

HARDING COUNTY AG NEWS

Vol 4 Issue 1

Blair Clavel, Harding Co. Extension Agent

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Harding County Cooperative
Extension Service
New Mexico State University
Harding County Courthouse
P.O. Box 156
Mosquero, N.M. 87733

Southwest Beef Symposium

Join NMSU and TAMU as they bring the 2007 Southwest Beef Symposium to your back door. An excellent line of speakers will discuss relevant issues facing the southwest beef producer from ethanol production to source and age verification of feeder cattle.

2007 Southwest Beef Symposium
Fifth Season Inn, Amarillo, Texas
January 16-17, 2007

January 16th, 2007

Critical Success Factors to the Beef Enterprise

Moderator - Ted McCollum
1:00 pm Welcome
Leon Chruch, Potter County
Extension Agent - Ag

1:10 pm
The Beef Enterprise: Aligning the Vision
Barry Dunn, Executive Director,
King Ranch Institute for Ranch
Management;
Texas A&M University,
Kingsville

1:50 pm
Cow-Type and the Southwest Environment
Clay Mathis, Associate Professor
and Extension Livestock
Specialist,
New Mexico State University

2:30 pm
Cow-Type and the Southwest Environment: Producer Perspective
Keith Long, Seedstock Manager,
Bell Ranch, New Mexico

2:50 pm
Break and Trade Show -
Sponsored by New Mexico Cattle
Growers Association

3:20 pm

Reproductive Management Strategies for Profitability
Roger Wann, Southern District
Sales Manager, ABS Global,
Muenster, Texas

4:00 pm
Creating Flexibility in your Beef System
Ron Gill, Professor and
Extension Livestock Specialist,
Texas Cooperative Extension,
Stephenville, Texas

4:40 pm
Creating Flexibility in a Beef System: Producer Perspective
Jay OBrien,
Corsino Cattle Company and JA
Ranch

5:00 pm
Session Overview
Ted McCollum, Professor and
Extension Beef Specialist,
Texas Cooperative Extension
Amarillo, TX

6:00 pm
Steak Dinner at River Breaks
Ranch
Steaks provided by Premium
Beef Network and ABS Global
Inc.

January 17th, 2007

Current Topics
Moderator – Caren Cowan, New
Mexico Cattle Growers
Association

8:30 am
Impact of Ethanol Production on
Grain, Feed, and Cattle Markets
Steve Ammoson, Extension
Economist, Texas Cooperative
Extension

9:00 am
Ethanol Feed Byproducts and
their uses in Cattle Production
Jim MacDonald, Assistant
Professor, Texas Agricultural
Experiment Station,
Amarillo, TX

9:30 am

Break and Trade Show -
Sponsored by Panda Ethanol,
Hereford, TX

9:50 am
Trichomoniasis in the Southwest
John Wenzel, Assistant Professor
and Extension Veterinarian
New Mexico State University

10:20 am
Practicality of Pregnancy
Determination via Blood Test
Bruce Carpenter, Associate
Professor and Extension
Livestock Specialist,
Texas Cooperative Extension,
Fort Stockton

10:50 am
Break and Trade Show
Break sponsored by Panda
Ethanol,
Hereford, TX

11:10 am
Age and Source Verification
Leann Saunders, Vice President,
IMI Global Inc.,
Castle Rock, Colorado

12:00 pm
Lunch - Sponsored by Texas
Beef Council and the Texas and
Southwestern Cattle Raisers
Association
Beef Market Trends
Moderator – Don McCasland,
Chairman, Texas Cattle Feeders
Association

1:30 pm
Addressing Consumer Trends: A
Processors Perspective
Art Wagner, Vice President for
Cattle Procurement, National
Beef,
Liberal, Kansas

2:15 pm
Addressing Consumer Trends: A
Retailers Perspective
Peter Eckas, Wal-Mart Meat
Merchandising Manager,
Bentonville, Arkansas

3:00 pm
Break and Trade Show -
Sponsored by New Mexico Beef
Council

3:30 pm
Opportunities and Challenges in
Sourcing Feeder Cattle into
“Verified” Programs

Dick Bretz, Eslabon Cattle
Company,
Amarillo, Texas

4:15 pm
Trends in Markets for Non-fed
Beef
Don Clift, Booker Packing
Company,
Booker, Texas

5:00 pm
Adjourn
To register, go to:
<http://cahe.nmsu.edu/ces/swbeef> or call the extension
office for a brochure at 673-2341
Cost is 50\$

**New Mexico Section
Society for Range Management
Annual Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday Jan 9
Afternoon Field Tour: Isleta
Pueblo Acequia System

Wednesday Jan 10

7:30 Registration
8:30 Jacque Buchanan
Section President
Welcome
8:40 John Tanaka
SRM President
SRM Update
9:00 Jack Chatfield
The Canadian River
Riparian Restoration
Project: a grassroots
effort to restore North
Eastern New Mexico's
watershed and riparian
corridors
9:30 Bill Zeedyk
Water Harvesting From
Low Standard Rural
Roads
10:00 Break
10:30 Jim Thorpe
FRAMS: Web-based
Drought Management
11:00 Karl Wood
Recovery of Main
Diamond Creek
Following Wildfire
11:30 Red Baker
Grazing Management and
Drought
12:00 – 1:30
Lunch On-Your-Own
1:30 Mark Mathew

Restoration by the BLM in New
Mexico

2:00 Joel Brown
Our Changing Climate:
Some Basic Implications
for Managing Rangelands
2:30 David Cowley
Longterm Ecological
Changes In the Rio Grande since
1874
3:00 Break
3:30-5:00 Panel Discussion The
Clean Water Act: The Good, The
Bad, and The Ugly
Howard Hutchinson Member,
New Mexico Water Quality
Control Commission
Sam Fernald Professor of
Watershed Management, New
Mexico State University
Marcy Leavitt Director, New
Mexico Environment
Department, Surface Water
Quality Bureau
Linda Scheffe State Water
Quality Specialist, Natural
Resources Conservation Service

5:00-8:00 Reception

Thursday Jan 11

8:30 Greg Fenchel
Plant Materials Support
for Restoration
9:00 Jack and Tuda
Crews Restoration of
Upper Ute Creek
9:30 Kelly Boney
Plant Control in
Watersheds Using Goats
10:00 Break
10:30 Jerry Cox
Ghosts of the Guadalupes:
A Factual History of
Agriculture, Families and
Violence Between 1905
and 1955 in Southern
New Mexico.
11:30 Cammie Karr
High School Youth
Forum Delegate:
Rangeland Monitoring, is
it working
11:45 Bradley Fuller
High School Youth
Forum Delegate: Does
prescribed burning on
high elevation, cool
season meadows impact
forage quality, diet
selection, and
performance of graze.

New Mexico Organic Farming Conference

Dates: February 24, 2006 -
February 25, 2006

Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

The New Mexico Organic Farming Conference 2006, sponsored by Farm to Table, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission, and New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service, will be held February 24th & 25th 2006, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Featured speakers include: Fred Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Miley Gonzales, New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture and Jo Ann Baumgartner, Director of the Wild Farm Alliance. Also included are cutting edge organic production and marketing workshops, a large exhibitor hall, and delicious organic food. For more information please call: (505) 841-9067 or email: joan.quinn@state.nm.us.

Website:

<http://www.farmtotable.info/organicconferenceprogram2006.pdf>

Contact:

Joan Quinn, New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission
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Quivira Coalition 2007 6th Annual Conference

Fresh Eyes On The Land:
Innovation and the Next
Generation

Featuring Wendell Berry

January 18-20, Albuquerque, NM

In this Conference we use "fresh eyes" to explore innovative ideas, practices, and relationships that give hope to, and receive inspiration from, the next generation. Creating hope and options for the future is the key to all our efforts. Whether the goal is staying on the land, exploring and understanding nature, or simply 'going home again,' the

next generation needs new opportunities to achieve their dreams. To accomplish this goal, the Conference will feature 'take home' ideas for ranchers, conservationists, and public land managers alike.

Corn Dependency

We may not like it or not, but cattle producers have a huge dependency on corn prices to stay in the black. Cheap feed amid decades of robust farm bills has kept many folks in business. Consequently, it can be argued that cheap feed helps keep food costs in check for hungry Americans and also export markets. Large farming operations and companies reap the benefits of cheap grain through subsidies. Ranchers indirectly reap the benefits of cheap grain through higher calf markets.

The speculative ethanol boom has recently taken the wind out of many producers' sails. Although the market has rebounded some, 6 weight calves that were bringing 125.00\$ cwt are now bringing 95.00\$-100.00cwt. The 30.00\$ cwt drop has had nothing to do with the supply of calves available or feedlots being to full. It has all to do with feeders having to give less for calves because of the increase in the cost to feed them. Forty-five cent cost of gains during 05-06 have gone to eighty cent cost of gains for 06-07 (basis TX panhandle). I never will forget talking to Randy Blach (Cattle-fax) several years ago and him saying that for every .50\$ increase in corn, you can take 7\$/cwt off of a 550 lb calf. We have seen a 2.00\$ increase in corn and about 30\$ taken off the market. That is pretty close. We have grown dependent on corn. Will all of the ethanol plants being built get into production? Can we really use all of the potential production? Will farmers in the Midwest let loose of their CRP and get their plows rolling? These are all questions that no one has the answers to, but their outcome will definitely affect the cattle markets. Producers can feel good about one thing, and that is the fact that

our total cattle inventory is at a low. We are just turning the curve on a 9 year decline in cattle numbers. Combine high corn with record cattle inventory and we would be back to 1996. In 1996, the cattle industry faced 4.50\$ corn and the largest cattle inventory in history. 600 lb steers were bring 60.00cwt and producers on average were losing from 75-85 dollars per head. At least this big corn boom happened during a time with favorable numbers.

Options

Many producers are looking at different things to keep from competing with corn to sell cattle. One option is to hold on to cattle longer and make them heavier before going into the feedyard. This limits days on feed and allows feeders to lower break-evens. This is easier if you have grass and can limit the cost of weaning. Remember, the feed that you use on the ranch to feed the calves is going to be higher as well, because high corn makes everything higher. Another option will be to take advantage of some of the feed byproducts when the local plants get into production. Distiller grains can be hard to handle and hard to feed but the nutrient value is very high. You have to watch how much you feed at one time, but it can be managed.

A third, and less realistic option on a large scale, is to get into a grass-fed niche market. Yes, I said niche. It will not work for everyone, but if there was ever a time for the grass fed industry to take off, it would be now. Yes, thinking of grass fed beef in New Mexico is like thinking of growing pigs in Alaska, but there are folks doing it on a very small scale. The problems with grass fed beef is 1: you have to pretty much get into the meat business to capture the big premiums: 2, finding a place to slaughter and package: 3, opportunity cost lost in the time it takes to grow out a grass fed beef for slaughter, and finally, the number one problem in NM with grass fed beef could very well be, GRASS. The opportunity to capitalize on grass fed beef does exist, but it is a

very specialized market and business. If it ever got bigger than a niche, Brazil would

probably put us all out of business if their disease status

ever gave them the opportunity to export their product.

Forage Sample Analysis for Harding County-Supplementing Fundamentals 2006

If you recall, in 2004 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. 2006 marks the 3rd year of reporting the nutrient analysis of the forage samples. 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 20 and 21.

2006 Forage Sampling Data- Harding County

Number	Moisture%	CP%	ADF%	TDN%	Calcium	Phosphorus	Aluminum	Cobalt	Copper	Iron	Manganese	Molybdenum	Zinc
1	91.21	4.59	45.43	53.01	0.37	0.11	383	0.2	6.67	294	45.1	1.58	23.4
2	93.57	3.48	46.07	52.5	0.3	0.1	279	0.2	7.83	154	51.1	1.6	18.9
3	93.45	5.37	45.55	52.92	0.43	0.09	310	0.2	7.78	208	34.9	0.86	21.6
4	93.51	5.06	44.75	53.55	0.35	0.18	207	0.2	6.85	136	57.9	4.31	24.6
5	94.13	4.83	45	53.35	0.45	0.12	191	0.2	6.54	113	87.4	1.67	18.2
6	93.77	5.81	43.46	54.57	0.57	0.12	0.44	0.35	8.2	510	143	2.55	22.4
7	91.33	3.48	48.41	50.66	0.35	0.04	471	0.2	8.15	333	82.3	0.83	13
8	93.15	3.5	48.07	50.92	0.42	0.1	173	0.2	5.69	80.6	67.8	2.15	17.9
9	92.89	4.69	45.16	53.22	0.48	0.11	371	0.2	6.74	263	48.7	3.81	18.7
10	93.07	3.16	46.17	52.43	0.45	0.04	624	0.2	12.9	315	42.3	0.74	28.5
11	94.13	3.94	49.22	50.02	0.32	0.05	384	0.2	6.85	267	39.3	0.64	13.1
	93.11	4.36	46.12	52.47	0.41	0.10	308.49	0.21	7.65	243.05	63.62	1.89	20.03

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 usually 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.

Blair Clavel
County Agent