

October 23, 2007

UPCOMING DATES:

October 26, 2007

SEMO Bull Sale

7:00 p.m.

Farmington Livestock Auct.

November 8, 2007

Program on Wintering
Livestock When Hay is
Short, 6:00 p.m.

Meal Served

Chamber of Commerce
Poplar Bluff, MO

November 28, 2007

MDA Emergency Planning
Meeting

11:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Meal Served

Skip's Place
Piedmont, MO

December 1, 2007

Show-Me-Select Heifer
Sale

1:00 p.m.

Fruitland Livestock Auct.

FEEDING ALTERNATIVES AND CROP RESIDUE

The late frost and severe drought this year has wreaked havoc on our pasture growth and hay supplies. Many producers are looking for alternatives to grass hay such as bales of crop residue. If you are looking to purchase corn stalks, milo stubble, rice stubble, or others there are a few things you need to look for or pencil out before purchasing. The first problem you should watch for is high nitrates in the stubble. Bruce Beck, Agronomist for UM Extension, has found about 60% of crop residues, bermudagrass, and green graze had high nitrate screening tests. Nitrates can kill any animal if it is concentrated enough in the plant. Crop residue bales will contain about 3-5% protein and 45% TDN which means you will have to supplement with energy and protein to meet the animal's needs. Cattle will need 8-10 pounds of supplement and sheep or goats 2-3 pounds. Price may also become an issue with these bales. Most people are selling residue bales for \$25 per bale. If a bale weighs 1500 pounds and contains 4% protein you are only getting 60 pounds of protein not taking into consideration that the cows will waste 30% or more of the bale.

According to Marci Jennings, Equine Instructor and Extension Specialist from the University of Missouri, rice hay can be fed to horses but it will be difficult to get them to eat it. Also, rice hay has high levels of silica and oxalates which can inhibit the uptake of calcium so avoid feeding it to horses less than 3 years of age. The key is to make sure your animals are getting the nutrition they need in whatever way you feel is right for your farm. From protein blocks/tubs to hand feeding, you have several options to get nutrients to your animals. Southwest Missouri has a fairly large supply of fall-cutting hay available if you want to pay for trucking. There are a few websites that post hay for sale. The first is through the University of Missouri and Missouri Department of Agriculture at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/haylst/index.htm>. Another site is www.haybarn.com. The Farm Service Agency recently updated its hay listing website which can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov. You can also contact Eldon Cole, Livestock Specialist in Lawrence County at 417-466-3102. If you are one of the lucky producers to have extra hay you can list it for sale on these websites.

PROGRAM on WINTERING LIVESTOCK WHEN HAY SUPPLY is SHORT

How to feed livestock through the winter when hay supplies are low is the topic of a University of Missouri Extension meeting on Thursday, November 8 at 6:00 pm at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Poplar Bluff. The topic is of acute interest to producers who are short of hay due to the exceptional drought this past summer.

In order to keep livestock in shape producers must know how to properly supplement low quality corn and milo residues and rice straw. Experts will tell how to supplement properly and economically with available supplements, and alternative and by-product feeds.

Dangerous levels of nitrates have been found this fall in drought-stunted crop residues, hay and pasture. Prussic acid poisoning is always a concern when johnson-grass, sorghum-sudangrass (Green Graze) and milo re-growth are grazed. Specialists will discuss these threats and how to keep animals safe.

A meal will be provided. Local sponsors will pay a portion of the costs, including meal, facilities and other expenses. A charge of \$5 per attendee is required to cover the remainder of the expenses.

Phone the University of Missouri Extension office at (573) 686-8064 by Tuesday, November 6, to make reservations.

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USDA LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER RELIEF

The USDA has announced a sign-up for livestock and crop disaster programs that started September 10th. Eligible livestock producers may receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) or Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) in the form of payments per head of animal. All counties in Missouri are eligible for disasters occurring between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. For more information contact your local FSA office or go to their website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

The IRS has also issued a tax deferral relief for those producers that had to sell their livestock due to drought or other disasters. The income can be deferred for up to 4 years and includes all counties in Southeast Missouri. Be sure to talk to your accountant or tax preparer about the deferral.

IN A DROUGHT YEAR BEWARE NITRATE POISONING OF LIVESTOCK

With a shortage of conventional hay this year, livestock producers are buying crop residues as roughage. Corn and milo stover, and rice straw are very low in feed value. Producers must take care to properly supplement these low quality forages if animals are to survive, grow and reproduce. But also inherent in these crop residues, and in johnsongrass and sorghum-sudangrass (Green Graze), is the threat of nitrate poisoning.

When drought stunts crop growth, fertilizer nitrogen that has been taken up by the plants remains in the stems until conditions improve so that the plants can convert the nitrates to protein. The crops most likely to accumulate toxic levels of nitrate are the grass crops corn, milo, sorghum-sudangrass and johnsongrass. Some pasture and hay weeds that tend to accumulate high levels of nitrates are the pigweeds, lambsquarters, nightshades and thistles. Obviously, the higher the rate of nitrogen fertilization on the field, the more likely toxic levels of nitrates will accumulate in the crop and weeds.

Nitrates may poison livestock rapidly or over an extended period of time. Acute poisoning can occur in as little as 30 minutes or as long as four hours after ingesting forages high in nitrates. Cattle can die over night if not observed closely. Vital organs such as brain and heart rapidly starve for oxygen and the animal dies. The first symptoms are salivation, followed by frequent urination. Soon the cattle show difficulty breathing. The respiratory rate increases, and the blood and mucous membranes turn chocolate brown. The animals become weak, will not move and convulse. Pregnant cows receiving a less than fatal dose may abort their calves.

NITRATE POISONING CONTINUED.....

Low levels of nitrate can also reduce animal growth and decrease herd productivity in the longer term.

If sick animals are detected within about an hour of poisoning, methylene blue can be administered intravenously by a veterinarian to rapidly restore oxygen to the hemoglobin.

It is recommended that suspect forages be fed first to the least susceptible animals, the healthier mature animals, rather than the very young, old or pregnant individuals. **Always watch your animals very closely when introducing them to a new feedstuff. This is absolutely essential when a hay or crop residue is suspected to be high in nitrates.**

You should have your hay or stover analyzed by a lab before you begin feeding. A lab reading will give the level of nitrates in parts per million. Recommendations for feeding safely can be made accordingly.

For the lab analysis to be of value, the forage must be sampled properly. If representative samples are not taken the lab results may or may not accurately reflect the lot of hay, since individual bales, or portions of bales, may be higher or lower in nitrates. Call your county University of Missouri Extension office for instructions on sampling, for loaning a core sampler, and for a list of testing laboratories.

SHOW ME SELECT HEIFER SALE

The Spring calving Show-Me-Select heifer sale will be held Saturday, December 1st at 1 p.m. in the Fruitland Livestock Auction. There will be about 140 heifers offered. All heifers follow a strict vaccination protocol, are bred to calving ease sires, are free of blemishes and graded by USDA graders. Let me know if you need a catalog. Closer to sale date information can also be found at www.semobeef.com



CATTLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION SCHOOL

This past spring we had a successful cattle artificial insemination school in Wayne County. If you were unable to attend that school there is another school being offered in Farmington possibly late October or early November and held for 3 evenings in a row. The school will likely cost \$350 per person but you will receive some of that money back in semen credits. For more information contact Ben Davis at 573-756-4539 or e-mail him at davisbw@missouri.edu

Animal Agriculture Emergency Planning & Response Meeting for Farmers & Ranchers



(JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.) – As the state of Missouri is a leading agricultural producer and an important link in the nation’s food supply chain, the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) is taking steps to help farmers and ranchers prepare for potential agricultural emergencies, including livestock disease outbreak. MDA is pleased to announce that it will be holding Animal Agriculture Emergency Planning & Response Meetings across the state.

MDA, working with Emergency Management Agencies, MU Extension and trade groups, will be holding meetings to discuss proactive planning, roles and responsibilities and impact related to a livestock disease outbreak or other agricultural emergency.

Four meetings will be held across Eastern Missouri. These include:

Nov. 26, 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Farmington

First Baptist Church of Farmington, 210 N. A Street

Nov. 27, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Sainte Genevieve

Kountry Kookin Family Restaurant, 17033 New Bremen Rd.

Nov. 27, 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Jackson

University of MO Extension Ctr., 684 W. Jackson Trail

Nov. 28, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Piedmont

Skip’s Place Restaurant, 329 Business Hwy. HH

All livestock producers and others involved with Missouri agriculture are welcome to attend. The presentation is intended to educate producers about local and state efforts as they relate to agricultural emergency planning, including roles and responsibilities, reportable symptoms, biosecurity, and possible impacts and recovery related to agricultural emergencies.

A meal will be served at the meeting. To RSVP, call 1-800-897-1163, ext. 35, or send an email to moagproducers@ses-corp.com. RSVPs are required and due by Monday, November 19.

For more information about the program and upcoming meetings, contact Ray Wadley, MDA, 573-751-2539; Amy Luecke, MDA 573-526-2090; or Christine Splichal, at 913-209-2597 or via email at csplichal@ses-corp.com.

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For more information, contact:

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Wayne County
P.O. Box 200
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SEMO BULL SALE OCTOBER 26TH

61st All-Breed Performance -Tested Bull Sale

Friday, October 26th

Farmington Livestock Auction

7 p.m.

45 lots available:

24 Angus

5 Charolais

2 Polled Herefords

6 Simmental

8 Simmental/Angus cross

There is a good representation of both calving ease and growth bulls.

I have catalogs available and you can also find the same information at www.semobeef.com.

You can also contact Crawford Price, sale manager, at 573-996-2389.

University of Missouri, Lincoln University, Missouri Department of Agriculture, and Local Extension Councils Cooperating

Equal opportunity is and shall be provided to all participants in Extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy shall not be interpreted in such a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or military organizations associated with the armed forces of the United States of America.