

DECEMBER 2011-
JANUARY 2012

Dear Farmers, Ranchers, and Youth Livestock Producers;

Happy Holidays!

For those of you I have not met, I am the Agriculture and 4-H Extension Agent for Fallon and Carter Counties. I am thankful for the friendly welcome that I have received. I am excited and honored to be a part of the communities in Fallon and Carter Counties.

Please mark the date of **January 17th/January 18th** on your calendar. This is the date for the 17th Annual Extension Winter Series. Enclosed please find a schedule and information on the topics to be covered. A meal will be provided at both programs. We think we have some interesting topics and good speakers lined up and hope everyone who is interested will be able to attend. Individuals with a private pesticide applicator's license will receive credits for attending. If you will be able to attend, we do ask that you **RSVP by Wednesday, January 11th**, so we have some idea how many to plan on for dinner.

Also in this newsletter you will find an article from MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, John Paterson, on Supplementation of Heifers on Winter Range, and information on Private Applicator Pesticide Training. Montana has five pesticide regions and private applicator license last five year. 2012 marks the first year of the 5 year cycle for Fallon and Carter Counties. In order for applicators to renew their license they needed to obtain 6 recertification credits by December 31, 2011. If applicators were unable to do this they need to contact me at the Extension Office as soon as possible.

I am excited to be a part of the community and to serve Fallon and Carter Counties. I will be at the Extension Office in Carter County **every Thursday** starting in January. Please stop by and say hello.

If we can be of help to you on any Ag-related topics, please let us know.

Regards,

Elin Westover
County Extension Agent

"When is the last time that you did something for the first time?"



If anyone would like to receive the Extension updates by e-mail, please let us know! You will also be able to view the newsletter and additional information on our website

<http://www.falloncounty.net/extensiondw/index.html>

We are also on Facebook.

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Supplementation of Heifers on Winter Range: Protein vs. Energy?

John Paterson, Professor of Animal Science; Montana State University

The cost of energy supplements can be less than that for protein supplements. Which one is better for the productivity of replacement heifers grazing on native range? This past summer with the above average rainfall in Montana, we have seen forage samples that are low in both protein and total digestible nutrients (TDN). Work from Oregon showed that protein content of native range was higher during years when rainfall was below normal compared to years when rainfall was above normal. This observation suggests that producers need to pay careful attention to meeting the nutrient requirements of cows and especially replacement heifers by investing in a forage analysis. Dr. Joe Wallace a well-respected range nutritionist from New Mexico State University conducted experiments with yearling range heifers to compare the response when supplemented with either a 41% protein supplement vs. a 9% protein-energy supplement. In addition, he wanted to determine how gains and pregnancy rates were affected if he fed the supplements once a week or two to three times per week. He did this knowing that supplementation costs include labor and vehicle costs in distributing the supplements. The first experiment compared performance of yearling heifers (average initial weight of 470 lbs) fed a cottonseed cake supplement three times per week vs. heifers fed the same supplement once per week. Heifers supplemented three times per week were fed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while those fed once weekly were fed on Tuesday. This experiment was conducted over two years and in the first year heifers received 7 lbs of cottonseed cake once weekly vs. 2.3 lbs of cottonseed cake three times/week. In the second year, heifers received 10 lbs of cake once a week vs. 3.5 lbs of cake three times per week. The results of these two trials are presented in the following table.

Table 1. Response of yearling heifers to frequency of cottonseed cake supplementation during two years^a

Item	Year 1 (130 Days)		Year 2 (146 Days)	
Times fed/week	1	3	1	3
Amount fed at each feeding, lbs	6.9	2.3	10.4	3.5
No. of heifers	43	40	41	28
Total gain, lbs	66	62	48	53
Subsequent fall pregnancy rate, %	93	90	73	82

^a Within each year, there were no significant ($P>0.05$) differences (the results are the same)

Growth rates were not affected by supplementing heifers once a week vs. three times per week. Fall pregnancy rates did not differ between treatments. The reason that there were lower pregnancy rates in the second year was because many of the heifers had not reached puberty when the trial was conducted. **The major finding of this research was that once a week supplementation reduced transportation and labor costs by 60%.**

The second study was conducted to compare yearling heifer response when fed one of three supplement treatments: 1) cottonseed meal cake fed twice a week at 7 lbs/feeding; 2) a grain cube containing 9% protein fed twice a week at 6.4 lbs/feeding and 3) the same grain cube fed daily at 1.9 lbs/head/day. The results of this 156 day experiment are presented in the following table.

(Continued on page 3)

Supplementation of Heifers *(continued)*

Table 2. Growth and pregnancy rates of yearling heifers fed either a protein or energy supplement when offered either twice weekly or daily

Item	Supplement		
	Cotton Cake (41% Protein)	Grain Cube (9.4% Protein)	
	Twice/Week	Twice/Week	Daily
Amount fed at each feeding	7.0	6.4	1.9
Total gain over 156 days	80	-59	22
Early conception (conceived in first 21 days of breeding season), %	100	59	81
Total fall pregnancy, %	100	69	94

Total gains were much better for heifers fed the protein supplement twice weekly (80 lbs of gain) compared to heifers fed the 9% protein grain-cube twice weekly (lost 59 lbs) or fed the cube daily (gained 22 lbs). The most interesting results were that source of supplement had a dramatic effect on first service conception rates. While all the heifers fed protein supplement conceived during the first 21 days, only 59% of the heifers fed grain cube twice weekly conceived during the first 21 days. The heifers which were fed grain daily were intermediate (81%). Overall pregnancy rates for heifers fed protein or energy supplements twice weekly were not different, but were significantly higher than heifers fed the grain supplement twice weekly.

Summary. The results of these two experiments showed that reproduction of heifers fed protein once per week were similar to heifers fed protein three times a week. However, when fed a grain cube twice weekly, first service and overall pregnancy rates were poorer than feeding the grain cake daily. First service conception rates favored (significant difference; $P < 0.05$) protein supplementation (41% protein) rather than grain cake (9% protein).



Clover Comments

Let's Celebrate! Montana 4-H is a youth development program of Montana State University Extension. It is the state's largest out-of-school time program for youth meeting the needs of more than 23,000 youth across all 56 counties and Reservations. 2012 marks 100 years of Montana 4-H. Over the last 100 years, 4-Hers have gained valuable technical skills. Youth have also developed life skills such as public speaking, leadership, and citizenship, to emerge as the Montana's future leaders and entrepreneurs. The Montana 4-H Centennial is a perfect time for generations of 4-Hers to gather and reflect on the past, present, and possibilities of youth development in our community.

Calendar:

January 28 Beef Cattle Weigh-In and Quality Assurance Workshop
 February 1 Beef Cattle Possession Date



Private Pesticide Applicator Program

Montana is divided into 5 Pesticide Applicator Regions with one of the regions reaching their recertification year annually. Private applicators need to accrue 6 credits within their respective recertification cycle. Fallon and Carter County are in Region 4, which recertification cycle was from 2007 to 2011. Current Private Pesticide Applicators in Fallon and Carter County needed to obtain 6 recertification credits prior to December 31, 2011. If applicators were unable to do this they need to contact the Extension Office as soon as possible. For those of you that are interested in getting your Private Applicator Pesticide License for the first time now is a great time to get certified. We will provide you with the resources that you need. Please contact us if you are interested so you will have your private pesticide applicator licenses for the 2012 spraying season.

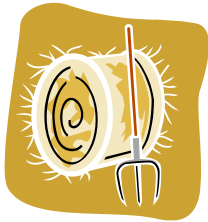
Upcoming Credit Opportunities for the NEXT 5 year cycle:

January 6: Cow Capital Beef Days (2 Credits)

January 17th: MSU Extension Winter Series-Ekalaka (2 Credits)

January 18th: MSU Extension Winter Series-Baker (3 Credits)

Are your cows getting the nutrients they need this winter?



Cow's protein requirement and nutrient demand increase by 1.0-1.5% during late gestation and early lactation and it is important their nutrient requirement is being met and they are getting the proper nutrients that they need. It is also important the younger heifers are getting enough nutrients not only for lactation, but also to meet their requirement for growth. If you did not get a chance to test your hay for quality or nitrates it is not too late. If you are interested in the quality of hay you are, or will be, feeding this winter and during calving season or if you are concerned about nitrate levels bring a sample to your Extension Office. Fees will vary depending on the type of results that you are looking for in the analysis. Nitrate testing can be done in the office to determine if nitrates are present. If nitrates are found further testing is suggested. Additionally, your feed analysis can be used to formulate rations and we are happy to help you with that!

MSU Extension Cow Capital Beef Days-The Extension Services of Carter, Custer, Fallon, Prairie and Rosebud Counties are hosting the 12th annual Cow Capital Beef Day. This year's event will be held Friday, January 6, 2012 at the Eagles in Miles City. It will run from 12:30 PM until 5:00 PM followed by a no host social and a dinner sponsored by First Interstate Bank, Farm Credit Services, US Bank, and Stockman Bank. There will be a \$5 charge to participate in this program. Call Elin Westover at 778-7110 if you have any questions. **There will be 2 private pesticide applicator points available from these presentations.**

PROGRAM SPEAKERS

- **Rachel Endecott** (MSU Beef Extension Specialist): Nutrition/Vaccination Programs for Healthy Calves
- **Sarah Hamlem** (MSU Economic Development Specialist)
- **Fort Keogh Staff**: Research update
- **Christine McRae** (Custer County Agent): Ag-Leasing 101
- **Tim Fine** (Richland County Agent): Pesticides
- **Elin Westover** (Fallon/Carter County Agent): Improving Protein Utilization in Growing and Finishing Beef Cattle

Beef Quality Assurance

Montana Beef Quality Assurance Certification Course

Dr. John Paterson, MSU Extension Beef Specialist will be at the Winter Series in Ekalaka January 17th and in Baker January 18th. The Program will be available for initial Beef Quality Assurance Certification and BQA recertification.

“Beef Quality Assurance is a pre-harvest supply chain management concept that ensures domestic and international beef consumers enjoy ready access to a safe, wholesome and healthy beef supply.”

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) programs provide systematic information to U.S. beef producers and beef consumers on common sense husbandry techniques, scientific knowledge, optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase – and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.

Montana’s approximately 1300 BQA program participants recognize that maintaining consumer confidence requires a commitment to quality beef production at every level – from the ranch, to the feedlot and on to the harvest and processing facility.

Participation in the BQA program is totally voluntary. Upon successful completion of the BQA course, producers, will receive a certification card and BQA manual, will be recognized as a **BQA Certified Producer** on a promotional list published in hard copy and on this website and BQA certification may be obtained through cross-qualification with other state programs.

Please call Your Extension Office or visit <http://www.mtbqa.org/> for more information about BQA.

Seasons Greetings

The Holiday Seasons offers a great opportunity for us to thank you for your support and efforts. We consider you an important part of our success and the future of Extension in Fallon and Carter Counties. We want to personally wish you and your family the warmest Holiday Season.

–Elin, Sharon and Lana

MSU Extension Winter Series

Ekalaka- Tuesday, January 17th - *St. Joan of Arch Catholic Church Hall*

4:00 – 5:00 pm	Adam Sigler- Water Quality
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Lee Manske- Healthy Grasslands
6:00 – 6:30 pm	Supper
6:30 – 7:00 pm	Elin Westover- Calving Clinic
7:00 – 8:00 pm	John Paterson- Beef Quality Assurance & Animal Welfare

Baker- Wednesday, January 18th - *Thee Garage*

11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Adam Sigler- Water Quality
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lee Manske- Healthy Grasslands
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Roger Ashley- Crop Rotation
3:00 – 4:00 pm	John Paterson- Beef Quality Assurance & Animal Welfare

- **Water Quality- Adam Sigler, MSU Extension Associate Specialist**
Adam Sigler will discuss the importance of testing your private well water and maintenance of a septic system for human health concerns. He will also talk about the importance of testing your well water for the health/benefit of livestock, and how pesticides can contaminate groundwater. Adam can also provide on the spot screening for those who bring in water samples.
- **Healthy Grasslands Deter Weed Invasion- Dr. Lee Manske, NDSU Range Scientist**
Dr. Manske, Range Scientist at the Dickinson Research Extension Center, will discuss competition between healthy grasslands and weeds. Healthy grasslands that are producing 100 lb of mineral Nitrogen/acre can compete with leafy spurge. However, most rangeland does not have those levels of Nitrogen. Dr. Manske will talk about how soil organisms can be manipulated to produce Nitrogen needed to compete with leafy spurge.
- **Crop Rotation- Roger Ashley, NDSU Area Extension Agronomist**
Crop Rotations are a must if you're going to make continuous cropping work in arid regions such as southwest ND and eastern MT. In this presentation, Roger Ashley will discuss proper intensity and diversity in a rotation using research from western ND and other regions with similar growing conditions. Ashley will also cover pesticide use, rates, and timing for crop rotations.
- **Beef Quality Assurance and Animal Welfare- Dr. John Paterson, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist**
Beef Quality Assurance is much more than ensuring injections are administered properly and in the right location. In the cow-calf industry, producers must first design the genetics with both the final consumer as well as the rest of the industry in mind. This means that implants, injections, brands and body composition are all keys to producing a high quality product.

***** RSVP by January 11th*****

Call the Extension Office at (406) 778-7110 or e-mail falloncarter1@montana.edu

Extension Services

- Spider and Insect Identification
- Weed Identification
- Weed Management Guidelines
- Plant and Tree Disease Diagnosis
- Feed and Soil Analysis
- Nitrate Testing
- Water Testing
- Pesticide Applicator Education
- Livestock Quality Assurance
- 4-H, AG, and Homemaker Newsletters

Do you have new or strange insects or spiders around your house or in your crops or garden? Bring them to your Extension office for identification. Insect and spider samples should be in a hard sided container to prevent crushing in transit. It is important to bring in samples as soon as possible after they are collected to prevent them from being damaged. It is best to bring in samples Monday through Wednesday. Please bring as much information about the sample as possible, such as degree of infestation and when you started to notice the infestation, location(s) found, explanations of the concern, damages being done by the pest or behavior of the insect or spider.

MSU Extension Master Gardener Program in Carter County

Montana State University Extension's Master Gardener's Program has become a vital part of Extension's ability to provide consumers with reliable gardening information and give participants a sense of community spirit, accomplishment and intellectual stimulation. The program is distributed over three levels and is taught by Extension agents, plant professionals, volunteers, or via Adobe Connect and the Internet. Level 1 is an eight-week course (16 hours) and is for beginning and intermediate gardeners. The Level 1 Master Gardener course will cover soils and fertility, plant growth and development, growing food from your yard and garden, flowers, trees, shrubs, vines and pruning, lawns and irrigation, composting and an introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM). In addition to the class room work, participants will be involved with community service projects within and around their community. Level 2 will be a more advanced course and will build on the material learned in Level 1 and focus more on pest and weed management. Level 3 course will be a three day intense course, hands-on training on the Montana State University Campus.

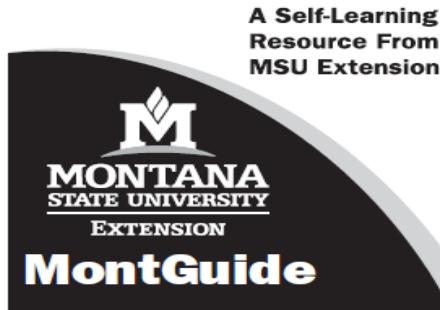


Level 1 Master Gardener class will begin at the end of January and we are looking for interested participants. The cost and the location of the program is to be determined. If you are resident of Carter County and are interested in participating in the Master Gardener's Program please contact the Fallon/Carter County Extension office by January 9th, 2012 by phone at (406) 778- 7110 or by email at falloncarter1@montana.edu

Visit us on our website:

<http://www.falloncounty.net/extensiondw/index.html>

NEW MONTGUIDE:



Managing Ectoparasites on Sheep

by Gregory Johnson, Professor of Veterinary Entomology, Montana State University-Bozeman

Sheep are an important component in Montana's agriculture. Proper identification of pests in addition to selecting and applying the correct insecticide will protect sheep from the negative effects of pest attacks. The information in this guide will assist in correctly determining the type of ectoparasite found on sheep and the appropriate method for control.

MT201110AG New 11/11

SHEEP ARE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN Montana's agriculture. In 2010 Montana ranked fifth in the U.S. for lamb crop with 235,000 head, seventh for all sheep and lamb inventory and seventh for wool production with 2.2 million pounds. Several species of insects and related pests attack sheep and compromise their production and health. Proper identification of pests in addition to selecting and applying the correct insecticide will protect sheep from the negative effects of pest attacks. The information in this guide will assist in correctly determining the type of ectoparasite found on sheep and the appropriate method for control.

(For a copy of "Managing Ectoparasites on Sheep" contact us at 778-7110 or falloncarter1@montana.edu)

JANUARY 6th: Cow Capital Beef Days

JANUARY 11th: RSVP for Winter Ag Series

JANUARY 17th & 18th: Winter Ag Series

Hand 'n Hand Livestock Solutions

"Stockmanship your Key to Successful Herd Management"

What: Livestock Handling Workshop

When: February 7 and 8, 2012

Who: Richard McConnel and Tina Williams

Here are some of the topics that will be covered over the two day workshop:

What is the value of stockmanship?; Using the natural instincts of livestock; Predator/prey relationship; Your positioning; Pressure and release; Movement—good and bad; Where and how to begin training the herd; Sorting livestock; Working in the corral; Loading livestock; Receiving new animals; Our attitude as we deal with our livestock

Please contact Kodie Olsen for more information. (406-778-2217) RSVP by February 1, 2012