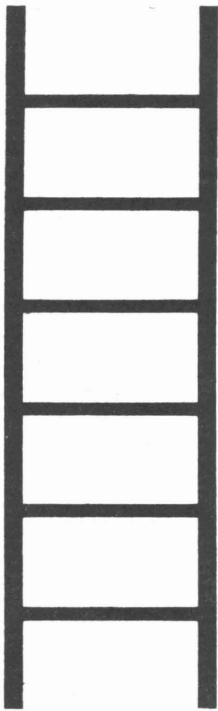


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**STEP  
UP  
TO  
BIGGER  
PROFITS**

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***JOIN***

***the Better Forage Program***

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**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas**

# *Step up to Bigger Profits . . . .* JOIN THE BETTER FORAGE PROGRAM

J. NEAL PRATT  
Extension Agronomist  
Texas A&M University

An abundance of *high-quality forage* is the basis for a profitable livestock operation.

Favorable soil and climatic conditions permit large amounts of high-quality forage—if adapted species receive adequate nutrition. Utilizing forage with high-quality livestock can provide *more profits* for most livestock producers.

Points of a *better forage program* include:

## **1. STAMP OUT ACID SOILS**

- Collect soil samples representative of the area to be treated.
- Supply complete history and future plans for the area on soil test information sheet.
- Have samples tested in a reliable laboratory.
- Apply limestone where needed.
- Use magnesium limestone where needed.
- Mix limestone into soil, where possible.

## **2. PRODUCE QUALITY FORAGE**

- Determine nutritional requirements of your livestock.
- Decide what forage combinations can meet your requirements.
- Produce several forages to extend grazing season.
- Use adapted and productive species of legumes and grasses.
- Prepare seedbed for new plantings.
- Apply fertilizer—based on soil test.
- Fertilize to meet legume requirements.
- Plant on time.
- Control weeds.

- Control insects and diseases.
- Re-apply lime and fertilizer to maintain vigorous legume and grass growth.

## **3. UTILIZE FORAGES**

- Conserve soil and water with vigorous roots.
- Permit root system to develop extensively.
- Graze when forage quality is high and plants are tender.
- Conserve excess forage as hay.
- Rotate pastures for maximum forage quality and quantity, and hay production.
- Manage to maintain vigorous legume growth.

## **4. MANAGE LIVESTOCK**

- Select cows with long productive life.
- Establish calving dates in November, December and January.
- Produce and manage forage to fit calf nutritional requirements.
- Market calves during high prices.
- Graze stocker calves on high-quality forage.
- Select replacements with high production efficiency.
- Control external and internal parasites.
- Control diseases.

Any single practice alone is insufficient to significantly increase income from a livestock operation. But a combination of better forage and livestock management is the key to improving incomes on most operations.

*Step up to Bigger Profits . . . .*



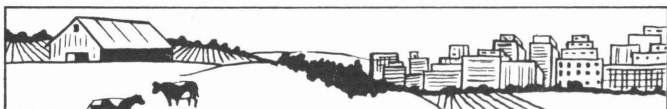
## *Ready to serve YOU...*

are your COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS. They represent both the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Texas A&M University in your county. These agents have ideas and materials that are helpful to everyone, regardless of whether you live on the farm or ranch or in a town or city.

Extension agents have information on a wide variety of subjects. For example, you can learn from them how to farm and ranch efficiently . . . achieve more satisfying family living . . . discover how much we *all* depend on agriculture.

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Give your agents a try. They welcome your visits, calls or letters.



**BETTER** *f*orage = **BIGGER PROFIT**

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