



Great Plains Livestock Consulting, Inc.

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The Great Plains News Feed

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Brent Nelms

Feedlot Tracking

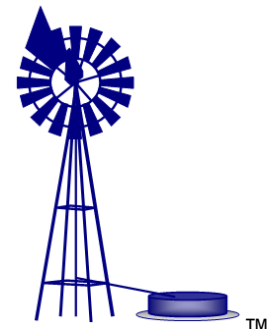
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**Great Plains Livestock
Consulting, Inc.**

"Turning Science into Money"

Phone: (402) 781-9378

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www.GPLC-Inc.com

**May/June
2011**

The Latest Across the Plains

Summertime!

We can officially start welcoming summer. Hopefully the weather cooperates for graduations and the start of summer sports. With branding, breeding season, and planting in full swing or just around the corner, we know you all have your plates full. Put your mind at ease for all your livestock nutrition needs and give us a call!

Pricing Comparisons

Take a look at the graphs to the right showing gluten and by product prices as a percentage compared to corn on a DM basis.

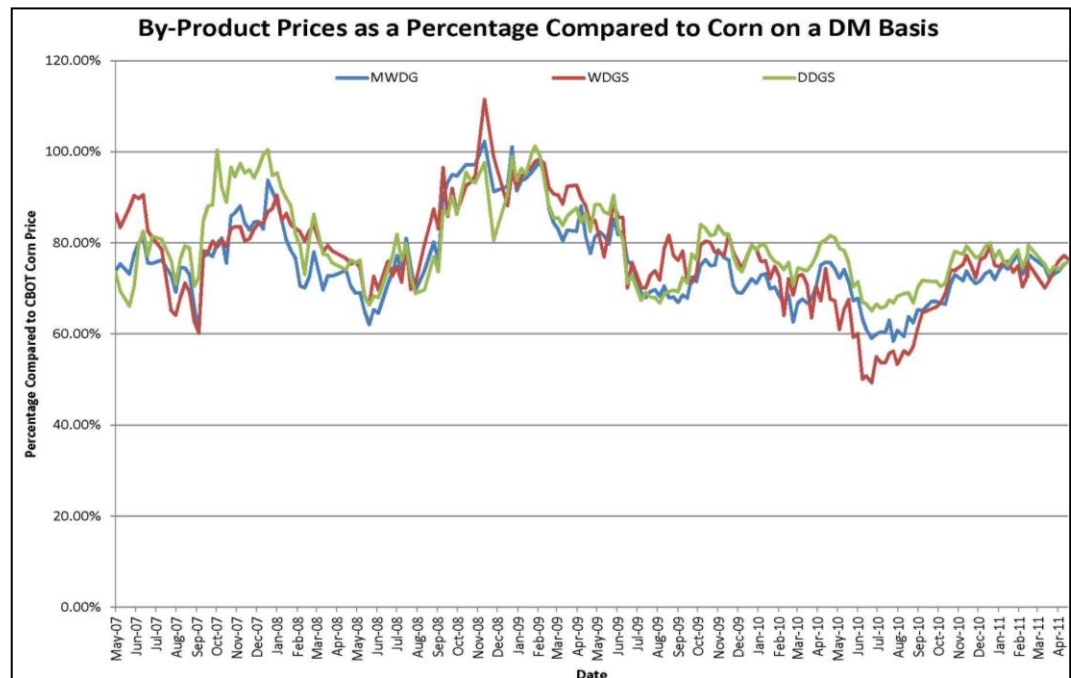
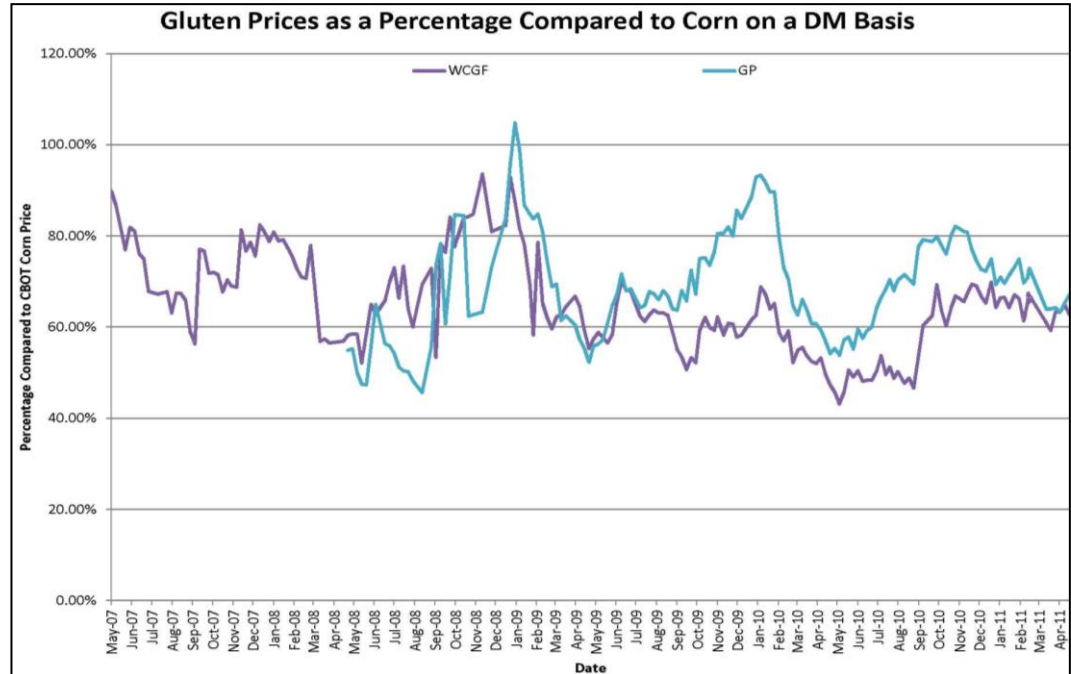
Charts courtesy of
Commodity Solutions

(402) 923-0264

26741 State Hwy. 91

Humphrey, NE 68642

www.commoditysolutions.com



Calendar of Events



- **May 26** South Central Nebraska Livestock Judging Clinic & Contest, Bladen, NE.
- **May 30** Memorial Day
- **June 3-4** Cattleman's Ball of Nebraska, West Point, NE.
- **June 8** Nebraska Cattlemen's Mid-year Meeting, Leigh & Columbus, NE.
- **June 10-12** MCA All Breeds Junior Show, Sedalia, MO.
- **June 14** Flag Day
- **June 19** Fathers Day
- **June 20-22** 144th Annual Convention & Trade Show, Steam Boat Springs, CO.
- **June 23-25** Show Me Beef Leadership Conference, Columbia, MO.
- **June 25-26** Indiana Hereford Preview Show, Winchester, IN.
- **June 25-26** Western Star Jr. Classic and 2011 Junior Beef Expo, Williston, ND.
- **June 27** ICA Beef Masters Open, Denison, IA.
- **June 28 3rd Annual Cattlemen's College, Newton, IA.**
- **June 29 3rd Annual Cattlemen's College, Norfolk, NE.**
- **June 29** Governors Ag Development Summit, Sioux Falls, SD.
- **June 30 3rd Annual Cattlemen's College, Lyons, KS.**



Great Plains Livestock Consulting, Inc.

Presents

3RD ANNUAL CATTLEMEN'S COLLEGE

PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

Times	June 28 - Newton, IA Des Moines Area Community College 600 North 2nd Avenue West Newton, IA 50208 (641) 791-3622	June 29 – Norfolk, NE Northeast Community College 801 East Benjamin Avenue Norfolk, NE 68701 (402) 844-7246	June 30 - Lyons, KS Celebration Centre 1145 Highway 56 East Lyons, KS 67554 (620) 257-5390
8:30-8:50	Coffee & Donuts	Coffee & Donuts	Coffee & Donuts
8:50-9:00	Welcoming Address	Welcoming Address	Welcoming Address
9:00-9:10	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
9:10-10:00	Dustin Rippe- Adding Value to Feeder Cattle & Cow/Calf Risk Management	Dustin Rippe- Adding Value to Feeder Cattle & Cow/Calf Risk Management	Dustin Rippe- Adding Value to Feeder Cattle & Cow/Calf Risk Management
10:00-10:10	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
10:10-11:00	Dr. Keith Bolsen- Making Great Silage	Dr. Keith Bolsen- Making Great Silage	Dr. Keith Bolsen- Making Great Silage
11:00-11:20	Break	Break	Break
11:20-11:30	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
11:30-12:30	Producer / Speaker Panel- Value / Cost of Weaned Calves	Producer / Speaker Panel- Value / Cost of Weaned Calves	Producer / Speaker Panel- Value / Cost of Weaned Calves
12:30-12:40	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
12:40-1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-1:40	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
1:40-2:30	Dr. Terry Mader- Heat Stress on Grass & in the Lot	Dr. Terry Mader- Heat Stress on Grass & in the Lot	Dr. Terry Mader- Heat Stress on Grass & in the Lot
2:30-2:50	Break	Break	Break
2:50-3:00	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
3:00-3:50	Dr. Fred Owens- Grain Processing and Types	Dr. Fred Owens- Grain Processing and Types	Dr. Fred Owens- Grain Processing and Types
3:50-4:00	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction	Sponsor Introduction
4:00-4:30	Producer / Speaker Panel- Building Designs: Advantages, Disadvantages, and Mgt Practices	Producer / Speaker Panel	Producer / Speaker Panel

GUEST SPEAKERS

PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

Dr. Fred Owens is a senior research scientist working with ruminant nutrition for Pioneer Hi-Bred. He grew up on a small beef-dairy-swine farm in Wisconsin and completed his undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Minnesota in 1968. After 6 years in the Animal Science Department at the University of Illinois, Fred joined the faculty at Oklahoma State University conducting research on rumen function, metabolic disorders, feed intake, feed additives, and growth and development. During his 24 years at Oklahoma State, he served as Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Animal Science and President of the American Society of Animals Science. He was awarded the Morrison Award from that society. In 1998, he retired early from Oklahoma State to start a new career with Pioneer Hi-Bred in Iowa. Currently, Fred is involved with developing and testing cereal crops and oilseeds altered to improve nutrient availability and quality of milk and meat produced by ruminants.



Dr. Terry L. Mader is a Professor of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska. Dr. Mader earned his B.S. from Kansas State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Mader is actively studying climate variability and environmental effects on cattle productivity. Current interest includes evaluating models and management strategies for livestock production. Collaborative research and extension efforts are on-going with colleagues in Canada and South America and he is currently an honorary professor of Animal Production at the University of Queensland in Australia. He is author or co-author of over 300 scientific publications.



Dr. Keith Bolsen is a Professor Emeritus of Cattle Nutrition in the Animal Sciences & Industry Department at Kansas State University in Manhattan. He is a native of Bement, Illinois and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Keith began a 32-year teaching and research career at Kansas State in 1971, and he served as the major professor for 41 graduate students who earned 28 M.S. and 19 Ph.D. degrees at K-State. His research focused on agronomics of silage crops, performance of growing cattle fed silage-based rations, silage additives, preservation efficiency (i.e., shrink loss) in silage storage systems, and the application of a team approach to silage management. Keith retired from K-State in June 2003, and he and his wife, Ruthie, live in Austin, Texas. They started Keith Bolsen Ph.D. & Associates in 2003, and their company provides technical support on silage technology for several clients, including Bruno Rimini LTD, London, England and Lallemand Animal Nutrition, Milwaukee, WI. Keith and Ruthie also have authored several publications on the common safety hazards in managing silage in bunker silos and piles. Keith serves on the Board of Directors for a Christian ministry and 3-year Bible and agricultural college in Les Cayes, Haiti. Keith and Ruthie have five grand children and five great grand children. Their youngest grandson is currently on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.



Dustin Rippe



is the Risk Manager and Corn Buyer for Gottsch Cattle Company where he buys corn for 3 feedlots with capacity of 175K and handles the risk management for the cattle and hogs. Dustin was raised on a diversified cow/calf and farming operation in South Central Nebraska. Dustin has remained active in the operation and is responsible for the mating and selling of the bulls in their seed-stock operation. He received his bachelor's degree in Ag Business and Animal Science at Colorado State University, where he also spent a semester studying abroad in New Zealand. Prior to joining Gottsch Cattle Company, he worked for Cattle Fax and covered the Colorado and western Nebraska fed cattle territory as well as the north plains for cow/calf and stocker operations. Prior to Cattle Fax, Dustin worked for Meyer Natural Angus in the procurement department as the manager of procurement systems and services. At Meyer, Dustin scheduled cattle for harvest, maintained the forward contract inventory, and various other tasks.

Please **RSVP** by returning the attached form below before **June 6, 2011**.

For questions call **(402) 781-9378**, or e-mailing Tiffany.Widener@GPLC-Inc.com.

\$10.00 Pre-Registration Fee or \$15.00 at the door



(Includes: admission, lunch, proceedings and gift)



Great Plains Livestock Consulting, Inc.

Presents



Name (First, Last) _____ Date Attending (Circle One): June 28 June 29 June 30

Name (First, Last) _____ June 28 June 29 June 30

Name (First, Last) _____ June 28 June 29 June 30

Name (First, Last) _____ June 28 June 29 June 30

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: 500 S. 4th, P.O. Box 377, Eagle, NE 68347



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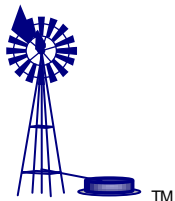
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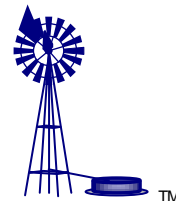


Nutra Blend, LLC





The Great Plains News Feed



Timely Reminders



General

- ✓ Corn is too expensive to feed to parasites, worm your livestock.

Beef

- ✓ Semen check bulls for upcoming breeding season.
- ✓ Cows should be given pre-breeding vaccinations.
- ✓ Create a fly control plan to minimize pinkeye and maximize production.
- ✓ Worm cows.
- ✓ Consider addition of Rumensin, Bovatec, or Gain-Pro to mineral for cows and yearlings; all will improve performance.
- ✓ Give us a call if you need help designing a synchronization program for cows or heifers.

Swine

- ✓ Check feeders/waterers for waste control.
- ✓ Check feed budgets to control overfeeding expensive diets.
- ✓ Consider using Paylean to maximize your profits.

Unused Feed

- ✓ Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Using Nutrition as a Tool to Improve AI and ET Success



By Dr. Dan Larson, Ruminant Nutritionist

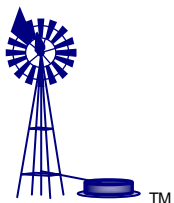
Reproductive technologies such as artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) are both excellent methods to improve the genetics of your herd. However, whether it is due to cost or labor requirements, neither technology has seen wide acceptance in the beef industry. Fewer than 10% of all beef cows are bred using AI and far fewer producers use ET. A major impediment to the use of these technologies is the inconsistent success of either program. The most common sources of failure are improper protocols or failure to adhere to the protocol, failure to detect animals in estrus, and incorrect technique. However, many producers who successfully employ the protocol do an excellent job of estrus detection or use timed AI, and perform all procedure with precision, yet fail to get cattle pregnant. Often, nutrition is overlooked in these

A substantial amount of research has focused on excess protein in rations provided to cows and heifers. With the wide availability and relatively inexpensive nature of corn co-products, heifer and cow diets are much higher in protein than times past. The cow handles excess nitrogen

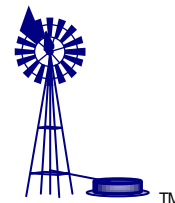
(protein) by first producing ammonia and then converting the ammonia to urea, which is excreted in the urine. However, the conversion of ammonia to urea requires energy. Therefore, it is very important to balance the ration to provide adequate energy for a given level of protein. Cows are likely more susceptible to negative effects of high protein diets because their diets are typically lower in energy and their requirement for protein is lower leading to a greater excess. When ammonia levels increase, the acidity of the blood increases leading to greater acidity in the uterus, reducing viability of both the sperm and embryo. For example, a cow that has undergone superovulation for ET may respond very well, but have very few fertilized embryos. It is possible the protein of her diet was too great and sperm viability was compromised. If there are a high percentage of degenerate embryos, perhaps the viability of the embryo was compromised by the acidity of the uterus. As a rule of thumb, balance cow rations for less than 12-14% protein and heifer rations for less than 15% protein. Cattle on pasture are generally less susceptible because there is adequate energy available.

Further complicating matters, excess energy can be detrimental. However, this seems to be dependent on BCS. A study conducted in the United Kingdom found that low BCS heifers fed a high-energy diet produced more viable embryos than did high BCS heifers fed a high-energy diet. An example of this scenario is heifers developed on two planes of nutrition prior to breeding. Heifers developed to a lighter weight with fewer inputs will respond more favorably to the increased forage availability during the breeding season than fat heifers and perhaps more will become pregnant to AI. Another scenario would involve donor cows for ET. If donor cows are kept in a lower BCS, added supplementation prior to superovulation may result in better quality embryos and greater ET success. On the other hand, obese cows fed high-energy diets prior to superovulation are prone to produce fewer and lower quality oocytes than their more lean counterparts. Although it is difficult to pinpoint an exact dietary energy content for breeding cows, targeting a 5.5 to 6.5 BCS will help ensure reproductive success.

Technologies such as AI or ET are excellent methods to improve genetics in your cowherd. However, the obstacles to success preclude many producers from employing these strategies. Practical issues such as protocols, methods, and estrus detection are essential. Without appropriate nutrition, both AI and ET will fail. Keep in mind that both restricted and excessive nutrition hurt the pocketbook. Nutrition does have a substantial effect on reproduction. Be certain your advisor takes both under consideration when designing your nutrition and reproductive strategies.



The Great Plains News Feed



Stretch the Cow's Life as Long as Possible



By Zeb Prawl, Ruminant Nutritionist

At a time when cows continue to be hauled to the salebarn and the country's cow herds are still not being rebuilt, increasing the productive life of a cow is worth more now than ever. The continued decrease in calf numbers has sustained a higher price for calves and feeder cattle for several months now, and the trend looks to continue. The worst drought that many can remember continues to have a strangle-hold on major cow areas of the country, and those cows may not be there much longer. So, if you own a cow, now is the time to make sure she is producing and maintaining her place in your herd.

The cost to replace a cow in the herd today is substantial. If you are keeping heifers and raising them for replacements, 2 years of feed costs along with what they are worth as calves mean those heifers likely are worth \$1,400 or more by the time she has her first calf. If you buy young bred cows, be prepared to spend more than ever. While these costs are high, the good news is that calves are selling higher too, so it is possible to recoup your investment within a reasonable time. Although how long does it really take to get that money back? If one looks at more than just initial cost, then the answer is a lot longer than you think. Table 1 illustrates the flow of money from initial purchase of a female through several years of production, taking into account feed and interest costs.

If you take into account feed and interest costs, the chart shows that the heifer/cow doesn't actually turn a profit until she is 6 years old, at current costs with some assumptions about future costs. If that cow was open as a 4 year old, she would be sold and with her salvage value as well as proceeds from her calf that year, she would net you

\$534.29 for 3 calves. Or you could look at it as \$178/calf profit. However, if she doesn't come up open until after her 7th calf, then her net calf profit is \$258/head over her life span. As you can see, keeping her bred every year is of the utmost importance right now!

There is no single manageable part of the cow business that will help keep these cows in the herd longer than a solid nutrition plan. It is easy to look at high feed costs right now and become discouraged. However, we can never remind clients enough to look at both sides. Calf prices are extremely high too. The reward is still there for the taking. Cutting back on the nutrition program will not make your cattle any more profitable in the long run. If one does enough to get by on protein and energy, but cuts the mineral program short, the short term financial relief may seem welcome. However, the cuts we make in nutrition now are sometimes not seen for several months, maybe even a year or two in beef cattle. If by cutting your mineral program back or out completely, the only setback you might see is a missed breeding cycle in your cows. But how much would that cost you? If you had 100 cows and 50 of them didn't breed on the first cycle, that would be about 20 days of lost calf growth due to later calving times next spring. Assume that those 50 all bred in the second cycle, so you have 50 calves that lost 40 lbs each (2lb/day gain X 20 days). At today's calf prices, that would be a minimum of \$2800 in lost revenue because of lighter calves at weaning. That in itself could almost pay for an entire year's worth of mineral for the entire herd!

The examples can go on and on about how the nutrition program is going to pay for itself in the cow/calf herd. The bottom line is this and everyone with cattle has heard it before: You can't starve a profit out of your cows and calves. If you'd like some help on how to best make that profit right now with your cattle and formulating a sound nutrition program, contact one of us at Great Plains Livestock Consulting, Inc.

Table 1.	Bred Hfr	3 Yr Old	4 Yr Old	5 Yr Old	6 Yr Old	7 Yr Old	8 Yr Old
Principal \$ from prior year	\$1,400.00	\$1,085.00	\$755.39	\$425.71	\$77.32	\$267.66	-\$617.66
Annual Interest rate	5.50%	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%
Accrued interest per year	\$77.00	\$62.39	\$45.32	\$26.61	\$5.03	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash cost to run one cow	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$375.00
Cow cost/year	\$477.00	\$462.39	\$420.32	\$401.61	\$380.03	\$375.00	\$375.00
Calf Income	\$792.00	\$792.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$725.00	\$725.00	\$725.00
Principal balance	\$1,085.00	\$755.39	\$425.71	\$77.32	\$267.66	\$617.66	-\$967.66

Open Cull Value as 4 Year Old: \$960.00

Open Cull Value as

8 Year Old: \$840.00

Total Profit after all costs: **\$534.29**

Total Profit after all

costs: **\$1,807.66**