

# ANGUS ADVISOR



Our team of Angus advisors offer regional tips for herd management for the month of March.

## Midwest Region



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### General comments

A drier-than-average winter in Missouri has left producers scrambling for supplemental feeds as they began to feed hay earlier than normal this year. There are only two answers to this challenge, “feed less or need less.” Any mature cow that is not pregnant or lactating needs to be sold. A \$5 pregnancy test could save a lot of money, especially if your cost to feed a cow is in excess of \$1 per day. Early-weaning calves is another way to reduce forage demand, but lighter calves equals less revenue.

Feeding less means doing all you can to reduce hay waste. The very best way I have found to reduce hay loss is to feed one day’s worth of hay to your cow herd. It increases labor, but reduces waste.

I encourage producers to calculate weight of the bale, allocate hay at a rate of 3% of body weight and unroll bales. For example, a 4×5 bale will weigh between 700 lb. and 950 lb., depending on the density. A cow weighing 1,400 lb. will need 42 lb. of hay per day. Thus, a bale will feed between 17 and 22 cows per day.

The assumption is that the hay is of reasonable quality. If hay quality is poor, consider that energy will be the first limiting nutrient. My

recommendation is to feed a 50:50 blend of corn byproduct and cracked corn at a rate between 0.5% and 1.0% of body weight per day.

### Management calendar

*My assumptions: Spring-calving herd begins to calve Feb. 1; fall-calving herd begins to calve Sept. 1.*

### Spring-calving herds

- We are in the latter part of calving. Cows that calved early are going to be nursing month-old calves and approaching peak lactation. Peak lactation is the time of greatest nutrient need. Do not skimp on feed to these cows. I recommend feeds with >11% CP and ~65% TDN (energy).
- Prevent grass tetany by feeding a mineral with >8% magnesium. Also, make sure cattle have access to salt, whether through mineral (>20% salt recommended) or have salt blocks available.

### Fall-calving herds

- If forage is short and it has been dry throughout the winter, consider weaning calves early to reduce forage demand, especially if you have both a spring- and a fall-calving herd. The feed needs to be saved for lactating cows with calves younger than 60 days old.
- Calves can be weaned at 100 days of age with little challenge, other than keeping calves from crawling through fences. They will weigh less than average, but are very efficient converters of high-quality

feed. Background for 45-90 days to recoup weight.

- Use your lowest-quality feed (hay, stockpiled forage) for classes of cattle that do not need to gain weight (mature cows that are not lactating or in the latter stages of lactation).

## Southern Great Plains



by David Lalman  
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### Spring-calving

- Continue supplemental feeding to maintain body condition during this critical period when early lactation requirements are high and grazed forage quality and availability is low.
- Continue to monitor first-calf heifers several times daily for possible calving difficulties.
- Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to perform breeding soundness exams on your herd bulls. Include any recommended vaccinations, retagging, parasite control and other management steps that can be performed while they are in the chute.
- After calving and before the beginning of the breeding season (30 days preferably), vaccinate all cows and breeding heifers according to the herd health

program designed working with your veterinarian. Generally, these will include IBR, BVD, PI<sub>3</sub>, BRSV, seven-way clostridial, five-way leptospirosis and vibrio.

- Monitor (weigh) heifers to determine if you are on track to meet your breeding target weight. Target weight is generally either 65% of expected mature body weight or 55% of expected mature body weight, depending on your goal (John Hall provides an excellent discussion of these different approaches at [www.appliedreprostrategies.com/2015/summaries/2015ARSBCJohnHall.html](http://www.appliedreprostrategies.com/2015/summaries/2015ARSBCJohnHall.html)).

### Fall-calving herds

- As of this writing, the Southern Great Plains region is dry with little wheat grazing available. Hopefully, precipitation will arrive, resulting in abundant March late-winter pasture during the traditional early spring flush of growth. Be ready to take advantage of creep-grazing systems for calves, along with limit-grazing winter annual forages with the mature

cows during this period of lush forage growth.

- Continue supplemental feeding for the fall-calving herd until abundant forage is available (usually during the month of April).

### General recommendations

- Consult a forage specialist in your area as you consider the fertility and management program for both native and “improved” cool- and warm-season grass pastures and rangeland.
- As mentioned last month, develop a plan for stocking density, grazing management, control of invasive plants with herbicide or prescribed fire and fertilizer use in introduced forages. Late March and early April are popular times for prescribed burns.

### Western Region



by Randy Perry

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### Fall-calving herds

Cows and calves are on cruise control.

1. The breeding period should either be done or close to being done. Hopefully bulls did their job.
2. It is important that minerals are supplemented on a year-round basis. Supplements should be formulated to meet deficiencies specific to your region or area. Although they should be provided year-round, the breeding season is probably the most important time period. Consider injectable mineral products in addition to loose, block and tub mineral products.
3. Most fall cows in the West graze native foothill pastures during the winter months. As is the case in any environment, timing and amount of rainfall are two of the critical factors that determine the pattern and amount of forage production. In most years in California, March is the start of our really good grass period in the foothills.
4. This is the time period of the year when fall-calving cows and calves

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## Guide to abbreviations and acronyms

To make the “Angus Advisor” more concise and consistent, we have used the following abbreviations or expressions:

\$Values	dollar value indexes	CHAPS	Cow Herd Analysis and	Mg	magnesium
ADG	average daily gain		Performance System	MiG	management-intensive grazing
AI	artificial insemination	CP	crude protein	MLV	modified-live virus
AIMS	Angus Information	cwt.	hundredweight	N	nitrogen
	Management Software	DM	dry matter	P	phosphorus
BCS	body condition score	EPD	expected progeny difference	PI	persistent infection
BLV	bovine leukemia virus	ET	embryo transfer	PI <sub>3</sub>	parainfluenza-3 virus
BMP	best management practices	FMD	foot-and-mouth disease	preg-check	pregnancy-check
BQA	Beef Quality Assurance	GnRH	gonadotropin-releasing hormone	Se	selenium
BRD	bovine respiratory disease	IBR	infectious bovine rhinotracheitis	sq. ft.	square feet
BRSV	bovine respiratory syncytial virus	ID	identification	SPA	Standardized Performance Analysis
brucellosis	Bang’s disease	IM	intramuscular	TB	bovine tuberculosis
BSE	bovine spongiform encephalopathy	in.	inch	TDN	total digestible nutrients
BVD	bovine viral diarrhea	lb.	pound	THI	temperature-humidity index
Ca	calcium	LCT	lower critical temperature	trich	trichomoniasis
		lepto	leptospirosis	Zn	zinc

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should have very few problems with animal health.


5. Early spring is an excellent time of the year to work on general repairs such as repairing and building fences and other facilities. Also if irrigated pastures are part of the pasture resources during the summer months, this is the time to make repairs to irrigation systems before they are needed later in the spring.
6. I would encourage producers to spend some time in the office working on details such as development of a marketing plan for both bulls and females. In addition, cull-animal sales represent a significant source of income in most purebred operations. Development of marketing plans for all of these groups can have a significant influence on the profitability of the operation.
7. Development of an advertising budget and plan is another example of a business detail that can significantly influence the profitability of the livestock operation.

### Spring-calving herds

The main focus is the calving season.

1. Continue to develop a list of potential AI sires. Focus on sires that will leave outstanding replacement females. Most times we focus on sires that are going to produce the most marketable bulls, and those are important. However, the female progeny are going to be in the herd long after the bulls are sold and gone.
2. Consider all information, and try to find the bulls that combine EPDs, genomics, phenotypic traits, and “old-fashioned” convenience traits like longevity, udder structure, disposition, mothering ability, and feet and leg soundness.
3. Focus on becoming a better

grazing manager. It can have a huge impact on your bottom line.

4. Make your cows “work for a living.” Don’t oversupplement or overfeed.
5. As I addressed last month, don’t overuse calving-ease sires on mature cows. No doubt we need calving-ease bulls, but we also need good stout high-growth bulls to use on mature commercial cows.
6. Mineral supplementation is extremely important at this time of the year. I have discussed in detail in previous columns all of the different options available in this area.
7. The target level of body condition at calving is a BCS of 5.0 (scale = 1 to 9) for mature cows and 6.0 for 2-year-old heifers.
8. The period from calving through the end of the breeding season is by far the most important period in terms of meeting protein and energy requirements of beef cows. Unless you are in northern areas that have still not “greened up,” cows can usually meet their protein and energy needs at this time of the year without any need for supplementation.
9. As stated last month, the most practical way to monitor energy status (the relationship between energy consumed vs. energy requirements) is to evaluate BCS. The most practical way to monitor level of protein intake is to evaluate an animal’s fecal output. If the stool is loose and the cow pies flatten out on the ground, the animal is receiving adequate levels of protein. If the fecal output is extremely firm and the cow pies do not flatten out on the ground, then the animal is most likely protein-deficient.
10. Treatment protocols and products should be on hand for both scours and pneumonia in suckling calves. 

#### PRODUCT INFORMATION

NADA #141-450, Approved by FDA

### Banamine® Transdermal

(flunixin transdermal solution)

Pour-On for Beef and Dairy Cattle 50 mg/mL

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** (For full prescribing information, see package insert)

#### Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug

Only for topical use in beef and dairy cattle. Not for use in beef bulls intended for breeding; dairy bulls; female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older, including dry dairy cows; and suckling beef calves, dairy calves, and veal calves.

**CAUTION:** Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

**DESCRIPTION:** Each milliliter of Banamine Transdermal pour-on contains 50 mg flunixin (equivalent to 83 mg flunixin meglumine), 150 mg pyrrolidone, 50 mg L-menthol, 500 mg propylene glycol dicaprylate/dicaprate NF, 0.20 mg FD&C Red No. 40, and glycerol monocaprylate NF qs.

**INDICATIONS:** Banamine Transdermal pour-on is indicated for the control of pyrexia associated with bovine respiratory disease and the control of pain associated with foot rot in steers, beef heifers, beef cows, beef bulls intended for slaughter, and replacement dairy heifers under 20 months of age.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** NSAIDs inhibit production of prostaglandins which are important in signaling the initiation of parturition. The use of flunixin can delay parturition and prolong labor which may increase the risk of stillbirth. Do not use Banamine Transdermal pour-on within 48 hours of expected parturition. Do not use in animals showing hypersensitivity to flunixin meglumine.

**USER SAFETY WARNINGS:** Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children. Flunixin transdermal solution is a potent non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), and ingestion may cause gastrointestinal irritation and bleeding, kidney, and central nervous system effects.

This product has been shown to cause severe and potentially irreversible eye damage (conjunctivitis, iritis, and corneal opacity) and irritation to skin in laboratory animals. Users should wear suitable eye protection (face shields, safety glasses, or goggles) to prevent eye contact; and chemical-resistant gloves and appropriate clothing (such as long-sleeve shirt and pants) to prevent skin contact and/or drug absorption. Wash hands after use.

**In case of accidental eye contact, flush eyes immediately with water and seek medical attention.** If wearing contact lenses, flush eyes immediately with water before removing lenses. **In case of accidental skin contact and/or clothing contamination, wash skin thoroughly with soap and water** and launder clothing with detergent. **In case of ingestion do not induce vomiting and seek medical attention immediately.** Probable mucosal damage may contraindicate the use of gastric lavage. Provide product label and/or package insert to medical personnel.

**RESIDUE WARNINGS:** Cattle must not be slaughtered for human consumption within 8 days of the last treatment. Not for use in female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older, including dry dairy cows; use in these cattle may cause drug residues in milk and/or in calves born to these cows or heifers. Not for use in suckling beef calves, dairy calves, and veal calves. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves.

**PRECAUTIONS:** As a class, cyclo-oxygenase inhibitory NSAIDs may be associated with gastrointestinal, renal, and hepatic toxicity. Sensitivity to drug-associated adverse events varies with the individual patient. Patients at greatest risk for adverse events are those that are dehydrated, on concomitant diuretic therapy, or those with renal, cardiovascular, and/or hepatic dysfunction. Banamine transdermal should be used with caution in animals with suspected pre-existing gastric erosions or ulcerations. Concurrent administration of other NSAIDs, corticosteroids, or potentially nephrotoxic drugs should be avoided or used only with careful monitoring because of the potential increase of adverse events.

NSAIDs are known to have potential effects on both parturition (see Contraindications) and the estrous cycle. There may be a delay in the onset of estrus if flunixin is administered during the prostaglandin phase of the estrous cycle. NSAIDs are known to have the potential to delay parturition through a tocolytic effect. The use of NSAIDs in the immediate post-partum period may interfere with uterine involution and expulsion of fetal membranes. Cows should be monitored carefully for placental retention and metritis if Banamine Transdermal pour-on is used within 24 hours after parturition.

Not for use in dairy or beef bulls intended for breeding because reproductive safety has not been evaluated.

**HOW SUPPLIED:** Banamine Transdermal pour-on, is available in 100-mL (NDC 0061-4363-01), 250-mL (NDC 0061-4363-02), and 1-L (NDC 0061-4363-03) bottles.

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