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March 7, 2024 Volume 30 No. 3

GRASSLAND FARMING TODAY

SMOKEHOUSE CREEK FIRE IS OFFICIALLY THE LARGEST IN TEXAS HISTORY

By Greg Henderson

The devastating Smokehouse Creek Fire in Hutchinson County is officially the largest fire in Texas history, now covering an estimated 1,075,000 acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

As of last Thursday morning, the fire was only 3% contained. The Smokehouse Creek Fire eclipsed the East Amarillo Complex Fire in 2006, which was measured at 907,245 acres, and previously held the title of largest fire in spread destruction in north-Texas history.

Fire crews are working hard to combat the enormous wild-



fire at Smokehouse Creek, before heightened winds into the weekend threaten to make the job more difficult.

The fire has caused wideern Texas, where 83-year-old Joyce Blankenship was killed

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BEEF TRADE DEFICIT IN 2023 AND ANTICIPATED IN 2024 By Russell Knight & Hannah Taylor, USDA; ERS

Trade data for December ports larger than exports) uct and importing large for the first time since 2020. The chart shows the reversal of the trade balance from the last 2 years. Given much smaller production and continued strong domestic demand for beef, the trade deficit is expected to widen in 2024.

The trade deficit in 2023 2023 was recently released, shown in the chart is based closing out a contractionary on volumes. The United year of the cattle cycle where, States is well known as both as expected, exports fell, and a major global exporter and imports rose. This created a importer of beef due to extrade deficit by volume (im- porting high-quality prod-

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U.S. BEEF CATTLE EXPORTS SLOW, **QUALITY HIGH**

By Shelley E. Huguley



The U.S. is at its lowest number of beef cattle since 1951, reducing available exports. "Tremendous" trade volume continues with a neighboring country, while exports increase in others.

After a "phenomenal" 2022 in beef cattle exports, 2023 finished about 15% off, a downward trend Don Close, Terrain Ag senior research analytics officer, anticipates will continue.

Close recently spoke with Farm Press at CattleCon24 and the National Cattlemen's Association Trade Show in Orlando.

As the U.S. is at its lowest number of beef cattle since 1951, Close expects exports to continue to slow. "As our supply contracts, we don't have the product to export," he said.

The strength of the U.S. dollar in 2023, in relationship to the currencies with which U.S. customers are buying, impacted exports and will also likely continue.

"Those two issues are going to be with us for the next several years," Close said, noting China specifically. "There's just so much volatility with China and pressures on that economy."

For the last two years, China has reported a population decline. "I have heavy reservations that China will ever be the scale of custom-

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2024 CATTLE INVENTORIES IN THE SOUTHEAST

By James Mitchell, Livestock Marketing Specialist, University of Arkansas

at the cattle industry, providing a look at what producers 2024. This article looks at the state-level inventory data cattle numbers.

bringing the total to 1.570 tories totaled 104 thousand million head. Mississippi's

The latest USDA-NASS inventory saw a 4.7% decline Cattle Inventory report is to 810 thousand head. Kenthe most comprehensive look tucky's numbers fell by 1.0%, totaling 1.890 million head. These figures represent a did in 2023 and a preview for steeper decline than the national average of 1.9%.

Inventories of beef refor Arkansas, Kentucky, and placement heifers are one Mississippi compared to U.S. indicator of whether producers are considering herd ex-The report reveals that pansion. There was a notable all three states — Arkansas, decline in 2024 replacement Kentucky, and Mississippi — heifer numbers. Mississippi align with the national trend and Kentucky saw declines of herd reduction. In Arkan- of 2.4% and 4.8%, respecsas, there was a 2.5% de- tively, in this category. Beef crease in all cattle and calves, replacement heifer inven-

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From Our Outfit



My very first dog was a German Shepherd named 'Sarge'. I can't remember where he came from – he just showed up or dad brought him home from somewhere. I do remember that he'd come and go and that he finally began to stay more than he was gone.

At the time, my dad was working in town so he would drop us off at school and then help others work to tear down the old school building in Winifred, MT. They would work all day for the scrap lumber full of nails and other building materials. Most of our buildings and sheds at the ranch were constructed in the early years from the lumber and materials Dad was able to glean from that old school building. We ended up with some old furniture, books, and all kinds of other scrap items. After school, he'd pick us up with a truck full of scrap materials, and along with 'Sarge' who seemed always to be in town... we'd head home.

One morning, my dad dropped us off at school and there was Sarge – at the new school waiting for us. I heard later what an interesting morning it was. He decided to take the dog home and then come back into town to work. We lived about six or seven miles from town by road – maybe 3-4 as the crow flies or in this case, as a dog runs. That's right. He dropped the dog back off at the ranch that morning and then headed back into town to work. When he pulled up at the old school, he couldn't believe his eyes. Sarge had beaten him back to town cross country! There he was

waiting for him in front of the school building. This was rough country and in winter. That dog was tough, and he

In those days, we weren't very big, and we would ride that big old German Shepherd like a horse. I was in the first or second grade and my younger brother Doug wasn't in school yet. I was 'husky', but Doug never ate very much and was always slim- he still is.

Sarge didn't seem to care when we climbed on – we would wrap old ropes around him and play all afternoon. Occasionally, we'd hook him to something with one of those heavy old ropes and he would pull it. He was a big

One afternoon, we hooked Sarge to a little red 'Radio Flyer' wagon. It was certainly aptly named for that afternoon. It didn't only have dog power, but it also had a little horsepower too. Animals will be animals and boys will be boys.... But when you mix the two together, it can get pretty interesting.

It was a beautiful day. Dad and Grandpa Pete were stacking hay on top of the haystack just north of the house where they had full view of the house, yard, and everything else for several miles around. Our mother was doing what mothers do... cleaning, cooking, or laundry I suppose. Like all mothers do when their children are playing just outside – I'm sure my mother peeked out the window from time to time to make sure everything was alright. In fact, I know she did, because she could not believe what she saw.

First... there were the horses. The two young horses went by the window in a 'flash' - we call it "a deadrun." There was yelling, barking, and then something else flew by the window, but with all the dust she could not tell exactly what it was. She walked calmly over to the front window to get a better look at what was causing



all the dust and commotion. ing its precious cargo. Doug She had a better look now. was fine – a bit shaken as I That was the end of the calm recall. Me? I hadn't moved a Next came the 'storm'.

away from the house – up the ble. hill – running as fast as horses can run. in the dust was a German story goes, he resisted say-Shepherd pulling something ing he didn't trust his older And in that wagon – it was a I might tell that dog to 'get' child – yes! It was her child! the horses that were grazing It was her middle son Doug on the edge of the yard. It's and there was no sign of any a bit like Charlie Brown. He of them slowing down.

and up the hill after the run- es in every direction. away wagon and its cargo.

to 'blow', the dog tired a bit, and when the wagon reached **KwC** the top of the rise, it gently turned over on its side-spill-

single step from the scene of The horses were headed the crime. I was in big trou-

Yes. I told my little brother Behind them to get in the wagon. As the wait – it's a small wagon. brother. He was sure that knows Lucy is going to move I guess I knew my mother the football – and for some was athletic, but I had never reason, in spite of his better seen her move like she did judgement, he got into the that afternoon! That front wagon hooked to a one-hundoor flew open, and she came dred-pound German Sheover that yard fence – I don't herd. If it hadn't turned over, think she used the gate. She that dog could have pulled was instantly behind the that wagon all day long. wheel of the '62 Plymouth Thankfully the horses took that was sitting in the drive a pasture route and Sarge and in just seconds, it was didn't take any 'shortcuts'. roaring out of the front yard There were barbed wire fenc-

My mother wasn't happy. By this time, the horses, It's been sixty years, and she Sarge, the wagon, and my is still not happy about that brother Doug had taken the incident. Oh, and one other first turn into the calving reason she wasn't too happy pasture and were just disapthat afternoon... Those two pearing over the hill. Then grown men on the haystack they were gone -completely laughed so hard their sides out of sight. In what must hurt. They got quite a show. have seemed like a long time, Doug? Well, he got the ride they all appeared on the next of his life, and he has never rise – on the horizon - at least completely trusted me since. a half mile away. At that For the life of me, I can't unpoint, the horses stopped derstand why.



Bull selection criteria and cost

By Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension Beef Educator

The spring bull sale season is underway. Producers are studying catalogs, comparing EPDs and individual animal performance numbers, and choosing which bulls will be the next herd sires. This article includes a reference to a spreadsheet producers can use to figure actual bull costs, and addresses some of the things producers should consider before heading to the sale. Hint: It's more than just the lunch menu.

What do you want your cowherd and the calves vou produce to do? What genetics will do that?

Clearly identifying goals for what cattle are expected to do and the traits and characteristics that most impact profitability for the cow-calf enterprise is a foundational first step. Are calves sold at weaning, as yearlings, or is

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ownership retained through the selection and purchase of harvest? What do the pur- a bull. chasers of your calves want? Can you produce what they Where is my cowherd at want and have a functional female if replacements are retained? What is an opti- is where you are." Randy mum target given the pro- Hunter, DVM and stockduction system cows are er/yearling operator from expected to operate under? Wheatland, Wyoming uses These "big picture" questions this phrase when teaching should be answered prior to cattle handling skills to help

genetically?

"Wherever you are at, that



people recognize everyone is at a different place in their ability. Once you know where you are, you can identify a

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THE GROWING ROLE OF THE U.S. FEEDLOT INDUSTRY The Midwest Cattleman · March 7, 2024 · P6



By Derrell Peel -Oklahoma State University

The est Cattle on pegged February 1

analysts. were expecting a larger neg-pacity over the past 25 years.

January. lat- ago.

the summary of 2023 final feedlot numbers and feedlot infeedlot inventory at 11.8 mil- dustry structure. Total feedabove year ago levels. Feed- 17.1 million head, up from lot inventories are declining 16.5 million head in 2000. after rising above year-earli- Feedlot capacity as a percent er levels last October. Feed- of total cattle inventories lot placements in January has increased over the past were 92.5 percent of last year, 25 years to a record level of feedlot inventory as a per- over year and the lowest above the pre-report aver- 19.6 percent in 2024 (Figure cent of the total inventory of total in data available back age estimate but within the 1). On average feedlot invenrange of estimates by some tories have averaged about tinued to increase over time. lot inventory is a record 59.6 Some analysts 83 percent of total feedlot ca-

percent of capacity, while country. of 84.8 percent of total feed- of 82.7 percent. lot capacity.

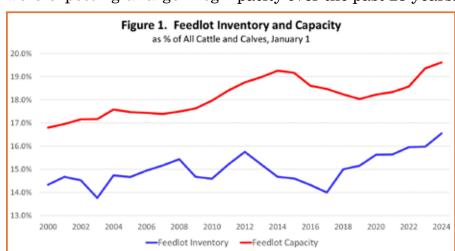
ventory on January 1, 2024, of feedlots was 24.2 million was 14.42 million head. The head, down 4.2 percent year

only feedlots with a one-time months. capacity of 1000 head or more. In the past 25 years, the total

ative impact on placements Feedlot capacity utilization January on-feed total has avfrom the winter storms in is lower during cyclical ex- eraged 122.7 percent of the January market- pansions and higher during monthly on-feed total. Stated ings were even with one year liquidation periods. For ex- another way, monthly feedlot ample, during herd expan- inventory totals on average The February Cattle on sion from 2014-2017, average represent 81-82 percent of Feed report Feed report also includes a feedlot inventories were 76.3 the total cattle on feed in the This relationship during herd liquidation from has not changed in the past 2020-2024, January feedlot 25 years and has varied from lion head, just fractionally lot capacity was reported at inventories were an average a low of 80 percent to a high

> The January 1 estimate The total U.S. feedlot in- of feeder supplies outside cattle in the country has con- to 1972. The current feed-The total feedlot inventory percent of feeder supplies. was a record level of 16.5 Stated another way, this percent of the inventory of all means that there are just cattle and calves on January 1.68 head of feeder cattle for 1, 2024. This level compares every head of cattle currentto 14.3 percent 25 years ago. ly in feedlots. The current The total U.S. feedlot in-feedlot turnover rate is about ventory on January 1 of 14.42 1.93, which means that there million head was 120.9 per- are not sufficient feeder catcent of the January monthly tle to maintain feedlot incattle on feed inventory of ventories in the coming year. 11.93 million head. Monthly Feedlot inventories will inevcattle on feed surveys cover itably decrease in the coming







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WATER SUPPLIES

Selection of Replacement Heifers The Midwest Cattleman · March 7, 2024 · P7

By Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist

Low cow herd inventories, cull the sub-fertile heifers and environment. Milking ability historically high calf prices, looking for the first hollow stem, breeding season just a month or two away and the recent USDA Cattle Inventory report shows a tight supply of beef replacement heifers. All leading to the topic of selection criteria for replacement heifers. Selecting the heifers that will have the optimum mature size and milk level to fit our production system, breed quickly, wean a calf annually and have longevity is important. What should we consider when selecting yearling heifers as replacements?

Early Puberty

The younger a heifer begins to cycle, the better her chances of conceiving in time to calve by 24 months of age. Early puberty is moderately to highly heritable and positively related to future reproductive efficiency. Reproductive tract scoring can be used to evaluate puberty status. Typically, reproductive tract scoring is done four to six weeks prior to breeding season and serves as a tool to indicate reproductive readiness to conceive.

Fertility

Heritability estimates of fertility are extremely low. But because reproduction is so economically important, it should be a priority in heifer selection. Realistic goals for heifers would be 60-70% first service conception rate and 90-95% bred after a 60-65-day breeding season. Heifers should be held accountable and culled if they don't meet these standards. Keep in mind, early preg checking of replacement heifers permits opens to be marketed at yearling prices. Over time, culling the heifers that don't get pregnant in a defined breeding season will result in a cowherd with more fertility. Furthermore, heifers that calve in the first 21 days of calving season have increased longevity and wean more pounds of calves over their lifetime. Keeping 5 -10% more heifers than needed for breeding, permits you to

forward.

Milking Ability

the optimum level of milk production in a beef herd is relative to the forage/feed resources available in their production

maintain adequate replace- is low in heritability. The most ment heifer inventory moving effective means of selecting for an optimum milk level is through the use of Milk EPDs on the sire. Keeping heifers Research clearly indicates from heavy milking cows e optimum level of milk pro- comes with the risk of heifers getting overly fat prior to

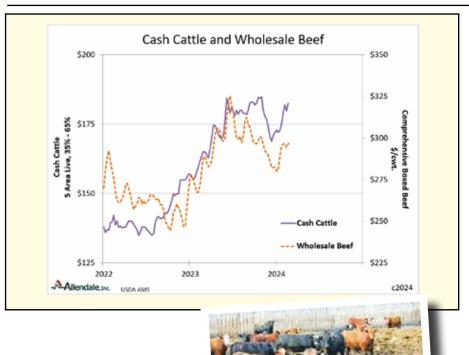
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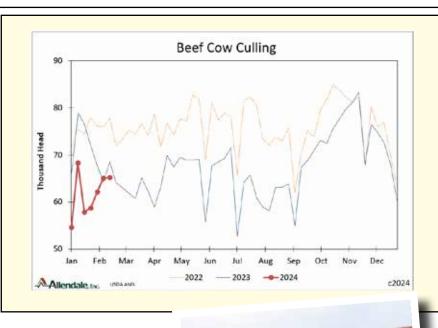


What should we consider when selecting yearling heifers as replacements?



MARKET REPORT





Live Cattle:

In the last issue we lightly touched on the beef processing margin issue. Packers have some problems here with a general multi-year trend of fewer numbers and plans for further capacity increases. This tightens up the wholesale beef to cash cattle variable spread. It also applies a larger fixed cost to each animal. In the first half of this year, one where we have adequate rather than tight supplies, packers are doing their best to correct the beef to cattle spread with a light reduction in processing, -3.5% year/year processing over the past six weeks. Our available fed cattle supply right now is about even with last year. Packer efforts have not been entirely successful yet.

But there are questions of just how much over value can fed prices get in the current run. Though tight supplies will resume in the second half of the year we suggest spring and summer futures are \$2 to \$7 too high. Up until now we've restrained our interest in hedging. We are now interested in setting a floor for fed cattle marketed through summer using a purchased \$180 August put and selling a \$186 August call for a \$2 cost and small upfront margin.

Feeder Cattle:

The recent period of beef cow processing after the January weather issues is still running just under last year levels. This is still not yet expansion though. Given our starting herd size this is still light liquidation. Given that the start of expansion means fewer cattle offered to feedlots we are still far from the peak in pricing of this specific Cattle Cycle. Sale barn pricing is still extreme with feeders +33% year/year and calves +39%.



Trading commodity futures involves substantial risk of loss and my not be suitable for all investors. The recommendations express opinions of the author. The information they contain is obtained from sources believed reliable, but is in no way guaranteed. The author may have positions in the markets mentioned including at times positions contrary to the advice quoted herein Opinions, market data, and recommendations are subject to change at any time.

What Does this Report Mean to Me?

Q: Is the bottom in for corn?

A: Current pricing is about 20 cents off the recent lows. Since February 5 the number of outstanding corn contracts, open interest, has declined by about 150,000. We do not yet have the story which will justify a rally into spring that similar year studies would suggest. Those would allow an eventual upside for the July to \$5.07. From the February 1 issue we would have corn procured at about \$4.66 the July.

Q: Any updates to the feeder plan?

A: No. For this year's discussion a general seasonal feeder rally is expected into July/August. We have not taken action for cow/calf producers. Our concern is with rising prices which puts the spotlight on feedlots. They should have all future 2024 feeder cattle purchases locked in from the plan discussed this past fall. This was futures based (\$238.37 March/\$242.80 April/ \$246.47 May/\$257.12 August/\$257.85 September).

2023 Carcass Primal Premiums Review

words, the weighted average price of each subprimal cut from the carcass summarized entire carcass. Comparing of \$204.51 per head (basis an cutout values across USDA quality grades and Certified Angus Beef® brand carcasses provides the quality pricing component of fed cattle values for grid and many formula sales.

Last November, we focused on CAB chuck and round primal price differences between the Certified Angus Beef® brand, USDA Choice and USDA Select carcasses. That study revealed a trend where CAB chuck primals increased 285% over Choice since 2018. Slightly less dramatically, CAB round primal premiums 170% compared to Choice. The combined chuck and round CAB premiums increased by 223% over five years while the CAB cutout total increased 39% for the period. The per-head value addition changed from \$20.66 in 2018 to \$48.99 in 2023. This compares to the \$17.84 premium for USDA Choice chuck and round primals over Select in 2023.

Looking at the other major primals it's easy to see that the largest value gains in the middle meat rib and loin primals are achieved moving from USDA Select to Choice. More moderate gains are achieved upgrading from

Premium Contribution to Total Carcass Value 2023 Choice vs. CAB® vs. Select Choice Loin \$98.89 \$55.76 Rib \$81.33 \$28.36 Chuck \$13.28 \$34.17 Round \$4.55 \$14.82 Brisket \$4.78 \$5.97 Plate \$0.00 \$6.77 Flank \$1.87 \$1.29

effort to track carcass premi-middle meats already com-achieved in 2023, set the ment prices for fed cattle, ums, there is logically a ten-mand a significant premium. general tone for increasing with packers keeping a share dency to focus on total car- Even so, moving to the high-demand for higher quality of the premium and passing cass cutout values. In other er quality CAB rib and loin grade and premium brand- a portion back to the feeder. primals generates another \$84 per carcass.

Historically the widest into a singular price for the Choice/Select cutout spread

In the brand's continued Choice to CAB as the Choice 880 lb. hot carcass weight), not equivalent to grid payed carcasses. Yet the CAB As well, we tend to see prepremium added \$147.05 per miums tighten when cathead, on top of Choice, for tle supplies shrink, as they brand-qualified carcasses.

Carcass cutout values are

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19th Annual

SydGen Spring Influence Sale

Tuesday, April 9, 2024—6 p.m. **New Cambria Livestock, New Cambria, MO**

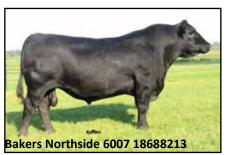
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SydGen Lombardi 0011 SydGen Megahit 0043 SydGen Slash 7405 SydGen Stealth 8556 SydGen Tennessee 1197 SydGen Transcend 0272 SydGen Whiteman 1382 Baldridge Drag Iron BCA 8136 Exceed 1024 BHF 1454 Elevate 852 Deer Valley Growth Fund Mead Indeed Mead Magnitude

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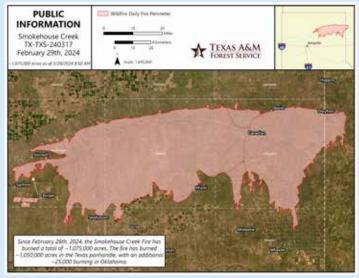
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by the inferno in Hutchinson County, her family said.

- In addition to the mammoth Smokehouse Creek Fire, the Windy Deuce Fire in Texas has torched 142,000 acres and was 30% contained as of early last Thursday morning.
- The Grape Vine Creek Fire has charred 30,000 acres and is 60% contained.
- The Magenta Fire has seared 2,500 acres and is 65% contained.
- burned more than 2,000 acres and is 10% contained.
- Texas Gov. Greg Abbott authorized additional state resources to fight the blazes, including 94 firefighting personnel, 33 fire engines and six air tankers.

Drovers



HAY, FEED, FENCING SUPPLIES NEEDED TO SUPPORT PANHANDLE WILDFIRE VICTIMS By Kay Ledbetter

Donations of hay, feed, fencing supplies, cow feed and milk replacer are needed to support livestock owners impacted by the devastating wildfires that have scorched ranchland across a large portion of the Texas Panhandle.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is establishing Animal Supply Points in several locations in the • The 687 Reamer Fire has region to accept the donations. The purpose of the Animal Supply Point is to meet area producers' most critical needs such as providing feed for cattle while they assess their individual operation's other needs.

> ongoing wildfires, The fueled by dry, windy conditions, have exceeded 1 mil-

> > lion acres. according to the Texas For-A&Mest Service. The Forest Service will continue to update the size and containment these fires other in the Texas Panhandle.



"These donations will go directly to those who need them as soon as possible," said be made through the Texas Monty Dozier, Ph.D., Agri-Life Extension Disaster As- Hay Hotline. And, a relief sessment Recovery, DAR, pro-fund has been established gram director, Bryan-College through the STAR Fund Di-Station. "Texans are known saster Assistance through for their generosity and deep the Texas Department of Agvalues of Texas agriculture riculture. during times of need. This is certainly a situation where tions in Gray County should our neighbors and friends be sent to: City of Pampa are needing assistance after these fires have threatened Pampa, Texas 79066-2499, their livelihoods."

mation:

Several Animal Supply Points are being set up through AgriLife Extension's DAR program. Those with hay, feed or fencing materials to donate, or with equipof ment to help haul hay, should http://fbccanadian.org/firehelp/. and contact the following supply points and coordinators:

 Gray County Animal Supply Point: Clyde Car-

U.S. beef trade, 2010-2

2.0

ruth Pavilion, 301 Bull Barn Drive, Pampa. Contact Marcus Preuninger at 806-669-8033 or 325-728-0477.

- Hemphill County Animal Supply Point at Canadian AH&N Ranch Supply, 100 Hackberry St., Canadian. Contact Andy Holloway at 806-323-9114.
- Donations of hav can also Department of Agriculture
- Direct monetary dona-- Attn: Finance, Box 2499, reference 02/27/2024 Fire, or Supply points for livestock made by phone or in person at and money donation infor- FirstBank Southwest-Pampa at 806-669-8007. Reference City of Pampa donation for Smokehouse Creek Fire.
 - To make donations for people who lost their homes in Hemphill County, go to First Baptist Canadian at

Drovers

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

te: 2024 is a forecast. CWE= Carcass weight equivalent. urce: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Censu



BEEF TRADE continued from page 3

amounts of lower value processing-grade trimmings for blending into hamburger. This is evidenced—despite the differences in volumeby the annual value of U.S. beef exports in 2023 of over \$9.3 billion, while the value of imports was just under \$9 billion. Therefore, from a value perspective, there was a trade surplus of more than \$350 million.

Looking back at 2023, the total volume of exports was 3.038 billion pounds, a yearover-year decrease of 14 percent. South Korea was the top market for U.S. beef exports with a share of 22 percent, though shipments to the country fell 17 percent

year over year. Exports to Japan, the leading market for U.S. beef for the last decade, decreased 22 percent year over year, resulting in a 21-percent share of total U.S. exports for the year. Exports to China fell 20 percent year over year. Of the top six markets, only exports to Mexico showed a year-overyear increase, up 12 percent, and exports to Canada only declined 2 percent for the year. As a result, the share of exports to our North American neighbors combined increased 3 percentage points over 2022, while the share of exports to the top Asian markets combined fell 3 percent.

On the import side, total tralia jumped back up to the cent, respectively. imports reached a record number two spot this year, in-3.727 billion pounds, a year-creasing to a share of 18 per-

over-year increase of near-cent of U.S. imports. Imports ly 10 percent. Driving this from Mexico, the third largincrease were imports from est supplier in 2023, showed Australia and New Zealand, a 12-percent decrease, with up 66 and 33 percent, respect the share of total imports tively. Canada was again the falling to 17 percent. New top supplier of beef to the Zealand and Brazil round-United States, accounting for ed out the top five suppliers, 27 percent of imports. Aus- with shares of 14 and 12 per-



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KANSAS WATER SPECIALISTS USING DATA TO SPUR AQUIFER RECOVERY

Reducing water usage is important to replenishing the High Plains Aquifer

By Maddy Rohr, K-State Research and Extension



Kansas is a "data-rich" state in terms of water information, due to the state's annual well measurements and continued research.

Throughout Kansas and is a popular topic of conversa- chance to recover in 2022." tion among rural and urban residents.

the Kansas Water Institute, notes the Ogallala Aquifer is in the world.

"It underlies eight states, fer," Metzger said. "It is a fi- search focused on the aquifer. nite resource, receiving some recharge on an annual basis, levels have stayed fairly conbut we use the water faster sistent since the mid-1990s. than it can be recharged."

current pumping rate.

Brownie Wilson, the water the baseline is.

the Midwest, you don't have est years we had on record to look far to find folks who in Kansas," Wilson said. "So believe the future of the High what happens is that dry con-Plains Aquifer -- also known ditions lead to a longer pump- Kansas is large, Lewis said can identify the relationships as the Ogallala Aquifer -- is ing season in our state, and so the basics of the issue are between water usage and important to the region. Water the water levels didn't have a simple.

recharge levels this year in ture puts back," he said. "So, Susan Metzger, director of northwest Kansas and west the Kansas Center for Agri- central Kansas have been ing a new way to bring more we've been talking about, cultural Resources and the close to zero, while southwest Environment (KCARE) and Kansas has averaged out and been higher than last year.

Earl Lewis, the chief engithe largest freshwater aguifer neer in the water resources division for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, calls including much of Kansas, so Kansas "data rich" compared most of the water supply for to neighboring states due to western Kansas relies on the the state's annual well mea-Ogallala High Plains Aqui- surements and continued re-

He said the aquifer's water

"Back in the mid-1980s, the Metzger said conversations state of Kansas required that about the future of the aqui- every single (non-domestic) fer often focus on changing water rights holder submit an individual actions because, as annual report to the Kansas soon as 40 years from now, the Division of Water Resourc- helping farmers remain sucaguifer could be 70% deplet- es," Lewis said. "We got to ed. She adds that 40% of Kan- the point of actually installsas farm acres that depend on ing totalizing flow meters on irrigation may no longer have almost every water right or sufficient supplies to sustain every well across the state, cient drop nozzles, technology and for the world is so keenly and that's really rare."

Measuring water use is data manager for the Kansas critical to understanding the those parts and pieces of the es." Geological Survey, says his aquifer, what is causing the organization measures about issue and how to remedy chal-1400 wells in the aquifer each lenges, Lewis added. He re-January to understand where minds those with water rights well as figuring out the ways to check their meter reading that a producer can do that

by March 1.

While the water issue in

Wilson added that water water than what Mother Nayour only options are findwater into the system or reduce the use of that water."

> water to the system would of the pumping season," Wilbe very difficult to do, so the son added. focus is on reducing overall water use.

Water conservation areas, local enhanced management areas and research have successful in their business.

"Research institutions are son said. helping us to identify those problems and find solutions Department of Agriculture that have helped these farm- Division of Water Resources using less water," Lewis said.

Metzger said the key to es to learn more. in technology. From flood irrigation to center pivot irrigation, and now even more effi- do for the Kansas economy has helped reduce water use.

puzzle together to find a solution," Metzger said. "This involves using less water as

"2022 was one of the dri- before the next snow and fill successfully for their bottom out the state's required report line while still maintaining great food production."

Metzger said researchers aguifer levels. She said all of "We're taking out more that information helps officials determine a budget for localized areas.

"With the data set that we've noticed that the aquifer is remarkably consistent in Lewis said bringing more the way it recovers at the end

> Wilson said the goal is to maintain farmers' ability to feed the world and make a living at the same time.

"It's not an easy task, but helped farmers reduce over- it's something that is doable, all water use while still being and we're seeing that on the ground in certain places," Wil-

Metzger added the Kansas ers stay productive while and the Kansas Water Institute have additional resourc-

"This is an opportunity to cessful includes a transition own your future," Metzger said, referring to farmers and Kansas residents. "What you important, and we're here to "It really is putting all help you make those chang-



SELLING 100+ HEAD





by



AA RUBY RED

9/23/16 Red SSS Soldier 365W x Red U2 Stormy 77X Sells bred to ALT Federalist 1032F for a spring calf

SATURDAY, **APRIL 6, 2024**

Nevada, Missouri

Held in Conjunction with our Annual Red Angus Bull Sale

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1 p.m. Double A Herd Dispersal Sale

SALE LOCATION... 3 Cedars Event Center 24327 E. Old Town Rd., Nevada, Missouri, 64772. 7 miles east of Nevada on Hwy. 54, then 2 miles south

Noon Lunch



Red Lazy MC Cowboy Cut 26U x Six Mile Lakota 112Y Bull calf born 12/2/23 by ALT Federalist 1032F



MOKY Y LAKOTA 1531C

Red SSS Traverse 387Z x Windy Hill Ms Dream 1226Z Sells bred to Bieber Spartan E639 for a fall calf



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SMOKY Y BELLE 1609D

Pie One Of A Kind 352 x Red Windy Hill Belle 1338A Sells bred to ALT Moon Shot 920G for a spring calf



ALT GOLDIE LOCKS 173L

Duff Red Bear 18154 x Smoky Y Lakota 1531C Sells Open



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RANCH LOCATION: NEVADA. MO DENNIS ALT - (913) 558-7966 **COLE ABELE** - (417) 684-0881 22286 W. 74th St. • Shawnee, KS 66227 dmalt@kc.rr.com facebook.com/Double A Land And Cattle

U. S. BEEF CATTLE

continued from page 3

er that they got to be. I think **Increased beef exports** Southeast Asia collectively of growth there," he said.

Despite the export reduction, Close said the U.S. is on certainly smaller, we're seesolid footing. "North America ing growth in that business, is absolutely in the catbird and I think there's additional seat because we are the supplier of ultra-high-quality beef products to the world. I think that as we go on, we U.S. protein exports, includcan further concrete that po- ing pork, Close added. "We still a net importer of product replacing this retiring age." sition.

"Australia's feeding more and grow." of their slaughter supply than what they once did, ing but isn't making a lot of ing happening there." headway. Where I'm going with this is we have a lot of mographic trends in Japan knockoff competitors and a and the EU, and their impact lot of wannabes in the pre- on U.S. exports, will continue mium quality beef space, for the foreseeable future. but the U.S. has such a lead, we're in a good space."

Regions where U.S. exports opportunity there."

Mexico continues to be a "wonderful partner," for total

The EU is another story. "The EU, with the diminishup to 50% now. Brazil talks ing population and animal

Close added that the de-

Mexico/Canada trade

Close anticipates that still looks very bright. A lot are increasing also include overall net changes will be pates change coming to the Central and South America. seen in the nation's North "While those countries are American partners of Mexiproduct to Mexico."

that's not going to change."

"I think trade, over time, three partners."

Cow/calf space

calf space "are clearly going cow/calf producers and be of the foreseeable future. That income." revenue stream back to that sector of the business is des- farmprogress.com

perately needed," Close said.

As a result, Close anticicow/calf producer of the past.

"If you incorporate the avco and Canada. "We're seeing erage age of U.S. producers, tremendous trade volumes being something on top of 60 with Mexico, particularly on years of age, when we look at pork," he said. "We're still that in context of the average sending a lot of high-quality U.S. cow herd, it bounces between 45 to 47 head. We see a Regarding Canada, "We're new generation of producers think that will stay the same and cattle. That will continue I think we'll see fewer total for a while. Canada is set up operations, but those operto be a supplier to the States; ations will be bigger," Close

The classic cow owner about concentrated feed- protein space, there's noth- will increase between the farmed and had some cows or had an off-farm job and ran some cows. The new players In 2024, those in the cow/ coming in will be full-time to be in the driver's seat for a scale to earn a household



2024 CATTLE

continued from page 3

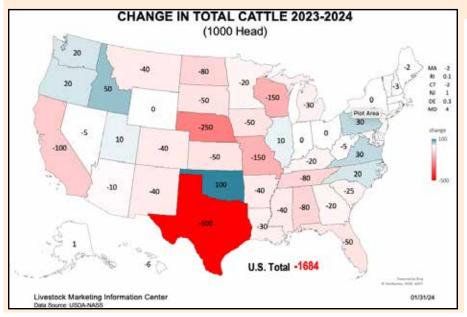
head, down 4.5% compared tions for the prospect of herd to 2023. Nationally, beef re- expansion. placement heifer inventories

All of the cattle inventory declined by 1.5%. One of the data for Arkansas, Kentucky, bigger surprises in the re- and Mississippi is reported port was the revision that in the table below. The theme USDA made to the estimate is consistent across classes for January 2023 beef heifer of cattle. The numbers ilinventories. According to the lustrate how impactful the revised estimates, beef heifer drought was last year in the inventories declined 10.1% to Southeast. If there's another 4.858 million in 2023. In the surprise in the report worth January 2023 report, beef mentioning, it's Kentucky's heifer inventories declined inventory data. Kentucky 5.8% to 5.164 million head. was not spared from last That's a significant revision year's drought, and the cull and has important implica- cow auction data would sug-

USDA-NASS January Cattle Inventory	U.S.	Total	,	AR	١,	MS	,	ΚY
		% Chg.		% Chg.		% Chg.		% Chg
(1,000 head)	2024	Y/Y	2024	Y/Y	2024	Y/Y	2024	Y/Y
All Cattle and Calves	87,157	-1.9%	1,570	-2.5%	810	-4.7%	1,890	-1.0%
Beef Cows	28,223	-2.5%	847	-2.2%	424	-3.4%	907	1.3%
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	18,483	-1.5%	185	0.0%	118	-3.3%	255	-3.8%
For Beef Cow Replacement	4,858	-1.4%	105	-4.5%	81	-2.4%	100	-4.8%
Other Heifers	9,566	-2.0%	78	8.3%	33	-5.7%	130	0.0%
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	15,789	-1.7%	105	-8.7%	53	-7.0%	205	-8.9%
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,021	-0.4%	55	0.0%	34	-5.6%	55	0.0%
Calves Under 500 Pounds	13,285	-2.7%	375	-2.6%	175	-7.9%	425	0.0%
2023 Calf Crop	33,593	-2.5%	740	-2.6%	345	-4.2%	920	0.0%

the report, beef cow numbers ble to 2022.

gest a decline in the state's increased by 1.3%, and last cow herd. But, according to year's calf crop was compara-





BULL SELECTION

continued from page 5

plan to move toward where you want to go. This phrase applies well to thinking about the genetics of the cowherd. What is the genetic makeup of the cowherd currently? Are you pleased with where you are? What traits or characteristics would you like to see change? What is the target for where you want to end up? How much change is needed to reach an optimum level given your resources?

Sorting out the bull breeder

Selecting the breeder and breeding program of your next bull is more important than the choosing of the bull himself. The following are characteristics in no particular order that need to be considered when deciding who will be your genetic provider.

- 1. Honesty and Integrity
- 2. Customer Service
- 3. Genetic Program and Focus
- 4. Bull Development Plan
- 5. Value Added Opportunities

Sorting through all the information

Selecting a bull today can be an overwhelming task for many cow-calf producers. Bull sale catalogs are full of information, including actual animal performance, ratios, Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), gene testing, economic indexes, ultrasound measurements, etc. There are also individual breeders who utilize their own scoring system for characteristics such as disposition and udder soundness of a bull's dam. Having access to all this information is great. However, trying to sort through and discern what these data mean, and which information is relevant to what you want can be a bit like trying to get a drink out of a fire hose! What you want is there, but you can find yourself getting smacked in the face with more than you wanted when you go to get it.

Know and understand what the numbers mean

The first priority is to Nebraska–Lincoln Extension ed in the same way. know and understand EPDs. Beef Genetics Specialist has Research has shown EPDs put together a NebGuide ti- second set of numbers to unare a tremendous and valu- tled "EPD Basics and Defi- derstand. Matt Spangler deable tool for giving an indi- nitions" that explains what fines economic indexes as "A cation of what a bull's true these traits mean and how collection of EPDs weighted breeding value is in terms of they can be used to compare by their economic value such the genetics he will pass on animals within a breed to one that traits with greater imto his calves. Understand- another. In most cases, EPDs ing what the numbers mean are not comparable across a larger economic weight asand which ones are relevant breeds. An exception to this sociated with them." Underfor the traits which you are is Red Angus and Simmen-

selecting for is important. tal EPDs which are a multi-Matt Spangler, University of breed EPD and are calculat-

Economic indexes are the pact on production goals have

continued on page 16



WEED CONTROL IN PASTURES The Midwest Cattleman · March 7, 2024 · P16

As spring inches its way **Preventative** closer and pastures begin will best work for your personal operation.

tion can lead to failed control to the area. attempts. Numerous weed identification resources exist Biological online or are available for resource for common Iowa higher risk of being able to tactics to use.

BULL SELECTION continued from page 15

for the breed you are evalu- pick from. ating can help you to know if they should be used as a tool for selection.

The third set of numbers and phenotype to grasp and evaluate is an individual's own records and on paper, when you actually performance against those see him, he may not be the of his contemporaries. These type and kind that you want. indicate how a bull did in Remember that this bull's his own right. While worth purpose in life is to get cows looking at and evaluating, pregnant. That means he has they are secondary to EPDs to be able to move and cover for identifying a bull's true cows. breeding value.

Identify the bulls that meet your "numbers" criteria

on paper and identifying to them what you want and those that meet your crite- ask what bulls they recomria is the next step. Plan to mend. See if the bulls you do this well in advance of the have identified are ones they bull sale so you give your- believe will meet your goals.

Preventative weed manto green up, it is important agement tactics are those to pay attention to the weed that are implemented in a pressure that may start to system to try and avoid any pop up too. There are many initial or further establishoptions for managing weeds ment of weed species. These in a pasture system; how-tactics might include actions ever, it is important to un- such as transporting weed derstand the pros and cons free hay, being sure to clean of each management option equipment after its use and and choose the one(s) that before moving it to a new pasture. If new pasture is being established, or areas It is crucial to positive- are being interseeded, purly identify the weed spe- chasing certified weed free cies before trying to control seed can also help to prevent them. Improper identifica- introducing any new weeds

Relying on biological resmartphones. The Iowa State sources is one of the lesser University Weed Identifica- used methods of weed contion Field Guide is a great trol due to its higher cost and weeds. Apps like iNaturalist obtain the desired results. and PictureThis are avail- These methods also require able for smartphones and a much longer timeline to be quite adept at providing ac- able to reduce the weed popcurate identifications down ulations and are often highly to family, genus, or even spe-species-specific. Certain incies. Proper identification of sect species may target spethe weed allows us to deter- cific weeds of interest to them mine the best management (such as the chrysolina beetle to St. John's Wort). Patho-

self adequate time. The more stringent the criteria and the standing how different eco- more values you include, the nomic indexes are calculated fewer bulls you will have to

Visually appraise bulls for structural soundness

While a bull may look good

Get the breeder's opinion

A solid seed stock supplier should be a tremendous resource for you in selecting Sorting through the bulls your next sire. Communicate



stock species do not graze.

Chemical

most commonly used methods to control weed populations.

gens can also be released to Herbicides can be applied to create disease and impact the entire field, or they can be the health and success of the used as a spot spray. Applicaweed population. Another bi-tions are most effective when ological control that could be they are applied while the considered is the use of goats. weed is in its most suscepti-Goats are highly effective in ble growth stage. Poor hercontrolling brush and woody bicidal weed control is often plant species that other live- due to the herbicide being applied during a less susceptible weed growth stage. The appropriate growth stage for Herbicides are one of the application is dependent on

continued on page 24

Set a budget and give yourself options

Bull sales can be fast moving events. Know ahead of time what you are willing to spend. Identify your options in terms of bulls you will consider. If the bulls you want quickly blow by your limit, you want to have evaluated if there are others in the offering that still meet your criteria.

Taking the time to evaluate breeding expenses and bull cost based on cost per calf produced or cost per pound of calf produced can give insight into the real value of a bull. The "Breeding Cost Cow-Q-Lator" can be a helpful tool in evaluating a bull's cost in comparison to his value.

This spreadsheet also allows producers to compare the cost of natural service Source: University of artificial insemination Nebraska-Lincoln



(A.I.) and evaluate that as a breeding opportunity. The benefits of estrus synchrony, proven success of fixed time A.I., combined with the prospect of using the best bulls in the industry can make A.I. a cost-effective option to use alone or in combination with natural service.

Check out this tutorial and then download the spreadsheet to run with your own numbers: Breeding Cost Cow-Q-Lator



ELIMINATING UNWANTED WOODY WEEDS FROM PASTURES IN THE WINTER

By Dean Kreager, OSU Natural Resources Educator

When you look at your pastures this winter do you see nice clean pastures, or do you see multiflora rose and unwanted scrub trees reminding you that they are not going away. Controlling undesirable woody plants such as multiflora rose, honey locust, autumn olive, and ailanthus can improve your pastures by reducing competition for nutrients, saving on flat tire repair, and reducing the number of lame animals from thorns. A 2005 report by D. Pimentel et al. from Cornell estimated invasive weeds in pastures in the United States cost 1 billion dollars a year in losses and damages. I can only imagine how high that number would be now, almost 20 years later. Weed control is a never-ending war but even in the winter you can win some battles. Acting now, while plants are dormant, can be very effective at eliminating woody perennial plants while minimizing damage to non-target plants.

Mechanical

Control by cutting or pulling when the ground is not frozen can be accomplished during winter. This can provide instant gratification since the results are immediate. Persistence in the future will be important with mechanical methods since roots that may remain in the ground are often able to generate new plants.

Herbicide

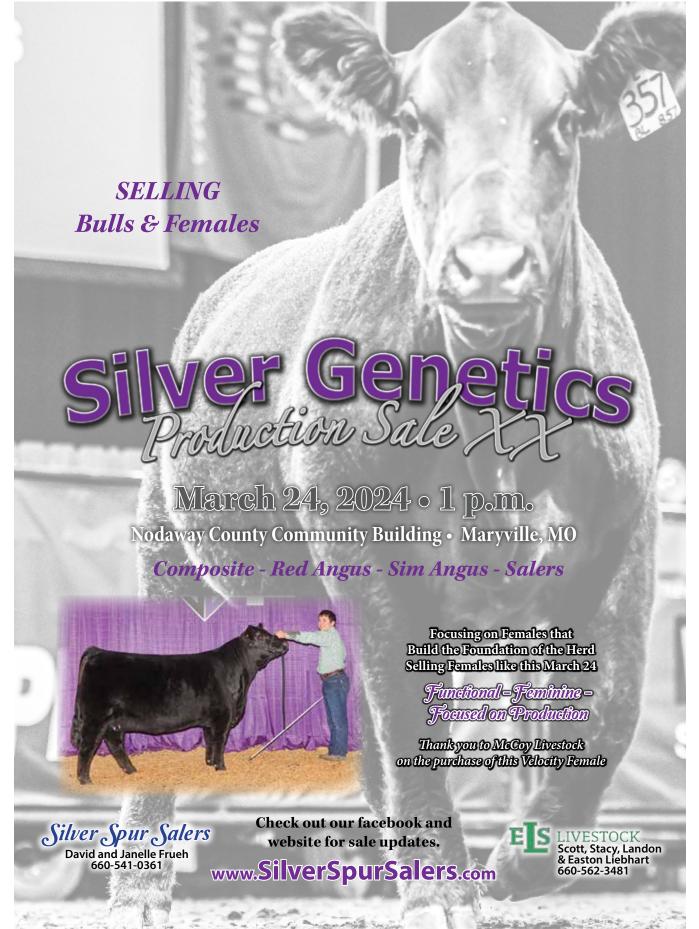
Winter often provides a little more free time to do projects like weed control. During winter, grass in the pasture is probably short and even small multiflora rose plants, autumn olive, or honey locust trees that have been moved for multiple years are easy to spot. There are several herbicides labeled for use for woody plants, and each has advantages and disadvantages. During the winter a basal bark treatment or a cut stump treatment can be very effective at helping control woody plants. These methods, when used on dormant plants, allow small targeted applications of herbicides to specific

parts of the plant instead of and the expense of widespread foliar treatments. the equipment is Targeted treatments can re- minimal. A backduce the potential damage to pack sprayer with non-target plants. Often, we a long wand is a think of these dormant season good option, but treatments as a way to im- even a one-gallon prove woodlots, but they can handheld sprayer also be very effective at elim- can work. inating saplings in a pasture that have been mowed off but just won't go away. The spray equipment needed is small,





continued on page 23 Multiflora rose was introduced from eastern Asia in the 1800s as an ornamental shrub and was later promoted for planting as a wildlife food and living fence for cattle in the United States. Photo - weedid.missouri.edu



Effective Spring Management of Multiflora Rose

By Meaghan Anderson, field agronomist, field specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

a common weed in pastures, other areas they invade.

Identification

MFR can grow to 5-10 ft tall, and spreads by both seed **Control with herbicides** and arcing canes that root at the tips. It produces an abun-vide effective control of MFR these herbicides. Check

Multiflora rose (MFR) is dance of white flowers in late when applied at the May or early June. Leaves are right time and manner. CRP, timber, and other areas key to identifying MFR from One of the best times that are not annually dis- other roses. Each pinnately to treat MFR is when turbed. Now is an appro- compound leaf contains 5-11 priate time for treatment of toothed leaflets. The base of out in the late spring; these weeds in pastures and each leaf petiole has a stipule some products speciresembling a fringe of hairs; fy that treatments are cultivated and native roses most effective when have winged stipules.

Numerous herbicides pro- formation on some of

plants are fully leafed plants are in early or mid-flower. The following table provides in-

> individual product labels and the invasive species control database listed below for more specific information, including suggest-

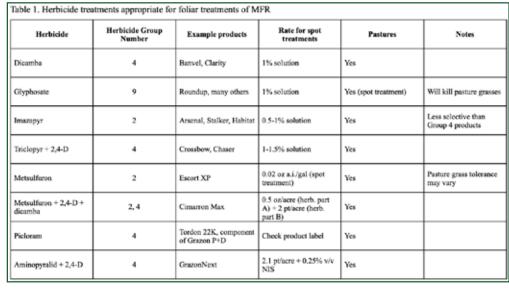
broadcast treatments tire plant. to control MFR. Many using spot treatments,



it is important to achieve ed product rates for thorough coverage of the en-

Precautions should of the active ingredi- taken to prevent off-target ents are off-patent and movement that may result sold under different in injury to desirable plants. trade names. When Check labels for any restric-

continued on page 25





The Value of Calving Distribution By Scott Clawson - OSU Ext. Agriculture Economics Specialist

Commercial cow-calf procalving distribution. Calving It highlights that while she distribution is simply tracking when our calves are born within our calving season.

This measure is useful in three areas.

- 1. There is a litany of research that emphasizes the improved individual animal performance of calves born early in the calving season. Better weaning weights, stronger feedlot/carcass performance, and improved reproductive efficiency of retained heifers are all well documented research.
- 2. It helps us identify which females are excelling within our environment and management by settling early in the breeding season.
- 3. It can help us identify which cows are making the largest annual profit contribution to the ranch. It is common to discuss annual cow cost or cost per cow. This is a bit misleading in the sense that we manage the herd not the individual. As a result, the cows all share an equal part of the annual cost. The cows that calve early in the season will bring in more revenue (via older and generally heavier calves) than the late calving cows that share the same portion of the cost.

The collection of information to do this is simple. Start by tracking the dates that calves are born and split your calving season into segments. The by the book method is to use 21-day increments. Take the number of calves born in that segment and divide it by the total calves born. The answer will provide the percentage of calves born in that period. The target is to get as many cows calving in the initial 21-days as feasibly possible.

While making progress needs to have ducers can face an over- can be slow, diagnosing our a calf every whelming number of records, current distribution and year, that calf data, and ratios that promise finding cost effective ways to needs to hit the to boost the bottom line. Hid- front load our calving season ground earliden in these options is one can have significant financial er rather than simple measure that can pro- benefits. In the commercial later. vide useful information about cow-calf setting, calving disthe cowherd's performance tribution is a go-to producthat we can start tracking tion measure for its ease and today. That measure is our the information it provides.





Calving distribution is simply tracking when our calves are born within our calving season.

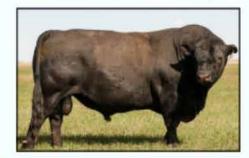
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K-State veterinarians say weight and reproductive maturity are two factors to assess

By Lisa Moser, K-State Research and Extension

a high school and it is easy the breeding season, Larson to see that not all kids devel- advises that producers comop at the same pace - some plete a pre-breeding evalualook like mature adults while tion of the heifers. others appear younger than

mals in a herd of cattle also said. reach maturity at different times, say the experts at pre-breeding evaluation, he Kansas State University's assesses their reproductive Beef Cattle Institute.

Speaking on a recent Catence the pace at which heifers reach their maturity.

ty at 12-13 months of age; Larson said. there are some Brahman-influenced breeds that are a times these evaluations are little older when they begin done. cycling," said K-State veterinarian Bob Larson.

fy the heifers that are most be cycling at breeding, and I

Walk through the halls of likely to get bred early in

"The two things that drive maturity are their age and Similarly, individual ani- their body weight," Larson

> When Larson conducts the tract.

"As they get closer to putle Chat podcast, the experts berty, their reproductive addressed factors that influ-tract starts to feel more like an adult tract with a thicker, larger uterus and some folli-"Most heifers reach puber- cle structures on the ovaries,"

He said there are two main

"Six weeks before the breeding season, I can get an To help producers identi- idea of the likelihood they'll

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still have time to help that along with nutrition. The ers, Larson said, often proson said.

Another factor affecting development is the amount of Lancaster said producers can body fat heifers are carrying, evaluate the heifer's body which can be controlled by condition and adjust accordthe heifer's diet. The experts ingly. agree that the easiest way weighing the heifers.

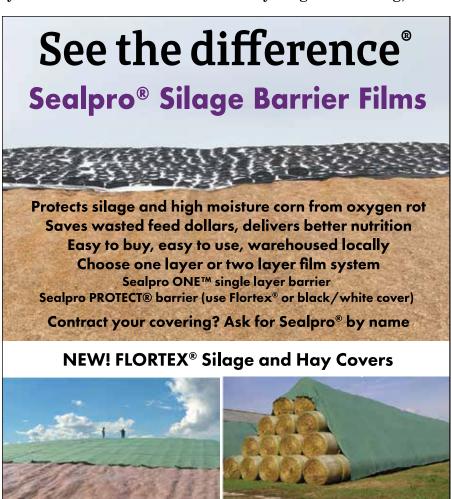
each pound of gain and less weight, the hormones will time," Lancaster said. signal to the body that it is time to ovulate," said K-State beef cattle nutritionist Philip Lancaster.

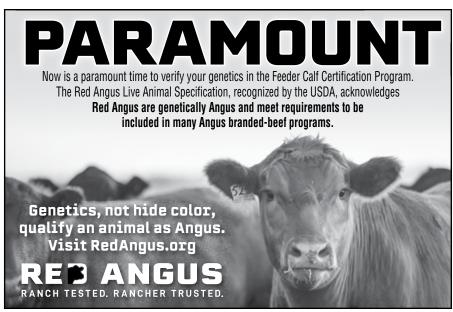
If these are retained heifother time is when we are ducers will know a target getting ready for a synchro- weight that their females in nization protocol and I can the herd start to cycle. While separate the ones that are it varies among herds, for not likely to get bred," Lar- many he said that is about 850 pounds.

Six weeks before breeding,

We can safely increase to measure that is through their nutrition to get more energy in their diet to push "As heifers grow, they them to gain 2-2.5 pounds start to deposit more fat in per day. As long as we start 70-90 days before the breedmuscle. So when they get to ing season, many of those about 60-65% of their mature heifers will reach puberty on







SELECTION

continued from page 7

weaning. When this happens, the heifers subsequent milk production may suffer due to fat deposits in the developing mammary system.

The Mammary System

the mammary system of virare barely visible and appear embedded in hair or fatty tisthe udder and teat structure she should be able to deliver a Birth Weight (BW) and highof the dam who produced the heifer.

Disposition

Disposition is reported to be moderate to highly heritable. Culling heifers with bad dispositions will improve the ease of herd management, producer safety, and conception rates.

Fleshing Ability/Muscle

Heifers that are easy fleshing typically are structurally sound, have a wider structural frame and a body type of more rib shape and depth. Heifers with this body type will be heavier muscled. Evaluating replacement heifers for structural soundness should include the evaluation of feet, legs and eves as soundness contributes to longevity in production. Fleshing ease equates to breeding females that better maintain body condition and energy reserves on a given amount of feed.

Growth Rate

Heifers with good growth rate and of moderate frame size should make the best cows. Those that are extremely light, extremely heavy, or too large framed at a given age should be culled. Commercial cow-calf producers sell pay weight and replacement heifers with more growth should transmit this advantage. That being stated, much like milk, there is an optimum mature cow size relative to the production environment. Keep in mind, puberty is a function of age and weight. The target weight of yearling heifers is 65% of their mature size.

Calving Ease

(PA) of yearling heifers and considering the Calving Ease Maternal (CEM) EPD of sire can be used as selection tools While difficult to assess timeters. As a general rule of a CEM of 4. thumb, dividing the yearling gin heifers, it is important to PA by 2.1 indicates the size of avoid heifers with teats that calf (in pounds) she should be able to deliver unassisted. For example: a yearling heifer with sue. When possible, consider a PA of 175/2.1 = 83, indicating ing ease bulls will have lower

calf of up to 83 pounds. CEM er Calving Ease Direct (CED) Measuring the Pelvic Area EPDs predict the likelihood of EPDs within their respective a bull's daughters delivering breed. their first calf unassisted. For example: a heifer sired by a bull with a CEM of 15 is 11% to reduce dystocia. PA is typi- more likely to calve unassistcally measured in square cen- ed than if sired by a bull with

> As importantly, sire selection of the bulls to mate to virgin heifers is of paramount importance in reducing the incidence of dystocia. Calv-

Final Thoughts

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Selecting the oldest heifers has long been considered an effective method of identifying replacements produced by the earliest calving cows. Heifers born late in the calving season or less than 13 months old at the onset of their first breeding season will be more challenged to breed quickly.





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gives the rancher a direct a t-post. view of what and how much was grazed around it – is per- it's tall enough that your livehaps the simplest method to stock – be they cattle, sheep, help see the potential of our goats, or other species – can't land's production.

overlook things, or don't see fencing. Sunlight also needs what's really out there," Mo- to penetrate the exclosure to seley says. "But once we stop allow photosynthesis. and put an exclosure up and take a fresh look at what's pasture that is a good repregoing on there, you can learn sentation of the forage growa lot.'

How to build a grazing exclosure

large or small as the ma- gates or close to a fence line

It's all too easy to bypass terials you have available what we see - or fail to see - dictate, but Moseley recomin the places we see the most. mends fencing off an area at Noble Research Institute least 3 feet by 3 feet. It doesn't regenerative ranching advi- need to be any bigger than 6 sors Will Moseley and Steve by 6. Build it with whatever Swaffar say a grazing exclo- you have available – four catsure – a small, fenced area tle panels work well or try a inside a grazing unit that 16-foot hog panel bent into a livestock cannot access that square or circle, anchored by

Whatever you use, be sure reach over the top or access "We get in our routine, we forage below or through the

Select a location in your ing there – not the best, but not the worst — and near a regularly trafficked area. Be sure to avoid actual path-An exclosure can be as ways to the water tank or



and set up the exclosure being pasture or paddock.

Putting your exclosure to work

The observations exclosure are as varied as the materials you can use to plants inside the exclosure build it. Here, Swaffar and not occurring outside, that's Moseley offer five ways to probably telling you that use an exclosure as a power- your animals are selecting for ful assessment of your graz- that species. They're grazing ing potential:

duction and animal con- changing the timing of that **sumption:** At the end of the grazing event to allow those grazing event, measure the plants to more fully express amount of forage standing in themselves before they are left outside, and you'll have more recovery time to allow a quick assessment of what it to establish a stronger popyour animals consumed. This ulation. is the biggest reason for an advantage of it?"

2. What your livestock fore you graze the surround- actually eat: Count and note the number and types of plant species within the grazing exclosure and compare that observation with you what you see outside the exmight gather from a simple closure after a grazing event.

"If you're seeing certain it out," Moseley says. If it's 1. Potential forage pro- a desirable species, consider the exclosure against what's grazed, or give that pasture

3. Regrowth potential exclosure, Swaffar says. "You in grazing versus hayreally want to know, what ing: If one of your goals is to was the potential forage pro- reduce fuel inputs and tracduction in that pasture, and tor time by allowing livestock did I actually take the best to harvest more of what you

continued on page 27

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ELIMINATING

continued from page 17

Basal Bark

Basal bark applications can be very effective during dormancy which is typically mid-December to early April. The target plants should be dry, and the ground should not be snow covered. A triclopyr product (such as Remedy, Garlon 4, or Relegate) or one that has triclopyr and 2,4-D (such as Crossbow or Crossroad) can be very effective when used as a basal bark treatment. The herbicide is mixed with an oilbased carrier such as basal oil or diesel fuel. Mixing rates may vary with the product from 4% to over 20%. Basal bark sprays are typically applied from the ground to 15 inches up the base of the plant and all the way around. Cover the bark but don't apply to the point that a puddle forms at the base. Trees up to 6 inches in diameter can be targeted. A dye can be added to assist with seeing which plants have been treated. Always read and follow the label instructions

for the product you are using. Follow any grazing restrictions that might be on the label if you are spraying in a pasture. Most restrictions are related to dairy production but check the label.

Cut Stump

If you have cut or mowed trees only to come back months later to find lots of new shoots, a cut stump treatment may be for you. The products listed for basal bark application can also be used for cut stump treatments. In addition, concentrated water-based herbicides such as glyphosate can also be effective although some labels rec-

products, the outside of the label directions. stump as well as the cut top the stumps soon after cutting. al information. Waiting more than 30 minutes

ommend use of the water-sol- can result in drying and sealuble cut stump treatments ing of the surface which reducduring the growing season for es absorption of the herbicide. best results. With the oil-based Again, always read and follow

One concern with either the should be coated. With the wa- basal bark or cut stump treatter-based products only the cut ment is if the plants being surface and specifically cambi- treated have root grafted with treated stumps. When cutting always contact your local Exthe trees, be prepared to spray tension Educator for addition-

um layer near the edge of the desirable trees, the herbicide stump will need to be treated. could also affect those non-tar-As with the basal bark appli- get trees. This is usually more cation, a dye can also be added of a concern in a woodlot than to aid with identification of a pasture situation. You can

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WEED CONTROL

continued from page 16

the life cycle of the weed.

Regardless of the herbicide used, be sure to pay close attention to the label requirements for hay harvest and grazing restrictions. Persistent herbicides (e.g. picloram, aminopyralid, etc.) may have further restrictions on moving any forage off-site. If for control, consider the legume population since most weeds will also eliminate legume forage.

Mechanical

used to lower weed populasome to manage weeds that ers produce viable seed. reproduce via taproots, it is often too labor intensive to justify use in pastures. Prescribed burning is an effec- easy to adapt in effort to retive option for some species, duce weed pressure as they such as Eastern redcedar, revolve around maintaining

Timing is key to target the a healthy stand of desirable species of concern.

During the process of pasture renovation, tillage may be an effective choice to manage weeds present in the field as it is a non-selective method of control.

The most common mechanical method is mowing. Clipping weeds before they reach a broadleaf weed is the target reproductive stages can be effective at preventing seed production for many species. herbicides used for broadleaf It will be most effective on biennial or winter annual species that produce seed atop a tall stem, but multiple mowing passes can be effective at Hand-digging or burning preventing annuals and peare two mechanical methods rennials from producing seed as well. Biennials and winter tions. While hand removal annuals need to be mowed may be a reasonable task for after bolting but before flow-

Cultural

Cultural methods can be Iowa State University

forage. These tactics would include avoiding overgrazing so that the forage stand can outcompete the weed species, managing pasture traffic patterns, using well-adapted competitive forage species, and maintaining good soil fertility. The grazing style of the pasture can also be further managed to help with the forage growth, such as utilizing rotational, continuous, strip, or sequence grazing patterns.

Regardless of the weeds that are present in your pasture, there are viable control options that can be implemented for effective control. Staying on the forefront of the weed pressure will assist in being able to have an easier time controlling those weed populations.

Extension

PASTURE WEEDS

- L.Weed encroachment reduces livestock performance, animal health, and decreases land productivity.
- 2. Grazing management might reduce weed encroachment as a preventive tactic, but once weeds are established, they must be managed.
- **3.** Weeds reduce livestock output per area by affecting forage productivity, forage utilization, forage nutritive value, and voluntary intake.

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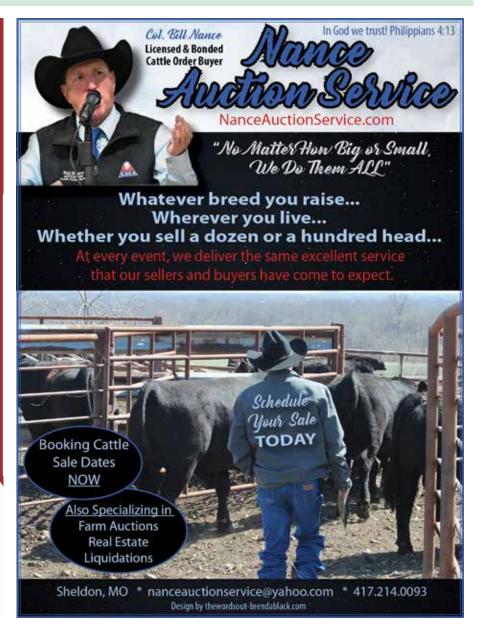
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EFFECTIVE SPRING

continued from page 18

grazing of treated areas.

Alternative control options

nate plants.

Information both chemical and non-chem- bank. ical control tactics are pro-

tions that may pertain to use vided at the Midwest Invanear water resources and for sive Plant Network control database.

As with most weeds, controlling multiflora rose re-This plant may be man-quires a long-term comaged with mechanical efforts mitment. In areas with with significant effort. Mow- established populations, the ing plants 3-6 times during seed bank will allow reinthe growing season for multi-festation. Thus, follow up efple years should significant- forts are required to control ly reduce MFR populations, plants that survive earlier Additionally, mechanical re-treatments and plants that moval by pulling or digging emerge from the seed bank. to remove the root crown and Proper pasture management as many roots as possible is that enhances competitivean effective method to eliminess of the pasture grasses will reduce recruitment of regarding new plants from the seed-DAM



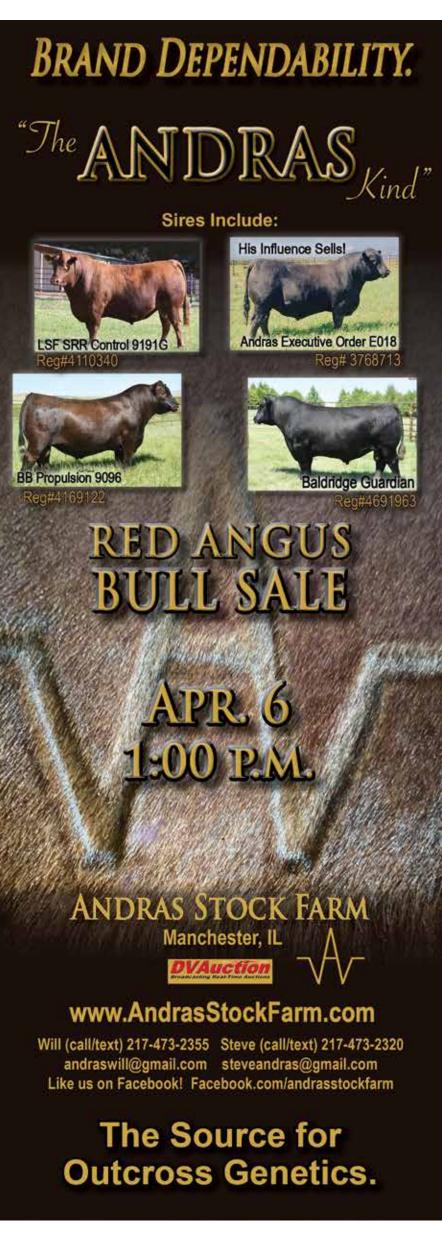
2023 CARCASS continued from page 9

are currently. This is likely to create a pricing scenario where all cattle are priced at, or near, record-high levels yet the premium outcome may pause or retreat some as was the case in 2014-2015.

However, the message CAB from our customers and con-

sumers has strengthened the votes for higher quality carcasses in the 2023 cutout data. Preference for highly marbled beef with added specifications under a brand with a reputation for quality will not fade even if the magnitude of premiums does.





By Halden Clark, DVM MS, Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center & Lindsay Waechter-Mead, DVM, Nebraska Extension Beef Educator

or scours, is a common is why we call this "amplifi**concern among cow-calf** cation." The first calves born producers. Understand- may not show clinical symping why scours occur is toms of scours because the the first step in prevent- pathogen load may not be ing the problem.

What causes calf scours?

ment. contamination develops fol-(germ) buildup, or amplifi- scours cation. Cows shed relatively small amounts of these bacte- can be accomplished by adria and viruses into the envi-dressing different areas of ronment often without show- management. One way to do ing any clinical symptoms. this is by following the Sand-Other scours-causing patho- hills Calving Method, or a gens, such as coccidia, can modified version of it. The persist in the environment concept is to place calves into year after year. As calves similar age groups, calving are born, they are exposed to on clean environments with these pathogens and begin each group. Ideally, calves the cycle of replication and should be within 10-14 days shedding of disease poten- of age in each calving area. tials. They shed many times Late gestation cows will then more germs than they were be moved away from new ba-

high enough to overwhelm the immune system. However, as more calves are born Calf scours outbreaks are and stocking density increasthe result of a contaminated es, the pathogen load can be-This environmental a scours outbreak occurs.

lowing a period of pathogen How to reduce the risk of

Reducing the risk of scours

Neonatal calf diarrhea, originally exposed to, which bies to calve in a fresh environment and begin another age group, and so on. This will allow reduction of pathogen shedding and exposure dose. The original concept can be modified to fit most operations by having an idea of calving dates and a little creativity.

Limiting stress during calving and nursing environ- come too much. This is when calving is another preventative measure. One example shown to be beneficial. of stress includes weather calves to get out of storms and mud may help. This can be accomplished by utienter but cows remain outmoving shelters or utilizing health plan. open air concepts have been



Photo - Troy Walz

Testing is necessary to get concerns. Having a place for a final diagnosis on what pathogens are causing problems and often the condition contains two or more species lizing shelters or creating a of bacteria, viruses, or procalf escape area by adding a tozoa. Age of calf is helpful hot wire in the corner of the in knowing what may be lot where calves can freely causing the problem as each pathogen affects calves at side the space. Shelters can different time frames. Unbecome sources of contam- derstanding crucial manageination if left unclean and ment areas and establishing wet. Because ventilation and prevention protocols with sunshine are vital factors your veterinarian are essenin keeping calves healthy, tial for your operation's calf



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could quantify varying rates vest. of regrowth.

in the same pasture. Once help observe the differences the producer was finished in grazing patterns and prefgrazing, he used a weed eater erences between species and to cut the second exclosure's classes of livestock in similar forage to mark an equivalent pasture conditions. to haying it. He could then compare plant growth and wildlife pressure plays in ish?

Swaffar recounts a produc- habits of different live-

grow rather than taking it narios: no harvest, livestock new to planting a cover crop, phone, or photographing the for hay, a grazing exclosure harvest and mechanical har- or working to re-establish exclosure from the same dinative grasses in a pasture rection and distance at min-4. Compare the grazing previously cultivated for in- imum before, during, and troduced species and the after the grazing event. His er who set up two exclosures **stock:** Use an exclosure to seeding success rate is disappointing, a grazing exclosure set up one exclosure, you'll will answer the question: probably want more. did it fail because the seeds didn't germinate, or did wildlife graze it out before you up, you start to get curious 5. Understand the role had a chance to see it flour-

Keeping track of your observations

In all of these scenarios, record-keeping matters. How personality and desire. At happening there?" minimum, Swaffar recomside the exclosure and out- ful observational tool." side the exclosure, and how much forage is growing. That can be noted by a visual assessment, or it can be as scientific as a clip-and-weigh measurement to know exactly what your potential was.

That might look like keeping a notebook on the pickup

recovery among three sce- pasture potential: If you're dash, typing a note on your experience says once you've

> "What's really fun about this is that once you set one and excited about it," Swaffar says. "You'll find you might make an excuse to go by there and just see, next thing you know, you're there on a weekly basis going, 'Huh. That's you do it is dictated by your interesting, wonder what's

> "It really piques your curimends recording how many osity, and that's a good thing. different species you see in- That's why it's such a power-







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Extends Out An Additional 26"



ig D Ranch Brangus

By Austin Black

of cattle and family is a pas- pigs but loved cattle," DeSalsionate cause on the Big D vo said. A commercial cow/ Ranch (BDR) in North Cen- calf operation with Angus tral Arkansas. The descen- influenced females, the herd dant of Italian immigrants, grew to around 150 cows by Phillip DeSalvo and his wife the early 2000's. And that's Beth relish their family's his- when everything changed. torical journey and lifestyle. They also have an innate fresh out of high school and focus on producing the best approached his dad about in-Brangus cattle in the coun- corporating Brangus genettry, taking pride in stacking ics into the herd. He'd seen BDR bloodlines throughout and heard about the matertheir herd's pedigree.

minded them of home. Today, breeding. DeSalvo and his family conculture tradition.

knew," DeSalvo said. For gen-family operation in 2003 and erations, his family raised gave strong consideration to cattle, hogs, cotton and grew adding Brangus seedstock vineyards. When his father alongside the commercial took over the operation, herd. "I was noticing in the though, the focus turned to mid 1990's, a lot of the Brancattle only. "The story I al- gus





Preserving the heritage ways heard was dad hated

In 1997, DeSalvo was nal performance, efficiency, Over 130 years ago, the and heat tolerance the breed entire DeSalvo family moved offered. "No matter where I from Italy to St. Louis, Mo was, the Brangus cattle were in search of the Ameri- always at the top of perforcan dream. When the city mance," he said. Willing to smog posed health concerns, let his son explore the possithough, they packed up and bility, DeSalvo's dad agreed headed south to Center to let him purchase a cou-Ridge, Ark. There they found ple Brangus bulls from Cow prime ranch country that re- Creek Ranch and start cross-

The results were imprestinue to raise cattle on that sive. "They outperformed on same land, carrying on the all aspects of production," family's longstanding agri- DeSalvo said. After working as a welder for about five "Farming was all they years, DeSalvo took over the seedstock producers

> were on the higher end of production," he said. It created a gap in the marketplace because breeders those weren't producing bulls that worked for commercial cattlemen. Seeing how important it was to provide commercial operations with quality Brangus took the leap into the seedstock business himself.

In 2004, he bought a set of registered Brangus cows bred to an Angus bull. The cross produced an



ite, defined as at least 50% to have them and neither Brangus, and put the DeSal- can our customer," he said. vo family's Big D Ranch on "Balance, balance, balance is the map.

Genetics that work

eration.

"I look for a complete pack-carry the BDR brand. aged animal," he said. Acknowledging the maternal tage of his herd has allowed and growth traits of Brangus him to focus heavily on E.T. cattle, DeSalvo also expects also, creating a very uniform them to perform on the rail. set of bulls and replacement And phenotype has to match heifers each year. "ET is our genotype to make it com- bread and butter," he said. plete. "There's so many peo- "We started in 2015 and ple in this world breeding for never let off the gas." extremes in cattle, and we know that's not sustainable," corporate that technique, he said. "They need to have DeSalvo picked six females a look because your custom- from his herd that combined er desires that. But they also the genetics and conformahave to perform. I'm proud of tion he wanted to replicate. DeSalvo how well our cattle perform He then carefully selected for our customers."

back consistently and raise uniform set of calves. Nearly a heavy calf. He also wants 10 years later, DeSalvo has functional cattle with lon- used the females from this gevity. "We are very heavily program to build his donor concentrated on feet and leg pen to 20 cows. "I can pick structure. If the animal can't out those elite females in our Ultrablack compos- walk or nurse, we can't afford herd and stack them geneti-

what we're looking for."

The strict performance protocol has resulted in De-From the beginning, De- Salvo consistently raising Salvo knew that commercial cattle that work in any setcattlemen were the driving ting, commercial or seedforce for the beef industry. stock. In fact, his herd now And commercial beef produc- carries multiple generations tion was his passion. "Com- of BDR bloodlines on top and mercial cow-calf production bottom. DeSalvo AI's about is my heritage and where I 50% of the herd to outside come from," he said. With this Angus and top end Brangus in mind, he and his wife Beth bulls that fit his desired gehave focused on breeding and netic criteria. But all cleanmanaging their cattle to per- up bulls are home raised and form on any commercial op- DeSalvo currently has about six junior herd sires that

The strong genetic heri-

When he planned to insires for each female to cre-DeSalvo raises his cattle to at genetic diversity in the perform well on grass, breed offspring while producing a

cally," he said. "Our replace- had his top customers com- New customers, new and are willing to pay for it."

A family affair

has been largely driven by selling registered Brangus mercial bred heifers.

8" as eight lots of registered top-quality cattle. females or embryo packages. Any cattle that don't we're tried and true and promake the cut for their sale duce genetics that work," he we can compete with, if not are marketed as feeder cattle through Joplin Regional Stockyards or finished and sphere that you come back to sold direct to consumer.

The production sale began an animal," he said. by accident when DeSalvo

ment heifers are peas in a peting over the pick of bulls. pod. The customers like it For 10 years, he'd offered bulls private treaty and built vo has seen a variety of a solid reputation throughout changes to the cattle he the region. But as his custom-Big D Ranch remains ac- er base grew and the genettive in commercial cow-calf ics improved, buyer competiproduction to keep up with tion sparked. To give all his the trends and expectations buyers an equal chance to of their customers. But in the purchase their top picks, he last 20 years, the operation started offering everything the same as they were in through a live auction.

To make the event unique, had so much genetic ough, the sale is more of a progress." and Ultrablack seedstock. though, the sale is more of a "We have a production sale big family get together than a on the farm the second Sat- formal production. "We don't of Angus to create the Ulurday in October," DeSalvo do this for a tax write-off, it's trablack composite, Desaid. This year will mark our living," he said. To make Salvo said breed improvetheir 10th year of having a all the buyers feel at home, ment has magnified. In live auction, where they sell DeSalvo works to make the fact, 75-80% of the bulls 60-80 bulls and 50-100 com- event a family environment, Big D Ranch sells are Ulcomplete with good food, trablack 1 & 2, which are They also offer the "Elite friendly conversations and at least 75% or 50% Brangus,

> said. And it's a fun event for exceed, Angus genetics," he all who attend. "It's an atmoeven if you don't need to buy Ranch breeding program

opportunities

Over the years, DeSalraises and the customer he serves. "Misconception has been our biggest challenge," he said. "Too many people believe today's Brangus cattle are the 1960-70's, but we've

With the introduction

respectively. "Now our as-"We don't have the glamor, sociation is finding ways to show the general public that said.

> DeSalvo keeps the Big D progressing at the same rate and caters to producers who





are looking for cutting edge genetics. "One of my biggest staples is don't be afraid to change," he said. "And what I find appealing is someone that doesn't view the cattle industry as the generation before them." He also understands that beef production is a slow-moving train. "I like producers that are forward

continued on page 30

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continued from page 29

thinking and want to make change drastically, but that also know the cattle industry is slow," he said.

This ideal client also happens to be the next generation of cattlemen and women that are entering the business. "In 2012 and 2013, we were marketing to big customers that wanted to buy a lot of bulls. But those people are aging out," he said. "Today, our bigger market share would be 35- to 40-year-old producers that are financially stable enough to own a herd of cows and need a bull." To attract more of these younger customers and help them be profitable, DeSalvo provides resources that make him more than just a bull suppli-

Half of the bulls offered in his sale are yearlings, which are often a more affordable animal to purchase. At the same time, though, most yearling bulls aren't mature

don't have facilities for a bull the next spring.

also going to launch a breeding service program for his customers, and eventually the public. "There are a lot of don't have the time or facilities to A.I.," he said. Interested parties can bring their tomers and provide bull recfemales to the Big D Ranch for two weeks to be bred to a BDR sire or another bull of their choice.

And to add icing to the cake, DeSalvo has two large bull customers that buy BDR sired calves to feed out, creating a market incentive for his customers.

All about family

With 20 years under their belt, and a lifetime to go, the

enough to cover a herd of fe- DeSalvo's are grateful for the ommendations. males effectively. So DeSal- success they've experienced vo also offers to house and and excited for the future op- Beth and I have one goal in feed the bulls until breeding portunities awaiting them. mind and that's to improve season for \$150/month. This As his two children, Ben and the existing facilities and add helps his customers that Isabella, are chartering their some property so we can exown paths in higher educa- pand when the children come or may not need him until tion, DeSalvo is looking for- back to the ranch," he said. ward to their involvement Beyond that, DeSalvo plans This spring, DeSalvo is in the operation moving for- to continue making genetic ward. "I'm proud of where progress within his herd. "I we live and how we live," he have an eagerness to oversaid. "Those two kids are my achieve each and every year," greatest accomplishments." he said. "I'm my own compepeople with 20-40 cows that Ben frequently assists with tition and if I don't wake up genetic decisions and is on-challenging myself, it doesn't site for sale day to assist cus- work well.'

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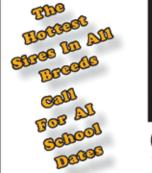
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THE BASICS OF FROST SEEDING CLOVER

By Mike Trammell - Oklahoma State Extension Forage Agronomist

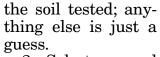
Legumes are an essential part of a strong and healthy pasture ecosystem. Legumes form a symbiotic relationship with Rhizobium bacteria in which the bacteria fix nitrogen (N) from the air into a plant available form. Legumes, such as clovers, may be used in much of the region as a means of extending the length of grazing season, in-

creasing the nutritional plane Oklahoma State University effect of fescue toxicosis.

including no-till frost-seeding requires and is the simplest to implement. Frost seeding is accomplished by broadcasting the freezing and thawing cyreduced by frosts, and pas- this. tures are closely grazed prior competition.

sure the best chance of getworks best with crimson, red NOT recommended for alfal- contact. fa.

needs. Get a current soil test tional N on overseeded fields and apply the needed nutri- next spring and be prepared of 6.5 to 7 and adequate or grass or spring weeds get up supplied from diammonium grass and weed competition is phosphate (DAP) if used to controlled. supply the needed P. But get



2. Select a good variety. Choose an improved variety with known performance and genetics. Choosing a better red or white/ladino clover variety can mean additional hay tonnage, improved forage quality and longer stand life. Spread enough seed.

of grazing livestock, reducing Fact sheet PSS-2585, Forage the amount of N fertilizer re- Legumes for Oklahoma, recquired in a forage production ommends broadcast seeding program and/or limiting the rates of 6 to 8 pounds for crimson and red clover and 3 to 4 There are several tech- pounds per acre for white/laniques for introducing or reindino clover. If mixing the red troducing clover into pastures and white clover when seedseeding, ing, apply the minimum seedminimum tillage, and frost ing rate of red clover (6 lb./A) seeding. Of these techniques, mixed with 1 lb./A of white/lathe dino clover. This will put over least amount of equipment 50 seeds per square foot on the pasture (about 37 red and 18 white).

- 3. Make sure seed lands clover seed onto existing pas- on bare soil. Excess grass or tures or hayfields late winter thatch must be grazed and/or - early spring and allowing disturbed until there is some bare ground showing prior cles to incorporate the seed to overseeding. The biggest into the soil. Frost seeding cause of seeding failure with is not foolproof but will nor- frost seedings is too much mally succeed if moisture is ground cover. Judicious catfavorable for establishment, the traffic or dragging with a insect populations have been chain harrow can accomplish
- 4. Get good soil-seed conto seeding to minimize grass tact. With frost seeding, we are depending on the rain Here are a few tips to en- and snow or freeze-thaw action of the soil surface to work ting clover established from the clover seed into the top 1/4 a frost-seeding. This method inch of soil. A corrugated roller can also be used soon after and white/ladino clover. It is seeding to ensure good soil
- 5. Control competition next 1. Address soil fertility spring. Do not apply addients. Clovers need a soil pH to do some timely mowing if better levels of phosphorus above the clover. Clover is an and potassium. Do not apply aggressive seeding but will additional N except for that establish faster and thicker if



Caring for dehydrated calves K-State beef cattle veterinarians share tips on helping young calves experiencing scours

By Lisa Moser, K-State Research and Extension

Anyone who has experienced a gastrointestinal virus knows the key to getting back to good health is to keep drinking fluids. That is true for beef cattle as well, say the experts at the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute.

In some cases, young calves who become severely dehydrated from scours may not survive without an intervention, said the K-State veterinarians, who addressed which compounds the probthis topic on a recent Cattle lem," said Brian Lubbers, Chat podcast.

"Scours most commonly affect calves in the first 3-4 has scours can lose 5-10% of weeks of life," said veterinar- its body weight quickly, so ian Brad White.

With this disease, calves quickly.' experience severe diarrhea drated.

diarrhea are losing a lot of fluid and they don't feel well



Calves are most susceptible to scours in the first 3-4 weeks of life.

so they often aren't nursing, K-State veterinarian. "An 80- to 100-pound calf that it is important to intervene

Lubbers said along with and quickly become dehy- diarrhea and a lack of vigor, calves experiencing dehydra-'Calves with moderate tion will also show in their eyes.

"With dehydrated calves,

eyelid," Lubbers said.

bags of commercial electrolyte replacement on hand, said K-State veterinarian standpoint, White said it is Bob Larson.

drink from a bottle then you the risk that the disease will can give them oral electrolytes," Larson said. "Another option is to deliver that through an esophageal feed-cal-oral transmission, so it is er."

said producers need to have tion practices," White said. their veterinarian administo the point where they need bers said. IV fluids.

Both Larson and Lubbers

agree that it is important to consult with the local veterinarian about the best mode of treatment to aid the sick calf.

Lubbers said that the electrolytes can be administered in conjunction with allowing calves the chance to nurse or receive milk replacer but that the timing is a factor.

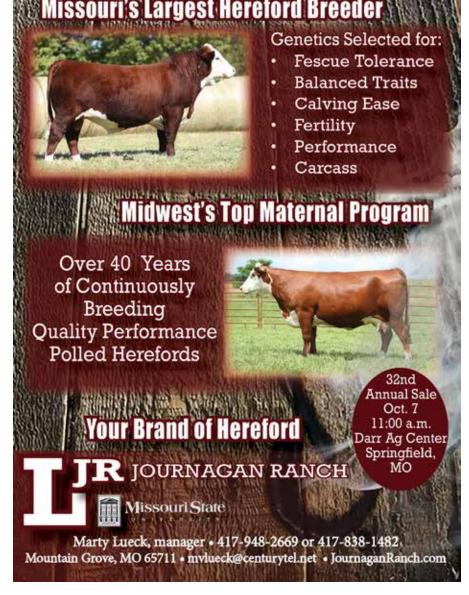
"I recommend spacing out the electrolytes and milk their eyeballs will develop a feeding by a couple of hours dry membrane and there is to keep the milk from cura gap in the eyeball and the dling from an interaction with bicarbonate in the elec-Because this is a common trolyte," Lubbers said. "The disease, it is important for milk will provide the sick calf cattle producers to maintain energy that is important to their recovery."

From management a important to isolate the calf "If you can get the calf to to offer treatment and lessen spread to other calves in the herd.

"This sickness has a feimportant those calves are in However, if they are really a clean environment and the sick, not able to get up and people that work with them laying on their side, Larson need to follow good sanita-

This includes wearing ter IV fluids to the calf. Lub- gloves when handling the bers added that subcutane- animals, and washing boots ous fluids or intra-abdominal and any equipment that is fluids are another step that used with the calves as well might be an option if they as making sure people wash are unable to drink but not their hands thoroughly, Lub-







Determining how much forage a beef cow needs per day

By Rick Rasby, Nebraska Extension Specialist

calf producers are typically pounds per head per day on a the amount a cow feeding harvested forages. A dry matter basis and the corn can consume daily is frequent question from pro-silage is 35% dry matter and wheat straw. Wheat ducers is "how much will my 65% moisture, the pounds straw is low in procows eat on a daily basis"? Pro- of corn silage in the diet tein ducers want to meet the cows' would be 28.5 (10 pounds/.35) 4.0% crude protein nutrient requirement, but pounds per head per day on an and 40% TDN. When sure don't want to over-feed as-fed basis. Remember that cows have full acexpensive forages. With the of the 28.5 pounds of silage, dry conditions this past sum- 18.5 pounds is water, and 10 mer and harvested forages at pounds is silage. a premium, closely estimating the amount of feed needed to What Determines Daily get through the winter and early spring will be important to contain cost.

The Difference Between **Intake on a Dry Matter** and As-Fed Basis

concept to explain – what the difference is between dry matter and as-fed – especially are on a dry matter basis. Inknow that the forages contain ing. moisture and not all forages contain the same amount of matter intake of cows. As the moisture. So if forage intake forage quality increases, indican be determined on a dry cated as an increase in TDN matter basis, it can easily be content of the forage, the converted to an "as is" or "asfed" basis.

determined the daily dry matter intake of a group of 1,200pound cows eating an average there is more stem, therefore quality hay is 24 pounds per more cell wall contents that head and the hay that they are consuming is 88% dry matter, these cows would consume about 27 (24 pounds/.88)pounds per head per day on crease in maturity, there is an as-fed basis.

pound cows are fed a ration rumen microbes. where part of the ration called

During calving season cow/ for corn silage to be fed at 10 age quality impacts

Forage Intake

There are a number of different factors that determine the daily intake of a cow. The primary factors are cow weight, forage quality, and stage of production (gestating This can be a challenging or lactating). When feeding the same forage, cows that weigh 1,300 pounds will consume more on a daily basis when nutrients for beef cows compared to lighter weight cows that weigh 1,100 pounds. take on a dry matter basis In addition, cows that are lacmeans that the forage doesn't tating will consume more feed include moisture. However, we than cows that are not lactat-

Forage quality impacts dry amount of the forage that the cow can consume also increas-As an example, if it were es. As forage quality increases, there is more leaf as compared to stem. When quality is low, are not as easily digested - the forage does not pass through the rumen very fast.

In addition, as forages inan increase in lignin content. If the same group of 1,200 Lignin is not digested by the

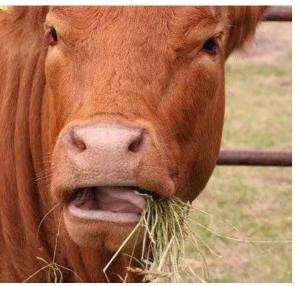
and energy, cess to wheat straw, they don't quit eating wheat straw because they don't like it, they quit eating it because they can't stuff anymore into their rumen. Straw

has such a low digestibility that it takes extra time in the rumen for it to be digested and passed through the rumen before more can be consumed. Daily intake on a dry matter basis may be 1.6% to 1.8% of her body weight. In comparison, corn silage will typically be about 70% TDN and lactating beef cows can easily consume 2.5% to 2.7% of their body weight on a dry matter basis of this feed.

There are some "thumb rules" to help estimate daily feed intake of cows on a dry matter basis consuming forages of differing quality when they are either gestating or lactating.

When forage quality is low (52% TDN or less) and cows are not lactating, they will consume 1.8% and lactating cows about 2.0% of their weight on a dry matter basis.

If the forage quality is average (TDN content between 52% and 59%), non-lactating cows will consume about 2.0% to 2.3.% and lactating cows about 2.3% to 2.5% of their body weight daily on a dry A good example of how for- matter basis of this forage.



As an example, if the forage were 59% TDN and lactating cows on the average weighing 1,200 pounds, then it could be estimated that they would eat 30 (1200 pounds x 0.025) pounds of hay daily on a dry matter basis. If the hay were 88% dry matter, on an "as-fed" basis, cows would eat about 34 (30 pounds/.88) pounds daily. In most feeding systems, there will be at least 10% feeding waste. That means you will need to deliver 37 lb/hd/da to account for waste. If there were 200 head of cows in the herd, it would take about 3.7 tons of this hay per day [(200 head x 37 lb/hd/da)/2000lb] accounting for waste.

Estimating daily feed intake of your cow herd is the first step in determining the amount of forage that is needed to be on-hand for a harvested forage feeding program. When forage availability is tight like it is during drought, being able to determine how much inventory is needed will help enhance the profit potential of the cow/calf enterprise.







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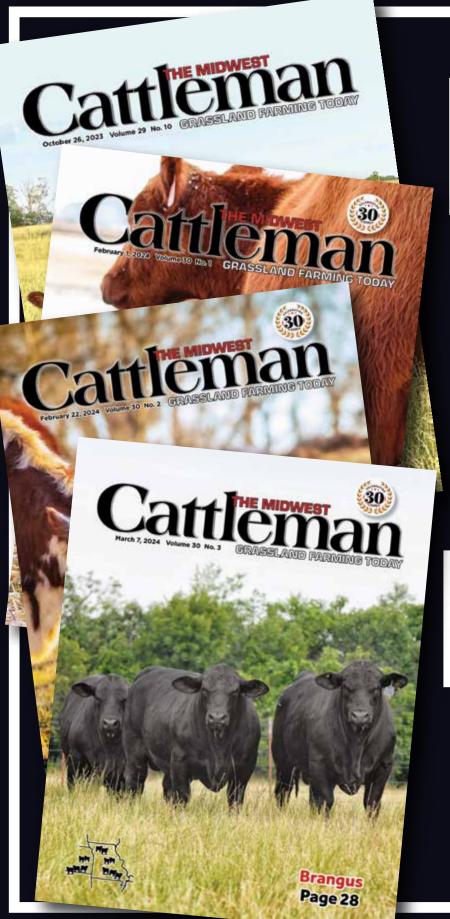
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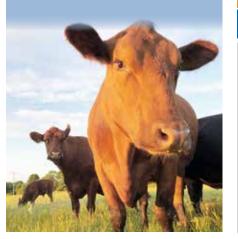
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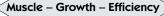
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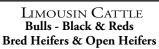
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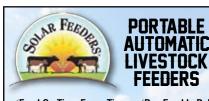
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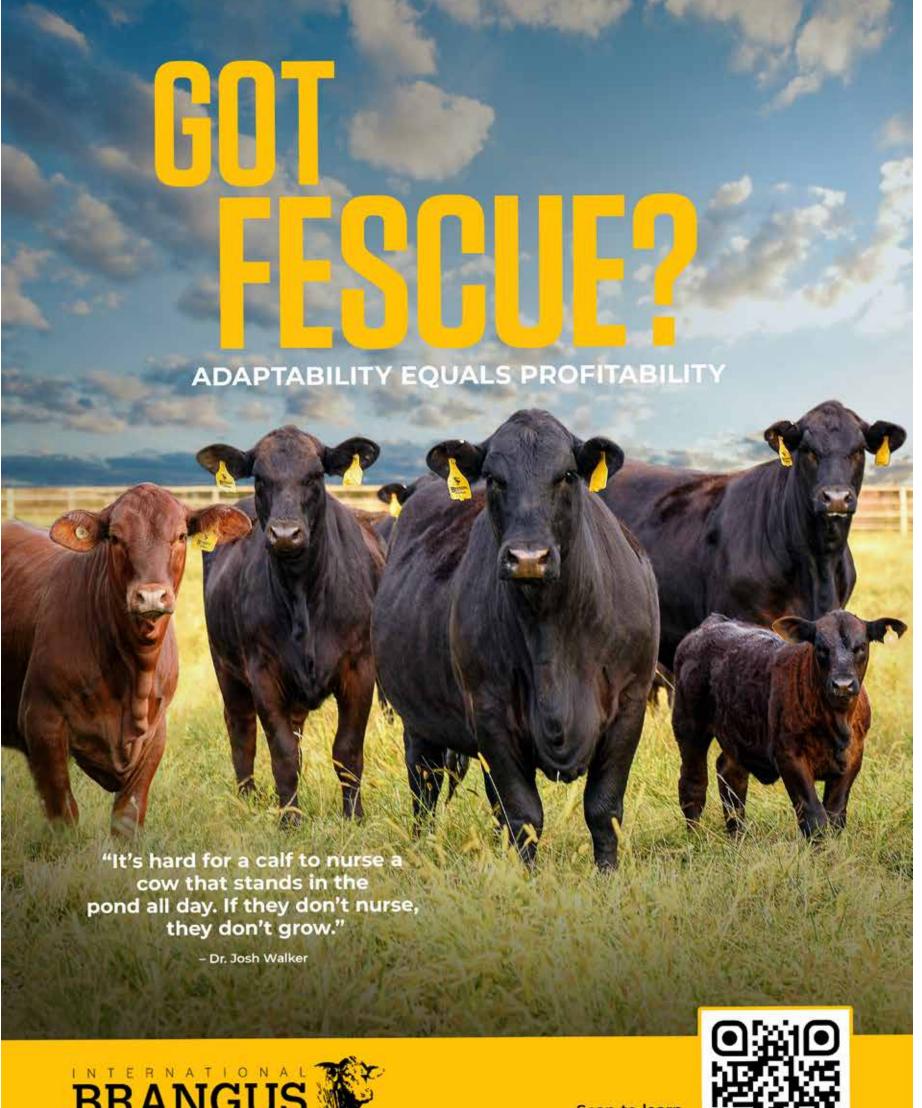
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	5	5	3			

Angus Calves Weaning				
M G T	Cont	Adj Wt Ratio	Cow	
1 202				
1	63 235	602 99	>	
1	36 264	636 98		
1	22 276	591 100)	
1	35 264	606 99)	
1	27 270	581 90		

830 lbs. at weaning



We've seen this countless times. Angus Breeders, put a Hereford Bull on your bottom end cows and turn AVERAGE into EXCELLENCE!





Production Sale: March 25th, 2024 @ Noon

Dwight, Kansas

- 55 Horned Hereford Fall Yearling Bulls
- 60 Black Angus Fall Yearling Bulls
- · 85 Spring Pairs
- (Black Baldies, Horned Herefords, Black Angus)
- 110 Fall Bred Heifers
- (Black Baldies, Horned Herefords, Black Angus)
- · 30 AQHA Colts
- 5 AQHA Riders
- Arden: (785) 466-1422
 Jan: (785) 466-1421
 Jesse: (785) 499-3250
 Andrew: (785) 499-3636

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