November 2016

Beef & Forage Notes

Coming soon!
PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING CLASSES

There is a $10 charge (pay at the door) for the training, re-registration is not necessary.

Dec. 6, 2016 at 6:00 pm
Feb. 6, 2017 at 1:00 pm
April 6, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Location: Southwest Arkansas Research Center
362 Hwy 174 N
Hope, AR

Presented by: Steven Sheets, CEA-Agriculture
For more information please call the:
County Extension Office at 870-777-5771
or email at ssheets@uaex.edu

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Scattered frost across the state can turn good forage deadly. Late summer rains brought on a flush of johnsongrass in many pastures and it became dominant in some fields. When johnsongrass becomes stressed from drought or frost, it can produce prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid) which is very toxic to livestock. Immature plants and regrowth following haying or grazing contain the highest levels. Light frosts that occur in fall can wilt tops of the plants causing them to become toxic. Prussic acid toxicity can kill cattle quickly, often before a producer has a chance to observe that the animal is under stress. Sorghum/sudan, greengraze, grain sorghum, and forage sorghum can also develop prussic acid after frost. Frost-damaged johnsongrass should not be grazed for at least seven days after the first killing frost. It is best to delay grazing until the frosted plants become completely dried out and paper brown colored. Do not graze it at night when frost is likely. To reduce risk even farther, don’t turn hungry cattle directly out on johnsongrass pasture. Make sure they have grazed other forages first or fill them up on hay.

Silage may contain toxic quantities of prussic acid, but it usually escapes in gaseous form while being moved and fed. If frosted forage is ensiled, allow fermentation to take place for at least six to eight weeks before feeding. Prussic acid dissipates as the plants dry out. Properly dried johnsongrass hay does not contain prussic acid and is safe to feed. For more information ask for FSA 3069 Prussic Acid at your county extension office.

Cattle Winter Grazing

Routinely, wheat, oats, rye and annual ryegrass are sod-seeded into dormant bermudagrass and other warm-season grass sods to provide fall, winter and spring grazing. These winter annuals can be seeded as mixtures or in monoculture. They can be drilled into existing sod or planted into a prepared seedbed. Regardless of the establishment method, cereal grains and annual ryegrass have excellent forage quality characteristics and are good forage options, especially for stockers or dairy cattle that have very high nutrient requirements.

Fertilization Before establishment, soil testing is always advised. Up to 60 lbs phosphate (P\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{5}) per acre should be applied if soil-test P levels are low (<60 lbs/acre). No additional P\textsubscript{2}O\textsubscript{5} is necessary if soil-test P is greater than 100 lbs/acre; intermediate application rates can be used if soil tests indicate P levels to be between 60 and 100 lbs/acre. Typically, applications of potash (K\textsubscript{2}O) that range between 30 and 60 lbs/acre are recommended if soil test potassium (K) levels fall below 200 lbs/acre. About 60 lbs nitrogen (N) per acre should be applied at or near planting; additional applications of 60 to 70 lbs N/acre can be made in the late fall or early spring to meet production needs. For each application of 60 lbs N/acre, producers can usually expect about 100 animal unit grazing days. If broiler litter is used as a preplant fertilizer, an application rate of two tons/acre is common; however, this may not be enough to meet all the nutrient requirements for the crop. The University of Arkansas recommends no application of lime if the soil pH is over 5.7.
Below is a *partial* list of some of our 4-H Livestock Show participants who placed in the various Fairs in the state.

**Kassidy Beasley**- 2nd place rabbit Hempstead County Fair, 3rd place rabbit Southwest District Fair

**Justin Loe**- 2nd place market goat and Grand Champion Showman Hempstead County Fair, 6th place market goat Southwest District Fair

**Lane Lockhart**- 2nd place commercial heifer Hempstead County Fair, 3rd place commercial heifer Four States Fair, 4th place commercial heifer Southwest District Fair

**Freya Dowell**- 3rd place pen of Chickens Hempstead County Fair

**Sarah Ward**- 1st place rabbit, Grand Champion rabbit, Reserve Champion Rabbit Hempstead County Fair

**Shelbie Godwin**- 2nd place market goat, 2nd place goat showmanship, 1st place rabbit, 3rd place rabbit Hempstead County Fair, 10th place market goat Four States Fair, 5th place market goat, 1st place and Best of Breed rabbit, 2nd place rabbit Southwest District Fair

**Kelsea Beasley**- 2nd place commercial heifer Hempstead County Fair, 3rd place commercial heifer Four States Fair, 3rd place commercial heifer Southwest District Fair

**Harlie Lockhart**- Reserve Grand Champion commercial heifer, 1st place commercial heifer Hempstead County Fair, 1st place commercial heifer Four States Fair, 1st Place commercial heifer Southwest District Fair

**Addie Womack**- Grand Champion Shorthorn Heifer Hempstead County Fair, Reserve Champion AOB Heifer Southwest District Fair, 1st place Shorthorn Heifer Junior Show Arkansas State Fair, Reserve Division Shorthorn Heifer Open Show Arkansas State Fair

**Courtney Rook**- Grand Champion Chianina Heifer, Reserve Grand Champion Chianina Heifer, Grand Champion Simmental Heifer, Grand Champion Market Steer Hempstead County Fair, 2nd place Simmental Heifer, 5th place market steer Four States Fair,

**Nick Ward Jr.**- 1st place rabbit, Reserve Champion rabbit Hempstead County Fair

**Cody Lockhart**- 2nd place commercial heifer Hempstead County Fair, 5th place commercial heifer Four States Fair, 2nd place commercial heifer Southwest District Fair
Recently Ag Science Days were held at the Southwest AR Research & Extension Center in Hope AR.

Participants were the 4th Grades from Hope Public Schools.

Below are a few of the photos of the event.

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