

Osage County Agriculture Newsletter



**OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION SERVICE**

September/October 2021

Cow/Calf Corner

September 6, 2021

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

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Jeff Robe, OQBN coordinator; Paul Beck, Beef Extension Specialist; Rosslyn Biggs, Beef Extension Veterinarian, Oklahoma State University Extension

Mexican cattle imports decrease in 2021

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

The latest monthly trade data shows that July imports of Mexican cattle were down 37.5 percent year over year. Mexican cattle imports for the first seven months of the year were down 18.7 percent compared to 2020. Preliminary weekly data from USDA-AMS through the end of August shows that year-to-date cattle imports are down 21.0 percent year over year.

Mexican cattle imports are on pace for an annual total of 1.15 – 1.20 million head this year. Over the last 30 years, annual imports have averaged 1.1 million head although the average in the last decade has been a bit higher at 1.23 million head. In 2020, Mexican cattle imports totaled 1.44 million head, the highest total since 2012. Total imports last year were up 9.2 percent from 2019.

Mexican cattle enter the U.S. through one of eleven ports along the border including six in Texas (Columbia Bridge, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Hidalgo, Laredo and Presidio); two in New Mexico (Santa Teresa and Columbus); and three in Arizona (San Luis, Nogales, and Douglas). In 2020, the Arizona ports accounted for 26.6 percent of total cattle imports (all at Nogales and Douglas; no cattle have crossed at San Luis for several years); New Mexico accounted for 49.4 percent of total cattle imports and the Texas

ports accounted for 24.1 percent of the total. Santa Teresa, New Mexico is by far the largest port for cattle, accounting for 42.1 percent of total cattle imports in 2020 and just over 50 percent thus far in 2021. The two New Mexico ports along with Presidio, Texas all border the state of Chihuahua, meaning that the majority of U.S. imports of Mexican cattle originate in or pass through the Mexican state of Chihuahua (e.g. 55.1 percent in 2020).

Several factors likely contributed to the increase in Mexican cattle imports in 2020 and the decrease this year. The already struggling Mexican economy was hit hard by the pandemic, further weakening beef demand last year. Related to that, the Mexican Peso weakened sharply in 2020, going from 18.8 pesos/dollar in January to 24.2 pesos/dollar by April, a loss of nearly 29 percent of value. A weaker Mexican currency provides additional incentive for cattle producers to preserve value by exporting more cattle. The Peso recovered value by the end of the year and is nearly back to pre-pandemic levels.

Drought was also a significant issue in Mexico in 2020 and may have added to the export total last year. Drought continued to build through the winter dry season and conditions looked very bad in June of this year. However, the summer wet season has brought good rains and pasture conditions are markedly improved currently. It is possible that good forage conditions is delaying some cattle marketings until later in the fall. However, November and December typically account for about 24 percent of annual cattle imports and it appears that normal seasonal patterns are likely.

The Mexican cattle feedlot industry continues to grow but remains heavily dependent on imported feed grain and will continue to struggle with higher feed fee. However, cattle and beef prices are higher in Mexico in 2021 with expectations for additional improvement in market conditions into 2022 along with other North American markets in the U.S. and Canada.

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OQBN Vaccination Protocols

Jeff Robe, OQBN coordinator; Paul Beck, Beef Extension Specialist; Rosslyn Biggs, Beef Extension Veterinarian

Vaccinations are considered the most important pieces of disease prevention and a successful preconditioning plan. Vaccines are an expensive investment, and they should be treated as such. Proper handling and administration of vaccines should follow BQA standards to decrease the likelihood of infection upon exposure to a pathogen and to minimize tissue damage to consumable protein products. Veterinarian consultation is recommended when starting a preconditioning health protocol to determine the right product and strategy to fit the operation.

Timing of Vaccine Administration: The OQBN program provides producers with 3 options utilizing different timing strategies to build an immune response for both respiratory and clostridial vaccines.

- **Branding and Weaning:** Branding is defined as 2-4 months of age at which point the calf would receive the initial vaccine followed up with a second administration of the vaccine at the time of weaning. OQBN requires the use of a modified live viral vaccine (MLV). Use of killed vaccines (KV) is not permitted using this timing strategy. Research has also indicated that using killed vaccines during a window from 2 to 4 months of age are less likely to provide an effective immune response due to interference from colostral antibodies passed from dam to calf. MLV vaccines should be used with extreme caution in a herd containing pregnant cows that have not been previously vaccinated or cows with unknown health history due to the risk of abortion.
- **Prewaning and Weaning:** Prewaning is defined as 2 to 6 weeks prior to weaning. The first administration of vaccine is given 2 to 6 weeks preweaning followed by the second vaccine administration at weaning. The use of a KV is permitted during the 2 to 6 week period only. The second vaccine administration is required by OQBN to be a MLV vaccine.
- **Weaning and Postweaning:** In this option, the first administration of vaccine is given at weaning and followed with the second vaccine administration within 14 to 28 days. OQBN requires the vaccines used in this option be a MLV only.

The effectiveness of a vaccine relies heavily on when vaccines are given. There are many factors to consider that could positively or negatively impact the outcome such as calf age, stress, and time between the first and second dose of the vaccine. One example deals with maternal antibody interference (MAI). Colostral antibodies received from the dam at first milk provide the young calf with defense mechanisms until the calf has developed its own robust immune system. Research has shown that vaccines given too early in a young calf's life may be perceived as a "foreign" object by the maternal antibodies passed along to calf, neutralizing the vaccine, and rendering it useless.

For vaccines to work most effectively, the calf should be healthy and unstressed. Stress is considered the number one precursor to disease in livestock animals, and weaning is one the most stressful events in a young calf's life. Research has shown that administering vaccines during periods of high stress can be counterproductive to the animal when compared to vaccines given to animals not under stress. Utilizing a preweaning or a delayed (a week or two after weaning) vaccine administration may increase efficacy and provide greater protection to the animal.

The time period between the 1st and 2nd dose of vaccines should also be considered. Manufacturer requirements on many commercial vaccines indicate that vaccine doses be given 14 to 21 days apart for the greatest disease protection. Consult your veterinarian to determine best practices for your operation.

Vaccine product: The OQBN program allows the use of KV and

MLV vaccines with certain timing strategies for administration. Producers may request alternative plans for review by OQBN administrators only with significant cause and justification.

Option 1 Branding and Weaning: requires the use of two rounds of 5-way MLV respiratory vaccine (BVD 1 & 2, IBR, PI3, and BRSV), requires the use of two rounds of at least a 7-way clostridial (blackleg) vaccine, and one dose of *M. haemolytica* / *P. multocida* (a.k.a. Shipping fever) given at weaning.

Option 2 Prewaning and Weaning: requires the use of two rounds of 5-way respiratory vaccine. The first dose at preweaning may be MLV or KV, with the second dose at weaning being a MLV (required). Requires two rounds of at least a 7-way clostridial vaccine, and one dose of *M. haemolytica* / *P. multocida* given at weaning.

Option 3 Weaning and Postweaning: Requires the use of two rounds of 5-way MLV respiratory vaccine, requires the use of two rounds of at least a 7-way clostridial vaccine, and one dose of *M. haemolytica* / *P. multocida* given at either weaning or postweaning.

***A list of approved vaccines can be found at: www.oqbn.okstate.edu/vac-45-approved-vaccines

Osage News.



On Sept. 1, the Osage Nation's Harvest Land hosted its inaugural Farmers Market in Pawhuska. Employees with Harvest Land and Department of Natural Resources sold vegetable produce grown at the nearby farming/ aquaponic operations. Another Farmers Market is tentatively planned in two weeks. Follow "Harvest Land" on Facebook for further updates on its activities and operations.

Horticulture Tips

September 2021

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Division of Agricultural Sciences and
Natural Resources

Department of Horticulture & Landscape
Architecture

Oklahoma State University

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist Landscape

- Watch for fall specials at garden centers and nurseries since fall is a great time for planting many ornamentals.
- Choose spring flowering bulbs as soon as available.
- Plant cool-season annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage or kale, snapdragons and dusty miller when temperatures begin to cool.
- Watch for and control any late infestations of tree webworms.
- Twig girdler insects should be controlled if large numbers of small branches of elms, pecans, or persimmons are uniformly girdled from the tree and fall to the ground.
- Begin to reduce the amount of light on outside tropical houseplants by placing them under shade trees before bringing them indoors for the winter.

Vegetables

- You have all of September to plant cool-season vegetables like spinach, leaf lettuce, mustard and radishes, and until the middle of September to plant rutabagas, Swiss chard, garlic and turnips.

Lawn

- Last nitrogen fertilizer application of the year on warm-season grasses should be applied no later than September 15. (HLA-6420)
- Winter broadleaf weeds like dan-

delion will begin to emerge in late September, which is also the best time to control them with a 2, 4-D type herbicide.

- If pre-emergent control of winter-annual weeds (henbit, chickweed, annual bluegrass, etc.) is desired in lawns, the application should be completed by the second week of September. Note: Do not treat areas that will be seeded in the fall.
- Continue bermudagrass spray program with glyphosate products for areas being converted over to tall fescue this fall.

- Plan to seed bluegrass, fescue or ryegrass as needed in shady areas in mid- to late-September. Fall is the best time to establish cool-season lawns (HLA-6419).

- White grub damage can become visible this month. Apply appropriate soil insecticide if white grubs are a problem (EPP-7306). Water product into soil.

Fall is for Planting Trees and Shrubs

David Hillock

Fall is an excellent time to plant most trees and shrubs. In fact, research suggests that early fall planting is best for container-grown and B&B shade and ornamental trees and pines, but spring is best for planting bare-root plants and broadleaf evergreens, such as holly and Southern magnolia. Plants planted in the fall have more time for the root system to become established before the onset of summer heat. Plants installed during the growing season are susceptible to high transpiration rates leading to drying of plant tissues.

A perfect example of this was seen at the Oklahoma Gardening© Studio Gardens several years ago when we planted the Edible Landscape bed. One blueberry shrub

was planted in the fall and then several more were planted in the spring. There was a noticeable difference between the one planted in the fall and those planted the following spring. Despite the heat, the fall planted shrub looked awesome and was barely phased by the extreme temperatures that summer. The others struggled, having crispy leaves, dropping many of them, and barely hanging on despite the intense watering provided to keep them alive.

So, if you need to replace a tree or shrub or want to add more to the landscape, now is the time to be looking for that perfect plant. The weather should be changing for the better as we move through the month of September, bringing cooler temperatures and additional rainfall, something we all will eagerly welcome, and our plants will greatly appreciate.

Prescribed Fire

Rangelands and forests evolved under the influence of both grazing and fire. The role of fire in maintaining rangelands has been misunderstood by the public in general; thus, over time the use of fire has been reduced. This is unfortunate because prescribed fire is an effective means for controlling unwanted and undesirable plant species on rangelands and forests. Applied appropriately and under specific conditions, prescribed fire is a safe and inexpensive management tool that is available to the rangeland manager.

Prescribed fire is used to accomplish specific goals. The fire is used at a certain time of the year and under specific levels of relative humidity, air temperature, and wind speed to help control target weed species. Although generally responsible for improvements in both forage quantity and nutritive value, fire during a dry season can eliminate standing dormant forage that could be useful for emergency grazing. If soil moisture is not adequate at the time of the fire or replaced soon after, areas that are subjected to prescribed fire may actually produce less forage than unburned areas. Soil moisture is a critical aspect of the fire prescription and should be carefully considered in conjunction with other elements of the fire plan, even in eastern and central Oklahoma where moisture is normally adequate.

Besides the beneficial effects of controlling undesirable plant species, prescribed fire also enhances growing cattle performance. Data from many studies in the southern Great Plains indicates that stocker cattle gain an additional 10% or more when grazing burned pastures compared to cattle on unburned areas (Table 3).

Prescribed fire eliminates standing dead forage and provides livestock with green forage of higher nutritive value. Fire releases nutrients from dormant standing forage (phosphorus and potassium) for a brief period of time resulting in somewhat increased nutritive value of subsequent forage. The blackened surface generally greens up earlier than non-burned areas, thus providing earlier grazing. In summary, the beneficial effects of controlling unwanted weeds and the economic benefit realized from the increase in cattle performance warrants careful consideration of using prescribed fire as a management tool on rangelands and forests.

Prescribed fire is not used in introduced forage pastures to the same extent as rangelands. However, some producers have discovered that burning standing dormant forage can be beneficial to pastures. Some previously mentioned benefits include the earlier green-up of pastures compared with unburned pastures and a short-term release of phosphorus and

potassium. An additional application for prescribed fire would be to clean up a hay meadow so that the first hay cutting was clean of dormant forage and other undesirable components of the pasture. Prescribed fire also helps reduce the level of insect problems in pastures such as spittle bugs in bermudagrass.

Producers who have not used prescribed fire in the past may want to consider the benefits provided by this inexpensive management tool. For more information see OSU Circulars E-926 Grazing Management on Rangeland for Beef Production and E-947 Invasion of Oklahoma Rangelands and Forests by Eastern Redcedar and Ashe Juniper and various OSU Extension Fact Sheets on prescribed fire.

| | Unburned | Burned |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Early season (May to mid July) | | |
| Daily gain (lbs) | 2.04 | 2.24 |
| % difference | | +10 |
| 75-day gain difference (lbs) | | +150 |
| Daily gain (lbs) | 1.81 | 1.97 |
| % difference | | +9 |
| 150-day difference (lbs) | | +24 |

Fresh Salsa Class

October 28th

From 5:30-7:30

\$10 to attend

This class will show you how to make several different types of fresh salsa correctly! It will be held at the Osage Co OSU Extension office.

Make sure to RSVP to the Osage County Extension office by October 22nd.



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Cattle Series Fall 2021

At Osage County OSU Extension Office

All programs are free and will start at 6 PM



Pawhuska, OK

September 30th – Cattle Market Outlook with *Darrell Peel* and Livestock Risk Protection with Scott Clawson

October 12th -Characteristics of profitable ranches with Scott Clawson and Beef Quality Assurance certification with Rick Clovis

November 9th – Beef Nutrition and forage supplementation program with *Earl Ward* and Hay Quality with Brian Pugh. A free hay sample does come with the program but you have to attend to qualify. The sample will need to be brought to the Osage County Extension office by October 25th.

November 30th– Native range management and internet tools for rangeland management with *Laura Goodman* and replacement heifers with Mark Johnson

December 7th– Forage/stocking rates and how to calculate for your ranch with Brian Pugh and Scott Clawson



EXTENSION

Watch for dates on which programs will have meals sponsored

RSVP 3 days before program to allow for meal planning

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Cattle series: September 30th will be the first of many program we will hold here at the Osage county extension office. All programs will start at 6PM. See flyer in newsletter for more info or call the extension office.

Fresh Salsa Class: October 28th from 5:30– 7:30. Make sure to RSVP by October 22nd!

Horse Club: If you have any children above the age of nine that is interested in 4-H but does not livestock show this would be a great club to join. We will meet once a month to do fun educational activities. For more information contact Cheyenne Patrick.

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