



## Taking Control of Weeds in Pasture & Hay Fields

By Jim Tomnitz, Springfield Agri-Services

Weeds that grow in your fields compete with the quality and quantity of the forage being produced. The weeds crowd out and grow more rapidly than the forage you want, and slowly but surely take over the field. It takes committed effort to rid your field of these weeds.

First, you need to identify the weed and understand how it grows and reproduces. Not only do you have to control the weed as it completes its life cycle, but you must also control the weed from producing viable seeds. There are three types of weeds that need to be addressed.

Perennials are plants

that reproduce using their seeds, roots, or rhizomes. These plants germinate in the fall or spring. The best time to put herbicide on these weeds is during the bud stage and when new roots are establishing. Spraying herbicides that enter the weed through the root is the best control approach.

Biennials are plants that only produce by seeds and live no more than two years. These plants usually germinate in the fall. During their first year, they grow as a rosette close to the ground, and in their second year they get bigger, flower and seed out. The best time to control these weeds is during germinating or while

in the rosette stage. Fall spraying is very effective at controlling these weeds.

Annuals are plants that live for one year or less and reproduce by seeds. Controlling these weeds should be done in the early spring or summer, before flowering, so that they are unable to produce seeds.

MFA's 2012 Agronomy Guide is at your local MFA Agri-Services and will help you identify the weed and select the best weed control option. Contact your local MFA for more information on weed control.

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## Torrid

Torrid is a new product that MFA has brought on board this year and it has shown amazing results in brush and pasture spraying. Torrid is an adjuvant that you mix with your brush or pasture chemicals that gives you added benefits that help your chemicals perform at a higher level. It has a four-way

blend of ingredients: 1.) It serves as a water conditioner. In this area, we have really hard water in most areas and the Torrid will help neutralize the pH of the water and help the chemical you are using work that much better. 2.) It has a pH acidifier which improves pesticide stability. 3.) It serves as a

surfactant to enhance drop-let spread and penetration. 4.) Last, but not least, it is a Humectant, which helps to slow evaporation and increase absorption into the plant.

Torrid may be new, but it is proven to work in almost any brush or pasture spray-

ing situation. Rates vary from 1-4 quarts per 100 gallon of water in most applications. Don't skip this added ingredient when focusing on killing unwanted brush or weeds, it only adds minimal cost per acre when added to your tank, and you will be very satisfied with the results it



## Fair Time

by David Yarnell, Feed Sales

Well, ready or not, Spring time has arrived. And with it usually follows livestock fairs which are always an exciting time for our local 4-H and FFA Chapters. Whether you are a first time participant or a seasoned veteran, there are many challenges that arise. From picking out your animal, working with them, feeding them, and competing with them. We can not help with all of these issues, but we can make your life a little less stressful by providing you with the proper nutrition that they will need through this process. I am sure that for those of you that have animals this year, you have been working hard getting them ready for the shows.

Did you know that you can earn cash if you use MFA Feed to feed your 4-H/FFA Livestock Project animals? If not, I would like to take a minute of your time to tell you all about the 4-H/FFA Livestock Project Premium Program that we offer.

MFA Feed Division, along with your nearby MFA Feed store, is proud to offer special incentives to 4-H and FFA livestock project participants for using MFA Feed. Project premiums for a steer, beef heifer, or dairy heifer will be \$50. And a market hog, market lamb, goat or bucket calf will be \$20. Animals must be on qualifying MFA Feed product from weigh-in and they must be fed

at recommended amounts through project completion. (See your local MFA Feed store for a list of qualifying products and feeding program details.) Project animal initial weight, ending weight and other information is verified by the group leader and submitted to your nearby MFA Feed Supplier. One project premium and one contest cash prize allowed per participant.

For project animals that place at the top of county rate-of-gain contests or state or national carcass-evaluation contests, there are more financial rewards! (See details at your Local

MFA.) If you have been participating in the program, we appreciate your business and look forward to helping you in the future. If you have not, we would love for you to stop by your local MFA store and give us a chance to serve you. Thanks for your time and I hope that you all have a wonderful day.



# “Ready or not, Spring has arrived!”

## Why the Price of Feed Per CWT Never Tells the Whole Truth

by Jody Boles, Feed ASM

When looking to buy or change feeds, ask what the conversions are on the feeds you are looking at. Let us look at 2 feeds you can buy from the Greater Ozark Group of MFA's: Cattle Charge BT and Cattle Plus.

Both can be fed to cattle, one is a mix of commodities. The other is a pelleted feed, both are 12% in crude protein, one of the feeds takes 4 pounds of feed to put on 1 pound of gain, the other feed takes 7 pounds to put on 1 pound of gain. Conversions on feeds are very important. Some feeds are cheaper than others, but that doesn't mean they will save you any money. Cattle Charge BT costs \$17.36 cwt in the bag, Cattle Plus cost \$14.50 cwt in the bag. So, at

first glance one would say Cattle Plus would save me money. But, remember those feed conversions: Cattle Charge BT has a feed conversion of 4 to 1 and Cattle Plus is 7 to 1. So, with a 4 to 1, Cattle Charge BT cost you \$.69 per pound of gain and Cattle Plus, with a 7 to 1, cost you \$1.01 per pound of gain. Buying a feed with the best feed conversions will save you money! Cattle Charge BT saves you \$.32 per pound of gain over Cattle Plus. So do you have

any Fall born or Spring born calves? If so, now is the time to be creep feeding calves with Cattle Charge BT. When you can put on a pound of gain for \$.69 and you can sell a steer or heifer calf for more than a \$1.40 per pound, put on all the pounds you can.

Remember, you sell pounds of cattle and at MFA we are glad to help you make the right choice for you and your cattle. So, please stop by and talk with us at any location about how MFA can help you.





## Fertilization

by Dustin DeVore, Ash Grove Manager

Spring is when most people begin to think about pasture fertilization. Fertilization is very important to promote healthy plant growth. When beginning to contemplate implementing a fertilization program, there are several aspects to consider. The first thing I highly recommend is taking or having a soil test performed. This is the most accurate way to ensure that your fields are getting the proper nutrition. When taking a soil test, the best way to ensure accuracy is to take multiple samples. The Uni-

versity of Missouri Extension recommends 15-20 cores per field. They also recommend testing in 20 acre fields.

Crop history is another very important thing to consider when implementing a fertilization plan. The previous crop can make a very large difference in what nutrients the next crop will need. The amounts of fertilizer can vary greatly, depending on the current or future crops. Legumes can influence the amount of nitrogen that may need to be applied, but they

can have a higher need for micronutrients. Micronutrients are becoming more of an issue in present days due to the restrictions on emissions. We are seeing a deficiency in the amount of sulfur in particular.

Soil lime content is expressed in terms of ENM (Effective Neutralizing Material). To effectively determine the amount of limestone that needs to be applied to your fields, you should first determine the ENM of the quarry where the lime is purchased.

This number is then divided into the amount of ENM recommended in your soil test.

Visit your local MFA Agri Services for assistance with any fertilizer needs you may have. We have knowledgeable staff that have been trained to interpret soil test reports and make accurate recommendations. We also have area sales managers and agronomists on staff to answer any question you may have.

## Ozark MFA

by Keith McDaniel, Ozark Store Manager, Greater Ozarks MFA General Manager

Since Spring came early this year, it has given everyone a chance to get an early start on yard work, planting gardens, and a bunch of other outdoor projects that you have been eager to get to since last Fall. Here at Ozark MFA, it has been no exception, we have been working hard for you so that when Spring arrived, we would have what you need. Our Greenhouse is stocked full of garden plants just waiting for you to plant, we have all of our garden seeds available for you, whether it be bulk or packaged seed that you want. We have knockout roses and now have all of our

flowers in stock.

Something new that we have added this year is the Bonide Four-Step Lawn program, featuring Crabgrass Preventer, Weed and Feed, Turf Food, and a Fall Winterizer. Each of these has fertilizer in them to feed the plants, as well as their other ingredients. Each step, applied in a timely manner, will help give your yard just the look that you want. Be sure to take a look at this Lawn Care Program.

With the quick onset of green grass, it is time to start up that hay equipment. Be sure to get everything sharpened and greased up to ensure that

it all works to perfection. We have what you need to get it all ready for the season. Also, be sure to get your twine and net wrap stocked up. We have square bale and round bale twine, as well as various sizes of net-wrap in stock just for you.

Finally, if you are looking to plant any summer annuals, whether it be Pearl or German Millet, Sudan or something else, supplies are limited because of last summer's drought in the South. You will want to speak early for what you are going to need. We still have MyCogen, Dekalb and Morcorn available, as well as a

good supply of Soybeans if you are planning on putting out one of those crops. Roundup Ready Alfalfa is still in good supply, as well.

The Ozark store is working on extended Spring hours to better accommodate your needs. We are open 8-6 Monday through Friday and 8-12 noon on Saturday. This is only for Spring, and we will go back to regular hours in the Summer. Take advantage of it while you can. Be sure to "like" us on Facebook to keep up with all of our specials or visit our website. Don't forget our Open House on Friday, June 1st, 9AM-3AM.

[www.greaterozarksmfa.com](http://www.greaterozarksmfa.com)

# OZARK MFA Fencing Field Day

**Sponsored by Christian County ASCS & SWCD and Gallagher!**

**Hands On Fencing Demonstration by Gallagher Rep., Thursday, May 24 11AM-2PM**

**See Store for Details. Please RSVP by May 21st to Ozark MFA 417.581.3523**

We will demonstrate hi-tensile fencing, how to set corner posts and braces, and take a look at the new Electra & Lock Fence that Gallagher has. We will also focus on fencing for rotational grazing set-ups.

**Come join us!**

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