

April 22, 2011

Beef Field Day

We have a great annual Beef Field day planned for this year. Roger Hamner is our new County Cattlemen President and we will be going back to his farm this year. We had the Field Day there in 2007. Make plans to join us for lots of fun and information. See the enclosed flyer.

Program Opportunities

Enclosed are some flyers about additional program opportunities you may want to participate in. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. Tennessee will host a **Native Grasses for Summer Forage** program at Spring Hill Experiment Station on May 24th. There is no cost but you need to register by May 10th by calling 865-974-7346 or go to <http://nativegrasses.utk.edu/> and click on Forage Tours on the home page. Ongoing grazing trials will be visited and the latest results made available. The tours will be from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. in the evening.

Mailing List

If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter please call my office and ask to be removed from our list. Call 256-766-6223.

4-H County Champion Heifer

Congratulations to Wyatt Walker of Lexington 4-H who had the overall Champion Heifer at the annual 4-H Heifer Show in Florence in February. Twelve youth exhibited 20 heifers in various age and breed classes. The youth also exhibited their heifers at the District Show in Huntsville on March 5th and the State Show in Montgomery. The show was sponsored by the County Cattlemen Association and the County Extension System. Prize money was provided by the Lauderdale County Community Development Commission.

Cattle Prices

Cattle prices are looking good and they should remain high for a while. The nations' cattle inventory is the lowest since 1963. Cull cow prices have been up 30% from a year ago and nearly 50% higher than two years ago. This will continue to put pressure on the nation's cow herds.

State Market News

The State Dept of Ag is warning that market reports will be reduced or even eliminated in the near future as they attempt to deal with reduced budgets. It is not known at this writing which markets would be affected.



Do NOT Cut Back on Lime. Keeping an optimum soil pH will ensure that soil tilth is maintained, root development is encouraged, and (most importantly) the nutrients in the soil are freely available to the plants. If the soil pH drifts much below 6.0, the availability of some nutrients in the soil will decrease and, in some cases, other nutrients can reach toxic levels. The availability of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) is severely reduced as the soil pH declines (**Figure 1**). This can translate to a major waste of one's "fertilizer dollar." For example, **Table 2** demonstrates the cost of this inefficiency in an example comparing a soil pH of 5.6 vs. 6.2. Of course, lime applications should rectify soil pH problems for several years. However, lime applications usually take 6-12 months to affect a substantial change in soil pH. So, major adjustments in soil pH should be made well in advance of the addition of large quantities of fertilizer.

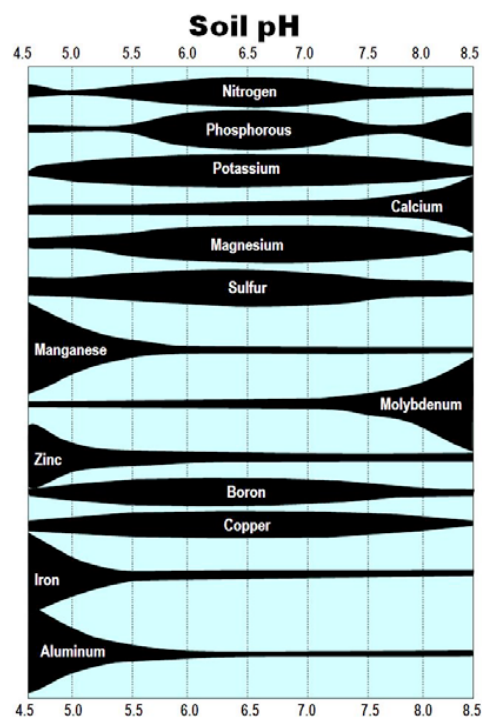


Table 2. A comparison of the annual value of decreased fertilizer efficiency in a soil where the pH is 5.6 relative to a soil with a pH of 6.2. This example uses a moderate to low amount of fertilizer and represents the cost of inefficient nutrient use incurred in one year.

Nutrient	Amt. Used Annually (lbs/acre)	Unit Price (\$/lb)	Dec. in Efficiency*	Value of Decrease (\$/acre)
N	200	\$0.65	35%	-\$46
P ₂ O ₅	50	\$0.75	50%	-\$19
K ₂ O	150	\$0.50	10%	-\$ 8
			Total	-\$72

* Resulting from the lower soil pH.

Congratulations to Paul Austin

Paul Austin of the Oakland Community won second place with his Bermuda grass hay at the Southeastern Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia. Austin's hay had a crude protein of 18.7 percent, a TDN (total digestible nutrients) of 60.1 percent and a RFQ (relative feed value) of 118. There were 138 entries in this category from across the Southeast. Austin produces hay in the Cloverdale and Oakland area of Lauderdale County.

Website

If you need help with pasture weed control then check out this website: <http://www.aces.edu/anr/crops/haypastweedcontrol.php> or another good site is www.alabamacrops.com

Sincerely,

Randall Armstrong
County Extension Coordinator





Beef Field Day

LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Beef- It's What's for Dinner

2010 Beef Field Day

Paul Austin, Cattlemen Director demonstrates use of hay moisture meter



Saturday, April 30, 2011

9:00 a.m.



2011 New Cattlemen Directors

(L to R) Andrew Hale, Dennis Wiley, Rob Cornelius & Roger Hamner, County President

Learn About

- Working Cattle the Right Way
- Latest Forage Varieties
- USDA Update
- State Ag Update
- Much more, come join us

**For Directions to the Hamner Farm
Greenhill & Killen area
(see on back)**

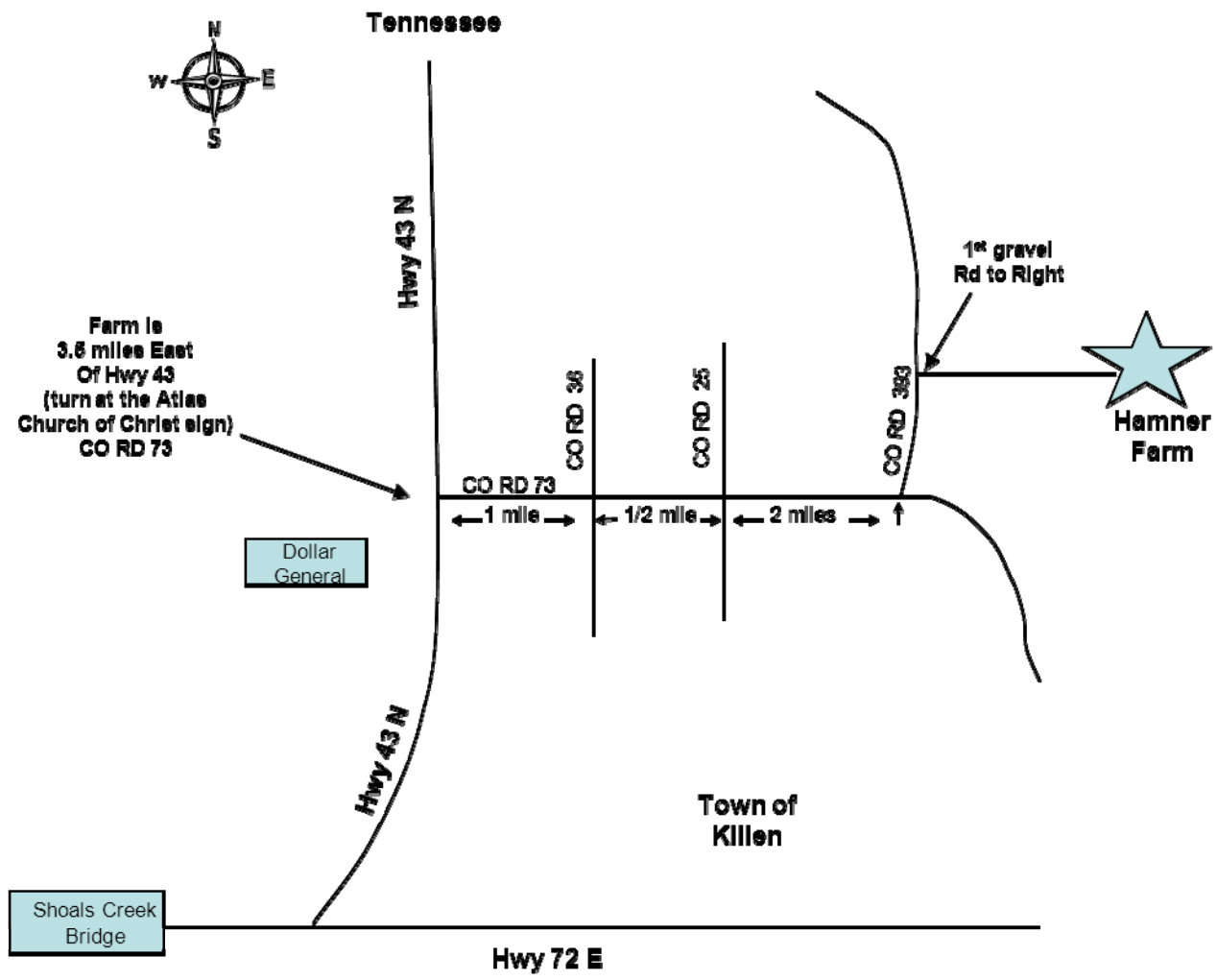
FREE
*to all Cattlemen
presentations begin
at 10:00 a.m.*

Lunch will be



Tour the Farm
Fun, Food, Fellowship &
Educational AG Exhibits & Equipment





Roger & Wesley Hamner Farm
Between Killen & Greenhill

Alabama Feeder Cattle Marketing Risk Management Programs

Alabama feeder cattle prices are expected to show some wide price swings during 2011 due to abrupt changes in beef demand and supply and input costs. Cattle producers can learn more about how to manage feeder cattle marketing risks by participating in a series of workshops presented the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Extension animal scientists and economists will conduct a series of educational presentations on Thursdays at noon between April 28 and May 26 to address the risks faced by Alabama cattle farmers.

Two speakers per meeting will share educational materials via Extension's video conference technology delivery system. The programs can be viewed at selected ACES video conference sites and on individual personal computers that have Internet Scopia Desktop software.

Participants will be able to ask questions, submit questions, make comments, and discuss any topic of interest at each session. Slide sets will be posted on the web for participants to review prior to each session.

Speakers will address a wide range of topics.

- Feeder cattle market grades
- Value differences of feeder cattle grades
- Feeder cattle market outlets
- Costs of weight gain vs. market value of weight gain
- Marketing feeder cattle in economic units
- Managing feeder cattle shrink
- Seasonal feeder cattle price trends
- Developing a simple feeder cattle marketing plan
- Feeder cattle price risk management.

A copy of the complete program and MS Powerpoint handouts can be found at <http://www.aces.edu/animalforage/>.

Register by phone at (334)844-5604 or email at dowdela@auburn.edu before Friday, April 22. Participants are welcome to bring their lunches to the meeting sites and eat during the presentations.

For more information, please contact your county Extension office, your regional Extension agents, Lanora Dowdell at (334) 844-5604 or Dr. Walt Prevatt at (334) 844-5608. Contact your county Extension office or regional Extension agents for more information on ACES video conference viewing sites and instructions for downloading the ACES Scopia Desktop software for individuals wanting to participate from personal computers (broadband connections only).

Alabama Feeder Cattle Marketing Risk Management Programs

Noon Thursdays, April 28 - May 26

ACES Video Conference Sites & Individual Personal Computers*

April 28 (12 p.m. Thursday)

- Standardized Marketing Grades for Feeder Cattle (J. Elmore)
- Value Differences of Feeder Cattle Market Grades (M. Elmore)

May 5 (12 p.m. Thursday)

- Feeder Cattle Market Outlets (Kriese-Anderson)
- Cost of Weight Gain vs Market Value of Weight Gain (Rankins)

May 12 (12 p.m. Thursday)

- Marketing Feeder Cattle In Economic Units (Hudson)
- Managing Feeder Cattle Shrink (Stewart)

May 19 (12 p.m. Thursday)

- Feeder Cattle Seasonal Price Trends (Lacy)
- Developing A Simple Feeder Cattle Marketing Plan (Prevatt)

May 26 (12 p.m. Thursday)

- Feeder Cattle Price Risk Management (Lacy)
- Managing Risks Associated With Feeder Cattle Terms of Trade (Prevatt)

If you are interested in any of these classes, please call our office to register at 256-766-6223.

*Instructions for using the ACES Scopia Desktop Client for individuals are available for you to download (for broadband connections only). The meeting ID is 6693. You can connect 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. A Webcam and headset are recommended. Installing the client:

<http://coursecast.acesag.auburn.edu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=3090b703-8289-4859-8b2c-81accd3088d5>

Testing audio and video:

<http://coursecast.acesag.auburn.edu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=d956068a-04b8-4277-8e79-aaaa6ccee958>.

Sponsored by: The Southern Risk Management Center

Table 8. Estimated Effectiveness of Postemergence Herbicides for Forage Crops on Selected Broadleaf Weeds

ESTABLISHED FORAGE STANDS							
	2,4-D	Banvel	Chaparral	Cimarron Max	Crossbow	Graxon- Next	Grazon P+D
Amaranth, Spiny	F	G	G-E	G	G-E	G	F-G
Bitterweed	F	E	--	E	--	E	E
Blackberry	P	P	G	F	G	P	P-F
Buttercup	E	G	G	E	G-E	G	E
Cherokee and Macartney Rose	--	--	F	--	--	F	F
Crotolaria, Showy	G	G		--	--	E	E
Croton, Woolly	G	E	E	E	E	E	E
Curly Dock	F	E	E	E	E	E	G
Dewberry	--	--	--	--	--	P	P-F
Dogfennel	F	G	P	E	F-G	F	E
Goldenrod	F	G	--	E	F-G	F	G
Ground Cherry	--	--	E	--	--	E	---
Henbit	F	G	E	E	F-G	G	F
Horsenettle	F	F	E	G	F	G	G
Horseweed	G	E	E	E	F-G	G	E
Ironweed	F	G	G	P	F	F	P
Jimsonweed	--	--	G	F	G-E	E	F
Lambsquarters	--	G	E	E	E	E	E
Milkweed	--	--	P	P	P-F	P	P
Perilla Mint	F	F	--	--	--	G	G
Pigweed	F	E	G	G	E	G	E
Plantain	G	P	E	E	G-E	E	E
Poison Ivy	--	--	--	P	G-E	--	G-E
Pricklypear	--	--	P	--	--	P	G
Ragweed	E	E	E	G	E	G	E
Red Sorrel	P	G	G	G	F-G	--	E
Rose, Multiflora	G	G	G	F	F-G	P-F	F-G
Prickly Sida	F	--	G	--	--	F	P
Smartweed	F	G	E	E	G-E	E	E
Stinging Nettle	P	P	G	F	--	E	E
Thistle, Musk, Bull, Yellow, Milk	G	G	E	E	F-G	E	E
Tropical SodaApple	P	F	G	P	--	E	E
Vervain, Blue	G	--	--	--	--	G-E	G-E
Wild Garlic	G	G	F-G	G	--	--	F-G
Wild Mustard	G	--	--	--	--	G	E

continued

KEY TO CONTROL RATINGS AND ABBREVIATIONS

E = Excellent control; G = Good control; F = Fair control; P = Poor control; -- = Information not available.

Table 8. Estimated Effectiveness of Postemergence Herbicides for Forage Crops on Selected Broadleaf Weeds (cont.)

	ESTABLISHED FORAGE STANDS						
	Impose/ Panoramic	Milestone	Pasture- Gard	Redeem R+P	Remedy	Surmount	Weed- master
Amaranth, Spiny	P	F-G	F-G	F-G	G	E	G-E
Bitterweed	--	F	E	E	G	E	E
Bitter Sneezeweed	--	F	E	E	G	E	E
Blackberry	P	P	P	P-F	E	F-G	--
Buttercup	F	G	F	G	G	G	E
Cherokee and Macartney Rose	--	--	--	--	F	F	---
Crotolaria, Showy	--	--	E	--	--	--	G
Croton, Woolly	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Curly Dock	P	E	F	G	E	E	E
Dewberry	P	P	F-G	P	F-G	F	---
Dogfennel	P	--	E	G	F	G	G
Goldenrod	P	P	G	F-G	G	F-G	G
Ground Cherry	--	E	--	--	--	--	---
Henbit	P	G	E	E	G	E	P
Horsenettle	P	G-E	F	F	P	E	F
Horseweed	P	E	G	G	G	E	E
Ironweed	P	G	G	G	F	G	--
Jimsonweed	P	G	--	G	G	F-G	---
Lambsquarters	F	--	E	E	E	E	--
Milkweed	P	P	P	F	F	F-G	--
Perilla Mint	--	P	--	--	--	F	F-G
Pigweed	F	G	P	E	G	E	E
Plantain	P	P	G	G	E	G	G
Poison Ivy	--	--	P	G	G-E	G	---
Pricklypear	P-F	--	P	--	P	G	P
Ragweed	P	E	G	G	G	E	E
Red Sorrel	P	--	P	F-G	--	G	F
Rose, Multiflora	P	F	F	P	F-G	F-G	F
Prickly Sida	P	F-G	P	--	--	P	E
Smartweed	G	E	F	--	G	E	E
Stinging Nettle	--	E	E	E	E	E	P
Thistle, Musk, Bull, Yellow, Milk	P	E	G	G	G	E	G
Tropical Soda Apple	P	E	P	--	G	E	F
Vervain, Blue	P	F	--	--	--	E	--
Wild Garlic	P	P	P	--	--	P	G
Wild Mustard	G-E	--	G	--	--	E	--

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