

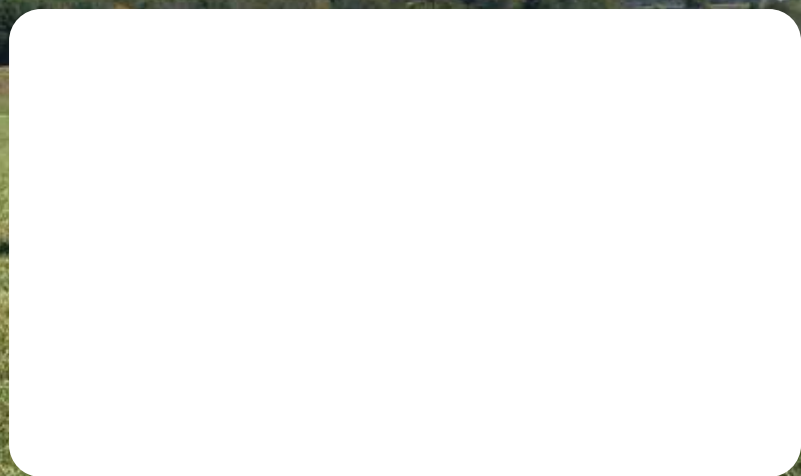
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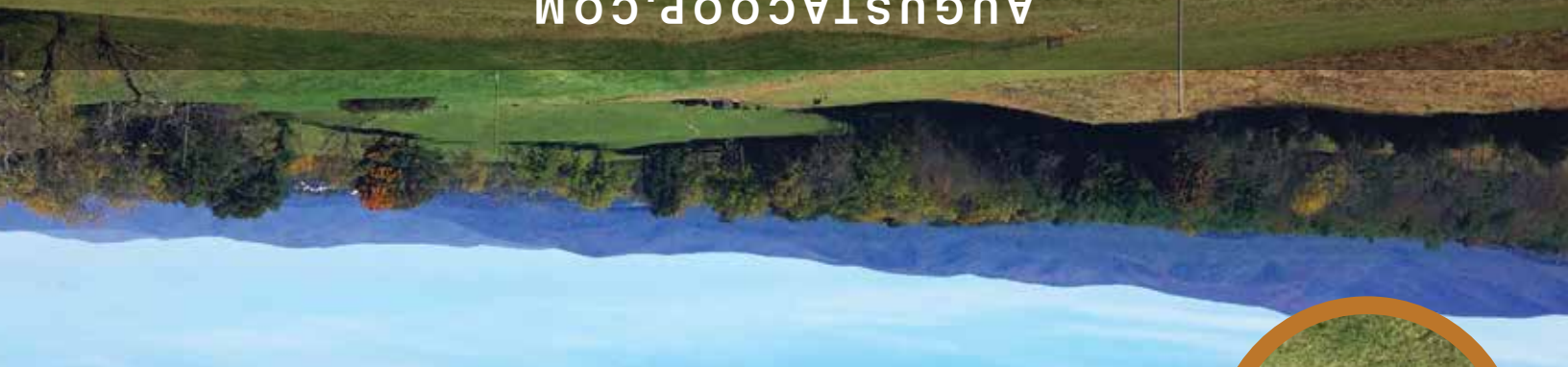
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AGRONOMY & BEEF BULLETIN
May 2023



1929



SINCE

CATTLE SUPPLEMENTATION: MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY TO TACKLE HIGH FEED COSTS

Depending on the year drought, supply chain issues, high grain prices, low hay supply and significantly increased fuel and fertilizer prices can play a role in elevating feed costs for cattle producers. Feed costs are the single largest expense in the cow-calf sector. Finding ways to manage these expenses could substantially impact your operation's bottom line.

Efficiently feeding cattle to get the most bang for your buck and effective herd management may help producers to overcome the impacts of high input costs and see the benefits of strong demand.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FORAGES

Every day a cow can graze for herself is cheaper than anything mechanically harvested to put in front of her. Due to extensive drought, not all producers will have access to grazing, but let's explore opportunities for those that do:

- Utilizing grazing programs, including pasture rotation, strategic fencing and forage species variation, can allow for more efficient pasture use.
- Grazing corn stalks in the winter months or cover crops in the spring can extend your grazing season while minimizing the amount of harvested forage needed.
- Restricting cattle to certain sections of land or strategically placing water, supplements or mineral can promote grazing of underutilized pastures.

In areas where grazing isn't available, forages are brought in, usually in the form of hay. When feeding hay, one of the most underutilized practices in the beef industry is forage sampling. Without sampling, you don't know the nutrients available to your cattle, leading to over-supplementing your herd and wasting money, or under-supplementing and wasting the potential of your cattle.

Reducing hay waste is another way to help lower your feed cost. Adjustments to how you store and feed hay to your herd can reduce waste significantly.

DON'T SKIMP ON MINERALS

Every biological process utilizes minerals. Some of the best dollars spent on cattle nutrition is on minerals. Without a balanced mineral program, forage and supplements aren't as effective, and you may not get the most out of your investment.

Intake levels are important to get the most value from your mineral program. Similar to supplements, over- or under-consumption can impact your pocketbook or your herd's performance.

OPTIMIZE HERD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Strategically managing your herd can help in keeping feed costs under control.

Body condition scores (BCS) are essential to the nutritional management of your herd. Use BCS to separate cattle into smaller groups to provide targeted nutrition. A simple version of this plan for a cow-calf operation would be to divide the herd into three groups – yearling heifers, two-year-old and geriatric cows, and remaining cows. This separation allows you to provide the specific level of nutrition each of these groups need.

Yearling heifers are still growing and need additional nutrition, while your two-year-old group is in a growth phase and trying to provide nutrition for their first calf, either in gestation or at their side. Geriatric cows can also use a little extra nutrition to maintain their body condition, so grouping them with two-year-olds is appropriate. Separating the rest of the herd allows you to avoid overspending on supplements for cattle that maintain themselves well.

Unfortunately, sometimes a lack of resources forces tough decisions. If the time comes to reduce herd numbers, several factors must be considered.

Augusta Co-op Solution

Purina, Wind and Rain, Availa-4 Tub, 225 lbs.

The Wind and Rain Mineral Tub is a free-choice mineral delivery system designed to correct mineral deficiencies of the available forage in a highly palatable, weather-resistant form.



SKU - 62709

Augusta Co-op Solution

Co-Op, Foundation Cattle Mineral, Plain, 50 lbs.

For weaned cattle on pasture. A solid choice for all-around mineral supplementation for cattle on pasture. Contains the vitamins and minerals needed for a solid supplementation program. Also includes selenium in the form of the more available selenium yeast to ensure better selenium availability and uptake for the animal.



SKU - 663

Pregnancy testing is essential when making decisions on reducing herd size. Open cows should be the first to go because they cost too much to maintain when not producing. Evaluating each cow's feet and legs, udder quality and temperament could also assist in narrowing down your options.

SET STRATEGIES FOR YOUR SUCCESS

Every decision needs to be tied to the goals of your operation. Tough choices may be forced in the short term by higher input costs, but remember to make educated decisions with long-term feasibility and sustainability in mind.

Purina Mills

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR WEEDY PASTURES THIS SPRING

As pastures begin to green up, unwanted weeds may start to pop up too. Early spring is an excellent time to clean up biennials, winter annuals, and some perennials present in pastures. This article will focus on management considerations for weeds we might find in the early spring.

Proper identification of the weed species is crucial to choosing appropriate management strategies. The Iowa State University Weed Identification Field Guide or online weed keys, such as the one offered by the University of Missouri, can assist in helping you determine the proper weed species. Once we properly identify the weed, we can work to determine the best management tactics.

WHY ARE THE WEEDS THERE?

The presence of weeds in established forage fields can help us identify other issues we need to address in our forages. A healthy stand of an appropriate forage species is highly competitive and able to prevent the establishment of most weedy species. Simply killing the weeds with a herbicide without addressing the underlying cause for the weeds generally will allow rapid reestablishment of the weeds.

Pastures may thin due to natural aging of the stand, poor species by site selection, pest issues, poor fertility, overgrazing, or heavy traffic. Interseeding is one approach to improving the pasture stand and crowding out weeds and can be a useful technique if other management concerns like poor fertility don't exist.

WINTER ANNUALS

Winter annuals germinate in the fall and overwinter to produce seed in the spring, while biennials and perennials survive for longer periods of time.

The presence of winter annual weeds (and sometimes biennial weeds) may be a sign that the forage stand has begun to thin out, creating open areas where the weeds are able to establish in late summer and fall. A healthy forage stand eliminates most of the 'safe sites' for establishment of winter annuals. If this is the case, investigating the cause of a thin pasture is important.

As winter annuals are often present in thin pastures, determining the root cause of open space is generally more effective than the temporary fix of killing the weeds with a herbicide. If necessary, winter annuals should be easy to control to prevent seed production. Mowing may be an effective option to reduce seed production for some species that grow tall and produce upright stems. It is unlikely to completely prevent seed additions to the soil for many winter annual species. Mowing should be timed to clip the bolted stems of winter annuals prior to the production of viable seed. If someone is planning to reseed an area, tillage would be an effective method to disturb winter annual weeds and allow for immediate reseeding.

Early-spring herbicide treatments, particularly of growth regulator herbicides, are effective for winter annuals in the spring. The treatment will be most effective if timed after winter annuals have resumed growth but before they've bolted to produce seed.

continued on page 3

Augusta Co-op Solution

DuraCor Herbicide

DuraCor® herbicide brings livestock producers and land managers the broadest-spectrum broadleaf weed control available for their grazing acres. DuraCor is powered by Rinskor™ active, a reduced risk herbicide that provides extended control of 140+ weeds while maintaining grass safety.



SKU - 51981

Augusta Co-op Solution

GrazonNext

GrazonNext® herbicide is the easiest way to get broadleaf weeds out of the way of pasture production. It provides a simple, lasting solution for the toughest pasture and rangeland weeds and clears the way for more forage, meaning greater flexibility in a grazing program and higher per-acre beef production at the lowest cost possible.



SKU - 502142G

BIENNIALS AND PERENNIALS

In the early spring, biennials form a basal rosette, a circular arrangement of leaves at ground level. Once temperatures warm, they'll bolt and be much more difficult to control.

Herbicide applications in the spring prior to bolting can be very effective against these species, but timeliness can be a challenge. A well-timed mowing prior to seed production is another option to prevent additions to the seedbank. Monitor populations after mowing or herbicide treatment to evaluate the effectiveness of control. A second clipping may be necessary as plants will often produce a second flower stalk after mowing.

Early spring is not the best time to control most perennials, though treatments may help suppress perennial growth early.

While early spring is a time of lush pasture growth and an abundance of forage, some Mid-Atlantic pastures have been through several rough seasons of too dry or too wet conditions. Scout your pastures this spring and determine whether weed management should be on the spring to-do list. Regardless of the weeds that are present in your pasture, there are viable control options that can be implemented for effective control. Staying on top of the weeds and identifying any underlying causes of their presence will simplify controlling weed problems. Consult weed control guides or your Augusta Co-op agronomist for specific herbicide recommendations for your weed spectrum.

Beef Magazine

WHAT ANTIBIOTICS WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE OTC?

On June 11, 2023, the FDA's new directive, "Guidance for the Industry #263," is slated for implementation, meaning that over-the-counter (OTC) antibiotics will no longer be available through traditional retail channels. Instead, these antibiotics will now require a prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

While livestock producers are continuously working to practice judicious antibiotic usage, no longer having the ability to purchase commonly used antibiotics can throw farmers a curveball. Instead, these antibiotics will only be available with a veterinary prescription and will need to be purchased from a veterinarian or a pharmacy.

The Pennsylvania State University Dairy Extension team lists the following antibiotics that will no longer be available for purchase over-the-counter.

Injectable Products

- Penicillins
- Tetracyclines
- Sulfa Antibiotics
- Erythromycin
- Tylosin
- Lincomycin
- Spectinomycin
- Gentamicin



For a complete list of products impacted by the FDA's new directive, including manufacturer information, scan the QR code.

Intramammary Products (Mastitis Tubes)

- Erythromycin
- Penicillin
- Dihydrostreptomycin
- Novobiocin
- Cephapirin
- Cephapirin Benzathine

Oral Liquids and Boluses

- Dihydrostreptomycin
- Sulfa Antibiotics
- Tetracyclines
- Spectinomycin
- Gentamicin

Eye Ointments

- Gentamicin
- Tetracyclines

Products that will not be impacted by the June 2023 changes include:

Products Under Veterinary Oversight

- Prescription Products
- Veterinary Feed Directive Products

OTC Animal Health Products

- Vaccines
- Dewormers
- Fly Control
- Hormone Implants
- Teat Sealants
- Ionophore Products

Linda Tikofsky, DVM and senior associate director of dairy professional services at Boehringer Ingelheim, says there are several steps producers should be taking now to prepare for the change.

TAKE INVENTORY

"I think the number one thing to do is just take inventory of what you're using and what you won't be able to purchase after June 2023," Tikofsky says. "Go through your drug cabinet, take note of what you're using and how often you're using it."

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TREATING

It's hard to know what you need if you don't know what you're treating. According to Tikofsky, part of judicious antibiotic use is understanding the diseases on your farm and knowing how to treat them.

"Understanding what you're up against and how to treat a disease is an important part of animal husbandry," Tikofsky says. "Very often, antibiotics are not the only avenue when treating an illness or condition. Talk with your veterinarian to better understand when and how to treat when using an antibiotic, and work with them to see if there are other treatment options available."

PRIORITIZE PREVENTATIVE MANAGEMENT

The best way to avoid using antibiotics is to prioritize preventative management. Take time to review herd health protocols and work proactively with your veterinarian and other consultants to address health issues within the herd.

TALK WITH YOUR VET

Now is the time to work with your veterinarian to develop a plan to adjust the way your operation will access animal health products.

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ASSEMBLE YOUR TEAM

Surrounding your operation with the best team members should always be top of mind. According to Tifkofsky, now is the time to make sure your entire team is on board with your farm's animal health objectives. "It's important to not only talk to your veterinarian about this, but also your nutritionist, herd managers and employees," she says. "Make sure you're assembling the right team to set your operation up for success."

Drovers

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- Supports golden egg yolks with Tagetes (Aztec Marigold) meal.

New Item!

WHY ARE PROTEIN AND FAT CRITICAL TO CATTLE NUTRITION?

Protein is a vital nutrient for maintenance, growth, health, reproduction and lactation in cattle. Protein supplies the microbes in the gut, or rumen bugs, the ammonia and nitrogen sources they need to function. These microbes ferment feed to make Volatile Fatty Acids (VFAs) and Microbial Cell Protein (MCP), which are responsible for digestion.

When cattle aren't getting enough protein, microbial activity decreases, causing a lower rate of digestion. Decreased digestion results in less nutrition available for absorption by the animal. While these effects are internal, you would observe the consequences of protein deficiency in the growth of your cattle.

Fat supports cow body condition and reproduction. Research suggests that the addition of limited fat supplements to beef cattle diets before breeding enhances reproduction by reducing the anestrus period after calving, as well as increasing the number of follicles formed on the ovary of the cow.

How much is needed? Like with most cattle questions, it depends.

With protein, anything less than 8% crude protein in your forages is not enough to feed the rumen microbes for optimal performance. When forage quantity and quality begin to decline, you should start thinking about supplementation to bridge that gap. The amount of supplemental energy or fat provided will depend on current body condition, other feed resources available and target production goals for that animal or herd.

continued on page 5

There are several factors to consider when determining the supplemental nutrition needs of your cattle:

- **FORAGE QUALITY & QUANTITY:** As pastures move from a vegetative state to a reproductive or dormant state, the nutritional value decreases. Vegetative forage will provide the most protein (10-18%), transitional forage will provide 6-9% crude protein and dormant forage will provide the poorest quality nutrition with typically less than 5% crude protein. Protein supplementation can help support rumen bug population and forage utilization in these transitional periods.
- **BODY CONDITION SCORE (BCS) AND PRODUCTION PHASE:** BCS can indicate how your cattle nutrition program is working. You don't want to wait until your herd's average BCS drops and have to play catch up, especially in key production phases like breeding, late gestation and lactation. Consistent monitoring can tell you when supplementation is needed.
- **AGE:** Younger, developing cattle that are still growing will have a higher maintenance requirement than mature cattle.


The goal of any protein and fat supplement like Purina® Accuration® Hi-Fat Tub is to support the returns of producers by enhancing forage intake and supporting better utilization of forages to meet needs of cows. Products like these are great options for protein and fat supplementation for your herd because they are designed to enhance the use of forages, not replace them.

Purina Mills

Augusta Co-op Solution

Purina, Accuration Hi-Fat Tub, Plastic, 200 lbs.

A premium, weather-resistant, protein block with Intake Modifying Technology®, formulated with a higher level of fat that is designed to provide additional energy to balance nutrient deficiencies in poor quality forages or for cattle lacking energy in their diet.



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Guaranteed Analysis

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Crude Protein | | (Min) | 12.0 % |
| Crude Fat | | (Min) | 2.5 % |
| Crude Fiber | | (Max) | 18.5 % |
| Calcium | (Min) | 1.3 | (Max) 1.7 % |
| Phosphorus | | (Min) | 0.2 % |
| Salt | (Min) | 0.7 | (Max) 1.4 % |
| Potassium | | (Min) | 0.6 % |
| Vitamin A | | (Min) | 2.8 KIU/lb |

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| ITEM # | DESCRIPTION | WIDTH | LENGTH | HEIGHT | CAPACITY | NEST SIZE |
|----------|------------------|---------------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|
| 50140078 | SQUARE SHALLOW | 34 in | 34 in | 12 in | 60 gal | 2 |
| 50140088 | SQUARE TALL | 34 in | 34 in | 24 in | 120 gal | 2 |
| 50140048 | TRIANGLE SHALLOW | 34 in x 34 in | 40 in | 12 in | 30 gal | 2 |
| 50140058 | TRIANGLE TALL | 34 in x 34 in | 40 in | 24 in | 60 gal | 2 |
| 50140068 | UTILITY SHALLOW | 35 in | 18 in | 12 in | 25 gal | 2 |
| 50140018 | UTILITY TALL | 35 in | 18 in | 24 in | 50 gal | 2 |

| ITEM # | WIDTH | LENGTH | HEIGHT | CAPACITY | WEIGHT |
|----------|-------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| 52120275 | 20 in | 42 in | 12 in | 27 gal | 13 lb |
| 52120605 | 31 in | 52 in | 14 in | 60 gal | 26 lb |
| 52120755 | 31 in | 44 in | 25 in | 75 gal | 30 lb |
| 52121005 | 31 in | 52 in | 25 in | 100 gal | 36 lb |
| 52121015 | 31 in | 52 in | 25 in | 100 gal | 42 lb |
| 52121505 | 42 in | 57 in | 25 in | 150 gal | 55 lb |
| 52123005 | 48 in | 82 in | 26 in | 300 gal | 84 lb |

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• Contains ClariFly[®] & Bovatec[®]
• Organic Trace Minerals
• Enhanced Fatty Acid Profile
• Prebiotic & Probiotic Combination

26% | 20%
PROTEIN | FAT



Item# 502094, 50 LB

• Pasteurized Milk Supplement
• Contains ClariFly[®] & Bovatec[®]
• Prebiotic & Probiotic Combination

25% | 10%
PROTEIN | FAT

REPLACERS

SUPPLEMENT