

Beef
by
John Combs
Penn State



wean your calves now. A cow herd has been shown to be 43 percent more effective in using feed resources when calves were weaned early compared to weaning at the conventional seven months or later. The reasons for this are logi-

cal: when a cow passes her peak lactation for the year, it is more effective to put feed directly into the calf rather than feeding a cow to produce milk.

There is a host of information available on drought-related is-

sues at your local Penn State Extension Center. For those of you with Internet access, go to our web site at www.cas.psu.edu and search the drought information there.

Goat Sale Does Well At Bedford County Fair

LINDA WILLIAMS

Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — It was only the second year for goats to be paraded across the auction block at the Bedford County Fair, and they probably exceeded all expectations.

The 23 animals grossed \$3,316.72 with the grand champion going for \$3.50 per pound. Tanner Waltemire, Everett, showed the 103-pound buck purchased by Curryville Agway.

The reserve grand champion owned by Jonathon T. May of Buffalo Mills brought \$4 per pound. Erik Turkovich of American Outfitters purchased the 100-pound animal.

Lampeer Farms of Loysburg purchased the lightweight champion of 43 pounds from Ben Sollenberger for \$2.25. The middle-weight 58-pound champ went for \$2. Owned by Tanner Waltemire, it was purchased by Morrison's Cove Livestock Market.

Ben Sollenberger saw his 44-pound lightweight reserve champ go for \$2 to Lampeer.

Bedford Valley purchased the final goat for \$3 per pound. The owner Melissa Shastay had written a note to Bedford Valley thanking them for purchasing her animal last year but said, "I think it would be nice if you purchased someone else's this year." Instead, Bedford Valley decided they would have the animal at any cost.

Brandi Hall, Jolene Hall, Aleeccha Jones, Melissa Shastay, and Nickolas Jones all donated 5 percent of their sale to a special "goat building" fund.



Curryville Agway purchased the grand champion market goat shown by Tanner Waltemire for \$3.50 per pound.

OVERCOMING SHORT FEED SUPPLIES

As I write this article, the drought continues in Pennsylvania. Many cattlemen have been feeding hay to their cow herds for two months or more, and this will seriously affect winter feed supplies.

While there will be no easy answers to recovering feed needs for this winter, there are a couple of options that producers can consider to provide the feed they need and reduce the cost.

The following rations are designed to have effectively the same nutritional value to maintain a beef cow in moderate flesh for the winter: (dical=dicalcium phosphate)

- Ration #1: 18 pounds wheat straw, 4.5 pounds corn, 1 pound soybean meal, .25 pound dical
- Ration #2: grazed corn stalks, 1.5 pounds soybean meal, .25 pound dical
- Ration #3: 22 pounds alfalfa hay, .25 pound dical
- Ration #4: 20 pounds grass hay, 2 pounds corn, 1 pound soybean meal, .25 pound dical

Using the following prices:

- Corn stalks=\$.25/head/day.
- Corn grain=\$2.40/bu.
- Soybean meal=\$260/ton.
- Wheat straw=\$80/ton.
- Alfalfa hay=\$120/ton.
- Grass hay=\$55/ton.
- Dical=\$250/ton.
- Corn silage=\$30/ton.

The daily cost for each ration per cow is:

- Ration #1: \$1.09.
- Ration #2: \$.57.
- Ration #3: \$1.25.
- Ration #4: \$.76.

This information shows that lower quality forages may be the most desirable since they can be supplemented effectively with a cheap source of energy — corn. Local prices reflect this disparity in the cost of hay versus corn, and this may continue.

For example, the price of ener-

gy in corn at \$2.40/bu. is \$.048/pound of TDN, while the price of energy in 55 percent TDN hay at \$80/ton is \$.072. Therefore, lower quality forages plus corn may be the cheapest winter feed this year. This is shown in ration #4 when cheaper, lower quality hay is available.

Secondly, the cost of using stalk fields, even when charging \$.25/head/day, is still very cheap feed. This method also extends short hay supplies while meeting the needs of the cow.

Besides the direct cost of feeds, consider also the reduction of storage and feeding losses in stored forage. At least 10 percent more feed will be available for large round bales stored outside if they are covered with something. Net wrap does little to help preserve hay (it is most effective to reduce baling time), so cover all the bales that are outside. Secondly, get bales off of the ground if possible. Pallets, stone, or logs can be used, and the worst losses in the bale can be avoided. Keep the bales out from under trees, as trees gather rain and snow to drip on the bales. Store the bales in a well-drained area so water moves away from them and not toward or under them.

Use a bale-feeding device of some kind. Ring feeders will usually result in about 8 percent feeding losses, but those losses can be 40 percent or more when using no feeder. Our work here at Penn State has shown the inverted cone feeder will have the lowest feeding loss — about 4 percent — and are effective if you have the equipment needed to lift bales into them. Make sure the cows effectively clean up a bale before feeding the next one. Cows will always eat the least desirable stuff last, so, when you keep giving them new bales, they will tend to leave some of the last bale behind.

Finally, while it does not sound like a feeding recommendation,

4 CHEERS FOR 4H

7th ANNIVERSARY - TRUCKLOAD SALE

Thurs., Fri. & Sat. September 16, 17 & 18

Sale Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

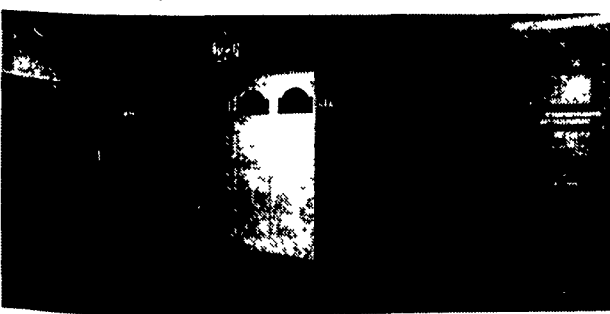
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