Dear Producers,

Well, we still haven’t seen much rain, but they say it’s on the way. I guess we’ll see. Hopefully, you all have planted winter forages to help feed your livestock through these winter months, because hay is going to be scarce. With the drought conditions this summer, hay producers did all they could. And unfortunately because our pastures were under the same stress, we have started feeding hay much earlier than we normally do.

But don’t forget about other supplements! Mineral supplementation is extremely important for the cattle to get all use of the forages we do feed and the concentrates we introduce into their diets.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Wendy Burton
Livestock & Natural Resources

Bradford County Extension
2266 N Temple Ave
Starke, FL 32091
PH. 904-966-6224
Fax. 904-964-9283

November 15, 2006

Inside this issue:

| Winter Supplementation       | 2 |
| Beef Cattle Management Calendar | 3 |
| Livestock Youth Corner        | 4 |
Winter Supplementation of your herd is essential this time of year. Forage quality and quantity is decreasing and therefore, we need to find other ways to keep our cattle fed. There are three areas we need to address: minerals, protein, and energy. A mineral deficiency alone will decrease the body condition score. Minerals have extremely important functions in enzyme functions, male fertility, hoof soundness, bone formation, and overall maintenance. So a complete mineral supplement that contains salt, calcium, phosphorus, and the trace minerals must be fed. An average consumption of 2 ounces per head per day is essential to meet the needs of beef cattle. These minerals can be found in many different forms. Mineral blocks are easy to use, but do not usually provide enough mineral to meet the nutritional needs of each of the cattle. Free-Choice Loose Mineral is easy to use and can provide the cattle with enough mineral to meet their needs. However, in winter months, mineral consumption generally decreases. So the loose mineral can be fortified with cottonseed meal or other supplements to increase consumption.

Protein supplements have been shown to increase forage intake and digestibility. Supplemental protein fed at .2 to .3 pounds daily can give an increase of 2 or more pounds of total digestible nutrients and only cost you about 5-10 cents. There are many protein sources available. Liquid supplements and protein tubs may be purchased, or another feedstuff can be used. With current prices, cottonseed meal and corn gluten feed give the greatest amount of protein for the lowest cost. Soybean meal and Whole Cottonseed may also be used for a little higher cost.

Energy supplements need only to be fed to cattle whom will respond. Animals with a BCS of 5 or higher do not need large amounts of energy and therefore, do not need to be supplemented. The key to feeding energy sources is to reach thin cattle before it is too late. It is easier to supplement cattle early at a moderate level, then to let them get down and then try and put weight back on. Good quality hay, soybean hulls, and citrus pulp (when available) are low cost sources of energy.

Winter supplementation is essential in producing beef cattle. A good combination of protein and energy supplements is beneficial when energy is needed. Minerals are extremely important to make sure the body is maintaining itself to its best ability, especially when breeding season comes along!
**November Monthly Management**

- Plant clovers through November 15.
- Survey pastures for poisonous plants. Chineseberry trees, black cherry trees, coffee-weed, and crotalaria are some of the most common ones.
- Begin hay feeding and/or stockpiled forage feeding for replacement heifers and continue grain supplementation.
- Check winter rations. Use the same feeding guide as in October.
- Begin protein supplementation of cows grazing residual pasture.
- Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
- Check mineral feeders.

**December Monthly Management**

- Can begin grazing winter (small) grain pastures with replacement heifers.
- Check winter rations. Use the following as a guide for daily rations:
  - Weaned heifer cows, two-year old pregnant heifers, thin 3 year olds, and thin old cows: Full-feed hay and/or stockpiled forage that's in pasture + 5 lbs. grain or 4 lbs. corn + 1 \(\frac{1}{2}\) lbs. supplements.
  - Dry pregnant mature cows in good condition: 17 - 25 lbs. hay or 15 lbs. Small grain straw + 10 lbs. hay. Supplement protein if below 8% in hay.
  - Lactating cows: Full feed hay + 1.5 - 2.5 lbs. high protein supplement.
  - Herd sires: Full feed hay (add grain to diet according to condition).
  - If feeding haylage instead of hay, figure 1 lb. hay same as 1.5 to 3 lbs. haylage, depending upon moisture.
  - Rotate calving pastures from year to year to prevent diseases.
  - Supplement hay according to forage analysis. Call extension office for more information.
  - Check mineral feeders and provide a high magnesium mineral to heifers grazing winter pasture.
  - For some herds calving season is here. Be sure you have the following items:
    a. Calf pulling equipment, if you anticipate problems.
    b. 7% iodine to disinfect newborn calf’s navel.
    c. Ear tags for identification of calves.
    d. Vitamin A and D shots for cows and calves.
    e. Dehorning paste or equipment.
    f. Castration equipment.
    g. Frozen colostrum stored up in advance of calving season for calves that fail to nurse within the first few hours after birth.
    h. Drugs for scours and respiratory problems.
- Separate first calf heifers from cow herd and prepare for calving.
- Observe first calf heifers regularly for calving difficulties.
- Check replacement heifers to be sure they will be ready to breed in March.
Livestock Youth Corner

The Bradford 4-H Livestock Judging Teams competed in their first competition of the year at the Jacksonville Fair on November 4. In the Intermediate Division, team members Kali Hendon, Justin Martin and Makayla Webb placed second while members Lizabeth Davis, Storm Hamilton, and Taylor Whitehead placed first. Individual awards were given to Lizabeth Davis, (4th High), Taylor Whitehead (3rd high), and Makayla Webb (1st high). The Senior Team, consisting of Ryan Crawford, Dakota Reddish, and Clay Whitehead received Second Place in the Senior Division with Ryan Crawford (5th High) and Dakota Reddish (3rd high). Congratulations to team members!!

The team competing in Denver is preparing for their big trip. Members Abigail Crawford, Ryan Crawford, Dakota Reddish and Lloyd Webb will be leaving out on January 4 to compete at the Western Nationals 4-H Judging Contest on January 6. Good Luck Team!!

Other Items of Interest

Suwannee Valley Show Chow Jackpot
Gilchrist FFA Alumni

January 5-6, 2007
$25 per calf entry fee
$10 per showmanship entry
Entries must be postmarked by December 15, 2006
You can get an entry form at the extension office, or in The Checkerboard paper.

For other information call Kevin Huesman at 386-623-5726.

Premiums:
Supreme GC Heifer- $150
Supreme Res. CG Heifer- $100
Grand Champion Steer- $150
Reserve GC Steer- $100
Showmanship Jr & Sr- Belt Buckle

This newsletter is printed bi-monthly. If you know of anyone not receiving this, that would like to, please call 904-966-6224 and let me know.

Also, check out our website at:

http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu
Check out our website at
http://Bradford.ifas.ufl.edu