Control Broadleaf Weeds in Lawns in Late October - Early November

Late October to early November is the most effective time to control broadleaf weeds in lawns. Dandelions usually produce a flush of new plants in late September, and the winter annual weeds henbit and chickweed should have germinated in October. These young plants are small and easily controlled with herbicides such as 2,4-D or combination products (Trimec, Weed-B-Gon, Weed-Out) that contain 2,4-D, MCPP and Dicamba. Even established dandelions are more easily controlled now than in the spring because they are actively moving materials from the top portion of the plant to the roots in the fall. Herbicides will translocate to the roots as well and will kill the plant from the roots up. Choose a day that is 50 degrees or higher. The better the weed is growing, the more weed killer will be moved from the leaves to the roots. Cold temperatures will slow this process but these products will still work at lower temperatures.

Weed Free Zone (also sold under the name of Speed Zone) contains the three active ingredients mentioned above, plus carfentrazone. It will give a quicker response than the other products mentioned especially as temperatures move below 50 degrees. (Ward Upham)

Tucking Your Lawnmower in for the Winter

If you are done mowing for the year, be sure to service your mower before putting it away. Make sure you drain the gas tank of gasoline-powered engines or use a gasoline stabilizer. Untreated gasoline can become thick and gummy. A few drops of oil squirted inside the spark plug hole (after you remove the spark plug) will help lubricate the cylinder. While you have the spark plug removed, replace it with a new one. If your equipment has a battery, clean the battery terminals, which usually corrode during the season. A wire-bristle brush is a good tool for doing this. The battery can then be removed or connected to a battery maintainer that will keep it charged over winter. If you remove the battery, be sure to store it in a protected location for the winter (a cool basement works best). Now is also an excellent time to sharpen mower blades so they'll be ready next spring.

Sharpening rotary mower blades is fairly straightforward. The following steps will guide you through this process:
* Check the blade for major damage. If you can't fix it, it likely will need to be replaced.
* Remove grass and debris from the blade with a moist cloth. Dry before beginning to sharpen the cutting edge.
* Remove nicks from the cutting edge, using a grinding wheel or hand-file.
* If using a grinding wheel, match the existing edge angle to the wheel. If hand-filing, file at the same angle as the existing edge.
* Grind or file until the edge is 1/32 inch, about the size of a period. Sharpening to a razor edge may result in the edge folding over during use resulting in a poor cut.
* Particularly with a grinding wheel, avoid overheating the blade as this may warp it.
* Clean the blade with solvent or oil, much like if you were cleaning a gun, for optimum winter storage. Avoid using water because it will promote rust.

Following these tips can help you better prepare your mower for winter storage and also save you some steps this coming spring. (Ward Upham)

Winter Storage of Summer Bulbs

As winter approaches, we need to start thinking about storage of the bulbs that will not survive Kansas winters. The bulbs of gladiolus, caladium, dahlia, tuberous begonia, calla lily, and canna lily need to be dug and stored so they can be planted next year. Actually, the storage organ of the above plants is not a true bulb. Canna and calla lilies are rhizomes, caladium, and tuberous begonias are tubers, gladiolus is a corm, and dahlia is a tuberous rooted plant. All of these plants should be dug after frost has at least
partially browned the foliage. Then, allow them to dry for about a week in a shady, well-ventilated site such as a garage or tool shed. Freezing temperatures should be avoided. Remove any excess soil and pack them in peat moss, vermiculite, or perlite. Make sure the bulbs don’t touch so that if one decays, the rot doesn’t spread. Dusting them with fungicide before storage will help prevent them from rotting.

Caladium should be stored between 50 and 60 degrees F. The other bulbs mentioned should be stored as near 40 degrees F as possible. Finding a good spot to store the bulbs may be difficult. Some people place them against a basement wall farthest from the furnace and insulate them so the wall keeps them cool. (Ward Upham)

WHAT COW-CALF PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN NOVEMBER……. --

Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist

Spring Calving Cows

Cowherd Management

☐ Pregnancy check (if not already completed).
☐ If candidates for culling were not selected in September or October, it should be completed now.
☐ Consider feeding cull cows to increase body weight, value, and utilize cheap feedstuffs. Value of gain is equal to the difference between the ending value and beginning values divided by the gain. Compare this to cost of gain figures. When cost of gain is less than value of gain, profit will be realized.
☐ Body Condition Score
  ☐ Provide thin cows (body condition score 3s and 4s) extra feed now. Take advantage of weather, stage of pregnancy, lower nutrient requirements and quality feedstuffs.
☐ In late fall and early winter, start feeding supplement to mature cows using these guidelines:
  Dry grass 1½ - 2 lb supplement/day of a 40% CP supplement
  Dry grass 3 - 4 lb supplement/day of a 20% supplement
  Dry grass 10 lb good nonlegume hay, no supplement needed
  ☐ Compare supplements on a cost per pound of nutrient basis.
☐ Utilize crop residues.
  ☐ Average body condition cows can be grazed at 1 to 2 acres/cow for 30 days assuming normal weather. Available forage is directly related to the grain production levels.
  ☐ Limiting nutrients are usually protein, phosphorus, and vitamin A.
  ☐ Strip graze or rotate fields to improve grazing efficiency.
☐ Discontinue feeding tetracycline if used for anaplasmosis control.

Calf Management

☐ Participate in National Level Breed Association Performance Programs CHAPS and(or) other ranch record systems.
☐ Finalize plans to merchandise calves or to background through yearling or finishing programs.

Forage/Pasture Management

☐ Plan winter nutritional program through pasture and forage management.

General Management

☐ Document cost of production by participating in Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) programs.
Review management decisions; lower your costs on a per unit of production concept.

Plan your marketing program, including private treaty, consignment sales, test stations, production sales, etc.

**WHAT COW-CALF PRODUCERS SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT IN DECEMBER...... --**

*Tips by Dale Blasi, Extension Beef Specialist*

**Cow herd management for spring-calving cows**

- In late fall and early winter, start feeding supplement to mature cows using these guidelines:
  - Dry grass — 1-2 pounds (lb.) per day of a 40% crude protein (CP) supplement
  - Dry grass — 3-4 lb. per day of a 20% CP supplement
  - Dry grass — 10 lb. good nonlegume hay, no supplement needed

- Compare supplements based on cost per pound of nutrient.
- Utilize crop residues.
- Strip-graze or rotate cattle to improve grazing efficiency.
- Cows in average body condition can be grazed at 1-2 acres per cow for 30 days, assuming normal weather. Available forage is directly related to grain production levels.
- Limiting nutrients are usually rumen degradable protein, trace minerals and vitamin A.
- Control lice.

**General management**

- Document your cost of production by participating in Standardized Performance Analysis (SPA) programs.
- Review management decisions; lower your costs per unit of production.
- Check your financial management plan and make appropriate adjustments before the end of the year.

**Tally Time: Adjusting assumptions on calving distribution benchmarks**

*Sandy Johnson*, Beef Specialist, Colby

Over the years I have strongly encouraged producers to spend time each year to assess calving distribution. It provides an excellent score card for how well a given operation matches the genetics and management system with the environment. However, I have learned that I need to clarify some details for you on calculating calving distribution.

When the standardized performance analysis (SPA) definitions were first established well over 20 years ago, two ways were given to mark the starting point for calculating calving distribution: 1) after the third mature cow calves or 2) 285 days after bull turnout. So, if the bull turn-out date wasn’t recorded, an avenue was still available to make the calculation.

My assumption had always been that both calculation methods provided similar data, but I had never actually compared the two until recently. I was looking for examples of calving distributions where nutrition was not a limiting factor, so I asked Bob Cushman at the Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE to share some of their data. In working with that data set, I calculated calving distribution by both methods listed above. Table 1 has data from two MARC herds and there is considerable difference between the two methods in the proportion that calve the first 21 days (48.5 vs
If you start counting after the third mature cow calves (all mature cows in data shown), the number is much lower than starting 285 days after bull turnout. Keep in mind that gestation length does vary by breed and the 285 days was selected to represent the range of breeds in the US.

Table 1. Calving distribution calculated from two starting points in two groups of mature cows in a single calving season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>after 3rd mature cow calves</th>
<th>+ 285 d after bull turnout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Herd 1 (n=709)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1 - 21 d (%)</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>76.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 22 to 42 (%)</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 43 – 63 (%)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herd 2 (n=349)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 1 – 21 d (%)</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 22 – 42 (%)</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>26.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 43 – 63 (%)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have been calculating your calving distribution and only comparing it to your own herd from year to year this is a non-issue for you, as long as you do it the same each year. However, if you have been comparing your data to some of the benchmark data I have shared in the past, you most likely need to use the third mature cow method of calculation. This is the method that CHAPS database uses since it does not require the additional data point of bull turn out date. I know at least one of the cow/calf software companies uses this same method and suspect others do as well.

So do summarize your calving distribution data each year and use the same calculation method as any benchmark data set to which you compare and from year to year.