

Bluestem Breezes
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What Producers Should Be Thinking About In July

Although cattle are out to grass and the haying season is upon there, there is still plenty to do when it comes to managing the cow herd. Double check your own list with K-State Extension Beef Specialist Dr. Dale Blasi's:

Cowherd Nutrition

- Provide plenty of clean, fresh water.
- Provide free-choice mineral to correct any mineral deficiencies or imbalances. Monitor intake to insure levels are consistent with label specifications.
- Monitor grazing conditions and rotate pastures if possible and/or practical.
- If ammoniated wheat straw is planned for winter needs, follow these rules: Best time is immediately after harvest, prior to weather deterioration. Ammoniation process is temperature sensitive, fastest during hot days. Apply 3% Anhydrous Ammonia (60 pounds/ton of straw). Do not ammoniate wheat hay or any other intermediate or high quality forage; production of imidazole can cause cattle hyperactivity and death. Will double crude protein content, enhances intake, and be cost effective?
- Consider early weaning if drought conditions develop and persist.
- Consider creep feeding only if cost effective.

Herd Health

- Monitor and treat Pink Eye cases.
- Provide fly control. Consider all options, price and efficiency will dictate the best option(s) to use.
- Monitor and treat foot rot cases.
- Avoid handling and transporting cattle during the hottest part of the day-reduce heat stress.
- Vaccinate replacement heifers for Brucellosis if within proper age range (4 - 10 months).
- Continue anaplasmosis control program (consult local veterinarian).

Forage/Pasture Management

- Check and maintain summer water supplies.
- Place mineral feeders strategically to enhance grazing distribution.
- Check water gaps after possible washouts.
- Harvest hays in a timely manner, think quality and quantity.
- Harvest sudan and sudan hybrids for hay in the boot stage (normally three to four feet in height). It is a good idea to run a routine nitrate test on a field before harvesting hay.
- Plan hay storage placement wisely. Putting hay conveniently near feeding sites reduces labor, time demands, and equipment repair cost.

General Management

- Good fences and good brands make good neighbors.

- Check equipment (sprayers, dust bags, oilers, haying equipment) and repair or replace as needed. Have spare parts on hand, down time can make a big difference in hay quality.

For additional information, visit the Extension Office (215 Kansas, Courthouse, Alma; kamayer@ksu.edu; 765-3821). For Bluestem Breezes archives, check out wabaunsee.ksu.edu.