



The existence of man depends on six inches of topsoil & the water that falls on it..... Save them

Newsletter

2011 Winter

Winter Cow Management Starts Well Before Winter

Winter management must start in the fall, before cold weather. This means carefully assessing body condition on pregnant cows when calves are weaned, and developing a plan to provide sufficient nutrition to allow cows to maintain moderate-to-good condition before their next calving.

James England, University of Idaho DVM, says cows must be in condition (preferably a body condition score 6) to handle weather, calving and rebreeding. "With adequate condition at the start of winter and good maintenance throughout, most animals winter well. But, without adequate nutrition, anything else we do is set up for failure," he says. An adequate, balanced diet may merely mean adding a trace-mineral supplement to native pasture, some good hay, a protein supplement if grass becomes too dry, or hay if the grass becomes depleted or snowed under. If a cow is deficient in protein or phosphorus through fall and winter, timely rebreeding can be a problem. Plus, cows are unable to handle the stress of bad weather and lose more weight. And, it takes more feed to put weight back on a cow during cold weather.

If you manage pastures properly (without overgrazing or running out of grass) forage-efficient cows won't lose weight during fall or winter grazing; they generally gain weight after weaning calves and go into winter with fat reserves.

Many factors influence a winter-feeding program. These include climate, grass growth, and available forage; whether pastures are snowed under and can't be grazed, how well you managed grazing, quantity of stockpiled forage and hay supplies and the type of cattle. It's most profitable to match the cattle to your feed sources rather than try to feed cattle not fit to the environment. Grazing on stockpiled forage as long as possible and keeping harvested forage to a minimum is essential to a low-cost wintering program, says Jim Gerrish, a management-intensive grazing expert, May, ID.

"Closely monitor cow body condition and use strategic supplementation to stretch out stockpiled pastures. Even with the relatively high cost of adding protein to the diet, using a supplement to enhance stockpiled pastures is almost always a lower-cost option than full feeding hay," he says. To help cattle maintain health and body condition during winter, consider your vaccination program, assess populations, deworm and delouse, if necessary. The next important thing is mineral supplementation, which is critical for digestion of forage," says Dick Fredrickson. "The trace-mineral status of the cow affects all aspects of production and reproduction, as well as the future well-being of her calf," England says. Drought-stressed grass may be short on protein and phosphorus.

If pasture is depleted or snowed under and you're feeding hay, managing cattle in groups based on their nutritional needs are best.

Weaned calves need the highest-quality feed; next would be pregnant heifers and two-year-olds that just weaned off calves. This is a critical time for this latter group as these females are still growing and pregnant, and nursing calves may have pulled down their condition. Mature, dry cows can get by on lesser-quality forage, be it pasture or hay, until late gestation. Having cattle on pasture through winter is healthiest for both cows and their calves next spring. If you must feed hay, spread it out in large pastures and change feeding areas daily, rather than congregate cattle in small feeding areas.

It is Time to Shop for Cattle Feed Says Extension Specialist- *by Eldon Cole, a livestock specialist with University of Missouri Extension*

The dry summer has shortened the forage supply and may have altered the quality of hay and silage. Since the standby, stockpiled fescue, is not as plentiful, more concentrated feeds will be relied on by area producers. By-product feeds such as corn gluten feed, dried distillers grains with solubles and soybean hulls are becoming more popular and are available. A good place to locate sources of these supplements is at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/bplist.asp> also at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/dairy/byprod/energygain.asp> which compares the values of the supplements based on current cracked corn, soybean meal, limestone and dicalcium phosphate prices which update every week. High quality, by-products feeds reduce daily forage needs and allow steers, heifers and cow-calf pairs to make satisfactory gains and produce their normal milk supply in case they are lactating females. A rule of thumb is one pound of feed (like dried distillers grains) can replace two pounds of roughage.

In This Issue:

<i>Forage Management</i>	1
<i>Landowner Spotlight</i>	2
<i>Cost Share</i>	2
<i>Hay Saving Tips</i>	2
<i>Student Spotlight</i>	3
<i>Events/Fed. Programs</i>	4

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Hay Saving Tips Continued-

Drought conditions in certain regions of North America have placed a great deal of pressure on cattle producers, particularly in regard to the cost and availability of hay this winter. Many areas are faced with a choice of stretching existing hay supplies or buying additional hay on the open market at today's inflated prices. Advances in hay feeder and bunk designs are cutting waste in farmers' feed supplies, costs and time. Using conventional hay feeding rings, farmers can lose hundreds of dollars per year in avoidable feed loss. With traditional feeding rings, cattle stand outside the feeder, tear the hay out, and let the excess fall from their mouths. That excess falls to the ground, gets trampled and wasted.

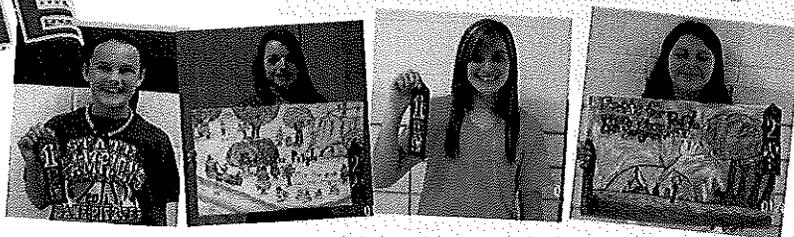
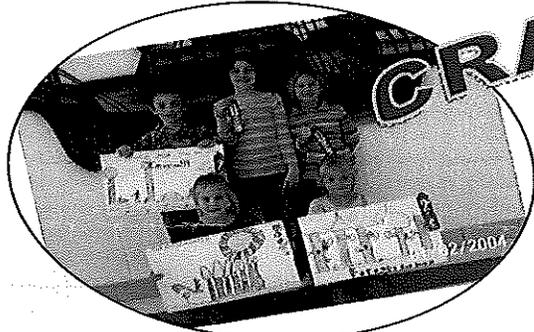
"Conserver" hay feeders, on the other hand, force cattle to place their heads through metal bars to get at the hay. Thus, any feed the cows drop falls right back into the feeder where it can be eaten later.

SCHOOL NEWS



The National Conservation Poster Contest (NACD) was open to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. The contest theme this year was "Forests for all people- More Than You Can Imagine!" or the theme "Forest for People". The poster contest was categorized by grade: K-1; 2-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. The contest was open to public, private and home school students. The state conservation association or auxiliary selects a poster for entering in each of the grade divisions or special category and submits it to NACD. The top two posters in each category received monetary prizes at the state level. Here is this years

Winners!



Starting from the left: (4-6) Shelby Ellingsworth 1st, (7-9) Mariah Smith 2nd, (7-9) Kylie Vaught 1st, (4-6) Jillian Bullard 2nd.

Starting on the back row going left to right- Grade level(2-3) Isaac Robinson 2nd, (2-3) Mariah Aldrich 1st, and (K-1) Zoe Reel 1st. On the front row left to right-(K-1) Lucy Newberry 3rd, and (K-1) Mackenzie Stark 2nd.

HURLEY



Starting from the left: (2-3) Devin Hood 3rd, (10-12) Desirae Jenkins 3rd (won as a Hurley student before transferring to Galena), (4-6) Madison Wyse 3rd.

REED SPRING



(10-12) Callie Stone 2nd Place

BLUE EYE

Students not pictured: (10-12) Shanna Martin 1st and (7-9) Nicole Vukonich 3rd



Mariah Aldrich was the 1st place winner in 2nd-3rd grade category sending her to the state level. After traveling with her parents to Lake of the Ozarks to attend the Missouri Association of Soil & Water Conservation districts Training conference she took home first place and a monetary prize. Her poster will now proceed to the national level where she anxiously awaits the results. Congratulations Mariah!