



# Of Cows & Plows

## November 2008

### Beef Conference Highlights

Randy Blach, CattleFax, reported that:

- >Crude oil should level out at ~\$60-70/ barrel.
- >Beef Cow inventory will continue to decline due to aging producers, cost of hay, cost of land, production costs in general. Production keeps increasing however due to more live calves, heavier weights and better genetics.
- >Americans are eating less beef. 48% of their food dollar is spent at restaurants, etc.
- >Cattle market should recover in about 4-5 weeks as fewer are being placed on feed and by spring should be back to normal.

From Dr. Lehmkuhler, UK Beef Specialist:

- >The greatest expense of owning a cow is feeding her through the winter, about \$1.43/ day (hay valued at \$70/ton).
- >To work the specific numbers for your farm, visit the UK Ag Economics website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AgEcon/extension.html> and click on "Farm Management" for the "Beef Enterprise Budget" to see how your numbers crunch.
- >6" of rot on the outside of a 5' bale = 30% loss. A hay cone wastes 3.5%, a ring wastes 6.1%, a hay trailer wastes 11.4% and a cradle wastes 14.6%.
- >Feeding an ionophore (monensin, etc) can decrease hay need by 5-10% and still maintain body weight.
- >~1 lb corn = ~ 1lb soyhulls = ~ 2lb hay energy wise. But corn intake must be limited!

### New Faces!

We finally have a full staff at the office again! Please make welcome Gill Thurman our new Staff Assistant and Mike Meyers, 4-H Agent.

Gil brings a lot of talent and expertise to the office. His familiarity with extension and ability with the computer will make his job – and ours, a lot easier! Gill and Wanda working together should soon have the office working under control and moving right along.

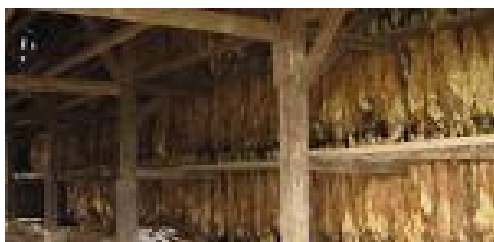
Mike Meyer, Harrison Co., is a recent graduate of the UK College of AG. He joins Samantha Jeffries and will concentrate on 4-H clubs. Mike has a degree in livestock and an extensive background in showing beef cattle and judging in general. Mike's abilities will not only help round out 4-H but the office in general!

Please stop by and welcome both Mike and Gil when you get a chance.

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Start frost seeding clovers onto pastures after Christmas.

Perennial rye works good when sown into bare areas over the winter.



# Contaminated Tobacco

**Brittany L. Edelson**

Agronomist

Philip Morris International Management, LLC

Dear ITP Grower,

Recently, a PMI cigarette factory had to **destroy** over \$1,000,000 worth of tobacco because it was contaminated with small pieces of Styrofoam.

This million dollar loss could have been avoided if more attention had been taken during market preparation, baling, or on-farm storage of this tobacco.

It is essential that you do everything possible to avoid contaminating your tobacco with Non-Tobacco Related Material (NTRM). Always pay attention to the cleanliness of your market-prep, baling, and storage areas. Also, make sure that your employees understand how critical it is not to contaminate your product. This is a simple process, but it involves the care and attention of everybody involved in your farm operation.

PMI is committed to manufacturing and marketing high-quality tobacco products. Only clean tobacco is high-quality tobacco. We will check your bales during buying and when the bales are opened at the processing plant.

We count on your commitment to eliminate NTRM.

see blue. go green.



<http://www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen/index.php>

# Manure Values

AGR-146

**Table 1.** Nutrient content of manures commonly used in Kentucky. (All values on an "as-is" moisture basis.)

		N	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	Moisture (%)
<b>Solid Manures (lb/ton)</b>					
Beef		11	7	10	80
Dairy		11	9	12	80
Swine		9	9	8	82
Broiler	(fresh)	55	55	45	20
	(stockpiled)	40	80	35	20
	(cake)	60	70	40	30
	(pullet)	40	68	40	25
	(breeder)	35	55	30	40
Layer		30	40	30	40
<b>Liquid Manures (lb/1,000 gal)</b>					
Holding Pit	Swine	36	27	22	96
	Dairy	31	15	19	94
Lagoon	Swine	4	2	4	99
	Dairy	4	2	3	98

It is often hard to obtain a representative sample of manures, so results that vary significantly from the values in Table 1 should be questioned. For guidelines on taking manure samples, see UK Cooperative Extension Service publication *Livestock Waste Sampling and Testing* (ID-123).

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“Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country.”

William Jennings Bryan



# November

## SPRING CALVING HERD

### Plan your winter feeding program.

- Obtain cow and calf weights at weaning and see your County Extension Agent for information on record keeping programs. Cull cows based on performance and pregnancy status and make initial heifer selections, keeping more than you intend to retain for the next breeding season.
- Evaluate body condition of cows (BCS) after weaning their calves. Sort thin cows (BCS<5) away from the main cow herd so they can receive extra feed, if needed.
- Dry cows can utilize crop residues and poor quality hay but don't let them lose too much weight. Save higher quality feeds until calving time.
- Replacement heifers should gain at an adequate rate to reach their "target" breeding weight (65% of mature weight) by May 1.

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL CATTLE

- Record all cow deaths, purchases, sales and movements among pastures.
- This is a good time to freeze-brand replacement heifers for permanent identification.
- Evaluate performance of calves and consider changes in your breeding program.

## FALL CALVING HERD

### Breeding season begins

- Pre-Breeding working. Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. These may include:
  - Deworm cows
  - Vaccinating cows for Vibrio, Lepto (5-way), IBR, BVD, and Hemophilus somnus
  - Vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases (blackleg)
  - Dehorn, castrate and implant and ID calves if not done at birth.
- Move cows to high quality pasture. Accumulated fescue pastures can work well for this. Lactating cows need to be in good

condition for breeding. Cows may need some grain supplementation depending upon their condition.

- Start breeding cows by November 20 for fall calving to begin in September.
- At beginning of breeding season, record inventory of all cows in each breeding pasture.

### FORAGES

- Begin utilizing stockpiled tall fescue.
- After November 1 or a killing frost, fall alfalfa can be grazed or mowed.
- Utilize crop residues as needed or available.
- Graze alfalfa after November 1 or freeze down (24 degrees for a few hours).
- Continue inventory of hay supplies and needs.
- Continue testing hay for nutrient content.

## Pet Centered Flea Prevention & Control

by Michael F. Potter, Extension Entomologist  
University of Kentucky College of  
Agriculture



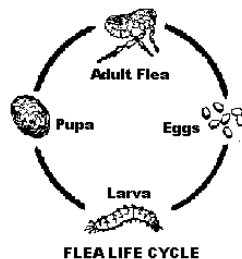
Anyone who has ever battled fleas knows how difficult they are to eradicate. Once a home becomes infested, control can be difficult, time-consuming and expensive. A flea-infested dog or cat can introduce hundreds of new flea eggs into the home each day. By mid- to late summer, pet owners often find themselves fighting a losing battle against established flea populations that are enormous.

A better way to manage fleas is through prevention. By taking action before fleas are abundant, pet owners can avoid severe infestations later in the season. Preventive flea control has been made possible by new product innovations and insights into flea biology. We now know that adult fleas (the biting stage) spend virtually their entire life on the pet, not in the carpet. Eggs are laid on the fur and fall off

into carpeting, beneath furniture cushions, and wherever else the pet lays, sleeps or spends time. After hatching, the eggs transform into larvae, pupae, and eventually adults to renew the cycle.

Pet owners can break the cycle of flea development and prevent future generations by killing the eggs as they are laid on the pet, or by eliminating the egg-laying adults. The easiest way to do this is to take action before flea problems get out of control. Several products are available which are convenient and effective.

**The “Pill” (Program™)**-This product prevents flea eggs from hatching when administered orally to pets once a month at mealtime. Dogs are fed Program in tablet form, whereas cats are fed a liquid suspension mixed with their food. Different tablet sizes and suspension doses are prescribed according to the weight of the animal. When an adult female flea bites a Program-treated dog or cat, the flea ingests the active ingredient (lufenuron) which then passes into her eggs and prevents them from hatching. Program is dispensed only through veterinarians. A companion product, Sentinel™, contains both the flea control ingredient and heartworm medication all in one dosage.



### “Egg-Stopper”

**Collars-** Unlike conventional flea collars, these contain an insect growth regulating ingredient (methoprene or pyriproxyfen) which prevents egg hatch for several months. Thus, the overall effect is much like Program. Pet owners should carefully read the “active ingredients” panel on the package of the collar to verify that methoprene or pyriproxyfen are present. One such brand, the Ovitrol/Ovitrol Plus™ Flea Egg Collar is available through veterinarians. Retail versions include the Fleatrol™ Flea Egg Collar and Relieve™ Collar, sold in pet stores and discount chains. Once installed, the egg-inhibiting substance releases from the collar and rapidly distributes over the fur of the entire animal, killing flea eggs on contact. This breaks the life cycle and infestations never become established. The methoprene and pyriproxyfen-impregnated collars are virtually 100% effective

at preventing new flea eggs from hatching for at least 6 months (essentially season-long) on both dogs and cats.

**Spot-Ons-** Another effective, convenient treatment method involves applying a few droplets of material between the shoulder blades of the animal. Two veterinarian-supplied products, Advantage™ and Frontline™, control adult fleas on pets for at least 1 month. On dogs, Frontline Top Spot lasts up to 3 months. Another ‘spot-on’ product, available through retail stores, is Biospot™, which contains the egg-inhibiting ingredient pyriproxyfen.

The best way to use any of the above-mentioned products is to initiate treatment before flea season begins, typically in the spring. By doing so you will greatly reduce the chances of developing a serious flea problem later in the summer. Any stray fleas the pet happens to pick up around the home or at the kennel will be unable to lay viable eggs. Breaking the cycle of flea development on the pet also reduces the need to apply insecticides throughout the living areas of the home. (Each of these on-animal products is of negligible hazard to people and pets, and there is seldom any adverse reaction with other petmedications.) Methoprene or pyriproxyfen-based products may need to be supplemented, periodically, with a topical spray or dip to knock down any adult fleas irritating the pet, especially if the animal is flea allergic. This should not be necessary with Advantage and Frontline. In any case, the occasional adult flea spotted on the pet will be unable to reproduce and soon will die off.

If you were frustrated by fleas last year, give this preventative approach a try. In Kentucky, the treatment regimen need not be maintained beyond November unless fleas continue to be a problem. Always read and follow label directions and the advice of your veterinarian.

For further information see [ENTFACT-602, Ridding Your Home of Fleas.](#)

*Keenan Bishop*

Keenan Bishop  
County Extension Agent for Agriculture and  
Natural Resources

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



Please join us in Lexington on November 13th and 14th for the inaugural Kentucky Department of Agriculture Direct Marketing Conference. Facilitated by KDA, sessions will focus on business management, customer service and marketing. National speakers, informative sessions and networking with buyers and producers will help take your business to the next level so you can “grow your cash crop in Kentucky!”

For more information, contact Donna Baker by email [donnaj.baker@ky.gov](mailto:donnaj.baker@ky.gov) or by phone, (502) 564-4983.