

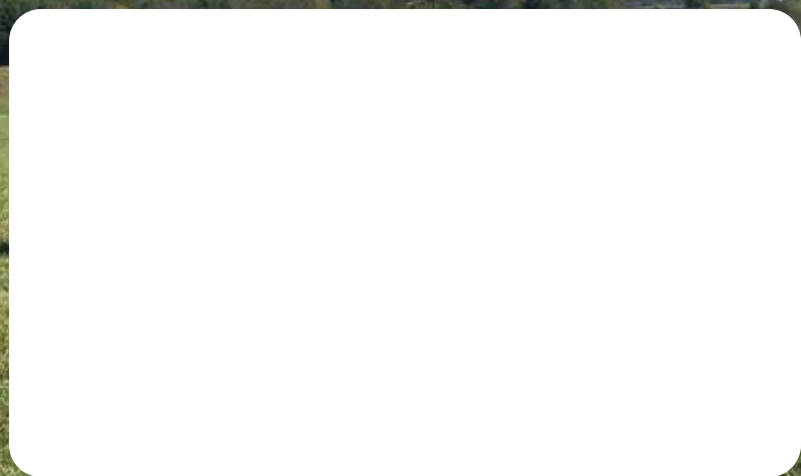
SINCE



1929

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AGRONOMY & BEEF BULLETIN  
August 2021



1929



SINCE

# KNOW HOW MUCH WATER YOUR CATTLE NEED

With hot summer days continuing, water needs must be met for animals. Water is required for regulating body temperature, digestion, absorption of nutrients, waste removal, fetal growth and lactation. All the grass in world means nothing without water.

The amount of water a cow requires daily varies depending on environmental temperature, lactation status, weight, etc. During summer with temperatures about 90 degrees F, data suggests a lactating cow needs 2 gallons of water per 100 pounds of body weight. Using this rule, a spring calving cow weighing 1,300 pounds would require about 26 gallons of water, plus another 5 to 10 gallons for the calf.

Make sure the calf can reach the tank to drink. Also, providing a tank for calves only is a good management practice. A tank set to the side, filled by the overflow from the cow tank, allows for the calves to drink at the same time as the cows. As for non-lactating cows and bulls, they require 1 gallon of water per 100 pounds of body weight.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR CATTLE

What is the space requirement? In larger pastures, a rule-of-thumb is to have enough water and tank space for 10% of the herd. Allow 12 inches of perimeter for circular tanks and 18 inches for straight-side tanks per animal.

Also, during late-summer, the appearance of blue-green algae increases in stagnant water. Blue-green algae is toxic to all classes of cattle. Be watchful for colonies of blue-green algae that appear as blue-green scum at or below the water surface. Different than other algae, blue-green algae does not appear as a mat, but stays dispersed in the water and moves freely with the wind.

When looked at closely, blue-green algae appear as fine grains of green sand or grass clippings. Not all blue-green algae is blue-green, but it can also appear as red.

*SDSU Extension*

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## BULL MANAGEMENT AFTER THE BREEDING SEASON

Remember if a bull loses body condition during breeding season, it might not be your fault.

In most spring calving herds, the breeding season begins in the spring or early summer. Maintaining a 60- to 90-day breeding season can be one of the most important management tools for cow-calf producers. A uniform, heavier, and more valuable calf crop is the reason that it's time for spring calving herds to pull your bulls off cows, if you haven't already. After breeding season bulls become a necessary evil or unwanted guest. As producers we would like to forget about them for the balance of the year. Fortunately, bulls do not require intense management during this period, thus, some planning will ensure they are ready to go when needed.

The goals for this period are simple:

- Keep feed costs at a practical minimum
- Keep the bulls in moderate condition
- Minimize the chance of injuries
- Continue growth of young bulls
- Make sure bulls are fertile and fit for the next breeding season turn out

To accomplish these goals producers should sort and appraise the bulls following the breeding season. Mature herd sires, in good condition, should be grouped together on pasture. The second group should include young bulls that still have a requirement for growth and bulls that are thin or need special care. Finally, producers should identify and cull the bulls that are old, crippled, inferior breeders, or have poor genetics. All bulls should have access to a vitamin and mineral mix, similar to what is been given to the cow herd at that time. The mature bulls in good condition need access to around 2% of their body weight in dry forage per day to maintain. Whereas the yearlings and thin bulls should have access

Augusta Co-op offers  
the industry's best quality water  
systems and replacement parts.



*continued on page 2*

to higher-quality pasture, hay, or silage to increase body condition. If you have the space and available feed, the thin conditioned cull bulls may take advantage of some compensatory weight gain.

As well, bulls should be de-wormed and vaccinated on the same herd health program as the cow herd. If a bull's fertility is in question, it is a good idea to have Breeding Soundness Exams conducted after pulling bulls. This can be informative relative to management decisions and save the expense of prepping an infertile bull for an upcoming breeding season. When possible, hot wire traps are recommended for maintenance of bulls in the off season.

Just remember, it is not a sign of poor management or bad genetics if a bull loses body condition during the breeding season. The good bulls should be working hard! However, if they cannot gain body condition while they are not working and grazing moderate to high-quality forage, their female progeny may not be able to either.

Parker Henley and Mark Z. Johnson

## FEEDING CATTLE DURING DROUGHT? 5 CATTLE NUTRITION TIPS

Cattle nutrition and management strategies can help preserve your bottom line when feeding cattle during drought. Drought can be unpredictable. Set your herd up for success no matter what Mother Nature throws your way with these strategies:

### 1. EXTEND PASTURES.

Your forage base is your most valuable resource; help your cattle make the most of it.

- Use strategic management practices to improve grazing distribution. By spreading cattle out, they'll be more likely to graze underutilized areas.
- Position self-fed products, such as supplements in strategic locations, generally away from the water source, to spread out cows at pasture.

### 2. EARLY WEANING CALVES.

Especially during short-term droughts, early weaning calves is a useful strategy to reduce cow nutrient requirements.

- During the latter part of lactation, calves demand a lot from cows. Early weaning calves can offer cows time to recover body condition before their next calving season – potentially improving rebreeding performance. Wean calves up to 60 days early, depending on drought severity.
- Feed weaned calves high-quality, complete starter feed when there is no roughage available.
- Before early weaning calves, it's advisable to creep feed calves. Start with a conventional creep feed product. Weaned calves need a high-quality, complete starter feed. Specific formulations are available to meet the needs of lightweight calves; visit with Allison Miller, Augusta Co-op Nutritionist to determine the best option.

### 3. EXTEND FEEDSTUFFS.

If pasture forage isn't adequate, there are still options for feeding cattle during drought.

- Use high-quality cattle supplements during drought to make sure cattle nutrition is up to par. Talk with your Augusta Co-op Field Representative to help plan for feeding cattle during drought.
- In extreme drought conditions, consider feeding cattle in confinement. If you have access to commodity feedstuffs and the management capability to provide a TMR, your Augusta Co-op Nutritionist can help develop a maintenance ration.

### Augusta Co-op Solution

#### Power-Lyx, 25% Cattle Supplement Tub, 200 lbs.

A molasses & distillers grain mixture that provides protein and other nutrients to beef cattle on pasture. Offers convenience and flexibility for supplementing your herd. Ideal for cattle operations where the cattle may be located on several different farms and daily hand-feeding is not a practical option. Designed to be fed as a supplement when adequate amounts of forages can be fed to the herd but extra nutrients are needed to help meet animal nutrient requirements compared to forages alone. Contains 25% Crude Protein, 4% Crude Fat, and 5% Crude Fiber. Contains not more than 16% equivalent crude protein from non-protein nitrogen.

Refer to the product label for complete instructions.



SKU - 50915

### Augusta Co-op Solution

#### Purina, Accuration Tub, 200 lbs.

Part of Purina's Sustained Nutrition Program to help fill in nutritional gaps in native pasture and hay, improved hay, or dormant grasses and crop residues. Contains Intake Modifying Technology that helps cows to better utilize forage and balance intake according to forage conditions. Animals will adjust consumption based on forage quality. Can also be fed to sheep and goats. This technology optimizes pasture and forage use and promotes multiple snack meals.

Can be conveniently placed in the pasture and moved around as needed giving the producer more flexibility over daily feed supplements and lick tanks

A molasses-based product that supplements protein, fat, and minerals.

Designed to be fed year-round to help cows maintain consistent body condition. Weather-resistant. 25% Crude Protein (not more than 17% NPN), 5% Crude Fat, and 3% Crude Fiber.



SKU - 3002460-634



## 4. CULL LOW PERFORMING CATTLE.

Despite all the right management practices, sometimes liquidation is inevitable.

- Match herd numbers to your available cattle nutrition resources. Start by culling the lowest-performing cows in the herd, especially open cows.
- Use this as an opportunity to retain your best cows, then rebuild your herd in the genetic direction you desire when forages are back to normal post-drought.

## 5. DON'T FORGET THE BASICS.

- Monitor natural water sources, such as ponds and tanks, to ensure cattle have adequate access to clean water.
- Test harvested forages for nutrient content and nitrate risk. Hay cut under drought conditions might contain high levels of nitrate and prussic acid.
- Beware of toxic plants, as cattle grazing short pasture are more likely to consume toxic plants. Talk to your Augusta Co-op forage specialist to identify potential toxic plant risk in your area.

Purina Animal Nutrition

# CREEP FEEDING

CREEP FEEDING IMPLEMENTATION DEPENDS ON SEVERAL FACTORS, LIKE TIME OF CALVING, FEED COST, YOUR MARKETING STRATEGY AND CALF BENEFITS. FORAGE QUALITY IS A COMMON DETERMINING FACTOR.

Crude protein tends to drop to low levels in forages, particularly native grasses, after they have matured or gone dormant during the fall and winter.

When forages drop below 5% crude protein, consider delivering extra nutrients to calves. Creep feeding is a great way to not only meet a calf's nutritional needs, but it can pay dividends down the road.

## BENEFITS TO CALVES

You can introduce creep feed to calves at an early age. However, a calf's rumen isn't capable of breaking down feed until it's 2 months old.

Assuming a 30-day weaning period, creep feeding calves at 3-4 months old gives them about 80-120 days on feed prior to weaning. Exposure to creep feed helps ease stress of weaning calves by priming them to start eating right away.

Creep-fed calves that experience less weaning-time stress often have optimized health and weaning weights compared to calves not creep-fed. Even a short period of creep feeding, like 30 days before weaning calves, can reduce weaning stress because the calves are familiar with feed.

University research has shown that creep feeding programs 80-120 days long can add 50-80 pounds of gain. Carcass quality improvements are another advantage of creep feeding.

Introducing energy into calf diets at an earlier age can enhance their beef quality. Having starch in the diet earlier initiates adipose deposition (marbling) in the longissimus dorsi (middle meats).

## DO THE MATH

Consider the cost of gain relative to calf prices. Depending on the cattle market, some years might work better than others.

Look at current feed and calf prices, and if calves can gain weight in a cost-effective manner, you should move forward with creep feeding.

Some years, the additional pounds creep feeding added before weaning calves outweighs the cost to implement.

### Augusta Co-op Solution

#### Augusta, Prime 14% Startem Right, EPNIX, 50 lbs.

A feed designed for preconditioning beef calves. Can also be used as a creep feed during the last 30-45 days before weaning. This feed is designed to meet the nutritional needs of lightweight (300-650 lb) calves so that they may better handle the stress of weaning and the transition from grass to a hay or silage diet. In addition, it serves as a 1st step feed in a 2-step backgrounding feeding program. Our most palatable calf feed that encourages calves to start eating feed quickly at the bunk. More digestible fiber for energy with less starch supports gut health and continued development of the rumen. Features our proprietary EPNIX technology to support gut health and enhance the response of the immune system.



SKU - 603701

### Augusta Co-op Solution

#### 14% Beef Creep Pellet Bulk

A pelleted feed for calves still on cows that have not been weaned yet. A higher energy creep feed for those producers that prefer more energy versus protein in a creep feed. Helps to fill the nutritional gap that exists when the cow's milk production is dropping - yet the calves are not able to consume enough forage to meet all of their nutritional needs. For use in creep feeders. Contains ingredients to help balance feed consumption as well as to support the calf's digestive system.



SKU - 601500

## CUSTOM SEED BLENDING

- Seed must be purchased through Augusta Co-op
- Minimum of 1,000 lbs of seed required
- Can blend most all seed types
- Repackaged in 50 lb bags or totes

Contact your field sales representative or the agronomy division for pricing.



# BACK TO SCHOOL SALE



**25% OFF**

## SEPTEMBER 7-18

ALL CLOTHING, BOOTS & ACCESSORIES  
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# SMALL ENGINE






**SEPTEMBER 10 & 11 - 8 AM - 5 PM**

1205B Richmond Road - Staunton, VA

Huge deals on all Husqvarna, STHL, SCAG and Oregon Equipment.  
We know how important small engine deals are to you this fall!

We encourage all customers to visit our dealer's websites  
or [www.AugustaCoop.com](http://www.AugustaCoop.com) prior to arriving to  
review product details & deals - OR call ahead prior  
to arrival so we can answer your questions!  
Vendors on-site!



# FALL FARM Supply BOOKING

**SEPTEMBER 1-18, 2021**

Take advantage of the huge selection and best prices of the season on all of your animal health, equipment and farm supply products!

Contact your sales representative or visit [AugustaCoopBooking.com](http://AugustaCoopBooking.com) for a full list of sale items & make your purchase online!

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or (540) 885-1265



## Small Grain & Seed Corn Presale Booking August Through October

Save big this season and book now! For pricing on barley, rye, wheat, triticale and seed corn brands (NK, Croplan, Dekalb) contact the Augusta Co-op Agronomy Division today.

\*For best varieties we suggest early booking.

To order, contact Troy Grimm at (540) 885-1265 x 243

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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**HOWL-WEEN COSTUME CONTEST**

Staunton location only ~ 10 AM - 2 PM  
Visit [AugustaCoop.com](http://AugustaCoop.com) for contest details!

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**TRIPLE CROWN® GOLD LINE**  
Innovations for Superior Equine Nutrition



## **AUGUSTA CO-OP IS NOW SCHEDULING DELIVERY ROUTES!**

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at 540-430-3169.  
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## **3rd Annual AUGUSTA CO-OP 'ROAD TO THE RING'**

A hands on experience designed for all 4-H/FFA Livestock Showmen.  
Presenters will inspire you to obtain the skills and techniques  
needed for success in the show ring! Become a better livestock  
showman, marketer, herdsman and learn the latest in nutrition  
and overall animal health.

# **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021**

8 AM - 12 PM - HOGS & CATTLE

12 PM - 1 PM - LUNCH

1 PM - 5 PM - SHEEP & GOATS

## **AUGUSTA EXPO COFFEY PAVILION - FISHERSVILLE, VA**

RSVP REQUIRED - <http://RoadToTheRing.rsvpify.com>



# SHOP NOW & SAVE UP TO \$200 ON PARASITE CONTROL

## DECTOMAX® POUR-ON SOLUTION

### LONG-LASTING PARASITE CONTROL

- Consistent efficacy with weatherproof formula that won't wash off
- Covers a broad range of internal and external parasites
- DECTOMAX® Pour-On lasts up to twice as long\* and protects against more parasites† than Ivomec® Pour-On

## DECTOMAX® INJECTABLE SOLUTION

### PERSISTENT PARASITE CONTROL

- 3-4 weeks of protection against a broad-spectrum of internal and external parasites
- Controls more parasite species and larval stages than any other injectable parasite control product‡
- Cattle outgained those treated with ivermectin by up to 26 lbs in stocker trials!

**BRING THIS FLYER TO THE COUNTER AND SAVE. SEE BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.**

\*In a comparison of approved labels for DECTOMAX Pour-On and Ivomec® Pour-On, DECTOMAX has at least twice the duration against *Cooperia oncophora*, *Ostertagia ostertagi*, *Haemonchus placei* and *Linognathus vituli*.

†Based on comparison of number of parasite species controlled by DECTOMAX and Ivomec, as cited in FDA freedom of information summaries NADA 141-095 and NADA 140-841.

‡Comparison of approved label indications for Dectomax Injectable Solution, Cydectin® Injectable Solution, Ivomec 1% Solution and LongRange®.

## SAVE ON THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS

DECTOMAX Injectable 500mL	<b>\$10 off</b>
DECTOMAX Pour-On 1L	<b>\$5 off</b>
DECTOMAX Pour-On 2.5L	<b>\$12 off</b>
DECTOMAX Pour-On 5L	<b>\$25 off</b>

Maximum savings amount \$200

**OFFER VALID THROUGH 09/30/2021 | VOID WHERE PROHIBITED**

Discount will be applied at the register. Receive up to \$200 off your purchase of DECTOMAX from Augusta Coop Farm Bureau. Purchases must be made between 08/15/2021 and 09/30/2021. Maximum discount of \$200 per customer. This offer is administered by Augusta Coop Farm Bureau within approved Zoetis guidelines.

**zoetis**