

Applied Nutrition Strategies for Grazing Livestock Lectureship

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

INSTRUCTORS:

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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

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**