

Pickens County
Cattlemen's
Association

Newsletter

Volume 17

April 1, 2021

Get Soil Tested at Clemson AG Service Lab

by Denise Attaway
Clemson University

CLEMSON – [Spring] is in the air and hundreds of photos of changing landscape colors are being shot every day. Clemson University experts say pictures growers should focus on this season are those that give a clearer vision of their soils' health.

Soil tests can help by giving snapshots of soil fertility. These tests are available from the Clemson Agricultural Service Laboratory.

“Fall and winter are the best times for growers to have their soils tested,” said Shannon Alford, Ag Service Laboratory director. “Testing now gives growers plenty of time to get their soils ready for spring planting.”

Soil tests run at \$6 per sample. The basic soil test provides information regarding soil pH, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and more. Growers who test now have plenty of time to apply lime, fertilizer and other nutrients needed to grow profitable crops in the spring.

“Each soil report is tailored to the specific crop and soil results,” Alford said. “When growers have their soils tested, they will be given crop-specific recommendations to assist them in making fertility decisions for optimal crop yields.” Separate soil samples should be collected for areas cropped or fertilized differently or those with different soil types or textures. For large areas, one soil sample should represent 10 acres or less. For home gardens, lawns or ornamental beds, just one sample is required per uniform area.

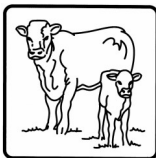
To collect soil samples:

- Use a soil auger, spade or shovel. Samples from cultivated areas should be taken from the surface to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.



Samples from pasture or turf should be taken only 2 to 4 inches deep.

- Soil cores should be approximately the same size throughout their depth. No adjustments are needed if using a soil probe. If using a spade or shovel, take a thin slice from the side of a V-shaped hole. Take sub-samples from at least 12 locations within the sample area.
- Place the sub-samples in a clean plastic bucket and mix thoroughly.
- Do not heat a moist soil sample to dry. Spread soil out



**Members are reminded to call the
Clemson Extension office
(864-878-1394 x 0) if you are**

on newspaper and let air dry overnight. Crumble and mix before it hardens.

- Label or number each soil bag. Fill bag to fill line (the equivalent of 1-2 cups). Do not use the same number for more than one sample.

A soil analysis form should accompany each sample.

These forms can be found at <https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/ag-srvc-lab/soil-testing/soil.pdf>. Samples, payments and completed forms can be sent to the Ag Service Lab by any of the following methods:

- Ship samples to 171 Old Cherry Road, Clemson, SC 29634, via the U.S. Postal Service, United Parcel Service or FedEx.
- Contact the local County Cooperative Extension Office to see if it is open and available for dropoffs.
- Leave samples in the dropbox on the lab's loading dock at 171 Old Cherry Road, Clemson, SC 29634. Forms for all sample types are available at the dropbox. Leave samples and payment. The dropbox is checked multiple times per day. Ring the doorbell during regular business hours to alert someone to check for your dropoff.

Order a soil sample mailer kit online, one per sample.

This mailer is recommended for one or two samples only, and only for soil. The mailer includes a form, instructions, soil sample bag, and postage-paid envelope for return. Instructions for ordering a soil sample mailer kit are available at: <https://www.clemson.edu/public/regulatory/ag-srvc-lab/soil-sampler-mailer.html> Once clients receive their reports, they can call the staff at the Clemson Home and Garden Information Center, (888) 656-9988, or their local Cooperative Extension Service county office for consultation.

To reach the Ag Service Lab, call (864) 656-2068 from 8

Don't Let Secondary Injuries Keep You on The Sidelines

By Lisa Foust Prater

Successful Farming

WHEN A PRIMARY INJURY ISN'T ALLOWED TO PROPERLY HEAL, ADDITIONAL INJURIES CAN LEAD TO PERMANENT DAMAGE.

When it rains, it pours. This old saying is especially true when it comes to injuries on the farm. Once an injury or illness occurs, things can go downhill quickly if adjustments aren't made to daily activity.

Secondary injuries can occur when farmers participate in physically demanding activities while dealing with an existing injury, illness, or disability.

“When one part of the body is injured, hurt, and in the healing process, we use other parts to compensate,” says Robert Grisso of Virginia Tech Extension. For example, a knee injury can lead to pain in the other knee, or an arm injury can lead to an aching back. Being slowed down by a heart condition or arthritis can lead to an accident if the farmer can't get out of the way of livestock or machinery quickly enough. Any injury can lead to mental health issues including depression.

“In many situations, secondary injuries may cause permanent damage because pre-existing conditions are worsened by additional injuries,” Grisso says. “In other situations, it may result in additional recovery time.”

AGE IS A FACTOR

According to Grisso, as the average age of farmers increases, so do the chances for secondary injuries.

“Both age and existing disabilities or injuries may adversely affect reaction time, motor skills, and ability to balance,” Grisso says. “These limitations – along with the refusal to make adjustments and/or to recognize the previous injury or disability – make senior farmers and ranchers more vulnerable to secondary injuries, even though they are more experienced.

”Farmers and ranchers who use wheelchairs or have a prosthesis are also more susceptible to secondary injuries. The leading causes are handling livestock and falls, according to Grisso. Entanglement, overuse of the opposite limb, pressure sores and sprains are other common secondary injuries among this population.



MAKE A PLAN

No matter how much pain one is in, though, the cattle still need fed. There are some chores that just can't wait until injuries are fully healed. Finding a safe way to do them or making alternate plans can help prevent secondary injuries and stop that string of bad luck in its tracks.

“The best advice for injured farmers is to watch their daily routines and make sure they stay in limits of the doctor and physical therapy guidelines,” Grisso says.

He advises adult children to attend doctor appointments and physical therapy sessions with their parents. “Listen closely to the guidelines outlined by the doctor and watch the session and note the limits and extensions that therapist is doing,” he says. If it’s possible for these appointments to be held in the patient’s home, that makes it easier for everyone, and the physical therapist can offer suggestions specific to the home and farm.

Adult children and grandchildren can also help by making sure chores are covered and help is available for other things their injured parent might need. Talk about their daily routine and make a list of things that require temporary or longer term help, possibly including bathing and preparing meals. Be sure to also consider things the parent enjoys doing, and find ways to help them keep those things up, whether it’s driving them to the coop for coffee time or helping them make Sunday dinner.

MAKE SURROUNDINGS SAFER

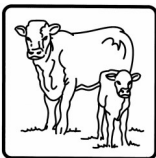
Telling a farmer or rancher that they can’t do their work probably won’t go well. Grisso says if they can’t or won’t avoid high-risk activities, there are some things that can be done to help prevent further injury:

- Place rubberized, nonslip surfaces on high-traffic concrete floors.
- Provide extra steps for getting into farm equipment and vehicles to avoid over-reaching or having to pull oneself up.
- Make sure there is adequate lighting in all work areas

and where getting into and out of machinery to avoid falls.

- Reconfigure livestock handling facilities with added fence gates as needed to make things safer and more efficient.
- Add handle wraps to tools to improve grip, use lightweight tools with long handles or pneumatic self-adjusting tools when possible, and arrange tools within reach.
- Add extra mirrors to equipment to improve visibility and reduce neck and back strain.
- Install seats with improved suspension systems to avoid back pain.
- Use gel-filled knee pads for any work requiring kneeling.
- Take advantage of quick-connect technology for hitching and unhitching implements without leaving the tractor seat.
- If dealing with a permanent disability, modify tractor controls with spinner knobs, hand levers for brakes, and even relocation of controls if needed. A mechanical lift can also be used to allow access to the tractor cab.
- Consider replacing manual gates with those that can be remotely opened and closed from the vehicle.
- Make sure all machines are equipped with fire extinguishers and a cell phone or two-way radio.

Getting an injured farmer or rancher to agree to take it easy will be anything but. Still, Grisso says it's worth it. "I agree it is hard but the body does need time to heal," he says. "If you get a secondary injury, it will take longer and possibly cause permanent damage."



Covid 19 is still a threat to our area.

In addition to social distancing, hand washing, mask wearing when social distancing is impossible.

Don't Let Cows Fall Victim to the Spring Nutrient Gap

By Lee Dickerson, Ph.D.

Senior Field Cattle Consultant

Cows are coming out of gestation and into their time of highest nutritional requirement. While it can be lucrative to turn cows out on pasture at the first sign of grass, short grass won't supply the nutrients a cow needs to perform her best.

When feeding cows in the spring, it's vital to provide adequate nutrition to help cows maintain ideal body condition and get rebred.

Needs by the numbers

Nutritional requirements for cattle climb upward from gestation to the last trimester of pregnancy and are at their highest during lactation.

As a cow begins lactation, her protein and phosphorus requirements go up about 60 to 70 percent compared to requirements during the last trimester. Requirements for total digestible nutrients (TDN), or energy, increase by an additional 15 to 25 percent.

These nutrients impact milk production, a cow's ability to get bred back quickly and, ultimately, the resulting calf crop.

If you only maintain your feeding rate from gestation to lactation, you may start shorting your cows of adequate protein and energy. This gap in nutrition can result in lost body condition and performance.

What's at stake?

Research shows that body condition score (BCS) at calving impacts how quickly cows begin cycling and become pregnant.

For every 100 cows, a single point drop from a BCS 6 to

a 5 at breeding could equate to roughly 25 calves that are either born later or are not born at all because nutrition slipped post-calving.¹ Calves born later result in less weaning weight.

Research has shown that a cow consuming 170 Kcal per metabolic body weight will maintain peak milk production for approximately 8.3 weeks at 20.2 pounds of milk per day, and will produce 2,726 pounds of milk over the course of 210 days. Providing additional energy, at a level of 290 Kcal per metabolic body weight, resulted in maintaining peak milk production for 10.9 weeks, at 24.2 pounds of milk per day and a total 210-day production of 3,742 pounds.²

Set up for spring success

It's easy to get excited about a little bit of green grass, but there may not be enough volume to support a cow's increasing requirements. Cows will run for green grass and burn more energy searching for grass than what they'll consume. The energy deficit can result in lost body condition.

A visual loss in condition often means you've already left some performance on the table. Supplements can help regain condition, but playing catch-up typically means feeding large amounts of supplement at a higher cost. Provide free-choice hay and supplement early until grass is lush and plentiful. Offer hay early and continue feeding it long enough for cows to achieve a BCS 6 at calving and no less than a BCS 5.5 at breeding.

Hay can be complemented with a self-fed solution like Accuration[®] supplement. Cows won't consume much Accuration[®] supplement if forage is meeting their requirements, but will consume more supplement if forage is not meeting requirements.

Supplementation can help keep an ideal cattle body condition score through all seasons and optimize cow performance with existing forage.

*Thoughts From the President-
Drew Adams*



Here we are nearing the end of March, and April is upon us already, it's crazy, (4) Months into the new year 2021, and we still haven't been able to meet in person. Prices are ever increasing, Cattle, as well as Cattlemen, and Cattlewomen are probably as tired of this rain, as much as I am... and almost as much as we all are with Covid-19.

I hope you are doing well, as well as every other Cattleman in our Association, it is so difficult to know, without the opportunity to meet up monthly, as in the past. It looks like the Azalea Festival will be going on this year, so the Board needs to meet up and make some pretty quick decisions as to how we are going to go about the AF this year. I know that we normally set up a tent, and cook steaks, and hand out bits of them to passersby, but I'm not so sure that this will be accepted this year, given all that's happened in the past year and change???

Looking forward to seeing all of this in our rearview mirror, and getting back to some normalcy, I do miss our gatherings, and I do miss seeing people in general.

Thanks,
Drew

Helpful Reminders For Using RTV and Other Types of Sealants

By David Cook

A common and easy mistake to make when using RTV, gasket maker, and other various sealants is inadequate application of the product. Myself and many others are guilty of tossing the instructions aside when working on a project. When it comes to sealing gaskets it is important to remember:

- Always read the manufacturer's instructions for proper application and best results.
- In most applications, it is recommended that the sealant is allowed to set before torquing the bolts all the way down.
- Make sure you let the sealant cure for the appropriate amount of time before use.

These are simple yet easy to forget and can be the difference between a successful project and having to start over!

Synopsis Treasurer's Report—2/28/21

Beginning Balance: \$9019.77

Ending Balance: \$9334.84

Income: \$315.07

Dues: \$315.00

Interest Payment: \$0.07

Expense: \$0.00



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222 West Main St.