Volume 3, Issue 3

August 2014

Creep Feeding 101

Jody Boles, Feed ASM

In this article I am going to talk about creep feeding calves and the benefits of doing so. Spring-born calves and fall-born will greatly benefit from creep feeding. Many producers are unsure of when to start creeping calves. A rule of thumb is to start when the first calf that was born is 2 weeks old. Now don't fill up your creep feeder or bunk to the top. Just start with 3 to 5 lbs. of Full Throttle R or Cattle Charge R per calf in your feeder. Once all the calves are born, and they are going to the creep, then you can fill it up if you want. Remember to set the side gates open no more than 5/8 of an inch or finger thickness. Some will say that the calves will eat too much feed when creep feeding. If you start when calves are first born, they will only eat 1 to 2% of their body weight. Keep calves on the creep feeder until they hit 400 to 450 lbs., then go to hand feeding them 1% of their body weight with MFA Trendsetter R. By doing this, you will have a heavier calf plus your cow will be in better shape for her next calf. Young calves are very efficient in converting feed to gain. Why change from the creep feeder to hand feeding at 400 to 450 lbs.? The answer is simple. These calves are like teenagers. They can really eat, and the reason they do is because mom doesn't have all the milk they want, and the fescue grass is tough. Plus, hand feeding will let you see your calves every day or every other day.

MFA Full Throttle is MFA's newest creep and weaning feed. It is a 14% protein pellet that is a 3.5 to 1 conversion on feed to gain! Folks, there is nothing else out there like MFA Full Throttle. At 3.5 to 1, it will cost you $.65 to put on a pound of gain. I used feed pricing from the week of 6-09-2014.

Cattle Charge is another great feed that many of you have used. Cattle Charge is a 12% protein all pellet feed that has a 4 to 1 feed conversion.

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Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- *MFA Foundation Scholarship Winners*
- *Late Summer Recipes*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *South Central Coupons*

...Continued from Front Page Trendsetter is another great MFA feed that was developed to hand feed to your calves at 1 to 1 ½% of their body weight. Trendsetter has a 4 to 1 feed conversion as well.

Please call me at (573) 631-6969 or Ron Shaver at (417) 926-9099. We would be glad to help you and your cattle. Thank you very much for all of the business you do with MFA.

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MFA Foundation Scholarship Winners

The MFA Foundation is a non-profit, philanthropic corporation established in 1958 with an initial gift of $28,000 from the estate of Robert O. Wurmb. The primary purpose of The Foundation is to provide greater educational opportunity for the youth in our trade territory.

The Foundation's major activity is its Scholarship Program, which has provided financial assistance to nearly 10,000 college and university students from rural communities since its initiation in 1965. The MFA Foundation Scholarships are offered to high school seniors in communities where MFA agencies (such as MFA AGChoice, MFA Oil Company Bulk Plants & Propane Plants, and other MFA agencies) are located and are willing to contribute $350 to the MFA Foundation as joint sponsors of the scholarship.

The amount of the scholarship is $2,000 and is applied toward the student's freshman year of college. It is not renewable.

The scholarship winner is selected by a local committee of 3 to 5 persons and should include a farmer, a businessman and a high school official. In making its selection, the committee considers the applicant's:

- Interest in furthering his/her education in studies that relate to agriculture or other fields of study that benefit rural life;
- Participation and leadership in school, church and community activities;
- Reputation for good citizenship and good moral character;
- Financial need, sources of income and willingness to work;
- Satisfactory academic progress.

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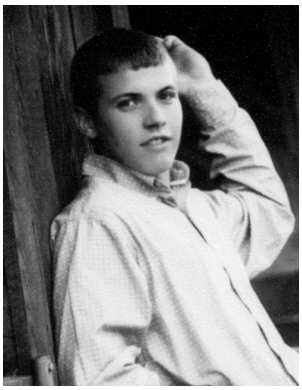
The South Central MFA AgriServices newsletter is coordinated by Kelly Warner and MacKenzie Oswald. It is printed through MFA in Columbia, MO. If you have any agronomy, feed, seed, or animal health topics you would like us to address, please call Kelly at (417) 926-4291 or send an e-mail to kwarner@mfa-inc.com.

Megan Elizabeth Fry, daughter of Lori and Dwight Fry, graduated from Mountain Grove R-III.

Jack Dalton Harris, son of Erin and Mark Harris, graduated from Norwood R-I High School. He plans to attend University of Missouri - Columbia in Columbia, MO.

Cheston Daniel Malam, son of Leslie and Chester Malam, graduated from Houston R-I High School. He plans to attend Missouri State University - West Plains in West Plains, MO.

Kaleb Wayne Stolba, son of DeeDee and Gary Stolba, graduated from Willow Springs R-IV High School. He plans to attend College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO.



Rachel Mary Swofford, daughter of Rita and Joe Swofford, graduated from Ava R-I High School. She plans to attend College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO.

Tanner Cheston Trivitt, son of Sara and Bill Trivitt, graduated from Gainesville R-V High School. He plans to attend Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, MO.

Lydia Morgan Whetstine, daughter of Lola and Jonathan Whetstine, graduated from Cabool R-IV High School. She plans to attend University of Missouri - Columbia in Columbia, MO.

Congratulations 2014 seniors! We at South Central MFA Agri Services wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

Stockpiling Fescue to Extend the Growing Season

Kent Kelley, West Plains Manager

Stockpiling and strip-grazing fescue are an excellent way to extend the grazing season and cut down on feeding hay. Stockpiling is achieved by applying 40-60 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer per acre to previously grazed or hayed fescue fields and allowing them to grow all fall. I typically use my hayfields for stockpile. I apply NPK fertilizer in the early spring. After haying, I graze off any summer regrowth. Then, I apply 50 pounds of nitrogen in late August or early September. You want to apply the nitrogen before fall growth begins.

I allow the fescue to grow until December or later. I have a fall calving herd, so I use the stockpile for breeding pasture beginning in December. Depending on the quality of grass, fall calving cows may require some protein supplementation.

I strip graze using step-in posts and a single strand of poly-wire. I usually allot enough grazing for two to three days. Moving the cattle every day would be better but is not practical in most situations. I usually put up enough wires on the weekend to get through a week of grazing. It is faster to go roll up a reel of poly-wire and pull posts than it is to start the tractor and feed hay.

Strip-grazing is not as costly or labor intensive in the winter as it is during the growing season. A back fence is not required due to the lack of regrowth. Water can be some distance away due to the decreased water requirements in winter. Using stockpiling and strip-grazing, I typically am able to delay feeding hay until February.

Your local MFA Agri Service can help you with the supplies needed to get started.

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Check out Mountain Grove Feed and the Mountain Grove retail store on FACEBOOK! "LIKE" our pages to stay up-to-date with store happenings and be the first to know about new products and deals!

Mountain Grove Feed: www.facebook.com/mountaingrovemfafeed
Mountain Grove Retail: www.facebook.com/mountaingrovemfa

Fall Applied Fertilizer Nutrients

Steven Koch, South Central MFA Bulk Plants Sales Manager

We talk about applying nitrogen in the fall for stockpiling fescue, but the most important nutrients for plant survival are phosphorus and potassium.

Phosphorus is essential for plant growth. It improves the quality of fruit, vegetable and grain, and is vital in seed formation. Phosphorus helps roots and seedlings develop more rapidly.

Potassium—a large part of the reason potassium increases forage yields and controls diseases is because it improves the crop's winter hardiness. It allows crops to get a quicker start in the spring and increases vigor so growth can continue throughout the growing season. Potassium is essential for protein and increases yields and has a great impact on crop quality.

Fall seems to be the best opportunity for applying phosphorus and potassium. These nutrients need time to break down and become available at the root zone. A soil test is the best tool for understanding the amount of phosphorus and potassium that needs to be applied per acre. If a soil test is unavailable, fertilize for crop removal. Use the chart below to make sure you replace nutrients to achieve maximum production.

Think of nutrient applications like your bank account. If you keep applying just nitrogen, the plant will keep pulling phosphorus and potassium from the soil. The plant needs to use $10 of phosphorus, but the soil account only has $2, you will be deficient or overdrawn. Same with potassium, but the plant uses more than it does of phosphorus.

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Removal of Plant Nutrients by Forages (lbs/ton dry hay)

	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium	Calcium	Sulfur
Alfalfa*	60	15	60	28	5
Cool Season Grass	45	12	50	10	4.5
Warm Season Grass	35	10	35	10	3.5
Grass Pasture (ton grazed)	40	3	12	3	1.5

*This table is an estimate of nutrient removal. All crops remove nutrients and must be replaced for maximum growth.

Forages

CEREAL GRAINS

Forage Master III Wheat

Forage Master III Wheat is a medium-tall wheat that is an excellent choice for grazing or greenchop.

Physical Characteristics: Medium-tall wheat with excellent leaves and standability. At boot stage, Forage Master III is medium to dark green in color.

Growth Characteristics: Excellent early-season growth with vigorous regrowth.

Maturity: Late maturity.

Disease Tolerance: Good resistance to leaf rust and stripe rust along with excellent resistance to stem rust and powdery mildew.

Insect Tolerance: No resistance to Hessian fly.

Drought Tolerance: Very good.

Planting Requirements: Plant 1 to 2 inches deep after the Hessian fly-free date.

Seeding Requirements: Drill 90 to 110 lbs./acre or broadcast 110 to 130 lbs./acre.

Soil and Nutrient Requirements: Fertilize according to soil test, yield goal and intended crop use. In absence of soil test, apply 40-40-80 before seeding and 60 to 80 lbs. of nitrogen after spring growing starts.

Harvesting Tips: Graze in fall and winter or in early spring. Cut for hay or silage in the boot stage for maximum feed value.

Forage Master Plus Rye Grain

High yielding rye grain cross that is grazing tolerant. Very good hardiness with superior palatability.

Physical Characteristics: Heights to 4 feet. Deep green color with adequate fertilization. Tremendous tillering potential for forage production. Good straw strength.

Growth Characteristics: Vigorous early growth that persists through mid-season grazing. Great for hay or green chop in the spring.

Maturity: May – June. Boot stage in April.

Disease Tolerance: Good.

Insect Tolerance: Good.

Drought Tolerance: Good.

Plant Requirements: Plant 1 to 2 inches deep.

Seeding Requirements: Sow 80 to 100 lbs./acre.

Soil and Nutrient Requirements: Soil test recommend. In the absence of a test, apply 40-60 lbs. of nitrogen at planting and 50-80 lbs. of nitrogen per acre at spring green up.

Harvesting Tips: Graze December through May to 6 inches of height.

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COOL SEASON GRASS

Marshall Ryegrass

Marshall Ryegrass is a unique annual ryegrass that provides exceptional cattle gains over Gulf Annual Ryegrass and stockpiled fescue due to its cold tolerance, stand persistence, yield, and quality. Fall planting of Marshall can increase winter carrying capacity and provide early spring forage with higher yields than traditional small grains.

Physical Characteristics: Marshall is a cool-season annual ryegrass with a fibrous root system and can grow to a height of 4 feet.

Growth Characteristics: Marshall Ryegrass establishes quickly with vigorous growth in the fall and continues growing somewhat in the winter with heavy spring production until the first part of July.

Maturity: Marshall is a late maturing ryegrass.

Disease Tolerance: Crown rust can be a problem.

Insect Tolerance: There are no insect problems unique to Marshall Annual Ryegrass.

Drought Tolerance: Good drought tolerance.

Plating Requirements: A well-prepared seed bed is preferred, but it can be drilled into existing sod if surface vegetation is reduced.

Seeding Requirements: Drill 25-30 lbs. in a well-prepared seed bed or broadcast 30-40 lbs. per acre. Drill seeding rate in sod is 25-30 lbs. per acre.

Soil and Nutrient Requirements: Optimum pH is 5.7 and above. Marshall annual ryegrass is adapted to poorly drained soils, however, the greatest production is on fertile, well-drained soils. In absence of soil test, use these recommendations: Apply 60 lbs. of P205, 60 lbs. K20 and 60 to 80 lbs. of N per acre at seeding. Topdress in late January and March with split applications. Apply additional 40-60 lbs. in late February and early April.

Harvesting Tips: Start grazing at 8 inches of stubble. For hay production, cut at the boot stage.

Forage Master Wheat

Michael Reese, Ava Manager

Forage Master Wheat is medium-tall wheat with excellent leaves and standability. At boot stage, Forage Master Wheat is medium to dark green in color and the growth characteristic of Forage Master Wheat is excellent in the early season growth with vigorous re-growth. Another characteristic is that it is late maturing which gives more time to graze or cut for hay. The disease tolerance is good against leaf rust, stripe rust, stem rust and powdery mildew. Another good quality of Forage Master Wheat is that its drought tolerance is very good.

Planting depth should be 1 to 2 inches deep and seeding rate will range from 90 to 110 pounds per acre in the drill and 110-130 broadcasting. Soil testing should be done to determine a fertilizing rate, but in absence of it, a 40-40-80 should be spread before planting and 60-80 of nitrogen at spring green up.

In the fall, winter and early spring, Forage Master Wheat can be grazed for excellent pasture. After pasturing, the cattle should be pulled off the wheat to give it time for cutting of hay if that is desired. Cutting Forage Master Wheat in the boot stage will give producers great hay with the maximum feed value.

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Late Summer Recipes

Easy Rhubarb-Raspberry Jam

Ingredients

6 cups fresh or frozen unsweetened sliced rhubarb
4 cups sugar
2 cups raspberries or one 12 oz. package frozen loose-pack raspberries
1- 3oz. package of Raspberry-flavored gelatin

Directions

In a large pan combine rhubarb and sugar. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes or till sugar is moistened. Bring to boiling. Boil, uncovered, for 10 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add raspberries: return to boiling. Boil hard for 5 to 6 minutes or until thick, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Add gelatin; stir till dissolved.

Ladle into half-pint jars or freezer containers. Make sure to leave 1/2-inch head space. Seal tightly. Let stand at room temperature several hours or until set. Makes about 5 half-pints.

Zucchini Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients
1 cup oil
3 eggs
2 cups sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
2 cups of flour
1tsp. salt
1tsp. soda
½ tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. cinnamon
2 cups zucchini
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans (optional)

Cream Cheese Frosting
1 stick softened butter
4 oz. Cream Cheese
2 tsp. Vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar, sifted

Mix with mixer until smooth and creamy. Add 2 cups of sifted powdered sugar. Mix well. Spread on cake and eat. My family prefers this cake cold. I keep it refrigerated.

Directions for Cake
Cream together oil, sugar, eggs and vanilla with mixer on high speed for approximately 2 minutes. Set aside.

In a separate bowl, blend together flour, salt, soda, baking powder and cinnamon.

Wash zucchini. Split in half removing the seeds from the middle. Grate zucchini until you have 2 cups. I leave the skin on the zucchini if possible. It gives a nice fleck of green color to the cake and better nutritional value. If you have a picky eater, then you might want to peel it.

Slowly alternate the dry ingredients and the zucchini to the wet ingredients until all is combined. Mix well. Slowly add 1 cup of chopped walnuts or pecans if desired.

Pour batter into a greased and floured 9x13 cake pan. Bake @ 350 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes. Let cake cool.

Thank you to Sherrie Kutz for contributing the fabulous recipes for the August newsletter!

Introducing: Travis Watson

I'm Travis Watson, Region Five's new Crop Track ASM. MFA Incorporated has divided responsibilities for the region between myself and Eric Preston. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

Bolivar, MO is where I was raised and I am proud to call it my hometown. My family and I have a 125 head cow-calf operation and we also background a few steers every year. From a young age, I have been involved in the farm operation and I continue to enjoy the work involved in raising cattle.

Missouri State University is where I received my Bachelor Degree in Animal Science. After graduating college, I managed our family's feed store for three years selling bagged feed, medicine, and various farm equipment. We sold the feed store and I returned to the farm and managed it full-time for the last seven years.

Agriculture is my passion and I am happy to be able to work in the industry helping producers improve yields and performance. I look forward to working with MFA employees and customers. I hope to be an asset to customers as we continue to provide programs and services for them.

Eye Problems in Cattle

Dr. Tony Martin, DVM, MS

Eye problems in cattle are an every year concern, especially here in Missouri, the heart of fescue country, high summer humidity, and big fly populations. Some years, like this one, these eye problems have been a topic of discussion before the typical fly and pink eye season started (usually in May to early June).

True "Pinkeye" is generally considered to be descriptive of the bacterial infection of the cornea by a member of the Moraxella bacteria family, generally occurring in response to overwhelming exposure from another infected animal or as an opportunist in response to significant eye irritation by flies, dust, pollen, seed heads in pasture, viral infections, inadequate nutrition/ immune support, and even ultraviolet light.

Moraxella bovis is the most common member of that family (over 100 serotypes or relatives among the M. bovis family group). That is the organism grouping utilized for all of the currently available commercial vaccines for pinkeye. Over the last few years, *Moraxella bovoculi* and/or *Moraxella ovis* (from sheep) have become more significant "players" in causing pinkeye in cattle.

Producers need to realize that these bacterial populations can be normally carried and spread by cattle showing no signs of infection. And they can be passed from animal to animal without causing any clinical problems if management keeps other contributing factors (eye irritants) under control. And it is these contributing factors that I would like to quickly review.

First, as I consider the eye questions that came so early this spring, I would remind you about the role that viruses such as IBR and BVD can play in creating eye lesions. Both of these viruses can cause ulcers in the surface of the eye that can then be easily infected by the bacteria that cause true pinkeye. So one of my questions, when eye problems occur outside the "normal" pinkeye season, what is the viral vaccination status of the affected cattle? If problems are occurring in young spring calves still on the cow, were the cows properly immunized for these viral components (proper vaccine, proper timing, good nutrition, good colostrum for the calf, etc.)? If the problem is occurring in weaned feeder cattle, when and how were they vaccinated?

If viruses are initiating the problem, often the best first step to help the situation is to get animal vaccinated. This is a situation where an initial vaccination with an intranasal product can help shut down viral activity pretty quickly while a more complete, injectable vaccine does its work.

If viruses are not the primary initiating factor, then we need to review the rest of the list, starting with the most likely eye irritants.

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Forage irritants: There are times, late winter and early spring, where type and presentation of hay prior to good spring grass is the source of initial eye damage. This spring, a significant amount of the fescue pastures headed out more quickly and before they could be cut for hay. Cattle grazing through standing forage that has strong seed heads helps create eye problems!

Airborne irritants: We may not have much control over pollen and dust levels, but they need to be considered as potential irritants that could lead to eye problems. And don't forget the benefit of adequate shade access to help with temperature control and UV light exposure.

Nutritional support: Providing a good nutrient balance is important for the entire immune, disease resistance effort, including eye problems. A well balanced mineral, appropriately presented and consumed, should provide all of the vitamins and trace minerals that the immune system needs. Vitamins A and E are the most beneficial to immunity of the eye. I am often asked about adding additional levels of these vitamins to the mineral or feed. Sometimes that may be of benefit, but that is undertaken with individual consultation to be sure of the necessity and to insure that the proper product and amount is utilized.

Fly control: Fly control is a must and should start before the biggest part of the fly season hits. Efforts should include the use of fly tags, sprays, pour-on products, back rubbers, dust bags, baits around buildings and loafing areas, feed through larvacides and IGR products, residual sprays on buildings, and removal of fly resting areas such as weeds and obstacles around feeders, buildings, and corrals.

Last of all I will mention the pinkeye vaccines. They can be a beneficial tool for many operations with history of eye problems. But they need to be used in conjunction with all of the above factor controls and they need to be properly selected and given ahead of the pinkeye season to have the greatest possibility of benefit.

The bottom line for this eye problem discussion is that we talk the same story every year, and each year can bring different fly control priorities on each operation. What does the situation look like for your operation this year? If you need help sorting out the details and applying the best preventive measures, contact your local MFA location and utilize their expertise and the products they have to offer.

Tony Martin, DVM, MS

South Central Locations

Ava: (417) 683-4151
Cabool Fertilizer: (417) 962-4370
Houston: (417) 967-2145
Mansfield Fertilizer: (417) 924-3722
Mountain Grove Agri: (417) 926-4291
Mountain Grove Feed: (417) 926-5900
West Plains: (417) 256-4041
Willow Springs: (417) 469-3193

South Central Bulk Plant Group

Birch Tree Fertilizer: (573) 292-3413
Crocker Fertilizer: (573) 736-2366
Rolla Fertilizer: (573) 364-4964
Salem Fertilizer: (573) 729-4165

Upcoming Events...

Missouri State Fair
Sedalia, MO
August 7 - 17

Ozarks Fall Farmfest
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
Springfield, MO
October 3 - 5