



South West MFA

AgriServices

Newsletter

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Rotational Grazing

Jared Hyder, Neosho Manager and Southwest General Manager

Rotational grazing can put more money in your bottom line. Like most things, though, you are going to have to spend a little up front to get set up, but it will pay for itself quickly. I started a system on my own farm 6 years ago. I have been amazed at how many more animals can be put on the same amount of acres.

I am sure everyone by now has heard of rotational grazing. This is not a new concept and in about any ruminant related publication you pick up, you can find an article about this subject. The more often you rotate, the higher efficiency you can achieve. A few things I would suggest is start with a good fence charger and 12.5 ga hi-tensile wire. A fencer with a remote is really handy as well. It will save you time and walking back to the barn. Composite non-conductive posts are ideal. If you are using existing fence lines and steel posts, buy a high quality insulator. Here is one way to start on existing barb wire fence systems. Run an offset wire around the perimeter. This will give you easy access to a hot line to start a paddock system. This will also help keep your animals from riding down your existing barb wire and stretching and breaking holes in fence. No one wants to repair and build new fence if they can avoid it, and now for a ¼ mile stretch alone, materials are over \$1,000 for barb wire fencing. So if you can preserve that existing fence by keeping the animal pressure off, then you have saved yourself more time and money. Then to try out rotating, just get a roll of poly wire, reel, gate handle, and some step-in posts and cross off some of your field.

It is really that easy to start.

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This method still allows you to take down the fencing easily and cut hay. If you want to get serious, put in a full blown system with waters and more permanent fence wire. Besides the obvious advantage of more grass, you also turn your cows to followers. When I walk out in my pasture they come to the next paddock gate like dogs looking for a treat. The cows enjoy getting fresh grass and they milk better. We have put together a great line of products for grazing systems here at MFA. When you're ready to get started, stop by the store and let us help you.

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Summer, Don't Just Survive, Thrive!

Chuck Hubbert, Retail Livestock Rep

Summer can be a challenging time of the year. With stress effecting plants and animals, it is amazing we can grow anything at all. With moderate temperatures and good rainfall, we can grow plenty of grass and gains with livestock. Rarely do we get it all. And then there's fescue. A lot of times we get busy with making hay and other activities, and we let the cows slide even though their stress is higher than any other time except for a wet rain in winter. For those that want to take care of their cows or are concerned about calving cows in the fall or keeping their cows milking for bigger calves, I offer some suggestions.

Grass

We do not have any silver bullets for summer grass. All of them have issues. Keeping weeds down, late fertilization (late May, June), and rotational grazing are all things that will help get more grass in summer. The quality of most of the warm season grasses (bluestems, sudan, millets, etc.) doesn't come close to that of the cool season grasses (fescue, orchard grass, brome, ryegrass, etc.) we use the rest of the year. Heat really creates a tougher plant (more fiber) that is harder for a cow to digest. Crabgrass is one exception or maybe keeping Bermuda grass young and well fed is another. And as we learned last year, water (and heat) is the limiter. Irrigation has not been used yet because of price or practicality.

Cattle

In summer, when cows get hot they don't eat as much. If it is really hot, they stand in mass in the shade and don't eat and may not even ruminate. Cows compensate partially by grazing in the evening or more often in the cool of the early morning.



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Supplementing with mature hay at this time is not wise because it increases the heat load the cow has from digestion. Feeding cubes, a tub, salt mixes, pellets, or high quality hay may make more sense. They don't produce as much heat during digestion as rough forages do. Also, the same events are occurring to their calves except they are nursing, but milk production will have fallen. Creep feeding is a good alternative to this situation. Cattle Charge, Full Throttle, Stockgrower, Cadence and its corn blends are just some of the feeds that would work. For those calves that have been weaned, full feeding Cattle Charge, Full Throttle, Cadence or its corn blends work very nicely. If hand feeding is an option, Cattle Charge, Full Throttle, Stockgrower or Trendsetter would work well. Keeping calves gaining weight during this time is a challenge but usually gets rewarded because few have weaned calves during this time.



Fescue

A few years ago, we were given access to a product that really helps with fescue toxicity—FesQ Guard. It is a tub that comes with fly control, minerals or protein. It does an amazing job keeping cows out of the pond and grazing grass like they should. This tub and salt should be their sole source of supplementation. The 200 pound mineral or protein tub is recommended for every 25 cows. Intakes should be 4 oz. and 8 oz., respectfully. The fly control tub comes in a 125 pound tub as well as a 200 pound tub. Intake will be around 4 oz. The small tub will feed 15 cows per tub. We also have our MFA standards, Fescue Equalizer Mineral with and without fly control, MPG (Maximum Pasture Gainer) and Summer Salt Mix. These are all medicated with CTC. Fescue Equalizer is our best seller. A lot of producers have found Summer Salt Mix to be very useful in the summer to help alleviate against pink eye and other types of summer problems.

All of these items above can help your operation, reduce cow stress and increase performance. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop in at your local MFA and visit with us, call me at 417 880-4358, or call Jody Boles, ASM, at 573 631-6969.

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The South West newsletter is coordinated by Jared Hyder and MacKenzie Oswald. It is printed through MFA in Columbia, MO. If you have any agronomy, feed, seed, animal health, or grain topics you would like us to address, please call Jared at (417) 451-3578 or send an e-mail to jhyder@mfa-inc.com or moswald@mfa-inc.com.

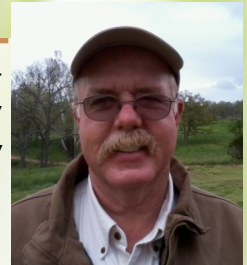
Get Reacquainted with Your South West Employees



My name is Jared Hyder. I am manager of the Neosho MFA and General Manager of the Southwest MFA stores. I attended Missouri State University to receive my BA in Ag Business Finance. My wife and two boys live on a farm near Granby, MO. We run a small cow/calf operation. I have been working for MFA for over 15 years now, and I have been a store manager for the last 10 years. I had the opportunity to get to work at 10 different locations in southwest Missouri.

Working in different communities gave me the chance to observe a variety of customers operations. I have come to realize there are many ways to run a business/farm all achieving their goals. I am always looking for ways to improve, either at MFA or on my own farm. MFA has the tools, resources and expertise to help a variety of customers. I hope everyone will be able to take advantage of the resources available. I want to thank you for your past business with MFA and look forward to serving your agriculture needs in the future.

My name is Kevin Doss. I am the bulk plant manager at Berryville, Arkansas. I have been with MFA for 30 years. I live in Berryville with my wife, Patricia. We have two children, Justin who is 22, and Lindsey who is 17.



See us for all your fertilizer needs plus a full line of pasture chemicals. You can reach us at (870) 423-6333 or on my cell at (870) 480-9382.



Hello! I'm Jordan Boone. I am the assistant manager at Cassville MFA. I am a 2011 graduate from Missouri State University with a bachelors of science in Animal Science. While in college I was actively involved in the Alpha Gamma Sigma agricultural fraternity. I currently live in Billings, MO with my wife Mandy, and our son, Jamison. Although I live in Billings, I am very familiar with Cassville and the surrounding area with family roots in the community.

I have a strong background in agricultural chemicals, farm supply, and animal health. I look forward to working with you all, as well as expanding on the services our store has to offer. Please stop in and see us if there is anything you need or if you just have a question. Thank you for your continued patronage!!



Hi, my name is Chuck Hubbert. I live in Republic with my wife, Susanne, and 3 kids, Stephen, Elizabeth, and Cate who are 12, 10, and 7. They attend IC School (Springfield Catholic) where my wife is a first grade teacher. I am usually out in the country selling livestock products to farmers like you. I spend the majority of my time addressing nutritional concerns and selling feed.

I grew up in Bolivar on a dairy farm and took part in 4H and FFA even doing some showing. After high school, I attended MSU where I was very active in classes, clubs and usually a part time job. I worked at a hardware store, the Ozark Empire Fair, and the Milk Market Administrator Office testing milk as well as helping on the farm on the weekends or when needed. After getting a degree in Agricultural Economics with an emphasis in Animal Science, I attended graduate school at Virginia Tech in the Dairy Science Department working on dry matter intake equations for heifers. Upon completion, I managed a 200 cow dairy farm in Weaubleau, MO for a year. Then I had the opportunity to buy some cows in an operation in Bolivar. I managed the dairy herd for my rent. This lasted 7 years. The farm grew from 200 cows to over 400 in that time. I sold my cows in March of 1999 and started working for MFA in April as a salesman.

I have always enjoyed working with farmers to improve their operations. I look forward to answering any questions you might have. Let me help you through your farmer owned cooperative, MFA.

Hello everyone, I would like to take a few lines to introduce myself to you. My name is Jody Boles; I have been working for MFA-Inc. for 18 years. My current position is as the Area Sales Manager for Southern Missouri and Arkansas which I have held since the end of September 2012. I grew up on typical farm with dairy cows, beef cows, sows, and several head of registered quarter horses. I have a B.S. in Animal Science from Southwest Missouri State University. After college I went to work for the DeKalb Swine Genetics Company and spent 9 months in scenic southwestern Kansas. Then I was relocated to northeast Nebraska and spent roughly 1½ years working with the Hutterite colonies for the DeKalb Swine Genetics Company.

My wife Julie, of 21 years, and I have four sons: Tristan (17), Thad (16), Teagan (11), and Tate (8). The boys attend Marshfield Schools. We have a small farm and raise a few horses.

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I would like to introduce myself. I am Eric Preston, the new Region 5 Precision Agronomy Sales Manager. I am a 2010 graduate from Kansas State University, with a B. S. in Agronomy, and a 2006 graduate of Pittsburg State University with a B.A. in Business Management. I am originally from Columbus, KS and have family that still lives in the area.



To all MFA Producers, my name is Jackie Modlin. I am the Manager at the Cassville MFA Agri-Center in Cassville, MO. My wife, Pam, and I live on a small farm near Wheaton, MO. On my home farm, we run cow/calf pairs

I have experienced and benefited from many opportunities in the Feed Business. I owned and operated a Feed & Farm Supply for 20 years, where we made about 60% of our own feed. My family owned Wheaton Livestock Auction and ran about 250 mother cows. I attended Crowder College, majoring in Ag Business. Prior to owning Wheaton Farm Supply, I worked for Louis Dreyfus Corp in the Grain Industry, starting in the Export Business in Oregon. I then transferred to Kansas City to be the Elevator Superintendent at the Rock Island Elevator, where we had a capacity of 6.2 million bushel. I now have been at MFA for two years. I enjoy working with the customers, providing new information everyday. When a customer comes to me with questions or help, I find great pleasure in assisting them. Customer satisfaction is the most important motto here at Cassville MFA; if our customers aren't happy, neither are we.

Booms, Boomless, or Spot Spraying? What is the Best Way to Control My Weeds?

David Moore, Range and Pasture Specialist



I think we can all agree that we have too many weeds in much of our hay and pasture ground. The final blow in this "perfect storm" of weeds was the drought of 2012. Many of us also experienced severe drought in 2011. But, truly, the beginnings of this flourishing weed population began five or six years ago when fertilizer began trading at high values.

I'll address the spraying a little later in this article, but first we need to think about the fertility issues that have driven us to this point.



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Most of us in the business of converting grass and other forages to meat and milk felt the need to do one of the following three options when prices went up: less fertilizer, no fertilizer, or use of straight nitrogen. Using any of these three options places us on a slope to declining yields and unhealthy stands of forage.

Plants require nitrogen, phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) in sufficient amounts to develop healthy plants. Nitrogen is basically the fuel for the engine (forage). Phosphorus and potash are like the oil that keeps the engine running smoothly for the long haul. Underfeeding with P and K results in excess removal of these nutrients and places you on the above mentioned slope. It is like having an oil leak in the engine.

Continuing to apply nitrogen (fuel) without adequate P and K (oil) will eventually result in a sick or dead crop (engine). The decline in soil fertility levels is not very noticeable at first, but eventually we begin to notice the thin stand and low yields. Thin stands lead to increased weed pressure (and weeds consume high amounts of nutrients and water). The slope steepens at this point, with the grass losing ground to weeds quickly. Add a drought to the mix and voila – here we are.

Killing the weeds without increasing fertility will increase grass yield (but new weeds will soon return to the thin stand). Fertilizing with plenty of P and K will increase both grass and weed yield. We really begin to see huge improvements when we aggressively work on soil fertility and weed control together.

An integral part of fertility is maintaining a proper pH. We do this for two reasons. Plants have a “sweet spot” where they will thrive. Our goal should be to keep the pH within that range. An even bigger incentive is that as pH falls, and soil becomes more acidic, availability of phosphorus and potash falls. Fescue will grow (but not thrive) at a pH of 5.0, but only about 1/3 of your phosphorus is available and about ½ of the potash. Applying lime to achieve a pH of 6.5 should be a major goal.

Conversely, routine application of lime without regard to soil test pH results can result in a pH that is too high to support plant life (like the salt flats in Utah). This is especially true when we apply lime close to a gravel road. Only a soil test can lead you in the correct direction.

To “check the oil” on your place, we need a good soil test. Begin with hay fields, as they are most apt to be deficient. We need 1 sample per field. Each sample is a composite of 15-20 separate cores about 6” deep.

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These are mixed together to create an "average" or composite soil sample. Avoid obtaining cores within 150 feet of a gravel road or areas that livestock congregate routinely. Including cores from these areas will skew the results

An even more efficient way to soil test is "grid sampling". Fields are marked out in 2.5 acre "grids" via computer mapping. A separate sample (with multiple cores) is obtained from each grid area. The result is a map that allows us to apply lime and fertilizer at variable rates to maximize production on the better parts of a field without overfeeding the poorer areas. For more information on grid sampling see Eric Preston's Grid Sampling article, or contact your local store, and they can provide you with more details.

Effectively spraying for weeds involves the five R's: spraying the Right product on the Right weed at the Right time, using the Right amount with the Right surfactant. Whether we put booms out, use boomless nozzles or spot spray is a choice we make as we plan our spraying program. First we evaluate whether there is sufficient weed pressure to spray the entire field or not. If you determine to spray the entire field, we must decide between booms or boomless nozzles.

Utilizing booms is more accurate in coverage, but is frequently not an option due to terrain or obstacles. Boomless nozzles cover 30+ feet per swathe and do so with very acceptable accuracy. The limitation they have has to do with wind. A boomless nozzle sprays a sheet of water out to one side of the sprayer. A pair of them provides coverage on both sides.

If wind is gusty, we will see occasional skips where gusts have affected the "sheet" of water. We can minimize this effect by working the field 90 degrees to the wind. If the wind is out of the south, run east and west. If the wind is out of the west, run north and south.

Spot spraying can be a good option to clean up sporadic weeds and small patches of weeds or brush. The spot spraying chart on the next page is designed to assist you in properly mixing herbicide and surfactant with varying amounts of water to meet your needs. The same 5 R's still apply, so visit your local South West MFA location to obtain advice on product selection, timing, weed identification, etc.

As always, I'm available for assistance to you and to our stores. Please feel free to contact me via email or telephone.

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SPOT SPRAY CHART



(Recommended rates given for each volume are rounded for easy measurement)

PLEASE VERIFY THAT THE TARGET WEED IS ON THE HERBICIDE LABEL

†Water Volume

Herbicide	1	5	15	25	40	60	100	Approx. Conc.
GRAZON NEXT HL+	2 oz.	10 oz.	30 oz.	1.5 qt.	2.5 qt.	3.5 qt.	1.5 gal.	1.5%
GRAZON P+D (RESTRICTED)	2.5 oz.	12 oz.	36 oz.	2 qt.	3 qt.	5 qt.	2.0 gal.	2.0%
CHAPARRAL	0.1 oz. (1 tsp.)	0.5 oz. (5 tsp.)	1.5 oz.	2.5 oz.	4 oz.	6 oz.	10 oz.	3oz/30 gal
PASTUREGARD HL (herbacious)	0.75 oz.	3 oz.	10 oz.	16 oz.	26 oz	38 oz.	2 qts	0.50%
PASTUREGARD HL (woody)	2 oz.	10 oz.	30 oz.	1.5 qt.	2.5 qt.	3.5 qt.	1.5 gal.	1.5%
SURMOUNT (RESTRICTED)	2.5 oz.	12 oz.	36 oz.	2 qt.	3 qt.	5 qt.	2 gal.	2.0%
HI DEP	2.5 oz.	12 oz.	36 oz.	2 qt.	3 qt.	5 qt.	2 gal.	2.0%
BRUSHMASTER	4 oz.	18 oz.	3.5 pt.	3 qt.	5 qt.	7 qt.	3 gal.	3.0%
WEEDMASTER	1 oz.	6 oz.	18 oz.	1 qt.	1.5 qt.	2.5 qt.	1 gal.	1.0%
SUPERBRUSH KILLER	2.5 oz.	12 oz.	36 oz.	2 qt.	3 qt.	5 qt.	2 gal.	2.0%
CROSSBOW	4 oz.	18 oz.	3.5 pt.	3 qt.	5 qt.	7 qt.	3 gal.	3.0%
TORDON 22K (RESTRICTED)	2 oz.	10 oz.	30 oz.	1.5 qt.	2.5 qt.	3.5 qt.	1.5 gal.	1.50%
REMEDY ULTRA (woody)	2 oz.	10 oz.	30 oz.	1.5 qt.	2.5 qt.	3.5 qt.	1.5 gal.	1.5%
TANK MIXES								
CHAPARRAL +	0.5 tsp.	3 tsp.	1 oz.	1.5 oz.	3 oz.	4 oz.	6.5 oz.	2 oz/30 gal
PASTUREGARD HL	1 oz.	6 oz.	20 oz.	1 qt.	1.5 qt.	2.5 qt.	1 gal.	1.00%
GRAZON NEXT HL+	1 oz	5 oz.	15 oz.	25 oz	40 oz.	60 oz.	3 qt.	0.75%
REMEDY ULTRA	0.75 oz.	3 oz.	10 oz.	16 pt.	26 oz	38 oz.	2 qts	0.50%
WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE VOLUMES WE NEED TO ADD SURFACTANT AT THE RATE OF 1 qt./100 GALLONS WATER								
DO NOT USE TORRID FOR SPOT SPRAYING								
ASTUTE OR								
ASTUTE LIGHT	0.5 oz.	1.5 oz.	5 oz.	8 oz.	13 oz.	20 oz.	1 qt.	0.25%
* 1 tsp. of Chaparral ≈ 0.1 oz. of dry product								
†Assumes a hand sprayer application volume of 30 gallons per acre								

Cassville, Neosho, and Berryville Sprayer Rentals



Cassville, Neosho, and Berryville are offering rental sprayers to their customers! They are B&B 200 or 300 gallon pasture sprayers. They are skid mount so they can be taken off of a trailer and be put into the bed of a truck if the customer desires. Sprayers

are powered by a 5 horse gas motor and spray through boomless nozzles. They will spray about 36 feet wide without the headache of a boom in the way. Just come by our Neosho, Cassville, or Berryville stores to rent one today!!! Please call the store to check on rental prices.



Applying P & K on Pastures and Hayfields in Fall

Kevin Doss, Berryville Bulk Plant Manager

There are several steps that need to be taken to prepare your pastures and hayfields for the next year after the summer months have passed.

First of all, you need a soil test to determine what you need on your field. Phosphorus helps plants establish and grow a better root system. They have discovered root development goes on for quite some time in the fall for two reasons. First, we generally get more rain in the fall, and we have lower temperatures. The soil moisture is usually higher than in the summer as well. Secondly, the soil temperature stays warm fairly late in the year unlike spring when the soil starts off colder from the winter. The combination of moisture and warmer soil temperature along with the accumulation of sugars and the movement of sugars down the roots mean fall applied Phosphorus will help plants establish a better root system for next spring's growing season.

Potash has a number of functions in the plant ranging from enzyme activation to stress reduction and water use in the plant. Fall Potassium fertilization helps plants lower their freezing point so there will be less winterkill and winter freeze damage especially on Bermudagrass. In addition Potassium helps fight off disease problems. If we can help you in any way call (870) 423-6333 or my cell at (870) 480-9382.

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Improvements at Cassville

Jackie Modlin, Cassville Manager and Jordan Boone, Cassville Assistant Manager

Greetings to all the customers of Cassville MFA! If you've walked into the store lately, you have probably noticed a few changes. We figured the place could use a good spring cleaning and some rearranging so the departments would make a little bit more sense. Although people say "y'all are worse than Wal-Mart moving things as soon as I know where they're at!" But these are improvements that were much needed!

Another area we are looking to improve in is our bulk service to our customers. We are planning to put another bulk bin in the back of our lot to start carrying bulk cubes. We feel this will ease the convenience of feeding to our customers that have cube feeders on their trucks.



Rental Sprayer Truck Mount

this time of year, and selective herbicides to help your corn and beans get that jump start they need to outperform their toughest competition.

If you feel like you can tackle the task of applying yourself, we have a 300 gallon pasture sprayer that is mounted onto a trailer for ease of spraying yourself. We feel this is all part of an effort to better serve you, our valued customers that keep our business running strong.

Jackie Modlin
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Also, we are venturing into the custom application business. We now have a spray truck for pasture and share possession of a row crop sprayer with our partner store at Neosho. As far as pesticides are concerned we stock all the essential range and pasture herbicides, insecticides for the pesky weevil and armyworm invasions that seem inevitable



Rental Sprayer

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Beat High Input Prices with MFA Feed

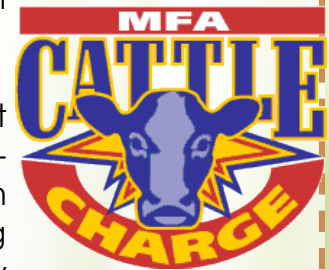
Jody Boles, Area Feed Sales Manager

How do we survive with the high input prices on the products we buy for use on the farm? The way to beat high prices is to buy feeds with great feed efficiencies; for example, MFA's Full Throttle, Cattle Charge and Trendsetter.



Full Throttle is a pelleted feed that is a 14% crude protein feed that calves love to eat. Full Throttle has a feed conversion of 3.5:1. Every semi load of Full Throttle has 25 head of 550 to 575 pound cattle in it. Full Throttle at \$340.00 x 25 tons = \$8,500. 25 head x 550 pounds = 13,750 pounds. 13,750 pounds x \$1.50 = \$20,625. \$20,625 - \$8,500 = \$12,125.00 over feed cost! Heavier calves when you sell mean more bring home money. Full Throttle has several drug options for you. You can have it with CS700, Rumensin or Bovatec.

Cattle Charge is a pelleted feed that is 12% crude protein that just works anyway you use it; thin cows, creep feed calves, weaning and receiving calves. Here is a real life story: a producer in Southern Missouri has seen the opportunity to buy thin young cows with calves on the ground from Texas. These are BCS (Body Condition Score) 3 at best. In the last 30 days, he has been able to put 175 to 200 pounds on per cow using Cattle Charge. Now these cows are ready to breed. Cattle Charge works on calves, too. A producer who has done the MFA Health Track program since 2000 has put a Spring and Fall group of calves on the program every year. Every year each group gets weighed two weeks apart and just like clockwork each group will gain 2.5 pounds per day on 10 pounds of Cattle Charge CS700. In these two weeks, calves have been weaned, bulls cut and vaccinated twice. Now that is walking the dog and kicking the cat anyway you put it! Cattle Charge has several drug options as well: CS700, Rumensin, Deccox and Bovatec.



Trendsetter is a pelleted feed that is 16% crude protein. Out of all of the feeds MFA makes, this one is my favorite. If you like to hand feed calves and watch them develop muscle and frame, this one is for you. Trendsetter is unbeatable when feeding at the rate of 1 to 1 ½% of the calf's body weight. You can grow out dairy or beef heifers like you have never seen before.



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...**Continued From Page 12** Bulls do great as well. MFA has a registered Angus breeder who weans bulls with Cattle Charge after 2 weeks, goes to MFA Ring Leader until Yearling weight then to MFA Trendsetter to make the bulls rock hard. These are very good genetic bulls, too. For the last three years, this herd has had the top selling bull at the registered Angus bull sale at West Plains, MO.

The comment every year on these bulls is "Wow, look at the muscling on them." In Salem, MO, every summer I have a producer who will hand feed MFA Trendsetter to his calves at the rate of 1% bodyweight per head per day. These calves every year gain 2+ pounds every day during the summer that adds a lot of weight to his calves plus reduces strain on his cows. This option could work for any producer.

Once again I would like to thank each one of you for your business, and please call me with any questions (573)-631-6969 or Chuck Hubbert (417)-880-4358.

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Early Sign-up for Grid Sampling

Eric Preston, SW MO/SE KS Regional Precision Sales Manager

In this newsletter I would like to talk about reasons for signing up this summer for the Nutri-Track program. First I would like to layout the basics about the 1st stage of the Nutri-Track program.

Stage 1: Intensive Soil Sampling

- GPS collected field boundaries and soil test points on 2.5 acres grids.
- Soil tests are sent to Midwest Labs for OM, CEC, pH, P1, P2, K,S, and Zn test results.
- Nutrient surfaces display the variability and availability of each nutrient with red (deficient) to green (optimum) to blue (high/excessive) colors.
- Soil type maps are included with crop specific NRCS yield goals.
- Cropping Nutrient Management Plan is created for each field based on soil tests levels, soil types and productivity, and cropping practices.
- Plant food recommendations (fertilizer) are for Variable Rate application based on soil test plus a whole field flat yield goal.

Intensive soil sampling has many benefits including increased efficiency by not overloading areas with optimum fertility levels with extra fertilizer. The fertility levels of the less productive areas in a field will be increased quicker and more efficiently. The quickest return on cost of Grid Sampling is the Variable Rate application of Lime for correcting low soil pH's.

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...Continued From Page 13 Proper pH balance ensures proper root growth and nutrient availability. A pH of 5.8 can reduce nutrient uptake by up to 40%. Variability in pH throughout fields in SE Kansas and SW Missouri is very common. It is not uncommon to see fields with a pH to swing from 5.2 to 7.0 in a field. The biggest challenge of lime application is the amount of time it takes to haul the product and spread the larger amount of product.

The best time for grid sampling to fit into the cropping system is to get the sampling done early in the fall. In a Corn-Wheat-Double Crop Soybean rotation, behind the corn crop will be are best chance to take soil samples. This gives us a minimum of a month and a half window to take soil samples and then have enough time to Variable Rate apply Lime, P (Dap), K (Potash) and other Micronutrients ahead of getting the wheat planted. On other crop rotations, we can sit down with the farmer and find out the best timing scenario for getting the grid samples taken.

Once the samples are taken, the process of spreading the fertilizer is not much different than conventionally spreading fertilizing. It is just a more efficient way of putting your dollars in the field.

For more information about the program and how it can fit into your cropping system, you can contact your local MFA Agri Service at Neosho, Cassville, Wheaton, or Berryville.

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Everyone at South West
MFA AgriServices would like
to wish our customers a
happy and safe 4th of July!

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; and satisfactory academic progress.

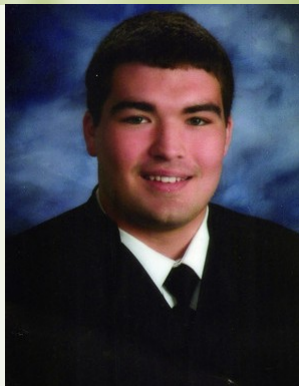


Zachary Titus Aldrich, son of Cindy and Michael Aldrich, graduated from Neosho High School. He plans to attend Crowder College - Neosho in Neosho, MO.

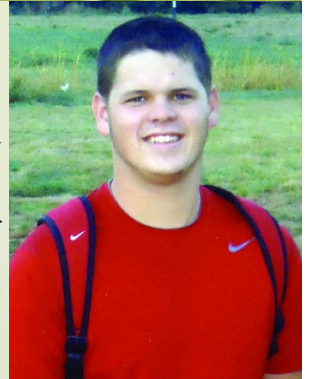


Austin Michael Fehring, son of Julia and David Fehring, graduated from Neosho Christian School. He plans to attend Crowder College - Neosho in Neosho, MO.

Andrew William Henbest, son of Janeth and Mike Henbest, graduated from Cassville R-IV High School. He plans to attend Crowder College - Neosho in Neosho, MO.



Corbin Allen Mabry, son of Ashley and Kaptan Kasischke, graduated from McDonald County R-1 High School. He plans to attend Crowder College - Neosho in Neosho, MO.



South West Locations

Cassville: (417) 847-3115

Neosho (417) 451-3578

Wheaton: (417) 652-3526

Berryville, AR: (870) 423-6333



Check Us Out on the Web at www.southwestmfa.com!!!!

Upcoming Events...

Missouri State Fair

August 8-18

Sedalia, MO

Four State Farm Show

July 19-20

Pittsburg, KS

Be Looking for
Upcoming Farmer's
Meeting Dates
and Times!