

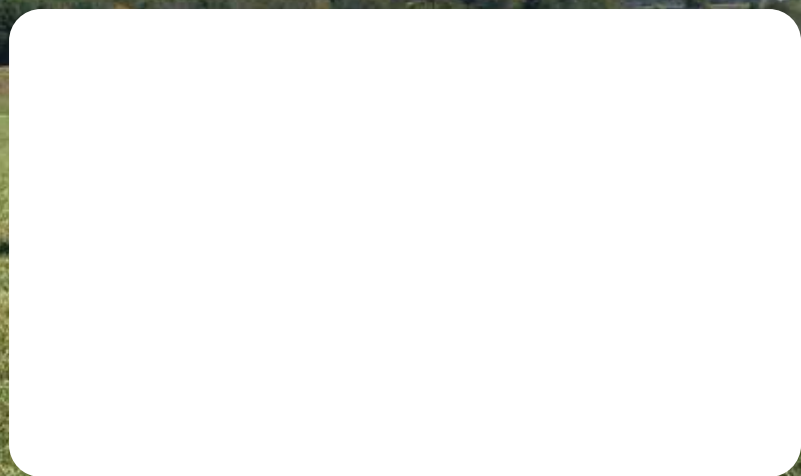
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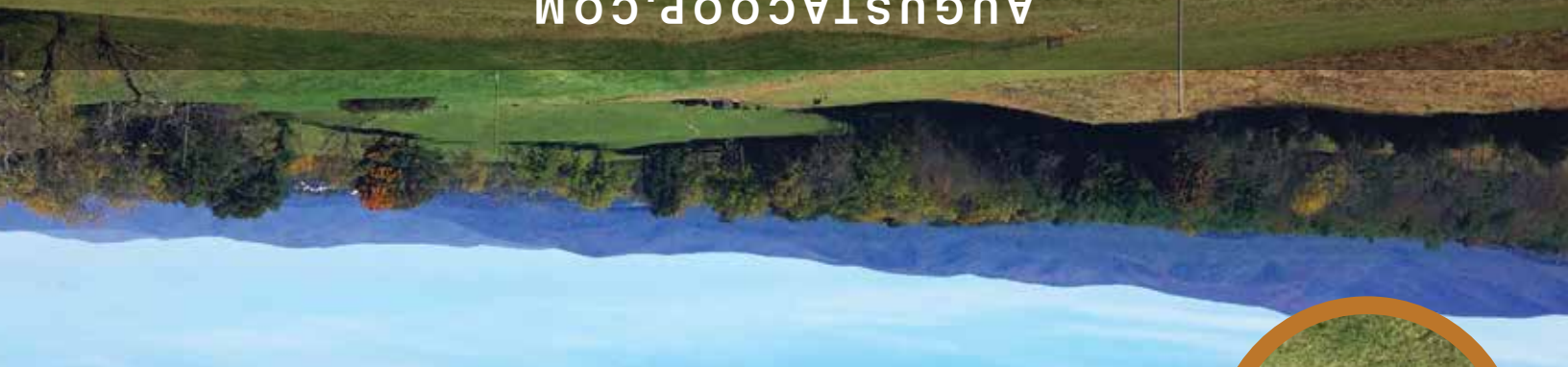
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AGRONOMY & BEEF BULLETIN
August 2020



1929



SINCE

THE BENEFITS OF ROTATIONAL GRAZING

The ideal pasture has fertile soil and a variety of nutritious forage plants, grazed at the proper phases of growth. The way you manage them will determine the ongoing health and quality of your pastures.

Rotational grazing systems are generally the most efficient way to get the best use of pastures and maximum beef production per acre, while also being healthier for the land and plants. When done properly, pasture rotation can prevent overgrazing, aid optimal regrowth of plants and allow the same piece of ground to be grazed several times during the growing season.

John Hall, superintendent of the University of Idaho's Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center near Salmon, says rotational grazing is always a very positive tool for stock producers, especially on irrigated ground.

There are many variables regarding the best number of days spent in a paddock. Some stock producers find best results by moving cattle daily or even several times a day. "A person can often get by moving cow-calf pairs just once a week, however. This is something each individual producer must determine, regarding available labor," says Hall.

Understanding the growth phases of forage, the amount of residual feed to leave and when the animals need to be moved, is crucial, especially with cool-season grasses, or they won't grow back very well. "This means we must be flexible and do some things that maybe weren't planned," Hall says.

"If the irrigation system breaks down and takes a few days to fix, or it doesn't rain, or whatever, we may have to be willing to feed hay at a time of year we hate to feed hay, just to give those pastures enough time to recover," he explains.

The cost of feeding a little hay may be less than overgrazing pastures to the point they won't grow back adequately, leaving less forage over the long run.

MAXIMIZING GROWTH PHASES

Jim Gerrish, American Grazing Lands Services, May, Idaho, says grass growth involves three phases.

Cattle prefer grass in Phase 1 because it's tender, succulent and high in nutritional quality.

"In a pasture being grazed continuously, without rotation, cattle keep re-grazing the short spots, seeking out Phase 1 grass. This is stressful for plants because they don't have enough leaf area to support maintenance," he says.

If the pasture is in a recovery period and not grazed, plants start to accumulate enough leaf area to be able to grow more rapidly. This Phase 2 growth continues until the mass of the plant is requiring a lot of energy just to maintain its structure. There is also some shading of the lower leaves and some leaves dying.

"At that point, growth rate slows dramatically, and the plant goes into Phase 3, which is when we would cut it for hay; it's as big as it's going to get," explains Gerrish.

In a traditional rotation, the producer tries to keep as much of the pasture in Phase 2 as possible, putting cattle into a pasture when grass is fairly high on Phase 2 of the growth curve.

TAKE CARE NOT TO OVERGRAZE

Overgrazing can happen whenever cattle are allowed to return to the same plants, keeping them grazed down into Phase 1.

It's most common in pastures that are continuously grazed, without rotation — but it can also happen in a rotation program if you leave cattle in a paddock too long, or if your recovery period is too short.

"A common thing you'll see in continuously grazed pastures is overgrazed areas [Phase 1 grass] right next to mature clumps [Phase 3] that cattle aren't eating — and no Phase 2 grass. If you do a good job of irrigating and stocking, always keeping grass at 5 to 8 inches in height [always in Phase 2], continuous grazing can work, especially in climates that are very stable, Gerrish says.

Adjusting recovery periods to encourage maximum grass growth and keep most of it in Phase 2 is a juggling act. Learning how to adjust the grazing and recovery periods is an art.

"This is the part you can't learn from a book or a workshop. Until you actually do it yourself, you can't learn grazing management."

You run into situations each year that you haven't encountered before, as well as learn from your mistakes. "I've been doing this for more than 30 years, and I still make my share of mistakes and learn something new each season," says

Gerrish.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

MULTIPLE OPTIONS

“One of the problems in thinking about rotational grazing is the tendency to think one size fits all, and that there’s a particular way to set up pastures and move cows,” says Hall.

But this won’t work for every operation. The key to rotational grazing or trying to expand the grazing season with pasture management is to try a new idea, on a small scale, before you change your whole system.

On a dry year when grasses become short on protein, cows will readily eat a protein supplement, and you can move the location of their grazing with movement of supplement tubs. This can encourage cows to go places they might not graze otherwise and help with grazing distribution.

“We still have a lot to learn about how best to use these grasses, especially on rangeland. If there’s good moisture in the spring, how should that change what we do with grazing early in the season? If it turns dry, what should we do differently than if we had a better year?” asks Hall.

Regarding rotation grazing management in general, Hall’s advice is to learn the basics and then try to customize them to your ranch — always keeping the need for flexibility in mind. Try something on a small scale at first, then work your way into it as you discover what works best for you.

STOCKING RATES

How many cattle can a rotational system accommodate? “You need to be able to vary stocking rate seasonally,” says Gerrish.

In a cow-calf operation, this is the greatest challenge for keeping the forage supply and animal demand in balance. If you can run yearlings part of the season, or keep more heifers than you need, selling some after they are bred, you can adjust the stocking rate to try to match the grass supply.

Stocking rate should always focus on forage demand rather than cow numbers. A lactating cow has a much higher demand than a dry cow. If you have superior milking cows, they need almost twice the energy at peak lactation as they did when they were dry. When you go from a dry cow (maintenance requirements) to peak lactation, you’ve doubled the demand on the pastures — even before you add in the calf.

FENCES ON PASTURES

Temporary electric fences can be inexpensive and easy to move, partly because no gates are needed. Cattle can be moved just by putting a couple of tall sticks or pieces of PVC pipe in the fence line for a few moments, to raise the electric wire enough for cattle to go under it and into the next paddock. Once cattle learn they can do this, they can be easily moved without gates.

Heather Smith Thomas (Beef Magazine)

Augusta Co-op Solutions Co-op, 24% Hi-Mag Cattle Block, 33 lbs.

33.3 lb block for cattle. For weaned beef cattle especially cows on pasture. Provides protein, energy, minerals, and magnesium in a convenient block. Utilizes all-weather technology for resistance to weathering effects. Contains 24% Crude Protein. SKU - 613



Augusta Co-op Solutions Gallagher, Fence Charger, M30

Convenient small sized low impedance, plug-in energizer that is suitable for small lots and/or a small field. Powers up to 5 miles or 20 acres of multi-wire high tensile fencing. Has 0.3 Joules of stored power with output energy of 0.15 Joule. Indicator light shows that the energizer is operating. Tough outer casing with built-in lightning diverter and simple fence terminals for easy connectings and hassle free mounting.



SKU - G331434

Augusta Co-op Solutions LOL, Bovine IgG Colostrum Replacement, 1 Dose



SKU - 2402423

A completely natural colostrum with high fat levels providing immediate energy for newborns and containing all growth factors and anti-microbials. Transfers high levels of IgG1 (95%). Each dose provides greater than 100 grams of IgG. Highly palatable and pasteurized for safety. High titers of functional antibodies protects from calf-hood diseases. Guaranteed free of bacteria and disease causing pathogens.

TIPS FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY CALVING SEASON

Prepare a dedicated calving area with plenty of space that's clean, dry and protected from the elements and make sure to stock up on a few calving essentials.

- **Non-irritant antiseptic and extra bedding**
Protect newborn calves during calving season with a clean, dry environment.
- **Clean towels**
Be prepared to dry calves, wipe hands or equipment.
- **Iodine, vaccinations and antibiotics**
Work with your vet to determine what medications you may need for a successful calving season.
- **Obstetrical chains, two handles and mechanical calf pullers**

Certainly essential items during an assisted delivery. Consider having two chains and, two handles on hand. Additionally, research different types of calf pullers prior to calving season. There are many varieties on the market today.

- **A clean surface for equipment**
Sanitation will reduce chances of infection for both cow and calf. Allocate a clean space for used and unused equipment.
- **Disposable obstetrical sleeves**
Use a new pair of sleeves every time.
- **Lubricant**
Soap and water or bottled lubricant are both good options.
- **A calving book for record-keeping**
Pen and paper or laptop, it's a good idea to have a place to keep records of what cows have or haven't calved, birth weights, gender, etc.
- **Ear tags and tagger**
Things to consider; size, color, laser-marked or blank, one or two piece tags. Add a spare tagger for good measure.
- **A sled with ropes and a heater**
Protect calves from the elements during extra cold winter weather.
- **Colostrum replacer, electrolytes and an esophageal feeder**
Ensure calves get the nutrition they need if the weather's especially harsh, or if they can't nurse their dam.
- **Extra clothes & boots**
From coveralls to gloves, keeping an extra set in the truck or barn is essential.

Augusta Co-op Solutions Diaque, Electrolyte Supplements, 100 g

A nutritional supplement providing a source of energy and electrolytes for young animals. Unique patented hydrophobic citrus fiber allows for flexibility in timing of administration. Promotes eating in highly stressed calves. Unique, three-step buffering system. Can be mixed with warm water, milk or milk replacer. Contains a balanced electrolyte formula. Readily dissolves in the recommended fluid saving time in mixing and clean up. Stays in solution so animals get recommended dose.



SKU - 421212

AG RECOVERING FROM CORONAVIRUS DISRUPTIONS, COBANK SAYS

America's economy is showing signs of recovery from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, but any economic surge is likely over, according to a quarterly report from CoBank's Knowledge Exchange.

"Economic data prior to the recent resurgence of coronavirus cases has shown a consistent, steady improvement in the U.S. economy, coinciding with business re-openings," said Dan Kowalski, vice president of CoBank's Knowledge Exchange division. "But traditional economic data can go stale remarkably fast in the COVID era, making high-frequency economic indicators an essential tool. And those indicators are signaling a plateau, followed by a possible downshift in the economy."

One bright spot created by the coronavirus is that economic recovery may now favor rural communities, CoBank says. "Unlike previous recessions, low population density is now vital for economic resilience in the face of COVID-19."

Kowalski said that while the recent bounce back in the U.S. economy is real, "It is also fragile and likely to moderate."

Collective job growth in May and June of 7.45 million jobs points to a consistent, steady improvement in the economy. But, Kowalski warns, "all of this data also reflects conditions prior to the late-June early-July resurgence of coronavirus cases."

In specific comments about grains, CoBank's Kenneth Scott Zuckerberg said grain has been moving and basis has generally tightened since April 1. With both positive and negative volatility depending on the month and specific grain, he called the second quarter "eventful for the U.S. complex."

"While futures prices for corn, soybeans, and wheat are lower year-to-date, basis is generally stable or improving," Zuckerberg said. "Corn basis has tightened as U.S. fuel ethanol production began to recover following the demand shock of COVID-19 in mid-March. Interestingly, corn basis is somewhat disconnected across certain regions of the Midwest Corn Belt as more corn purchases are cost effectively transported by barge."

CoBank's report says the meat and poultry industries also continue to recover from this spring's disruptions, though chicken plants endured far less COVID-19 disruption in the second quarter than either beef or pork. CoBank estimates chicken production down just 1% during the second quarter, while red meat production is estimated down 10%.

Beef processing, CoBank said, is now operating at 95% of capacity with all facilities back online. The beef sector is now focused on demand, with traffic at foodservice establishments continuing to improve, but social distancing restrictions and consumers' reluctance to venture out of their home for non-essential trips have hampered a full recovery.

"This means ongoing challenges for the dine-in, full-service sector, which especially hurts the beef complex," CoBank said. "With tens of millions of Americans losing jobs during COVID-19 and government payments appearing to decline in the coming months, beef prices will likely be further tested this summer."

Despite the disruption, CoBank projects beef production to increase over prior year.

"Fed cattle weights have hovered 5% to 6% above prior-year levels in May and June and will likely continue well above normal through the summer," CoBank said. "We now expect US beef production to grow 1% in 2020, down from previous estimates of 2% growth."

Greg Henderson



MANAGE HEAT STRESS AND MOBILITY IN CATTLE

As a cattle producer, you work every day — often in extreme temperatures — to ensure cattle are comfortable, safe, properly hydrated and fed, and in good overall health, but we all know this summer is different.

Here are some ways to help manage stress in cattle during the summer and how to help their caregivers manage their own stress to enable them to be successful.

MANAGING MOBILITY CONDITIONS IS CRUCIAL

With hot weather, heavier-finished cattle fatigue easily. Because of this, they can often have poor mobility. Producers want to know what they can do to equip themselves and their employees to mitigate the unwanted conditions of fatigue, mobility problems and heat stress, all of which can make it difficult for cattle to make the journey from their home pen to slaughter plant. Planning ahead and having good communication between farm and feedlot staff, truck drivers and packer partners can help make this time in the animal's life less stressful.

TIPS FOR MAKING SHIPPING DAY EASIER ON CATTLE

There are four things that cattle handlers and transporters can focus on to help keep cattle as calm as possible in preparation for the day of shipment for harvest.

1. Always move cattle with a lead rider. Using a lead rider in front of groups of cattle can effectively slow cattle down when moving them, even for short distances. Cattle reach their heavier-finishing phases while being comfortably fed and cared for in their pens for many months.
2. Stage heavier cattle closer to the loading facilities. As cattle go through their time at the feedlot, they should be staged at re-implanting into pens that are closer to the loadout facilities. This will help minimize the distance cattle have to walk when they're moved on the day of shipment for harvest.
3. Identify cattle that are unfit for transport. If cattle have severe mobility issues that handlers believe will prohibit them from standing properly after getting off a truck, they shouldn't be put on the truck in the first place.
4. Minimize time in transport and lairage. It's important for cattle not to remain on a truck any longer than necessary, particularly during extreme weather conditions. It's the responsibility of truck drivers to ensure that their trailers are in proper condition to haul cattle and that routes are direct with no unnecessary stops. During times of hot weather conditions, stopping allows heat to build up within the trailer, which can cause heat stress, especially in very heavy animals. It's also important to minimize the time spent in lairage at the plant. Heat stress mitigation measures and low stress handling at the plant helps cattle cope with the stress of the climate, as well as any stress experienced from transport and leaving their familiar home environment.

EMPOWER PEOPLE FOR SUCCESS

Simply put, if people aren't taken care of, animal welfare cannot be taken care of. Producers need to focus on both people and animals to help ensure that the cycle of care doesn't break down.

New hires should be adequately trained on and familiar with all animal-handling protocols for the operation. Everyone on the farm needs to know not only about cattle treatment, management, feeding and care, but also why these best management practices are in place.

Empower employees to realize that they are the experts on the animals in their care, that they are valued staff members and that without them, animals cannot be cared for properly. There is a huge "people" aspect to animal welfare. It starts at the top with owners, managers, veterinarians and nutritionists, and extends out to every single person who is responsible for animals on an operation.

In addition to empowering employees with responsibility, it's important to ensure they have the physical tools they need to do their jobs well, including the proper equipment, software and applications to monitor animal health and maintain comprehensive, up-to-date records. Make sure employees have access to these well-maintained tools and are properly trained on using them.

CREATING A HOLISTIC EXPERIENCE

Producers who recognize that they need to keep employees safe and happy in their workplace know that this will ultimately translate to enhancing the animal's positive experience, comfort level and health status. As an industry, we need to think holistically about how every segment works together, fill gaps and fix broken systems. We need to heighten communication across the farm and the industry, as well as with consumers and retailers. Together, we can overcome the intense stressors that we're all experiencing during unprecedented times — and in the dog days of summer.

EVENTS / CALENDAR

ANIMAL HEALTH & FARM SUPPLY

FALL BOOKING SALE

September 1-30, 2020

Take advantage of the huge selection and best prices of the season on all of your animal health and farm supply products! Contact your sales representative or visit AugustaCoop.com to shop online or to view a full list of sale items.

EQUINE & DINE VIRTUAL SEMINAR

Wednesday, October 28 - 6 PM - 8 PM

RSVP at <http://equineanddinevirtualevent.rsvpify.com> prior to October 2, 2020 to secure your online space! Call / webinar details will be emailed prior to the event!

SMALL ENGINE SALE

September 17 - 19 | 8 AM - 5 PM

Augusta Co-op Small Engine Shop (1205B Richmond Road, Staunton, VA - across from Sheetz)

Huge deals on SCAG, Husqvarna, STIHL and Oregon power equipment. Call or order ahead, or stop by (socially distanced) to talk to our knowledgeable staff about all of your fall and winter needs.

RED HOT HOLIDAY PRE-BLACK FRIDAY SALE

November 2020

Staunton Augusta True Value

Huge deals for this annual sale! In-store deals will soon follow! Stay tuned...

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.

PREPARE FOR SILAGE SEASON

Silage Savor Plus 450# (item 35001450)

\$698.00

Silage Savor Plus 2204# tote (item 350011)

\$3,250.00

Silo-King, Silage Inoculant, 40 lbs. (item SK40)

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of EPRINEX purchased.

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Announcing a new product size in the Eprinex® (eprinomectin) family of pour-on dewormers: the 10 L bottle.

The new size complements the current product lineup. The 10 L bottle can also be used inverted or upright, with vented caps, to provide added convenience for deworming large cattle herds with the same deadly effectiveness.

Offer valid on purchases made June 1 - August 31, 2020.

Contact your local store for additional details.

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.





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Eligible Customers:
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Program Timing:
September 1 – October 31, 2020

Earn 5% in rebates when you spend \$800 or more on select Boehringer Ingelheim products.

Eligible Products

Dry-Clox® ^{Rx}
(cloxacillin benzathine)

Express®

Express® FP

PolyMast® ^{Rx}
(hetacillin potassium)

Presponse®

Pyramid®

Pyramid® +
Presponse® SQ

Zactran® ^{Rx}
(gamithromycin)

**5%
Rebate**

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over \$800

^{Rx} Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of an Rx licensed veterinarian.