

COW/CALF CORNER

The Newsletter

From the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

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Master Cattleman Summit Early Registration Deadline is October 5

David Lalman, Oklahoma State University Extension Beef Specialist

Now is the time to register to attend the 2011 Master Cattleman Summit at Oklahoma State University's Stillwater campus on Oct. 14-15. This year's program will feature two of the nation's most popular and knowledgeable speakers on ranch management: Kit Pharo and Burke Teichert. Kit Pharo is known for his unique and innovative management ideas and philosophies that differ substantially from many traditional ways of thinking. Burke Teichert has much experience in ranch management and is recognized for organizing operations that are cost-effective with efficient, small crews.

Additionally, the summit will include several concurrent sessions on October 14 where producers can choose topics of most interest to them. Two interactive sessions have limited enrollment to ensure participants receive the maximum possible benefit from the experience. The Reproductive Technology Workshop and the Feeder-Packer Game will run from 2:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and each will be limited to the first 35 and 40 individuals who register for them.

The other three concurrent sessions will focus on key management issues related to the 2011 drought, and will be offered twice to allow participants to attend two of the three. Each session will run from 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and then be repeated from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Concurrent sessions and workshops focusing on beef management tools, drought management and one-on-one drought nutrition will be led by OSU Cooperative Extension specialists who are experts in their fields.

Producers taking part in the drought nutrition workshop are encouraged to bring hay samples to be analyzed for dry matter, protein and total digestible nutrients. Feed tags or nutrient analysis of supplemental feeds also will be helpful. Producers are also encouraged to bring their own individual information to get the most out of the nutrition software used in this workshop; including average weight of hay bales, average weight of cows when they are in medium flesh and average calving date. It will also be beneficial to have the cost of the feed when delivered to your ranch or, if home-raised, the value of each feed type that a producer is interested in evaluating.

The summit will begin at 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14, and finish at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15. Summit sessions will take place at the OSU Animal Science Building, located on Monroe Street near the Hall of Fame Avenue intersection. **Cost is \$30 if registering prior to Oct. 5 and \$40 thereafter.** To register, contact Kareta Casey by email at kareta.casey@okstate.edu or by phone at 405-744-9836. The summit is unable to accept credit cards. Early registration is encouraged to facilitate planning and help ensure that sufficient numbers of meals, refreshments and conference materials are provided. More information about the Master Cattleman Summit can be found at <http://www.beefextension.com/new%20site%202/MCSummit.html>.

The OSU Master Cattleman program is an interdisciplinary team effort that has provided many significant and positive contributions to Oklahoma cattle producers, related agribusinesses and the overall state economy. The program spans numerous academic disciplines and departments, and involves OSU Cooperative Extension state, district and area specialists and county Extension educators from across Oklahoma.

Anyone seeking additional information about either the summit or the Master Cattleman program should contact Lalman at 405-744-6060.

Feeding Weaned Calves During a Pre-conditioning Program

Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist

Many Oklahoma spring born calves have already been weaned and marketed due to drought conditions. Those calves that will be weaned at the more traditional time of late October/early November need a balanced and palatable diet to begin to eat on their own. A minimum of a 45-day weaning period is recommended to maximize the benefits of pre-conditioning. Many of the value-added calf (VAC-45) programs require a minimum 45 day weaning period before marketing. A balanced nutrition program during this period is critical to ensure profitability for the cow/calf producer and maximum immune system function during the stressful weaning period and later production phases.

Calves targeted for a VAC-45 sale (i.e. Oklahoma Quality Beef Network) should gain 1.5 to 2 pounds per head per day from weaning to marketing to greatly enhance the likelihood of profitability of the pre-conditioning program. Research has repeatedly shown that calves that begin eating soon after shipping or weaning will have reduced health issues and certainly gain

weight more quickly and consistently. Low stress “fenceline weaning” has been shown to help calves start to eat sooner and begin weight gain more quickly than calves that are weaned away from the cows.

Providing a high quality ration that meets the nutritional needs of the young calves can be accomplished in a number of ways. In 2011, pasture options will be limited, if not totally unavailable, therefore bunk-fed rations will be required in many operations this year. Producers should download a copy of the [Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact sheet ANSI-3031](#) to obtain several rations to be mixed for weaned calves. Rations are available for very young, lightweight calves as well as for 7 to 8 month old traditional 400 – 600 pound weaned calves. Some rations will include by-product feeds such as wheat-mids and dried corn distillers grains if these are available at a competitive price. The Fact sheet will also discuss other management tips for early weaning, traditional weaning, and receiving shipped-in stocker calves. The URL for this important fact sheet is <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1957/ANSI-3031web.pdf> .

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