Feed Prices:

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/index.htm>

Forage Systems Research Center Updates:

www.aes.missouri.edu/fsrc

Marketing:

<http://valueadded.missouri.edu/newsletter>

Missouri Alternative Center:

<http://agebb.missouri.edu/mac>

Statewide University Extension Calendar

<http://access.outreach.missouri.edu/uoe/calendar>

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