



# Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

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Blaine County Cooperative Extension Service  
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## Consider Implants to Boost Stocker Gain Dana Zook, Area Livestock Specialist, Enid Area Office

The winter grazing season is once again here for Oklahoma producers. Much of the winter forage has been put in the ground and producers are counting on rain to produce good forage this fall. Regardless of grazing choices, producers should consider utilizing an implant in stocker cattle to boost gains this winter.

### What are implants?

Since 1957, implants have been used in all facets of the cattle industry to increase gain. According to the OSU implant factsheet, the term “implant” refers to a group of products in the cattle industry that increase rate and efficiency of growth, metabolically and economically. The implant comes in the form of a small compressed pellet that is administered under the skin on the back middle third of the calf’s ear. Implants contain natural and synthetic compounds that produce physiological responses in the animal, mimicking natural hormones. These compounds are designed to release slowly over time into the bloodstream of the animal. The length of a grazing period will dictate the type of implant that will work for each operation so consult your veterinarian to find which implant is right for your cattle.

### Will implants pay?

According to a great deal of research from OSU and other institutions, producers can expect an increase in gain of about 0.2 pound per head daily in stocker calves. While that may not seem like much, it can really add up over time. For example, good grazing for 90 days at 0.2 pound added daily gain would provide an extra 18 pounds. The actual dollar value will vary, but in today’s market, that gain could be worth around \$25. This provides an exceptional return to an implant that costs \$1.50 to \$3.00 (cost will depend on implant type and chute fee).

### Are implants always effective?

There are some things to keep in mind about implants. The implant response will only be as good as the feed the calf is consuming. If we have a dry winter and the grazing is poor, it is unlikely you will obtain full benefit of the implant. If forage is adequate, you should be able to expect a positive gain response similar to what has been seen at OSU. Keep in mind that health, weather, and genetics of cattle are all factors that will make a difference in the amount of gain realized from the implant during the grazing period.

Cleanliness during implant procedures has a huge effect on the efficacy of the implant. Before implanting, the calf’s ear should be clear of manure, mud and debris; ears should be cleaned if they are dirty. Start with sanitary equipment and keep maintain sanitation throughout the process. A lack of cleanliness can lead to abscesses on the ear that prevent calves from getting the benefit from the implant. Sharp needles are also essential to a successful implant procedure. For instructions on implanting procedure, check out the OSU factsheet *Implants and Their Use in Beef Cattle Production* at <http://factsheets.okstate.edu>; search for the term “implants”.

Calves, stockers, and feedlot cattle can be given implants, however, they are not cleared for use in breeding animals, cull cows, dairy cattle and veal calves. Implants should not be utilized on calves less than 45 days of age.

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## Fall Weed Control

**Josh Bushong, Area Extension Agronomy Specialist**

Many of our herbicide options for weed control in wheat and canola need to be applied during favorable growing conditions in order to achieve satisfactory results. To get the most out of the herbicide product, it is important to know what weeds are the target and by what growth stage they need to be sprayed. More often than not many herbicide applications fail to provide satisfactory results because they were either applied when the weeds were too big or when the weeds were not actively growing.

For wheat in north central Oklahoma, winter annual grassy weeds like feral rye, Italian ryegrass, jointed goatgrass, bromes (cheat, rescuegrass, downy, Japanese), and wild oats can often be troublesome. Especially if the wheat is anticipated to be harvested for grain. Competition from these weeds has become a big enough issue that the only option is to either graze the crop out or harvest it for hay because if it is harvested for grain the price reductions from dockage and/or foreign material is too high.

The only option for managing feral rye and jointed goatgrass in wheat is to utilize the Clearfield system. By sowing a Clearfield wheat variety, the wheat producer can apply the herbicide Beyond. This herbicide will kill wheat varieties without this trait. The newer Clearfield Plus system allows the use of an adjuvant called methylated seed oil (MSO) or high surfactant oil concentrate (HSOC). Only Clearfield wheat varieties designated with a “2” or “Plus (+)”, such as Doublestop CL+, can tolerate the addition of the oil adjuvants.

In addition to MSO or a non-ionic surfactant (NIS), it is recommended to also include a nitrogen-based fertilizer with the herbicide Beyond. These include ammonium sulfate (AMS) and urea ammonium nitrate (UAN 28% or 32% N) at a rate of 2.5 gallons/100 gallons (or 2.5 % V/V) of spray. Spray-grade AMS can be used at 12-15 pounds /100gallons. To increase control, it is recommended to increase the UAN rate up to 5% V/V, or if AMS is used increase it up to 20 pounds/100gallons. Liquid fertilizer can be used as the carrier only for Clearfield Plus systems.

While the Clearfield or Clearfield Plus systems are great options, do not expect 100% control of feral rye. The Beyond herbicide label only gives it a suppression designation for rye. To improve control, it is recommended to use sequential applications of Beyond. The first application in the fall and the other applied in the spring.

Applications of the herbicide Beyond when air temperatures are below 40° F can cause a reduction in weed control. If air temperatures drop below 40° F within a week of application, crop injury can occur.

Early weed management in canola is just as, if not more, important than controlling weeds in wheat during the fall months. Canola is very competitive with weeds once it becomes well established, but not competitive at all when it is at the seedling growth stage. If weed populations are high enough, canola plants may remain too small to survive winter freeze events.

Due to many of the canola acres being seeded fairly late this year, competition with weeds and volunteer wheat may prove to be more damaging than most years. The cooler soil temperatures brought on by recent heavy rains has caused the canola to grow at a much slower pace than normal. Past field trials conducted by OSU have shown that canola yields will be optimized when herbicides are applied four-six weeks after emergence.

Often a sequential herbicide application will need to be applied the following spring to control escapes and late emerging weeds, but the fall applied herbicide was more critical to protecting yield potential and winter survival.

This newsletter is one way of communicating educational info to the citizens of Blaine County in the Areas of Agriculture & Rural Development.. For free subscriptions, contact the Extension Office at 580-623-5195. The information given is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is implied. This information was produced at a cost of 1 cent per page for a total of \$12.60.

Editor—Becky Bedwell, Extension Educator—Ag/4-H

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## **Mineral Supplementation of Stocker Cattle on Small Grain Forage**

**Britt Hicks, Ph.D., Area Extension Livestock Specialist**

The focus of this article will be on the various aspects that need to be considered when planning a mineral program for small grain pastures. Most of the data presented pertains to wheat pasture but is also applicable to other small grains.

**Mineral Content of Wheat Pastures:** Wheat pasture is typically low in calcium, marginal to sufficient in phosphorus and magnesium, and contains excess potassium for 400 to 600 lb stocker calves. It is also typically low in the trace minerals, copper and zinc. Due to these deficiencies, mineral supplementation on wheat pasture is highly recommended. Calcium is the macro-mineral of primary concern in most wheat pasture-grazing situations.

**Wheat Pasture Poisoning:** Wheat pasture poisoning (grass tetany) is a complex metabolic disorder of cows grazing on wheat pasture. It occurs most frequently in mature cows that are in the latter stages of pregnancy or are nursing calves, and that have been grazing wheat pasture for 60 days or more. It results from a dietary deficiency of magnesium or from the presence of some factor in the diet which reduces absorption and/or utilization of magnesium. Studies have shown that high levels of potassium and/or nitrogen in the forage result in impaired magnesium uptake by the plant and/or utilization by the animal. Forage dry matter that contains less than 0.2% magnesium and more than 3% potassium and 4% nitrogen (25% CP) is likely to cause grass tetany. Since wheat pasture is typically high in nitrogen and potassium, magnesium utilization is reduced. Research suggests that a potassium level of 3 to 3.5% reduces magnesium absorption by about 30 to 35%. Cows with wheat pasture poisoning have low blood concentrations of both calcium and magnesium. While a similar, tetany-like condition occurs in stocker cattle, its incidence is extremely low.

**Frothy Bloat - Causes and Prevention:** Frothy bloat is a major cause of death in stocker cattle grazing wheat pasture, and occurs as a result of the entrapment of gases in ruminal fluid froth and/or foam. It is generally thought that frothy bloat is caused by soluble proteins. Soluble proteins contribute to froth or foam formation in the rumen that entraps fermentation gases in the rumen. The chemical composition of wheat forage changes with environmental growing conditions, stage of wheat plant growth or maturity, soil fertility level, etc.; and, therefore, affects the degree or likelihood that a stable ruminal foam will be formed and bloat will occur when wheat is grazed. Oklahoma research has shown that bloat on wheat pasture is more prevalent when plants are low in dry matter and total fiber (neutral detergent fiber, NDF). Thus, bloat is more common when the wheat is actively growing in the fall and spring. Stockers grazing the more fibrous, less succulent wheat forage may secrete more saliva. This saliva may have an anti-foaming effect and thus reduce the incidence of bloat.

Poloxalene is the only product labeled for bloat prevention. It reduces the surface tension of the gas-trapping froth in the rumen. The froth then forms much larger gas bubbles, permitting the normal release of gas; hence, reducing the danger of bloat. Feeding monensin can help reduce bloat. Although monensin (Rumensin®) isn't a true bloat preventive compound like poloxalene, studies have shown that it does decrease the incidence and severity of wheat pasture bloat.

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## **GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER**

### **Lawn & Turf**

Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue with 1 pound nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. Continue to mow fescue as needed at 2 inches and water during dry conditions. Control broadleaf winter weeds like dandelions ([HLA-6601](#)). Keep falling leaves off fescue to avoid damage to the foliage.

### **Tree & Shrub**

Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes. Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald. Apply dormant oil for scale infested trees and shrubs before temperatures fall below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Follow label directions. Continue to plant balled and burlapped and containerized trees. Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.

### **Flowers**

Tulips can still be successfully planted through the middle of November. Leave foliage on asparagus, mums, and other perennials to help insulate crowns from harsh winter conditions. Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus and tulip can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.

### **Fruits & Nuts**

Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud break. Harvest pecans and walnuts immediately to eliminate deterioration of the kernel.

### **Miscellaneous**

Leftover garden seeds can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until next planting season. Discard seeds over 3 years old. Gather and shred leaves. Add to compost, use as mulch or till into garden plots. Clean and store garden and landscape tools. Coat with a light application of oil to prevent rusting. Drain fuel tanks, irrigation lines, and hoses. Bring hoses indoors.

Dear Blaine County Ag Producers,

I hope this finds you with your winter crops planted, army worms gone, and hay hauled in. Please take the time to enjoy this Holiday Season. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!

Becky Bedwell  
Blaine County OSU Educator Ag/4-H

# Blaine County Agriculture Newsletter

Market Report as of November 4, 2017

## Trent Milacek, NW Area Ag Economics Specialist

Feeder cattle futures continue to show strength moving above \$160/cwt. for the first time in over a year. Good beef demand and strong prices for 600+ pound calves have given the fuel to push prices higher. After breaking through resistance near \$155/cwt., producers should watch closely for a pull-back. Live cattle futures have also traded into a new contract high closing above \$125/cwt. Now is a great time for cow/calf producers who are selling stocker cattle. Producers purchasing cattle or retaining ownership of raised calves have some decisions to make regarding the marketing of those animals. While prices could remain high, budgets are profitable and some producers will take the opportunity to price cattle. March feeder cattle are trading near \$158/cwt. and a March \$156/cwt. put option will cost \$6.00/cwt. In that scenario, a producer can establish a floor at \$150/cwt. that is \$10/cwt. above support in the futures market. All while leaving upside potential open. Determine breakeven prices and work to protect profitable budgets. Cattle could provide the cash flow required to operate farm businesses as grain prices struggle.

### Return of Multicolored Asian Lady Beetle

Eric J. Rebek, State Extension Specialist for Horticultural Insects

Where are all these ladybugs coming from? This is an all-too-familiar question heard around Oklahoma the past few days. The ladybugs in question are of one species, *Harmonia axyridis*, also known as multi-colored Asian lady beetle (MALB). This exotic predator was introduced into the U.S. from Japan by the USDA during the 1960's through 1990's in an attempt to provide control of various agricultural pests. Reportedly, MALB has done a great job controlling serious pests such as pecan aphids, leading to significant reductions in insecticide use in orchards. However, these beetles have a dark side as they can invade homes and other structures, acting as nuisance pests fall through spring.

Although MALB benefits agriculture, beetles seek out shelter during the fall in order to survive the cold winter months. Beetles are most active on warm, sunny days following periods of cool weather and are attracted to illuminated surfaces, especially the southwestern walls of houses and other buildings. It is also important to point out that unlike termites, MALB does not consume wood and causes no structural damage. Unlike fleas, roaches, and fruit flies, MALB does not reproduce inside buildings; it is only overwintering. However, MALB is a nuisance pest because it can accumulate indoors in large numbers and when disturbed, it produces an unpleasant, acrid odor and yellowish fluid that can stain curtains and clothing.

These ladybugs also bite readily, although they cause no serious injury to people and pe

Prevention is the first and best option for managing MALB and other home invaders. Keep insects from getting indoors by sealing all cracks and crevices in outer walls with mortar or a similar compound. If sealing exterior cracks and crevices is impractical, remedial measures including insecticide sprays may be needed to reduce numbers of beetles entering the home. Indoor applications of insecticides, including "bug bombs" and sprays, aren't generally recommended for use against MALB because they seldom work, may leave chemical residues on walls, furniture, and countertops, and can be hazardous to the health of people and pets. Therefore, a vacuum cleaner with a hose attachment is a simple tool that can be used to remove beetles from the interior of the home. However, I recommend disposing of the vacuum bag or trap immediately after use, or simply releasing captured beetles outdoors, assuming routes of entry have been sealed.

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