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**October 27, 2017**

**By: Spencer Perkins**  
**County Extension Agent**

**As summer winds down, fall and winter seem to be quickly approaching, hay production for 2017 is in its final days. You should now have a good idea on the amount of hay you will have available for the winter. The most important question is, will the existing feed supply meet my livestock's nutrient requirements? If not, then additional feeds need to be found to cover those needs.**

**I know many of you have an abundant supply of hay this year, it is still important to sample your hay and send samples to a lab for nutrient analyses. Once the nutrient content is known, it is a lot more likely that dollars spent on supplemental feeds will be wisely spent. Core sampling of hay bales is the best way to get a representative hay sample. It is key to look at the nutrient value of your hay not just the quantity you have.**

**If you are evaluating the needs of your cows, then the primary question is whether or not the forage meets their nutrients requirements or if they need a supplement to overcome a nutrient deficiency. In most situations good quality hay should meet requirements of dry, pregnant cows in the proper body condition. The scenarios that are more likely to require supplementation are when you are trying to raise your cattle's body condition score, or you have calves nursing and trying to breed cows back. Again, the lab analyses will be invaluable to know this. The most likely nutrient to be deficient is protein, however we must also pay close attention to the TDN and other important nutrients on the**

report. If protein is the only thing you are lacking, consider what feeds are available and calculate the cost per pound of protein to determine which feed is the best buy.

Grazing management and bull selection for the winter feeding period will be the focus of the upcoming Cow-Calf Roundtable. Dr. Jason Banta, Assistant Professor & Extension Beef Specialist will be the keynote speaker.

The Roundtable hosted by the Henderson County Beef Cattle Committee will be held Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Citizens Center located at 3344 State Highway 31 East in Athens. The facility is located east of Athens adjacent to the Henderson County Fair Park Complex. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the program starting at 6:00 p.m.

Participants who attend the Roundtable will be awarded 1 continuing education unit towards the recertification of private, commercial and non-commercial applicators license. The cost for the program is \$15.00 per person and will include a barbecue dinner. Please R. S. V. P. To the Henderson County Extension office on or before Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a lot of good information presented at the Roundtable and I hope to see you there.

#### **JUST LOOKING TO STAY WARM:**

As our temperatures are quickly dropping we will start noticing insects and pest are beginning to look for a place to spend the winter. Most of the insects are just looking for a place to overwinter and are not establishing permanent residences. They will primarily be a nuisance and most of them present no great danger to the homeowner.

Cockroaches, earwigs, wasps, spiders and beetles need protected places to spend the winter. It might be a stack of firewood, lumber, trash or your home.

**It is not uncommon for insects to enter attics or garages through cracks in the foundation, open windows or spaces around doors.**

**When trying to control any pest it is important to think about the three things needed to survive: food, water, and shelter. If we can eliminate at least one of those we can normally do a good job controlling the unwanted pest.**

**Mechanical control is possible by caulking all cracks to prevent insect entry. Caulking also makes the structure more airtight and should keep lower heating costs. In the winter it is nice to not have to walk very far to get more wood to add to the fire, however storing firewood away from the home will help eliminate hiding places for the pests.**

**Chemical control is another possible treatment and should always be our last effort of control. Many of the household insecticides are labeled for the application. Apply a band of insecticide around windows, doors, foundations and along the eaves. Infestation inside the house can also be controlled using approved insecticides. Be sure to read and follow all label directions, the label is the law.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- November 7<sup>th</sup> - Cow-Calf Roundtable - Senior Citizens Center, 3344 State Highway 31 East - 5:30 p.m. - \$15.00/person - 1 C. E. U.**
- December 15<sup>th</sup> - Trinity Valley Ag Chemical Seminar - Mabank Fire Station, 111 E. Mason, Mabank - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - \$25.00/Person - 6 C. E. U.'s**