

ON THE RANCH

Swine Nutrition Guide

This 44 page guide produced from Nebraska and South Dakota Extension and the Department of Agriculture focuses on nutrient recommendations for swine.

Visit <http://animalscience.unl.edu/Extension/Swine/swinenutrition.pdf> or contact your local extension office.

The Critical Leg of the Journey from Replacement Heifer to Mature Cow

Karla H. Jenkins, UNL Cow/Calf, Range Management Specialist

As spring approaches, so does calving for most beef cattle producers. Spring also begins the most critical part of the journey for the replacement heifer becoming a cow. A spring calving replacement heifer with a target mature weight of 1200 pounds is likely weighing about 950 pounds entering the last trimester of pregnancy and would need to gain about 2.0 pounds per day prior to calving even if she was in a moderate body condition. Producers need to remember, that in the last trimester, at least half of that weight gain will be related to fetal growth and not actually contribute to the growth of the heifer herself. Feeding an ad libitum amount of hay containing 52% TDN and 8% CP along with 3.4 pounds of distillers grains would meet the crude protein needs of this heifer and her rumen undegradable protein needs. However, this diet is still slightly short on the energy this heifer needs. This could be very concerning if the heifer is thinner than desired and weather conditions are particularly harsh. Blending in some higher quality hay or adding other energy feeds could improve the energy balance for this heifer.

Once the heifer calves and lactation starts both her protein and energy needs will increase substantially. The very early spring calving heifer (February or March) is not likely going to have access to any green grass for a couple of months in most of Nebraska and the upper Midwest. If this now lactating heifer were fed the previously mentioned hay and 3.4 pounds of distillers grains she would be well below the energy she requires. This is a critical situation for this cow. This is even more concerning if turn out to green grass is delayed and/or the new mother is thinner than desired.

Sometimes during calving producers will have some green grass starting to become available to the cows. Assuming this now lactating heifer can find enough green grass to make up half of her diet and the producer feeds the hay containing 52% TDN and 8% CP to make up the difference, this heifer is still slightly short on her energy needs. Supplying 2.2 pounds of distillers grains would help ensure this heifer's needs were met. Additionally, supplying more nutrient dense supplemental forage would be sufficient. If enough green grass were available that she could consume green growing grass ad libitum she could meet her needs with grass alone.



Once the heifer calves and lactation starts both her protein and energy needs will increase substantially. Photo courtesy of Taryn Groves, Groves Ranch, Ashby, NE.

Shortly after peak lactation, when nutrient needs are the highest, this heifer is asked to rebreed. Therefore, making sure her nutrient needs are being met just prior to calving through breeding is critical for her to remain in the herd. Checking feed resources for nutrient content prior to late gestation will help producers determine what needs to be fed to ensure the nutrient needs of these heifers are met. Assessing body condition score frequently will also allow producers to make necessary changes to the ration in a timely manner. For more information on the nutrient needs of beef cows see NebGuide 2268 Supplementation Needs for Gestating and Lactating Beef Cows and Comparing the Prices of Supplement <http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2268.pdf>.

Beef Profitability Workshop

Monday, March 13, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Nebraska Extension-Cedar County Office

Cedar County Courthouse Annex Basement Meeting Room in Hartington

Join Denny Bauer, Michael Rethwisch and Jim Jansen as they discuss practical approaches for issues currently facing Nebraska beef producers and help you evaluate your operations to make them more profitable through the latest research information. Topics to be discussed include: Is Your Grass Production Keeping Up With Your Taxes?, Reseeding Perennial Grasses for Grazing, and Annual Forage Insurance for Haying & Grazing.

Please call to pre-register before noon on March 10th. For more information and registration please call the Cedar County Extension office at 402-254-6821.

SPRING TOUR

NEBRASKA SHEEP & GOAT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com / Po Box 43 Guide Rock, NE 68942 / www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org/

APRIL 1ST, 2017

10 AM - 4 PM

NEAR RAVENNA, NE

Mark your calendars for a day of **HANDS ON** instruction and fun!

- Learn the ins and outs of Brooks Duester's operation as we tour his 1,000 ewes lambing and 5,000 head feedlot.
- Cody Chambliss will teach you how to gain \$.20 per pound on your wool clip through a few simple procedures before, during and after shearing.
- Kiley Hammond & Neal Amsberry will walk you through how to properly feed your market lambs and goats.
- Enjoy demos on lambing/kidding care and management, proper foot care, vaccination protocols and much more.

Storm date: April 8th, 2017



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Pre-register: \$10 members/\$20 nonmembers/\$5 Youth

Register at the door day of event for \$20

Register online:



www.nebraskasheepandgoat.org/2017-spring-tour

or call: Kiley (308) 390-3001 or Liz (402) 984-0581



Follow QR Code for registration details.



ANIMAL DISEASE RESPONSE TRAINING

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, will be hosting an Animal Disease Response training (ADRT) in your area.

This **free** one-day (8 hour) course is designed for agriculture emergency responders in rural communities.

The course will focus on the best practices and safety issues associated with an agriculture emergency, including: quarantines, biosecurity, euthanasia, disposal, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and cleaning and disinfection. The course will help increase knowledge of coordination efforts needed for responding to an agricultural emergency across jurisdictions, lines of authority and disciplines by examining the integration of response efforts.

With natural turnover of emergency response personnel, training needs to be a continuous process. Animal disease response begins at the local level but may quickly escalate to the state and even federal levels. Local responders should have an understanding of why response actions are important and be able to clearly and effectively communicate with state and federal officials.

Designed for responder groups like:

- Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Veterinarians
- Agriculture Emergency Responders
- Fire Fighters
- Law Enforcement
- Public Health
- Public Works
- Environmental Agencies
- Elected Officials
- Producers
- Industry

Course Locations:

- February 28** Ogallala
Mid Plains Community College
- March 1** McCook
McCook Public Safety Building
- March 2** Grand Island
Grand Island City Hall
- March 21** Wayne
Wayne Fire Department
- March 22** Columbus
East Central District Health Department
- March 23** Tecumseh
Tecumseh Fire Department

Each course runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Questions? Contact Chelsea Kramer at 402-471-6806 or chelsea.kramer@nebraska.gov