Beef Profit Tips Program With Pasture Focus

February 4, 2019
1:30 p.m.
Methodist Church in Verdigre

No Charge for Meeting
($40 charge if need Private Pesticide Applicator Training)

ON THE RANCH

Beef Profit Tips Program to be Held in Nebraska

During the winter of 2019 Nebraska Extension will host 17 beef profitability workshops in Nebraska to help Beef Producers evaluate their operations to make them more profitable through the latest research information. Topics will vary depending on presenter and specific location. These workshops have been held across Nebraska for the past fifteen years. The cost is $15.00 but may vary from location depending on local sponsorship.

2019 Locations are as follows (no meal unless otherwise stated)
*along with private pesticide training sessions

***January 17 - Cody** – 10:00 a.m. MT at Adamson Community Center

January 24 - Hartington – 1:30 p.m. at Cedar County Extension Office

January 30 – Fullerton – 3:30 p.m. at Nance County Extension Office

***February 4 - Verdigre** – 1:30 p.m. at Methodist Church

February 5 – Mead – 1:00 p.m. at ENREC

***February 7 - Butte** – 1:00 p.m. at Boyd County Extension Office

***February 7 – O'Neill** – 6:30 p.m. at Holt County Extension

February 7 - Neligh – 1:30 p.m. at Antelope County Extension Office

***February 12 - Taylor** – 1:00 p.m. at Loup County Event Center

February 19 - Wilber – 1:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church Meeting Room

***February 25 – Burwell** – 6:30 p.m. at Garfield County Courthouse

February 28 – Nelson – 1:30 p.m. at Nelson Community Room

***February 28 – Springview** – 1:30 p.m. at Senior Center

***March 4 – Bartlett** – 1:00 p.m. at Wheeler County Fairgrounds

March 12 - Dakota City – 1:00 p.m. at Dakota County Extension Office

March 13 - West Point – 1:00 p.m. at Cuming County Extension Office

March 14 – Fremont – 1:00 p.m. Dodge Co. Extension Office

For more information contact Steve Niemeyer, NE Extension Beef Educator, at 308-346-4200 at the NE Extension in GLW Office, Burwell, NE.

SUPPLEMENT COWS TO IMPROVE CALF PERFORMANCE

Can you feed your pregnant cows so their steer calves gain more weight and more heifer calves get pregnant? Recent research suggests that proper supplementation pays off.

As winter forage quality declines and cow nutrient demands increase, wise operators feed protein supplements to assure healthy calves plus cows that will rebreed rapidly. But protein supplements are expensive, so we usually feed only what the cow needs to stay healthy.

New research, though, suggests that this strategy of minimizing input costs may overlook the impact supplements have on the future performance of the unborn calf.

Recent research has shown that properly supplementing the cow can increase profitability of the calf she's carrying. In one study, steers born from cows that received protein supplement while grazing winter range produced an extra 60 pounds of carcass weight per animal compared to steers from non-supplemented cows.

In other studies, the pregnancy rate of heifers calved from cows that received protein supplements while grazing corn residue or winter range was higher than heifers from non-supplemented cows. And steers from these supplemented cows graded choice more often.

This outcome, where supplementing protein to the cow improves the performance of her calves later in life is called fetal programming. It is thought to occur partly because cow nutrition affects development of fetal organs and muscles, which is highest during the last third of gestation. Since most winter feeding and grazing programs use forages that are low in protein, adequate supplementing can pay big dividends.

As your cows approach calving time, don't overfeed but also don't scrimp on the protein. Feed what is needed, both for the cow and her calf. You'll be money ahead.

Source: Bruce Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

FEEDING MOLDY HAY

Moldy hay. No matter how hard you tried, last summer you baled some hay a little too wet and now you have some mold. So how do you go about feeding this moldy hay safely?

Feeding moldy hay to livestock is a tough decision. Although all hay contains some mold, when mold becomes easily noticeable the decision becomes important.

Usually, mold makes hay less palatable, which can result in lower intake or even in animals refusing to eat the hay. Other problems from mold can occur because of mycotoxins produced by certain mold fungi. This is a big part of the decision problem since not all molds produce mycotoxins and the amount produced by those that do is unpredictable.

Direct negative effects of moldy hay are difficult to document. Horses may be more sensitive to mold than most common livestock. For instance, mold spores often contribute to respiratory and digestive problems like colic or heaves in horses. Cattle apparently are less affected by mold, but certain molds can cause mycotic abortions or aspergillosis. People, too, can be affected by mold spores. Mold can cause a condition called farmer's lung, where the fungus actually grows in lung tissue. So try to avoid breathing in many of these spores.

The best course of action often is to minimize feeding moldy hay to more sensitive animals, like horses or pregnant cows. This may require a keen eye or sensitive nose when selecting hay to feed each day. Mixing moldy hay with other feedstuffs can dilute problems sometimes, but be careful that you don't make your animals sick by tricking them into eating bad hay that they normally would refuse.

Moldy hay is a difficult problem to deal with. Common sense and good observation often are your best decision aids.

Source: Bruce Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln