

“Ag Happenings”

brought to you by

Farley Farm Supply

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Jim's Thoughts

by Jim Farley

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas reminds me that 2012 is almost gone, and that I will have to learn to write 2013 in the near future. My, how time flies when you get old, like me.

Newsletters

Farley Farm Supply is attempting our first, of what I hope will

be many newsletters. Thanks to our newest employee, Bob Whitney, for doing most of the work. Bob joined our team in October. His main focus will be customer contacts outside the office, including crop planning, soil sampling, field scouting, education, and anything else that a customer needs.

Soil Sampling

The motivation for this newsletter is to let you know that now is the time to consider soil sampling for next year's crops or pastures. A soil test is the backbone of

any good fertility program. It is somewhat like a person getting a yearly physical. It lets you know where your soil stands, as far as, pH, nutrients, and the balance required to produce the desired yield.

You can pull the sample yourself and bring it to the office, or call us and we will do the sample for you. We do hundreds every year and certainly have more experience than most of you. It is especially difficult during the current drought to get a probe in the ground. We have the equipment to get it done. Give us a call at 254-893-2566 to get on the list.

New Location

One big change for Farley Farm Supply is coming between now and the first of the year. We are moving to a new location at 124 W. Bivar Street, on the Hwy 16 S curve just north of the RR tracks. It will offer more office space and more parking for our customers and equipment.

Lastly, don't hesitate to call me personally to discuss how we can help your business or how to do my business better. We are service minded and service oriented in all we do!

Merry Christmas,



Jim Farley

Supplementing Beef Cows, What Do They Need?

Daily energy intake is the primary limiting factor affecting beef cattle performance on forage diets like coastal hay or pasture or even native grasses. This energy intake can be further limited when forages supply an inadequate amount of crude protein. The reason for this is that the amount of crude protein in the cow's diet needs to be in balance with the energy content. This is usually expressed as a ratio of 6 parts energy to 1 part protein. For instance, hay with 60% total digestible nutrients or TDN would need a protein content of 10% to be in balance and allow the microbes in the rumen of the cow to properly digest all the energy and also have enough energy to digest all the protein. The problem is that we allow pastures and hay fields to get too mature so that they have less protein and energy as a percent of the total. It is not unusual for coastal hay to test 45% TDN and have a 5% crude protein (CP). This is a ratio of 9 TDN:1 CP which is way out of line. This kind of ratio has been researched to limit dry matter intake to just 1.6% of body weight(BW) when it should be above 2% of BW. When the crude protein of a forage falls below about 8% the dry

matter intake of cattle declines rapidly. This decline is attributed to a loss of rumen microbes as they die for lack of protein and energy.

Mix 30 Plus Liquid Feed

Keeping all this in mind we sell a high protein, high energy liquid feed that is not at all like the liquid feeds of old. This product is not a molasses/urea supplement but instead is made from corn and soy co-products including corn or soy fats. Mix 30 Plus supplies both energy and protein necessary for proper rumen function especially on poorer quality forages. Even on high protein forages Mix 30 Plus has fat energy to keep protein/energy in balance. It is a free choice supplement that can be put in open top containers for cattle to lick up. Feeding rates are from 1/2 lb. to 4 lb. per day.

Compared to a beef cube, 4 lb. of Mix 30 Plus fed daily has 0.66 lb. of protein and 0.411 lb. of fat for energy. 4 lb. of beef cubes fed daily contains 0.76 lb. of protein and only 0.095 lb. of fat.

Cost of 4 lb. fed daily of Mix 30 Plus is 50 cents while 4 lb. of beef cube is 90 cents. We sell Mix 30 Plus for \$240 a ton if you pick it up or \$260 a ton delivered. We have totes available for customer pickup. Call if you need more information.

Pecan Shows and Pecan Prices

This is the time of year for County Pecan Committees to host Pecan Shows and this area has some of the best. I have been to some already and will be judging 2 more in the near future.

It doesn't take much to see and know that there are a lot of pecans this year. I was out at Womack Nursery the other day helping at the picking table with Larry Jim and he commented, "anyone that asks for a huge crop doesn't know what they really want."



What does Mr. Womack mean? Well anytime we "overproduce" pecans the nuts that are produced are usually light and not well filled. This year the pecan meats are small and in some cases waferly which makes them hard to sell. Trees that had lots of water, were not overcropped or perhaps shaken in July, and that were fertilized well, have well filled pecans. Also many of the natives are coming in with good to excellent quality.

What does all this mean? Basically the large crop means that prices are down significantly from last year. The very high prices of last year caused some buyers to back off and then the fact that pecans are

in abundant supply this year has helped to push prices way down. As I write this, natives are anywhere from 50 cents to 65 cents a pound and improved or papershell are \$1.25 to \$1.50 a pound. Hard to pay the bills at those prices!



Weed Control in Oats

There are two weeds out of many that give small grain growers trouble. Both henbit and mustards can severely hurt yields and quality of silage or grain. Both of these weeds come up faster than the oats, can outgrow them quickly, and they will flower and seed out before oat harvest.

We have put out a





Upcoming Events

December 5 and 7 - Pecan Shows in Eastland, Hood and Comanche Counties

December 13 - CEU Training at Blue Moon in DeLeon

December 20 - Silage Training in Dublin

December 25 - Merry Christmas

January 1 - Happy New Year

January 5 - DeLeon Livestock Show

January 12-15 - Erath and Comanche Co. Livestock Shows

January 17 - Bermuda Physiology Training - Erath Co.

evaluate results. The treatments are:

1. Dicamba - 4 oz/AC
2. MCPE - 1.5 pts/AC
3. Dicamba + 2,4-D - 1 pt/AC
4. Affinity .4 oz/AC + MCPE 1 pt/

AC

I have been evaluating these for 3 weeks now

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and so
 far No.
 4 has

completely killed the weeds. The others have caused damage but it is not a complete kill which is unacceptable to producers. We have another test in wheat and will report later.

