

ON THE RANCH

Landlord/Tenant
Meeting
Community Center
Bloomfield, Nebraska
December 4, 2013
2:00 p.m.

To Register Call
402-288-5611

The Nebraska Women of Agriculture

Our communities revolve around the importance of agriculture and women play a vital role in this process. This is the inaugural year of this program and its goal is to provide education to local women on topics that can assist them in their business. Whether the information is related to business or family focus, overall the knowledge gain will assist in making informed decisions for the entire business and family.

This program is a four-part series meeting once a month at various communities in the area. Choose to attend one, two, three, or all four program topics. It is designed to allow you to choose what will benefit you the most for your business and family.

Each program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a provided meal. A speaker will follow from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

<p><i>Expect the Unexpected - The Value of Trends in Marketing</i> November 7 - Courthouse Annex, Center, NE</p> <p><i>Time Saving Meals</i> December 5 - Fairgrounds, Neligh, NE</p>	<p><i>A Pot of Beans</i> January 14 - Firehall, Spencer, NE</p> <p><i>Choosing the Right Beef Guy aka Bull</i> February 4 - Holt County Annex, O'Neill, NE</p>
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Registration is required one week prior to the program by calling the Holt County Extension Office at 402-336-2760. Cost is \$20 per program or register for all four programs for \$60.



Grazing Corn Stalk Residue

Having cows graze to meet their nutrient needs is less expensive than having to deliver harvested forages to them. Crop residues can be an inexpensive option.

When grazing residue, cattle will select and eat the grain first, followed by the husk and leaf and finally the cob and stalk. Unless the corn field has experienced high winds causing a lot of corn to be left in the field, there is usually less than a bushel of ear drop per acre. If cows have husk and leaf to select, they will consume a diet that is 52 to 55 percent TDN and about 5% to 5.5% crude protein.

In the Midwest, weather records indicate the range in number of continuous grazing days for crop residue is 65-111 days. Weather is the major factor that determines the number of grazing days. Beef cows can successfully graze corn residue fields that have 4 to 6 inches of snow cover. Cows will not be able to graze stalk fields that are covered with ice.

Stocking rate influences the amount of grain, husk, and leaf available per animal. The amount of grain, leaf, and husk available affect diet quality because they are highly digestible. Residue (leaf and husk) yield left in the field is related to corn grain yield. There will be about 16 lb dry leaf and husk per bushel of corn yield.

We recommend designing a grazing strategy to remove only 50% of the leaf and husk. Instead of remembering this equation, there is a nice spreadsheet, Corn Stalk Grazing Calculator, that is available that will help you determine the number of acres at a specific corn grain yield needed for a certain number of cows. To run this spreadsheet, you will need Excel. Contact your local Extension Office for access to this calculator or visit <http://beef.unl.edu/web/beef/learning/cornstalkgrazingcalc.shtml>.

Ordinarily, dry cows will maintain body weight, and may gain weight, on corn and grain sorghum residue grazing programs when grain, husks, and leaves are available. Do not force cattle to eat the cobs and stalks.

UNL research data would suggest that March calving cows that were protein supplemented and those that were not protein supplemented grazing similar corn residue fields were similar in reproductive performance. Cows in both groups had a BCS greater than 5.0 prior to calving (2009 Nebraska Beef Cattle Report: Effect of Winter Grazing System and Supplementation on Beef Cow and Progeny Performance).

Cows were grazed from mid-November to about mid-February each year and stocking rate was determined using the grazing calculator mentioned above. Cows were about a BCS of 5 when they began the corn residue grazing period. Salt, mineral, and Vitamin A supplements are recommended for all cattle grazing crop residues.

Source: beef.unl.edu

Prepare Horses for Winter

As winter approaches, horses need a different kind of care to stay in good condition while they fight the cold weather.

Much of horse care depends on where they are kept during the winter, says University of Nebraska–Lincoln horse specialist Kathy Anderson. If horses spend winter in a pasture, their shoes should be removed. Often, ice and snow can build up and cause the horses to trip. If horses are wintered indoors, their hooves should at least be trimmed and reset.

Nutrition requirements also change in winter. It's important to maintain a condition score of 6–7. A horse in this condition has enough fat across its flank, neck, ribs and down its topline that it would be necessary to push a little to feel the bones.

The nutritional value of winter pasture grass also is slim so horses should be fed some type of hay such as round bales, square bales, grass hay or alfalfa, as well as salt and mineral. Stalled horses' nutritional requirements don't change much from summer, but be sure they have enough hay to generate body heat and maintain their weight. Horses should always have an open, unfrozen water source.

If horses are kept outside, their coats should be allowed to grow. This isn't as critical for horses kept inside, but unless they are in a heated barn clipped horses should be covered in blankets to keep them from getting sick.

As the number of daylight hours decreases, horses' coats grow thicker because amounts of light affect hair growth. If the horses are on a lighting program, take them off far enough in advance so their coats can grow thicker. People who continue to show their horses in winter should keep horses inside and on a 16 hour per day lighting program from 6 a.m.–10 p.m.

Horses wintered outside need a shelter to block the wind. A shelter could be as simple as a thick shelterbelt or a three-sided shed with an opening that points away from primary winds.

Also, continue to deworm horses every 60 days and vaccinate them for rabies if there is a rabies problem in the area.