



The Importance of Soil Testing

As we begin to start prepping for the Spring to come forth let's take a minute to begin to think about our soil fertility. As our slogan goes "Don't Guess, Soil Test"!

Soil testing is an outstanding tool to help from your home gardeners planting their vegetables to the farmers and ranchers with crops and pasture land. With your soil test, results can show you two of the most important factors that affect your yield. (listed below)

- Determining the existing nutrition of your soil.
- Obtain a professional recommendation on how to address your soil health

The importance of timing is all too important as many of us know when dealing with planting and upkeep for all plants. The importance of knowing when the right time for a soil test can be just as important. Having your results and information on how to fertilize in time for planting or harvesting can be so important to yield the results you require.

Whether you are planning for your spring lawn or garden to look amazing, or you might have large pastures with cattle or crops, come by your Neshoba County Extension Office to discuss what a soil test can do for you. Check out the MSU Extension Website for more information or stop by your Neshoba County Extension Office and speak to one of your County Extension Agents.



DON'T GUESS, SOIL TEST!



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

12000 HWY 15 N, SUITE 2, PHILADELPHIA, MS, 39350

Private Applicator Training
March 19th from 9:00 A.M.
Neshoba County Coliseum
Multipurpose Room

**Neshoba County Cattlemen's
Association Spring Meeting**
Neshoba County Coliseum
March 27th at 6:00 PM

Pond Management Workshop
April 12th at 9:00 A.M.
Coastal Plains Experiment Station
Newton, MS

Horse Club Interest Meeting
March 13th at 5:30 P.M.
Neshoba County Coliseum
Multipurpose Room

**Neshoba County Cattlemen's
Hamburger Plate Sale**
May 30th
All plates must be pre-purchased
Call now to buy

**Neshoba County Master
Gardener's Plant Sale**
May 9th
Located at The Depot

Office will be closed
May 26th
for Memorial Day



Reach us on
Facebook at:

Neshoba County 4-H
Neshoba County Extension Office

The Basics of Backgrounding Cattle

Backgrounding is a type of cattle production that has endless possibilities. Typically, backgrounding cattle begins with weaned calves and the growth of these calves until they are ready to enter the feedlot. The cattle's weight gain is based on the forage that is available, the ration of feed, and the duration of these diets. Many cattlemen in Mississippi utilize the annual ryegrass or other cool-season forages which are generally planted in the fall to supply forage to the calves of their operation. When purchasing calves in the spring, producers will utilize warm-season forages such as Bermuda. Keep in mind that a high-quality forage will always assist in your weight gain needs. When grazing is your cattle's main source of forage, it is recommended to obtain a soil test before planting and a forage test prior to grazing. This will help you to understand what your feed supplemental needs will have to be to reach your ideal average daily gain.

Traditionally, cattlemen would buy calves in the fall and keep them for 4-6 months and sell in the spring or buy in the spring and sell in the fall. As the years have gone on, many cow/calf operations have begun to stop selling their calves after weaning and utilizing their land to background their own calves. This generally can allow for their cattle to be backgrounded and sold before spring working and allow for potential higher profits and additional paydays for the operation that generally receives its only major paydays after selling weaned calves. This process has also allowed cow/calf producers to utilize their harvested forages and allow the cost of production to go down, increasing profitability.

The backgrounding of cattle seems to have become a more frequent part of many Mississippi producers' operations, and for many good reasons. With that being said, a few more skills are required to ensure that one is profitable in this type of beef production. Buying and selling skills are a must to allow the producer to read and predict the market to allow a profit to be made. The ability to identify sick cattle and the types of medication to use is another skill one must learn and possess to allow profitability. Consulting a veterinarian may also be necessary and it is suggested to have create a successful doctoring program. While many people have different opinions on how to handle doctoring programs, no two operations may ever be the same, and in some cases, no two neighboring herds will always require the same doctoring program. With good research, veterinarians, and beef nutritionist consultation, many producers can find what program works best for them and their cattle. During your time backgrounding cattle, one must remember that the best practice to implement is to observe your herd daily and doctor cattle accordingly. The consistency of your doctoring program can and will affect your death loss and aid in many cases the mitigation of profit and herd loss. While the origin of your calves can greatly affect your death loss, consistency in doctoring programs can strongly aid in the "straightening out" of many cattle. The origin of your cattle can have a big influence, and a great example are the cow/calf producers that process their cattle before weaning and then allow the cattle time to recover before weaning and transporting or moving the cattle to where they will be backgrounded. Generally, this lowers stress and reduces their exposure to disease which can increase the health of your cattle compared to sale barn bought and lower medicine cost greatly in some cases.



The Basics of Backgrounding Cattle

There are many other factors such as receiving and processing management that affect your profitability. Receiving and processing management can and typically will affect your disease exposure and disease treatment. A large, dry, clean pen or good-quality pasture with a clean water source are just a few things you can implement while also taking dust control into account when receiving cattle. This aids in the minimization of the spread of respiratory and other types of diseases. The process you use when receiving cattle, such as vaccinations, deworming, implants, and castration can also affect your success and production. The how's and why's of your processing and receiving are an important factor that one should consider when choosing to background cattle.

Among the many factors that affect your operation when backgrounding cattle, one of the most important factors one should consider is the nutritional needs of the cattle. Feed and its rations and the frequency the cattle are fed are three of the most important factors that will directly correlate with your cattle's weight gain. Proper forages and the supplement of micro- and macronutrients, protein, and vitamins are all necessary for cattle growth and weight gain.

If you would like to background cattle, you as the producer must know that there are many resources and professionals to help you make your operational plan. From veterinarians, nutritionists, your local USDA NRCS, and Extension offices are here to assist you. Find what will work best for you and remember, no two operations will always be the same, so do your research, utilize your resources, and make a plan that fits your goals.





MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

EXTENSION

MSU Extension-Neshoba County Private Applicator Training

March 19th | 9 am

**Call (601) 656-4011 to register
Registration Deadline is March 12th**

**Class will be held at the Neshoba County
Coliseum Multi-Purpose Room**

**Cost of the training is \$60, and it is payable by CHECK
ONLY the day of the class to MSU-Extension**

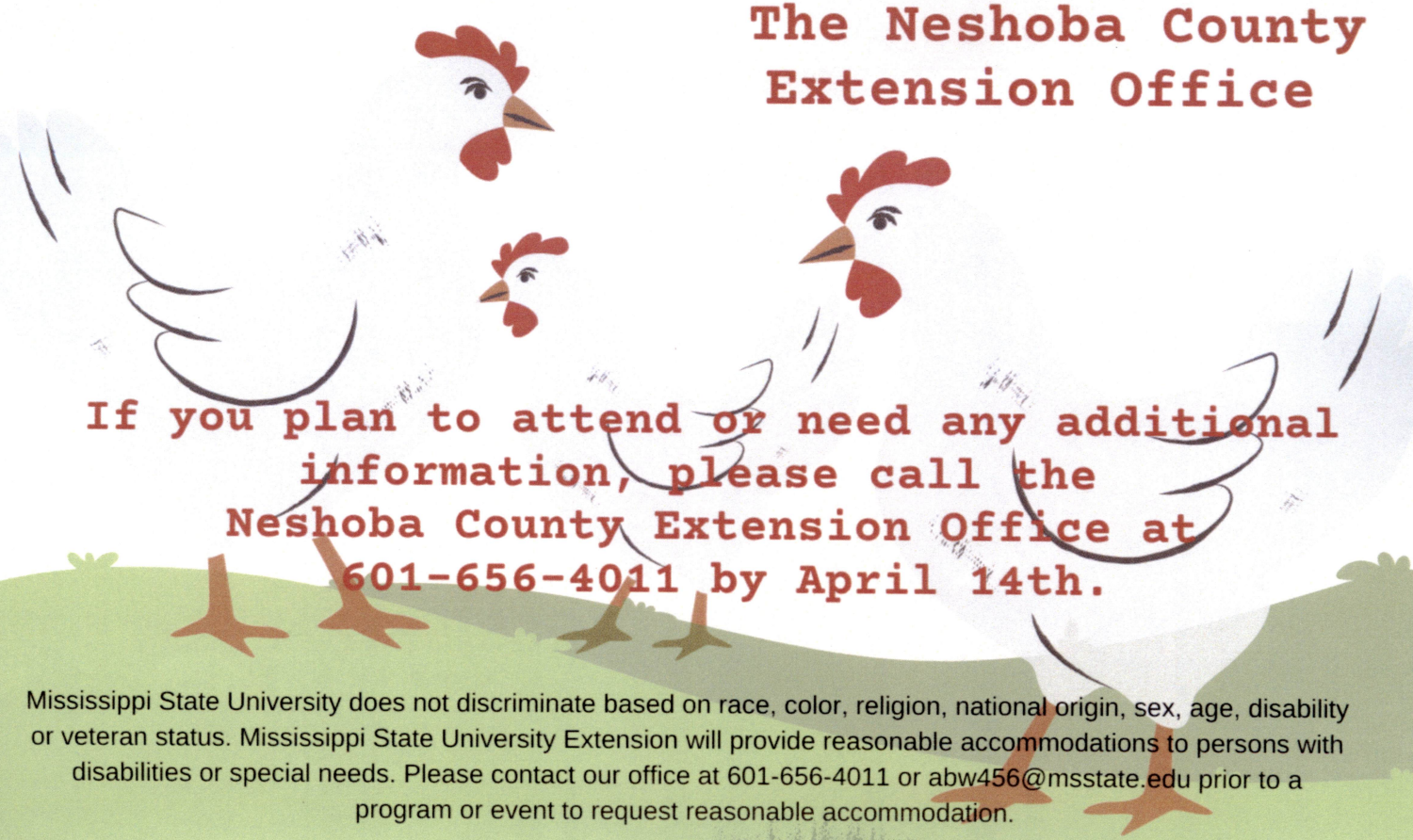
Mississippi State University does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status. Mississippi State University Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs. Please get in touch with our office at 601-656-4011 or agc428@msstate.edu prior to a program or event to request reasonable accommodation.

Neshoba
County

Backyard Chicken Flock Workshop

Owning backyard chickens is fun and rewarding, but it can also be challenging. If you do not currently own backyard chickens, and you think you might be interested in buying some, there are a couple of details about chicken ownership you should first know and consider. Youth and adults who would like to know more, join us on April 23rd to find out more!

**April 23rd
10:30 a.m. - Until
The Neshoba County
Extension Office**

A stylized illustration of three white chickens with red combs and wattles, standing on a green grassy field. The chickens are drawn in a simple, cartoonish style with black outlines. One chicken is in the foreground, facing right, while two others are slightly behind it, one facing left and one facing right.

If you plan to attend or need any additional information, please call the Neshoba County Extension Office at 601-656-4011 by April 14th.

Mississippi State University does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status. Mississippi State University Extension will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities or special needs. Please contact our office at 601-656-4011 or abw456@msstate.edu prior to a program or event to request reasonable accommodation.

Newton County Extension will be hosting a pond workshop on April 12th at the Coastal Plains Research Station in Newton. This is a great opportunity to learn about managing your stock pond and avoiding the pitfalls of expenses and trial and error. Learn from the specialists at MSU about fish population management, water quality, weed ID and so much more. Please contact us to reserve your spot!

Pond Managment Workshop

Saturday, April 12th, 2025 @ 10 AM

Topics to include:

Building a pond * Stocking options and procedures

Managing water quality * Managing fish

Value of habitat * What is this weed?

Weed management approaches * Herbicide Use

COASTAL PLAINS EXPERIMENT STATION

Newton, MS

51 Coastal Plains Road

Newton , MS 39345

Please contact 662-769-1004 to register

Presenters: Dr. Wes Neal & Dr.
Gray Turnage, MSU
Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries and Aquaculture



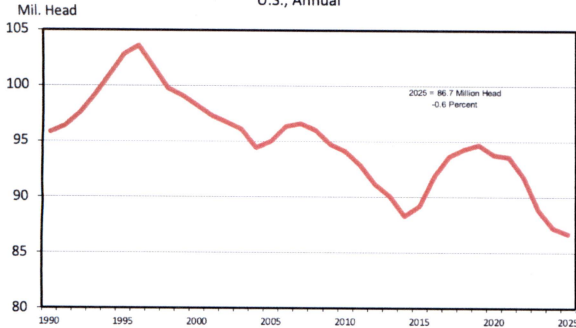
The Cattle Rattle Report

As we make it through the first half of the 1st quarter of 2025, we have seen cattle prices at an all-time high. USDA's latest Cattle Inventory Report shows that U.S. beef cattle inventory has fallen to the lowest number in 64 years.

"When will the cattle prices quit climbing?" This seems to be the question asked by everyone involved. With incentives driving decisions to sell we have seen record high sale prices hitting sale barns across the country. Over the last week, prices have seemed to level out ever so slightly across the board (2/2/25-2/8/25). There is very little certainty about how the market will continue to move through the remainder of the 1st quarter and through 2025 considering the potential volatility in the market as it stands today.

According to Derrell Peel, an Oklahoma State University Extension livestock specialist, our county has extremely low heifer numbers. With replacement heifers at such a low number, rebuilding our cattle inventory numbers will be a difficult challenge, this challenge only continues to cause volatility in the market. Again, with prices as high as they have been, and equipment and other agricultural supplies prices continuing to climb over the last several decades at an even higher rate, liquidation has been a consideration for many farmers. At the end of the day, cattlemen are businessmen, and we must watch the market, watch our expenses, and make the best decision for our business models while simultaneously considering the future of our cattle industry.

JANUARY 1 TOTAL CATTLE INVENTORY
U.S., Annual



Data Source: USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

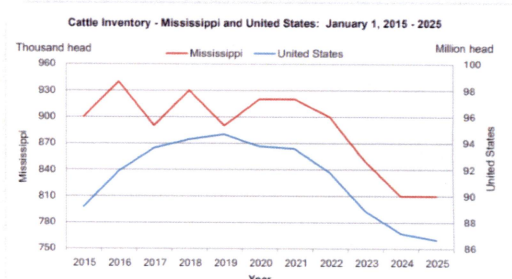
C-N-01
01/31/25

Cattle Market Report		For Weeks Ending On		
Prices \$/cwt. Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME		2/7/25	1/31/25	2/8/24
500-600 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$303.43	\$299.37	\$208.35
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$324.15	\$328.97	\$219.95
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$309.02	\$319.27	\$217.26
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$326.97	\$331.01	\$218.07
	Alabama M/L #1	\$328.70	\$320.88	\$225.60
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$300.36	\$316.46	\$216.51
700-800 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$323.01	\$321.21	\$217.11
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$238.16	\$242.19	\$159.31
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$266.25	\$268.58	\$187.29
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$259.22	\$265.69	\$180.78
	Alabama M/L #1	\$256.96	\$268.23	\$182.16
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$258.88	\$262.58	\$176.50
Negotiated Fed Steers	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$249.22	\$261.65	\$176.94
	Live Price	\$267.37	\$267.54	\$185.28
	Dressed Price	\$207.05	\$209.57	\$164.41
	Choice Value, 600-900 lb.	\$326.98	\$329.07	\$265.06
Boxed Beef Cutout	Select Value, 600-900 lb.		\$329.65	\$280.98
			\$319.23	\$270.59

Futures Prices		2/7/25	1/31/25
Live Cattle	February	\$200.77	\$204.60
	April	\$196.77	\$202.30
	June	\$192.10	\$196.70
Feeder Cattle	March	\$264.90	\$275.73
	April	\$264.83	\$275.13
	May	\$263.60	\$273.13
Corn	March	\$4.88	\$4.82
	May	\$5.01	\$4.93
Source: CME Group			

Mississippi Cattle Inventory

The chart below shows Mississippi's Cattle Inventory Estimates compared to the United States as a whole. 2025 estimates according to the USDA-NASS show stable to possible slight increased inventories for our state.



New Agent!

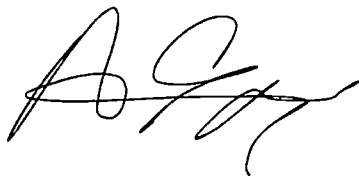
Hello Everyone,

My name is Anthony Cypher. I am beyond ecstatic to be the new agent right here in Neshoba County. My wife and I are glad to be back in the county we love. Although, I am not a native of Mississippi since 2020 when I first moved to Neshoba County I knew this would always be home. I am honored to be able to serve this county in the best way I know how.

My commitment to helping and serving our community is of utmost importance to me. I would love to meet and discuss agricultural and or community needs and goals with anyone in Neshoba County. Please come by the office or call to schedule a visit so we can discuss how Extension and myself can help you.

Thank you,

Anthony G. Cypher



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