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Thinking Outside of the Box When Growing Beef Cattle

Jared Hyder, Neosho Manager and Southwest MFA General Manager



If you want to improve your bottom line next year, most producers are going to have to change up something in their operation. Some people can just cut expenses to improve profitability. Others are already efficient and just need to grow a bigger or better crop to sell.

In row crops, hybrids have proven their worth. Yield averages have drastically improved over the years, and it is easy to measure since

you already know how many acres you have, and when you sell your grain, you can compute your yield.

A goal of mine has been to sell more pounds of beef per cow. This year we were comparing the selling weights of our spring born steers (Feb-March) sold the week of Thanksgiving that averaged 850 lb with the oldest calf being less than 10 months old. I was happy with the overall weight, and with the larger steers that pulled the average weight up, we were really "hitting on all cylinders."

I was able to get my calves that heavy in a short amount of time by using the Cattle Charge product. It has a typical feed conversion of 4 to 1, and the commodity feed has a typical feed conversion of 6 to 1. So if the commodity feed costs \$240, and the Cattle Charge product costs \$310, feeding 4 lb of Cattle Charge will cost \$.62 a day, and the commodity at 6 lb costs \$.72 a day.

Then I found myself visiting with Kent Daniels, the rep for Select Sires in our area. I shared with him that the cheaper per ton commodity feeds that he was using had lower TDN (total digestible nutrients), and he could feed less pounds of the higher priced Cattle Charge and grow bigger calves while spending less on feed. Kent did his own 50 day feed trial with Cattle Charge, and his conversion on Cattle Charge with his 6-7 weight heifers was 2.5 lb fed to 1 lb of gain. How did Kent exceed the typical Cattle Charge feed conversion ratio of 4 to 1? Kent had done like most beef operators in the past years. He found cheaper inputs to improve profitability on his farm, but at the same time, he spent more in utilizing better genetics.



...Continued from Front Page The genetic potential was the key in getting an improved feed conversion rate. After seeing how much more profitable I could be by improving my herd's genetics, I decided to capitalize on getting the most bang for my buck.

To implement better feed conversion on my own calves, I decided I need to bring up the genetic potential in my herd. Kent put together a plan to improve my genetics and profitability. Select Sires has a program for beef operators, who like myself, would not normally think of AI breeding commercial cattle. This program is affordable, and I believe it could make any operation more money.

For example, on a 40-50 cow herd, instead of buying 2 bulls, you can set up a timed AI for your cows for roughly \$40/hd and get 60% or higher of the cows bred. Then you only need to buy 1 bull for clean up. Besides the obvious, the cost of 1 bull offsets the potential breeding of 50 cows to the best genetics available; you also stand to have a large percentage of your calves born in a week's time at the first of the calving season, therefore, selling older, bigger calves at the end of the year. This is a very short version on Select Sires program, but if you want the details, you can call Kent at (417) 343-6157, and I am sure he can explain in more detail. I just wanted to share a few ideas you might want to consider on your own operation to get better results in future years.

Jared Hyder (417) 451-3578 jhyder@mfa-inc.com



ATTENTION!



It has come to our attention that a non-profit organization, Mercy For Animals, has been using the MFA initials to promote their group and their cause.



MFA stands for Made For Agriculture, and MFA Incorporated is in NO way affiliated with this group or its cause!

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.

Wrapped Hay

Chuck Hubbert, Retail Livestock Representative



I have always been amazed with fermented hays ever since I first saw it 15 years ago. I saw cows eat everything except curly dock. This fall I was working with a dairy, and we ran out of crabgrass hay. We switched to some wheat baleage, and production held even though our forage test on the wheat was rather poor. I was working with another producer that used dry wheat hay, and we were not close to the same production level. Whether it was forage quality or just intake, the wrapped hay fed better. For the beef producer (both fall and spring calving herds), there is a benefit to wrapped hays. Before grazing starts in the spring, it

works well. In the winter when fall calving herds run out of fall grazing, wrapped hays provide the quality to keep cows milking with minimal supplementation compared to its dry hay counterparts, and it's easy to make.

Most hays can be wrapped and fermented. The equipment and plastic will come at a cost but so does supplementation or wasting hay that could never be dried or baled. Because the hay is wet, it will take more horsepower to bale it. Also this process uses no oxygen, so tight bales are a must. Net wrap works better than plastic twine to bale the hay. I had one producer tell me that the indentions formed by the twine allowed a hail storm to bust the plastic. Net wrap also keeps the larger stemmed forages lying flatter, preventing holes (or extra plastic to seal holes). In the spring, the window to get hay up can be small. Wrapping takes days off the process allowing more



leaf retention (less shattering), and the quality is better as long as it gets wrapped properly. Four wraps of a 1 millimeter film will be enough to keep oxygen out. I have seen holes be an issue especially if they occur early in the season. Use the special tape to repair holes (not duct tape). Place the wrapped hay in an area that will not attract dogs, cats, kids, rodents, or birds, all of which can put holes in bales. Concrete slabs, base rock base, and spraying herbicide with residual will all help reduce the temptation of varmints. They also have to be wrapped immediately after baling or it will have a bad odor, and the cows will not like it as well. Regarding moisture, the target is between 50 and 60%, but I have seen good hay above and below these numbers. Wrapping also spreads out the time you have to make hay. If it is early enough, you should be able to get a late June cutting. The best fescue I ever tested was cut and wrapped in April testing 19% protein. Sudan always tests better (less time needed to dry down), and if there is a nitrate issue, some will be utilized in the fermentation process, lowering the risk of having an issue. Dry hay does not have that benefit.



Wrapped hay should be fed up every year. It should be some of your better hay so target feed it to cows that are milking, getting bred or weaned calves. There are a few custom people out there. Contact them early to set it up. Another issue with fermented hay, like net wrap or plastic twine, is getting rid of the plastic. It needs to be properly disposed of or it could be a problem for years because it doesn't break down.

Wrapped hay is not a perfect choice for everybody, but it can help get some early hay up and provide a quality product. At MFA we have both the net wrap and the film used to bale wet hay. We also have supplements to balance forage and performance. Let us help you reach your goals.

Chuck Hubbert (417) 880-4358 chubbert@mfa-inc.com



Using Urea as a Nitrogen Source

Kevin Doss, Berryville Manager

Urea is a good source of nitrogen for hay and pastures. We have found that if applied in February and March, it works very well. We have producers that have used urea and very seldom go back to ammonium nitrate. You can mix urea with ammonium sulfate. By mixing the two, you get the quick green-up of ammonia and the longevity of urea. The urea also gives us a source of sulfur that we need since we get lower amounts from atmospheric deposition.

When applying urea in warmer temperatures, we like to add AGROTAIN® that makes it less volatile. We had a producer last year use urea with AGROTAIN® in mid-April on his hay field. In his opinion, it worked better than ammonium nitrate. He was pleased with his results, and he is doing it again this year. Urea is the most widely used nitrogen source in the state of Arkansas so that tells me that it is a good product.

Going back to sulfur; we used to get it from acid rain, but since they cleaned up the emission from the factories up north and even the sulfur in your diesel fuel, we are getting depleted sulfur in our soil; therefore we need to be putting some back.

We like to put around 10 pounds of actual sulfur per acre, and since sulfur is a mobile nutrient, you need to do it every year. As I said in the last newsletter, soil tests are very important. Don't put nutrients in your soil that you do not need. However, if you are low in phosphate or potash and with the high price of cattle, this would be a good year to get those built back up.

I would like to thank all of our past and future patrons, and if we can help you in any way, call us at (870) 423-6333 or (870) 480-9382.

Kevin Doss (870) 423-6333 kdoss@mfa-inc.com

Adjuvant, Surfactant, Sticker?

Jordan Boone, Cassville Assistant Manager



Why are adjuvants important when spraying a pesticide? This is a good question, and many factors are involved in selecting the right additive (adjuvant) for a spray solution. I have taken note that surfactant, adjuvant, and sticker are words that get thrown around and sometimes get confused with one another. An adjuvant can be defined as any product mixed with a spray tank solution to increase performance of the total mixture. Adjuvants include activator adjuvants, special purpose adjuvants, surfactants, crop oil concentrates, and nitrogen fertilizers (ammonium sulfate). All surfactants are adjuvants, but not all adjuvants are surfactants.

Activator adjuvants include surfactants, crop oil concentrates, nitrogen fertilizers, and wetting agents. These are primarily used to increase absorption into the plant and decrease the time at which the solution can be sprayed before a rain.

Surfactants are used to reduce surface tension, due to their wetting ability. Crop oil concentrates (COC's) are

...Continued from Page 4

mainly used to increase herbicide penetration through the plant surface and to reduce surface tension. COC's are mostly used with herbicides that target grass

in crops and legumes.

In my opinion, the most important factor to a pesticide's performance is reducing surface tension. Surface tension can be defined as the force that causes liquid to hold together on a plant surface. Wetting agents are the key factor in reducing this. To the right is a diagram showing this interaction. Think of simultaneously dropping a bunch of bb's on the kitchen table with a magnet placed in the center of the table. The bb's will all attract together to the magnet. This is layman's terms of surface tension. Take the magnet away

Droplet spread on waxy leaf surface due to surfactant

Leaf surface

Spray droplet
without surf.
on waxy leaf

Spray droplet
with surf.
on waxy leaf

and drop the bb's; they spread all over the table. This can be thought of reducing that surface tension.

Water quality also plays a big part in pesticide performance. pH and the hardness of the water are the two key parts in water quality. Pesticide labels contain a guide for water pH because many pesticides are affected by the pH of the water. pH can cause compatibility problems between two or more pesticides, as well as causing a chemical to lose its effectiveness. Lower pH (acidic) water can break down the chemicals known as the SU (sulfonylurea) class. Most of your dry powders fall into this category. Higher pH (basic) water affects herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides by making them less active in the spray solution. The ideal pH of water is 6.1-7.0.

Glyphosate (Roundup®) is our main focus with hard water. The minerals in hard water and the molecules in glyphosate bond with each other, causing the chemical to be far less effective or altering it inactive. Nitrogen fertilizer adjuvants are a must when spraying glyphosate. Mixing at a bare minimum, 8.5 pounds of ammonium sulfate is recommended for 100 gallons of spray solution. Early in the spring when we are burning down grass for corn, the cooler temperature and wetter climate makes glyphosate less active in the target pest (grass, purple henbit, chickweed etc). The recommendation for this is to spray 17 pounds of ammonium sulfate for every 100 gallons of spray solution, which is the rate at which we spray out of our truck when custom applicating regardless of the conditions. The correct mixing procedure for this is to fill the tank at least 1/3 full of water, while agitating add the required amount of ammonium sulfate for the total spray solution, continue to fill with water until the tank is about 3/4 - 7/8 full and then add the glyphosate last.

Adjuvants like most things vary in terms of quality and price. The reasoning is that unfortunately adjuvants are not regulated, and there are roughly 4,000 on the market. The \$10/gal surfactant does not provide anywhere near the performance as compared to the \$20/gal surfactant. For example both of these are labeled as a 90/10 surfactant, meaning 90% active ingredient and 10% water. The cheaper of the two could only contain 40% effective active ingredient, 50% filler and 10% water. Whereas the higher priced surfactant could contain 89% surfactant, 1% filler, and 10% water. Filler ingredients most often contain chemicals classified as diols, which have little to no biological activity; alcohols (isopropyl alcohol or IPA), polyethylene glycol (preservative), and diethylene glycol (solvent) are a few.

Using dish soap as surfactant has little to no benefit to both the producer and a spray solution. Yes, dish soap contains surfactants, but the dish soap itself is not a surfactant. Many articles on the Internet cite using dish soap at 2 oz/gal of spray solution; this equals out to just a little over 6 quarts per 100 gallon of tank mix.



...Continued from Page 5 First off, with dish soap averaging around \$3/qt, that equals \$18/100

gal of tank mix. MFA's surfactant calls for 1 quart per 100 gallon of tank mix. Astute will run the producer roughly \$25/gal, but will make 400 gallons of tank mix. Using dish soap for that same 400 gallons of tank mix, it would cost roughly \$72, giving a savings of \$47! Not only is dish soap more expensive to use, it will foam in the tank as well as across the leaf surface. Foam on the leaf surface defeats the purpose of reducing surface tension, trapping the chemical in the foam solution or drying in a residue that is not absorbed as well as using an actual surfactant.



In most cases, gallon per gallon, better surfactants are a few dollars higher. The question to consider is do you want that gallon of surfactant to mix a total of 400 gallons of spray solution or a total of 200 gallons of spray solution for a few dollars cheaper?

We stock a full line of adjuvants for every purpose associated with our area. At MFA we hold ourselves to a higher standard with the products we put into the hands of our producers and on their farms. We use our products on our own farms as well. Why you might ask? Because we want you to get the best bang for your buck, a product we stand behind and hands down a product that we know works.

Jordan Boone (417) 839-9090 iboone@mfa-inc.com

Cassville, Neosho, & 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 boominator 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.







The Silver Bullet of Spraying?

David Moore, CCA, Range and Pasture Specialist



It is my hope that by the time you read this, the birds are singing, and we can at least smell spring in the air! As I write this, winter has a pretty firm grip on us, and I look forward to the new beginnings offered in spring.

Most likely, the last article of mine that you read concerned killing thistles and winter annuals with an application of Grazon Next HL during November or December. If you got this done, congratulations, you will likely have one less thing to do come spring. Unfortunately, Mother

Nature didn't allow a lot of acres to be covered this past fall, so many of us will still have plenty of weed pressure as the weather warms up.

As weeds begin to emerge, my most frequently asked question is akin to the search for the Holy Grail. The question goes something like this: "I only want to spray once to kill all my weeds and brush. When should I spray, and what should I use?" I call this the quest for the Silver Bullet. The good news is that we've made giant strides in range and pasture herbicides over the past 20 years. The bad news is that there is no Silver Bullet.

I'll address the good news first. New chemistry and new combinations of chemistry have come to the market in recent years. Controlling some of the toughest weeds out there is now more than just a wish. The key to success is using the five R's: the Right product, on the Right weed, in the Right amount, at the Right time, with the Right adjuvant (surfactant). Your local MFA can help you with all five of these. Of these, weed identification can be the most difficult. Two websites that can help with this are: 1) RangeandPasture.com and 2) weedid.missouri.edu.

Now, why is there no Silver Bullet? The answer lies in classifying the weeds we try to eliminate. There are 3 basic classes: 1) winter annuals 2) summer annuals 3) perennials and brush. Each class has a time frame for ideal application.

Killing winter annuals is best accomplished in late fall or early spring. I prefer late fall, so I don't have to feed the weeds all winter. Remember, spraying early (before weeds are 4" tall) is much more successful.

Killing summer annuals is a bit more of moving target because it depends on when spring actually gets here. But usually, late spring will be the best time for a satisfactory kill. Again, spraying before weeds get too tall will yield better results.

Something to think about with either of the annuals is what type of product to use. Products such as 2,4-D, Hi-Dep and WeedMaster are good and effective killers of emerged weeds, but they have no residual activity. They kill what's there the day you spray, but a weed that emerges 3 weeks later will not be harmed. Using products that do have residual activity, such as Grazon P+D, Grazon Next, Chaparral, Surmount, Tordon and Cimarron will continue to suppress weeds for up to 90 days. This is especially important for weeds like ragweed, cocklebur and horse nettle because they have long periods of emergence. The seed will germinate, and as soon as it sends out roots, it picks up the herbicide. The end result is a dead weed before you ever see it.

I was on a farm this past September that had been sprayed the last week of June for locust sprouts with Chaparral and Remedy. The first thing I noticed was that the majority of the locust sprouts were dead. The second thing I noticed was that you could see everywhere the spray rig went around an obstruction.



...Continued from Page 7 Where herbicide hit the ground the fescue was lush, weed free and almost knee deep. Where the sprayer couldn't reach there was <u>A LOT</u> of ragweed and a lot less grass. I wish I had taken a picture to include with this article.

Successfully controlling brush is generally accomplished from late June through September. July can be a very good time to spray <u>IF</u> there is enough moisture and the temperature isn't too high. Unfortunately, that rules out most July days in our area. So, in general, if we're not in a big drought and the temperature is under 90 degrees, I would spray. Mid-September can be a good time to spray, as the plant is getting itself ready for winter and will be moving nutrients down to the root zone. The herbicide will be pulled along with the nutrients and get deposited right where you want it – in the root zone.



There are no Silver Bullets, unfortunately. But, knowledge on timing for your predominant weed species can help you load your gun with a better bullet! Don't skimp on surfactant – that can be like shooting blanks...

David Moore (417) 942-9541 dmoore@mfa-inc.com

Fly Control for Your Herd

Jody Boles, Feed ASM

The cold weather of winter is over, and I sure hope all that cold weather killed some ticks and chiggers. Unfortunately, it did not kill any horn flies! In the early 2000's, horn flies cost the beef industry \$1 billion dollars. Yes that is right, \$1 billion over 10 years ago. With today's prices for calves and replacements, that amount is well past \$1 billion dollars. So let's put that in prospective for the average size beef herd in Missouri. Roughly, each producer loses \$650.00 due to horn flies. The University of Arkansas has published that on growing calves, 200 plus horn flies reduce calf weights by 17 lbs per calf.





Adult Horn Fly

For the dairies, another issue with horn flies is mastitis in heifers. How many good heifers never made it to that great cow because of this problem? Many people are worried that if they use some sort of horn fly control, and their neighbor doesn't, they will get horn flies from them. This is a NOT TRUE! Horn flies are very poor fliers, so they stay with the bull, cow or calf they are on. Why is that? Because they have very small wings, and they must take at least 20 blood meals a day! So take 200 horn flies x 20 = 4000 bites. I bet if this was you, eating grass would be the last thing on your mind.

MFA has many options for your herd so your cattle don't suffer. Fly tags, back rubbers, and products to pour on cattle. MFA also has horn fly control in milk replacers, complete feeds, grind 'n' mixes and minerals. Contact us for a farm visit. We would be glad to help you set up a program to control flies in your herd.

Jody Boles (573) 631-6969 jjboles@mfa-inc.com

FFA Spotlight: Cassville FFA

Colton Dilbeck, Cassville FFA Reporter

The Cassville FFA Chapter had a busy fall in 2013. The chapter concluded their annual fruit and meat sales. The chapter attended events such as the Area 11 Barnwarming, Area 11 Greenhand Conference, and Ozarks Fall FarmFest. The trip that many look forward to is the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Sixteen Cassville FFA members attended the annual convention that was held in Louisville. While attending the convention, members were able to attend convention sessions, take part in the FFA Career Show, and tour local points of interest including local agricultural businesses and the Louisville Slugger Factory and Museum. Members were able to see our very own, Marissa Tucker, receive her American FFA Degree. We were also able to see our own Stussy Stephenson perform in the National FFA Band.



First Row (L-R): Ashley Cousins, Austin McClintock; **Second Row (L-R):** Shania Wolf, Kasey Durm, Mattie Stephenson, Kaylee Periman, Robyn Robbins, Austin Tripp, Miranda Fulford; **Third Row (L-R):** Delane Hopkins, Deidre Westpheling, Raymond Brownsberger, Will Edmondson, Zach Thomas, Jake Wolf, Kyle Cheek.

In February, we participated in FFA Week with different activities like community service and teacher appreciation day. We also hosted the Area 11 FFA Banquet at Cassville where we prepared and served over 600 FFA members, parents and guests during the awards banquet.

Now that spring is here, we are looking forward to participating and preparing for Career Development Events. Members are able to sign-up for different events and then prepare for them by committing to practices before and after school, as well as on the weekends when we have practice contests. FFA members prepare for the District Contest in hopes they will qualify to attend the State FFA Convention in Columbia, Missouri, and compete at the state level. As the spring comes to a close, we will be preparing for a busy summer when we will be attending FFA Camp at Lake of the Ozarks as well as different officer and member leadership trainings. The FFA officers also begin to plan and prepare for another busy school year.

Thank you to everyone for the support you show our Chapter. We truly appreciate it!



Bloat in Cattle

Jon Roberts, Areas Sales Manager Livestock Products



Bloat is one problem that can be encountered on cattle operations. The good news is that this potentially fatal disorder is easily diagnosed and easily treated if you identify it early and can lay hands on the animal. Bloat is essentially a build-up of gas in the rumen-reticulum. This gas production is a normal part of good rumen function, but if this gas is not relieved or does not dissipate, and continues to build, it will put extreme pressure on the diaphragm, reducing the animal's ability to expand the lungs and take in oxygen. The animal will suffocate, and it can happen within minutes after the onset.

The clinical signs that are the most obvious are a distended abdomen, with a full bloated appearance. The animal will likely be somewhat asymmetrical with the left side being more pronounced particularly up high, towards the back on the animal. You might also observe kicking at the stomach, grunting, or groaning, get up and lay down, frequent urination and defecation, hyper extended neck, and difficulty breathing. Bloat is most often seen in juvenile cattle but can occur in all ages.

The most common cause of bloat is an excessive buildup of gas in the rumen in conjunction with the presence of foam or froth which impedes the animal's ability to belch off the gas. This "frothy bloat" is usually associated with overconsumption of lush, growing legumes but can occur with rumen acidosis or overconsumption of a high starch diet. Another possible cause could be from the way the animal is positioned when it is laying down. If the feet and legs are uphill from the rest of the body, it would be in somewhat of an unnatural position that could cause even normal rumen contents to block the opening to the esophagus and the ability to belch off gas build-up. Prolonged laying in such a position would increase the risk of bloat. Yet another potential cause of bloat occurs if the animal would happen to have some sort of obstruction in the throat, like a hedge ball. Blockage of the esophagus could block the exit of the gas accumulating in the rumen. The two latter scenarios account for a small percentage of bloat cases.



A cow suffering from Bloat

If bloating is observed, a veterinarian should be summoned immediately. The most common remedy for bloated cattle is to insert a tube into the mouth and allow the animal to swallow it. As it is passed deeper through the esophagus, it should end up in the rumen where the gas is contained and allow it to exit the body through the hose. Once the gas has escaped, the animal can be drenched with an anti-foaming agent. The most commonly used drenches are Bloat Guard liquid (Poloxalene) or mineral oil.



A veterinarian treating bloat by drenching with a tube

What I want to focus on are risk factors that increase incidence of bloat, and management practices that you can implement to reduce that risk. To further break this down, we will look at a pasture scenario, and a scenario of cattle consuming concentrates. In a pasture setting, the type of forage that represents the greatest risk of bloat are young succulent legumes like alfalfa and clover. Grasses are less likely to be a problem unless they are young and vegetative like wheat pasture in the early stages. Dew, frost, or a recent rain has the tendency to increase the potential for a problem. Turning hungry cattle to a new pasture of young succulent legumes in the early morning would be when some

producers could experience a problem. If you have pastures that could pose a risk you can:

...Continued from Page 10

1. Give them hay prior to grazing legumes and make sure they are full and not hungry.

- 2. Move cattle later in the day after the dew is gone when it is warmer, and they will be less likely to graze for an extended period of time.
- 3. Consider using Bloat Guard containing Poloxalene in advance of and during periods when you will be grazing high-risk pastures. This product can be mixed in feed or offered in a block form and is available at your local MFA location.

When cattle are consuming concentrates, the most important factors to consider are to make sure the animals experience ration changes gradually, and feed intake variations are kept to a minimum.

Some guidelines to follow are when you are increasing intake in an animal eating concentrates is to elevate the intake of the concentrate by one half-pound/hd/day until you reach the desired intake. When switching rations, make sure the substitution is at the same rate of a half-pound/hd/day. There are several things to consider when monitoring intake:

- 1. Allow adequate bunk space, 18 inches for each animal in a hand feeding scenario, and if using a self-feeder with two 8 foot sides, no more than 40 cattle per feeder.
- 2. When hand feeding, make sure all cattle come to the bunk and have an equal opportunity to consume the feed.
- 3. Make sure the forage provided has ample space for all cattle to consume it to reduce competition for the concentrate.
- 4. Make sure good clean water is accessible to all cattle at all times.
- 5. Pay particular attention during periods of stress like adverse weather, weaning, changing environment due to relocating the cattle or feeding area, recent handling or processing.

The most common cause of bloat with cattle consuming concentrates is the occurrence of "out of feed events". These events occur when cattle are established on a diet in a full feed scenario. This can be as much as 3% of their body weight or more; and that intake is interrupted for a length of time by a feeder shutdown or running out of feed followed by an immediate return to access of unlimited feed. Feedstuffs with a high level of starch like corn are of particular concern. They can lower the pH of the rumen and this acidotic rumen environment is at greater risk of bloat. MFA Cattle Charge is recommended for cattle that experience stressors like weaning and a changing environment. The high fiber, low starch formulation along with additives to enhance rumen function, is the best way to start cattle on a concentrate.

Whether it is bunks, bale rings, Bloat Blocks, or feeders, MFA has the feed, the farm supply, and the technical support you need to keep your cattle operation at peak performance.

Jon Roberts

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Southwest 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...

HorseFest
March 21 - 23
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds
Springfield, MO