



January 2013

## AG Highlights

Uintah & Daggett Counties

### Alfalfa Insects - A Year in Review

-Ricardo Ramirez, USU Entomologist

#### ALFALFA WEEVILS

The use of organophosphate and pyrethroid insecticides has yielded mixed results in suppressing alfalfa weevil. In 2012, several growers in Utah used Steward (indoxacarb), an insecticide with a different mode of action. A number of growers reported that this product was successful in reducing weevil damage. The insecticide protects alfalfa for 5 to 14 days, but it does not kill larvae immediately. Instead, it causes them to stop feeding and become lethargic. Larvae then die within a few days. USU recommends that when using Steward, growers should evaluate weevil suppression 3 days after treatment.



Escalante Ranch, Jensen, Utah



#### Upcoming Events

Utah Hay & Forage Symposium  
Jan 31 – Feb 1  
St. George

Utah Beef Field Day  
February 11  
Provo

Uintah Basin Water Summit  
February 21  
Vernal

Uintah Basin Farmer-Rancher Academy  
February 28  
Roosevelt



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## **ALFALFA APHIDS AND PREDATORS**

USU surveyed the abundance of insects in alfalfa fields with and without weevil insecticide applications and found that aphids were more abundant in insecticide-treated fields later in the season than in untreated fields. Predatory insects were more abundant in untreated fields and may have contributed to the lower aphid populations in those same fields.

Predatory insects like lady beetles, damsel bugs, big-eyed bugs, and syrphid fly larvae, are important predators of aphids. These predators can be more sensitive to insecticide treatments than the actual target pest. After treatment, it takes time for the beneficial insects to rebound, therefore resulting in large aphid populations. The warm spring of 2012 allowed the adult life-stages of beneficial insects to be active in May in northern Utah, with a peak at the end of June. The juvenile stages of predatory insects were evident at the beginning of June and present much of the season. Monitoring alfalfa weevils early in the season, and treating only when necessary can aid in the conservation of predators that buffer against secondary pest outbreaks.

### **Utah Hay & Forage Symposium in St. George January 31 – February 1**

Consider attending the hands-on workshop (Thursday morning) on soils, weeds and seeds.

Enrollment is limited so register early.

- Dan Putman, University of California-Davis: Alfalfa stand establishment and forage quality
- Glen Shewmaker, University of Idaho: Preventing hay fires and risk of legal exposure
- Rob Mikkelsen, International Plant Nutrition Institute: World fertilizer supply and demand
- Greg Kruger, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Roundup® resistant weeds
- Don Miller, Producers Choice Seed: Managing alfalfa diseases
- Dillon Feuz, Utah State University: Hay market outlook
- Learn much more at: Trade show, hay judging contest, and other classes
- More than \$1,000 in door prizes will be given away!

Contact Boyd Kitchen to get a pre-registration form.

## **Pasture, Range and Forage Insurance: A new form of drought insurance**

by Boyd Kitchen, USU Extension

Pasture, Range and Forage Insurance is a pilot product that may serve as drought insurance. It was designed by the USDA-Risk Management Agency to give forage and livestock producers the ability to buy insurance protection for losses of forage produced for grazing or harvested hay. It may fit the needs of western producers better than other crop insurance products. It is a flexible product that allows the producer choices in how much coverage to buy. In Utah, Wyoming and Western Colorado, it is based on a vegetation index that uses satellite images to determine how well forage is growing in the covered period of time compared with an average year. Therefore, production records are not required. Because it is a form of crop insurance, it must be purchased through an insurance agent. The deadline to purchase Pasture, Range and Forage Insurance is September 1 of the previous year. In other words, you have to purchase the insurance before you know you need it. If you would like to learn more about it, contact me. I'd be happy to explain how it might work for you.

### **Utah Beef Cattle Field Day February 11, 2013**

#### **Harman Conference Center – BYU**

770 E. University Parkway – Provo, Utah

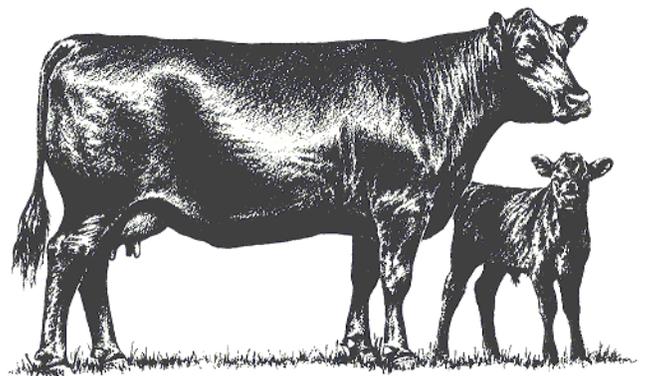
Registration - \$25/Person-\$30/Couple

#### **Technology Advances in Beef Reproduction**

Fetal Programming – Nutrition - IBR – EPDs

Profit from Improving Reproduction - Evaluating the  
Bull Battery - Practical Reproductive Strategies

Trade Show



Sponsors: Utah State University, Utah Cattlemen's Association, & Brigham Young University

## Uintah Basin Farmer-Rancher Academy

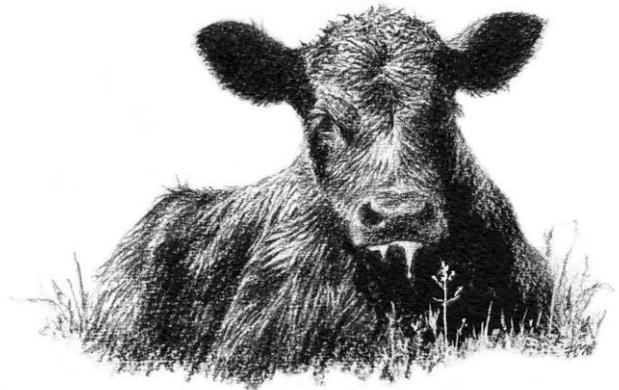
Calving – Vaccination – Range Improvement  
Drought Management Tools

February 28, 2013 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lunch will be served

USU-Roosevelt Multipurpose Room

### Sponsors

Western Ag Credit  
Duchesne, Daggett and Uintah Conservation Districts



**Uintah Basin Water Summit  
Western Park - Vernal  
February 21, 2013**

**Call Mary at 789-1651 (Uintah Water Conservancy) for more information.**

## GET ON MY EMAIL LIST!

Would you like timely notification of opportunities and programs to improve profitability? If so, send an email to [boyd.kitchen@usu.edu](mailto:boyd.kitchen@usu.edu) and I'll put you on the list.

## Uintah County Wool Pool

What to do with the wool from a few head of sheep? Sheep have to be shorn every spring, but unless you have hundreds of fleeces, it's a challenge to find a buyer for the wool. Some producers haul their wool to the landfill for lack of a market. For this reason the Uintah Wool Pool was formed many years ago to help small-scale wool producers market their wool.

Here's how it works. Producers join the Wool Pool by signing an annual agreement that specifies how to care and bundle the wool so its value will be maximized. The agreement specifies the number and kind of fleeces the producer will have. The Wool Pool contacts potential buyers and gets the best price it can for the members. Next, members are sent a letter specifying when and where to bring their wool. We usually deliver the wool to the buyer in June at a convenient location in Vernal. Each producer's wool is weighed as it's loaded on the truck. A short time later checks are mailed to individual producers. If you would like to join the Uintah County Wool Pool, call 781-5452.

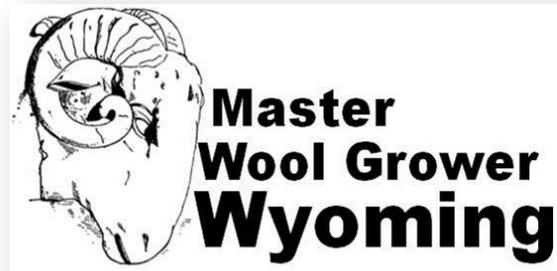
## Intermountain Master Wool Grower Course

**Feb. 6 (afternoon) – Feb. 7, (morning)**

**Location: Snow College Noyes Building  
Heritage Room (150 E College Ave, Ephraim)**

**Fee: \$30 (Dinner is included on the 6<sup>th</sup>)**

**To Register Contact: 435-283-7597**



The objectives of the Intermountain Master Wool Grower Program are to promote the sustainability of Utah sheep producers through use of a comprehensive production strategy and risk assessment program. Producers first receive training on tools to aide in making decisions such as: Can I afford to make a range or pasture improvement? Or, what is the best timing to market my cull ewes? Producers then receive information on marketing and production strategies. To reinforce the tools taught participants practice enterprise analysis for an example ranch at the end of each production strategy session. The Intermountain Master Wool Grower Program builds on a similar program that has been offered in numerous Wyoming locations.

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Check us out on the web:

<http://extension.usu.edu/uintah>