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Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

June 2016

This LIVESTOCK UPDATE contains timely subject matter on beef cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and related junior work. Use this material as you see fit for local newspapers, radio programs, newsletters, and for the formulation of recommendations.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Scott P. Greiner, Extension Project Leader
Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences

Dates to Remember

July 18-20, 2016
Virginia Tech Livestock Judging Camp- Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg VA - 3-day, 2-night event- Contact: Bain Wilson- tbwilson@vt.edu or
David Roper- droper1@vt.edu.

July 23, 2016
Virginia Simmental Association Field Day Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.
Please RSVP by July 15th for meal planning purposes:
Dan Eversole – 540/641-0295 deversol@vt.edu
Chad Joines – 540/557-7263 cjoines@vt.edu

July 30, 2016
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June Herd Management Advisor

Scott P. Greiner
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech

The official start of summer is June 21st, and typically summer conditions have already made an appearance by this date. Pasture rotation during the summer months will guarantee a rest period for forages yielding a more productive, diverse pasture. Hot weather also signals the onset of fly season. Delaying fly tag application in early summer extends protection into the warm days of early fall.
June normally marks the conclusion of harvesting the first cutting of hay and the hope for rain to stimulate regrowth. Equal attention should be given to pasture management in an effort to minimize the need for hay later in the year. Summer pasture management impacts future forage growth and vigor. Research has shown that rotational grazing which provides a rest period can make grasses more productive. Generally, 3-4 weeks of rest is recommended. Rotational grazing does require some planning, time and inputs but the return is 25-33% more forage. Other benefits include enhanced forage diversity, reduced cattle trails, better distribution of nutrients, and improved ground cover in sensitive areas.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Focus on forage management, pasture rotation, cow nutrition and young calf health.
- Manage first-calf heifers separately; give them best forage and supplement
- Cattle comfort should be monitored ensuring adequate shade and availability of clean water

Nutrition and Forages

- Continue feeding high magnesium minerals to prevent grass tetany; may be able to switch to high Se mineral as grass matures.
- Complete harvest of first cutting hay early in month
- Start grazing warm season grasses
- Implement rotational grazing management system which will provide a rest period for pastures.
- Cool season grasses are now mature; if weather conditions are dry delay pasture clipping until there is adequate soil moisture for forage regrowth.
- Make plans to store your high quality hay in the dry.
- Collect and submit forage samples for nutrient analysis.

Herd Health

- Implement parasite and fly control program for herd. Delay application of fly tags until a threshold of about 100 flies per side
- Administer mid-summer deworming and implant calves late in month or early next month

- Plan vaccination and preconditioning protocol for calf crop.
- Castrate commercial calves if not done at birth, consider castrating bottom end of male calves in seedstock herds.
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Reproduction

- Finish AI; turn out clean-up bulls
- Remove bulls from replacement heifers after 45-day breeding season
- Make plans to pregnancy check heifers as soon as possible after bull removal. This will allow options in marketing open heifers.
- Use 48-hour calf removal for thin cows and first-calf heifers at beginning of breeding season
- Monitor bulls closely during the breeding season. Observe frequently to confirm breeding performance and soundness, and monitor cows for repeat estrus. Avoid overworking young bulls (a rule of thumb- yearling bulls should be exposed to number of cows equal to their age in months).

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Plan a marketing strategy for open cows. Cull cow prices typically peak mid-spring through mid-summer, and prices generally stronger for cows in good body condition vs. thin cows (evaluate forage availability and potential feed and management costs to increase BCS of cull cows if warranted).
- Finalize marketing plans for calf crop. Time weaning, vaccination program, and weaning management to meet operational goals. Calculate break-evens on various marketing options and consider risk management strategies.
- Re-implant commercial calves.

Nutrition and Forages

- Switch to high selenium trace mineral salt
- Body condition score cows. Plan nutrition and grazing program based on BCS. This is the most efficient period to put weight and condition on thin cows
- As calves are weaned move cows to poorer quality pastures.
- Use palatable feeds during the weaning period to bunk train calves and minimize weight loss.
- Reserve high quality hay and a pasture area for calves post-weaning.
- Start grazing warm season grasses

Herd Health

- Administer mid-summer deworming on replacement heifers and pregnant heifers
- Implement parasite and fly control program for herd. Delay application of fly tags until a threshold of about 100 flies per side.

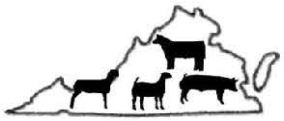
- Consult with veterinarian on vaccination protocol for calf crop. Design vaccination and weaning program around marketing goals and objectives. Vaccinate, wean, and certify calves to be marketed in late summer

Genetics

- Identify replacement heifers. Utilize available tools including genetics, dam performance, individual performance, and phenotype. Restrict replacement heifer pool to those born in defined calving season.
- Finalize plans for post-weaning development and marketing of bulls in seedstock herds.

Virginia Tech Livestock Judging Camp

July 18-20, 2016
VT Campus
Blacksburg, VA



VirginiaTech
Invent the Future®

Join us for the 1st annual VT Livestock Judging Camp. A 3-day, 2-night event with detailed instruction in all species and reasons.

Campers will be housed on VT campus and the $250 camp registration fee includes housing, meals, materials, t-shirt, and activity fees.

Camp is open to youth entering the 6th grade to High School Seniors.

To register fill out the attached form and return along with registration fee. Camp is limited to the fist 60 youth registrations.

Two male & female chaperones are required. Please indicate your willingness to serve this role. Additional adults are welcome and will be charged $175 registration fee (meals/lodging).

For more information contact:
Bain Wilson: tbwilson@vt.edu
David Roper: droper1@vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
www.ext.vt.edu

VT Livestock Judging Camp Registration Form

Name_____

Parent Chaperone ____Yes ____No

Youth Age____ Adult_____ Gender____

Address_____

City, ST, Zip_____

_____

Email address_____

Phone #_____

Roommate preference_____

T-shirt size_____

If attending with team list members:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Deadline: June 15, 2016

Return form and Payment to:
VT Livestock Judging Camp
C/O Bain Wilson
378 Litton Reaves (0306)
Blacksburg VA 24061

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify Bain Wilson, 378 Litton Reaves at 540-231-5253/TDD*) during business hours of 8a.m. and 5 p.m.
***TDD number is (800) 828-1120.**

Virginia BCIA Central Bull Test Program Summary 2015-16

Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Beef
Virginia Tech

The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association recently completed its 58th year of developing bulls through the state central bull test program. The 2015-16 test and sale year included the development of 310 total bulls, with 190 bulls selling through two sales for an average price of $3524. This average price compares to the program record average price of $4794 during 2014-15, and $3531 in 2004-05.

A bull test program near Culpeper has been operated for 58 consecutive years, and is currently conducted at Glenmary Farm, Tom and Kim Nixon owners, of Rapidan. In the fall-born Senior group at Culpeper, 86 bulls were developed and had an ADG of 4.19 and an adjusted yearling weight of 1240. The Southwest Bull Test was in operation for the 37th year, with development of the bulls provided by Hillwinds Farm, Tim and Cathy Sutphin of Dublin. The bulls evaluated at the Southwest station included 92 fall-born Senior bulls and 132 spring-born Juniors. The Senior bulls recorded a test ADG of 3.05 with an adjusted yearling weight of 1060, while the Junior bulls had a 3.21 ADG and 1102 pound adjusted yearling weight. The 310 bulls evaluated included 188 Angus, 2 Braunvieh, 7 Charolais, 12 Purebred Gelbvieh, 8 Gelbvieh Balancers, 22 Hereford, 24 Purebred Simmental, and 47 Simmental Hybrids.

Two sales were held for eligible bulls. The Culpeper Senior sale was held in mid-December and the Southwest sale at Wytheville in late March. The following table presents sale averages by breed. Of the 190 bulls sold, 161 were purchased by Virginia buyers and 29 (15%) sold out of state to cattlemen in Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

2015-2016 VA BCIA CENTRAL BULL TEST STATION
SALE AND BREED AVERAGES

	Culpeper Sr. 12/12/15		**SW Virginia 3/26/16**		**TOTAL**	
Angus	42	$3,481	69	$3,604	**111**	**$3,557**
Braunvieh			1	$2,000	**1**	**$2,000**
Charolais			5	$3,570	**5**	**$3,570**
Gelbvieh	1	$4,250	8	$3,113	**9**	**$3,239**
Gelbvieh Bal.	2	$3,650	3	$3,367	**5**	**$3,480**
Hereford			14	$2,621	**14**	**$2,621**
Simmental	1	$5,700	13	$4,225	**14**	**$3,264**
Simm. Hybrid	5	$4,750	26	$3,927	**31**	**$4,060**
2015-16 Totals	**51**	**$3,671**	**139**	**$3,470**	**190**	**$3,524**

Average total test and sale costs for bulls fed and sold during the 2015-16 season was $1158 (all-inclusive program costs from delivery through sale), for an average return of $2366 per head after all expenses to the consignor. Partitioning total costs, test costs

averaged $620 (112-day feeding period) and post-test/sale costs averaged $538 per head (sale expenses averaged 9.6% of sale price).

A total of 52 breeders participated in the Central Bull Test Station program in 2011-12. There were 38 Virginia breeders, and a total of 14 from the surrounding states of Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, District of Columbia, and West Virginia.

All bulls tested and sold were consigned by breeders who are members of the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Virginia BCIA was the first state beef cattle improvement association organized in 1955. For a more detailed summary of this information, or consignment details for the upcoming Virginia BCIA Central Bull Test Station program contact the Virginia BCIA office at (540) 231-9159 or visit http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu.

Summer Cattle Hauling Tips

David Roper, PhD & Bain Wilson, PhD
Extension Animal Scientists
Virginia Tech University

With summer months and warmer weather around the corner, it's important to keep livestock health and well-being in mind during transport. This is important for both producers and families traveling to livestock shows and county fairs. Regardless of the operation type, your cattle represent a large investment of time, finances, and resources. Aside from increased risk of animal mortality, improper transportation techniques can result in decreased animal performance and increases in health issues that negatively affect animal wellbeing. Below are several considerations to keep in mind when loading cattle for transport:

Distance and time are two factors that go hand in hand when making transportation plans. Determining the duration of round trips will ultimately determine the amount of time needed to move all animals. It will also determine what time to start moving animals. Keep in mind that summer temperatures begin to rise earlier in the day and can be exponentially hotter in enclosed trailers. This is also influenced by the humidity as well as the type of animals being transported. Larger, lactating animals will naturally produce more metabolic body heat, as will animals that possess a denser hair coat. This is extremely important for show cattle that may have more hair. Therefore, the use of open sided trailers if possible will increase the amount of air flow that reach the livestock and ensure body temperatures remain in an acceptable range.

To help reduce heat stress on cattle, timing of transport should also be considered. If possible animals should be transported earlier or later in the day to provide exposure to cooler temperatures. Typically the hottest times of the day range from 11 AM to 4 or 5 PM depending on elevation, humidity and cloud cover. Prior planning and attention to weather forecasts can help you plan your travel schedule. However, at times transportation is a must regardless of weather and consideration of other stress factors will help minimize exposure risks.

Type and size of trailer must also be considered when making hauling plans. As we discussed previously, open sided trailers may be more ideal. This can be especially important for smaller calves. The enclosed trailer designs have limited air flow for these smaller animals since the vents are located further up the side. The length of trailer and space provided animals also impacts their well-being. Even with the cost of fuel, it may be more economical to make additional trips rather than overstock the trailer and cause injury or death to an animal. The space requirements vary by size and several sources can be found online. However, as an example a 600 pound calf requires 8.5 square foot of space per head, while a 1200 pound mature cow requires 14.5 square foot of space per head. In practical terms this means that about 16 head of calves and 9 head of cows would safely fit on a 20 foot long by 7 foot wide trailer.

If you routinely transport large loads of animals an upgrade in trailer length may be required. The initial cost of larger trailer depreciated over time and the number of animals hauled may be justified. Weight limits of the trailer should also be followed to ensure safety of the animals and other travelers alike. Typically the gross vehicle weight and the hauling weight of the trailer should be listed near the nose, tongue, or hitch. If the trailer is an older model and this information is not visible inspection of the axles by an experience mechanic shop can help determine weight limits. This also can provide a point for inspection of the overall integrity of the trailer.

Footing or bedding when used properly can help enhance the safety and comfort of the stock being hauled. Again, depending on the number of animals being hauled, the frequency, and duration may all influence the type of footing or bedding used. For large frequent loads bedding may not be economical or justifiable. However, ensuring a no-slip footing is crucial. Large amounts of feces and urine will collect during large loads and may result in animals getting down reducing airflow and potentially resulting in death or injury. Ensuring that the trailer floor is cleaned following use will also ensure secure footing and trailer readiness for future trips.

Conversely, cattle being transported to shows may utilize bedding to help ensure animal cleanliness upon arrival. However, keep in mind that most bedding is designed to be absorbent and retain moisture from feces and urine. This increased moisture can add to increased humidity inside the trailer. The temperature and humidity index can combine to increase the heat stress applied to the animals.

Basic trailer care and maintenance cannot be overlooked when planning a trip. Like any other vehicle, a trailer should have a regular maintenance schedule to ensure it is ready for use. Several things to keep in mind include:

- Tire tread and condition
- Structural integrity of the floor
- Condition of any bearings or grease points
- Functionality of lights and brakes
- Inspection of axels

Emergency preparations are often overlooked when making transportation plans but can be invaluable during an accident. Basic supplies should be stored in the trailer if space permits and easily accessible while the trailer is loaded. A high quality spare tire that is in good condition is extremely important. The ability to lift the trailer off the ground while loaded for a tire change is crucial. Commercially available ramps can be purchased at local hardware stores and store easily for travel. They also provide increased security by removing the potential for a jack to slip and fall while changing tires. Additional items that may be needed include flares, lug nut wrenches, bottled water, ropes or halters. It is also a good idea to have the contact information for your local veterinarian handy in the case of an animal emergency. It is a good idea to have the number stored in your phone or hand written in your emergency kit for others to find can be valuable in an emergency situation.

Ultimately, attention to detail, preplanning, and common sense can help ensure that cattle transportation is successful and safely accomplished. Transportation is a small piece of the overall cattle handling and well-being management plan that can help ensure animal profitability and production success.

Virginia Simmental Association Field Day
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
July 23, 2016

The Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences at Virginia Tech will be hosting the Virginia Simmental Field Day on Saturday, July 23, 2016 at the Multi-Purpose Teaching Arena across from the VT Beef Cattle Center on Plantation Road. A cattle judging contest with prizes, an educational program, and complimentary lunch have been planned for your enjoyment. Please make plans now to attend the State Simmental Field Day.

Field Day Agenda

10am – noon	Registration
Noon- 1pm	Complimentary Lunch
1:00– 3:30pm	Educational Program
3:30 – 4:00pm	Contest Results

Please RSVP by July 15th for meal planning purposes:

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