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Hay Update

I noticed a lot of haying equipment being put to work throughout central and south Missouri this weekend. The wet weather was keeping many out of the field, as was the lack of tonnage for some. Forage quality is certainly going to be low for most and toxicity from ergot in fescue will be worse than usual due to the amount of precipitation this spring. While it may be tempting to wrap damp cuttings and make balage, this will worsen the ergot. If left to dry and cure as hay, the toxin from the ergot will drop come winter-feeding time. It's important to get a hay test (after it's been baled) to determine what your quality is for your winter forage. There will be a lot this year that will need to be supplemented.

If quality is so low, and you have the time and access for anhydrous ammonia, you might consider ammoniating your low quality grass hay. Test it first! Take note of the NDF (neutral detergent fiber): the higher this is, the lower intake will be. If NDF is around the 70% level, ammoniating can improve the feed value and intake amount. While this will reduce toxic effects of ergovaline, there is no solid evidence that it will mitigate the toxicity from ergots that we are worried about this year. After last year's drought, and this year's wet spring, many producers need to replenish their hay stores.

Check out the link below for hay listings near you:

<https://agmarketnews.mo.gov/hay-directory>

Equine Rotational Grazing Study

A recent study out of New Jersey was conducted on the effects of continuous or a rotational grazing system on horses and forage nutrient composition. Management intensive grazing systems are always

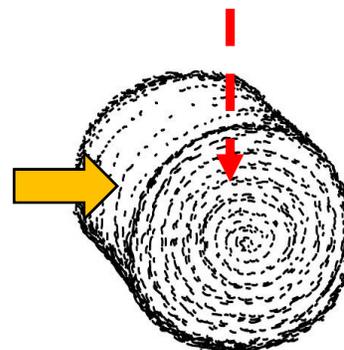
a well-revered practice in most livestock grazing capacities; however, there have not been many studies on the effects of horses. Horses are very selective grazers and will continuously graze a younger plant down, while letting more mature plants grow.

This study found that although rotational grazing was effective in increasing grass height, it had little effect on plant nutrients.

This study lasted 14 months; longer, repeated grazing could show a greater impact or difference between the two systems.

One note that was reinforced from this study was that horses with metabolic disorders (founder, glucose sensitivity, etc.) should have limited (restricted turn out time, grazing muzzle) or no grazing, regardless of grazing system.

Anecdotally, I utilize a rotational system with my horses. Unlike with cattle-which tend to graze more evenly- you cannot observe an evenly distributed 'take-half-leave-half' or 4 inches of stubble height as your signal to rotate. Since horses continue to graze the young plants, you should observe those hard-grazed spots, and as they are shortened, rotate then. Because the taller, older plants that take up most of the paddock will be deceiving. Clipping after animals are moved will sometimes still be necessary for weed suppression.



Know how and where on the bale to obtain a core sample for your hay test.

Spring SMS Heifer Sales

Heifer numbers were somewhat down this spring. Even as I talk with producers planning for next spring sales, they want to retain most of their weaned heifers. Many culled their herd hard from last year's drought, and weren't eager to build numbers quickly with the weather conditions this spring.

Prices at some of these locations seemed to be most influenced by weight and calving date.

Buyers wanted bigger heifers that calve sooner.

Note that the Farmington SMS sale will be moved to May. This will comprise of 5 spring sales (including the Vienna sale) from May-June next year. Don't forget about this year's fall sales.

Location	Sale Date	Number of Head	Average \$
Farmington	4/19/19	116	1,737
Fruitland	5/3/19	117	1,891
Joplin	5/17/19	240	1,717
Palmyra (F&T)	6/1/19	87	1,857

Events:

BQA Certification

- Thursday, July 25 at 7 pm at the Centennial Hall, Moniteau County Fairgrounds in California, MO. This is free program; contact Pettis County Extension Office at 660-827-0591 for more information.
- Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mineral Area College North College Center in Park Hills. RSVP to 573-756-4539.

Producers selling fat cattle to Tyson, National Beef, U.S. Premium Beef and Cargill must be BQA Certified.

Pasture Weed Control Workshops

- July 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Francois/Ste. Genevieve Co. Questions & Register at St. Francois County Extension 573-756-4539

- July 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Franklin Co. Questions & Register at Franklin County Extension 636-583-5141
- July 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Washington Co. Caledonia School FFA Farm Questions & Register at Washington County Extension 573-438-2671
- July 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Crawford / Dent Co. Wurdack Research Center Questions & Register at Crawford County Extension 573-775-2135

Missouri Swine Health Symposium

Tuesday, July 23rd, from 8:45 am – 4 pm. Join the Missouri Pork Association and MU Extension/Commercial Agriculture at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. This event is open to pork producers, veterinarians and industry professionals. Registration is free and includes lunch, but RSVP is required and limited to the first 200. So, go to mopork.com or call 573-445-8375.

DIY Ration Balancing Workshop

Learn the basics on beef nutrition and how/when to adjust various rations for your operations. Learn what resources are available and other helpful tools at these free workshops:

- Fatima Multipurpose Room: July 25th 143 E Main St, Westphalia, MO 65085
- Montgomery City Library: August 1st 224 N Allen St, Montgomery City, MO 63361
- Gasconade County Extension: August 6th 1106 West Hwy 28, Owensville, MO 65066

All three workshops will be held from 6 pm – 8 pm. Guest speakers include Anita Ellis-Livestock Specialist, Rusty Lee-Agronomy Specialist, and Dr. Eric Bailey-State Beef Nutritionist. Please call 573-642-0755 or email snella@missouri.edu to RSVP so that we can provide enough materials.

Have a fun and safe fair season everyone!

