



Beef Briefs

The Latest Information on Beef Cattle Nutrition



Beef Update 2016

Well, as discussed by many producers lately, its shades of 2012, not quite as bad to this date but with little rain in sight as of July 10, 2016. Pastures will be parched in the weeks ahead, along with crops, it is serious for many areas. Crops to date seem to be doing quite well but cannot continue to develop without additional moisture. The first cut hay crop was tremendous with most beef guys commenting that yields were some of the best ever! Although now we are looking at minimal to no second cut as us beef guys don't get going quite as early as the dairy guys who have already finished second cut harvest. The dairy guys will see quite a change in volume though from first cut.



I talked with a producer that pastures on an intensified rotational system and he says, "it works great when there is ample moisture, it sure is not working now with little moisture. I am feeding hay and thinking I better start creep feeding as well."

As I travel, there are areas with ample moisture and all seems good, while East Elgin and on to Niagara Falls are quite stressed with the drought, as is East of 400 highway to the Quebec border. The Ripley, Chesley, Lucknow, Mount Forest and East through



Shelburne are also quite dry with producers starting to feed on pasture the past few days.

The year 2016 certainly has other similarities to 2012. Beef prices started out good in the first half of the year but then decreased substantially with the lack of mois-

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Beef Update 2016
By: Jack McCoubrey

KENPAL'S KING OF CREEP

A HIGHLY-PALATABLE CREEP FEED FOR CALVES



- Developed to promote feed intake in calves
- Helps increase weaning weights
- Helps achieve and maintain a healthy hair coat
- See results with top sale prices for calves

GETS CALVES OFF TO THE RIGHT START

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ture and the scarcity of feed. I remember selling cow/calf pairs at \$2500 in May, but shortly after, few producers were in the market as feed supplies disappeared.

In 2012, thousands of acres of oats, barley and peas were planted after wheat harvest, which was a savior for sure. I remember one producer with 300 cows, had only a small percent of his hay requirements so he planted 300 acres of oats, peas and barley. He called me upon harvesting, he had baled and wrapped 1800 bales and now had feed he could sell. Well, many will have to do the same this year. In fact, after 2012, most producers have made it a practice to plant oats, peas and barley after wheat or spring grain and it makes for an excellent beef cow feed and is quite economical also.

2016 prices have certainly ratcheted off the highs of the 2015 fall prices and are similar to 2013 prices now. As I field call after call regarding price prospects for the rest of 2016, I'm thinking we could be where we currently are for sometime, with some variance. We as producers were quite happy when 2013 came along and we made some nice little profits, then came 2014 and 2015 and it kind of spoiled us, let's remember, we were surely happy with the outcome of 2013.

Here are some comparisons;

| Average for the first week of July | 2013 | 2016 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
| 700-800 weight steers | 1.40 | 1.81 |
| 700-800 weight heifers | 1.23 | 1.63 |
| Cash live weight finished | 1.28 | 1.47 |
| Meat Cows | 0.73 | 0.91 |

The 2016 winter and spring calving season is pretty much complete and there were some challenges. The producers that calved in January/February did so without the real cold weather of 2015, while March/April calving was faced with milder temperatures and overwhelming moisture in terms of snow and rain and was certainly a stressful time if calving outside. The May/June calvers have got along quite well with some producers just finishing up but certainly this heat can create quite a stress on the new born calves.

As I travel and visit with producers, exchange e-mails, texts and calls, it seems that we are getting quite good on the nutritional requirements for our beef cows and calves. Some of our special additions to the base KENPAL BEEF NURSE COW mineral have addressed many producer's needs and requirements for their beef cows, hence smarter and stronger calves, healthier cows, and a breed back that has Kenpal producers bragging and anxious to do it all over again!

In my own situation, I am moving my cowherd to October calving, from January calving, yes moving ahead, this takes good nutrition and good genetics! We are convinced we will be there when we come home December 2017. When we came home in late December 2014, we brought 21 calves, when we came home between Christmas and New Years 2015, we brought 35 calves, that number will expand again when we come home this December. As I have mentioned many a time prior, I have fed KENPAL BEEF NURSE COW mineral since 1987 and during that 29 years have never bought a bag or block of salt other than to cut the ice on Mother's sidewalk and steps in the winter! Yes, for 29 years, my cows have been getting ample salt in the mineral, it is designed specifically that way.

So the next time you are about to order and buy salt for your cows, think how much money Jack McCoubrey has saved over the past 29 years!

As research continues to document, the risks are great if you short change on beef cow nutrition. Cows require mineral from the moment of conception, there is clear proof that a healthy and well nourished fetus is influential on health, performance and longevity as it matures.

In Spring 2015, a producer had five prolapses from 80-90 cows, his Vet asked him about mineral to which he replied, "oh yes, I start feeding it a week prior to calving", his Vet responded "mineral is a 365 day thing, you need to feed all year". Can you believe, this guy fed more mineral the past year then ever before and he had no prolapses in this 2016 calving season.

Many have a belief that skinny cows will calve out easier, well, an ill conditioned cow sure is not as strong as a right conditioned cow! She'll have a shortage of colostrum, especially good quality colostrum, weaker calves, and certainly jeopardized immunity. Then we will have to feed her back to get condition on her so that she will rebreed.

Good feed, my friends, is paramount! When someone is telling you its 'beef cow' hay, that describes a whole lot of poor quality feed! It could be that its been rained on, not only once but many times or it could be moldy and musty and lacks in protein, energy and vitamins. Moldy feed is treacherous, abortions are common, certainly a concern for Lysteria and in the case of salmonella, can result in both cow and calf deaths! FEED GOOD FEED!

Flies are more of a problem this year because of the warmer temperatures. We have had a near record number of days at 30 plus degrees. Flies are a real hindrance to the comfort of our cattle, plus they can spread pinkeye when an infestation starts. Control the flies!

I use LICE X in a hand held sprayer that will shoot a small stream of the liquid 12-15 feet. I have used this for numerous years. You just need to get a bit on the cows/calves, while I do treat my bulls with more as flies always seem to mat on bulls backs worse then on other cattle. You then need to repeat in 2-3 weeks.

A treatment of Ivomec can give you 40-50 days control as well.

There are other similar products that producers are using, but controlling the flies surely a must. Control the flies and you will eliminate pinkeye problems and have happier and healthier cattle. Check with your veterinarian for their recommendation on fly control.

Creep feed has always been the great debate.

I have creep fed for years and certainly it increases growth opportunity for my calves and takes some stress off mother, particularly my first calvers. With current market values, creep feeding is proving to be an economical positive by adding pounds while achieving uniformity in size and shape.

KENPAL'S KING OF CREEP, has proven to be as good a creep feed as there is in the market place. It has a special aroma to it so calves like it! They get onto it immediately and they do well on it. They do not get fat as it is designed to enhance rumen development as well as build muscle, meat and bone. IT IS THE KING!

Fresh, clean water and an ample supply of it, is a must with the hot weather we continue to be experiencing. Poor quality and/or a poor supply of water is a risk to health and also production.

Did you check your mineral feeder today?

The Beef Guy!





TASTE TEST TELLS IT ALL!

KENPAL BEEF NURSE COW MINERAL WINS TASTE TEST!



Previously, I had experienced the aggravating problem of purchasing a mineral product that the cattle wouldn't eat before it hardened in the bottom of the feeder. I tried other minerals and would find one that would work for a while but then the cattle would go back to not being interested in eating the product. When I questioned this, the common response was "the cattle know when they need the mineral, so just don't worry about it". A dumb answer!

I try to look after the health of my cow herd by following good management practices. I only expose the bull for 60 days and my policy is no "free boarders". If a cow is open at preg check time, it's on to hamburger heaven. I have gone to great lengths to get mineral into the cows during the months close to calving and especially the three months following calving. I would buy molasses licks and put the mineral on top of the product. That was one way of getting the mineral into them, but not very scientific!

In 2012, while visiting a farm looking to buy some replacement heifers, I asked the owner if he had any problem getting the cows to eat the mineral and the answer was – "I used to have that problem until I got this product". That night I sent an email to Kenpal Farm Products asking for someone to contact me about delivery. I got a call the next day asking when I needed product and I replied "yesterday". The next day ten bags were delivered to my place and my cows have never had a day without Kenpal Beef Nurse Cow Mineral in front of them since. For the first couple months, I monitored mineral intakes and that told me that monitoring was not necessary.

I have done tests on other mineral products for a friend of mine who works for a large co-operative. He had done work with their supplier to improve the palatability of their product and reduce the "caking of product" in the feeder. I had a series of compartments for the tests and I monitored the quantity of mineral eaten from each compartment daily and watched for the caking problem of their test batch against the Kenpal product. I documented the tests, took pictures, etc. The company did make significant improvements over the series of tests, but they never matched the performance of the Kenpal Beef Nurse Cow Mineral.



YOU CAN FOOL THE MINERAL SALESMEN, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL THE COWS!

Since switching to Kenpal I don't have to fool around mixing product to get the cattle to eat it. I don't even have to pick up the product! It is delivered to my place when I need it and it is even put in the designated spot, whether I am home or not. All I have to do is just place the order. It is a pleasure to get rid of the hassle and receive a quality product at a competitive price.

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