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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Are You Feeding Hay Already?

We had an outstanding summer and fall for grass growth. Pasture was lush through August and September, even October saw continued growth of forages. Just ask anyone when they finally quit mowing their yard. With all of that late growth, the thought was that most people would not start feeding hay until after the first of the year. That is what I thought, but I had planned on grazing some hay fields in the fall. This is a common practice, but it is commonly dry in the fall. It seems like we have not had a five day stretch without some rain since July. With that being the situation, the soil is saturated. Even with heavy sod, the foot traffic could cause tremendous damage to the soil in hay fields if grazed now. So I am feeding hay and it seems like they are eating it at an alarming rate. I have talked to others who are experiencing the same thing.

While most producers I have talked to feel they have plenty of hay, some have said they were not able to get as much hay made as in recent years. Regardless of how much hay you made, if weather conditions continue wet throughout the rest of November and December, the hay supply might need to be re-evaluated. With that thought in mind I think some information I recently read in the Beef Blog might be good to keep in mind for winter feeding.

This information was prepared with regards to a short hay supply in Texas due to lack of rain during the summer, but meeting the nutritional needs of a cow and trying to stretch the hay supply is the same. This was written by Joe C. Paschal is a livestock specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Corpus Christi with information from Jason Banta, also a specialist at Texas A&M. While this addresses feeding dry cows, he also addressed feeding wet cows in the Beef Blog. With most calves either weaned, or getting close to being weaned, the dry cow information should be useful for many producers in our area. The hay that was used was poor quality, with only 5% crude protein and 45% Total Digestible Nutrients. By testing your hay you can find out how good or bad your hay might be, then adjust accordingly to feed a balanced ration.

The dry cow requirements are based on a 1,350-pound cow in late gestation with a body condition score of 5 (no ribs showing) with the goal of maintaining that BCS while reducing hay use (no ad lib feeding). The cows will be allowed either 10 or 20 pounds of hay, and then supplemental feed is used to balance the ration. Banta developed four supplemental feeding programs using only 10 pounds of hay and four where 20 pounds of hay is fed.

The four supplementation programs using only 10 pounds of hay require either:

- 10 pounds of whole corn and 2.4 pounds of soybean meal (SBM),
- 7 pounds of soybean hull pellets and 7 pounds of corn gluten feed pellets,
- 14.5 pounds of 12 percent CP breeder cubes, no non-protein nitrogen or urea or
- 6 pounds of whole cottonseed, 4.75 pounds of corn and 1.25 pounds of cottonseed meal.



If 20 pounds of hay are fed, then the amounts are reduced to:

- 6 pounds of corn and
- 2.2 pounds of SBM,
- 5 pounds each of soybean hull pellets and corn gluten feed pellets,
- 9.5 pounds of 20 percent CP (not 12 percent) cubes or
- 6 pounds of WCS and 1.5 pounds CSM.

You can see that the hay, even though it is poor-quality, does reduce the need for (and cost of) supplemental feed, but you must know its nutritional value. Again, test your hay. I have a probe in the office that can be used to pull samples from round bales with a cordless drill. It will cost about \$25 and take about a week. Pull samples from 10 or so bales in a particular group of hay. Hay cut a couple of weeks apart could vary greatly.

Pesticide and Fertilizer Re-certification Dates

You will receive a mailing from the Ohio Department of Agriculture in the near future with all dates, times and locations for our area. I have scheduled two classes for Adams County that will hopefully work for everyone needing re-certified by March 31, 2019. Both classes will be at Frisch's in West Union, with one during the day and one in the evening. Remember if you have both Fertilizer and Pesticide license, you will need four hours of credit.

The first class will be on January 23, 2019. We will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the fertilizer training for one hour, take a half hour for lunch, then do the 3-hour pesticide training. The second opportunity will be on Thursday, February 7, 2019 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with fertilizer and following the same schedule.

The cost of the training will be \$10 for those who only need fertilizer re-certification. If you need pesticide re-certification the cost will be \$35 with or without the fertilizer. The \$35 charge will include your meal. Please pre-register so I can let Frisch's know how many to be prepared for at least one week prior to the date you wish to attend. They need to know so they can schedule enough people to work on those days. Again, you can pre-register in person or call the Adams Co. Extension Office and Barbie will take the registrations. The office is located in the Courthouse Annex in West Union or call 544-2339. The office hours are 8:30 a.m. until noon and from 12:30 until 4:00 p.m. Please pay when you pre-register.

Dates to Remember

January 16 Small Farm College will begin. This is an 8-week course offered from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. This OSU Extension event will be in the round room at North Adams High School. Registration material will soon be available at the OSU Extension offices throughout Ohio including the Adams County Office. Materials are available online today. Go to the OSU Extension Website, <http://adams.osu.edu>

January 22 Beef Quality Assurance Certification. Union Stockyards with the meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin at 6:30 or once everyone is finished eating, so please do not come at 6:30 to eat. Call Janet at 393-1958 to register.