

Schedule Released For Pennsylvania Graded, Feeder Cattle Sales

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The schedule has been released for the Fall Pennsylvania Graded Feeder Cattle Sales. These dates have been selected so area producers can plan ahead to market their feeder cattle.

Cattle will be sold in uniform lots according to USDA grade, weight, sex and breed or color. Some sales will not accept cattle with dairy breeding, yearlings, bulls or cattle with horns. Cattle that have been dehorned should be healed. Castrated males should be healed and guaranteed against stags.

Personnel from the Livestock Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture,

Bureau of Market Development will grade the cattle for frame size and muscle thickness, using USDA feeder cattle grading standards.

The 2002 sale dates and locations are as follows:

- Eighty-Four Auction Sales, Eighty-Four (Washington County)

Sale date and time: Friday, Oct. 4 — 7 p.m.

Cattle received: Friday, Oct. 4 — 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Estimated headage: 700 — No cattle with horns, dairy breeding or bulls will be accepted.

Contact: Clair Kearns (724) 239-2124

Sale barn: (724) 222-9965

- Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg (Snyder County)

Sale date and time: Friday, Oct. 4 — 7 p.m.

Cattle received: Friday, Oct. 4 — 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Estimated headage: 300 to 400

Contact: Larry Benfer (570) 837-5638 or Clarence Shirk (717) 656-8793

Sale barn: (570) 837-2222

- PA Livestock Auction, Waynesburg (Greene County)

Sale date and time: Wednesday, Oct. 9 — 10:30 a.m.

Cattle received: Tuesday, Oct. 8 — 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Estimated headage: 1000 — No bulls or yearlings will be

graded.

Contact: Joe Friend (301) 746-8178

Sale barn: (724) 627-9585

- New Wilmington Livestock Auction, New Wilmington (Lawrence County)

Sale dates and time: Friday, Oct. 11 — 7:30 p.m.

Cattle received: Friday, Oct. 11 — 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Estimated headage: 100

Contact: Tom Skelton (330) 793-3590

Sale barn: (724) 946-8621

- Central PA Livestock Coop — Feeder Calf and Yearling Sale

Belleville Livestock Auction, Belleville (Mifflin County)

Sale date and time: Friday, Oct. 18 — 7 p.m.

Cattle received: Friday, Oct. 18 — 7 a.m.-noon

Estimated headage: 300 to 350

Contact: Brian Glick (717) 935-2146

Sale day: (717) 935-2146

- Indiana Farmer's Livestock Market, Homer City (Indiana County)

Sale date and time: Saturday, Oct. 5 — 7 p.m.

Cattle received: Saturday, Oct. 5 — 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Estimated headage: 400

Contact: Becky Lipsi (724) 397-4087

Sale barn: (724) 479-2600

- Bedford Cattlemen's Assn., Bedford County Fairgrounds, Bedford (Bedford County)

Sale date and time: Saturday, Oct. 19 — 1 p.m.

Cattle received: Friday, Oct. 18 — 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Estimated headage: 250

Contact: Dave Miller (814) 623-2321, Daryl Diehl (814) 735-4683, Bethany Fritz (814) 733-0109, or Joe Cogan (814) 652-9275.

- Westmoreland County Cattlemen's Assn., Westmoreland County Fairgrounds, Greensburg (Westmoreland County)

Sale date and time: Saturday, Oct. 19 — 6:30 p.m.

Cattle received: Saturday, Oct. 19 — 8 a.m.-11 a.m.

Estimated headage: 200 — No cattle with horns, dairy breeding or bulls will be accepted

Contact: Dustin Heeter (724) 837-1402 or Conrad Dovovan (724) 593-6230

- Middleburg Livestock Auction, Middleburg (Snyder County)

Sale date and time: Friday, Nov. 1 — 7 p.m.

Cattle received: Friday, Nov. 1 — 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Estimated headage: 300 to 400

Contact: Larry Benfer (717) 837-5638 or Clarence Shirk (717) 656-8793

Sale barn: (717) 837-2222

Additional information about these sales is available by calling Mark Butcher, Livestock and Fair Division, PDA Bureau of Market Development, at (717) 787-5319, www.pda.state.pa.us.

Dry Weather Can Pose A Feeding Risk For Livestock

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Livestock grazing on plants or fed cereal grains during drought conditions may run the risk of being poisoned, causing illness and even death.

Ohio State University Extension livestock specialists said that certain plants like weeds and ornamentals are toxic, and during times of dry conditions when no other pasture feed is available, livestock may be inclined to consume them.

"Toxic weeds are typically in the pastures all the time and livestock normally leave them alone," said Steve Boyles, an Ohio State Extension beef cattle specialist. "The concern, however, is that during drought situations that's the only thing green still standing and that may make them more desirable to the animals."

Boyles said livestock producers should get to know some of the more common toxic weeds and plants and keep livestock well fed to ensure they would not be tempted to eat them. Some toxic plants include holly, rhubarb, ivy, morning glory and brackenfern.

"One concern may be the risk of cyanide poisoning," said Boyles. "Symptoms include labored breathing, staggering, trembling muscles and convulsions."

He said some sources of cyanide poisoning include twigs and leaves of wild and cultivated cherry trees and certain marsh grasses, such as arrowgrass. The grass contains a high salt content and lack of salt on the pasture may drive livestock to feed on the plant to meet salt requirements.

Farmers can minimize livestock illness from poisonous

plants by following the suggested guidelines:

- Learn the identification of poisonous plants.

- Do not manage forage in high-density areas of poisonous plants.

- Supplement feed with salt, minerals and other nutrients.

- Avoid grazing animals in areas of abundant poisonous plants.

- Provide adequate water to prevent nonselective grazing.

A more dangerous source of cyanide poisoning is found in forage grasses, such as sorghum, sudangrasses and sorghum-sudangrass crosses. Boyles said the grasses produce prussic acid that, under dry conditions, can accumulate in high levels. The active component of the poison is hydrocyanic acid, which is extremely toxic to livestock, especially cattle and sheep.

Boyles recommends producers follow the suggested guidelines when grazing sorghum and sudangrass varieties:

- Plant sudangrass and sudangrass hybrids instead of sorghum varieties, since sudangrass hybrids have lower prussic acid potential.

- Do not graze sheep on sudangrass or hybrids until the plants are 12 inches to 15 inches tall; 18 inches to 24 inches tall for cattle.

- Do not graze sorghum-sudangrass hybrids until the plants are at least 24 inches tall.

- Regrowth sorghum should not be grazed until after the plant is completely killed by frost or dried. Young, regrowth forage can be very toxic.

- Do not graze forage varieties after a drought, or if the plants show visible signs of moisture stress. Test the plants for toxicity levels before grazing.

- Do not graze hungry livestock on forage varieties. The more they consume the greater the risk of being poisoned. It is much safer to offer feed such as hay or silage. In the case of silage, it should be allowed to ferment for at least two weeks before it is fed.

Information on prussic acid poisoning can be obtained through an Ohio State Extension fact sheet titled, "Livestock and Prussic Acid Poisoning" by logging on to the Ohio State Extension 2002 Drought Website at <http://corn.osu.edu/drought02>.

Producers should not only be aware of potentially poisonous plants, but also of plant toxins produced by other organisms.

Maurice Eastridge, an Ohio State Extension dairy specialist, said drought conditions increase the risk for the development of mycotoxins — toxins produced by molds during the growth or storage of cereal grains, especially corn. Some of the more common mycotoxins include aflatoxin, vomitoxin, citrin, ochratoxin, fumonisin, and zeralenone.

Eastridge said the best management practice to keep mold development under control is to store grain under optimal drying conditions before feeding it to

livestock. Mold growth takes place in most feeds when moisture content is above 15 percent.

Many health-related problems associated with moldy feed can go unnoticed in livestock, but moldy feed is generally unpalatable and will result in less feed intake, which leads to weight loss and reduced milk production.

"Cattle are more resistant to mycotoxins than other livestock, like swine and poultry," said Eastridge. "But it's important to monitor feed intake and conduct standard feed tests. Not all mycotoxins are regulated by the FDA."

Aflatoxins, produced by strains of the fungus *Aspergillus*, are the only mycotoxins regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Corn grain containing over 20 parts per billion of aflatoxin cannot be marketed commercially, and milk with .5 parts per billion is also prohibited for sale.

Additional information on molds, mycotoxins and poisonous plants is available through an Ohio State Extension fact sheet titled, "What Do I Do If Mycotoxins Are Present?" by logging on to the Ohio State Extension 2002 Drought Website at <http://corn.osu.edu/drought02>.

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LDP's Available For 2001 Stored Grain

YORK (York Co.) — The Farm Bill recently signed by President Bush authorizes Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's) on contract crops grown on farms without Production Flexibility Contracts (PFC's).

According to Wayne Kurtz, executive director of the York County Farm Service Agency, "This provision is similar to the regulations for the 2000 crop year, so interested county producers should provide sales documents to our office. These documents will establish a LDP rate, if any, even though the

grain is already sold. Producers who have crop year 2001 grain currently stored on farm may obtain a farm stored LDP any time."

Kurtz concluded by stating "not much corn activity is anticipated since prices have strengthened from last year." The deadline to submit these requests are 30 days after the new rules are published in the federal register.

Interested York County producers can contact the county FSA office at (717) 755-2966, ext. 2, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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