



Angus Advisor

▶ AUGUST herd management tips

- ▶ Store your high-quality hay in the dry.
- ▶ Collect and submit forage samples for nutrient analysis.

Herd health

- ▶ Continue parasite and fly-control program for herd. Monitor fly numbers to ensure tags are still effective.
- ▶ Finalize vaccination and preconditioning protocol for the calf crop. Administer preweaning vaccinations.

Reproduction

- ▶ Make plans to preg-check heifers as soon as possible after bull removal. This will allow options in marketing open heifers.
- ▶ Remove bulls after 60 days for a controlled calving season.
- ▶ Schedule preg-check of cow herd with veterinarian.

Genetics

- ▶ Collect 205-day weights on calf crop at appropriate time (AHIR® age range is 120-280 days), along with cow weights, hip heights and body condition scores (cow mature size data taken within 45 days of calf weaning measure).

Fall-calving herds (September-November)

General

- ▶ Prepare for calving season by checking inventory and securing necessary supplies (obtain equipment, tube feeder, colostrum supplement, ear tags, animal health products, calving book, etc.)
- ▶ Begin planning for winter by evaluating feed and forage supplies and options.

Nutrition and forages

- ▶ Continue to feed high-selenium trace-mineral salt.
- ▶ Condition score bred females. Plan nutrition and grazing program based on BCS. This is the most efficient period to put weight and condition on thinner cows prior to calving.
- ▶ Evaluate growth and development of replacement heifers. Adjust nutrition and management to achieve 65% of mature weight by breeding season. Low levels of protein supplementation can be effective in stimulating performance if forage has become mature.
- ▶ Reserve high-quality hay and a pasture area for calves after weaning.
- ▶ Manage growth of warm-season grass pastures by rotational grazing.
- ▶ Store your high-quality hay in the dry.
- ▶ Collect and submit forage samples for nutrient analysis.

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

Mid-South Atlantic Region

by **Scott Greiner**, sgreiner@vt.edu; and **Mark McCann**, mark.mccann@vt.edu, both of Virginia Tech

As the calendar moves into August, hopefully the dog days of summer 2013 are nearing their end. Early summer rains provided abundant forage during June. August forage is more dependent on the amount of thunderstorms you receive in July. A dry July will probably leave an adequate amount of available forage, albeit mature and lower in nutrient content. A wet July can provide a lot of warm-season forage in the form of Bermuda grass or crabgrass.

In spite of the moisture, fescue growth is generally suppressed due to temperature. Regardless of the quantity of July forage growth, August is the time to graze, clip or mow areas that will be stockpiled. It is important to remove most of the standing growth to allow the new growth to accumulate. Generally, one-fourth to one-third of the grazing area is set aside for stockpiling. Once forage is removed, 40-60 lb. N per acre should be applied in mid- to late August in the cooler areas of the region, or early to mid-September in the southern parts of the region.

Spring-calving herds (January-March)

General

- ▶ End breeding season early in the month (if not already completed).
- ▶ Make plans for marketing of calf crop. Plan early to time weaning, vaccination program and weaning management in concert with marketing plans. Calculate breakevens on various marketing options and consider risk-management strategies.
- ▶ Begin planning for winter by evaluating feed and forage supplies and options.

Nutrition and forages

- ▶ Continue to manage first-calf heifers separately; give them the best forage and supplement.
- ▶ Continue to feed high-selenium trace-mineral salt. A forage analysis can reveal which other minerals should be supplemented.
- ▶ Continue to manage growth of warm-season grass pastures by rotational grazing.

Herd health

- ▶ Administer mid-summer deworming on replacement heifers and pregnant heifers.
- ▶ Continue parasite- and fly-control program for herd.

Genetics

- ▶ Identify replacement heifers. Utilize available tools, including genetics, dam performance, individual performance and phenotype. Restrict replacement heifer pool to those born in defined calving season.
- ▶ Evaluate bull battery and begin planning for the breeding season by evaluating herd goals and objectives.

Midwest Region

by **Justin Sexten**, University of Missouri, sextenj@missouri.edu

If you are reading this and the temperature is 100° F in the shade, then take the opportunity to spend some office time planning fall and winter forage management.

When selecting pastures to stockpile for winter grazing, choose pastures with solid fescue stands, better-than-average water-holding capacity, winter water sources and electric fencing capability. These are not requirements, but will help maximize return on investment.

For those planning to stockpile fescue pastures, plan to graze or clip pastures by mid-August. Ideally, graze pastures, then clip to a uniform height if the pastures were not mowed earlier this summer. The goal is to “reset” pastures by removing stems and stalks. When considering mowing height prior to stockpiling, a stockpiling definition is in order.

Stockpiled cool-season grass growth occurs during the fall growing period, not spring or summer. Some prefer to mow grazed pastures high, greater than 8 inches, to minimize the forage “wasted” by mowing. At this point in the season, cattle are not going to voluntarily consume these residues. They were not grazed the first time through the pastures and, with lush fall growth as the option, next time through pastures these residues will be rejected again. Removing residues minimizes leaf shading and removes long stems causing late-season eye irritation.

Once pastures are “reset,” watch for the “State Fair rain” to apply 40 to 60 units of nitrogen. This August nitrogen application coupled with late-summer, early-fall rain will maximize the opportunity to grow fall forage. Sept. 1 to Oct. 15 is when most fall forage growth occurs, so timely nitrogen application is worth planning. As a rule of thumb, within

CONTINUED ON PAGE 120

Western Region

by **Randy Perry**, California State University, Fresno, randyp@csufresno.edu

Fall-calving herds

The main focus is to prepare for the calving season.

Genetic management

Sire selection. The start of the breeding period is several months away; however, now is the time to start developing a list of potential AI sires. For most successful purebred producers, sire evaluation is a continual process that never ends. In my opinion, it is the most important management decision that is made each year in a purebred or seedstock operation of any species.

Reproductive management

Vaccinations. If any precalving vaccinations, such as a scour vaccine, are going to be administered, they should be given far enough in advance of the calving season to avoid handling cows that are extremely close to parturition.

Calving supplies and equipment. Be sure that equipment is in working order and supplies are on hand to assist females once calving starts. In addition, if injections such as selenium are going to be administered at birth, be sure that an adequate supply of those products is on hand.

Nutritional management

Mineral supplementation. Be sure cows are receiving adequate levels of calcium, phosphorus and trace minerals that are deficient in your area. Minerals should be supplemented on a year-round basis and can be varied depending on the time of year and available forage resources. Mineral boluses or injectable products can be used in addition to loose or block mineral products.

Body condition. The target level of body condition at calving is a minimum BCS of 5.0 for mature cows and 6.0 for 2-year-old heifers on a scale of 1 to 9 (see www.cowbcs.info).

Protein and energy supplementation. Both protein and energy requirements need to be met in order to achieve the desired level of body condition as described previously. If cows are grazing dry native forage, typically protein is more limiting as compared to energy.

Be sure that you are pricing supplements on a cost per unit of protein or energy, depending on which nutrient is most limiting in your situation. In situations where forage quality is limited but there is plenty of forage or pasture available, protein will be the more limiting nutrient. In situations where forage quantity is lacking, such as drought or short feed conditions, then energy typically will be the more limiting nutrient.

Heifer development. The developmental period from weaning until breeding time is critical in terms of influencing the future productivity of females. Females should be developed to reach approximately 65% of their projected mature weight at the start of the breeding period and 85% of their projected mature weight at calving.

Health management

Treatment protocol. Have treatment protocols and products on hand for both scours and pneumonia in suckling calves. It is well-advised to have first- and second-treatment options for both conditions.

Spring-calving herds

The main focus is that cows and calves are on cruise control.

Reproductive management

Natural-service bulls. Bulls should be turned out and hopefully are doing their job. Watch for return heats from natural-service dates, and if a high percentage of females are coming back into heat, switch sires if that is an option.

Nutritional management

Mineral supplementation. 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.

Protein and energy supplementation. Most spring-calving cows in the West graze irrigated pastures. Typically cows grazing irrigated pastures are receiving adequate levels of both protein and energy and, therefore, supplementation is not needed.

Health management

Pinkeye prevention. Midsummer is the time of year when problems with pinkeye can become quite prevalent and, thus, treatments can become time-consuming. The incidence of pinkeye can be reduced by clipping tall, mature grasses; controlling flies with dust bags, pour-ons and/or fly tags; and treating problems quickly and aggressively. Recommendations for treatment were included in last month's column.

the 40 to 60 units of nitrogen per acre range, each unit of N results in 20 lb. of additional stockpiled forage produced.

After considering stockpiling, one of the first responses I hear is, "If I had that many acres to set aside for 60 to 70 days, I would have more cows." There are three ways to address this challenge. With record culling rates last year, many herds are at lower stocking rates, allowing the opportunity to try stockpiling without increasing acreage.

Alternatively, consider trying stockpiling on limited acres by using stockpiled forage as a protein and energy supplement rather than forage replacement. Feeding cows hay and allowing them to strip-graze stockpile supplement minimizes the need for concentrate feeding and storage equipment while reducing acres required to stockpile. Cows can recycle the forage protein for several days, so strip-grazing the stockpiled forage using two- to three-day allocations saves labor by reducing movement of temporary fence.

For those who want to reduce winter hay feeding using stockpiled forage, consider hay feeding in August, September and October while pastures are growing. During late summer and early fall, hay feeding conditions are typically better with drier soil conditions and hay storage waste should decline due to reduced weather exposure.

For spring-calving herds, using stockpiled forage during the winter can increase the cow's nutritional plane prior to calving compared to most hay-feeding systems. Getting gestating cows to a BCS of 5 or 6 precalving will improve reproductive success the following year. Hay feeding during late summer and early fall may also improve late-summer shade management by allowing extended shaded pasture use once pastures are grazed out.

Producers with annual forage rotations where sorghums or Sudan grasses were used should consider replacement with permanent forages such as novel-endophyte tall fescue. Seeding novel-endophyte tall fescue should begin with glyphosate application prior to seeding. Ideally, fertility issues were addressed

last fall for permanent pasture conversion.

Alternative to permanent pasture conversion, summer annuals can be replaced with winter annuals such as wheat, oats, cereal rye or annual ryegrass. After early fall planting, these pastures can be grazed prior to stockpiled tall fescue, then grazed again in late February or March prior to permanent pasture green-up.

Southern Great Plains

by **David Lalman**, *Oklahoma State University*,
david.lalman@okstate.edu

Spring-calving herds

1. Be prepared to wean calves early again this year as conditions develop.
2. A self-limited, high-protein creep-feeding program (such as the Oklahoma Silver program) enhances weight gain without causing calves to become excessively fleshy, because intake is limited to around 1 lb. of supplement per head per day. After about 30 days of creep consumption, a salt concentration of around 10% may be required to achieve this low level of intake. This program will only work with adequate forage availability.
3. Secure the appropriate products and supplies for the fall herd health program.
4. If the cow herd can be gathered once before weaning, an effective strategy is to vaccinate calves two to six weeks prior to weaning and again at weaning. In fact, many value-added health programs recommend this protocol to maximize immune response in weaned calves.

Fall-calving herds

1. Yearling replacement heifers grazing native pastures may benefit from a small package (around 1 lb. per day) of high-protein supplement in order to ensure adequate growth and development prior to breeding in November.
2. Calves that were first vaccinated at weaning require booster vaccinations within two to four weeks.
3. Calving season begins in mid- to late August for most fall-calving herds.

Purchase calving supplies and prepare ID tags. The incidence of dystocia due to heavy birth weight is lower in fall-calving systems. However, producers should still be prepared to deal with occasional dystocia cases associated with abnormal presentations.

General recommendations

1. At the time of this writing, pasture conditions are improved across much of the Southern Great Plains due to spring and early summer rainfall. However, the extreme western parts of the region have not had much relief, and extreme hot, dry weather is forecast for the entire region through early July. After two years of extreme drought, pasture forages are fragile, requiring continued monitoring and moderate to light stocking rates.
2. Fortunately, the cool-season hay crop was abundant this spring and warm-season hay meadows should yield much better than the last couple of years. With all the spring rain we've had, much of the cool-season hay was rain-damaged. As I have suggested for the last three years, being in the hay market, whether buying or selling, without the powerful information provided by a forage test is rather foolish! Information is power, and that applies to the hay crop. Expensive purchased feed costs result in more dramatic differences in value of low- vs. high-quality hay.
3. Continue a fly- and tick-control program for all cattle. The incidence of pinkeye is particularly high during late summer. Fly control is one key management factor in minimizing the spread of this disease.
4. Consider managing a portion of Bermuda grass and fescue pasture for late-summer fertilization and fall grazing. More information is available at www.beefextension.com.
5. Early to mid-August is about the latest a person can spray sericea lespedeza and expect to achieve reasonable reductions in the plant population the following year.



Angus Journal®

Virtual Library
www.api-virtuallibrary.com

For easy access to all of
Angus Journal's
meeting coverage sites,
informational sites and
other digital resources.