

## 1st Quarter 2019

### County Agent Comment

#### “2019 Challenges and Challenges and Rewards”

The clock has moved again and we face a new year with a new “Farm Bill” and new motivation to resolve to make our farm efforts profitable. Remember, that last year I spoke with you about the new generation of consumers that spend their dollars with a “social conscience”. They not only want their food to be tasty, healthy, and safe, but also raised sustainably and humanely with an eye to reducing global foot prints for pollution and energy use. We are entering a “brave new world” where markets for the products we produce are becoming smaller and strongly influenced by news at our finger tips.

The challenge to the agriculture producer in this brave new world is to meet this new conscientious consumer demand by utilizing the resources available to us to learn new “Best Management Practices” that will prepare us to produce a better product. Not better based on rate of gain, feed efficiency, and meat quality, but based on humane care for the animals and sustainable practices that result in healthier plants and soil.

We can all agree that has always been the goal on the American farm, and the result is almost always a more profitable bottom line for the producer.

This newsletter is intended to give you knowledge of opportunities, tips and ideas that may help you continue to work toward your farm goals in 2019. As always we in the University of Arkansas System Extension office in Union County are here to assist. I look forward to helping you in 2019! **Keep Up The Great Work.**



Robin D. Bridges  
County Agent

# Tips for Spring Calving Herds

- Monitor heifers for spring calving season. Heifer should be calving 20 to 30 days before the mature cows. Monitor heifer's body condition, etc. Heifers should weight 85% of their mature weight at calving.



- Prepare for spring calving season. Make a list of equipment to ensure that when a problem arises, you will be ready. Items on your list may include: OB gloves, OB lubricant, esophageal feeder, bottle and nipple, chain straps/chains, calf puller, sterile syringes and needles, batteries for flashlight or spotlight, old rags or blankets, toolbox to keep calving equipment, colostrum replacement, electrolytes, Oxytocin, etc.

## Forage/Grazing Management Tips

### Soil fertility management

- Take soil samples to monitor soil P, K, and pH.
  - o Take at least 15 samples from the respective paddock or pasture.
  - o Soil samples can be submitted to the county extension offices.
  - ✦ Results obtained for free.
  - ✦ Use appropriate crop code.
  - ✦ Apply P, K, and/or lime as needed.

[Fact Sheet 2121](#)

### Grazing management

- Stockpiled bermudagrass.
    - o Use grazing methods that avoid trampling of forage and ensure high forage utilization, such as strip grazing.
    - ✦ Strip grazing improves forage utilization and may double the number of grazing days compared to continuous grazing.
    - ✦ Graze out by January 1.
  - Stockpiled fescue
    - o Begin grazing mid to late November.
    - o Use grazing methods that avoid trampling of forage and ensure high forage utilization, such as strip grazing.
- Strip grazing improves forage utilization and may double the number of grazing days compared to continuous grazing.

[Fact Sheet 3133](#)

- Winter annual small grains/ryegrass.
- Begin grazing once canopy reaches height of 8 inches.
- Use grazing methods that avoid trampling of forage and ensure high forage utilization, such as rotational grazing or limit-grazing (limiting cow access time to annuals).
- Under limit-grazing, cows are routinely pastured on dormant pasture or fed hay in a dry-lot, but are allowed to eat their fill from a limited-access winter annual pasture several times per week.
- Research demonstrated, limit-grazing of beef cows and calves on a mixture of wheat/rye/ryegrass (planted at 0.2 acre of per head) for two days per week produced the same cow, calf, and rebreeding performance as cows fed unlimited hay plus a supplement.
- Limit-grazed cows also consumed 30 percent less hay during the winter feeding period.

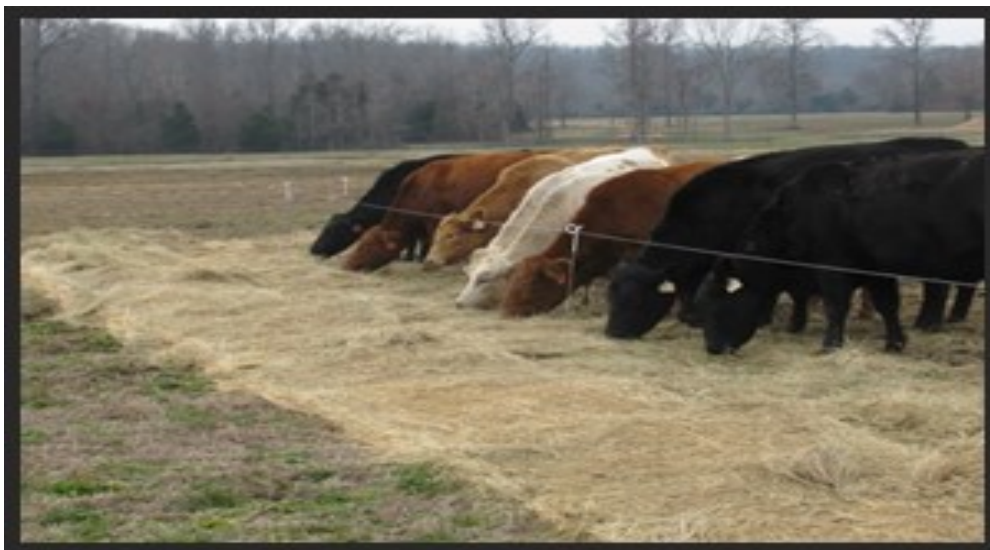
#### [Fact Sheet 3064](#)

- Brassica: turnips, turnip hybrid, rape.
  - o Livestock must acquire taste.

Use grazing methods that avoid trampling of forage and ensure high forage utili-

### **Hay management**

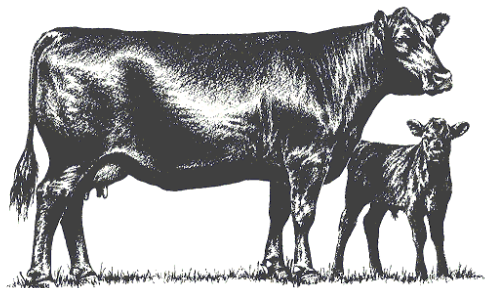
- Protect hay when feeding to reduce waste. Feed hay in rings to reduce hay waste. Unrolling hay increases hay waste unless it is done on a limit-feeding basis.
- Consider using a temporary electric wire fence wire to reduce waste from trampling and increases utilization of the hay.
- Unroll the bale, then string up an electrified polywire down the length of the line of hay.
- Place the wire about 30 inches high over the hay.
- Cattle will line up as if eating at a feed bunk.



## **CATTLEMEN'S MEETING**

### **January 31, 2019**

**Union County Cattle Producers Association will hold their 1st quarter members meeting Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Activity Building at the Union County Fairgrounds. County Agent Keith Gresham—Dallas County will present the latest information on Beef Quality Assurance and Arkansas Certified Go Green Calf Program . If you plan to attend, please contact the Union County Extension Office at 870-864-1916 to make your reservations. 2019 Member Dues can be paid at this meeting.**



## **PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING**

**WHERE:** Union County Extension Office—307 American Road, El Dorado  
**DATES:** January 8, February 12, March 12, and April 9 if necessary  
**TIME:** All classes begin at 5:30 p.m.  
**COST:** Cost for the class is \$20.00 per person

**Please call 870-864-1916 to register. Anyone needing to apply restricted use chemicals in the production of an Agriculture commodity.**





Hosted by Dallas County  
Extension Service



## BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING SESSIONS (FREE!)

### WHEN & WHERE

- ✓ Thursday, December 6, 2018 –  
6:30 p.m. – Pine Grove  
Community Building- 1618  
Hwy. 128, Sparkman, AR  
71763
- ✓ Thursday, January 17, 2019 –  
6:30 p.m. – Tulip Community  
Building – 4560 Hwy. 9,  
Carthage, AR 71725
- ✓ Thursday, January 24, 2018 –  
6:30 p.m. – Dallas County  
Extension Service Office – 203  
North Clifton Street, Fordyce,  
AR 71742

RSVP to attend:

870-352-3505

870-313-1622

[kgresham@uaex.edu](mailto:kgresham@uaex.edu)

### WHY & WHAT

BQA TRAINING REQUIRED FOR  
PARTICIPATION IN THE NATURAL  
STATE PRECONDITIONED CALF  
PROGRAM. LEARN BEST  
MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.  
POTENTIAL TO ADD VALUE TO  
MARKET ANIMALS.



**GoGREEN**  
with the  
Natural State  
Preconditioned  
Calf Program



The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact the Dallas County Extension Office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

## **Requiring \$/Ton Bids for Timber Sales**

**From an article by Suz-Anne Kinney**

Historically, standing pine timber was appraised and purchased using volume units of measure; MBF (thousand board feet) for sawtimber products and the cord for pulpwood products. Ultimately, however, each load of cut timber is purchased by weight and not volume: it is the weight of a load that is measured when a truck full of timber crosses a scale at the mill. Unfortunately, when converting from a measure of volume to a measure of weight, variability in results is inevitable.

When timberland owners offer a tract of timber for sale, multiple dealers bid on the right to harvest the timber. Often, every dealer interested in harvesting the tract will submit a bid that estimates a different volume for each type of timber product since each uses different scaling practices (i.e., a different way of measuring trees and calculating log defects). This is necessary because trees on the stump cannot be weighed on a scale. A variety of conversion methods are used to transfer standing timber volumes to weights. The most common of these are the Doyle and Scriber Log Rules. These rules provide a per-ton conversion factor for each specific diameter and length (for Scribner, a form class is also taken into account.) The Doyle log rule is the most commonly used log rule in the South, but it often underestimates volume on small logs and overestimates on large logs. Although it is considered intermediate in accuracy, the Scribner log rule tends to underestimate volume as well.

In most cases, the ton (2,000 lbs.) has replaced MBF and the cord as the industry standard. A ton is a consistent, objective measure (no matter the species or size of tree) and is used by mills when purchasing wood.

When a landowner gets a bid in which volume is reported in MBF or cords, he or she must convert those units to tons in order to gain an accurate understanding of what a mill will pay for the timber. Unfortunately, when converting a pine sawtimber MBF price to a ton basis, different log rules affect the conversion.

The two conversions can give very different prices. For example, a price of \$350/MBF Doyle for a stand with an average diameter at breast height (DBH) of 14" may convert to around \$38/ton, whereas a price of \$335/MBF Scribner at the same diameter would convert to around \$49/ton. Without knowing the details, one might assume that the \$350/MBF bid is the better offer. Once the likelihood of underestimation is understood, however, it is clear the \$335/MBF price would yield considerably more profit for the seller.

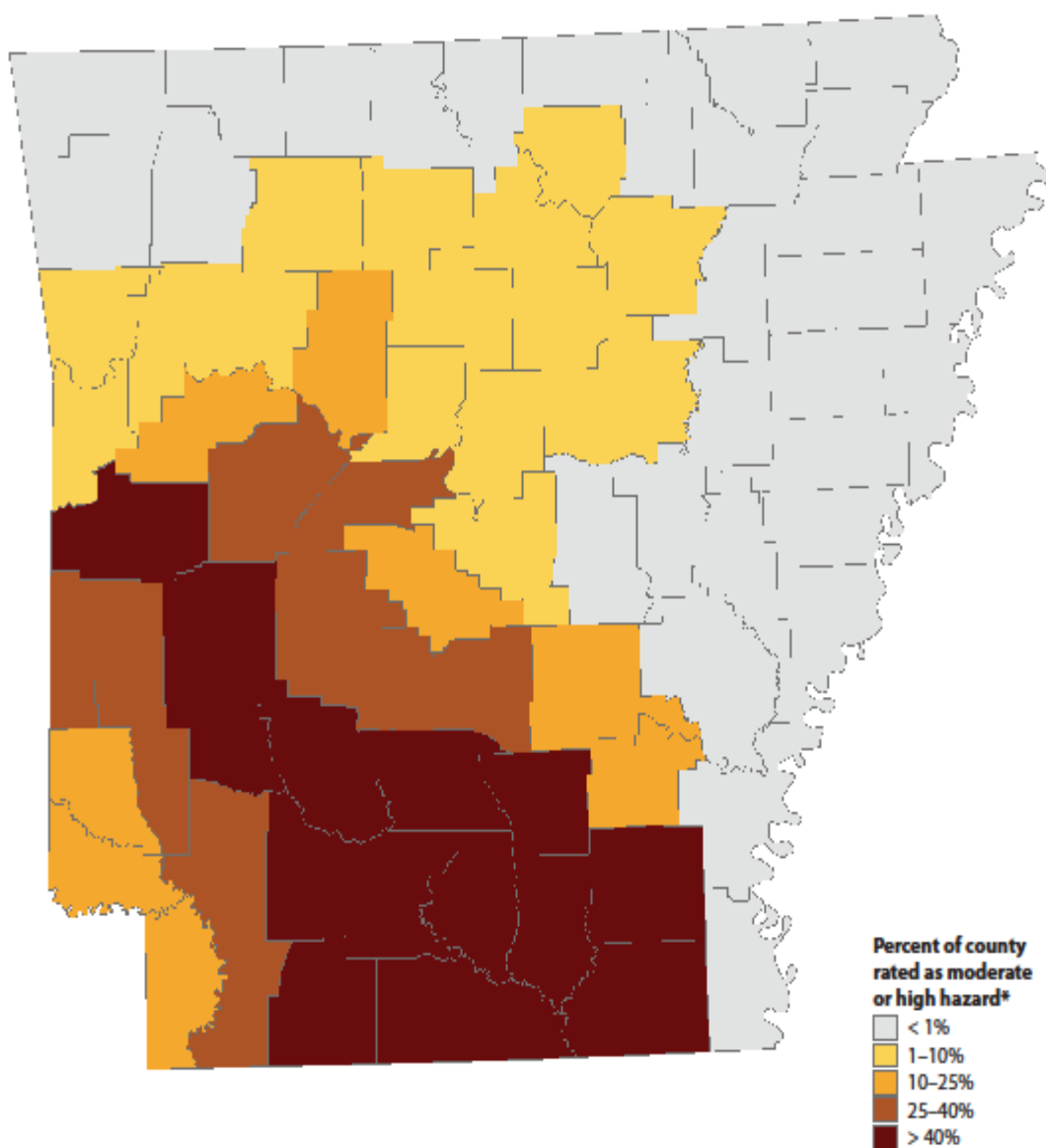
One solution to this problem would be to require all potential buyers to submit their bids in dollars per ton (\$/ton). This requirement can be made clear in the timber sales notice when it is published.

At the very least,

however, sellers should always be aware of what methods a buyer is using to determine the value of a stand of timber and have this information included in every contract. An understanding of how the different methods relate to each other is helpful. Only then can a landowner truly make a like-kind price comparison.



## SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE COUNTY HAZARD RATING FOR Arkansas

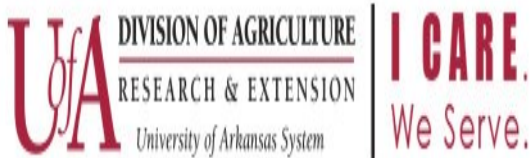


\*Hazard rating based on the US Forest Service 2012 National Insect and Disease Risk Map (NIDRM) over a 15 year period, 2013 – 2027.

-Moderate hazard = Areas projected to lose 11 to 24% of host basal area to SPB

-High hazard = Areas projected to lose 25% or more of host basal area to SPB

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension Office as soon as possible prior to the activity.