Pesticide Credit Opportunities

In Person:
Billings, MT  5/17
Controlling Japanese Beetle and Other Pests of Concern

Webinar:
Tick Biology & Management
Avitrol Certification Live
PCT Mosquito Control Virtual Conference

All trainings and locations are located on the MDA website at:
https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Programs

Calibration Workshop

When: May 7th  
Time: 10:00am  
Where: Fergus County Weed District  
185 Armory Rd, Lewistown, MT

This workshop is designed to help you celebrate your weed sprayers weather they be big or small! Correct calibration equals adequate coverage with less waste!
Unfortunately, the drought continues to persist throughout Montana and relief is not forecasted. The current drought map has 92% of Montana in a drought, with almost half of the state designated as D3 and D4. The seasonal drought outlook map show that through May 31, 2022, the drought will persist for most of Montana and the Western United States. The persistent drought means tough decisions ahead for livestock producers. Since the summer of 2021, many livestock producers have drastically reduced the number of cattle on their operations. Some producers even shipped cattle to the Midwest to graze corn stalks during the winter months due to the lack of pasture availability and price of harvested feeds. Cattle producers heavily rely on pasture for grazing and with the persistent drought, pastures will need extended time for recovery. If possible, delay cattle turnout to allow for additional pasture recovery. If adequate pasture is not available, additional feeds may need to be provided to ensure requirements are being met.
However, providing additional feed may not be an economical or viable option. Feed already accounts for upwards of 70% of input costs for producers and needing to provide additional feed during the grazing season can drastically increase feed costs. Additionally, many feeds have drastically risen in cost and may not be available in the area due to the on-going drought. Due to the rising feed costs and the lack of pasture, strategic culling decisions may need to be made. Some culling decisions are easier to make than others, such as those cattle with production issues. Production issues can be varied, such as age, bad feet, bad teeth, bad udder, low-quality calf, thin cows, open cows, or late bred cows. Once these cattle have been culled, decisions become more difficult and are highly dependent on the goals of your operation. Other things to consider when making culling decisions include cattle efficiency and/or genetics. Efficiency can be defined in many ways depending on the operation, but a common method is pounds of calf weaned per cow body weight. Genetics is another area that is highly dependent on the goals of the operation. Old cows could be culled because their production has begun to decline, or the producer has moved on to different genetics. Young cows could be culled because they require additional labor and input costs, but they're the new genetic base for the operation. Another option is to reduce the number of heifers being kept for replacements.
DROUGHT PERSISTENCE AND CATTLE DECISIONS

Making these decisions is difficult and are highly dependent on the operation. Keeping accurate records of the cattle can help in making these grazing, feeding, and culling decisions as we continue with the drought. An additional consideration when selling/culling cattle would be to discuss the strategy with the banker to determine what tax implications may be occurring and the best financial strategies moving forward.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

Cases of avian flu have been confirmed in Fergus County. If you suspect an outbreak in your flock contact the Montana Department of Agriculture and the MSU extension office.

HPAI can cause high mortality in poultry and game birds. Poultry affected by avian influenza can also show:

• Decreased food consumption, huddling, depression, closed eyes.
• Respiratory signs, such as coughing and sneezing.
• Decreased egg production or misshapen eggs.
• Watery greenish diarrhea, excessive thirst.
• Swollen wattles and combs.
MINERAL PROGRAM
Mineral Nutrition for Beef Cow Herd program.

Webinar Begins: May 17
Please register by May 10th

Cost for the program is $130 and this covers the first forage and water analyses and travel for a ranch visit.

Link:
https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyx2gXUcqZWh7tc.

ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE
This is a mandatory certification that exhibitors who plan to sell an animal at the county fair must go through every 3 years. Training is available through your local MSU Extension office.
**INSTANT POT FRENCH DIP PULL-APART SLIDERS**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 3 POUNDS SHOULDER ROAST, CUT INTO 2-INCH CUBES
- 1 1/2 TEASPOONS SALT
- 1 TEASPOON BLACK PEPPER
- 2 TEASPOONS CANOLA OIL
- 1 DICED ONION
- 2 CLOVES MINCED GARLIC
- 3 CUPS BEEF BROTH
- 4 SPRIGS FRESH THYME
- 2 PACKAGES PULL APART ROLLS (LOOK FOR HAWAIIAN ROLLS, 12 PER PACK)
- 12 SLICES PROVOLONE CHEESE
- 2 TABLESPOONS MELTED BUTTER BUTTER
- COARSE SALT FOR TOPPING

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. SEASON SHOULDER ROAST CUBES WITH SALT AND PEPPER WHILE HEATING OIL IN INSTANT POT SET TO SAUTÉ.
2. BROWN ROAST CUBES ON TWO SIDES (ABOUT 4-5 MINUTES). ADD ONION AND GARLIC AND SAUTÉ; STIRRING OCCASIONALLY FOR 2-3 MINUTES. ADD BEEF BROTH AND THYME, SECURE LID AND SET TO MEAT/STEW SETTING (WILL TAKE ABOUT 35 MINUTES TO COOK).
3. PREPARE ROLLS BY CUTTING EACH GROUP OF 12 HORIZONTALLY TO CREATE A TOP AND BOTTOM LAYER. PLACE BOTH BOTTOM LAYERS ON A BAKING SHEET AND SHINGLE 6 SLICES OF CHEESE ON EACH.
4. RELEASE STEAM FROM INSTANT POT AND REMOVE LID. REMOVE COOKED ROAST CUBES AND PLACE IN A BOWL TO COOL FOR 10 MINUTES. SET INSTANT POT TO SAUTÉ FOR 10 MINUTES TO REDUCE COOKING LIQUID.
5. PREHEAT OVEN TO 300°F. STRAIN REDUCED COOKING LIQUID, RESERVING FOR JUS. SKIM FAT FROM TOP AND KEEP WARM.
6. SHRED ROAST CUBES AND SPREAD EVENLY OVER TOP THE CHEESE ON EACH GROUP OF ROLLS. PLACE THE TOP LAYER ATOP THE SHREDDED BEEF. BRUSH ROLL TOPS WITH MELTED BUTTER AND SPRINKLE THE CENTER OF EACH BUN WITH A PINCH OF COARSE SALT.
7. BAKE 15 MINUTES AND SERVE WITH JUS. PULL SLIDERS APART OR CUT AND SERVE SEPARATELY.

**AUTHOR:**
CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF ® BRAND TEST KITCHEN

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**Springtime in the Rockies**

By Baxter Black

Ah, springtime.
That first hint of life beginning anew, the annual transformation, its throat in long tubercular coughs that turn rain into birdshot, sleet into ice, ice into snowflakes shaped like goatheads or bob wire,

Not falling but slicing by you like shrapnel, sandblasting your face, freezing your rein hand into a claw and turning forty-five degrees and balmy into assault with intent to stupefy.

Ah, springtime.
Stephen M. Vantassel, Vertebrate Pest Specialist, based in Lewistown, is looking for landowners who are open to having vertebrate pest control research performed on their property. Stephen needs landowners who have problems with prairie dogs, ground squirrels, voles, mice, pack rats, pigeons, starlings, house sparrows, coyotes, and more. Ideal research locations have the following characteristics:

a. Will be isolated from neighbors
b. Have abundant numbers of the targeted pest
c. Can be “ignored” by the landowner during the study period

We have If your property meets these criteria and you are interested in helping move research forward, contact Stephen M. Vantassel at 406-538-3004 or svantassel@mt.gov
I have yet to meet anyone in my 27 years of life who likes ticks, which is why tick season seems to be the worst part about the weather getting warmer. Ticks have a 4 stage development (egg, larva, nymph, and adult) with the mobile stages being active from April to August. Once on a host, ticks use serrated mouthparts to puncture the skin and anchor themselves into a host using tiny spines. While feeding on a host some ticks can increase to 100x their original weight.

Ticks not only feed off of their host but also act as a vector to transfer disease. Here in Montana, the Rocky Mountain wood tick and the American dog tick are known to transfer Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Colorado tick fever, canine ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis. A description of each disease along with the symptoms can be found on the MontGuide *Ticks on Companion Animals* through your local MSU Extension office.

Prevention and control are the best ways to avoid tick predation, but removal of embedded ticks is also important. Acaricides (pesticides for ticks) are a viable option for tick control. These chemicals can be applied as topical treatments, shampoos, or plastic collars embedded with the pesticide. It is important to read the label on these products as not all acaricides are safe to use on all species of animal. If a tick is found use tweezers to grasp the tick as closely to the skin as possible and pull upward using slow, steady pressure until the tick is dislodged. Other methods of tick removal present the possibility of infection. If a disease is contracted contact your doctor or a veterinarian if it is your pet the is ill.