



February 2019

Special points of interest:

- Cattle Can Starve to Death with a Full Belly
- National Lamb Month
- Upcoming Programs

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Cattle Can Starve to Death with a Full Belly

Avoid additives that are applied to poor-quality hay designed to increase intake. As the digestibility of a forage decreases, cows are forced to consume more to sustain sufficient energy intake. When forage quality is exceptionally low, increased intake of hay that is largely indigestible will increase the risk of impaction within the digestive tract.

Consider a grain or byproduct-based feed to supplement low-quality forage. Although more labor intensive, supplemental feeds instead of liquid feeds or protein blocks may help alleviate some of the performance and health issues associated with feeding low-quality forages. From the standpoint of trying to maintain a healthy rumen environment, fiber-based energy supplements such as soybean hulls, corn gluten feed, distillers grains, citrus pulp, and whole cottonseed are recommended over those that contain high levels of starch (e.g., corn or oats) and simple sugars (e.g., molasses). In most cases, fiber-based energy sources may be the most economical way of meeting nutrient requirements.

Use winter annuals judiciously. If winter grazing is available, use it, but use it carefully. When hay quality is low, the temptation to overgraze winter annuals is high. So if you have winter

grazing available but not enough to sustain the herd, consider limiting grazing the winter annuals for only a few hours per day. While you may not be able to completely meet nutrient requirements, the addition of winter grazing to the diet should help to prevent impaction issues and will improve ruminal fermentation of both annuals and hay.

Take-home message. It is important to realize that forage quality is extremely variable this year, and traditional supplementation methods may not be adequate to support the maintenance of body condition, fertility, health, and production and could contribute to life threatening health problems in cows and calves. Hay testing and using the UGA Basic Balancer for ration development is strongly encouraged. These technologies will provide producers with the tools necessary to make informed feeding decisions throughout the winter months. Supplements should contain quality protein and metabolizable energy that will work together to maintain a healthy and productive rumen environment. It is essential to know where you stand in terms of BCS and forage quality on your farm, and it is important to market calves as soon as possible if hay resources have tested below average.



Infectious diseases or parasites can cause similar problems in cow herds, so it is important to determine if the reason is inadequate nutrition or another cause.

Information and picture were taken straight from this UGA Forge Publication written by: J. Segers, J. Tucker, L. Stewart, F. Fluharty, D. Hancock and L. Jones

https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/TP%20108_1.PDF

Photo Credit: UGA-Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories.



*"Don't judge
each day by the
harvest you
reap, but by the
seeds you
plant."*

**-Robert Louis
Stevenson**



National Lamb Month

Here are some fun facts for National Lamb Month:

- There are over 1 billion sheep in the world.
- China has the largest number of sheep in the world.
- Adult female sheep are known as ewes.
- Adult male sheep are known as rams.
- Castrated adult male sheep are known as wethers.
- A group of sheep is known as a herd, flock or mob.
- Young sheep are called lambs.
- Sheep have a field of vision of around 300 degrees, allowing them to see behind themselves without having to turn their head.
- Sheep are herbivores that eat vegetation such as grass.
- The digestive system of sheep features four chambers which help break down what they eat.
- Sheep like to stay close to others in a herd which makes them easier to move together to new pastures.
- In 1996, a sheep named Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned from a somatic cell.
- Domesticated sheep are raised for a number of agricultural products including fleece, milk and meat.

Upcoming Events

Sale Barn Beef Program February 28, 2019. At this program we will discuss how to assess live cattle and why cattle get docked in price at the sale barn. Jason Duggin, Beef specialist for the University of Georgia, and David Garcia, USDA, will be our presenters. It will take place at the L and K Livestock Market in Upson County beginning at 5:30pm. The cost will be \$10 and dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by January 21, 2019 to the Upson County Extension Office.

(706)647-8989

Grass Masters This seven day program is being held in Monroe County. If you have any questions contact the Monroe County Extension Office.

(478)994-7014

Lunch 'N Learn (LNL) March 4, 2019. The topic of this LNL will be Ornamental Container Gardening, presented by Mrs. Sheri Dorn, UGA. The program will begin at 10:30am with the presentation, then will conclude with questions, discussion, and lunch. It will be hosted at the Barnesville-Lamar Library and the cost will be \$10. Please RSVP by Feb 28, 2019 to the Lamar County Extension Office.

(770)358-5163

MGCA Membership Meeting March 14, 2019. The Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Membership Meeting will be held in Pike County at 7pm. Please don't forget to RSVP on the MGCA website.

<http://MGCAonline.com>

Pike Lunch 'N Learn (PLNL) March 19, 2019. This LNL will be over Spring Vegetable Gardening, presented by Mr. Bob Westerfield, UGA Extension Horticulture Specialist. The program will be held at the Concord Event Center and will be from 11am to 1pm. The cost will be \$10. Please RSVP to Pike County Extension by March 15, 2019.

(770)567-2010

Backyard Egg Layers Feb 11th and/or Feb 26th from 5pm to 6pm. This program will cost \$5 for supplies and refreshments. Contact Crawford County for more details and to register.

(478)836-3121

Solar Energy Workshop

February 19th from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Crawford County Government Complex. Come learn about the benefits of solar power. This program is free. Contact Crawford County Extension for more details and to register.

(478)836-3121

Baleage/Silage Short Course March 21-22, 2019. There are only 2 of these programs a year with the closest one being hosted at the Monroe County Clubhouse on the 21st and at the Walters Farm (Lamar County) on the 22nd. The topics being discussed will be: Introduction to Silage and Baleage, Managing Forage Quality, Agronomic Management for Baleage, Pest Management (2 hours of pesticide credit for private or commercial 21 and 24), Legumes in Baleage, and Hands-on Activities/Equipment Demos. Dr. Dennis Hancock is spearheading this program along with other UGA Specialists and Extension Agents. The cost is \$80 for both days which includes meals and materials. You can register online through UGA or send form to the Monroe County Extension office. Please contact the Upson or Monroe County Offices for more information.

(478)994-7014 or

(706)647-8989

Backyard Berries and Peaches March 28th from 6pm to 7pm. Come learn for free from Jeff Cook, ANR Agent specializing in fruit tree production. Contact Crawford County for more details and to register.

(478)836-3121

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 GrassMasters (Monroe)	6	7 GrassMasters (Monroe)	8	9
10	11 Backyard Egg Layers 5-6p (Crawford)	12 GrassMasters (Monroe)	13	14	15 Arbor Day (Lamar SWCD)	16
17	18	19 Solar Energy 5p-6:30p (Crawford)	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Backyard Egg Layers 5-6p (Crawford)	27	28 Beef Program 5:30p (Upson)	<hr style="border: 1px solid purple;"/> Georgia Jr National Fair (Perry, GA)	

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 LNL 10:30a-12:30p (Lamar)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 MGCA Membership (Pike)	15	16
17	18	19 PLNL 11a-1p (Pike)	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Backyard Ber- ries & Peaches 6-7p (Crawford)	27	28	<hr style="border: 1px solid orange;"/> Baleage Short Course (Monroe/Lamar)	

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Through county offices throughout the state, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension offers reliable information and programs in the areas of agriculture, food, families, the environment and 4-H youth development. Let us help you learn, grow and do more!

<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/upson.html>
or
<http://extension.uga.edu/county-offices/lamar.html>

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Any person with disability who needs an accommodation to participate should contact the county Extension office to discuss their needs in advance.

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AG Comic of the Month

