

Oldham County Ag Talk

June 2015



Austin Voyles

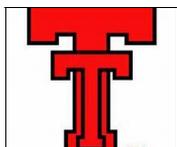
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A Letter to My Friends in Oldham County

It is with a heavy heart and positive outlook that I write to inform you that I will be resigning my position as County Extension Agent in Oldham County to pursue the CEA-Ag/NR position in Potter County.

The last year and half has been a great time in my life and career as I have bonded with so many high quality agriculture producers, families, men and women, and 4-H participants. I have grown immensely and trust me when I say that Oldham County has taught me more than I have taught Oldham County. I set personal and professional goals as soon as I arrived in this great place, and though some have yet to be achieved, rest assured that I have dedicated every ounce of my professional being to making the agriculture producers, 4-H participants and people of Oldham County BETTER, whether that was through educational opportunities and workshops, or simple day to day tasks living in this county.

My personal contact information will remain the same and I encourage you to use it if ever a need arises. I will remain in close contact with the Extension office and whomever takes hold of my position to ensure a smooth transition and adequate service to the people of Oldham County.

I appreciate deeply the hospitality that has been shown to me throughout my time in Oldham County and assure you it means more than I can describe in words! Thank you for everything, and again, do not hesitate to contact me if there is ever a need!

--Austin Voyles

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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Excerpts from Beef Cattle Browsing - Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Beef Cattle

FEEDYARD DUST AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Some general and industry news sources recently reported on research indicating that dust from beef feedyards contained antimicrobial products and DNA from bacteria with antimicrobial resistance. However, a subsequent response by three university veterinarians found three problems with the findings:



- bacterial DNA were isolated from dust but the data did not show if any living bacteria were present
- the DNA posed no direct threat to human health because it would not reconstitute into harmful organisms
- concentration of antimicrobials in the dust was extremely low, tightly bound to the dust particles, and will be degraded in the environment.

A more detailed response to the article can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/fydust-white-paper>

The annual Grassfed Beef Conference will be held on the campus of Texas A&M University on May 28 and 29. Details can be accessed at <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/event/tamu-grassfed-beef-conference/>

NATURAL, CONVENTIONAL, OR ENHANCED FINISHING ?

(J. Animal Sci. 93:1340; Oklahoma St. Univ.)

A study was made using 336 certified natural black-hided steers from two sources. Cattle were shipped 648 miles or 429 miles to an experiment station feedyard. Upon arrival, steers averaged 834 lb, having shrunk 4-5% from preloaded weight, and were vaccinated for clostridial diseases, IBR, PI3, BRSV, BVD, and treated for internal and external parasites. Cattle were then divided into three groups for finishing on the same 93% concentrate ration:

- natural (NAT), received no anti-biotics, growth implants, or beta agonist (zilpaterol, Zilmax[®]), and if antibiotic treatment was deemed necessary, they were removed from the trial;
- conventional (CON), implanted with 40 mg of estradiol and 200 mg of TBA, daily fed 33 and 9 mg/kg of monensin and tylosin, and treated with antibiotics if necessary;
- conventional plus (CON+), treated same as CON plus fed zilpaterol for the last 20 days on feed, withdrawn from feed for 3 to 5 days before slaughter.

Cattle were weighed every 28 days and on day 84 projected into slaughter groups based on predicted slaughter weight and a visual appraisal of fat cover.

Statistically significant differences existed as follows:

- CON+ gained 3.8% faster and 5.3% more efficiently than CON,
- CON gained 32.8% faster and 26.7% more efficiently than NAT,
- CON+ carcass weights were 18 lb heavier than CON and 101 lb heavier than NAT,
- CON+ had 10% units more Yield Grade 1 and 22% units fewer YG3 than CON,
- CON+ had 12% units more Select, 5% units fewer Low Choice, and 8% units fewer mid-Choice and higher than CON.



There was no significant difference in feed consumption among the three groups and no significant differences in carcass traits between CON and NAT.

Inclusion of the beta agonist improved finishing performance and carcass leanness over conventional management but decreased carcass marbling. So, use of beta agonist should consider the relative value of the magnitude of differences in performance, Yield Grade, and Quality Grade. If effectively marketed, natural beef may be valued higher than conventionally-produced product. But any price bonus must be weighed against notably lower weight gain, poorer feed efficiency, and less pounds of product. NOTE: As of late April, zilpaterol is not being marketed. Research and field observations currently being conducted may result in its being marketed again. Another beta agonist, (ractopamine, Optaflexx[®]) is available for finishing cattle.

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YOU'LL NEVER LOOK AT COW POOP THE SAME!

This new app is available to help cattle producers estimate forage quality for livestock on pastures and maintain records. After taking a photo of the "typical" fecal pat in a pasture, pat can be compared to several different stock photos to determine the approximate crude protein and digestibility of forage cattle are consuming. *You'll never look at cow poop the same again!* This information can be saved with a title and pasture name and a date will automatically be assigned for future reference. This mobile app is based on the Extension publication (E-541) 'Forage Quality Photo Guide' by Drs. Lyons, Machen, and Stuth - still available on the bookstore website.



Android version: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.poopalyzer>

Apple version: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cow-poop-analyzer/id988685100?ls=1&mt=8>

ZOETIS LAUNCHES DRAXXIN 25 TO TREAT SMALL CALVES FOR BRD



Draxxin 25 is an injectable with a lower concentration than the original Draxxin that can be used to treat bovine respiratory disease (BRD) in suckling, dairy, and veal calves.

Draxxin 25 offers broad spectrum coverage against the major causes of BRD. It does have a pre-slaughter withdrawal time of 22-days, compared with the 18-day pre-slaughter time for Draxxin.

GOT BEEF? (Veterinary Entomology; Vol. 8, Issue 1)

Recent reports indicate US consumers want beef on their dinner plates, and are showing it with their wallets. USDA Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook reports show ground beef imports to the US to be up 31% in 2014 compared to 2013, totaling 2.947 billion pounds

In addition to the increase in import beef to compensate to lower domestic sources, consumers were willing to pay 10% more for ground beef. Steak also saw an increase of 8.79% with consumers willing to pay \$7.92/lb compared to \$6.87/lb last year.

Although steak, hamburger and deli ham is being purchased at increased prices,



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