Hello everyone,

You may not know who I am or why I am making this newsletter, so I will try to address both of those topics in this newsletter. To start, I am the new agriculture, natural resource, and 4-H extension agent here in Fergus and Petroleum counties. My first day was October 1st, so if we have not met thus far chances are our paths will cross. My background is predominantly in cattle, but I have dabbled in a little of everything. Originally my life started in Washington State in a small town called Cashmere where I was first introduced to livestock through FFA. After graduating high school I moved to northern Idaho to attend the University of Idaho, where I obtained a B.S. degree in animal science. Then following a year of working in industry I decided to go back to Uof I and pursue an M.S degree in animal science. Upon completing my coursework (still needing to finish up the thesis portion) for my M.S. degree, I spent a year working in commercial feedlot. That brings me to now, where I loaded the dog and horse to move out to Central Montana.

In the two months I have been here I have talked to some of my predecessors and would like to incorporate some of their practices that were successful. One of these practices was a monthly livestock newsletter that I will be trying to bring back. My hope with this newsletter is that I can both keep everyone up to date on what is happening as well as presenting information that could be beneficial depending on the season. Another suggestion I have received include the coffee hour. If you would like to make suggestions on how I can best serve you please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I have included my contact information in this newsletter as well or you can always swing by the office here in Lewistown!

Events

Winter Feeding Workshops:
Lewistown: Thursday, Dec. 2
Grass Range: Tuesday, Dec. 20
Winnett: Tuesday, Dec. 20
Winifred: Thursday, Dec. 21
Moore: Friday, Dec. 22

Coffee Hour
Lewistown
Grass Range
Denton
Winifred
Judith Gap
Moore
(Reach out to Cody if interested)

Please reach out to the Fergus/Petroleum County Extension Office with any events (bull sales or field days) that you feel would be beneficial to the livestock community.
In November’s Livestock Committee meeting we had some elections and policy changes that are noteworthy. Regarding superintendents, Jared Long and Casey Wilmore agreed to stay on as the swine and sheep/goat superintendents, respectfully. Mike Vanek was nominated as the beef superintendent and Larry Hagenbuch will spend the next year training him for the position. Policy changes that were voted and passed at the November meeting are as follows:

1) Tack pens will be allowed in the barns during fair. The number of pens that can be used for tack will be up to the superintendent of that species/barn.
2) Bikes will no longer be allowed in or around the pavilion during fair.
3) All members with a livestock project (12 years and older) will sign up for either setup or cleanup for fair. This will be a first-come first-serve basis with half of the members being at each. If a member does not show up to their allotted time and sigh in, 10% of their check will be deducted and go to livestock committee. A member may find someone to represent them if they are unable to make it.
4) All superintendents will serve for a minimum of 5 years. The first year will be training under the old superintendent and the last year will be training the new superintendent. If there is more than one person interested, we will vote between the two.

**Boneless Rib Roast**

**Ingredients:**
- 8 lbs boneless ribeye roast
- 3 tbs salt (kosher is recommended)
- 2 tbs freshly ground pepper

**Instructions:**
1) Preheat oven to 450°F and season boneless rib roast on all sides with salt and pepper.
2) Place roast on a roasting rack with the flat side up; roast for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325°F and continue roasting for an additional 2 hours and 15 minutes for medium or until desired doneness.
3) Transfer roast to a cutting board; loosely tent with foil and let stand for 15 minutes. Slice roast across the grain.

This recipe and others can be found at the Certified Angus Beef website.

**4-H Rate of Gain Contest!**

Individuals looking to enter their beef projects in the rate of Gain contest will have the opportunity to get their starting weight through Gateway Simmentals.

**When:** January 8th
**Time:** 10am
**Where:** Gateway Simmentals

**Beef tags!**

Ear tags for beef projects are in the office ready for pick-up!

For your beef tag to be considered entered and ready for fair you will need the following:
- Weigh sheet with all information filled out.
- Clear picture of steer/heifer with ear tag and face visible

Both weigh sheets and pictures of beef animals are **due by January 15th, 2022**
Donating to the people of Denton

If you would still like to donate to the people affected by the Denton fire that affected so many this past week, please give to one of the three funds in place.

- Opportunity Bank: Denton Fire Relief Fund
- Stockman’s Bank: Winter Fair / Fire Relief Fund
- Online on the Winter Fair website through PayPal

Thank you to everyone in the community who has already demonstrated your charitability and shown how important it is to take care of our neighbors here in Central Montana.

Understanding Forage Analysis

Dry Matter Basis: These values give the nutrient profile after all water is removed. It is important to use these values when comparing feeds as rations are typically built on a dry matter basis.

Crude protein: This is a value calculated from the amount of Nitrogen (N) in a feedstuff using the formulation \( \% \text{ CP} = \% \text{ N} \times 6.25 \). Crude protein takes into account both non-protein nitrogen and true protein, making it a more useful measurement of protein when working with ruminants than with monogastric animals. While working with ruminants the two forms of protein to keep in mind are rumen degradable protein (RDP) and rumen undegradable protein (RUP). Proteins that can be broken down in the rumen by rumen microbes into amino acids and ammonia are considered RDP. Rumen undegradable proteins are not broken down in the rumen are also referred to as bypass protein and will be broken down in the abomasum the same as in a monogastric animal.

Fiber: Structural carbohydrates are often referred to as fiber and are measured by the acid detergent fiber (ADF) and the neutral detergent fiber (NDF) content of a feedstuff. The ADF portion is used to estimate forage digestibility, this portion contains cellulose and lignin. Hemicellulose is added to the portion of ADF to calculate the NDF content of a feedstuff. Intake is typically negatively effected by greater NDF contents.

Energy: Energy is usually measured in two ways, total digestible nutrients (TDN) and Net Energy. The sum of digestible fiber, fat, and carbohydrates equals TDN. This system is best used for rations that are high in forage. The net energy number should be broken out into three categories (lactation, maintenance, and growth). Net Energy system accounts for the energy losses from digestion making it the more accurate measurement.

For more information check out the Mont Guide on the MDU Extension page!

How to contact
Cody Ream
Email: cody.ream@montana.edu
Phone: (406) 535-3919

Please feel free to either call, email, or swing by the office and say hello or to share your thoughts on activities you’d like to see. The door is always open if you just want to stop by and talk about your operation or bounce around ideas.
Winter feeding presents one of the largest expenses for many livestock producers as they turn to purchased forages and feedstuffs to feed their stock through the winter. Feed costs can account for 26% of total operating costs. Cattle will typically eat around 2% of their bodyweight on a dry matter basis. This means that a 1,400 pound cow will need to consume 28 lbs of feed on a dry matter basis (or 32 pounds as fed) daily.

In order to meet the requirements of gestating cows and growing heifers it is important to know what stage of production your cattle are in. Cattle requirements can fluctuate depending not only on bodyweight and if the animal is still growing, but also if the animal is lactating and the stage of gestation. Unless you have a fall calving herd and cattle are expected to nurse a calf through the winter, you will not need to worry about lactation which comes with the greatest nutritional demands. Fetal development will require more protein and energy consumption than the base maintenance level of nutrition to sustain a cow. Requirements for early gestation are relatively low, however late gestation demands more nutrients for the rapid growth of the calf that will be born in late winter/spring. Growing heifers will still require a greater plane of nutrition to support not only their growth, but also the growth of the calf in her womb. After calving, heifers will require more nutrients to support both lactation and growth.

Feeding straw seems to be the topic around town. When feeding straw it is important to note that it has low crude protein and total digestible nutrients. Therefore, it is highly recommended that supplementation is given to cattle in order to account for the shortfalls of the straw. Manipulating straw either mechanically or chemically can also help with both palatability and digestibility. Mechanical manipulation includes chopping and chemical manipulations might include ammoniating or adding molasses to the straw. Mature cows should only be fed straw up to 50% of the diet in order to avoid compaction. When feeding straw it is also important to provide a high quality hay to help supplement the diet. Cattle in the 3rd trimester and heifers should only be fed up to 25% straw.

More on this topic will be covered in the workshops that will be provided.

Winter Feeding

My gift to you this Christmas
Comes tied with a pretty bow.
It’s not important what’s inside the box,
I just love you and wanted you to know

By Kelly Roper

Marketing Workshops for Food Producers
Joe Senger will be offering instructions and tips for getting your farm or ranch noticed on social media in a 1 hour course on Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 12-1 pm.
Zoom Meeting Information:
Meeting ID: 885 6463 7160
Passcode: 064903
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