

TIMELY TOPICS

OSU EXTENSION - NORTHEAST DISTRICT
September 2021 – Volume 41 – Issue 9



EXTENSION

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Time to Develop a Winter Feeding Program

Earl H. Ward, Area Livestock Specialist

As much of the state is seeing lower levels of forage/hay production we will definitely see higher prices for that hay. Oklahoma hay reports are showing large round bales currently sold in north central OK for \$55 per bale (Sept. 2, 2021). Wow, well perhaps we will have cheaper supplementation options...NOPE. With winter booking prices coming out, it looks like we need to brace ourselves for the amount of money we are likely to spend on winter supplementation. Since 40-50% of a cow's annual total costs are spent on feed then we need to look at options to try to minimize this expense. The first step to try to mitigate the expense of feed costs is to look at stockpiling forage between now and frost. There is a direct correlation between a producer's feed costs and how many days they feed hay. So any practice we can do to lengthen the grazing days like stockpiling or rotational grazing will reduce the number of hay days and in turn decrease total feed costs.

The next recommendation is simply getting a forage analysis on your hay, whether you produced it or purchased it. Do not rely on previous tests to determine this year's supplementation choices. Having an accurate analysis for crude protein and total digestible nutrients is imperative to developing a nutrition strategy for your animals. Use this information to think through a strategy of how to best match the forage to the animal's nutrient requirements. For instance, feed your lower quality hay to gestating cows and feed your better hay to lactating cows and replacement heifers.

Once we have done all that we can on the forage supply and quality, we need to evaluate which supplement best fits our forage quality. Most likely the recommended supplement will change throughout the winter due to forage changing and nutrient requirements of animals changing. If you find yourself short of crude protein then most likely the higher protein supplement is the cheapest option per head per day.

Likewise, if you are short of energy (TDN) then your cheapest source of energy would be a lower protein feed.

| | <u>14%</u> | <u>20%</u> | <u>37%</u> |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Price per ton | \$260 | \$310 | \$420 |
| \$/lb of CP | \$1.03 | \$0.82 | \$0.58 |
| \$/lb of TDN | \$0.21 | \$0.25 | \$0.31 |

Begin now working with your OSU Extension Educator to work on stockpiling forages, getting your hay analyzed, and developing a winter feeding strategy. The last step is to continue to evaluate your animals' body condition scores and adjust your strategy as the need arises.

Fairs and Disease

Barry Whitworth, DVM Area Food/Animal Quality and Health Specialist for Eastern Oklahoma

In Oklahoma, September is fair time. For many of us, over a year has elapsed since our last venture to the fair. Kids and adults alike are anticipating the many activities associated with fairs. Many counties across the state put on quite a show. Carnival rides, lots a food, rodeos, petting zoos, and livestock shows are just a few of the many activities to be enjoyed at the fair. In Oklahoma, fair season ends with a grand finale of the Oklahoma and Tulsa state fairs.

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Many people will take home lots of prizes and ribbons from the fair; however, one thing that needs to be left at the fair is disease. With few exceptions, every year a few people will get sick from attending the fair. Many of these illnesses are probably related to a mixture of food and carnival rides. On a more serious note, some of these illnesses will be caused by pathogens and can be quite serious. These pathogens can be acquired by eating contaminated or improperly cooked food or from animals. Disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans under normal conditions are called zoonotic. The CDC reports that approximately 60% of communicable diseases in the world are zoonotic. Also, seventy-five percent of all emerging human diseases are associated with pathogens originating from animals or from products of animal origin (<https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>).

An example of a zoonotic disease is the Swine Influenza A variant virus. Swine variant flu viruses normally spread in pigs and not people (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/spotlights/2020-2021/human-infection-flu-variant.htm>). However, in 2012, a multi-state outbreak of influenza A occurred in 309 individuals in ten states. Over 90% of these individuals had contact with swine at the local or state fairs (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/outbreak-investigations.html>). Another example was a multi-state outbreak of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 associated with agricultural events that occurred in 2004 and 2005. Over 100 people were infected with *E. coli* O157:H7. Most of the cases were in children that attended a petting zoo at fairs and festivals (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5450a1.htm>).

Some of the common routes of getting a zoonotic infection are through aerosol, direct contact, fomites, vector-borne, or oral transmission. Aerosol transmission occurs when an animal coughs or sneezes and a person breathe in those droplets suspended in the air. A good example of direct contact is when a person is bitten by an animal. Fomite transmission means contacting areas where the animals live or surfaces that are contaminated. Fairs, chicken coops, barns, feed troughs, or water troughs are examples of locations where a person might be contaminated with a pathogen. Vector-borne transmission include diseases that are transmitted by being bitten by an insect such as a mosquito, flea, or tick. A good example of this is the West Nile Virus which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Oral transmission happens when a pathogen is ingested such as food poisoning.

Certain groups of people need to be especially careful around animals. Children under the age of 5 are included in this group. The immune systems of young children are not fully developed which makes them more vulnerable to infections. The young are also more likely to put objects or their fingers in their mouth which may expose them to pathogens. Elderly people are also more at risk for infections. They need to be careful because their immune systems may not function as well later in life. Another group of people that need to be careful are those with compromised immune systems. These include pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses, or people taking immune compromising drugs.

Zoonotic disease outbreaks are rare events at local and state fairs, but fair attendees can help prevent these outbreaks by following a few simple rules:

- Wash hands with soap and water after having contact with animals or any area where animals are located. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer.
- Do not allow animals to enter areas where food and drinks are prepared, served, or stored.
- Do not eat or drink where animals are located.
- Cook food properly.
- Prevent insect bites.
- Avoid bites and scratches from animals.
- Dress properly when dealing with animals. Wear coveralls, gloves, and boots.

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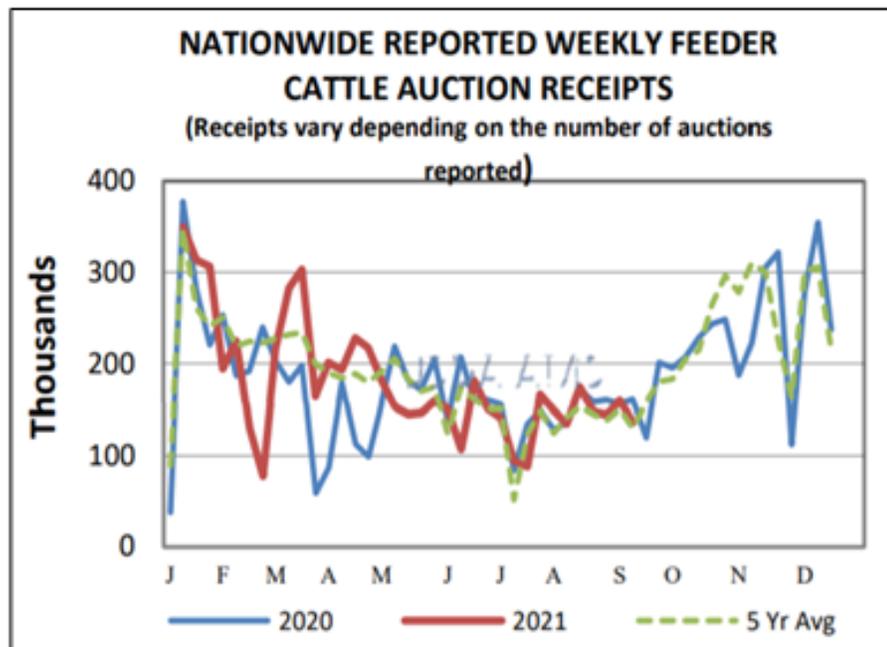
The last thing that I want to do is to discourage anyone from attending the county and state fairs in 2021. Contracting a disease from an agricultural event is rare and if an individual follows the above recommendations, the chance of getting sick is very unlikely. Personally, I will be attending some county fairs and the Oklahoma and Tulsa State fairs. Please come visit me at the birthing centers. If a livestock producer would like more information about zoonotic diseases and/or preventing zoonotic diseases, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html or contact your local veterinarian or Oklahoma State University County Ag Extension Educator. See you at the fair!

Optimism vs Seasonality

Scott Clawson, Area Ag Economics Specialist

There a general sense of optimism in the cattle markets these days. It is certainly there for good reason. The demand component has shown to be strong and resilient in turbulent times. Exports are encouraging with some of our long-term beef trade partners and in China as a rapidly growing market. On the supply side, modestly smaller calf crops from previous years are finally making it in and out of feedlots and impacting the beef market. Tighter supplies and strong demand are a good recipe for optimism. While our overall price levels are better don't forget about the seasonal price pressure that lurks this time of year.

Seasonality refers to market moves that happen through the year that are usually tied to some biological issue in our production system. We all know that most calves hit the ground in the spring versus the fall. It is a great fit production



wise to match the period of the cow's highest nutrient requirement to the spring green up period. This heavy slant to spring calving leads to a glut of two things in the fall: calves and cull cows. The premise is the same for both, unload these animals before our high-cost winter feeding period arrives. This comes with a consequence of supply. The fall surge of calves and cull cows usually creates a sustained high level of sale barn receipts. Generally, this high level of supply helps soften prices.

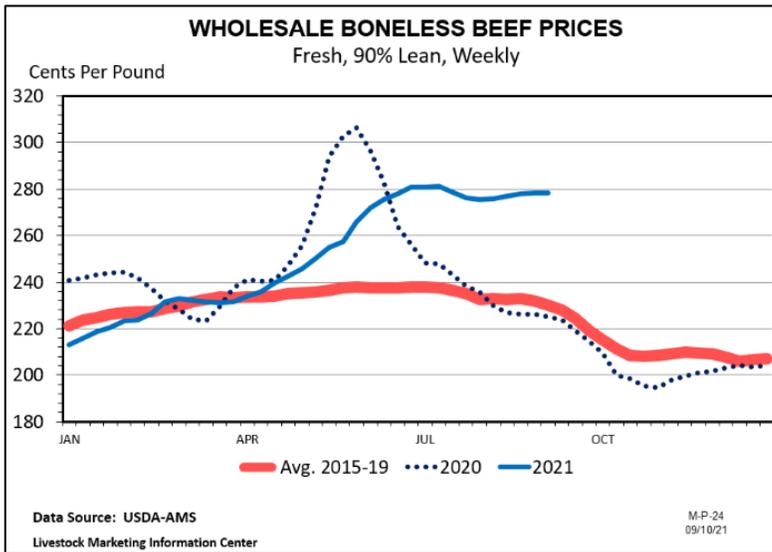
Source: USDA-AMS National Weekly Feeder and Stocker Summary
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lswnfss.pdf>

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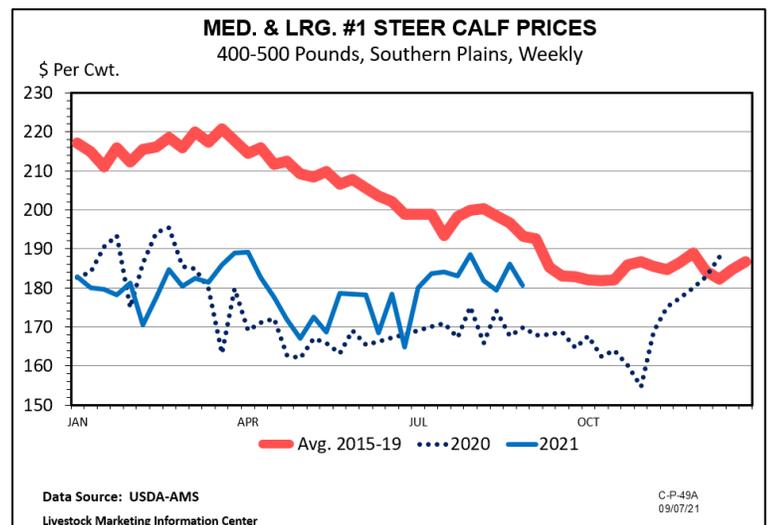


The cow beef cutout value is comprised of many cuts with the 90% lean product as the largest component. The price of this specific beef product has been trending well above 2020 prices and above the previous 5-year average. Still, as can be observed in the graph, 90% lean prices usually soften in the fall as do the live prices in this category. From a management perspective, stronger cow prices typically follow in the spring and provide a more favorable marketing opportunity. Unfortunately, feed and forage for these females may be cost prohibitive this year with higher feed prices and sporadic hay production.

The calves are almost the same story. As wave after wave of calves come to town this fall, there are

several issues that develop. One is that buyers can be selective as to what they are interested in. Large variations in calf quality and management lead to the large discounts and premiums that are available. The other is just the simple volume of calves that are available. The purchaser of those calves will then take on the risk inherent in forage production, feed prices and calf health, all of which can raise concerns. In Oklahoma, our calf market tends to improve into the winter after the fall low point. So, value may be added not only in the backgrounding process, but also by letting the market move past the fall low point.

Altogether, there is strength in the markets. Year over year prices are mostly at or above last year's levels. History tells us that softer prices for cow calf producers this fall would be the norm. This occurrence is usually the result of large receipts hitting sale barns across the countryside. Both cull cows and calves tend to be the most impacted seasonally. Hopefully, good fundamentals in the beef and cattle sector can help contest the normal trend. For more information and assistance with your marketing plan, contact your local OSU Extension Educator.



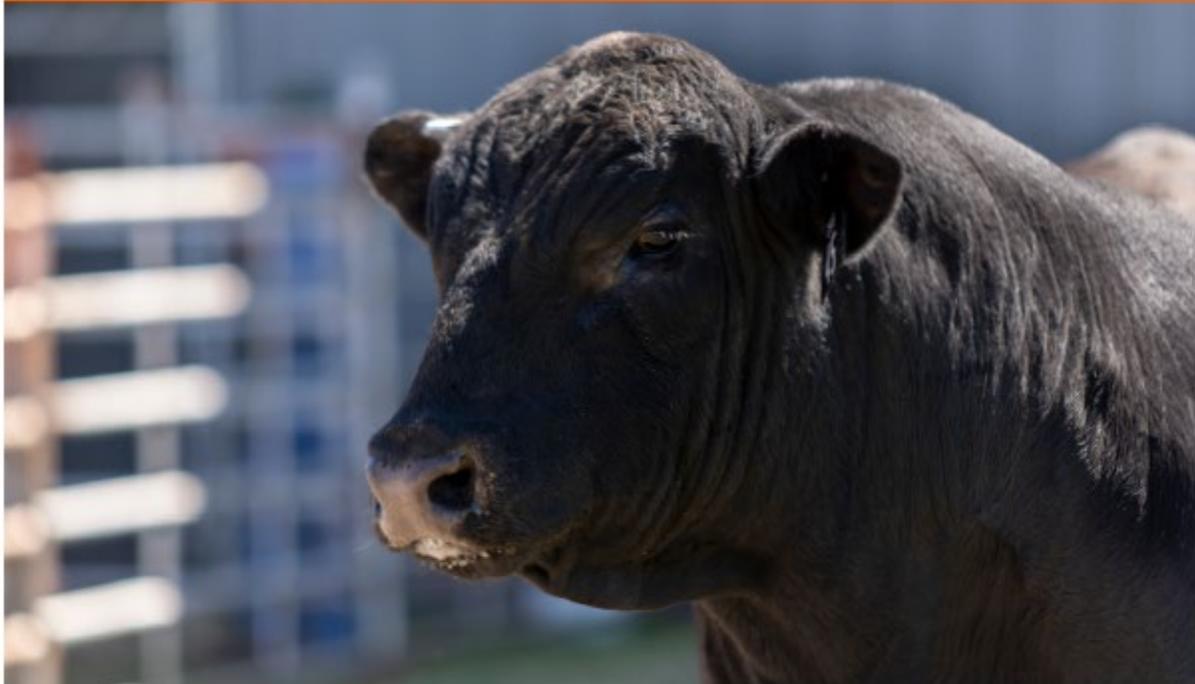
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OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY | DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES



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BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAM CLINIC

Northeast Oklahoma

Join us to learn about the importance of bull fertility and the factors that can affect a bull's performance.

Participants will have a thorough breeding soundness exam conducted on their bulls prior to breeding season.

Limited space, registration required

- ▶ **To register, call:**
Northeast Area Extension
Office, 918-686-7800
- ▶ **Cost:** \$40 per bull

DATE & LOCATION

- ▶ **Wednesday, Oct. 20th, 2021**
9:00 a.m.
- ▶ **Alexander Veterinary Services**
Dr. Mike Alexander, DVM

40301 N. 4000 Rd
Collinsville, OK 74021

CONTACT

- ▶ **Earl Ward**
Northeast Area
Livestock Specialist
earl.ward@okstate.edu
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| Value of Gain Calculation | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| EXTENSION | | | | | | |
| <i>OK Weighted Average Report 9/17/21</i> | | | | | | |
| Weight | \$/lb | Value/hd | Added lb. | Added \$ | \$/lb Added | |
| 332 | \$ 1.9774 | \$ 656.50 | | | | |
| 370 | \$ 1.8640 | \$ 689.68 | 38 | \$ 33.18 | \$ 0.87 | |
| 428 | \$ 1.8140 | \$ 776.39 | 58 | \$ 86.71 | \$ 1.50 | |
| 473 | \$ 1.7420 | \$ 823.97 | 45 | \$ 47.57 | \$ 1.06 | |
| 523 | \$ 1.6219 | \$ 848.25 | 50 | \$ 24.29 | \$ 0.49 | |
| 572 | \$ 1.5892 | \$ 909.02 | 49 | \$ 60.77 | \$ 1.24 | |
| 623 | \$ 1.5980 | \$ 995.55 | 51 | \$ 86.53 | \$ 1.70 | |
| 677 | \$ 1.5686 | \$ 1,061.94 | 54 | \$ 66.39 | \$ 1.23 | |
| 723 | \$ 1.5435 | \$ 1,115.95 | 46 | \$ 54.01 | \$ 1.17 | |
| 772 | \$ 1.5348 | \$ 1,184.87 | 49 | \$ 68.92 | \$ 1.41 | |
| 819 | \$ 1.5085 | \$ 1,235.46 | 47 | \$ 50.60 | \$ 1.08 | |
| 874 | \$ 1.4562 | \$ 1,272.72 | 55 | \$ 37.26 | \$ 0.68 | |
| Long Stocker Run | | Short Stocker Run | | Heavy Stocker Run | | |
| <i>Starting</i> | | <i>Starting</i> | | <i>Starting</i> | | |
| 332 | \$ 656.50 | 332 | \$ 656.50 | 623 | \$ 995.55 | |
| <i>Ending</i> | | <i>Ending</i> | | <i>Ending</i> | | |
| 874 | \$ 1,272.72 | 523 | \$ 848.25 | 874 | \$ 1,272.72 | |
| Total Gain | Δ Value | Total Gain | Δ Value | Total Gain | Δ Value | |
| 542 | \$ 616.22 | 191 | \$ 191.76 | 251 | \$ 277.16 | |
| <i>VOG</i> | | <i>VOG</i> | | <i>VOG</i> | | |
| \$ 1.14 | | \$ 1.00 | | \$ 1.10 | | |



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