

Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Information at your fingertips

With recent snow storms and hard frosts, it's amazing to think that in four to six weeks we'll be cutting alfalfa and that good ol' fescue will be getting ahead of the cows. Commonsense would say we're heading into the cheap time of the year to feed a cow; this is when she does her job — converting forage to protein — best. But, as "Ridin' Herd" columnist Rick Rasby has pointed out, it isn't cheap to feed a cow — at any time of year.

Critical cost-control point

The annual cost to feed the herd these days can be mind-boggling. Increasing pasture rents, competition for feedstuffs and increasing input costs complicate efforts to control the feed bill.

Yet experts agree, nutrition is not an area in which cattlemen can afford to skimp. In the *Priorities First* research project conducted by Tom Field while he was at Colorado State University, cow herd nutrition ranked as the No. 1 management priority in the cow-calf business, followed closely by pasture and range management — also a large part of the nutrition equation.

Sponsored by the American Angus Association®, *Priorities First* is a comprehensive effort to prioritize management and economic issues for cow-calf producers. The study included questions regarding cost control. It's no surprise that respondents indicated "harvested forage and supplemental feed costs" as being the most critical cost-control point.

Visit our latest online resource,
www.feedingandfeedstuffs.info.

With this in mind, we added a Feeding & Feedstuffs informational site to our library of online resource sites. www.feedingandfeedstuffs.info is intended to provide a portal to information available online to help you maximize pasture utilization and optimize feeding of harvested forages and supplements to efficiently meet the nutritional needs of your herd.

The site compiles articles published in the *Angus Journal*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin* and other industry sources on both Traditional and Alternative feedstuffs, as well as those on general feeding Management. The Resources page provides links to additional web-based resources, while the Newsroom provides the latest news releases from academia and industry. Use the search function to search within the site for specific key words.

We hope you will take time to explore this site and our other resource sites (links provided in the left column of www.feedingandfeedstuffs.info). If you have information you think would contribute to the site, find a broken link or want additional information in a certain area, please bring it to our attention.

More online

With the smaller issues of summer, we can't fit into the *Journal* all the information we want to relay to you, so we're putting more and more online. Lord willing, we'll have some bonus features and columns for the May issue online by the time we post the issue to www.angusjournal.com in mid-May.

I'd also encourage you to sign up for the *Angus Beef Bulletin Extra*, the monthly electronic supplement to the *Angus Beef Bulletin*. It's really growing into its own as an information vehicle. You can sign up at www.angusbeefbulletin.com (see upper left corner of screen) or by e-mailing bulletinextra@angusbeefbulletin.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.



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