
Applied Nutrition Strategies for Grazing Livestock Lectureship

January 15-16, 2026 || Kingsville, TX || Online

INSTRUCTORS:

Rick Machen, Executive Director, King Ranch® Institute for Ranch Management, TAMUK

Natasha Mast, Associate Professor - Animal Science and Ruminant Nutrition, TAMUK

Robert Wells, Professor of the Practice, King Ranch® Institute for Ranch Management, TAMUK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026

- 8:15 AM** Welcome
- 8:30 AM** Rumen Function, Physiology and Nutrient Utilization
- The rumen as a fermentation system: microbes, pH (the amazing rumen)
 - 5 Essential nutrients
 - Rate of passage, diet digestibility, CP and TDN level effects on Dry Matter Intake
 - Nutrient use hierarchy (nutrient partitioning)
- 9:15 AM** Practical Tools to Monitor Animal Nutritional Status
- Understanding how to properly body condition score cattle, sheep and goats
 - BCS relationship to reproductive success
 - Disadvantages of BCS system (historic measure, not real-time)
 - Manure scoring system
- 10:00 AM** Break
- 10:30 AM** Setting Carrying Capacity and Stocking Rate on the Ranch
- Why is understanding what an accurate stocking rate on the ranch is important
 - Setting animal units for the ranch
 - What is the difference between carrying capacity and stocking rate?
 - Introduction to Web Soil Survey and RAP, how to utilize it and demonstration
 - Practical tools to monitor forage availability, and density
- 12:00 PM** Lunch

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- 1:00 PM** *Supplementation Strategies (Are My Cows Getting Enough to Eat and of the Right Things at the Right Time?)*
- Setting the right calving season to match forage flow
 - Amazing ruminant slides
 - How to calculate winter supplementation needs; knowing what is the most limiting nutrient
 - Protein and Energy requirements by stage of production
 - Limitations of liquid supplements and tubs
 - Relationship of CF (on feed tag) and diet TDN
 - Calculate cost per unit of protein or TDN
- 1:45 PM** Match the Cow to the Environment
- Cow size impact on stocking rate and nutrient requirements
 - Lactation ability effects cow nutrient requirements
- 2:30 PM** **Break**
- 3:00 PM** OSU Cowculator
- Demonstrate use of the Cowculator with several examples
- 3:45 PM** Nutritional Management of the Weaned Calf
- Benefits of preconditioning programs
 - Nutritional requirements of weaned calves
 - Target gain during preconditioning
 - Determining Cost of Gain
 - Determining Value of Gain
 - Understanding implementation of price slides
- 4:30 PM** Day 1 Wrap-up
- 5:00 PM** **Adjourn**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

- 8:15 AM** Cost of Feeding Hay – the Addiction and Affliction
- Forage quality and rules of thumb for needs.
 - Nitrates in hay
 - Benefits of bale grazing on soil health
 - Interpreting a hay analysis report
 - Hay waste factors
- 9:00 AM** Feed Additives
- Rumensin and Bovatech, etc.
 - Antibiotics (VFD)
 - Fly control
- 9:30 AM** Mineral Nutrition
- Bioavailability (inorganic vs. chelates, etc.)
 - Macro vs. microminerals
 - Loose vs. blocks vs. tubs
- 10:00 AM** **Break**
- 10:30 AM** Small Ruminant Nutrition
- Forage preferences of small ruminants
 - Feeding the goat herd
 - Feeding the sheep herd
- 11:30 AM** Nutrition Innovation of the Future
- 12:00 PM** **Wrap-up & Adjourn**