Drought Meeting Education and Disaster Relief Update

September 10, 2024 Jackson County Regional Livestock Market 6:00 pm 3907 Cedar Lakes Road Ripley

Utilizing Corn & Byproducts for Beef Cattle Rations

J.J. Barrett WVU Extension

Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Farm Service Agency

Strip Grazing Hay Fields

Evan Wilson WVU Extension

Agricultural Enhancement Exigency Program

WV Conservation Agency

Water Resources

Brandy Brabham WVU Extension

Sacrifice Area & Pasture Recovery

Daisy Fryman WVU Extension

WV Department of Agriculture

Norm Bailey







Jackson County Regional Livestock Market



Drought and extreme heat have severely reduced pastures & hay production this summer

All counties in the Mid-Ohio Valley have been designated a D-3 drought area (Extreme Drought)

This qualifies farmers for USDA Disaster Relief Programs including the Livestock Forage Disaster Program

For more information contact: WVU Extension

J.J. Barrett-Wood County jj.barrett@mail.wvu.edu (304)-424-1960 Office Brandy Brabham-Roane County brandy.brabham@mail.wvu.edu (304)-927-0975 Office Evan Wilson-Mason County (304)-675-0888 evan.wilson@mail.wvu.edu Daisy Fryman Gilmer/Calhoun (304-)-462-7061 daisy.fryman@mail.wvu.edu



Sept 5th Sept 12th

7:00 pm

Risk Management, Insurance

https://wvu.zoom.us/j/99972534046



EXTENSION









Women in Agriculture Conference



NOV. 15-16, 2024

The Blennerhassett Hotel Parkersburg, West Virginia

For more information, contact: Emily Morrow at Emily.Wells@mail.wvu.edu, 304-728-7413 or go to extension.wvu.edu/women-in-agriculture



Early Weaning of Calves *Submitted by Brandy Brabham, WVU-Roane County Extension Agent, 304-927-0975 or <u>brandy.brabham@mail.wvu.edu</u>*



With our area suffering an extreme drought to the likes that hasn't been seen for over 20 years in our state, we have much to learn from our colleagues out West who have been managing herds under drought conditions since at least 2020 in some parts. One option proposed to help reduce pressure on drought-stricken pastures is early weaning.

Early weaning is typically defined as weaning before calves are 100 to 150 days of age. However, even if a farmers' calves are over 5 months old, the soon they can be pulled off the mama cows the better!

Weaning calves early can be an alternative strategy that reduces forage demand while maintaining the cowherd and genetic base. With early weaning, the assumption is that by giving up income this year, we save the forage base and cowherd for the future. Essentially, the practice assumes that the income reduction this year is less than replacement costs in the future, and less than the cost of purchasing hay or other forage. However, individual producers should evaluate early weaning before a decision is made—how much will this strategy cost you this year (i.e., how much income are you giving up by weaning early) and how much will it save you in the future (i.e., what would it cost to replace sold cows or buy feed if you don't wean early)?

Weaning calves early reduces the amount of feed required to maintain the cow. Ending lactation reduces the cow's nutrient requirements and dry matter intake compared to when she is nursing a calf, even during late lactation. Calves consume approximately 2.0 to 2.5% of bodyweight of dry forage; weaning early eliminates that forage demand as well. According to South Dakota State University Extension Specialist, Warren Rushe, "the combination of these two factors results in 30 to 40% less daily forage consumption."

Producers historically consider early weaning if a female is not in the best shape, and they need to get a calf off her to cull her. A more pressing concern today may be the availability and cost of feedstuffs because of drought or feed supplies. Early weaning is often most economically viable in select situations, including first-calf heifers, second-calf cows, and mature cows with low body condition. Holding these females at a body condition above a 4 minimizes failed breeding. Early weaned cows recovered body condition score more rapidly than the traditional weaned cows on similar forages.

First- and second-calf females have higher nutritional requirements on an equalbodyweight basis compared to mature cows. Once weaning has occurred, the cow, now without the demands of lactation, can be maintained on poor quality forage and little to no supplement. While a lot of considerations focus on the female when an early weaning decision is made, there are important factors on the calf side of the equation. Higher quality feed, which may be in limited supply, can be reserved for the rapidly growing younger animals.

Some producers have successfully weaned calves on pasture with a creep feeder. Once calves consume enough creep feed, the cows can be sorted off, leaving the calves behind. Using feedstuffs such as small grain regrowth, cover crops, or crop residue (if available) is another strategy to cut costs.

Early weaned calves need a significant amount of protein and energy, more than those that are conventionally weaned. Typically, it's important to compare the costs of more nutritionally dense feeds and supplements when evaluating whether the practice makes sense. But in a drought, everything can change. Early weaning can become a tool to keep good cows from being culled.

Farmers selling early weaned calves at weaning can have its own challenges. Younger calves will obviously weigh less and bring fewer dollars to the farm. Because they create more risk for the buyers, lightweight weaned calves may face some price pressure, depending on how many are being sold at one time and the eagerness of cattle buyers to take on these cattle.

Early weaning works best for farmers who have the feed, facilities, and management ability to hang on to their calf crop until they reach a more traditional sale weight. Jason Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, explains that early weaning is a situationally dependent management strategy. The bottomline goal should be to use early weaning to make the cow herd more economical to manage. And early weaning can bring some unexpected payoffs, according to Smith. At Texas A&M, they saw increased marbling development by nearly 10% and improved feed efficiency by about 5%.

There are a lot of variables to factor in when considering early weaning. Younger calves are very efficient and with proper nutrition can gain as well or better than calves left to nurse the cow. Evaluating the cost of feed and the predicted value of the calf are critical, especially if early weaning is due to drought, as harvested feed resources are typically expensive during these times as well. However, once weaned, these calves may fit well in an annual forage grazing backgrounding program.

According to Rushe, with SDSU Extension, supplementing a protein source that is not easily digested by the microbes and is then available at the tissue level can help support gain without the calves depositing fat instead of lean growth. Distillers' grains, a by-product of the ethanol industry is an example of a protein supplement that is a good source of rumen undegradable protein for the young growing calf.

If feeding early weaned calves, provide at least 12 inches of bunk or feeding space per calf to allow all the calves access to feed without overcrowding. Calves should also have water available that they can reach easily. Without adequate water access, increasing feed intake after weaning can be delayed, as well as nutrient intake, which can lead to depressed immunity and growth. Determining that the pen and bunk line will effectively contain bawling, pacing lightweight calves before weaning will alleviate some headaches later. A pen that traditionally holds 500–700-pound calves may not contain a 300-pound calf as well.

Space to spread out in a clean pen can also help prevent post-weaning illness. Producers may want to visit with their local veterinarian about vaccination schedules and protocols that would be most effective for the early weaned calf as well as developing a protocol for treating illness if it occurs, before keeping weaned calves as well.

Management of early weaned calves can be challenging. The health of these early weaned calves depends on the overall health of the herd. Where there is a strong herd-health program, generally there is not going to be an issue with early weaned calves. A comprehensive, preventative program is key. Vaccinations, deworming, all normal preventative health practices are very important. If producers are doing what they need to from the cow standpoint independent of how they wean, health of calves will generally be good.

#

To be most effective, farmers should write down their drought plan. Include the proactive steps taken (like stocking pastures conservatively or keeping track of cattle they would sell during drought), as well as the reactive strategies they will use (like feeding supplemental protein during a dry fall or early weaning).

Be sure to include critical dates for implementing each step-critical dates will help keep you accountable to your plan and remove some of the emotion from these difficult decisions. Analyzing the economic and financial impacts of potential strategies will also help make your drought plan more objective. Keep in mind that drought conditions can span the seasons- a dry summer can extend into a dry fall and winter, requiring additional strategies.

References

Macon, D., Stackhouse J., Woodmansee G., and Davy, J., 2022. Publication 31-1011. Weaning Calves Early. University of California. Retrieved August 26, 2024. <u>https://ucanr.edu/sites/Livestock/files/365438.pdf</u>.

Myers. V., 2022. Benefits of Weaning a Calf Early in Drought Can Add Up. Progressive Farmer Online. Retrieved August 26, 2024. <u>https://www.dtnpf.com/agriculture/web/ag/livestock/article/2022/07/25/benefits-weaning-calf-early-drought</u>.

Rusche, W. 2021. Early Weaning as a Drought Management Strategy. Retrieved August 26, 2024. <u>https://extension.sdstate.edu/early-weaning-drought-management-strategy</u>.

Wilke, K., 2022. Managing Early Weaned Calves. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Retrieved August 26, 2024. <u>https://beef.unl.edu/beefwatch/2022/managing-early-weaned-calves</u>.

Replacing Hay with Corn for Beef Cattle Diets

Submitted by: J.J. Barrett, WVU Wood County Extension Agent 304-424-1960 or jj.barrett@mail.wvu.edu

The Mid-Ohio Valley is struggling with droughts and feed shortages that are a result of prolonged dry weather. Due to the extended drought, there is little pasture regrowth, and many producers are feeding hay (which in a normal year would be fed this winter). Unfortunately, local hay supplies are tight, and prices will increase due to more demand.

If you are short on hay, one viable option is to limit feeding cows whole shelled corn. Corn is a readily available source of supplemental energy in West Virgina. Limitfeeding a corn-based diet can be a cost-effective option for meeting the nutrient requirements of beef cows when hay is scarce.

Corn grain is the least expensive harvested feed per unit of digestible energy available to beef producers. The most common feed used for wintering cows is hay even though hay costs 50 to 100% more than corn, per unit of energy. In general, a mature cow will require about 1 pound of whole-kernel corn for every 2 pounds of hay it eats.

Cows, and all other animals, require a certain amount of energy (calories) per day. If a low energy feed like hay is fed, cows can be full-fed. If corn is used to provide most of the energy, then intake must be restricted so the animals don't get fat. Corn priced at \$4.00/bu is worth \$143/ton. Because hay has only about half the energy value as corn grain, the breakeven price for hay on an energy basis would be approximately \$72/ton. To add needed supplement to the corn brings the breakeven price to \$85/ton. In many situations, it is economically advantageous to use corn rather than hay to meet cows' energy requirements.

Dr. Steve Loerch has been wintering brood beef cows on a limit fed shelled corn diet since 1996 at the OARDC research farm in Wooster, Ohio. They have developed a limit-fed, corn-based nutrition program which has been tested with sheep and cattle. Some forage must be fed to maintain a healthy rumen.

A study conducted by Dr, Loerch evaluated limit-feeding corn as an alternative to hay for mature cows in gestation and early lactation compared to free choice hay. Cows were either fed around 11 pounds of whole shelled corn, 2.5 pounds of a pelleted supplement, and 2 pounds of hay (dry matter basis) or offered hay and a salt and mineral mix free choice from November to April. Hay was predominantly first cutting orchard grass testing around 72% neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and 9.5% crude protein (CP).

Cows fed free choice hay ate twice as much feed resulting in double the feed costs compared to limit feeding the corn-based diet. The results of this study suggest that corn can be limit fed to meet the nutrient requirements of cows without negatively impacting performance, conception rate, or calf weaning weight.

Dr. Loerch's recommendation to cattlemen experiencing forage shortages (based on over 20 years of feeding corn-based diets to cows in the winter), is to feed whole shelled corn at 1% of the cow's body weight, feed 5 lbs of forage, and feed a "feedlot type" supplement to meet protein, vitamin, and mineral needs.

The corn intake must be adjusted upward as energy requirements increase (ie, last third of gestation, lactation, or due to cold). The purpose of the forage is to give the cows something to chew on to stimulate rumination, prevent ruminitis, and keep cows on feed.

According to Dr. Loerch, forage quality is a non-issue. The cows will eat everything you put in front of them in this limited feeding system. A low-cost, poor-quality forage is ideal. Ohio State Research data demonstrates beef producers can winter gestating cows on about 12-14 lbs of corn, 4-6 lbs of roughage, and a supplement with no negative effects on performance.

Corn is low in protein, so providing a 30-40% protein supplement can help meet the cow's protein requirement. Additionally, there must be some forage (0.25-0.5% of body weight on a dry matter basis) included in grain-based diets to promote rumen function and prevent digestive upsets.

Acidosis, bloat, and founder are always a risk when high-grain diets are fed to ruminants. When utilizing a limit fed, grain-based diet, there are several factors' producers should take into consideration to help facilitate the success of the program.

- You must have an adjustment period to the diet. When starting the program, it takes 7-10 days (about 1 and a half weeks) of gradually increasing the corn and decreasing hay to the 5 lb level. Start with about 4-5 pounds of shelled corn per day. This will help cows transition to the new ration and minimize digestive upsets.
- 2. Provide at least 30 inches of bunk space per cow. Adequate space is needed to ensure all cows have a chance to eat the limited feed that will be provided.
- 3. Feed whole shelled corn. Ohio State research shows that whole corn works better than ground corn when daily hay intake is limited to less than five pounds. Cracked corn can work but do not use finely ground corn.
- 4. Utilize an ionophore such as Bovatech or Rumensin to improve feed efficiency and help minimize digestive upsets.
- 5. Long stemmed hay should be fed at a minimum DM level of .25 percent and up to .5 percent of body weight for cattle receiving whole shelled corn.
- Adjust corn intake to achieve desired weight and/or body condition score. Cows will need about 1% of their body weight during cold winter months and as they enter lactation. Example 1200lb cow X 0.01=12 lbs. shelled corn per day

- 7. Realize that cows will act hungry when receiving a limited diet, even though the ration is meeting the nutrient needs of the cow. Feed cows at a consistent time each day to help minimize cows displaying discontented behavior.
- 8. Cows will not reduce hay intake by themselves. Hay will need to be limit fed by providing access for a limited time or grouping cows so their intake can be matched to the weight of the bale. Consider unrolling hay daily so all cows have access. Cows may act like they are hungry due to reduced dry matter intake, but nutritional needs will be met.

Whole Shelled Corn Limit Feed Diet Example

Day 1 and 2 Feed 4 lbs whole shelled corn + 1 lb supplement + 12 lbs hay

Day 3 and 4 Feed 6 lbs corn + 1 lb supplement + 8 lbs hay

Day 5 and 6 Feed 8 lbs corn + 1 lb supplement + 5 lbs hay

Day 7 and 8 Feed 10 lbs corn + 1 lb supplement + 5 lbs hay

After Day 8 Feed 12 lbs corn + 1 lb supplement + 5 lbs hay; adjust corn based on cow condition (cold weather; pre- and post-calving). Adjust up or down 2 lbs if cows are getting too thin or too fat.

Supplement should be 30-40% protein, 4-5% Calcium, and should contain Rumensin or Bovatec. Hay quality is not important; straw, stalks, or poor quality first cutting hay is fine.

Divide cows into groups based on age and pecking order, if possible, so that boss cows do not keep younger and more timid cows from getting their share of the ration. Adjust the ration for changes in the cow's nutrient requirements as needed. The nutrient needs of the cow are highest during late gestation and early lactation. Additionally, cold weather events can increase the energy requirements of the cow.

While there are some increased management and labor inputs into limit feeding, there are also additional benefits beyond stretching the hay supply. Increased energy intake will help maintain or improve cow body condition which will result in healthier, higher performing calves this year. More important, adequate body condition (BCS 6) will improve reproductive performance to insure next year's calf crop.

There is an opportunity to winter cows using alternative energy sources to hay. At current feed prices, substituting corn for forage is a viable option to feed the beef herd. For operations with the right facilities and management ability, replacing forage with corn can stretch forage supplies and potentially reduce feed costs.

Limit feeding a corn-based diet can be a cost-effective option for meeting the nutrient requirements of our beef cows. Contact me with questions at the Wood County WVU Extension Office 304-424-1960 or e-mail me at <u>jj.barrett@mail.wvu.edu</u>.

Mid-Ohio Valley Drought 2024

The summer of 2024 has been exceptionally dry. Since 1900, West Virginia has experienced several noteworthy droughts, including 1904, 1930–31, 1941, 1954, 1966, and 1988. During the drought of 1930–31, nearly 100% of the Mountain state experienced what currently would be referred to as D4, or "exceptional drought," for 8 months. More than 60% of West Virginia is currently in a drought, with at least part of every county experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Proper care of livestock is the highest priority when dealing with drought, but farmers should also take this opportunity to implement any needed management changes. Managed grazing practices such as pasture rotation, sufficient recovery periods, and appropriate stocking rates make pastures naturally more tolerant of drought conditions.

Continuously grazed fields will quickly become overgrazed and unproductive. In a rotational grazing system, animals are moved through pastures utilizing available forage until no pasture is ready for grazing. At that time animals are managed in a sacrifice area where they are fed hay. Once rains return well rested pastures will recover rapidly while overgrazed pastures recover much slower.

However, this year even the best managed pastures are growing back extremely slow due to little rain and high daytime temperatures into the mid and upper 90's (degrees F). Many producers are also hauling water due to drying up of creeks, streams, ponds and slowing flow of natural water springs.

Due the drought this summer, the Little Kanawha and Western Conservation Districts are offering an **Agricultural Enhancement Exigency Program** to help livestock farmers. The Livestock Water Supply program covers water hauling tanks, portable water troughs, water pumps, connection/tap to public water, associated fittings and hoses. They will reimburse 50% of costs up to \$500.00.

If you have saved receipts for purchased materials, they are doing retroactive payments from June 25. You need to fill out: 1. Cooperator Agreement 2. Ag Enhancement Exigency Program Application 3. IRS W-9 form

Currently, all counties in the Little Kanawha Conservation District (Wood, Wirt, Ritchie, Roane and Calhoun) and Western Conservation District (Jackson, Mason and Putnam) have been designated a D-3 area (extreme drought).

Contact Little Kanawha District at (304)422-9088 and the Western District at (304)675-3054.



The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country using 5 classifications: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1–D4). more information is available at the US Drought Monitor website *drought.gov*

The D-3 designation qualifies livestock farmers for federal funding for **USDA Disaster Assistance Programs**, including **Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)**. LFP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage of native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or acreage planted specifically for grazing.

Grazing losses must occur on land physically located in a county experiencing a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. D3 (extreme drought) intensity in any area of the county at any time during the normal grazing period is eligible to receive assistance in an amount equal to three monthly payments.

FSA will calculate LFP payments for an eligible livestock producer for grazing losses because of a qualifying drought equal to payment factors of one, three, four or five times the LFP monthly payment rate (payment rates). The LFP monthly payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lesser of either the monthly feed cost

The LFP monthly payment rate for losses because of a qualifying drought is calculated at 60 percent of the smaller of the monthly feed cost payment rate per head in the table above or the monthly feed cost based on the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing or pastureland acres.

For more details, about the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, applications and sign ups contact your local Farm Service Agency representative including:

Barb Parsons (Wood, Wirt, Ritchie, Pleasants at (304)-422-9088

Dan Shockey for Mason County at (304)-675-2020 and

Lisa Delaney (Jackson, Roane, Calhoun) in Ripley at (304)-372-6231.

Information on other programs through FSA will be available.

Tips, Tricks and Solid Advice to Manage During the

Drought *Submitted by Daisy Bailey, WVU Gilmer & Calhoun Counties Extension Agent,* 304-462-7061 or <u>Daisy.Fryman@mail.wvu.edu</u>

- Managing your water resources
 - With creeks completely dry at most locations, we must properly manage the water resources that we do have available. Keeping an eye on our ponds, wells, and springs will be key to being sure that we maintain a proper water supply for livestock. Checking on those sources every couple of days or daily should be a priority. Keeping trough and spring in adequate work condition will assist in conserving the water that you do have so it last longer.
 - If you do not have source of water other than creeks in the pasture then you will need to be strategic in providing an adequate water source.
 - Mature cattle can drink 20-25 gallons of water per day.
 - That number can exceed that in excessive heat and can also be dependent on there feed source.
 - Cattle eating dry hay and feed will need more water than cattle grazing fresh grass.
- Records you should be keeping track of during the drought.
 - Receipts of any expenses related to watering livestock.
 - Water tanks, troughs, hoses, pumps, fittings, and any other items you have purchased to assist in watering livestock.
 - If your hauling water from the local PSD be sure to track your mileage or keep fuel receipts.
 - Quantity of Water you are supplying how, much you are putting out and how often. Keeping a notebook or a calendar to write this down will be handy.
 - Quantity of Feed and Hay you fed during the drought period. This includes hay/feed you produced or purchased.
 - Receipts of all purchased hay and feed.
- Sacrifice Area during Drought
 - A sacrifice area is similar to winter feeding area for livestock. If you are feeding hay and grain and watering in one area, it would be best to contain them to that area if there is not grazable pasture available.
 - Keeping cattle and livestock contained to a sacrifice area will allow you to properly manage and reduce further damage to pastures during the drought. Due to the lack of productive growth many pasture are short, thin and showing a lot of soil. These pastures will be susceptible to erosion issues. Keeping livestock off these areas will help protect the ground and allow them to recover quickly when the rain returns.
 - How long should you contain your livestock in a sacrifice area? Depending on the length of the drought, livestock should be in the sacrifice area until adequate grazing forage has recovered and is available. This does not mean as soon as it rains you open the gate up. You must allow the pastures time to recover, in best situation this is going to take at least 28 days and may take as long as 60 days. Pastures that have 3-4 inches of growth will recover quicker that those that have been grazed to the ground. This is why a sacrifice area can be key a management decision to assist in recovering from the drought.

Grazing Hay Fields

Evan Wilson, WVU Mason County Extension 304-675-0888 or Evan.wilson@mail.wvu.edu

As much of the region, and state for that matter, is experiencing a generation drought for the majority of the 2024 Summer, producers will need to utilize alternative ideas on keeping their livestock fed. Couple short pastures with low hay yields, it may be time to think about grazing our hay fields. These acres of hay fields can be utilized as late summer and fall paddocks to help bridge the gap until winter.

There are several short-term benefits that can come from grazing hay fields from extending the grazing season, to reducing costs of making or purchasing hay and reducing risk of hay fires. Long-term effects can include spreading of manure and urine on the fields; think of this as free fertilizer! Also, as the animals trample the ground, they will be laying ever important organic matter on the ground known as plant material. While this breaks down, over time the organic matter can improve the water holding capacity that may help in future droughts.

Current reports of second cutting hay are down from 50-90% throughout Mason County with many not even attempting a second cutting. Not only are bale numbers down but the quality of bale too. With the plants this dry, the risk of damaging leaf matter during the haymaking process is extremely high. This results in very stemmy hay. However, if animals are permitted to graze these fields instead, the loss of leaves will not be there as they will be consumed by the animal.

Another potential benefit of grazing cattle on hay fields is the reduction of johnsongrass populations. While this plant is spreading throughout the Ohio Valley in our hay fields, roadside and vacant properties, they are nearly impossible to find in our pastures. This is due to the livestock grazing them as they grow. By grazing these plants, they starve out the food reserves stored in the roots. This does not happen with own baling the hay.

However, with any benefits that grazing hayfields may bring, there may be challenges that are difficult to overcome. The two biggest challenges that exist is the lack of fence and lack of water sources for the animals because they were set up to grow forage, not livestock. If the livestock are broken to high tensile or poly electric fence, the use of temporary fencing and solar fence energizers may be the solution.

Designing a late summer rotation grazing system can be overwhelming but rewarding in the end. We will use a 20-acre hay field used as grazing for cattle; please note the fencing may not work for all livestock or situations. With this 20-acre field, we have several options on a perimeter fence with the most cost effective and long lasting being building a high tensile electric fence with multiple strains. However, the labor of driving posts in the ground with the exceptional heat may be a potential health hazard. Once a perimeter is established, hooking the electric on is the next step. By splitting this 20-acre field into smaller paddocks with temporary fence, we will be able to better move the cattle where we want them to graze. Remember, when the grass is growing fast, we move the cattle fast to the next paddock. Some people only let the cattle graze a strip for a few hours to a day while others let them graze longer. When the grass is growing slow, or not at all, move the cattle slower to the next paddock. The use of a back fence may or may not be necessary. Water is the other major hurdle to overcome. Depending on the situation, municipal, well, hauling or pond water could be options. For ponds, we need to keep the livestock out of the mud and off the banks. They will break down the sides and muddy the water. The use of a rock skirt, a few posts and polybraid will help with this. If the property is near municipal water but does not have a tap, please contact your local West Virginia Conservation Agency as they are helping with payment for a one-time tap as of August 27, 2024. With either municipal or well water, the installation of HDPE black water pipe can be a lifesaver. This pipe comes in rolls from 100' to 1000' and multiple diameters. The 3/4" will be the most common and able to be used easily with HDPE fittings that can be found. For example, PowerFlex Fence carries couplers, fittings, float valves and other gear for it.

To protect the water line, run it underneath fence from the source of water through the field. Using the T fittings, screw on a female quick coupler every 100-150'; this will provide you with multiple water points throughout the field. Having a handful of male quick coupler will come in handy in moving the water troughs to new areas. The males will click into the female and latch on. Prior to latching them together, attach the water hose to male end and then click the couplers together. Attach the other end of the hose to the water trough and woolah you have water! If hauling water, simply moving the water trough around the paddocks will help too.

If you have further questions on grazing hay fields, please give me a call at 304-675-0888 or shoot an email to evan.wilson@mail.wvu.edu



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Jackson County 157 County Farm Road Cottageville, WV 25239

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION ON OVERCOMING THE DROUGHT Youtube page for the recorded meetings. <u>https://www.youtube.com/@alexsmith9396</u>



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES Calhoun, Jackson, Putnam, Mason Roane, Wood, and Wirt Counties

Teresia Fought, Editor Administrative Assistant WVU Extension Service Jackson County 304-372-8199

Evan Wilson WVU Extension Agent Mason County 304-675-0888 Evan.wilson@mail.wvu.edu



J.J. Barrett WVU Extension Agent Wood County 304-424-1960 JJ.Barrett@mail.wvu.edu

Daisy Fryman Bailey WVU Extension Agent Gilmer & Calhoun Counties 304-462-7061 / 304-354-6332 Dmfryman@mail.wvu.edu Brandy Brabham WVU Extension Agent Roane County 304-927-0975 Brandy.Brabham@mail.wvu.edu

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Director, Cooperative Extension Service, West Virginia University.

The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing, and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for the state's four-year colleges and universities.

WVU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer. Underrepresented class members are encouraged to apply. This includes: minorities, females, individuals with disabilities and veterans.



September 2024

BEEF NEWS