

LCC FEED DIVISION NEWSLETTER



FEEDING YOU THE LATEST INSIGHTS



BEEF COW NUTRITION AND CALVING SUCCESS

As calving season approaches, proper nutrition and preparation make a measurable difference in both cow performance and calf health. Maintaining adequate body condition (target 5–6 at calving), consistent energy intake, and a balanced mineral program helps support colostrum quality, calf vigor, and breed-back success. Late gestation nutrition directly impacts calf immunity and early growth, so now is the time to confirm mineral intake and overall ration consistency.



Once calves hit the ground, early management is critical. Timely, high-quality colostrum intake is the foundation of a strong immune system. In situations where natural intake is delayed or insufficient, having colostrum replacer on hand can make the difference. Electrolytes are also an important tool during times of stress or digestive upset, helping maintain hydration and energy levels. For producers utilizing milk replacer or calf starter feeds, consistency and cleanliness in feeding equipment play a major role in early performance. Our feed division carries a wide range of calf and calving supplies, including colostrum products, electrolytes, milk replacer, calf starter feeds, bottles and nipples, tags and taggers, bands and banders, and a variety of additional calf care essentials. We are also now carrying select vaccines, including Vista Once and Ultrabac 8, to support herd health protocols. If there's a specific product you use or would like to explore, we're always open to discussing options and ordering products that better fit your operation.

Ask the Feed Team- When should a calf get colostrum? A: Within 2 hours of birth, and about 10% of body weight in the first 12–24 hours. Early intake is critical for immunity and long-term health.



FENCING PREPARATION FOR SPRING

As we move closer to turnout season, now is the time to inspect and repair fencing before livestock head to pasture. Check for winter damage, test energizers, clear vegetation from fence lines, and confirm grounding systems are functioning properly. A few small repairs now can prevent larger issues once animals are out. We carry a wide line of Gallagher fencing products, including energizers, reels, posts, polywire, and accessories to support both permanent and temporary fencing setups. Whether you're tightening up perimeter fence or setting up rotational grazing paddocks, stop in and we can help you find the right solution

SHEEP AND GOAT- LAMBING AND KIDDING SEASON

As lambing and kidding season approaches, preparation is key to strong starts. Adequate late-gestation nutrition supports colostrum quality and newborn vigor. Having colostrum replacer and lamb or kid milk replacer on hand ensures you're prepared if assistance is needed. We also carry our own LCC Sheep and LCC Goat feeds — economical, textured feeds made in-house and designed to support all classes of sheep and goats. If you'd like to review feeding programs or prepare for upcoming arrivals, we're happy to help.

Ask the Feed Team- What's most important after lambing or kidding? A: Quick colostrum intake. Early consumption supports immunity and survival.

CHICK SEASON IS HERE!

Spring chick season is right around the corner, and preparation ahead of arrival day makes all the difference. Before chicks come home, ensure brooders are set up with proper heat, clean bedding, and fresh feed and water ready to go. Consistent temperature, clean waterers, and easy access to starter feed are critical during the first few weeks of life. Early stress can impact long-term performance, whether you're raising layers or broilers



We carry a full line of chick supplies, including feeders, waterers, heat lamps and bulbs, electrolytes, and starter and grower feeds for both layers and broilers in crumble and ground form. As birds mature, we also stock oyster shell and grit to support shell quality and digestion. We're excited to now offer a chick starter/grower and a broiler feed made right in our own mill, providing a quality, more economical option for your flock. If you're unsure which feed or setup best fits your goals, we're happy to talk through it with you.

Ask the Feed Team: What temperature should my brooder be? A: Start at 95 and reduce 5 degrees each week. Watch chick behavior- crowding means cold, spreading out means too warm.

DEER MINERAL SEASON

Late winter and early spring are key times to establish or refresh deer mineral sites. As bucks begin antler development and does prepare for fawning season, nutritional demand increases. Placing mineral near natural travel corridors and on well-drained ground improves usage and reduces waste. Checking existing sites now allows time to adjust placement before peak consumption begins. We carry a wide variety of deer mineral options, including loose mineral, pressed blocks, and liquid products to fit different management styles and site conditions. Whether you're maintaining established locations or starting new ones, we can help you select the right product for your goals. Stop in and we'll walk through the options with you.



Ask the Feed Team- When should I put out deer mineral? A: Late winter to early spring, before antler growth and fawning season increase mineral demand.

BIRD FEEDING AND SEASONAL ACTIVITY



Late winter remains one of the most important times to maintain bird feeders. Natural food sources are still limited, and birds rely heavily on consistent, high-energy feed to maintain body condition. Black oil sunflower and suet continue to provide valuable calories during cold stretches. As days lengthen, you may begin to notice early migratory movement. Keeping feeders clean and filled helps support both resident birds and those passing through. A quick monthly cleaning with a mild bleach solution (rinse and dry thoroughly) helps reduce disease spread as bird traffic increases.

Ask the Feed Team- Should I stop feeding birds in spring? A: No. Birds still benefit from consistent feed, especially during migration and cold snaps. Keep feeders clean.

DAIRY UPDATE- PRODUCTION AND COMPONENTS



Late winter conditions can influence both milk production and components. Cold stress increases maintenance energy needs, and even small fluctuations in dry matter intake can impact butterfat and protein percentages. Consistent bunk management, forage moisture monitoring, and reliable water access are especially important this time of year. As herds move closer to spring flush, keeping an eye on component yield and feed efficiency can make a noticeable difference in the milk check.

Ask the Feed Team- What is 'normal' for my MUNS (milk urea nitrogen)? A: The normal range is typically between 7-11. Low may indicate a shortage of protein, and high may indicate a shortage of starch or over-feeding protein.

Feed Forward

All of these products are available at our Perham Country Store, and select feed and farm products can be found at our stores in; Batte Lake, Vergas, Wolf Lake, Flom, Menahga Farm and Home, and New York Mills. Don't have what you're looking for? We are always open to bringing in new products and distributing to where you need it, give us a call!

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SPECIALS FOR MARCH'S ISSUE

5% OFF
ALL LAND O' LAKES CALF
CARE PRODUCTS
(ELECTROLYTES,
COLOSTRUM, AND CALF
INSURE)



10% OFF
50# BAGS OF LCC
16% SHEEP AND
LCC 16% GOAT



Lakes Community Cooperative

10% OFF
ALL SNOW & SCOOP
SHOVELS IN STOCK



CULTIVATING THE FUTURE: THE IMPACT OF FFA AND 4-H ON MODERN AGRICULTURE

MARCH SPOTLIGHT - BRADY MITCHELL

This winter, Brady Mitchell, senior at Frazee High School and Sentinel of the Frazee-Vergas FFA Chapter, traveled to Denver, Colorado to compete at the prestigious National Western Stock Show – and returned home with outstanding accomplishments and a tremendous honor.



Brady was selected as the 2026 recipient of a South Devon heifer through the North American South Devon Association Youth Experience Program. This highly competitive program recognizes young cattlemen and women who demonstrate exceptional dedication, leadership, and commitment to the beef industry. The donated heifer – generously provided by Walnut Grove Farm & CS Livestock / The Steinlicht Family – represents not only an investment in Brady's future, but in the future of the beef industry as a whole.

BRADY'S RESULTS AT THE NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW:

- **2nd** – Spring Heifer Calf (Open Class)
- **3rd** – Early Summer Yearling (Open Class)
- **Champion** – Cow/Calf Pair (Open Class)
- **Reserve Champion** – Spring Bull Calf (Open Class)
- **Reserve Champion** – Junior Heifer Calf (Junior Show)
- **Champion** – Summer Yearling Heifer (Junior Show)
- **8th** – Senior Showmanship

The Youth Experience Program challenges participants to build leadership, responsibility, communication skills, and long-term goal setting through the care, development, and exhibition of their animals nationwide. Brady exemplifies these qualities every day through his work ethic, integrity, and drive to continually improve.

Behind every successful show season is a strong support system. Brady and his family proudly feed an LCC-made ration and work closely with one of our nutritionists to monitor performance, evaluate progress, and fine-tune the program as needed. Their commitment to nutrition, management, and continuous improvement plays an important role in the consistency and quality seen in Brady's cattle.



We are incredibly proud to be part of Brady's journey and look forward to watching his continued success in the show ring and beyond. Congratulations, Brady – your hard work truly shows.