



NETFC NOW



SULPHUR SPRINGS GREENVILLE CANTON CLARKSVILLE



GENERAL MANAGER'S VIEWPOINT

by Brad Johnson

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Your new Canton Farm & Ranch Center is on schedule for completion in early Fall. Excitement is building to make the move and to be better able to serve you from this location. We apologize for the problems we are experiencing at our current location as TXDOT works to widen Highway 243. Our Tire Center is closed, and we are in the process of liquidating the assets/inventory related to the Tire Center. We appreciate your patience and continuing patronage. Have a great August!

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We will be closed on Monday, Sept 4th, open regular hours on Tuesday, Sept 5th



RETAIL FARM SUPPLY & SULPHUR SPRINGS FERTILIZER

by Jim Ratzlaff

903 885 3143 Store 903 885 5036 Fertilizer

800 722 0174 Fertilizer

Fall Seed Meetings:

Sulphur Springs-Tuesday, Sept 5th.

Clarksville-Thursday, Sept 7th.

Canton-Monday, Sept 11th.

Greenville-Tuesday, Sept 12th.

- It looks like August is going to be a normal August, hot and dry. However, those early July rain showers sure were nice. Looks like the grass is going to get tougher and shorter, what are we going to do?
- First, lets address the heat stress. Allow the cattle to get to shade that has air movement under it. In other words, trim the trees up to allow the hot air to move up, off and away from the cattle.

- Secondly, make sure the cattle have plenty of excellent drinking water. The big problem during the hot weather is getting cattle to eat enough to at least maintain weight. The forage is low moisture, so the need for more water consumption goes up during this period, plus a lot of the water is being used to keep cool, increasing the need for water even more. If the water is one where the cattle have to get really thirsty to drink it, they may stay in the shade and eat less so they don't have to drink the water. This adds to the weight lost during this period of time. So we need to insure all we can that we have the best water we can give our cattle. If they are forced to drink bad water they will drink only enough to survive. Early in my career I had a very successful livestock producer tell me that if I could not afford to get good drinking water to my livestock, I should sell off enough livestock until I could pay for a good drinking water system. Working with livestock producers for the last 40 some years, he was right any time of the year. In fact, it is better to make the cattle walk farther for good water than to allow them to drink dirty water close to the shade. I had a feed lot operator in Illinois confirm the value of good drinking water, as his source of water was to haul water from a pond. It dried up one year so he hauled water from another pool. The cattle drank more water, ate more feed, lbs of feed per pound of gain went down while daily gains went up. He thought there was a magic ingredient in that water so he had it tested to find out what was in that water that made it so much better. When the water analysis came back from the test, the water had nothing in it, the water was good for human consumption! Now, I know Grandpa watered his cattle out of that pond, but he never compared good water verses dirty water. If you only have pond water, the next time it gets dry, dig a deep hole in the middle, put some gravel in it, lay a sand point on the gravel and cover with several feet of gravel. Fence off that pond so cattle can't stir up the water and put a pump on that sand point for a water source. Water is like mineral, cattle will make a poor choice on their own as to what to consume for mineral and for water.
- Which brings up the third point for maintaining cattle in hot weather, mineral. These cattle are very uncomfortable in this heat. The grass is tough, and that tough grass as it is being processed in the rumen of the cattle is throwing off a lot of heat. It is like having a hot stove inside the cattle when they are eating tough forages. So how are we going to cool them off? They got to eat! To aid and speed up the process that creates the heat in the rumen can be done by making sure that each 1100 lbs of beef consumes at least 7 grams of inorganic phosphorus each day like out of a mineral. This phosphorus is needed to maintain a good population of rumen bacteria. If we have a good population of microbes in the rumen, the digestion process is faster and less over all heat is produced in the cattle. If the rumen is taking longer for the digestion to take place, the cattle will drink less, eat less and suffer more heat stress. I have two major choices for mineral, it depends upon some things as to which one I like the best. Beef Cow Plus Mineral with IGR is my first choice, the reason it is a 2 to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio which is the ideal ratio for both ingredients. I have to spike it to get my cattle to eat it at the right amounts. Right now I am putting one bag of rye bran (40 lbs) to 50 lbs of mineral. You may have to vary off that some. The second choice is the Fly Buster Tub. This is the easiest, and the cattle eat it just about right, no mineral feeder to maintain, no waste, no mixing, just put a salt block out with it and keep it near the water and/or near their shade area. If they eat too much move it away from the water or away from the shade area. The down side is that I would like to see more calcium in it than what it has, but that creates formulation problems. So, on nursing cows, I will use the Beef Cow Plus most of the time.
- The fourth point is get rid of the flies any way you can. The IGR minerals help, but that only controls the horn fly. The stable fly, house fly, heel flies and the horse flies are best controlled by pour-ons, fresh ear tags in both ears this time of year, or my preferred method is regular spraying. Use a 1% permethrin spray. To calculate a 1% permethrin spray from a 10% concentrate, mix 9 parts water or mineral oil with one part concentrate. To do the same with a 36% permethrin concentrate, mix 35 parts water or mineral oil with one part concentrate. To double the strength to a 2% just cut the water or mineral oil in half. To increase the lasting affect of the insecticide, add a PBO, mix according to the label on the PBO.
- The fifth is creep feed the calves. This helps extend the grazing forage, for every pound of creep the calf eats, that is one less pound of grass they will consume, leaving more for the cows. The bigger benefit is that for every 4 to 5 lbs of creep the calf consumes, you can gain an extra pound of weight on the calf. BovaCreep is costing at present less then 13 cents a pound at 5 to 1 gain ratio that means the extra pound of beef cost \$.65, with cattle selling at over \$1.30 per pound that doubles your money. And probably the cattle will gain 4 to 1 making even more profit.
- The sixth is what about feeding cubes? First, if you have had a good stand of clover like ball clover, Durana, Crimson, Arrow leaf, or Black Hawk, these clovers with a good stand generally supply a 100 or more pound of nitrogen per acre and this nitrogen generally becomes available as plant protein in June to the warm season grasses. So more than likely your tough grass has pretty good protein but is short on energy. Only a lab analysis of the grass can tell the difference. We may have fed cubes and the cattle did well, and that may be because the cattle used the energy of the cube rather than the protein part. With a forage analysis, we will then know what to spend our money on to make the best use of it.
- Did we store any moisture in our pastures? With out a good cover over the top of the soil there can be as much as 40 degrees difference in soil temperature. As much as 85% of any moisture in the soil in this condition can evaporate out of the soil in a couple of days. The number one reason grass quits growing is it runs out of moisture. So the better we manage to collect and store our moisture in the soil, the greater the potential to produce more forage, which means less cost to maintain the cattle and increase the potential of good gains.
- Key points on storing rain moisture in soils. First, work to get the organic matter up. To do that, planting clovers or other cool weather crops in the fall that will stay green all winter will feed the soil microbes and keep those populations high. Maintaining a good population of soil microbes will increase organic matter faster than plowing

down a green manure crop. I like to see a little ryegrass along with the clover in pastures. The reason, each plant species feed a different set of microbes. Next, a little ryegrass along with a good mineral helps control bloat with the clover. A 15 to 20% ryegrass and the rest clover is a good ratio. This means to plant the normal amount of clover but then add about 5 to 7 lbs of ryegrass seed per acre. This will also keep the ryegrass from getting too thick in the spring which may hurt the early start up of the warm season grasses. Make roots. Make sure you have about 1 part phosphorus to 4 parts potassium available for the plants. Soil test and apply accordingly. The ryegrass roots will build new pathways for both moisture to follow, and for your warm season grasses to run down later next summer. Many talk about planting something with a deep tap root, which is another good idea. The Florida broad leaf mustard sends a good tap root down fast in the fall. Here is what I discovered last fall. The Florida broad leaf mustard was the only plant that survived on my early planting last fall. I plant it along with ryegrass, ball clover, some vetch, and peas. It all came up with a half inch of rain, but it all died except the mustard. I believe the reason the mustard survived is that it put that tap root down pretty fast. Now the down side to the mustard, it has great big broad leaves which if allowed to grow very long will shade out most other plants. So my suggestion is to plant the mustard by itself. The cattle ate it well, however, when we got 25 degree weather it died. That would be a good time to plant some clover and some ryegrass. These plants will feed the soil microbes and maintain a good population. The new root pathways developed by these plants will help increase the organic matter and allow the soil to store more moisture next summer.

- The other key point of storing moisture is to keep the soil covered to prevent it from getting hot. With rotational grazing in the spring and summer time, one can control several things. We can control how much the cattle can eat the grass down, we can eat the top one third and leave the bottom two thirds, this will shade the soil and keep it cool. Studies have shown that it takes over 20 years to get one cow pie per square yard of pasture on continuous grazing, whereas on a 24 day rotational grazing cycle it only took two years to get one cow pie on each square yard of soil. This means we recycle nutrients faster and have a less need to fertilize. We have had a good grazing so far this year. At present I am running 1100-1200 lbs of beef per grazing acre and by the looks of the grass I just grazed, it is good for two more rotations without a rain. I will have grass for another two months with this stocking rate.
- Just in case you get a good rain shower in August and you have not fertilized, we still have the foliar fertilizers available, which can be applied after the rain. There seems to have been some misunderstanding about these foliar type fertilizers. Where they work the best is on these late summer pop-up showers. We can go apply these fertilizers at a low rate while we still have moisture. They will give the grass a kick. But remember this, it still takes so much NPK to make a pound of grass, if it is not there, neither will the grass be there either. Foliar fertilizers are from 5 to 10 times more affective then applying fertilizer to the soil. This makes them a good choice for a late rain. To aid in absorption, add one pint of Liquid Humate. Earlier in the spring, we suggest to fertilize by the recommendations of a current soil analysis. We then suggest to use one gallon of Liquid Humate every other cutting. The reason? Studies have shown that 30% of the N, over 50% of the phosphorus and 40% of the potassium remains tied up in the soil unavailable to the plant. The Liquid Humate going down through the plant helps to release the NPK that is tied up, there by giving a boost in yield. On applying small amounts of foliar fertilizer, there is not enough N to be tied up. However, it gives a good boost in production when going down with a couple hundred pounds of liquid fertilizer like 32-0-0.
- We have set the dates for the fall seed meetings. September 5th at the Hopkins County Civic Center, September 7th Clarksville at our new store on the corner of Hwy 82 & 37, September 11th Canton at the store, September 12th at the Civic Center in Greenville. All meetings will start serving hamburgers at 6:00 P.M. Plan to attend, we have some new products to talk about and to go over strategies for winter grazing and making hay next spring.



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SULPHUR SPRINGS FARM & RANCH CENTER

By Donnie Peters

903 885 3143



Watch Out For Fall Army Worms

Many producers have had a banner year for growing forages and got lots of hay baled or trying to make some, but then the panic attack hits when the ground shows up in the hay meadows from the damage of armyworms. These guys are eating machines but I don't have to tell you anything because those who have had them know the damage that can occur. The Fall Armyworm usually runs in 30 day cycles but they also attack the best areas of fields to insure the survival of the next genera-

tion. I was out at a dairyman's looking at some newly sprigged hay meadows when we came across some damage that he pointed out the light colored feathering of the top end of the leaves where feeding had been occurring. He noted that in these areas that his boots would be covered in worms in early mornings while scouting fields. The dairyman's fields are irrigated and so they will be likely targets when the rest of the world begins to dry up.

The most effective control is Lambda-Cy at the 4 ounce rate per acre. There is little residual but provides excellent control.

Many will be proud to know that we are now dealers for Kencove fencing products. We are stocking the composite posts and several different sizes and also have some other products that are highly recommended. If you want to see a resounding appearance, go on the website and see

the round bale roll over the top of the fence and how fast the entire fence returned to its previous state without any service.

Fall seed meetings have been scheduled for September 5th in Sulphur Springs, September 7th in Clarksville. Then the next week, we will have meetings September 11th in Canton and finish on September 12th in Greenville. We will start serving hamburgers at 6:00 PM at each meeting. Be watching for details about the program and put one of these dates on your calendar.



CANTON FARM & RANCH CENTER

By Ruth Freeman

903 567 5223 903 567 6636

What a year for cattle and hay this year in Canton and the surrounding areas. Folks in Van Zandt County are certainly reaping the rewards of both. Our Hudson 30% 225# and Hudson all natural 20% 225# cooked molasses, protein range tubs are a great approach for utilizing medium to poor quality forages. Both contain the digestive product Comax, which is an all natural feed additive that works as a catalyst to enhance digestive probiotics and enzymes enabling your livestock to get more nutrients out of your feed for maximum performance and stamina. The range tub 30% is a 30% protein product with 12% of the protein coming from non-protein nitrogen (urea). The 20% all natural range tub is just as it states, "all natural", so if cattle and horses are in the same pasture this particular product works great for both. Generally one tub per 20-25 head will achieve a .5 to .75 of a pound per head per day consumption. Stocker Gold 20% is another Hudson tub which we carry in 225# and 125#

sizes. It is designed for young calves and yearlings which weigh 350 + going onto pasture and is formulated to promote digestion and intake, and to support a healthy immune system. After the introduction period place one tub per 10-15 calves. Feel free to call or come by the store for more information. Our newest Farm and Ranch Center will soon be open this fall so swing by the new location on Hwy 64 across from the ballpark and check out our progress! Enjoy your summer!

LOOK FOR YOUR NEW FARM & RANCH CENTER COMING SOON TO BETTER SERVE YOU!

“What a year for cattle and hay this year in Canton and the surrounding areas.”



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