September/October 2016

Purdue Extension

Greene County Agriculture & Natural Resource Newsletter

Indiana Master Cattleman Program

The Indiana Master Cattleman program is designed to help beef producers improve profitability through an increase in production efficiency, forage utilization, reproductive success, genetic selection, herd health and business management. This advanced, in-depth educational experience offers beef producers the opportunity to take their operations to the next level.

Each participant (or farm, if there are additional registrants) will receive the Indiana Master Cattleman educational materials, a Forage Field Guide, *Cow-Calf Production in the U.S. Corn Belt* and soil/hay analyses. Master Cattleman certified producers will:

- Develop a business plan
- Perform a cow-herd assessment and set goals
- Improve marketing strategies
- Improve nutrition, forage management, reproduction and genetics programs
- Become Beef Quality Assurance Certified
- Participate in exclusive hands-on field days
- Gain access to the member's only program website
- Network with other Indiana beef producers and industry professionals

This 10 week program will be offered on Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 PM beginning on November 29, 2016 and ending on February 14, 2017 (snow date of February 21, 2017). These classes will be hosted at the Greene County Community Event Center (4503 W State Road 54, Bloomfield, IN 47424). Registration is $200/person and additional attendees from a farm are $100/person. Registration deadline is set for November 15. Class size is limited to 25 producers.

For more information about the Indiana Master Cattleman program, please visit www.mastercattleman.com or contact Sadie Davis at davis186@purdue.edu or 812-659-2122.

In This Issue

October Yard & Garden Calendar	2
Farmers Grow Communities Nominations Open	2
The "Pearfect" Nightmare	2
Stored Grain Insect Pest Management – Prevention Before Binning	3
FAQ: FDA Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)	3

Important Upcoming Dates:

Extension Advisory Council Meeting

Wed. Oct. 26th

Greene County Community Event Center

6:00 PM

Master Cattleman Program

Nov. 29 – Feb. 14

Greene County Community Event Center

Registration Deadline: November 15

Beef Cow/Calf Improvement Seminar

Saturday, January 16

Orange County Community Building

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

October Yard & Garden Calendar

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day - for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. - for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.
- Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.
- Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well watered until ground freezes.
- Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.
- Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.
- September and October are good months to apply broadleaf weed killers. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.
- Continue mowing lawn as needed.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 degrees F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated, plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.
- Harvest Brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.
- Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location.
- Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 degrees F for two to four weeks.
- Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.
- Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snows for insulation and moisture.
- Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

Source: B. Rosie Lerner; Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist

Farmers Grow Communities Nominations Open

Farmer enrollment for America's Farmers Grow Communities is now open! Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, this program offers farmers the chance to direct $2,500 donations to rural nonprofit organizations of their choice.

To enroll or find a complete list of eligibility requirements, farmers can visit www.GrowCommunities.com or call 877-267-3332. Enrollment runs until November 30 and winners will be announced in January 2017. Since 2010, more than 8,000 organizations across rural America have received Grow Communities donations.

The "Pearfect" Nightmare

Think about what might be the perfect ornamental tree for your yard. Fast, compact growth, pretty white flowers in spring, glossy green foliage in summer, spectacular scarlet – purple fall color, and relatively resistant to pests and diseases. It is easy to propagate and transplant and adapts to a wide range of site conditions. You want one, don't you?

This describes the 'Bradford' cultivar of Callery (ornamental) Pear. It is difficult to find a downtown city center or suburban subdivision that is not adorned by these ornamental pears.

But the big shortcoming of 'Bradford' pear was that it has such narrow branch angles that weaken the architecture of the tree such that it frequently splits at the trunk. So the quest was on to introduce improved cultivars with better branch architecture. Enter additional ornamental pear cultivars such as 'Aristocrat,' 'Chanticleer,' 'Cleveland Select,''Redspire', and 'Whitehouse'.

But unfortunately for all of us, that while these ornamental pears did not fruit much if at all on their own, they do become fruitful when they cross-pollinate. The result is that "volunteer" pear trees are seeding themselves in alarming numbers and in many areas where the pear trees have not been planted, helped along by birds. While the ornamental cultivars typically set very small fruit when they are fruitful, there is considerable variability in fruit size amongst the seedling populations.

What can home gardeners do? If you have ornamental pear trees in your landscape, keep a close watch for fruit set. Remove seedling trees immediately or keep them mowed very low to prevent flowering and fruiting. If your existing landscape specimens bore fruit this year, you can spray next spring with fruit inhibitor hormone (e.g. ethephon, Florel Fruit Inhibitor) to reduce fruit set. Note that timing and thorough coverage is critical, the spray must be applied when plants are in early stage of full bloom, before fruit sets. Typically ornamental pear is in bloom for 10 – 14 days. It will be difficult to provide thorough coverage on larger specimens.

Ornamental pears typically do not last long in the landscape, frequently breaking up in high winds and storms. You might consider tree removal, especially for trees that are already in decline or are young enough to easily remove and replace with more appropriate species.

Source & Photo: Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulturalist

Stored Grain Insect Pest Management – Prevention Before Binning

Grain Bin Clean-up: Newly harvested grain may become infested when it comes in contact with previously infected grain in combines, truck beds, wagons, other grain-handling equipment, augers, bucket lifts, grain dumps, or grain already in the bin. Insects may also crawl or fly into grain bins from nearby accumulations of old contaminated grain, livestock feeds, bags, litter, or any other cereal products. Insect infestations can be prevented with good management practices. Where appropriate, the following guidelines should be used two or more weeks before grain is placed in bins:

1. Brush, sweep out and/or vacuum the combine, truck beds, transport wagons, grain dumps, augers, and elevator buckets to remove insect-infested grain and debris.
2. In empty bins, thoroughly sweep or brush down walls, ceilings, ledges, rafters, braces, and handling equipment, and remove debris from bins.
3. Remove all debris from fans, exhausts, and aeration ducts (also from beneath slotted floors, when possible).
4. Remove all debris from the storage site and dispose of it properly according to area, state, and/or federal guidelines (this debris usually contains insect eggs, larvae, pupae, and/or adults, all ready to infest the new grain).
5. Remove all debris and vegetation growing within ten feet of the bins (preferably the whole storage area).
6. Examine area to determine if rodent bait stations are required, and use if needed. Be sure to follow all label directions.
7. Spray cleaned area around bins with a residual herbicide to remove all undesirable weedy plants.
8. Inside bins, spray wall surfaces, ledges, braces, rafters, and floors with one of the approved residual insecticides to the point of runoff: . Outside, spray the bases and walls up to 15 feet above the bases, plus the soil around the bins.
9. If the grain is expected to remain in the bins for at least a year, fumigate the area beneath the slotted (drying) floors with a formulation of chloropicrin according to label directions (only certified applicators may purchase and apply). Chloropicrin, available in several sizes of containers as CHLOR-O-PIC and QUASAR, is a liquid formulation which, when applied to the bin floor, forms a gas that is 5 times heavier than air. Chloropicrin is a restricted-use product that is extremely toxic to all living organisms; follow label directions for application and personal protection information.
10. If newly harvested grain and/or insect-free grain must be added to grain already in storage, the latter must be fumigated with either aluminum phosphide or methyl bromide (only certified applicators may purchase and apply). (If doing this, omit step 9.)

Source: Linda J. Mason and John Obermeyer, Extension Entomologists

FAQ: FDA Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has changed federal laws regarding the use of some medically important antibiotics to minimize the opportunity for drug-resistant organisms to develop. These changes will affect how livestock producers purchase and use some feed-administered medications to animals on or before Jan. 2017. This FAQ seeks to answer basic questions. More details are available through your veterinarian or at: www.fda.gov/safefeed.

What is a VFD? A VFD is a written statement issued by a veterinarian that authorizes the use of a VFD drug/combination in or on an animal feed. The VFD describes specific terms of use for the drug. A VFD is similar to a prescription, but more detailed.

When is a VFD required? A VFD is required for all drugs that are considered "medically important antibiotics", or MIAs. MIAs are the medicine family used in human health. The scientific community is concerned that, over time, continued use of MIAs in food animals will lessen their effectiveness in treating human disease. As a result, the FDA is strictly limiting their use as feed-based animal drugs. A VFD drug is limited to use under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

How do I know if a drug is a VFD, rather than an OTC drug? Read the label. Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs do not have a VFD cautionary statement.

What is an "expiration date" on the VFD? The expiration date specifies the last day the VFD feed may be fed. This is a requirement. VFDs expire based on the label or, if not specified, up to 6 months from date of issue.

As a client, can I feed a VFD feed past the VFD expiration date? No. A VFD feed/combination VFD feed must not be fed to animals after the expiration date on the VFD. Continued use requires a written renewal by the DVM.

How does a producer obtain VFD feed? Producers must obtain a VFD order from a veterinarian, then send (or take) the order to a feed manufacturer or supplier to obtain the VFD feed. Producers who manufacture their own feed must have a VFD to obtain the medicated VFD feed ingredient(s). Producers who manufacture feed for others should be aware that they are acting as a distributor and additional requirements apply. More information on manufacturing and distributing VFD feeds is available at: www.fda.gov/safefeed.

What does professional supervision mean? The veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) is the basis of professional supervision. The veterinarian writing the VFD must be licensed to practice in the state the VFD is issued, and have sufficient knowledge of the animal(s), and be available for emergency follow-up, if needed.

How do I use a VFD feed? The VFD feed must be used only according to the VFD order and label specifications.

What is "extralabel use" of a VFD drug and is it allowed? "Extralabel use" is use of a drug in a manner not in accordance with the approved labeling. Extralabel use of medicated feed, including feed containing a VFD drug/combination, is not permitted, including changing drug level and species use.

Client's Responsibilities As a client, a producer must:

- Only feed feedstuffs containing a VFD drug/combination to animals as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian.
- Not feed a VFD feed/combination to animals after the expiration date on the VFD.
- Provide a copy of the VFD order to the feed distributor (unless the issuing veterinarian sends it directly to the distributor).
- Maintain a copy of the VFD order for a minimum of 2 years.
- Provide VFD orders for inspection upon request.

What is not covered? Water-soluble medications require a prescription, not a VFD. This rule does not affect Ionophores such as Bovatec, Rumensin, and anti-coccidials drugs.

For additional information, please visit our website at:
www.extension.purdue.edu/greene

You can also find the Greene County Purdue Extension Office on Social Media!

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PurdueExtensionGreene
Twitter: https://twitter.com/PurdueExtGreene
Instagram: https://instagram.com/purdueext_greene/

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