

YOUR ANGUS ADVISOR



A few years ago I attended a junior leadership conference. Juniors from several states took part, and it was very fun and educational. How can our state find out more about hosting or participating in a leadership conference?

From Mark Wyble, Director of Junior Activities: The National Junior Angus Association's Board of Directors has established a committee to help interested states organize, promote and carry out such conferences. For more information, contact Kenley Conner, Leadership Conference Committee Chairman, at 700 Woodland, Lexington, Ky. 40508 (Telephone (606) 258-2350). Or, you may contact the American Angus Assn. junior activities department.

We heard about a summer job program sponsored by the Association. Is it still in operation?

From Mark Wyble: The American Angus Assn.'s Summer Job Program has just completed its seventh year of service. Through the program, junior Angus members can find employment with reputable Angus breeders throughout the country who need summer workers. Since 1979, 79 juniors have found jobs on nearly 50 different farms and ranches. If you're an interested junior or an Angus breeder willing and able to hire an enthusiastic junior, contact Mark Wyble, Director of Junior Activities at the Association.

Any capsule recommendations for starting new feeder cattle? Our last year's batch seemed slow to go on feed. We're having our feeds tested more thoroughly this year. What do you think of vitamin supplementation?

Most nutritionists recommend plenty of Vitamin A and D. Also work at various stations throughout the country indicate stressed calves that have been recently weaned may need a vitamin B complex supplement.

A sound rumen that's functioning

properly should supply the B complex. However, a summary of 14 studies conducted in 1981 indicated niacin supplementation helped cattle adjust to feedlots diets in the first 21 to 38 days, according to Larry Foster, extension beef cattle specialist with New Mexico State University. Foster also cites growth rate and feed efficiency improving 9.7 and 10.9 percent respectively with additional levels of niacin ranging from 50 to 250 parts per million. It may prove a good investment. Why not examine your feed analyses with your veterinarian taking

particular note of the levels of thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, pyridoxin, pantothenic acid, vitamin B12 and choline?

Homer Sewell, University of Missouri-Columbia extension livestock specialist, also suggests fortifying the ration with potassium, calcium and phosphorus as a good practice. Sewell emphasizes the importance of a receiving ration that's appealing, tasty and highly fortified with nutrients.

"Feed intake is a problem among these new cattle during the first ten days."

Research...

Early rations may have a greater impact on a feedlot steer than the finishing diet, according to work undertaken at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Neb. Research gathered show a steer's beef quality may be less influenced by the finishing ration designed to enhance marbling and palatability than it is by what the animal's fed at the beginning of its feedlot career.

Results may encourage the beef industry to reduce the length of time feeding high energy diets and produce leaner beef products. Ribeye steaks from 20-month steers fed generously at eight to 14 months of age were more tender than ribeyes from steers of the same age backgrounded on a more Spartan diet, then fed longer on a high energy feed.

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Solar-powered electric fencing has promise for range use as well as small pasture and lot applications. As demonstrated by Rob Grumbles, University of Arizona county extension agent from Mohave County, the fence

proved capable of holding wary, high-spirited range cattle as effectively as more docile "pasture cattle."

Grumbles presented data at a range field day on the Wagon Bow Ranch in the state's northwestern region. Installation costs are approximately \$300 per mile as compared to the traditional \$3,000-\$4,000 for conventional four-strand barbed wire spanning that length.

Advancements in photovoltaic cells have made the approach more feasible and practical, according to Brad Rein, UA extension agricultural engineer. Transmitters now available consist of small panels of cells converting solar energy to electrical energy. Stored in a battery, the electricity is controlled by an energizer that emits short, periodic 5,000-volt bursts into the wire. Lifespan of the new photovoltaic cells should extend to 15-20 years.

Effective grounding at regular intervals is necessary with this type of fencing as it is plagued by lightning otherwise. Also, field day speakers point out vandalism will likely loom as another of its problems. Grumbles warns the solar collectors will likely present as tempting a target as windmills for trigger-happy vandals. **AJ**