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RENTAL RATE SURVEY

One of the most requested pieces of information we in Extension receive is what's the going rate for pasture rent? Both the land owner and the person interested in renting the land will possibly ask for that information. Extension, periodically conducts state wide surveys in order to have an answer to that and other rental questions. We're in the process of conducting the surveys this summer and it would be nice if you would contribute some of your information. The link to the survey is <https://bit.ly/MissouriRentalRates21> The electronic survey should take about 5 to 8 minutes to complete. They want the survey completed by August 20. Hard copies may be obtained and sent to Ben Brown, 223 Mumford Hall, Columbia, MO 65201.

FEEDLOT SCHOOL – AUGUST 4 & 5

Eric Bailey, state beef nutritionist is offering a Feedlot School at Trenton on August 4 and 5. He says the intent is to teach the ins and outs of feeding cattle in Missouri. You may find details at <https://extension.missouri.edu/events/feedlot-school>

NOW IT'S 60 DAYS

In last month's letter I mentioned that increasing the number of days post-weaning had a positive influence on the sale price of the calf. For a while the target was 14 days then 28 or 30 days and 45 is suggested now by most value-added sales.

On June 24 I attended the Joplin Regional Special and I sat down next to the USDA market reporter and he quickly pointed out that 60 days – weaned was a new optimum. I'm not sure how long it will be before the "new norm" changes but as you plan ahead, be thinking at least 45 days weaned before loading weaned calves on the trailer. A few weeks of added age sure helps reduce the morbidity and mortality of feeder calves.

RECENT FEEDOUT RESULTS

The 2020-21 Missouri Steer Feedout was small with only nine groups of steers totaling 60 head. As with many feedouts recently there were only eight steers that showed a profit. Three of the eight were from the ten-head entry of Ronnie Veith, Purdy. Overall, his steers lost the least per head at \$18.39. Average loss per steer was \$158.26.

Being at the top of the profit or least-loss per head list is not new for Veith. His groups were tops in 2020, second in 2019-20 and 2019 and fourth out of twenty-one groups in 2018-19.

Veith's entry consisted of eight Angus-sired steers and two out of a Polled Hereford bull. The dams were Angus-based with a mix of Simmental, Santa Gertrudis, Red Angus, Brangus and Hereford. The top two profitable steers showed a profit of \$177 and \$158. Their sire was an Angus and unfortunately tragedy struck him or probably a fellow herd bull caused a serious leg injury and he was euthanized. His name was JDD Top Hand 10E.

Another profitable steer was a Red Angus from Kunkel Farms, Neosho. His profit was \$26.67 and he was the top-gaining steer of the 60 at 4.26 lbs. per day. Kunkel has been a participant since 2007.

The top gaining group on 8 head came from Jack Sharkey, Taylor in northeast Missouri. He's a long-time feedout participant and his entry was four Angus-sired and four Polled Hereford-sired. Their daily gain averaged 3.45 lbs. Two of his Angus made Prime minus and two picked up a \$14 per hundred premium for making Certified Angus Beef (CAB).

An interesting side note this feedout, Schallert Bros., Purdy asked about sending ten head to the feedout from their group of stockers. Normally only steers out of a participant's cow herd are allowed. Since we had ample space on the trailer we took their ten steers, five blacks and five mixed commodity steers.

The five black, mostly Angus steers, finished second behind Veith's in profit at a negative \$86.51. Their gain averaged 3.31 lbs. and two of the five head made Prime minus and one made CAB. The other five steers were mixed colors and their ADG was only 2.72 lbs. and their feed per pound of gain was 8.41 lbs. This affected their cost of gain as they ended up with the largest loss per head in the feedout. Another factor on their loss was three of the five steers only graded Select plus.

The Missouri Steer Feedout is a cooperative venture dating back to 1981 when it started in a small feedlot near Lockwood.. Involved in the current effort are: University

of Missouri Extension, Southwest Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Department of Agriculture – Market Division, and Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity in Iowa.

The next Feedout is expected to begin the first Tuesday in November for calves born after January 1, 2021. Contact the Extension field specialist in livestock nearest you for entry information. Calves must be weaned by September 15. There's no guarantee they'll make money but you will learn about your cattle's genetics and your management.

More details on the past feedout, including pictures may be found at:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/ExtensionData/CountyPages/Lawrence/Docs/Feedout2020-21.pdf>

SPOTTED KNAPWEED UPDATE

I'm still seeing lots of spotted knapweed (SK) especially along US 60 and I-44 highways. It's been in full bloom since mid-June and I hope it stays isolated along roads and railroads. Some of you recall Extension, MoDot and the Conservation Service released two types of weevils from Montana to help biologically control the knapweed around 10 or 12 years ago.

From some of the release sites, it looks like it was successful while not so much in others. If you have property that borders knapweed patches along the highways that are seriously populated with SK, be careful about it spreading into your pastures and hay fields. If you're buying hay, keep your eyes open for hay that was cut around mid-summer when the SK had a seedhead with viable seed. SK is very invasive and is on Missouri's noxious weed list.

I WISH I'D DONE???

Not too long ago, I enclosed a survey in this letter to see if you wished to remain on the mailing list. I also had some other questions that involved your cattle business. I was intrigued with the responses I got on this question. What do you wish you'd done 5 or 10 years ago regarding your beef operation? Not everyone replied, but I've tried to group the items into a few frequently mentioned categories. Look them over and see if you might agree.

The major area of "wishes" involved forages. Here are those key items.

- Started rotational grazing – along with it created more paddocks; more electrical fencing; interseeded legumes, replaced "hot" fescue, renovated pastures, tried some warm season grasses; raised more alfalfa and orchard grass; not overstocked.

- Herd and farm management – artificial insemination; embryo transfer; bought better cows; improved genetics; raised my replacements; focused more on EPDs; bought Show-Me-Select heifers; buy better cleanup bulls; culled harder; collected more individual feedlot data; changed from commercial to registered cows; used crossbreeding more instead of straight Angus.
- Other items of a general nature – purchase more land; kept better records; calve all cows in 90 days in the fall; sold when cattle were high and bought back when cheap; filled in ponds; kept a two-year supply of hay; sold the farm and invested in the steel market; updated my corral and bought a hydraulic chute.

Well, what do you think? You might even be able to pick out your response if you replied. Unfortunately, we can not retrace our steps and go back in time but maybe between you and the next generation you can start making changes that can help. As you look over the lengthy list, forages certainly play a vital role in the well-managed beef cattle operations in Missouri.

PETS IN THE PASTURE

I mentioned earlier that Ronnie Veith had a really nice set of steers in the feedout that was completed in June. I usually try to go to Iowa near the end of the winter and get some "after" photos of the steers for use in feedout finales and promotion purposes. Well, that didn't happen this year.

Instead, I asked Ronnie if his top two steers for profits mothers were still around. They were, so I went out to get pictures of them. While I was waiting for Ronnie to locate one of the cows, I noticed a few spring-born calves coming towards me. I noticed one heifer calf, number 228 in particular, seemed very focused on me and kept coming right up to me and started licking me from foot to waist. I thought what is going on here?

Then it dawned on me, she was likely born in mid-February and spent some time in the house. Ronnie confirmed that was the case. I'll bet some of you have some 228's at your place. She also had another "cold weather" mark on her, slightly cropped ears.