



This newsletter is a joint effort from the following organizations:



John Zinn
Grazing Specialist
john.zinn@mn.usda.gov
507-289-7454 ext. 115

Lance Klessig, Caledonia Ofc.
Lance.Klessig@mn.usda.gov
507-724-5261 ext. 3



Root River Watershed
Whitewater Watershed
Dean Thomas,
Grazing Specialist
dean.thomas@fillmoreswcd.org
507-765-3878, ext #3



Fillmore & Houston Counties
Jerrod Tesmer
tesme001@umn.edu
Fillmore: 507-765-3896
Houston: 507-725-5807

Winona County Extension
Jake Overgaard
over0128@umn.edu
507-457-6440

Nathan Redalen
Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota Grazing Lands
Conservation Association
7618 County Road 19
Rochester MN 55901
redalen61@msn.com
507-282-8051



If you would like to receive this newsletter by email please send a request to:

ruesi001@umn.edu

Pasture Grazing Rental Rates

University of Minnesota Extension Regional Educator David Bau has this to say in the University of Minnesota Extension Farm Resource Guide 2013.

Pasture grazing rents have ranged from:

- \$12.00 - \$90.00 per acre, or
- 20 - 70 cents per cow unit per day, or
- \$8.00 - \$21.00 per cow unit per month, depending upon pasture quality. There are both higher and lower rents than listed here and is subject to local demand and supply.

The average is:

- \$35.00 per acre, or
- 40 - 50 cents per cow unit per day, or
- \$12.00 - \$15.00 per cow unit per month (1000 lb. beef cow).

You can adjust these figures for other classes of livestock; multiply by 30% for a calf (3-6 months old), 50% for a calf (6-12 months), 75% for yearlings, 125% for a bull or a horse, and 20% for a ewe.

Cattle Owner: Cattle owners are responsible to keep the fences in good repair, and are also responsible for all costs associated with weed control. They also check their cattle and pay for the electricity required to water the animals.

Landlord: Landlords supply the fence posts and wire. They will find less over-grazing of the pasture if they use a per animal, rather than per acre leases.



Management Strategies for an Unusual Spring

John Zinn, USDA/NRCS Grazing Specialist

One thing we learned this year, if we didn't already know it, is that extremes tend to follow each other. We often talk about sacrificial paddocks for excessively wet or dry weather but some producers have been forced to use part of their pasture for a sacrifice calving area to avoid mud so I would suggest that you use this as your sacrifice area for the droughts or excessively wet weather that may happen this coming season. Consider pre-selecting your sacrifice paddock going into the winter in case we get another late spring sometime in the future.

Spring Turnout Guidelines

If possible let animals out on pasture when they are solid, firm and at least 4" tall. As one experienced grazer says, "First thing in the spring, I wait to turn out until I can see the grass waving in the breeze and then I move them when the grass gets down to 2." It will be tempting for some to turn the animals out on pasture too early this year, but you may pay a very expensive yield reduction penalty for doing that;

1. Letting animals out on wet soils will likely increase compaction reducing the effective rooting zone.
2. Excessive early grazing will reduce the root reserves of the grass resulting in less vigorous slower growing forage.
3. If the animals cause excessive pugging in the pasture this will open up the pasture to a weed invasion that may take years to control.

Feed Planning

If you are like most I have talked with this spring you are either out of feed or will be soon due to the long winter feeding period. Many of you already keep close track of your feed supply and this has become especially important given the decreased amount of hay that is available and the resulting extremely high prices.

Here are some other tips from a web article by Jack Kyle, Tom Hamilton, and Barry Potter, all from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food to help you plan effectively. Link to the article <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/beef/facts/feedshort.htm>

1. Estimate how much stored feed you will need. Do this shortly after the last forage harvest:
 - ◆ First inventory all the livestock you will be carrying over the winter and their estimated weights both in the beginning and in the end of the feeding season.
 - ◆ Use 2.5% of body weight to estimate the daily roughage needed on a dry matter basis for each kind and class of livestock.
 - ◆ Multiply the daily feed needed by the anticipated number of days of winter feeding.
 - ◆ Add in a 10% safety factor for additional feed that may be required.
2. Shortly after the last forage harvest, identify any and all sources of feed on the farm including all roughages and grains. Determine how many pounds of feed there are on hand.
3. Compare feed on hand with feed needed.
4. If you have a predicted feed shortage:
 - ◆ Identify potential animals for sale, consider older animals first that have been unproductive, then yearlings, then calves, then bred cows.
 - ◆ Locate other sources of feed;
 - ◇ On Farm Feed such as corn stover fields after corn harvest, soybean fields or cover crops.
 - ◇ Purchased feed sources. Consider all sources including grains, by-product feeds (beet pulp, distillers grains, molasses, etc.), screenings, and others.
 - ◇ Rental pasture that could be stockpiled.
 - ◇ Annual crops such as sorghum sudangrass, brassicas, and small grains.

Unusual weather patterns such as those we've experienced this year provide motivation to manage our resources closely and to have a clearer idea of the feed needed for our livestock. If you would like assistance compiling a feed budget, please contact your local Extension Office, Dean Thomas with the Fillmore SWCD (507) 765-3879, EXT. 128, or John Zinn with NRCS (507) 289-7454, EXT 115.

Pasture Rental Arrangements for Your Farm

Jerrold Tesmer, U of M Extension Educator, Fillmore/Houston Counties

A little over a year ago, the North Central Farm Management Extension Committee came out with a revised Pasture Rental Arrangements For Your Farm. The purpose of the publication is to help tenants and landlords make sound decisions and develop workable pasture rental arrangements. A sample lease form is included at the end of the publication. It is available at <http://AgLease101.org> or from the Fillmore, Houston or Winona County Extension Offices.

This form can provide the landlord and tenant with a guide for developing an agreement to fit their individual situation. The form is not intended to take the place of legal advice, but does help the individual think through many aspects of a pasture rental agreement.

A number of responsibilities for each party are listed and a decision should be made prior to the agreement of the division of those responsibilities. The responsibilities listed include; inspect fences, furnish labor for repair of fences, furnish materials for repair of fences, supervise supply of water to livestock, furnish labor for repair of water system, provide materials for repair of water system, furnish salt and mineral, count livestock, return stray animals to pasture, call veterinarian in case of emergency, pay veterinary expenses, provide loading and unloading facilities, furnish supplementary feed if needed, notify other party of shortage in count, provide facilities for fly control, keep fly control facilities in working order, and liability insurance.

It is much better to talk about these situations before they happen and prevent many misunderstandings.

HOLD THIS DATE:

Driftless Region Beef
Conference Update

January 30-31, 2014

Grand River Convention
Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/>, the website includes a sign-up to have your name added to the mail list for future conferences.



What's Cookin'?

Hot & Spicy Round Roast

1/2 cup ketchup

1/4 cup cider vinegar

1/3 cup water

1 1/2 Tablespoon honey

1 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

3/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

3 pound beef round roast

In a small saucepan, combine ketchup, vinegar, water, honey, Worcestershire sauce and pepper sauce. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 10-15 minutes to thicken slightly. Cool thoroughly. Place roast in a large mixing bowl. Pour cooked marinade over roast. Cover and refrigerator for 4-6 hours, turning roast occasionally. Remove roast from marinade and place in a roasting pan; reserve marinade under refrigeration. Insert meat thermometer and bake at 325° until well done (170°), about 2 1/2 hours. Remove roast from oven and let stand 15-20 minutes before carving. Place reserved marinade in small saucepan. To kill possible bacteria from the raw beef, bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Serve over sliced roast. Makes 16 (3-ounce) servings.

Nutrition Info: calories 210; fat calories 106; total fat 11.8 g; saturated fat 4.4 g; cholesterol 67 mg; sodium 156 mg; total carbohydrate 4 g; dietary fiber 0 g; sugar 2 g; protein 25 g; vitamin A 8 RE; vitamin C 2 mg; calcium 11 mg; iron 3 mg.

Source: USDA Recipes & Resource Guide

Olson Fencing



Mike Olson
20766 County Road 25
Winona MN 55987
507-421-6934
mike@olsonfencingllc.com
www.olsonfencingllc.com



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University of Minnesota Extension
Fillmore County
902 Houston Street NW, #3
Preston MN 55965

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