12-2008

Extended Visions, November/December 2008

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ardcextendedvisions

Part of the Agriculture Commons

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ardcextendedvisions/13

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agricultural Research and Development Center at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Extended Visions Newsletter of ARDC by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
November/December 2008  Vol. 12, No. 6  
A publication of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Research & Development Center and UNL Extension in Saunders County

In This Issue...  
* ARDC Feature Unit - Feedmill  
* About the People  
* Mill Provides Feedstuffs for Research Projects  
* Ag Learning at the Festival  
* Eastern Nebraska Goat Workshop  
* Look to the Sky...  
* Observatory Offers Public Viewing Night - Nov. 7  
* Nebraska Cattlemen Visit the ARDC  
* Meat Magnet School  
* Click on the red barn and help out PFAL  
* UNL Representative helps  
* Meat Students Discover  
* Cancer Possibilities  
* Nebraska Soybean Day and Machinery Expo  
* Reverse Trade Mission  
* Saunders County Exhibitors Win Top Honors  
* Eastern Nebraska Meat Goat Workshop  
* The Clever Corner - What’s Going On With 4-H...  
2008 Summer Field Days Results...  
* Utilizing Cornstalks and Other Crop Residue to Manage Input Costs  
* We Need YOUR INPUT!

** Extended Visions - Mill Provides Feedstuffs for Research Projects **

Feedback article provided by Dick Mayer  
UNL Department of Animal Science

Over 6,000 domestic farm animals used for research and teaching reside at the ARDC. The feedmill at the ARDC provides feed for all of those animals, plus livestock at other University locations. The feedmill is operated by UNL’s Department of Animal Science.

Supplement rations are provided to the Beef Feedlot and Cow-Calf Units. Grain mixes and complete feeds are mixed for the Dairy and Swine Units. Some cattle feed is also mixed for the University’s Veterinary Science Unit.

The feedmill also mixes and delivers feed to live-stock located on UNL’s East Campus in Lincoln. This includes feed for beef cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and poultry. Some experimental diets are made for cattle at the Dalbey-Halleck Research Farm near Virginia, Nebraska and at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman.

The feedmill processes about 300 tons of feed per month. Feed made in the mill is mixed in one of two one-ton mixers. All the swine and poultry diets are mixed in one mixer and all beef, FEEDMILL - Cont. on P 2

Moe Russell is the featured speaker this year. His presentation, “Know Your Individual Farm” will focus on goals and knowing strengths. He will also address market projections/forecasts.

The feedmill at the ARDC is operated by UNL’s Department of Animal Science.

** Save the Date... **

Eastern Nebraska Meat Goat Workshop plans are in the works for the Eastern Nebraska Meat Goat Workshop on Saturday, December 13 at the ARDC. Producers and those interested in raising meat goats will want to save the date for this workshop sponsored by UNL Extension. Potential topics include: basic goat management, how to feed your goat, how to keep your goat healthy, and FAMACHA (parasite management) training. The registration fee is $25 for the first person from the operation and $10 for second person from the operation when you pre-register by December 5. Call 402-624-8030 to register or for more information. Watch for updates and details - or visit the website by going to http://ardc.unl.edu, click on the “What’s New” link and check out the workshop listing.

** We Need YOUR INPUT!! **

We are seeking our readers’ input in regard to the Extended Visions newsletter. The questions are short and simple:

1. How do you receive your newsletter - via the Wahoo News, Market Weekly, or mailed directly to you with a label addressed to you? Do you receive more than one copy?
2. Do you prefer to receive a hard copy or electronic copy?
3. We would also appreciate any comments you might have on what you would like to see in the newsletter or how to make it better.

You can provide your response online at http://ardc.unl.edu/newslettersurvey.shtml, via e-mail to dpittman1@unl.edu, or send them to UNL ARDC, 209 Mussehl Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0718.
Utilizing Cornstalks and Other Crop Residues to Manage Input Costs

by Sara Elliott, UNL Extension Educator

Significant increases in feed, fuel, fertilizer and other costs of production are posing serious challenges for livestock producers. These input costs are impacting producer’s bottom line and influencing management decisions. With fall harvest in full-swing, there are beginning to be a lot of fields of cornstalks around. Consider the following management tip and tools to help you combat rising input costs, while at the same time utilizing your crop residues.

A recent Fact Sheet released by UNL’s Beef Specialist, Aaron Staliker, addresses maximizing winter grazing opportunities. The USDA Economic Research Service estimates purchased and harvested feeds make up almost half of the annual cow costs. Because purchased and harvested feeds are such a large proportion of the overall costs making significant reductions in this area will help reduce overall costs. One way to reduce harvested feed costs is to extend the grazing season through the winter. Allowing the cow to forage the forage is less expensive than mechanically harvesting and storing for feed. This is especially true with today’s high fuel prices. At the University of Nebraska Gudmunsdottir Sandhills Laboratory near Whitman, March-calving cows grazed native winter range from December through February. These cows are fed 0.3 lbs/day of supplemental protein and experience good pregnancy rates and calf growth performance.

In addition to winter range, grazing of cornstalks during the winter has the potential to reduce harvested feed costs. Historically, cornstalks have been an inexpensive feed source and more cornstalks will be produced as a result of greater corn production. University of Nebraska data has shown spring calving cows wintered on cornstalks do not need supplemental protein but this depends on how the cornstalks are managed. A decision support tool has been created to help producers determine appropriate stocking rates, plan acres needed, and calculate costs. This tool is called the “Cornstalk Grazing Calculator”, and was created by Matthew Stockton and Roger Wilson at the West Central Research & Extension Center.

There are a number of ways this tool can be used:

• To estimate acres needed, using the number and size of the animals, the length of time in days animals will be grazed on the corn stalks, and the corn yield.
• To estimate the number of animals given their size, number of available acres, number of days you expect to graze, and the corn yield.
• To estimate the number of days to graze, given size and number of animals, available acres, and corn yield per acre.
• To establish cost per animal daily and over the whole grazing period.
• To estimate total cost for all animals.

This calculator also figures and includes cattle transportation costs as well as care and supervision costs in the totals near the bottom of the spreadsheet. If producers have a cost per head per day target, it may be necessary to adjust the cost per acre. To download the calculator, visit the website at: beef.unl.edu/learning/cornStalkGrazingCalc.shtml.

An additional resource that may be beneficial for producers is the Extension Circular titled, Grazing Crop Residues with Beef Cattle. This publication takes a more in-depth approach to utilizing various types of crop residues, including nutrient contents, supplementation, stocking rates, and grazing strategies. It can be very useful if you are trying to utilize crop residue to reduce feed costs.

With rising input costs affecting your profitability, this tip may be one way to help manage the impact of these costs on your operation. For further information and additional Profit Tips, visit http://beef.unl.edu.

FEEDMILL - Cont. from P 1

The feedmill has dried distillers grains in 50 lb. sacks, so that it can be fed as a meal in a supplement.

Dick Meyer is the manager of the feedmill. Dick oversees the daily routine of scheduling all the different feed rations made at the mill. He is also responsible for making a large amount of the feed rations. He has worked for UNL’s Department of Animal Science for 37 years. Dick lives on a farm east of Greenwood.

Chuck Rezac has worked at the feedmill as an Ag Research Technician for 29 years and lives with his wife, Verma in Wahoo. Chuck helps in the daily operation of the mill in mixing feed rations. He is also responsible for delivering mixed feed to the Animal Science units at the ARDC and to the Animal Science building in Lincoln.

Chuck is responsible for picking up different feed ingredients, such as cracked corn, salt, urea, and antibiotics at International Nutrition and at Baltzels in Omaha. When mixed feed is sent to the campus in Lincoln, bulk soybean meal or soybean hulls are also picked up at ADM and brought back to the feedmill.

About the People
Handling dry distillers grains can be somewhat of a problem since the grains tend to hang up in bins. A heavy malted becomes a necessity to hit on the sides of bins to get the meal moving. The wider the openings and width of pipes in a mill the better the distillers will flow. Eight inch diameter pipes have worked much better than six inch pipes at the feedmill at the ARDC.

There are also variances in the distillers product from different ethanol plants. Distillers grains from one plant may be more granular and flow relatively easily, while the product from another plant will be fine and chalky in nature and want to hang up in the unloading pits and bins constantly.

You can learn more about livestock nutrition research by visiting UNL’s Department of Animal Science’s website at http://animalscience.unl.edu. Click on the “research” or “extension” links to learn more about ruminant and non-ruminant projects.

1 Poultry research data source - Sheila Scheideler, U/L Poultry Nutrition Professor & Animals Science
2 Beef research data source - Terry Klopfenstein, U/L Ruminant Nutrition Professor

**Topics and Speakers...**

For the following events at the ARDC...

- **December 18** - Grain Marketing Breakfast
- **January 31** - Master Gardener Training Begins
- **February 10** - No-Till Conference

**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husker Nutrition Conference</td>
<td>Grain Marketing Breakfast</td>
<td>Master Gardener Training Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-10:00 pm</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 pm</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Viewing Night</td>
<td>Break - View Commercial Exhibits</td>
<td>Break - View Commercial Exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-10:00 pm</td>
<td>7:00-8:30 pm</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Managers Meeting</td>
<td>Saunders County Extension Board</td>
<td>Livestock Advisory Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-10:00 pm</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 pm</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Council Meeting</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30-10:00 pm</td>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Sustainable Ag Society</td>
<td>10:00-3:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Onsite Wastewater Training</td>
<td>Onsite Wastewater Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Eastern Nebraska Goat Conference</td>
<td>Grain Marketing Breakfast Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00-5:00</td>
<td>7:00-12:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**November/December 2008**

**Extended Visions**

**FEEDMILL - Cont. from P. 3**

**Look to the Sky...**

Bebelen Observatory is a research facility located at the ARDC that is operated by the UNL Department of Physics and Astronomy. It houses a 30-inch Cassegrain Reflector which is primarily used for variable star research.

A public viewing night will be held on Friday, November 7. A 30-inch telescope will be available for public viewing. Typically, slide show talks, physics demonstrations, and the opportunity to look through smaller telescopes are offered.

The observatory is located about 0.8 miles past the ARDC August N. Christenson Research and Education Facility located at the ARDC that is operated by the UNL Department of Physics and Astronomy. It houses a 30-inch Cassegrain Reflector which is primarily used for variable star research.

For more information about the Bebelen Observatory and public viewing nights, learn more on the web, at: http://astro.unl.edu/observatory/

**Reverse Trade Mission**

Governor Heineman hosted the state’s first reverse trade mission tour this fall. More than 125 guests from eight nations visited Nebraska. The event was devised to encourage international companies to explore opportunities for investment in Nebraska. Nearly 40 people from the group, accompanied by representatives from the State Department of Agriculture, made a stop at the ARDC.

The Nebraska steak on the grill garnered attention and pictures from the group.
Saunders County Exhibitors Win Top Honors at Ak-sar-ben

Saunders County exhibitors did well at the Ak-sar-ben Stock Show in Omaha this September. The following exhibitors took away top honors...

- Samantha Swine
- Champion Market Swine
- Abigail Nelson - Reserve Champion Hanshire Breeding Gilt
- Tyler Marotz - Champion Junior Holstein Heifer
- Eden Moore - Reserve Champion Saler Breeding Heifer
- Abby Nelson - Champion Feeder Calf Showman
- Josh Nelson - Champion Breeding Beef Showman

Ag Learning at the Festival

Over 650 fourth-graders converged upon the ARDC once again this fall for the annual Ag Awareness Festival. This is a always a great opportunity for youth to learn about where food and so many other byproducts come from. The majority of the students were from urban areas and the festival was a very unique experience for many of them. To date, over 10,000 children have attended the festival sponsored by the Ag Awareness Coalition. The fall festival is held at the ARDC and a spring session is held in Lincoln.

UNL Extension Educators, Karna Dam (right) and Sara Elliscott (below) engaged the students in the beef production session by enlisting “audience participation”.

M.E.A.D.

Making Education in Agriculture Different

About ag majors at UNL and possible career paths...

“I learned if I decide to go into the medical field, getting a degree in agriculture may help me get there.”

- Mead High School Student Comment

UNL’s Jill Brown led the Mead students with CASNR BINGO game that helped them learn about ag majors at UNL and possible career paths.

Michele Garcia said, “She made me think more about an agricultural career and take a second look at some careers I hadn’t considered.”

Campbell Soup Company has partnered with the National FFA Organization in a campaign called “Help Grow Your Soup.” Simply go online at HelpGrowYourSoup.com and click on a red barn symbol. Campbell Soup will donate a dollar to the National FFA to help with their programming. The company has committed to contribute up to $250,000.

Nebraska Cattlemen Visit the ARDC

The Nebraska Cattlemen recently held a board meeting at the ARDC. An optional tour of the beef feedlot and cow/calf unit followed for those interested in learning about some of the current research projects being conducted at UNL. Matt Spangler, Beef Genetics Extension Specialist, conducted the tour. Larry Smith of Ashland, current president of the organization, is shown with other Nebraska Cattlemen and Spangler in the tour photo on the left.

Students discover career possibilities...