

Beef & Forage News & Views

Agriculture and Natural Resources

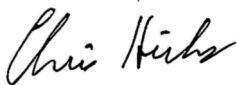
June 2016

Farm Bureau Offers Black Vulture Depredation Sub-Permits

Black vultures can cause serious economic losses to livestock producers by pestering cows in labor and even killing calves and cows. Since these animals are federally protected, legal means of control have been limited and expensive since a permit to kill them comes with a price tag of \$100 annually. The TN Farm Bureau recently obtained a statewide depredation permit for black vultures from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and they will issue sub-permits to livestock producers who are experiencing problems with black vultures.

Farm Bureau members who are livestock producers will be able to apply for these sub-permits at no cost. Approved applicants will be subject to certain guidelines such as reporting "takes" quarterly and using black vulture carcasses as effigies in areas where depredation is occurring. Applications are available by emailing Debbie Briggs at dbriggs@tfbf.com or calling Debbie at 931-388-7872 ext. 2205. Applications will be scored based on past livestock losses, livestock numbers on the applicant's farming operation, number of black vulture roosts and birds in the immediate vicinity and the county ranking of livestock within Tennessee.

Sincerely,



Chris Hicks
County Director
Smith County



Pregnancy Testing Supplies Available

Pregnancy checking the cow herd is one of the easiest and most cost effective tools cattle producers have to actually lower their annual feed expenses.



Consider this, a pregnancy examination will typically average \$4 - \$5 per head but carrying an open cow over the winter may cost several hundred dollars in hay, mineral, supplemental feed, vaccines, and dewormers. What if you have two open cows, or three, or four? These cows will be eating expensive hay and feed alongside bred animals all winter and yet they won't be giving you a calf next spring.

One method of testing for pregnancy is to pull a blood sample from underneath the tail and send it to a lab for testing. The actual blood test runs about \$3 per sample but there are also costs associated with shipping the samples which will usually add about \$1/sample for a total of \$4/sample. An advantage of this option is producers can do it themselves, with a disadvantage being that the test doesn't tell you why the cow is open, whereas a vet might be able to identify a cyst or other abnormality in his or her examination.

The UT Extension office has free tubes and needles for producers wanting to try their hand at pregnancy testing using the blood testing method. If you have never used this method, I'll be glad to visit your farm and help with the process.

UT Extension Smith County
125 Gordonsville Hwy.
Suite 300
Carthage, TN 37030
615.735.2900
Email: cbhicks@utk.edu
<http://smith.tennessee.edu>

Now is a Good Time for Forage Testing

You would probably not buy a bag of cattle feed without a tag which gives important information about the feed such as the amount of crude protein, energy, how much to feed daily, etc. Yet we often feed hay without knowing this same information. A forage test from the University of Tennessee provides all of these details and more.



A basic beef forage test gives valuable information about the quality of your hay for only \$17. While the numbers you get regarding various nutrients in your hay are important, to me the best benefit is that the lab will create a ration for you based on the animals you are feeding. You simply give the lab information such as the weight of the animals and stage of production, and they will tell you if the hay is sufficient, or if not, how much supplementation of protein or energy they need.

I'd be happy to come to your farm and help pull forage samples. Give me a call at 615-735-2900 if you'd like to set up a time for me to come to your place.

Sample ID		1	3	4EM
County		Trousdale	Trousdale	Trousdale
Lab Number		104826	104827	104828
Sample Type		Oat	Fescue	Fescue
Test Type		Beef BASIC	Beef BASIC	Beef BASIC
Moisture	%	49.56	11.97	11.33
Dry Matter (DM)	%	50.44	88.03	88.67
Relative Forage Quality (RFQ)	<90 - ≥140	92	99	101
Crude Protein (CP)	%	8.54	11.92	11.14
Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF)	%	46.66	43.80	43.80
Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF)	%	67.77	66.27	66.66
Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN)	%	49	53	53
Net Energy Maintenance (NEM)	MCal/lb	0.43	0.48	0.48
Net Energy Gain (NEg)	MCal/lb	0.18	0.23	0.23
Lignin	%	8.93	9.25	10.77
Ash	%	2.11	2.64	1.76
Calcium (Ca)	%	0.67	0.59	0.87
Phosphorus (P)	%	0.18	0.18	0.14
Magnesium (Mg)	%	0.17	0.19	0.23
Potassium (K)	%	1.09	0.38	0.05

*All values reported on a 100% DM Basis

1200# lactating cows, 3 mos since calving, 10 lbs. peak milk-

Sample 1- 45 lbs. this forage and 3.5 lbs. corn

Sample 3- 28 lbs. this forage and 0.75 lb. corn

Sample 4EM- 28 lbs. this forage and 0.75 lb. corn

NDF percentages above 65%: High fiber may limit consumption thus actual intake may be lower than recommended ration. Additional supplementation may be required to maintain desired body condition.

Relative Feed Quality (RFQ):

Value developed to compare forage samples on their overall forage quality.

Takes into account energy & fiber digestibility.

Premium >140

Good 110-139

Fair 90-109

Utility <90

Free Nitrate Screening Available

Certain forages have a tendency to accumulate high levels of nitrates in certain conditions. While nitrate toxicity can occur in any forages, sorghums such as johnsongrass and sudan grass hybrids, as well as summer grasses such as millet and bermudagrass are more prone to accumulating nitrates than others.

Most of the toxicity problems that occur in Tennessee have been the result of hungry cattle being allowed free access to hay produced during a drought and/or excess application of fertilizer with nitrogen. If it is suspected that higher nitrate levels are present in the plants, wait until a rain occurs and the plants have had time to utilize the nitrates before grazing or cutting for hay.

Before starting to feed suspect hay, it would be a good practice to have it analyzed for nitrate content. The local UT Extension office can conduct a quick, simple, and free test to see if nitrates are present in the plant. If nitrates are present, forage samples should be submitted to a laboratory for a more thorough nitrate analysis. If you'd like your hay screened free of charge, bring a sample to the UT Extension office at 125 Gordonsville Hwy. in Carthage.

