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BEAVER COUNTY EXTENSION

Agriculture

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IN THIS ISSUE

The Herd Rebuilding Challenge

Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

There can be little doubt that the biggest issue in the cattle industry right now is the question of when herd rebuilding will begin. The challenge of herd rebuilding can be summed up with the following three questions.

What do we need to do?

Drought-forced herd liquidation due to roving drought from 2020-2022 has pushed the beef herd smaller than intended and smaller than it needs to be. The January 1 beef cow herd at 28.9 million head, is the smallest since 1962. The beef cow herd has continued to decrease in 2023 and will be smaller yet going into 2024.

Domestic and international demand for U.S. beef will support and encourage a significantly larger herd going forward. This will require increased heifer retention and reduced cow culling that will further squeeze cattle slaughter and beef production for at least 2-3 years. After record beef production in 2022, due to drought liquidation, beef production is falling in 2023 and expected to fall sharply for at least two more years. By 2025, beef production is forecast to be down 15-16 percent from the 2022 level. This will be the lowest level since 2015 and possibly the lowest level since 1993. Herd rebuilding will be needed and encouraged by the market.

What can we do?

Persistent drought is making it difficult to stop herd liquidation, never mind stabilizing and then rebuilding the herd. As of early October, 40 percent of the U.S. is in some stage of drought with 23 percent in D2 (Severe) to D4 (Exceptional) drought. This includes regions where significant numbers of beef cows are located. While herd liquidation is likely still happening in some regions, from a national perspective, herd liquidation has slowed or stopped. Beef cow slaughter is down year over year in 2023 but is not down enough to suggest that the cow herd has fully stabilized.

Moreover, the continued liquidation of cows and heifers in recent years means that the industry has little ability to begin any herd expansion soon. The latest monthly slaughter data shows that total female (cow+heifer) slaughter has averaged 51.7 percent of total cattle slaughter in the last year, the highest average rate since 1986. It will take several months of reduced female slaughter before any herd expansion will be possible. In the most recent herd expansion, the percentage of female slaughter in total cattle slaughter dropped to a low of 43.3 percent in 2016, two years into the last cyclical expansion. The situation now suggests that, once it starts, it will likely take a year or so before the cow herd inventory will stabilize and any expansion can begin.

What do we want to do?

Finally, is the question of producer expectations and whether producers are even trying to begin rebuilding. While some producers can't rebuild due to continued drought or drought recovery, other producers have compelling financial needs to pay down debt or restore equity drained by drought and high input costs before retaining any heifers. Certainly, some producers are beginning to retain heifers but, on balance, it looks like minimal herd rebuilding is starting in 2023. Some older producers are looking at the current market as a means to exit cattle production, or at least, cow-calf production. Sharply higher interest rates and the cost of financing herd rebuilding is also a deterrent for some producers and lenders, especially when combined with some skepticism about how long the current market will last.

All in all, it's beginning to look like 2024 will be, at best, a year of stabilizing the beef cow inventory. Neither Mother Nature nor producers seem to be in much of a hurry to get started with the next herd expansion. When it does start, herd rebuilding is likely to be a lengthy process with strong prices supporting the recovery of the industry.

Balko Wheat Variety Trial

wheat.okstate.edu

Cooperator: Kenton Patzkowsky
Extension Educator: Loren Sizelove
Planting & harvest dates: 10/10/2022 & 06/28/2023
Previous crop: Fallow
Management: Grain-only
Soil Type: Dale silt loam
Tillage: Conventional
Soil test: pH=7.3, N= 51, P= 28, K= 810

Licensee	*Variety*	*Grain Yield*			*Test Weight*	*Wheat Protein*
		2022-23	*2-Year*	*3-Year*	*2022-23*	*2022-23*
		---------- *bu/ac* ----------			*-- lb/bu --*	*-- % --*
PlainsGold	Breck	63	--	--	60.7	14.2
Westbred	WB4792	63	47	52	59.2	13.6
KWA	KS Ahearn	56	--	--	58.8	14.3
AgriPro	SY Wolverine	54	--	--	59.1	14.9
AGSECO	AG Golden	53	--	--	59.0	13.2
OGI	Showdown	53	44	49	58.4	14.1
AgriMAXX	AM Cartwright	52	48	--	58.1	14.5
Watley	TAM115	52	--	--	60.2	14.5
Croplan	CP7017AX	51	45	--	59.1	13.2
OGI	Gallagher	50	44	44	58.9	14.1
PlainsGold	Canvas	48	44	49	57.7	14.2
KWA	KS Providence	48	--	--	58.2	14.5
OGI	Bentley	47	46	51	59.0	15.1
OGI	OK Corral	46	40	46	57.8	14.5
OGI	Smith's Gold	46	42	46	58.2	14.6
OGI	High Cotton	45	--	--	58.9	14.4
PlainsGold	Crescent AX	45	38	44	59.2	14.7
LCS	LCS Atomic AX	41	42	--	58.6	15.4
OGI	Lonerider	41	40	46	58.6	15.7
OGI	Butler's Gold (late-planted)	39	--	--	58.8	17.4
LCS	LCS Photon AX	39	40	--	59.5	16.3
OGI	Breakthrough	37	37	43	57.7	14.4
OGI	Iba	37	35	40	58.8	13.7
OGI	Baker's Ann	33	34	40	58.5	15.6
	Experimentals					
OSU	OK15MASBx7 ARS 8-29	48	--	--	58.9	14.1
	Mean	**47**	**42**	**46**	**58.8**	**14.6**
	LSD (0.05)	**8**	**8**	**10**	**NS**	**0.5**

Notes: Grain yield and protein concentration were adjusted to 12% moisture content. Shaded values are not statistically different from the highest value within a column. The crop experienced severe drought stress during the season and moderate pressure of weeds at the end of the season. The weeds present were Buffalo Bur, Cheatgrass, Crabgrass, Foxtail, Rescuegrass, Tumble weed, and Kocia. Butler's Gold late-planted was plantes on 11/16/2022. Double-dashes"--" = data not available.

Oklahoma State University
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Money Saved Through Cost Effective Feeding - Part 1

Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension
Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist

From a nutritional standpoint, cattle basically need protein, energy, vitamins, minerals and water. Assuming free choice vitamin/mineral and water is in adequate supply, most nutritional supplementation and feeding focuses primarily on the crude protein (CP) and energy (TDN) needs of cattle. Furthermore, nutritional needs of cattle vary by age, size, stage of production, environmental conditions and weather, gender, breed and other factors (like level of milk production). In any nutritional program it is imperative to determine the objective of why we are feeding or supplementing. After defining our goal, we can minimize input costs and maximize our profit potential by evaluating feeds based on nutrient content as opposed to just looking at the price per ton or bag.

Evaluating Feeds on a Cost per Unit of Protein and Energy Basis

At the time of this writing, 38% CP, 70% TDN range cubes are available at a bulk price of $475/ton, the same commercial feed mill has 20% CP, 70% TDN cubes priced at $350/ton. Protein and TDN content are on an "As Fed" basis. If we are in a situation requiring protein supplementation of cows grazing warm season grass this fall, either of these protein supplements could meet our needs, but which is the more cost effective alternative? At a glance, $350/ton strikes most of us as a more cost effective feed. But what are we actually getting? Some "Cowboy Math" yields the following answers:

<u>The 38% Cubes</u>

At a cost of $475, one ton of 38% cubes contains 760 lbs. of CP and 1,400 lbs. of TDN:

For example: 2,000 lbs. x .38 = 760 lbs. and 2,000 x .70 = 1,400 lbs.

The cost per unit of CP is $.625/lb., the cost per unit of TDN is $.34/lb.

For example: $475/760 lbs. = $.625 and $475/1,400 lbs. = $.34

<u>The 20% Cubes</u>

At a cost of $350, one ton of 20% cubes contains 400 lbs. of CP and 1,400 lbs. of TDN:

For example: 2,000 lbs. x .20 = 400 lbs. and 2,000 x .70 = 1,400 lbs.

The cost per unit of CP is $.875/lb., the cost per unit of TDN is $.25/lb.

For example: $350/400 = $.875 and $350/1400 = $.25

So, we have determined the more cost effective source of CP is the 38% cubes and the more cost effective source of energy is the 20% cubes. What is the most cost effective feed? Depends on our nutritional objective. What we are we feeding/supplementing and why.

ANIMAL DISEASE ALERT: **A mixed flock of poultry in Carter County has been confirmed positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza.** Backyard poultry owners should take every precaution to protect their flock from HPAI by preventing their poultry's exposure to wild birds and any areas where wild birds have been.

HPAI is a viral disease that can spread rapidly and infect many types of birds. Wild waterfowl and wild birds are the primary carriers of the disease. Poultry that contract HPAI do not survive the illness and vaccines are not readily available.

Keep poultry facilities secure by cleaning equipment and changing food and water frequently, fencing where poultry is kept, restricting access to visitors, and ensuring waterfowl are not able to access your flock.

This type of HPAI virus is considered low risk to humans.

Sick domestic birds should be reported immediately to 405-522-6141. Stay up to date with most recent disease alerts here: https://www.ag.ok.gov/disease-alerts

Read more about HPAI and how to best defend your flock here: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/bro-protect-poultry-from-ai.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2rKQ9EWN0Y3jmhqIWOelfpVZXmFZUr-KP8obvoPZ6J4r0M9_1ipqEYaao.

Monitoring Nutrient Status of Beef Cows and Manure Consistency

Originally written by Adele Harty, former SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist.

Managing cows through the winter provides different challenges compared to managing those same cows during the growing season. With snow cover, cows should oftentimes receive supplemental feed to meet nutrient requirements during late gestation and into calving season due to low forage or limited quantity. Depending on the limiting nutrients, supplemental energy or protein may be necessary and there are a variety of supplemental feeds, ranging from hay to by-product feeds such as distiller grains to range cubes to lick barrels available. The key is determining whether or not nutrient requirements are being met.

There are two simple tools producers can use to monitor nutrient status and ensure the cow's requirements are being met. The first is body condition scoring cows and the second is to monitor manure consistency.

For more information please check out this link.

https://extension.sdstate.edu/monitoring-nutrient-status-beef-cows

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CALENDAR

Nov 20 ..... BCJR Livestock Trophy Auction

Feb 10 ..... BEAVER COUNTY Stock Show

SAVE THE DATE

PANHANDLE BEEF, COW/CALF CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

NOON

BEAVER CO. FAIRGROUNDS

Manure Scoring

Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Cattle Breeding Specialist

Manure patties similar to Figure 1 indicate a diet with crude protein greater than 10%.

Manure patties similar to Figure 2 indicate dietary crude protein between 6 and 9%.

The manure in Figure 3 indicates diets with crude protein of 5% or less.

For more information go to the link below: https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/beef-extension/cow-calf-corner-the-newsletter-archives/2023/october-9-2023.html