

# Chute 'n the Bull by Tommy Neyland



Tommy Neyland

What makes a great pasture manager? A great pasture manager is one who pays attention to the details and realizes the first step of pasture management is the "plan." The great pasture managers I know "plan the work and work the plan."

Great pasture managers pay attention to changes in the pastures and scout their fields regularly to remain

aware of conditions that will impact forage production. Successful managers remain aware of what is happening in each of their pastures and how weather, events and their actions will impact the operation's goals and objectives. I encourage you to get out of your truck and walk across each of your pastures. Know the terrain, locate problem areas and plan your strategy accordingly.

So how does one plan for warm-season pasture management? Warm-season native grass pasture or rangeland managers realize that herbicide and fertilizer are often not economically viable and closely watch the stocking rate to ensure that overgrazing does not occur. While grazing management is the primary tool for rangeland managers, prescribed burning can be the second. A well prepared and executed burn plan can result in improved forage production and quality while reducing weed and brush intrusion in rangeland pastures.

It is important for rangeland managers to manage the different forages present in their pastures to meet their operational goals.

There are many different options for those with bermudagrass and other warm-season introduced forages. The following are some of the most common management practices listed by month.

In February and March, determine how much forage you need to produce from your warm-season pastures in the coming year. The amount of forage you need is a function of the number, size and type of animals you need to feed. Take soil samples and spray thistles and other problem winter weeds before they bolt or flower.

During April and May, apply the recommended amount of fertilizer for your forage needs. You strive to feed your animals properly - why not properly feed your pastures as well? Apply fertilizer to the better pastures first to get more forage for your "fertilizer" dollar. You should also scout your pastures for small weeds. There are many weeds that 2,4-D will inexpensively kill when they are less than 4 inches tall. The cost of hiring a custom applicator may be more than the chemical. Determine if the weeds are economically important or if spraying can be put off until the next year. Dividing the ranch into thirds and spraying pastures every third year may be an option. Identify problem areas on a map so that you can adjust your plan of attack for next year.

June and July should be spent attacking weeds and brush like Johnsongrass, silverleaf nightshade, brush sprouts, prickly pear and blackberries. If weather conditions look favorable for bermudagrass growth and you need the forage, apply another 50 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen. If you are in a hay situation, determine if you need to add potash (potassium) since a ton of hay can remove up to 43 pounds per acre of potassium (K2O). It may not take long to deplete your soil of potassium.

August may or may not be the time to apply 50 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen to produce stockpiled forage. If the weather is favorable and you need the forage, this may be an option.

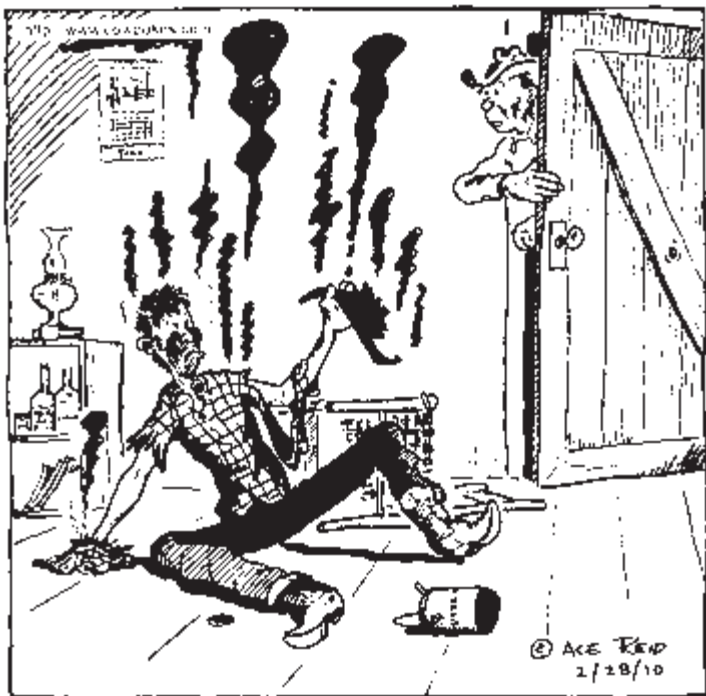
September and October should be used to write a brief synopsis of what you have experienced with each pasture. How did the war go? Did you win, lose or call it a draw? What did you learn that you could do better next year? Include information such as

what chemicals and fertilizer were applied, stocking rate (number of days grazed by how many head of what weight and type of animal), number and size of bales harvested, etc. Do this soon after you establish your winter pasture and before hunting season, otherwise you could forget.

In December and January, start the planning process all over again.

There are, of course, other variables to consider for your pasture management plan. Properly done, you will have a plan for each pasture. And remember, the plan is just a guide. Improvise, adapt and overcome obstacles to obtain the forage production you need.

## COWPOKES<sup>SM</sup> By Ace Reid



"Can't figure out how them scientists handle that rocket fuel when I can't even sit here comfortable with a cigarette and clean my hat!"

## Texas monthly oil and gas statistics

### JANUARY PERMITS TO DRILL

The Commission issued a total of 1,147 original drilling permits in January 2010 compared to 1,264 in January 2009. The January total included 984 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 32 to re-enter existing well bores, and 131 for re-completions. Permits issued in January 2010 included 252 oil, 238 gas, 614 oil and gas, 41 injection, zero service and two other permits.

### DECEMBER CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION

Texas preliminary December 2009 crude oil production averaged 892,585 barrels daily, down from the

921,141 barrels daily average of December 2008.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for December 2009 is 27,670,153 barrels, down from 28,555,363 barrels reported during December 2008.

### JANUARY OIL AND GAS COMPLETIONS

In January 2010, operators reported 347 oil, 388 gas, 30 injection and two other completions compared to 556 oil, 881 gas, 27 injection and two other completions during January 2009.

Total well completions for 2010 year to date are 765 down from 1,466 recorded during the same period in

2009.

Operators reported 342 holes plugged and one dry hole in January 2010 compared to 347 holes plugged and six dry holes in January 2009.

### DECEMBER NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Texas oil and gas wells produced 579,199,147 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for December 2009, up from the December 2008 preliminary gas production total of 571,461,748 Mcf.

Texas production in December 2009 came from 137,727 oil and 91,419 gas wells.

## MAGLIME

- Maglime is an Agricultural Limestone Material Containing about 90% Calcium Carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and 8% Magnesium Carbonate (MgCO<sub>3</sub>) and about 2% Acid insoluble.
- Over 4,000,000 tons of Maglime have been spread on the soils of East Texas and Louisiana. Maglime has been used to neutralize soil acidity and to provide calcium and magnesium to the plants and animals which live on the land.
- Many farmers and ranchers realize they need agricultural limestone when applied fertilizer is less effective than in the past.
- Soils in East Texas and Louisiana become acid for three reasons. High amounts of rain leach calcium and magnesium out of the soil. Commercial fertilizers are typically acidic compounds. The removal of crops and animals from the land take calcium and magnesium with them as they go to market.
- When Maglime is applied to an acid soil, calcium, magnesium, nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash all become more available to the plants as the soil acidity is reduced.
- Maglime is sold in two grades of fineness, premium and super fine. Studies rate the super fine as 100 percent effective while the premium is rated at about 65 percent effective. Some people find that the better handling, spreading, and storage characteristics of the premium grind offset its lower efficiency.
- Much of the land on which Maglime is spread is used to grow forage for breeder cows. The fact that milk is a rich source of calcium is widely known. A rapidly growing calf demands a lot of calcium because its bones are primarily composed of calcium and phosphorus. A fully grown 1,200 pound calf has about 200 pounds of bone
- Legumes, such as clovers, soybeans, and alfalfa are a unique group of plants that can transform atmospheric nitrogen into a source of plant food. Legumes typically will only grow in neutral or alkaline soil that is rich in calcium. Where soils are acidic and deficient in calcium and magnesium, legumes typically show a dramatic response to the application of Maglime.
- If your soils are acidic or are deficient in calcium or magnesium, give us a call at 800 772 8272. We will be glad to put you in touch with a Maglime distributor in your local area or provide more information regarding Maglime.



## TDA Market Recap February 22, 2010

AUSTIN - (Feb. 22, 2010) For the week ending Feb. 20, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were higher, with calves under 600 pounds \$4 to \$10 higher per hundred-weight and heavier cattle \$2 to \$5 higher. Fed cattle prices were higher following increases in wholesale beef values. Cotton prices continue to rise in response to tight global supplies and improved demand. Corn was slightly lower and wheat slightly higher on speculative and fund activity with little new supply and demand news to move those markets. As for futures markets, feeder cattle, fed cattle, cotton and wheat were higher, while corn and lumber was lower. Rainfall during the week varied from more than 1.5

inches in the Lower Valley to less than one-quarter inch elsewhere. Fieldwork remains stalled in most areas because of wet fields. Topsoil moisture was rated in mostly adequate to surplus condition statewide, though some short to very short conditions remain in the Panhandle and West Texas. One percent of the corn and grain sorghum acreage has been planted and planting is expected to begin in earnest once field conditions allow. The wheat crop has responded well to the rain and is reported in good condition in most areas. Livestock was reported to be in mostly good to fair condition, with less supplemental feed required as temperatures warmed.

## BUFFALO LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Sale Date:</b> 2-27-10	Choice Pairs.....N/T	600-700 lbs.....93-117
<b>Head Count:</b> 946	Good Pairs.....N/T	700-800 lbs.....94-104
<b>Last Week:</b> 1699	Plain Pairs.....510-790	<b>Heifer Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>
<b>Sellers:</b> 162	Bred Cows 3-6 Yr Old.....460-850	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>
<b>Buyers:</b> 63	<b>Steer/Bull Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	150-200 lbs.....105-170
Cutter Cows.....52-59.5	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>	200-300 lbs.....105-145
Fat Cows.....51-56	150-200 lbs.....110-180	300-400 lbs.....98-122.5
Canner Cows.....37-57	200-300 lbs.....110-147.5	400-500 lbs.....97-110
<b>Slaughter Bulls Steady/Down</b>	300-400 lbs.....120-142.5	500-600 lbs.....96-107
Heavy Bulls.....66-72.5	400-500 lbs.....110-137.5	600-700 lbs.....87-97
Light Bulls.....61-64.5	500-600 lbs.....102-125	700-800 lbs.....81-91
<b>Cow/Calf Pairs &amp; Bred Cows</b>		

## GROESBECK LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date of Sale:</b> 2-18-10	Young Bred Cows.....700-900	500-600.....115-125
<b>Head Count:</b> 625	Older Plain Cows.....400-600	600-700.....106-115
Cut/Boner.....58-62	Good Choice Pairs.....NA	700-800.....90-105
Canner Cow.....46-52	Common Medium Pair.....700-900	<i>Heifers Good &amp; Choice</i>
Breaker Utility Com Cow.....55-57	<b>Stocker &amp; Feeder Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	Up to 200.....
Thin Cows.....38-42	<i>Steers Good &amp; Choice</i>	300-400.....108-115
Bulls Yield Grade 1&2.....64-69	Up to 200.....	400-500.....105-115
Bulls Yield Grade 3&4.....60-64	300-400.....120-138	500-600.....102-110
<b>Stocker Cows</b>	400-500.....118-128	600-700.....92-105

## ANDERSON CO. LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date of Sale:</b> 2-24-10	400-500.....92-1.10	500-600.....82-93
<b>Head Count:</b> 103	500-600.....87-1.00	600-700.....86-90
<b>Buyers:</b> 18	600-700.....85-98	700-800.....72-82
<b>Sellers:</b> 22	700-800.....72-85	<b>Slaughter Cows</b> .....35-58
<b>Steers/Bull Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	<b>Heifers Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	<b>Slaughter Bulls</b> .....52-62
200-300.....1.00-1.24	200-300.....98-1.17	<b>Stocker Cows</b> ... 425.00-700.00
300-400.....98-1.22	300-400.....95-1.10	<b>Pairs</b> ..... 625.00-800.00
	400-500.....87-95	

## EAST TEXAS LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date:</b> 2-23-10	<b>Slaughter Bulls</b> .....55-7050	305-400.....95-120
<b>Volume:</b> 741	<b>Bred Cows</b> .....520-790/hd	405-500.....84-116
<b>Tested:</b> 221	<b>Cow/Calf Pairs</b> .....630-740	505-600.....80-103
<b>Sellers:</b> 111	Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1's	605-800.....73-93
<b>Total Buyers:</b> 62	150-200.....118-147.5	
<b>Packer Buyers:</b> 5	205-300.....111-142.5	
<b>Order Buyers:</b> 10	305-400.....105-132	
<b>Cattle Companies:</b> 23	405-500.....90-129	
<b>Feeder Orders:</b> 189	505-600.....83-116	
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>	605-800.....80.50-103	
Canners.....38-49.00	<b>Feeder Heifers - Large Frame#1</b>	
Boning/Utility.....50-56.00	150-200.....110-134	
Cutters.....57.00-62.50	205-300.....100-124	

### Compared to last week:

All classes of feeder steers and heifers ended mostly firm to \$2 higher in certain classes. Slaughter cows ended firm with slaughter bulls ending \$1 higher. Buyer trade was active with the demand strong on all feeder classes!

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