

HOT SPRING COUNTY AGRICULTURE

HSC Extension Office

Winter 2016-2017

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Tips for Winter Beef Management

Winter is a good opportunity to catch up on equipment maintenance including lubrication and fluid change of tractors, packing wheel bearings on trailering equipment and checking tires on trailers, field equipment, etc., and replacing floors in stock trailers.

During December, some days are better spent indoors than outdoors. Now is a time to summarize herd records for the year and compare to previous year to determine the production direction of the herd.

Valuable summaries include changes in 205-day adjusted weaning weights, monthly calving distributions, culling percentages, calf crop percentages, cow age and body condition and calving internal changes.

December is a good month to summarize your financial records. Determine your cost for mineral, supplemental feed, vet medicine, fertilizer, hay, weed control, etc. Knowing your cost to maintain a cow per year is very important and will aid in marketing decisions. This is also a great time to plan next year's budget and production plans. Make sure you are keeping proper free choice mineral

and fresh water is just as important in the winter time as in the summer time.

Do not use frost-damaged Johnsongrass as pasture for seven days after the first killing frost. Delay pasturing for least seven days or until the frosted material is completely dried out and brown in color. The Johnsongrass may contain prussic acid which can cause sudden death in cattle.

This is also the time of the year to deworm cattle to prevent weight loss and inefficient use of hay and feed supplements going into the winter. For most locations in Arkansas the weather this past summer and fall were ideal for parasites and therefore cattle are probably carrying higher numbers than normal. Monitor cattle closely for signs of respiratory disease.

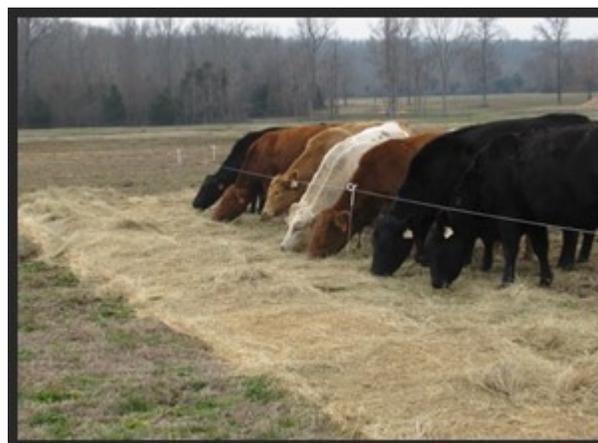
The large variations in temperatures can contribute to decreases in respiratory immune function which may lead to pneumonia.

Exclude cattle from access to oak trees whenever possible. Acorns are falling and are toxic to cattle causing kidney damage and death.

Protect hay when feeding to reduce waste. Feed hay in rinds to reduce hay waste.

Unrolling hay increases hay waste unless it is done on a limit-feeding basis.

Also, possible consider using a temporary electric wire fence wire to reduce waste from trampling and increases utilization of the hay. Unroll the bale, then string up an electrified polywire down the length of the line of hay. Place the wire about 30 inches high over the hay. Cattle will line up as if eating at a feed bunk.



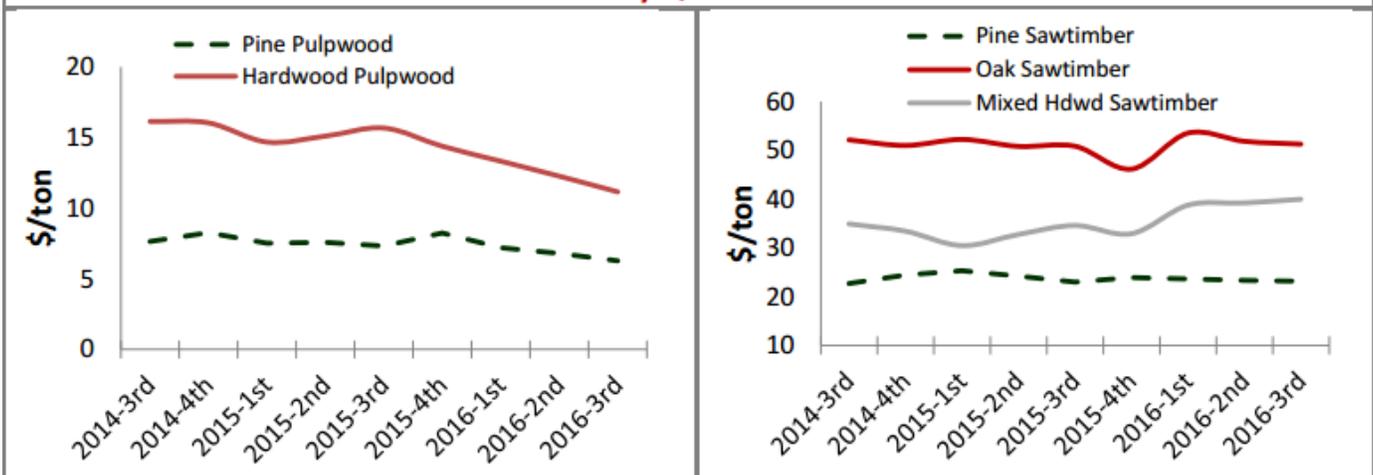
Arkansas Timber Price Report- Arkansas Forest Resources Center

The Arkansas Timber Price Report is a quarterly report of timber stumpage prices in Arkansas. Survey data for this report are provided by [Timber Mart-South](#). The price summary is provided to illustrate current, statewide market trends in timber product values for standing timber. These values may not reflect the stumpage values for a particular tract of timber. Timber prices may vary greatly depending on many factors including: location in the state, species, products, access, distance to mills, and site conditions. To obtain a report visit www.uaex.edu and go to the Environment and Nature tab, or www.afrc.uamont.edu. You can also contact your local county Extension agent. If you have questions about the report, please contact: Dr. Kyle Cunningham at 501-671-2145 or kcunningham@uaex.edu.

3rd Quarter 2016 Stumpage Prices (\$/ton, statewide average)

Product	Price	Change
Pine Sawtimber	\$ 23.00	0 %
Oak Sawtimber	\$ 51.00	-2 %
Mixed Hardwood Sawtimber	\$ 40.00	+3 %
Pine Chip-n-Saw	\$ 15.00	-1 %
Pine Pulpwood	\$ 6.00	-14 %
Hardwood Pulpwood	\$ 11.00	-8 %

Time Series by Quarter Since 2014



Trends: Overall, stumpage prices remained stable for all products in the third quarter of 2016. Pine pulpwood demand remains low, with stumpage prices ranging from 4 to 8 dollars per ton based on distance to a mill. Hardwood pulp continued its downward trend. The market for hardwood sawlogs remained strong and was again reflected in the stumpage prices. Housing starts continued to increase (up 9% in the South versus same period one year ago), which is good news for the pine sawtimber market. Dry weather in late summer and early fall could allow mills to increase supply heading into the winter season.

Poultry Seminar with Dr. Dustan Clark

January 12th at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Dustan Clark, will be at the Hot Spring County 4-H Center to discuss Backyard Poultry Management and Biosecurity.

Small poultry flocks are becoming increasingly popular across the state of Arkansas. As the number of these chickens and other birds increase,

safety and disease prevention is becoming more and more important.

This seminar will discuss common poultry disease, disease recognition, disease prevention, and poultry husbandry. He will also be staying for a question and answer session following the

seminar.

This will be an excellent opportunity for all those interested in poultry production.

Dr. Clark is the Extension Veterinarian & Associate Poultry Center Director at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Commercial Horticulture Integrated Pest Management Programs

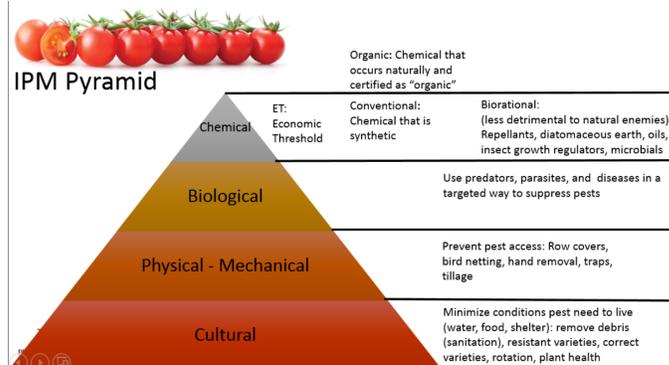
This year several of our commercial horticulture producers were hit hard by diseases such as Late Blight. As you plan for next year it is critical to stay ahead of these kind of diseases through an integrated pest management plan.

One of the first and most influential steps is deciding what to plant. There are several varieties of fruits and vegetables that are bred to be disease resistant. For example several varieties of tomatoes are

resistant to late blight and simply choosing one of those varieties could have saved the crop for several local producers. For a list of disease resistant varieties of a specific crop, see Rachel at the Extension Office.

The following pyramid breaks down several options for IPM Management.

Horticulture IPM Specialist- Dr. Jackie Lee will be at the Malvern 4-H Center to discuss personalized IPM Management Programs. This will include how to design a program, spray schedules, disease and pest



Four States Cattle Conference- December 13th

Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana have joined forces once again to offer the Four State Cattle Conference at Texarkana.

This event will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at the University Center Building at Texas A&M Texarkana. The physical address is 7101 University Avenue, Texarkana, Texas.

The program will start with registration and a Tradeshow from 8 to 8:30 am. T

he first speaker will start at 8:40. Topics for the day are Cattle Market Outlook - Dr. Darrel Peel - Livestock Economist for OSU; Winter Cow Nutrition - Dr. Paul Beck - Livestock Nutritionist for UofA; Mineral

Supplementation - Dr. Dave Lalman - Livestock Nutritionist for OSU;

Lunch and Trade Show from 11:40 to 12:50;

A Producer's Prospective - conducted by a Producer Panel; and wrapup from 1:50 to 2:00.

Onsite Registration Cost per person is \$50. A couple can attend for \$10. FFA and 4-H students are \$35.

Registration forms are available at the County Extension Office. If you would like to have one mailed to you, please call ASAP and well will stick on in the mail.



TOPICS INCLUDE
Success From a Producer's Perspective
Mineral Supplementation
Cattle Market Outlook
Winter Cow Nutrition
Tradeshow & more!

The 2016 Four States Cattle Conference is brought to you by:

For more information contact:
 Amy Simpson • asimpson@uaex.edu • 870.246.2281

Veterinary Feed Directive– What it Means to You

New rules regarding antibiotic use in livestock will be implemented on January 1, of 2017. <https://vimeo.com/158074641> is a video recorded this spring by U of A Extension Veterinarian Dr. Heidi Ward.

Here is a summary of what this directive means to you as cow/calf operators or steer/heifer backgrounders:

VFD is a federal regulation. It changes the additives that can be included in animal feeds, the ways in which cattle producers manage their animals and veterinarians interact with cattle owners, and the products available for use on the ranch. VFD controls the use of animal drugs. VFD was originally created in 1996. It then identified over the counter (OTC) and prescription drugs. However, at that time, prescriptions were determined to be impractical for production purposes. That led to all medicated feeds being classified as OTC. New amendments were added in January of 2016 that have to be implemented by January of 2017.

The amendments make three significant changes to the original VFD rule:

They require drug manufactures to alter labels for certain drug products, remove the statements regarding production issues (for example: they can't refer to "increased rate of gain"), and only state therapeutic uses for health issues.

They change the designation of certain additives from OTC to "medically important", which categorizes them as VFD drugs and increases regulatory requirements of the additives.

A veterinarian must fill out a VFD form before any VFD drug or feed containing a VFD drug is provided to a producer.

VFD was developed to address the potential for antibiotic resistance in human and animal pathogens that could be related to increased chronic exposure to or indiscreet use of antibiotics in animals. The intent is to regulate the use and preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics.

VFD will affect all animals, particularly food animals. It will affect the entire beef production chain and its associated industries. Cow-calf, stocker cattle, and feedlot producers will be affected if or when they want to purchase a medicated feed or supplement with a VFD additive. Feed manufacturers and retailers will be affected by increased amounts of required oversight and regulatory paperwork. Additionally, feed distributors will be required to verify that an animal owner possesses a valid VFD form from a licensed veterinarian prior to the sale of a feed or supplement.

So, what now? First, as a livestock producer, you must have a valid veterinarian-client-patient (VCP) relationship with a veterinarian. Your vet must have worked with you to ascertain the animal's health status, make clinical judgements about the animal's health status, and provide follow-up care.

Second, the vet must complete a VFD form with a list of pertinent information including the specific drug that will be administered. The list must include but is not limited to: contact information for you and vet; premise ID of farm; expiration date of VFD order; name of the drug; indications of use; directions for use; and the kind and number of animals being treated.

Once a valid VFD form has been obtained from the veterinarian, it can be taken to a feed or supplement supplier and used to acquire the feed product for use. Use must be in accordance with the directions detailed in the VFD.

Finally, the last regulation is that copies of all VFD forms must be retained for two years by the producer, veterinarian, and feed supplier.

What products are included or excluded under VFD? All feed-use antibiotics that the FDA, WHO, and CDC consider medically important to humans fall under the VFD regulation. There is currently only one VFD antibiotic that is labeled and approved for use in cattle, tilmicosin (Pulmotil) that is used to control bovine respiratory disease (BRD). Injectable antibiotics used only for the treatment and control are not subject to VFD because they are not included in feed. There are several medically important antibiotics used in the cattle industry that will require additional labeling or relabeling to be compliant with the VFD regulations. They include: chlortetracycline and chlortetracycline + sulfamethazine; neomycin + oxytetracycline; oxytetracycline; streptomycin; sulfadimethoxine; tylosin; virginianmycin.

Feed additives such as anti-foaming agents, ionophores, parasite-or insect-control agents, and steroid hormones will not require a VFD – only antibiotics. Most of you will be most familiar with feeding chlortetracycline to prevent anaplasmosis in the summer. This will now fall under the VFD.

Failing to comply with the VFD regulation is punishable by law. Penalties could include imprisonment, monetary penalty, injunctive relief, and/or seizure of property. A first offense could result in one year of imprisonment and a \$1000 fine. Repeat offenders could face 3 years and a \$10,000 fine. Veterinarians in violation of VFD regulations could be found liable and face penalties from the state veterinary board. Any animals found to be consuming a VFD feed in the absence of a valid VFD form would be considered adulterated and most likely unmarketable.

The information printed here regarding the VFD regulations was taken from a fact sheet published by the University of Florida Extension Service. It was published in July of 2016. It is AN327 by IFAS Extension.

What to Do During Low Calf Prices

Profits in beef cow/calf herds are quite management dependent. For the most part, managers that make the right decisions make money and other lose money, except in unusual price years.

So, what are the right decisions? There are really four things that affect profitability in beef cow/calf herds.

- Percentage of calf crop weaned or marketed
- Weight of calves at weaning or sale time
- Price received for calves
- Cost of production

Percentage calf crop weaned is defined as the number of calves weaned divided by the number of cows exposed to the bull at breeding season then multiplied by 100 to get the percentage. For example, if you have 50 cows running with your two bulls and 45 of them birth and raise a calf to weaning, you divide 45 by 50 and get .9. Multiply .9 by 100 and get a percent calf crop weaned of 90%.

Failure of cows to become pregnant is by far the largest factor in % calf crop. Calf death at birth is another big contributor.

If we look at the reasons cows don't become pregnant, it falls into some obvious management issues: poor body condition scores because of poor nutrition; heifers that are not developed properly and fail to rebred after their first calf; poor genetics - both in growth and development and in excessive birth weights that cause calving problems and death loss; and not enough bull power or bulls that were not fertility tested.

Weight of calf crop at weaning is also influenced largely by management decisions. Selecting good genetics that takes advantage of hybrid vigor is a great start at increasing weaning weight. Crossbreeding is always beneficial to a commercial cow/calf producer in this regard. Keeping records of cow age, calving date and calf number helps make decisions about production. Having a defined, short calving season of 60 to 90 days will allow the herd to be compared more fairly and prevent "free loaders" from extending calving interval beyond 365 days. It is a well-known fact that the calves born in the beginning of the calving season are larger when they go to the sale barn. This should also be the heifers considered for retention in the herd. Once again, nutrition in the herd plays a big factor in weaning weights as well. Cows that are being fed adequately for their

production phase are able to provide milk, rebred, and calve again on a much tighter schedule. Taking advantage of management practices such as growth implants and in some cases, creep feeding also increases weaning weights. Using vaccinations and parasite control on the cowherd in a timely and consistent manner also increases the growth potential in calves.

When we start looking at the price per pound we get at sale, there are several things we need to consider. While we can't determine the exact price at the sale barn, we can take advantage of all the known price "bonuses" offered by most seasoned cattle buyers. Large and medium framed, average conditioned, crossbred calves sell better than small framed fat or very thin calves. Straight bred calves usually sell a little cheaper than crosses and some markets prefer certain breed types over others. Castrated bull calves sell anywhere from \$5 to \$15 a head more than bull calves. Horned calves often sell a couple of dollars a head cheaper than polled or dehorned (and healed) calves. Not always, but often, proven pre-vaccination programs bring a few more dollars a head, especially when supplies are plentiful in the market. Weaned and feed trough trained (bunk broke) calves usually sell for a few more dollars a head as well. Auction barns that sell calves in groups instead of individually can also be an advantage to a seller. Building a good reputation as good manager that produces a good, healthy, dependable calf can also be an asset when it comes to selling calves. Buyers don't like to buy a set of calves that end up stressed and sick and cost them to get them healthy and eating feed. Any one of these practices may only bring in a few extra cents per pound but if several of these are implemented consistently, the payoff can be 50 to 60 dollars per calf.

Cost of production is where we have the most options to tweak our business. The list is long on options but just like the options of increasing the price per pound by using "bonuses", the more you can implement the more money stays in the black.

Here is a good list to look at that will allow you to cut costs, shift inputs, and hopefully with time and effort be able to lower your cost of production:

Soil test! It is free and it will allow you to develop a plan to get desirable forages in place to lower your cost of supplemental feed. If you

are a cattle rancher, you MUST be a grass producer first!

Sell the free loader cows! If a cow misses a calf for ANY reason, she will probably NEVER get back into the black on production cost. Just sell her.

Fertility test your bulls. I hear stories all the time of folks who missed a whole calf crop due to a low or no fertility bull. Also use a rule of thumb of one bull per 25 head of cows.

Define a short and manageable calving season. There are SOOOOO many good reasons to do this. It can be a fall season of 60 days or so and a second season in the spring of 60 days or so. If you do two seasons, try to use two herds so they can be fed to meet their production stage all during the year. There is not enough room in this newsletter to list all reasons you should have a short, defined calving season. Call me and we can visit!

Buy or produce the best hay you can possibly find or buy. Test it. Don't assume it is what you think it is. If it was not fertilized, isn't an improved forage, wasn't cut at the right stage of production, it is probably not a quality feed. I hear all the time, "it's better than a snowball". Not necessarily true. At least with a snowball they are getting moisture. With poor quality, high fiber hay, a cow can't eat enough of it to begin to meet production needs. High fiber means it stays in her digestive tract an extended period of time and prevents intake of needed nutrients you may be trying to feed them in supplements. Test. It costs a max of \$18 a sample. Lots of times we run special deals to encourage testing.

Take advantage of opportunities to learn about new advancements in the livestock industry. The U of A Division of Ag Research and Extension takes new technologies and techniques and researches its practicality and effectiveness and then passes it on to Arkansas citizens through various educational formats. From newsletters, video, field days, workshops, field days, seminars, or even one-to-one farm visits with us county agents, we have lots of information if you will just take advantage of the opportunities we try to provide.

Feed a good mineral. Make sure you understand mineral labeling and how bioavailable the minerals on the tag actually are to your herd. Minerals are way more important than they are given credit for. They help with immunity, growth, and many body functions that are necessary to keep your cattle productive. You should expect to spend around \$30 a cow a year on a good quality mineral.

HOT SPRING COUNTY
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://UAEX.EDU/COUNTIES/
HOT-SPRING/](http://uaex.edu/counties/hot-spring/)

With winter close at hand, many things are beginning to slow down for several producers. It is now time to feed hay and begin making big plans for next year. I would like to thank every one for a great first year and look forward to many more. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday!

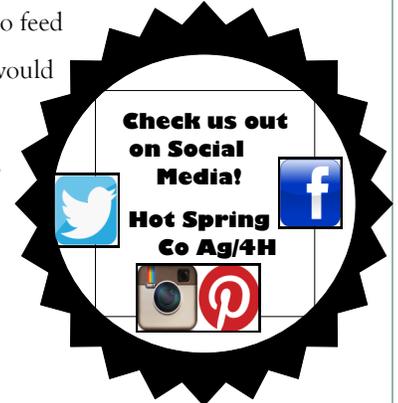
Thanks,

Rachel Bearden

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County Extension Agent- Agriculture/4-H

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