

Stretching the hay supply

By: Tom Mills
County Extension Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources.

Dry weather during October and most of November has slowed the normal growth in fescue pastures allowing beef cattle to completely consume feed on many farms. This shortage of pasture is forcing many farms to start feeding hay much earlier than normal. Farmers taking inventory of hay supplies now and calculating winter hay needs from past experiences, may find the hay supply to be short. Decisions now may help stretch hay supplies before winter weather sets in.

If the hay supply appears to be short, should farmers purchase additional hay or some other feed? First look at the type animal present on farms. Dry cows which have calves sold off this fall are at their lowest energy needs. However, fall calving cows or those which calved in late summer, along with their calves, are at a point of great energy needs.

Dry cows can meet their nutritional needs with just about any hay made before July 4th. The critical period of 30 to 60 days before calving is when their energy needs increase. So, for most dry cows at this time of year, the decision comes down to: Do facilities exist for feeding limited grain or is hay for sale close by? Moving hay long distances could turn out to be as expensive as buying grain.

For the fall calving beef cow or a late summer calving beef cow with calf at side, the pasture shortage is a much greater problem. The nutrient needs are greater than most good quality grass hay can provide. Purchasing alfalfa grass hay would be the only way to meet the nutrient

needs with hay.

What other options are available and what are their cost. Shelled corn or by-product feeds are probably the best option. However, many farmers do not utilize this because of limited feeding facilities.

Shelled corn fed to mature cows does not have to be ground. Cows will actually get over 80% of the nutrients from whole corn. At \$2.25 to \$2.50 per bushel, shelled corn is 4 cents per pound. Three to four pounds per head per day would run 15 to 16 cents per head per day.

Corn gluten feed is 18 to 21 percent protein which is more than double the protein present in shelled corn. Gluten is only 80% of the energy of shelled corn but would be similar if whole shelled corn were fed. Gluten is high in phosphorus, which is the most expensive mineral when purchasing mineral mixes. Corn gluten at \$100 per ton is 5 cents per pound. Again, 3 to 4 pounds per head per day, or fed every other day, would cost 15 to 20 cents per day.

Most hay available is 5' x 4' large round bales and a common price of \$15 per roll. Looking at past experience, you can calculate how many cows one bale will feed per day but the cost will be just under 75¢ per head per day. If hay is going to be short this fall or winter, the question becomes, Do I get more for my money buying hay or feeding grain supplements? Using grain on the farm, may be a way to make the hay supply last longer and feed the cow better for less money.



Marilyn Bullen would like to wish Barbara Gregory, right, a happy belated birthday. She is shown here with John D. Bullen on Halloween night 2001.

Hi! My

name is

Jacob Troy

Philbeck

and I cel-

ebrated my

first birth-

day on Oc-

tober 27,

2001. My

m o m d

addy are

Amy Jo

and Jason

Philbeck.

Maternal

grandparents

are Troy Mc-

Clure and

Rosalind

Philbeck.

I want to

thank every-

one for com-

ing to my

Halloween

dress-up

party. We

had a blast,

I also want

to thank

everyone

for all the

wonderful

gifts that

I received.

"Letters"

(Cont. from A-2)

It was obvious that this person had no intentions to help so I called 911. I explained about the dog, complaint about the guy on the phone, and spoke with a nice lady who at least acted concerned about something other than my phone number.

Do you know this unidentified person goes to my mother's house, asks nothing about the dog or the little girl that it had chased but instead tells my 71-year-old mother that he is going right now to get a warrant on her daughter for calling him a wimp! Now I never called this rude man a wimp although he did act like a smart aleck on the phone, and if being a wimp was all an officer had to worry about then you shouldn't be getting paid like you do. No one time did he mention the dog. No one time.

So he drives around at our expense in a fine car all the way to Brodhead just to scare my poor mother. He even threatened my job. He said he would literally have me taken off the school bus and put in jail. What are you going to do with all the students Gary? Just leave them beside the road? Or would you have me be so scared that every time I saw a police car that maybe I'd wreck and kill a bus load of kids. And didn't you know that there's no law against calling someone a wimp.

Is this your way of having fun at the taxpayers' expense or are you trying to scare these elderly people into heart attacks? You could have at least threatened me personally instead of waiting until I left and scaring my mother. And now you probably will. Aren't you supposed to be solving cases: drug cases, murder cases, burglaries, etc? Not playing receptionist and scaring little old ladies. I suppose power does get abused, when it's been invested in the wrong man. And what kind of training do they give you guys anyway that you can be rude and smart when someone calls for help. And if you were that mad because someone called you a wimp, then my God, what would you do in an arrest if someone called you wimpy, wimpy, wimpy? Who gives you the right to abuse your position like that?

How many, how many, people have you done this way - over nothing! I think anyone who has ever been screwed by you needs to make it known. And what about your wife? I assume there have been times that she has called you a lot worse. Do you threaten to take her to jail, or to lose her job? It's in your right to treat folks this way. It's pathetic when you can't call for help without someone threatening you for nothing.

Mr. Lane, you know that I have

never done or said anything to you, or shown you to anyone else in the enforcement any disrespect. You could have caused, and may still cause, my

mother a trip to the hospital. You had no right to gripe her like that, all because we called about your friend's dog. How can you expect anyone to respect your power, when you disrespect it yourself. Things like this are a disgrace to the public - not just the police department. I think on behalf of the department you owe my mother an apology. As for myself, I could care less as I have lost respect for you.

Anyone who has been threatened this way by Gary Lane has the right to call the London Post and make his or her complaint (606)878-6622. You will need as I have lost respect for Gary.

Barbara Collins Hensley
Livingston, KY

Dear Editor,

We want to take this time to thank the following people for all of their wonderful donations or generously volunteering their time for our Kenna's Kitchen Thanksgiving Meal.

Kenna's Kitchen was a great success. We were able to feed approximately 250 people with half of the meals being delivered to shut-ins or the elderly at their homes.

We want to say we were overwhelmed with all the community support and generosity in helping this year. These people have really proven the meaning of the holidays by giving from the heart. For that we are truly thankful.

We also want to thank everyone who let us put up flyers in their windows. We appreciate it. We want to acknowledge these people:

Food World owners and staff; Save-A-Lot; McDonalds; Bible Baptist Church and youth group; First Baptist Church and youth group; First Christian Church and youth group; Maple Grove Church and youth group; Northside Church and youth group; Poplar Grove Church and youth group; CAP Teen Center and Volunteer House; Mt. Vernon Signal; Rockcastle Co. Board of Education; Dr. Tony Arvin; Home Health; Kiwanis; Senior Citizens Center (Mt. Vernon & Livingston); MVES Food Service volunteers - Candy Rickles and Faye Harper; Rockcastle Hospital; MVES students and parents; MVES teachers and staff; WRVK Radio; Rockcastle Co. Co-op Extension Service; Mt. Vernon Plastics Factory and other community youth volunteers.

For all others who contributed or participated but were not mentioned we sincerely thank you.

Thank You,

MVES Family Resource Council

(Cont. to A-9)

Email the Signal at
mvsignal@sun-spot.com

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Guess who's having the big birthday?

Lordy! Lordy!
Look Who's 40!!!
Better Now Than Ever!
Love - All Your Family & Kids

Fish Fry

North Atlantic Cod
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Saturday, Dec. 1st
Begins at 2 p.m.
Everyone Welcome

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All Churches, Schools, Clubs, Civic Organizations and Individuals

You're Invited to join in the

2001 City of Mt. Vernon Annual Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m.

We will meet at the Mt. Vernon Elementary School at 1:00 to 1:30 for lineup

The theme of this year's parade is:

"Celebrating His Birth as God Blesses America"

We could use red, white and blue, if you need to decided on a color, of course, you don't have to use these colors.

Participation in the "Spirit of Christmas" will be great

If some elves show up to walk with Santa, this will be great. Santa will have treats and stay in town after the parade to greet the children. All participation is needed and will be appreciated and enjoyed by the community.

The United States Flag will lead our parade this year, carried by the Rockcastle Co. Army JROTC program

12"x18" flags are available at City Hall

We are trying to get \$5.00 each for the flags. The City of Mt. Vernon purchased the flags and all proceeds go to the American Red Cross disaster victims in New York.

Contact Phyllis Deatherage at City Hall at 606-256-3437 to participate

Thank You So Much and Merry Christmas from
Mayor Karen K. King and staff at the City of Mt. Vernon

The Doctor Will See You Now.

Tony Arvin, M. D.
Family Medicine

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
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Wednesday
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