



The Bull's Eye

hitting the target



MCDOWELL
county center

Winter 2016 Issue

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Contact Us

**NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
McDowell Center**

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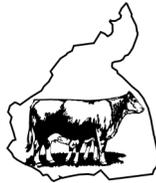
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Cattlemen's Association

Annual Meeting

**Sponsored by
Farm Bureau McDowell**



**Thursday, February 4 @ 6:00 pm
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
99 North Main St. Marion**

The Agenda will include:

- 2015 Beef Producer of the Year Award Presentation
- Elections of New Officers and Directors
- Scholarship Fundraiser Auction (Bring an item and money)

Please **RSVP** by calling 652-8104 or email Jane or Greg by **Friday, January 29**

Your RSVP will help with meal preparation and will also enter your name for door prizes!

NOTE: In case of inclement weather, contact the Extension office or turn into WBRM AM1250 for meeting cancellation notice.

Special thanks to Farm Bureau McDowell for sponsoring the Annual Meeting for many, many years!

McDowell Cattlemen's Association

Membership DUES & DRIVE

\$20 per year (payable in January each year)

**Annual dues will be collected at the February 4th meeting
Bring a friend to the meeting and tell them the benefits of membership**

NC State University
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**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

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COMPARING PROTEIN

Producers need to compare the costs of available sources of protein for the beef herd. Costs need to be compared on a cost per pound of protein, not just cost per ton of feed.

The first step in comparing protein cost is to get the feed converted to an as fed basis. This is the way feed is purchased. To convert the protein content from a dry matter basis to an as fed basis, just multiply the percent protein by the percentage of dry matter in the feed. For example: Calculate the protein content of

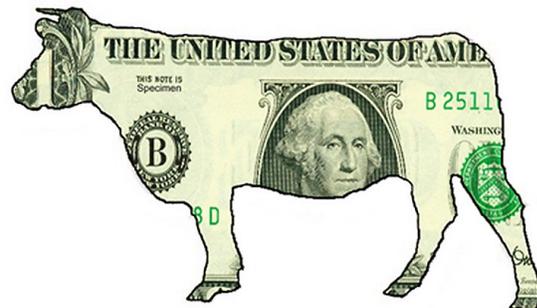


corn gluten that is 25.6 % protein on a dry basis to an as fed basis. Assume the corn gluten is 90% dry matter. Multiply the 25.6% by 90%. This will equal 23.04% on an as fed basis. Now compare the cost of two protein supplements. Compare 48% soybean meal selling for \$375 per ton with 25.6% corn gluten that sells for \$185 per ton. The calculation to convert the corn gluten to an as fed basis has been made so the comparison can be made. First determine the pounds of protein in each feed. To calculate this, multiply the percent protein times 2000 lbs (1 ton) $2000 \times .48 = 960$ lbs crude protein in soybean meal $2000 \times .23 = 460$ lbs crude protein in corn gluten.

Next calculate the cost per pound of crude protein. This calculation is made by dividing the cost per ton by the pounds of crude protein in a ton of feed. $\$375 / 960 = 39$ cents per pound of crude protein in soybean meal $\$185 / 460 = 40$ cents per pound of crude protein in corn gluten feed In this example the lower cost per ton protein source (corn gluten feed) was actually the higher cost supplement when comparing on an actual cost per pound of protein. Each time a purchase is anticipated, make the calculation described above to get the best buy on protein.

TESTING FORAGES IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

Beef producers can develop economical feeding programs when they have their forages tested. The forage test can be used to determine if additional protein or energy should be fed to their animals. The testing of forages is necessary because there can be considerable variability due to fertilization, maturity, harvesting conditions and other factors. To check for possible variation in hay quality, sixty samples of fescue and orchardgrass hay taken during May and June. The analyses presented on a “dry matter” (all moisture removed) basis are shown in the following table.



Species	Crude Protein, % (range)	TDN, % (range)
All	8.8 (5.8 - 19)	53 (41 - 66)
Fescue	10.5 (5.8 - 15.1)	54 (42 - 65)
Orchardgrass	9.1 (6.7 - 11.0)	54 (41 - 66)
Fescue - Orchardgrass	9.4 (6.8 - 12.5)	53 (44 - 63)

As noted in the table there was a tremendous amount of variation in crude protein and TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients). For all species the average crude protein content of 8.8% was acceptable, however, the range of 5.8% to 19% extremely wide. The TDN for all species was 53, however, the range was 41% to 66%. Balancing a ration for any class of beef cattle utilizing the averages for crude protein and TDN would surely result in most rations not giving the expected performance. A forage analysis can be a real money saver when figuring on protein costs. Protein is the most costly of the major feed ingredients, however it is usually the most over fed or under fed. With too much protein the ration cost is too high and when not enough protein is fed animals do not gain at the desired rate.

CULL ANIMALS BASED ON DISPOSITION

Are there animals in your herd that scare you? If so, then those animals should be culled. Each year beef producers get hurt working around animals with bad dispositions. Exercising caution and having the best equipment may not be sufficient to protect you from injury.



Most producers have a culling program based on age of animal, production, physical problems, etc. without having disposition as a component. Each herd has at least one animal that makes it difficult to work with the remainder of the herd. Has thought ever been given to culling these animals?

Other animals that should be considered for culling include those that go crazy in the working chute. Trying to perform recommended management practices on an out of control animal is difficult and dangerous. The noise created also gets other animals excited thus making the whole cattle working more difficult. Cows that get too aggressive when they have a new calf should also be considered for culling. Everyone wants a cow that is a good mother, but those that go to an extreme can cause serious injury to producers.

Time to Cull



Are there animals in the herd that start pawing in the dirt or dropping their head in an aggressive manner when you enter the pasture? No one can always predict what they are going to do. The safe thing to do is cull these animals. Always be careful when working around cattle. Even docile animals may become agitated. Mentally make a note of a way to escape if something unexpected happens and an animal attacks. In short, cull animals that may pose a risk of injury to you. After you get hurt it is too late.

SAVE EVERY CALF BORN



The goal of every beef cattle producer should be to save every calf born on the farm. Every calf saved, adds to the profits of the farming operation. By understanding the birth process a producer can provide assistance to cows that are having difficulty.

Cows or heifers approaching calving should be placed in a separate pasture from the rest of the herd. The pasture should have a good stand of grass and be very visible from the road or house. As the female approaches calving, she should be observed at least two to three times per day.

When the female starts segregating herself from the other animals, she is “nesting” and wants a quiet place to calve. As the calving process starts, monitor progress from a distance. The use of binoculars is encouraged since the animal does not need to be disturbed.

When the birth process begins a water bag will appear followed by the nose. Look to see if the nose appears. This is an indication that the calf is being delivered correctly (head first). Next the feet should appear. Are the pads of the feet facing up or down? If the pads are facing down, then the calf is properly positioned. If the pads are facing up, then the calf is coming backwards.

The calving process should last less than two hours for cows and two to four hours for heifers. Some feel that it may be beneficial to assist heifers earlier. Observe frequently to see that the birthing process is occurring normally. If the birth process is not going properly, be ready to provide assistance.

When providing assistance, be sure to be as clean as possible. Be sure that the calf is properly positioned and then pull on the calf’s legs only when the cow is pushing. If it is necessary to go into the birth canal to reposition the calf, work only a limited time before seeking assistance. After about twenty minutes most people will get tired and will have limited success.

Once the calf has been delivered, give the cow a chance to bond with the calf. Observe to see that the calf nurses within the first two hours. If the calf has not had success in nursing, assistance may be needed. It is important that the calf receive the colostrum so it has antibodies that will protect it from disease.

After the calf has nursed, it is a matter of observing the cows and calves to be sure that no problems arise. Every calf saved adds to the profits of the beef cattle operation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLOSTRUM



The sooner a newborn calf gets up and nurses, the more readily colostrums antibodies are absorbed. If a calf has not nursed within two hours after birth, you should take action to help the calf nurse. If that doesn't work, the cow can be milked and the colostrum hand-fed to the calf. When that isn't practical, milk from another cow will do, or frozen colostrum secured ahead of time can be thawed, warmed and fed to the calf. A lot of people want to thaw frozen colostrum in a microwave oven, but that will destroy the antibodies you need to give the calf.

There are powdered commercial colostrum-substitute products available as well. They aren't as good as momma's milk, but it's better than nothing.

EASY BEEF STROGANOFF

INGREDIENTS

1 pound beef Sirloin Tip Steaks, cut 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick
 1 clove garlic, minced
 4 teaspoons vegetable oil
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 pound mushrooms, sliced (1/2-inch)
 1 package (3/4 ounce) brown gravy mix
 4 cups uncooked wide egg noodles (about 5 ounces), cooked
 1/4 cup dairy sour cream

Total Recipe Time: 25 minutes
 Makes 4 servings

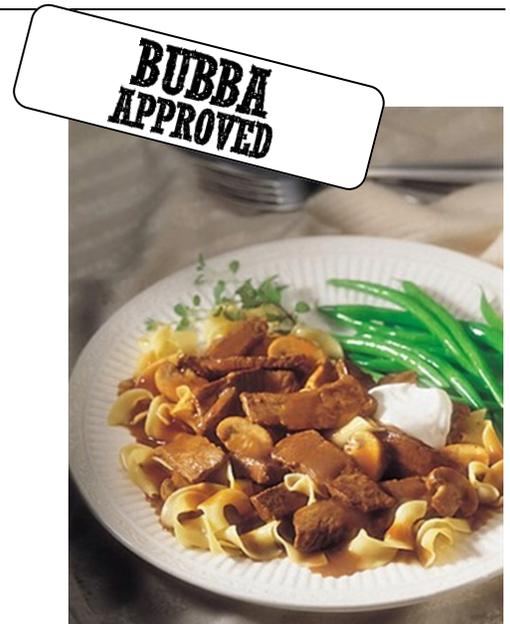
INSTRUCTIONS FOR EASY BEEF STROGANOFF

Stack beef Steaks; cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1-inch wide strips. Toss with garlic. Heat 2 teaspoons oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add 1/2 of beef; stir-fry 1 minute or until outside surface of beef is no longer pink. (Do not overcook.) Remove. Repeat with remaining beef. Season with salt and pepper.

Heat remaining 2 teaspoons oil in same skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add mushrooms; cook and stir 2 minutes or until tender. Remove from heat. Add gravy mix and 1 cup cold water; blend well. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 1 minute or until sauce is thickened, stirring frequently. Stir in beef; heat through. Serve over noodles. Pass sour cream.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EASY BEEF STROGANOFF

Nutrition information per serving: 383 calories; 16 g fat (5 g saturated fat; 5 g monounsaturated fat); 109 mg cholesterol; 420 mg sodium; 30 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 31 g protein; 6.2 mg niacin; 0.4 mg vitamin B6; 1.4 mcg vitamin B12; 3.7 mg iron; 48.7 mcg selenium; 4.7 mg zinc. This recipe is an excellent source of protein, niacin, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, iron, selenium and zinc.





WNC REGIONAL LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT January 5, 2016

Feeder Steers			Medium and Large 1 - 2	
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	260-280	270	210.00-222.50	215.77
4	310-340	325	210.00-222.50	218.08
5	350-385	361	200.00-212.50	205.89
2	410-410	410	185.00-187.50	186.25
2	465-495	480	176.00-187.50	181.57
4	500-525	507	165.00-166.00	165.49
14	550-580	564	150.00-165.00	157.68
12	603-640	614	144.00-159.00	153.60
3	658-665	660	148.00-161.00	152.36
4	710-713	712	140.00-148.00	141.99
2	750-750	750	140.00	140.00

Feeder Heifers			Medium and Large 1 - 2	
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	325-330	328	185.00-190.00	187.48
2	355-375	365	170.00-182.50	176.42
11	400-435	416	162.50-177.50	167.52
10	455-495	480	149.00-163.00	154.43
3	505-525	513	157.00-170.00	164.91
6	555-595	574	135.00-144.00	139.78
9	600-615	605	135.00-142.50	138.85
3	675-680	678	131.00-141.00	134.32
2	725-730	728	120.00-129.00	124.52
1	760-760	760	122.50	122.50
3	892-892	892	98.00	98.00

Feeder Bulls			Medium and Large 1 - 2	
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5	400-440	421	180.00-195.00	185.40
5	460-495	473	158.00-172.50	164.52
5	500-540	525	154.00-163.00	156.82
3	550-595	570	135.00-150.00	143.30
4	610-645	629	130.00-135.00	133.72
3	700-735	715	115.00-117.50	115.83

Slaughter Cows			Breaker 70-80% Lean		
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	180-180	180	72.00	72.00	
2	1330-1385	1358	73.00-74.00	73.51	
1	1330-1330	1330	85.00	85.00	High Dressing
2	1405-1640	1523	69.00-73.00	71.15	

Slaughter Bulls			Yield Grade 1-2		
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
1	1190-1190	1190	92.00	92.00	
2	1270-1300	1285	96.00	96.00	High Dressing
2	1230-1235	1233	80.00-88.00	84.01	Low Dressing
1	1500-1500	1500	87.00	87.00	
2	1705-1840	1773	99.00-100.00	99.48	High Dressing



PLACES TO BE

January 29	RSVP for McDowell County Cattlemen's Meeting
February 4	McDowell Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting
February 6, 13, 20	McDowell Honeybee's Bee School, Marion
February 17	NC Forage and Grassland Winter Conference, Statesville
February 18	NC Forage and Grassland Winter Conference, Canton
February 25-27	NC Cattlemen's Conference, Hickory

Compiled and edited by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Anderson".

Greg Anderson
Extension Agent
Ag and Natural Resources

Administrative support provided by: Jane McDaniel

*For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the McDowell County Center
at 828-652-8104, no later than 10 business days before the event.*