

Fenceline

by Jody G. Holthaus

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Livestock-Natural Resources

Comparing Protein Costs

Margins are tight for cattlemen and farmers this year. They are scrutinizing all purchases and as good managers they need to get the most bang for their buck!

When comparing costs, they need to consider the cost per pound of protein, not just the cost per ton. There can be wide gaps, in the differences. The first step is to get the feed converted to an as fed basis. This is the way feed is purchased. To convert the protein content from a dry matter basis to an as fed basis, just multiply the percent protein by the percent of dry matter in the feed.

For example: Calculate the protein content of corn gluten that is 25.6% protein on a dry basis to an as fed basis. Assuming that corn gluten is 90% dry matter, multiply 25.6% by 90%. This will equal 23.04% on an as fed basis. Now compare the cost of two protein supplements. Compare 48% soybean meal selling for \$352 per ton, and 25.6% Corn gluten that sells for \$170 per ton. The calculation to convert the corn gluten was done up above, so we can now compare the two.

First you need to know the pounds of protein in each feed. So you multiply the percent protein time's 2000 lbs (1 ton).

$2000 \times .48 = 960$ pounds crude protein in soybean meal

$2000 \times .23 = 460$ pounds crude protein in corn gluten

Next calculate the cost per pound of crude protein. This is done by dividing the cost per ton, by the pounds of protein in a ton of feed.

$\$352/960 = 36$ cents per pound of crude protein in soybean meal.

$\$170/460 = 37$ cents per pound of crude protein in corn gluten.

In this example the lower cost per ton protein source (corn gluten) was actually the higher costs supplement when comparing on an actual cost per pound of protein. Although, it was only a penny, you can see the difference. Each time you are making a purchase, make this calculation. If you need more information give me a call at the Extension office

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Crops & Soils/Horticulture

Control Broadleaf Weeds NOW!

As I walked across the lawn as the sun came up this morning, I saw them: cool season broadleaf weeds! In particular, the white clover and dandelion caught my attention. I shouldn't have been surprised – it is that time of year!

Through early November is a great time to implement broadleaf weed control programs in lawns. Dandelions likely started growth back in September with henbit and chickweed should germinating in October. That means they should all be up and growing – yet are small and easily controlled with herbicides. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots in the fall.

Products like 2, 4-D or combination products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out) that contain 2, 4-D, MCPP and Dicamba are all good options. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well, killing plants from the roots up. Choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher since the better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow or stop this process.

Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Speed Zone) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above, plus carfentrazone. It will give a quicker response than the other products mentioned especially as temperatures approach 50 degrees.

Fall Tree Color

Fall means a change in leaf color from green to all kinds of shades of red, purple, yellow, orange and brown. It happens as the green color from chlorophyll is replaced by various other plant pigments. Sometimes, however, it doesn't happen quite as 'vividly' as we'd like!!

The reason we don't have 'New England colors' here is in part because we don't have the same trees they do in the east. Certain oaks and maples there produce good color that ours don't always mimic.

A second reason is weather. Warm, sunny days and cool nights are what makes for good color. Sunny days encourage photosynthesis and sugar accumulation in leaves. As fall progresses, each leaf develops an abscission layer at the base of the leaf that prevents these sugars from being transported down the trunk to the roots for storage. If we can keep the leaf's sugar content high, we can get some intense colors! On the other hand, cloudy days and warm nights tend to prevent some of the sugar accumulation in the leaves and results in less vibrant colors. Heavy rains in the early spring or hot, dry weather during the summer can both have a deleterious effect on fall color as well, even though those weather extremes are often long forgotten by fall.

Enjoy the colors while they last! Once frosts and freezes set in, the colors (other than brown!!) will likely be short lived!!

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MEADOWLARK EXTENSION DISTRICT AGENT NEWS

Cindy Williams
Meadowlark District Agent
Foods/Nutrition/Money Management

No News

October 28, 2016

MEADOWLARK EXTENSION DISTRICT AGENT NEWS

Nancy Nelson
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Family Life

No News