

JULY 2023

Sublette County Ag. & Natural Resources Extension Newsletter

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SUBLETTE COUNTY AG. AND NATURAL RESOURCES EXTENSION

Upcoming Extension and County Events:

July 21st-29th- Sublette County Fair

Friday, July 21st: 4-H & FFA Exhibit Hall Judging

Monday, 24th: Jr. Horse Show, Cat & Dog Show

Tuesday, 25th: Jr. Horse Show, Poultry Check-in,
Poultry Show, Livestock Check-in

Wednesday, 26th: Swine Check-in, Livestock
Check-in, Swine and Livestock weigh-In and
Ultrasound Contests, Swine Showmanship

Thursday, 27th: Sheep & Goat Show, Swine Show

Friday, 28th: Beef Show, Rabbit Show, Round
Robin

Saturday, 29th: Buyer's Luncheon, Livestock
Awards, Livestock Sale

Sunday, 30th: Award pickup, Exhibit release



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Extension
Sublette County

Newsletter Highlights and Upcoming Events

Mineral Supplementation
for Beef Cattle on Range

Sublette County Fair &
4-H Competitions,
Livestock Sale

Testing Hay Quality:
Why & How

Garden Herbicide
Contamination

Wyoming Conditions
and Outlooks YouTube
Series

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Extension
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Mineral Supplementation on the Range and Pasture

Dagan Montgomery

It's the time of year when most cattle in Wyoming have been turned out on the mountain, range, or pasture. The bulls have likely been set to work, and for many ranchers the season's focus now moves to the hay meadow and the irrigation ditch. However, as we all know, there are still important tasks to keep up with concerning the beef herd. General health checks, pasture moves, predator monitoring, water and fence maintenance, pulling bulls once breeding is over – the list goes on. One aspect of summer herd management many know to be important yet sometimes tiresome is providing mineral supplement consistently and effectively.

Both macrominerals and trace minerals are essential to animal performance, production, and overall herd health. Macrominerals (magnesium and phosphorous, for example) are critical for things like bone development and growth, while trace minerals (copper, iron, zinc, etc.) are needed for immune system function and enzyme activity. Data from the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) shows that many range forages are deficient in one or more essential minerals, which is why we offer supplements.

The amount of each mineral needed by grazing cattle can vary by stage of production. General requirements are available from several sources and are usually based on the most recent “Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle”, referred to as the NRC. To see what minerals the forage on your ranch or allotment is deficient in, forage samples can be taken to help tailor a supplement that fits your herd's needs.

However, studies from USDA ARS centers have shown that mineral concentration can vary quite significantly across the year and under differing conditions. It can be costly to have a custom mineral mix prepared or mixed into other feed. Therefore, it is common to purchase a pre-mixed free-choice mineral supplement for more generalized use. There are many options available, and the way you plan to feed mineral will help you decide if a block, tub, or loose mineral will be the best fit for your operation.

The type of feeder you use will also affect how and what you feed. It is recommended that you use at least a simple feeder, as mineral placed directly on the ground can lead to wastage and may harm the soil. Covered feeders further help reduce nutrient leaching from rain. You can also purchase weatherized mineral, which is better able to withstand rain and wind. Feeder height should be low enough to allow all animals, including calves, to reach the supplement if desired.

Where you place the supplement will impact how it is utilized by your herd. Often, premade supplements will recommend placing close to water, shade, or other loafing areas to ensure cattle are consuming the product. However, if you are grazing on a public allotment, it is important to be aware of any regulations that state how far mineral sources must be from riparian areas and other features. Even on private land, you may not want cattle to congregate around mineral sources in sensitive areas.

As for how much to feed, this again will be determined by formulation and the form of supplement provided. Most free-choice mineral supplements are intended to meet animal needs when consumed at around 2-4 oz. per head per day. If possible, try to keep consumption as close to recommendations as possible. Some cattle will really take a liking to mineral supplements and will overconsume, which leads to unnecessary cost. Cattle that don't eat their share may become deficient in one or more minerals critical to performance.

The main reason cattle are attracted to mineral is their taste for salt, which almost all mineral mixes contain. For issues with cattle not consuming enough supplement, studies from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) have shown that adding salt to a free-choice mineral can increase consumption to a point. Other substances like molasses are often added to increase palatability even further. At a certain level, adding any more salt will limit mineral intake as they get their fill of salt quicker, which can be used in cases where cattle overconsume.

Many ranchers will place all the mineral needed for the herd for a week or so in the pasture in one or two feeders and find that most or all of the mineral is gone within a few days. This is often because more aggressive cattle with a taste for mineral will overconsume and prevent more submissive animals from getting their needed amount. Feeding mineral gradually in several feeders, at least one feeder per 25-30 head, and in multiple locations can alleviate competition. Feeding in this manner also helps assure an adequate supply of macrominerals, like magnesium and phosphorus, that cannot be stored in the body and require a more consistent intake.

Feeding mineral requires trial and error and will differ from operation to operation. For help developing a mineral supplement program for your herd, consult a nutritionist or your local Extension Educator.



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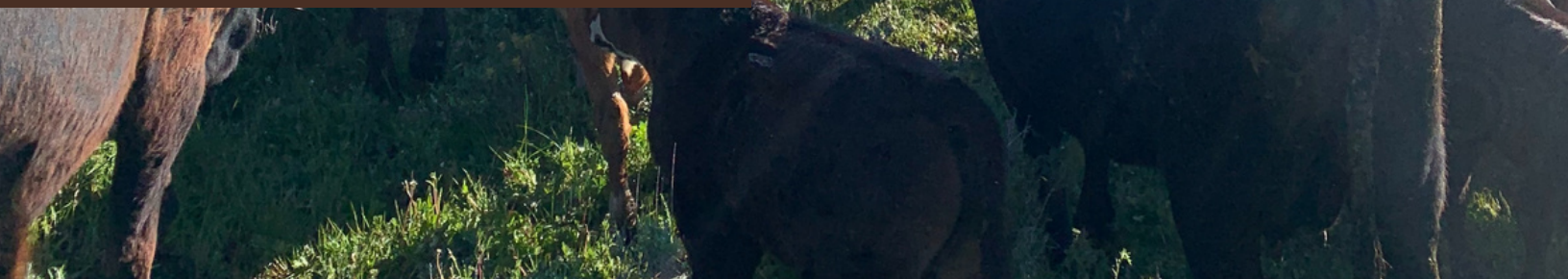
SUBLETTE COUNTY FAIR 2023

This weekend and next week is the Sublette County Fair. Located at the fairgrounds just north of Big Piney on Highway 189, the County fair will include numerous 4-H events and competitions. Come support the kids and check out the other great things going on. Click the image at left to be taken to the Fair website for more info and schedules.



TESTING THE QUALITY OF YOUR HAY

It is hay season in Wyoming and time to be thinking about not only how much hay you are going to be putting up, but what the actual quality of that hay is. High yields are great, but what is the actual nutrient component your livestock will be getting? Check out an article from UW by clicking the cow muzzle to the right, and contact the Extension office with questions or to get your hay tested!



Issued in furtherance of extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kelly Crane, Director, University of Wyoming Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming Extension, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

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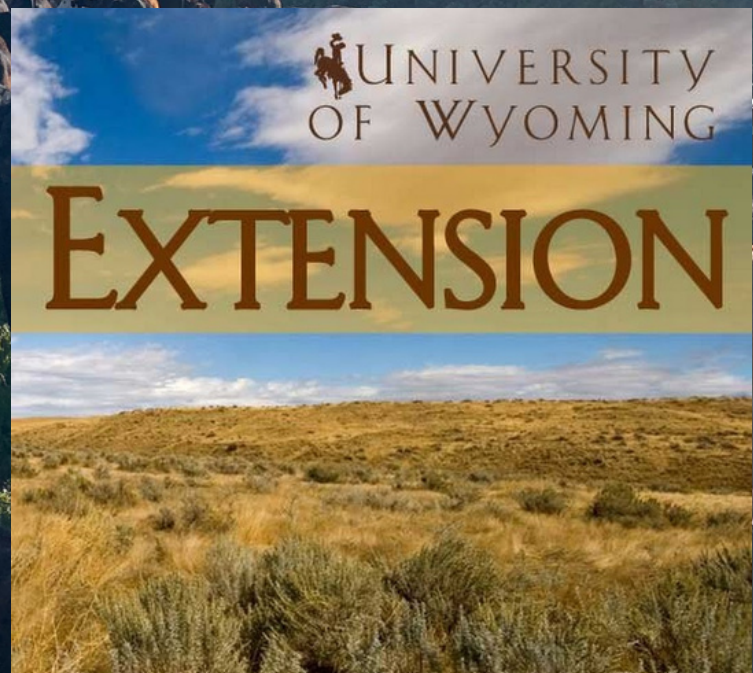


IS YOUR GARDEN CONTAMINATED WITH HEBRICIDES?

Is your garden not doing great this year? Have you noticed curled leaves and poor production? Your garden may be contaminated with herbicides from previous applications. Click the curled leaves to the left to see a YouTube video detailing this issue.

WY CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOKS REPORTS

Every month, UW Extension posts a video with updates on the current outlook and expectations of Wyoming weather, temperatures, precipitation and drought conditions in partnership with the USDA, National Weather Service and other organizations. Click the logo at the right to see the full YouTube Channel.



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