

HARDING COUNTY AG NEWS

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Livestock Assistance Grant Program (CES and FSA Internal Briefing)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) released \$1.5 million to assist eligible livestock producers in New Mexico whose grazing forage was adversely impacted by the 2006 drought. New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) was directed to administer the program following USDA guidelines.

Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) participation:

In order to fully serve the needs of the livestock industry in each participating county, CES and FSA have offered to make LAGP application packages available through local county offices. Electronic and hard copies will be provided to CES and FSA (if hard copies are unavailable, copies can be printed from the electronic file). A complete package includes the "LAGP Program Guidelines" (3 pages) and "LAGP Application" (1 page). Questions regarding the program should be directed to NMDA at (505) 646-8955 or by e-mail at

LAGP@nmda.nmsu.edu.

Program overview:

Eligible counties: USDA utilized the U.S. Drought Monitor to select eligible counties. To be eligible, all or part of a county must have been located in a D4-Exceptional category or a D-3 Extreme category sometime between March 7, 2006, and August 31, 2006. Eligible counties include all New Mexico counties except Lea and Taos.

Eligible livestock: Mature foundation beef cattle and sheep kept for the sole purpose of breeding and reproduction. Beef stock retained as replacements must have been exposed to be bred by August 31, 2006. Sheep

must have been at least one year old as of August 31, 2006.

Producer eligibility: Suffered livestock forage production losses from drought during the eligibility period (and be able to document). Must have owned the livestock claimed for compensation for at least 90 days. Livestock must have been under ownership of the applicant on March 7, 2006. Feedlot and confinement animals are excluded.

Funding process: Payment rate cannot be determined until all applications are received, processed, and the total number of eligible animal units are determined.

Application process: NMDA will accept applications through November 21, 2006. Producers must read the Program Guidelines and then fill out a one page application. Completed applications must be received by the NMDA Las Cruces office by 5:00 p.m. on November 21, 2006. Full details of the program can be found in the Livestock Assistance Grant Program Guidelines. Please contact the Harding County Extension Office if you have questions.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

They're a number of licenses expiring in December for private applicators in the county. If you recall, you must maintain 5 continuing education credits (CEU) over 5 years in order to keep your license and not retest. The extension office will be hosting a workshop for a maximum of 5 CEU's on TBA. You will be required to watch a series of video tapes and work through a CD Rom worksheet.

Forage Sample Analysis for Harding County-Supplementing Fundamentals 2005

If you recall, last year monitoring sites were set up throughout the county as a better means for determining loss for FSA programs. As a bonus, the clippings were sent to be analyzed for nutrient content. This year, we also got the mineral analysis. We will do this each year hoping that it will aid you in your supplementing decisions. If you have questions about a site nearest you, please call the office.

These values are on a dry matter basis representing ranches from one end of the county to another. Samples were taken on November 14, 15, and 16.

2005 Forage Sampling Data- Harding County

Ranch	Moisture%	CP%	ADF%	TDN%	Calcium%	Phosphorus%	Aluminum ppm	Cobalt ppm	Copper ppm	Iron ppm	Manganese ppm	Molybdenum ppm	Zinc ppm
1	80.92	5.3	43.41	54.61	0.53	0.11	860	0.6	9.23	685	88.3	3.05	23.1
2	91.46	3.4	45.33	53.09	0.37	0.08	813	0.57	9.84	636	48.2	2.55	15.9
3	89.03	4.4	50.12	49.31	0.44	0.06	759	0.67	12.1	556	37.1	2.23	21.5
4	89.13	4.1	44.52	53.73	0.54	0.14	853	0.68	9.38	676	67.5	5.3	20.5
5	89.65	3.7	44.48	53.76	0.39	0.11	414	0.26	8.29	311	60.5	3.67	20.4
6	87.97	3.9	45.66	52.83	0.49	0.09	521	0.39	9.5	406	122	3.06	17.9
7	88.01	3.7	43.29	54.7	0.42	0.04	751	0.35	10.8	505	86	1.22	1.43
8	89.83	4.2	46.33	52.3	0.47	0.11	439	0.39	8.69	318	105	1.78	18.4
9	89.46	3.8	46.29	52.33	0.56	0.1	378	0.3	7.46	254	74.6	3.55	18.6
10	85.76	3.2	48.3	50.74	0.45	0.05	853	0.62	14.1	568	43	1.73	29.2
11	82.92	5.6	44.56	53.7	0.49	0.08	752	0.42	12.2	540	65.6	1.58	19.3
	88.12	3.97	45.77	52.74	0.47	0.09	664.10	0.48	9.94	491.50	73.22	2.81	18.69

This chart indicates that we should be supplementing protein in amounts that help increase forage digestibility. This is the first or second year many have had winter forage to supplement. We were either de-stocking or feeding energy. This is not good and is a “substitution” affect instead of a “supplementation” affect. We want to utilize our grass as cheaply and efficiently as possible. In order to determine how much to feed and how often, ask yourself a simple question.

Do my cows have grass to eat in the pasture? If yes, is it brown or green? If green, don't feed. If brown, protein is likely deficient and inhibiting digestion. Feed a high protein supplement greater than or equal to 32% CP at .1-.3% of body weight per day. If forage is inadequate, de-stock. Then determine if green or brown. If green, supplement a 20% or less CP source at-.4-.8% of body weight per day, as energy is deficient. If brown, supplement a 20-28% CP source at .3-.5% of body weight per day. If forage shortage is severe and brown, supplement with a 20% or less CP source at .4-.8% of body weight per day and then hope it rains.

This is simply a guide to help, and is not perfect. It simply says to use high protein in small amounts/d if you have grass and higher energy in larger amounts/d if you don't.

Higher protein feeds will cost more per ton than higher energy feeds because corn and other cereal starches are cheap. However, it is useful to figure cost on a \$/lb CP basis because you will feed less of it and hopefully get more bang for your buck on a daily forage utilization basis.

Remember that these comments are for cows. Growing and developing animals may require more energy for their growth and maintenance requirements.

Mineral supplementation is a tricky issue. I would pay attention to the Phosphorus, Copper, and Zinc. The requirements for cattle are: **.18.22% for P, 10-12ppm for Cu and 30-40ppm for Zn**. This data shows that all 3 of these are deficient (copper marginal). We all know that this country is low P, and most folks that feed a mineral have the required P in it. Furthermore, Cu and Zn deficiencies have been the blame for low immune response in calves from NE New Mexico. That, and the fact the high Fe and Mo levels can inhibit them from working. Ironically, some folks don't have any trouble with health in their calves and don't even feed a mineral. It is a very regional issue (even pasture to pasture). That's another story. If you have questions about this data or mineral supplementation, give the office a call at 673-2341.

Merry Christmas to all.

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Harding County Cooperative Extension Service