



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

HOW NOT TO NEED A HAY BALER:

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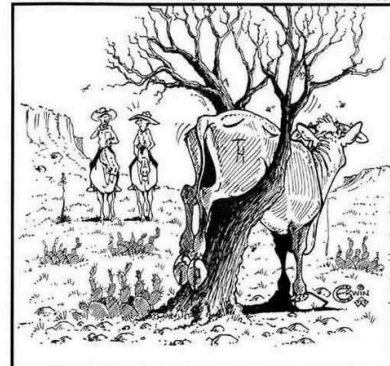


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Overview:

- Conversation starters
- Give options
- Understand “It’s what we’ve always done.”

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"I would've made hamburgers outta her a long time ago,.... But I was afraid I couldn't cook all the stupid outta the meat!"

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Overview:

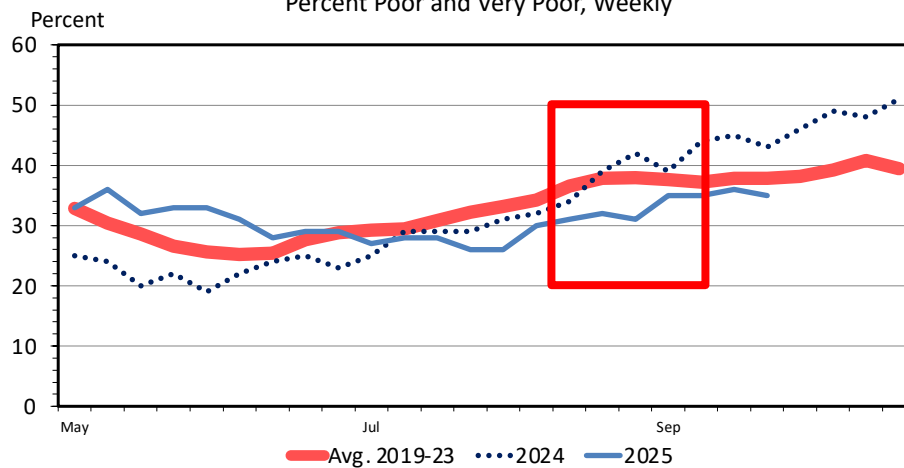
Hay is needed to fill periods of unavailable forage!

Therefore, we need balers!

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US RANGE AND PASTURE CONDITION

Percent Poor and Very Poor, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC
Livestock Marketing Information Center

G-NP-30
09/29/25

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MACHINERY COST

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Color Blind:

Round Baler ~ \$35,000
Mower Conditioner ~ \$25,000

- Tractor(s)
- Rake
- Tedder
- Repair and Maintenance Costs: ~\$225/ac.




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FERTILITY COST:

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Hay v. Pasture:


Hay Production:	Pasture:
Warm Season: \$286.00/ac.	Warm Season: \$146.40/ac.
Small Grain: \$120.75/ac.	Small Grain: \$120.75/ac.
Cool Season: \$133.42/ac.	Cool Season: \$97.17/ac.
Cool Season budgets: Variable Cost: \$460-\$530	Cool Season Budgets: Variable Cost: \$210-\$260

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MARKETINGS:




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Hay Market:

- USDA – 115 \$/ton – 150 \$/ton
- Alabama Direct Report:
 - Large Round \$197.50/ton
 - Medium Round \$177.34/ton


Pricing Round Bales based on per ton Production						
Bale Size		Ave. Wgt. (Lbs.)	PRICE Per Bale to Per Ton Price			
			\$175.00	\$200.00	\$225.00	\$250.00
	4X4	563	\$49.26	\$56.30	\$63.34	\$70.38
	4X5	880	\$77.00	\$88.00	\$99.00	\$110.00
	4x6	1,267	\$110.86	\$126.70	\$142.54	\$158.38
	5x5	1,100	\$96.25	\$110.00	\$123.75	\$137.50
	5x6	1,584	\$138.60	\$158.40	\$178.20	\$198.00
The above listed chemicals are examples and do not imply exclusive recommendations by Clemson University. The "Pest Management Handbook"						
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FEED OUT MANAGEMENT:

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Protect Investments:

- Proper Storage

Dollars loss due to storage decision						
		Value of hay purchased (\$/ton)				
Potential loss due to storage (%)		\$100	\$120	\$140	\$160	\$180
Ground/No cover	37%	\$37.00	\$44.40	\$51.80	\$59.20	\$66.60
Elevated	29%	\$29.00	\$34.80	\$40.60	\$46.40	\$52.20
Covered	29%	\$29.00	\$34.80	\$40.60	\$46.40	\$52.20
Net wrap/Ground	19%	\$19.00	\$22.80	\$26.60	\$30.40	\$34.20
Elevated/Covered	8%	\$8.00	\$9.60	\$11.20	\$12.80	\$14.40
Barn	6%	\$6.00	\$7.20	\$8.40	\$9.60	\$10.80

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NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

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Needs Assessment:

- Forage Sample
 - It's more the color and smell
- Calculate Required Tonnage
 - Dry Matter intake
- Grazing/Forage Plans
 - Manage Expectations
- Stocking Rate
 - Too Many Mouths to Feed!



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WRAP UP:

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Conversation Points:

- Labor Requirements
 - Off Farm Jobs
- Quality Control
 - Require Documentation
- Economies of Scale
 - Custom Baling
- Behavioral
 - Recreational Hay Baling
- Does Provide Flexibility:



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Thank You for your time.

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