



February 2020

Special points of interest:

- Forage Testing
- Preemergence Herbicides
- Upcoming Programs

Inside this issue:

Forage Testing	1
Preemergence Herbicides	2
Upcoming Events	2
Calendar of Events	3
Ag Comic of the Month	4

Forage Testing

Has the hay you plan to feed been tested? If so, you have the tools necessary to help maintain appropriate body condition for your herd. If you haven't tested your hay, that \$25 will be money very well spent. Whether purchased or put up yourself, the importance of forage analysis cannot be overstated. A producer may feel really confident that their hay is "high" quality, but there is really only one way to be sure that the herd is getting sufficient fuel for their stage of production – Test it!

If hay is the main forage during breeding season and protein and energy are just a little off, there will be cows calving 3 weeks later the following year. The result could be a 50 lbs. lighter calf at weaning. However, with a forage analysis in hand, producers can know how much of a gap might exist and plan accordingly. The "UGA Basic Balancer" developed by Dr. Lawton Stewart can be found online to help assist in ration planning.

After calving, a cow's nutritional requirements will obviously increase. Assuming a body condition score of 5 for cows and 6 for heifers, visualize that they will lose roughly a body condition score (80 to 100 lbs. of energy reserves) even with ideal nutrition. From calving to peak lactation, which is about 50 days, nutritional requirements will increase

quickly. Peak lactation requirements are 12% crude protein (CP) and 60% TDN (energy). Cows in late lactation should be bred but still require 9-10% CP and 55% TDN. Even the "dry" cow should be monitored for body condition particularly during the cold snaps to come. The dry cow is still pregnant and needs to provide essential nutrients to the calf in-utero. This group of cows still need at least 7% crude protein and 50% TDN on a dry matter basis. Please note that this is right after drying off and the nutritional requirements will gradually increase until calving.

An additional benefit of forage testing is knowing potential nitrate levels. When levels are nearing 8,000 ppm or higher, serious planning needs to take place to minimize impact and death loss in the herd. Cattle turned directly onto forages that have a dramatic difference in nitrate levels can die rather quickly. A forage analysis may save your cows and your calf crops.

**Information provided by
UGA Beef Specialist, Jason
Duggin located on:
Beef Tips 'n Advice**

<https://site.extension.uga.edu/beef/2019/11/preparing-for-fall-through-winter-calving-and-breeding/>



Photo Credit:

**#1 Upson County Extension
#2 Madison County Extension**

UGA Basic Balancer mentioned in the article can be found at the following link:

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1371&title=UGA%20Basic%20Balancer>



**"Why do farmers farm?
Love.
They must do it for love.
They love to live where they work and to work where they live."**

-Wendell Berry



Preemergence Herbicides

The big question every spring is when should I start treating my lawn for weeds?. The answer is...now.

For our area, the UGA Turf Specialist recommended application dates for spring is February 15th to March 20th. For the fall they recommend August 20th to September 15th.

Some points to keep in mind:

- Not all preemergence herbicides can be sprayed on every type of turf grass
- Soil temperatures are crucial to knowing when weed seed ger-

mination is and when to pretreat

- Irrigation is crucial

A couple examples of soil temperature differences...If you are wanting to treat for crabgrass, the optimal soil temperature is 55 degrees. If you are wanting to treat for goosegrass, the optimal soil temperature is 65 degrees.

Irrigation after application is ideally 24 to 48 hours, but at minimum, within a week.

It is key to read the herbicide label to know how and where to properly ap-

ply each specific pesticide.

Each year a new pesticide handbook is created and published by the University of Georgia researchers and specialists, to give the best recommendations to homeowners and producers.

If you have a question on what you can use on your specific variety of turf grass for a specific weed, contact the local County Extension Office.

If you have a weed that needs identifying, you can bring that sample into the office or send a picture to the extension office of that county.

Upcoming Events

Georgia Jr National Fair February 19-23, 2020. Upson and Lamar counties will have students showing their livestock projects in Perry during this week. Projects can include: Pigs, Heifers, Steers, Dairy Cows, or, Breeding Ewes. Show date and time is dependent on species.

Beef Cattle 101 February 20, 2020 3p-5:30p. At this program we will discuss Beef Nutrition at the Upson County Sale Barn. UGA Extension Beef Specialist Lawton Stewart will be presenting. Cost \$15. Please RSVP by February 14, 2020 to the NRCS Office or Upson Extension Office.

(770)358-0787 ext3
(706)647-8989

Lunch 'N Learn (LNL) February 24, 2020. The topic of this LNL will be Fruit Trees and Bushes, present-

ed by Jeff Cook, Peach/Taylor ANR Agent. Location is Upson County Extension Office. Cost is \$10. Please RSVP to the Upson Extension Office by February 19, 2020.

(706)647-8989

Lab Tour March 4, 2020. Upson/Lamar/Monroe/Spalding counties will be taking a tour of the UGA Soil and Forage Labs in Athens, Georgia. We will leave at 8:30a and be back before 4:30p. Cost is \$5 plus lunch. For more information contact one of the extension offices. Space is limited.

(706)647-8989

MGCA Membership Meeting March 12, 2020. 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>

Beef Cattle 101 March 19, 2020 3p-5:30p. At this program we will discuss Herd Health presented by, UGA Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Lee Jones. Cost \$15. Please RSVP by March 13, 2020 to the NRCS Office or Upson Extension Office.

(770)358-0787 ext3
(706)647-8989

Lunch 'N Learn (LNL) March 30, 2020. The topic of this LNL will be Stone Walkways in the Landscape, presented by Carmen Westerfield, NRCS District Conservationist. Location is Barnesville-Lamar County Library. Cost is \$10. Please RSVP to the Lamar Extension Office by March 27, 2020.

(770)358-5163

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Beef Cattle 101	21	22
			————— Georgia Jr National Fair (Perry, GA) —————			
23	24 LNL 10:30a-12:30p (Upson)	25	26	27	28	29

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Lab Tour (Athens)	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 MGCA Membership (Pike)	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Beef Cattle 101	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 LNL 10:30a-12:30p (Lamar)	31				

**Upson/Lamar Extension
University of Georgia**

Upson County Extension
305 S. Hightower St.
Suite 170
Thomaston, GA 30286
(706) 647-8989

Lamar County Extension
118 Academy Drive
Suite A
Barnesville, GA 30204
(770) 358-5163

E-mail: hrobinson@uga.edu



What is UGA Extension?

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>

An Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Veteran, Disability Institution

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

Follow us on Facebook!!! <https://www.facebook.com/upsonlamarextension/>

AG Comic of the Month



People. Products. Knowledge