

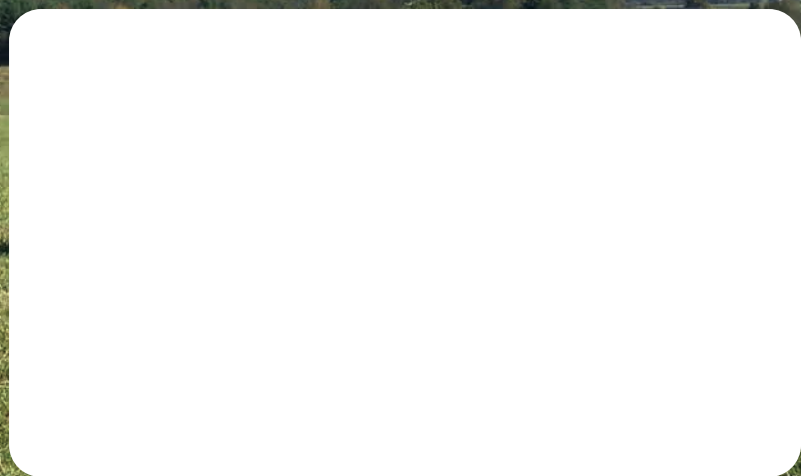
SINCE



1929

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 80
Staunton, VA

AUGUSTA COOPERATIVE FARM BUREAU, INC.
1205B RICHMOND RD.
STAUNTON, VA 24401



AUGUSTACOOP.COM / AUGUSTACOOPERATIVEFARMBUREAU / AUGUSTACOOPFB



AGRONOMY & BEEF BULLETIN
May 2020



1929



SINCE

ANNUAL BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM

Spring calving has started or is wrapping up around much of the country and it is nearly time to turn bulls out to breed for the next calf crop. Just as important as having a bull with good genetics, is to make sure he can actually perform his job when covering a cowherd or group of heifers. Breeding soundness exams are a vital way to ensure bulls will be fertile and physically sound.

A breeding soundness exam should be performed yearly by a veterinarian before turnout advises

Jennifer Koziol, veterinarian and assistant professor at Purdue University. “Even though we may have done a breeding soundness exam in the past couple of years, there’s no guarantee that something hasn’t changed,” Koziol says.

A bull may have sustained an injury to his penis or has just had a downgrade in semen production that would keep him from getting females pregnant. By getting a breeding soundness exam performed, it removes the risk of turning out a bull that might be infertile or subfertile. Additionally, weather conditions can impact fertility, and frostbite could be a hindrance to bull fertility in some parts of the country.



There are four parameters to a breeding soundness exam:

1. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
2. MEASURING SCROTAL SIZE
3. EVALUATION OF SEMEN MORPHOLOGY
4. EVALUATION OF SEMEN MOTILITY

Here is what a veterinarian will be evaluating during each portion of the exam:

1. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Bulls will be checked to see if they can walk with no limping and are able to support themselves to breed. Hooves will be examined for problems such as sand cracks, foot rot, etc.

An injury to the penis or prepuce that would keep a bull from breeding would also keep a bull from passing the breeding soundness exam, Koziol adds.

Having bulls in proper body condition matters, too. Having bulls around a 6 to 7 body condition score on a 9 point scale is the best option because during breeding a bull can be expected to lose 2 body condition scores while out breeding females.

Other features that will be examined include eyes, teeth and mouth.

2. SCROTAL MEASUREMENT

A scrotal circumference measurement will be taken by the veterinarian using a measuring tape.

Starting at 15 months a bull must have a scrotal circumference of at least 30 cm, under parameters set by the Society for Theriogenology, an organization of veterinarians who specialize in reproduction. Every three months, after 15 months of age, the circumference minimum goes up 1 cm, by 24 months old a bull has to be at least 34 cm to pass a breeding soundness exam.

AGE OF BULL	MINIMUM SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE
15 months or younger	30 cm
15-18 months	31 cm
19-21 months	32 cm
22-24 months	33 cm
24 months or older	34 cm

Research has also proven replacement heifers retained from bulls with larger scrotal circumference will go through puberty earlier, helping improve maternal fertility.

During the scrotal circumference measurement, the bull will also have his testicles palpated to see if there are any irregularities.

3. SEMEN MOTILITY

This evaluation looks at the movement of the sperm. Semen must be a minimum of 30% motile.

MOTILITY

GROSS ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY	RATING
Rapid Swirling	70% or Better	Very Good
Slower Swirling	50-69%	Good
Generalized Oscillation	30-49%	Fair
Sporadic Oscillation	30% or less	Poor

4. SEMEN MORPHOLOGY

This evaluation looks at whether sperm cells are normal or abnormal. The total ejaculate must possess a minimum of 70% morphologically normal spermatozoa.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Armstrong recommends having a breeding soundness exam performed 30 to 60 days prior to the breeding season on every bull, every year. This will give a bull that might have a recoverable injury some time to heal and have another breeding soundness exam performed. It also allows a producer to purchase any replacement bulls should a bull need to be culled.

Armstrong calls it the “best insurance policy” that a cow-calf producer can have for their herd because open cows won’t be able to pay for themselves. “Could you imagine getting a 40-50% calving rate? That could be catastrophic and put some people out of the business,” Armstrong says.

He advises cow-calf producers to make the exams part of their core herd health plan.

Bulls sustain injuries or can become ill, they age and semen production can degenerate over time. The only way to know how they will perform in the pasture is via an annual breeding soundness exam.

MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION

Mineral supplementation is an essential management tool for achieving the performance you expect from your bulls. As you sort through bulls, looking for ways to maximize the genetic potential of your herd, prioritizing proper nutritional needs should be sorted to the top. If demands and requirements aren't met, the genetic potential of your herd sire will fall short and their performance may be subpar.

Even if your bull appears visibly healthy, some subclinical signs may remain unseen, resulting in production losses. You can avoid this loss in productivity through proper mineral supplementation. Trace minerals — including zinc, copper, manganese and selenium — play a key role in reproductive success.

For the best results, year-round mineral supplementation is recommended. In fact, the process of spermatogenesis (the formation of sperm cells) begins an average of 61 days prior to breeding, and research has confirmed that semen quality is directly impacted by mineral nutrition.

Copper is necessary for enzyme function, including protecting sperm cells against free radicals. Copper deficiencies may lead to a decrease in libido and semen quality and may delay the onset of puberty in young bulls (Deb et al., 2014).

Manganese is necessary for cholesterol synthesis and is required for hormones such as testosterone. Insufficient hormonal production may result in abnormal sperm production in bulls (Kappel and Zidenberg, 1999).

continued on page 4



Augusta Co-op Solutions AC, PRIME Brood Cow Mineral, OTM

A solid choice for a free-choice mineral supplement for cattle on pasture that contains minerals, vitamins and salt to help meet the macro and micro nutrient needs of cows and calves with micro nutrients such as zinc, manganese, and copper. This version offers the advantages of both hydroxy and chelated forms of micronutrients in the diet for better availability of micronutrients for health, digestive, and performance benefits.

SKU - K5970



Augusta Co-op Solutions AC, PRIME Stocker Mineral

A solid choice for a free-choice mineral supplement for cattle on pasture that contains minerals, vitamins and salt to help meet the macro and micro nutrient needs of stocker/backgrounding cattle, replacement heifers, and finishing cattle. Can also be fed to cows during times of the year when lower levels of magnesium are acceptable and the risk of grass tetany is lower.

SKU - 5969

continued from page 3

Zinc plays an important role in immune function as well as the synthesis of testosterone. Zinc supplementation has been shown to increase ejaculate volume, sperm concentration and motility in bulls. Furthermore, chelated/organic sources of zinc supplementation resulted in more improved fertility than did inorganic sources alone (Arthington et al., 2002).

Selenium improves semen quality through increased volume, motility and concentration while decreasing the percent that is dead or damaged. Selenium also plays a role in reducing oxidative stress throughout the internal system and specifically protects spermatozoa from oxidative stress. Studies have also revealed an increase in scrotal circumference and testosterone secretion when selenium is supplemented (Boitani and Puglisi, 2008).

Wyatt Bechtel & Jill Lason

Clothing & Boots

COOPERATIVE AUGUSTA FARM BUREAU, INC.

TOP NAME BRANDS

KIMES RANCH

ARIAT

carhartt

Justin BOOTS

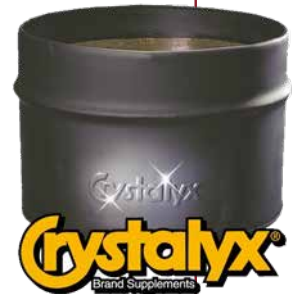
Wrangler

CINCH

Twisted + Boots

Augusta Co-op Solutions Crystalyx, Breed-Up 17 MAG, LMB, 250 lbs.

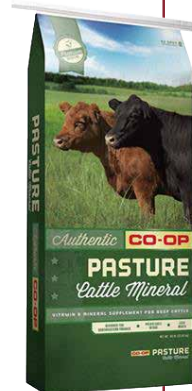
CRYSTALYX® Breed-Up® 17 MAG is a self-fed, all natural vegetable protein supplement fortified with high levels of vitamins and minerals and chelated/organic trace minerals. It has been specially formulated to overcome nutritional stress associated with calving and the breeding period.



SKU - 38259ST

Augusta Co-op Solutions CO-OP, Supreme Cattle Mineral, Plain, 50 lbs.

For weaned cattle on pasture and lactating dairy cows. The addition of organic minerals has also been proven to enhance conception rates in breeding animals in multiple University trials. Ideal for times of the year where higher levels of nutrients may be needed such as breeding season, weaning and at calving.



SKU - 678

Augusta Co-op Solutions Purina, Wind and Rain, Availa-4 Tub, 225 lbs.

Contains Availa-4, a chelated organic mineral source to help the immune system of stressed cattle, especially calves being weaned or subject to transportation. A cooked molasses tub that provides the proper balance and ratios of all 14 essential cattle minerals that also aids in the improvement of reproductive performance of 1st and 2nd calf cows versus inorganic trace mineral sources.



SKU - 62709

Exclusive
PREMIUM PET FOOD

Top Specialty Pet Foods from Local Pet Food Experts.



A pet food isn't automatically best for your dog or cat just because it's a "popular" brand. Sometimes a different approach is needed to truly provide value. Our independent PhD pet nutritionists use expert knowledge and fresh thinking to create Exclusive® Pet Foods, a different line of specialty formulas that are only sold by local specialty retailers who know pet nutrition.

- Meat as the #1 ingredient, including real chicken or lamb
- Antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables & wholesome grains
- Formulated without added corn*, soy, wheat, and no added artificial flavors or artificial preservatives



Visit your nearest Exclusive® Pet Food retailer today.
It's big name nutrition without the big name price.

*Except Exclusive® Performance 2020 CB81 Dog Food

exclusivepetfood.com

AugustaCoop.com



© 2018 PMA Nutrition, LLC. All rights reserved.



FEED YOUR
**GIRLS
RIGHT**
AND THEY'LL
DO THE SAME FOR YOU.



THE POULTRY FEED YOU CHOOSE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR FLOCK AND YOUR FAMILY.

That's why Nutrena poultry feeds are designed to promote hen health and quality egg production. Nutrena makes feeding easy by delivering complete nutrition in every bag.

To find out which feed is right for you, visit NutrenaPoultryFeed.com.



Go from "to-do" to ta-da!

with



AUGUSTA CO-OP

DOCKSIDE to GO

- 1 SIGN UP**
at any of our four locations:
Staunton, Weyers Cave,
Fairfield or Scottsville
- 2 PLACE ORDER**
via email, phone or text
- 3 PICK UP**
tell us the date/time of pick up
and we will meet you at the dock
with your order within 2 hours!
- 4 EARN TREATS**
special coupons, discounts and more

CALL, EMAIL OR TEXT OUR DOCKSIDE TO GO PROGRAM TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!

Staunton store

540-569-6840 (text or call)
DocksideSTN@AugustaCoop.com

Fairfield store

540-377-6798 (text or call)
HBradley@AugustaCoop.com

Weyers Cave store

540-294-3629 (text or call)
DocksideWC@AugustaCoop.com

Scottsville store

434-286-3551 (text or call)
RVia@AugustaCoop.com



WE KNOW YOU WORK HARD FOR YOUR MONEY.

That's why each year, we give back **millions** in cash refunds, allowing you to put your money where you need it most.

Contact us when you're ready for a lender that gives back.

LOANS FOR:

- Cow/calf pairs, bulls, replacement heifers, stocker and feeder cattle
- Barns and fences
- Operating expenses
- Large and small tracts of land



FARM CREDIT
Loans for
Farms, Homes & Land!
800.919.FARM (3276)
FarmCreditofVirginias.com







 NMLS
#456965

Augusta Co-op Small Engine Shop

Husqvarna®

STIHL®

OREGON® **SCAG**
POWER EQUIPMENT

Repairs, replacement parts and a full line of new gas & battery powered chainsaws, weed eaters, lawn mowers & more!

1205B Richmond Rd, Staunton, VA
(540) 885-1265 x 286







Knowledge grows

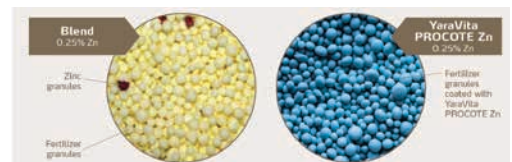
YaraVita® PROCOTE®

Micronutrients on every prill provides increased feeding sites

Even distribution of micronutrients is essential for improved plant availability and yield. YaraVita Procote's oil-based suspension completely and evenly coats prilled and granular fertilizers, and ensures an even supply of micronutrients is carried with each fertilizer granule.

Benefits

- Ensures even micronutrients supply with each fertilizer granule
- Enhanced micronutrient efficiency, crop performance and improves yield
- Easily applied, saving time and resources



CONTACT THE AUGUSTA CO-OP AGRONOMY DEPARTMENT TODAY!

Mark Weekley (540) 569-0248 • Marc Clayton (540) 294-5179 • Colton Sullivan (540) 430-3169



Cattle First.



Eprinex® (eprinomectin) Producer Rebate - Now Extended

Save up to
\$118 on time-tested,
guaranteed deworming

**Now extended
through May 31, 2020.**

**Mail-in rebate must be postmarked
by June 30, 2020.**

The 2020 EPRINEX producer coupon will be extended from April 30 to May 31, 2020.

**Continue to use the current EPRINEX
printed coupon provided by your
Boehringer Ingelheim representative.**
We will not be printing new coupons with
the extended May 31 date.

Producers can use an invoice dated March 1
to May 31, 2020, for a qualifying purchase.
All other terms and conditions listed on the
2020 coupon remain the same.

Spring Gain Days Redemption Form		EPRINEX [®]		Discount	Amount Purchased
Name _____	_____	250 mL	_____	\$6.00	Bottles _____
Business Name _____	_____	1 L	_____	\$12.00	Bottles _____
Street Address _____	_____	2.5 L	_____	\$24.00	Bottles _____
City _____	_____	5 L	_____	\$32.00	Bottles _____
State _____ Zip _____	_____	20 L	_____	\$118.00	Bottles _____
Phone _____	_____	To Receive Rebate			
Email _____	_____	When purchasing through a veterinarian or animal health dealer, complete this form and submit along with proof of purchase (invoice) via mail or email. Offer valid on purchases made March 1 to April 30, 2020 . Submissions must be postmarked via mail or email by June 30, 2020 .			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only producers are eligible for this program. The promotional incentive rebate is offered for sales in support of Boehringer Ingelheim's (BI) independently driven business plan. Rebate requests may require resale information to verify rebate eligibility. BI reserves the right to end or modify the program, in whole or in part (including the removal or addition of products or product lines), at any time without notice. Producers enrolled in special Boehringer Ingelheim pricing programs are NOT eligible for this rebate offer. 		Boehringer Ingelheim Discounts and Rebates Team 3020 Satellite Blvd, Bldg. 500 Duluth, GA 30096 Phone: 800.922.0389 Fax: (815) 676-4752 Email: AHRebateSubmissions.US@boehringer-ingelheim.com		EPRINEX [®] and The Cattle Head Logo [®] are registered trademarks of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc. ©2019 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. All Rights Reserved. US-BOV-0223-2019C.	

EPRINEX IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: No meat or milk withdrawal is required when used according to label. Do not use in calves intended for veal or unapproved animal species, as severe adverse reactions, including fatalities in dogs, may result.

EPRINEX[®] and The Cattle Head Logo[®] are registered trademarks of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc., Duluth, GA. All Rights Reserved. US-BOV-0223-2020

PRODUCER LIMITED-TIME OFFER!

Save up to **7¢**
PER TAG on Bayer
ear tag purchases.



January 1 – August 31, 2020

MAIL-IN REBATES*	SUPPLIER-REPORTED REBATES†
Get 5¢ off per tag for purchases of at least 240 tags (one case) up to 4,999 tags	Get 5¢ off per tag for purchases of at least 1,200 tags (five cases) up to 4,999 tags
Get 7¢ off per tag for purchases between 5,000 and 10,000 tags	Get 7¢ off per tag for purchases between 5,000 and 10,000 tags

SAVE Corathon[®]
on these ear tags: Patriot[™] Insecticide Cattle Ear Tag
CyLence Ultra[®] Insecticide Cattle Ear Tag

VISIT BAYERLIVESTOCK.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Use the form on the back side of this flyer for mail-in rebate claim form.

*Mail-in claims: Minimum purchase of one case (240 tags). Minimum check amount for mail-in rebates is \$12.00. Mail-in rebate claim form and invoice(s) must be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN September 30, 2020. Payments will be calculated by mail-in claim form submission and paper check payments will be paid after completion of the program –November 2020. Supplier - reported claims: Minimum purchase of five cases (1,200 tags). Minimum check amount for supplier-reported rebates is \$60.00. Payments will be calculated by Bayer-reported sales via EDI reporting on cumulative purchases and will be paid after completion of the program –October 2020. Bayer reserves the right to vary the terms and conditions of this program or to cancel this program at any time upon notice through the BayerLivestock.com site. See product labels for complete product information, indications and application instructions.

©2020 Bayer, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201. Bayer (reg'd), the Bayer Cross (reg'd), Corathon[®], CyLence Ultra[®] and Patriot[™] are trademarks of Bayer.

120153