

THE AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

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BEEF CATTLE BROWSING –VOL. 22, NO.2

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JANUARY 1 CATTLE NUMBERS

The National Agricultural Statistical Service of USDA has reported national cattle numbers as of January 1, 2017. Total cattle, at 93.6 million head, were up 2% from one year ago. There were 40.6 million cows and heifers that have calved, up 3%. There were 6.4 million beef replacement females, up 1%. (Replacements were 16% of calved cows and heifers, about the long-term replacement rate in beef herds.) Milk cows were at 9.4 million, up slightly. Calves below 500 lb were up 2%. These increases in calves and number of females that will produce calves projects to a larger beef supply over the next few years. As experts currently predict, this larger beef supply will probably place pressure on calf prices.

(USDA-NASS, released 1/31/17)

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Improving Agricultural Production in East Texas



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“Shootin’ The Bull” Commodity Market Comments

by Christopher B. Swift

April 11, 2017

Live Cattle:

A higher box trade, in the like's I've seldom seen, jackknifed the cattle market from a weaker stance this morning to sharply higher on the day. Proof continues to rear its head that while dealing with elevated supply, the demand is such that it continues to be absorbed. Traders are getting serious about the basis now as it appears to be closing more rapidly with futures moving higher than cash lower. There remains quite a bit of basis to be aggregated, but I would dare to say the cat has been let out of the bag concerning this. The role discounted futures played is changing. No longer do producers need encouragement to stay current. The lower carcass weights and timely marketing's is a testament to what yards can do when they want to. No different than them being able to raise Godzilla sized carcasses when that time frame was upon us as well. This ability to determine a carcass size in such a wide range will be a crucial going forward as to regulating beef production. With the packers having narrowed down kill capacity, so to will the production side of the industry have to narrow down inventory numbers to more closely match kill capacity. With so much range in weights now, this may become easier. Having read an article this morning about farm income, and the likelihood of it continuing to stagnate or decline, does not lead me to anticipate a rush for the cow/calf producer to want to expand again. At least not to the same extent. While many this year will be dealing with the middle to tail end of the large expansion, cow/calf operators may still have two more calves to go to breakeven on the heifer, bred heifer, cow with calf, or cow they bought during the price peak. So, the sting of the price decline may not be being relieved at the current higher levels for the cow/calf producer. I know many are anxious to want to lock in the recent price gains. With the basis still needing some shrinkage, I recommend being overly cautious about doing so.



CONTROLLING HORN FLIES

Dr. Jason Cleere, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service beef cattle specialist, College Station told producers at the Independent Cattlemen's Association meeting in Bastrop examples of external parasites are bloodsucking flies, which include the horn fly, stable fly, horse fly and deer fly.



Horn flies are a common problem battled by cow-calf producers, Cleere said. Negative effects are decreased weight gain and the consistent irritation caused by flies lying and feeding on the backs of cattle.

"Sometimes you will see cattle just run across the pasture. They are using up energy," he said. "Ultimately, it leads to reduced profitability."

For ranchers, first they must identify the external parasite.

"How big of an external parasite problem do you have?" he asked. "Does it have economic implications? What method or methods can I use to control them?"

Activity varies among the different flies. Cleere said while the horn flies rest on the back of the cows, stable flies remain on the cow only while feeding and feed

mainly on the legs.

"The horn fly is our most damaging because they do suck blood and reduce the performance of the cow," Cleere said. "Adult flies live for about three weeks and feed up to 30 times a day."

They lay eggs profusely, especially around manure piles. Within nine to 12 days reproduction can occur, he said.

"When we see a big flush of flies come in, there is usually moderate temperatures and recent moisture," he said.

Peak populations for horn fly are late spring and early fall. He said the economic treatment level is approximately 250 flies per animal. Treatments include pour-on, sprays, ear tags, feed additives, dusts and rubs.

Cleere said when it comes to fly control, there are biological controls such as parasitic wasps. Cultural remedies can include removing fresh manure from barns and stalls and preventing buildup of wet, decomposing vegetation such as hay.

"Keep your barns clean and manure away," he said. "That's going to be your biggest ally in controlling flies in those areas. Keep things clean and sanitary."

Biological control includes parasitic wasps, which are fly predators, and are effective but not viable on a large commercial cattle production scale since there are large numbers of animals in a herd. Chemical horn fly control includes ear tags, pour-ons, sprays, feed additives, boluses, dust bags, rubs and gel caps.

Pyrethroids, organophosphates, organochlorine and abamectin are some topical products. Oral products are IGR (insect growth regulator) and organophosphates.

"Producers deworming using a pour-on are getting a knock down in fly populations for about 30 days," Cleere said.

The challenge with rubs is getting the cattle to use them, Cleere said.

"If you have some areas where cattle are traveling back and forth, it's certainly a valid option."

Ear tags require putting the cattle in a chute. They provide about 90 to 150 days of control and fly season typically lasts longer. The challenge with pour-ons is labor of working and applying the pour-ons and a time-frame of 20 to 30 days, Cleere said.

Feed additives in mineral supplements costs about \$4.50 to \$8 per head a year if the cow is eating a bag of mineral a year, he said.

Piney Woods Cow Congress

Angelina – Nacogdoches – Panola -San Augustine -Sabine -Shelby

Pineywoods Cow Congress Looking at Clovers, Hog trapping, and More

Cattlemen from across the region will have a field day to look at boosting profitability on their livestock operations on Friday, April 28.

Held at the Woods Ranch on Rifle Road in Pollok, Texas, the program is set to cover a variety of topics and provide 3 CEU's to individuals with pesticide licenses.

The first topic on the agenda is feral hog (or wild-pig) control. Topics were centered around the tried and true methods of pre-baiting and trapping will be discussed and demonstrated. Feral hogs are an annual, real threat to hay meadows, pastures, and crops.

Dr. Aaron Sumrall, County Extension Agent from Newton County will be leading the discussion and will also demonstrate how to make and use snares for hog control.

Sprayer calibration is the next topic. Darren Rozell of Rozell Ag Sprayers will be talking about how to calibrate sprayers and will demonstrate global positioning satellite technology to ensure good coverage on pastures.

Next will be a discussion on the various flies and ticks that can affect livestock. From the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Station at Overton, Dr. Jason Banta will be on hand to talk about these annual pests and some new developments that have been in the news regarding ticks.

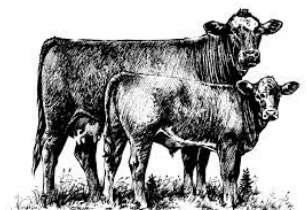
Lastly, we will tour a demonstration site where the host, Harold Wood, planted four types of clover. We'll look at the plots of Arrowleaf clover, Ball clover, Crimson clover, and White clover. Clovers can be used to build the soil and provide short term, excellent forage for cattle. Also from the Research Station in Overton, Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson will cover that material.

Participants need to pre-register by calling the Texas AgriLife Extension Office in Angelina County at 936.634.6411 x 0 by Wed, April 26 to get the early registration price of \$20. After that day (or at the gate) is \$30.

Registration for the field day starts at 8 am with the program starting at 8:30 am.

to get to the field day, take Rifle Road off Hwy 7 in Pollok south 0.9 miles and look for signs on the left. From Hwy 69 near the Pollok volunteer fire department, take Rifle Road north for 2.7 miles and look for signs on the right side of the road.

Participants need to bring their own lawn chair.



Breakfast Agriculture discussions CEUs

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

July 20th

1 CEU given each morning

Location: Kinfolks Restaurant on the West loop

Cost: \$20 - for 1 session or for all 4 session

Time: 6:30 A. M.

CEU Credits: 1- L& R
1- IPM
1- Gen
1- Gen



Piney Woods Cow Congress

Angelina – Nacogdoches – Panola -San Augustine -Sabine -Shelby

- **Feral Hog Abatements**
- **Prescribed Burning**
- **Livestock Entomology**
- **Clover Talk and Tour**

3 CEU's

East Texas Piney Woods Cow Congress

Friday, April 28, 2017

8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Harold Woods Farm

Lufkin TX

Cost \$20.00.... **To RSVP: Call 936-634-6414**
(\$30.00 at the gate)

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Private Applicator License Training
Complete instructions and training for receiving a
TDA Private Applicator License

May 19, 2017

Nacogdoches County Annex building

Cost : \$50.00 includes all study material

Registration : 8:00 a. m. Conclude 12:00 p.m.

RSVP 936-560-7711

No test will be giving on this date



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AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Richy Thompson

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