

Safe storage of farm chemicals protects people, animals

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Proper inventory management of farm chemicals saves money and protects animals, people and the environment, says University of Missouri Extension specialist Sam Polly.

“With the cost of pesticides, letting a product degrade in your storage shed is not a mistake anyone can afford to make very many times!” says Polly, who teaches private pesticide applicator training for MU Extension.

Polly shares tips from Purdue University and MU Extension:

Keep an up-to-date inventory of stored pesticides. The shelf life of pesticides varies, but once opened, chemicals begin to break down. Throwing away unused or ineffective product is like throwing away money, he says.

Always follow label instructions for storage and use. Store pesticides in a controlled environment. High temperatures can melt plastic containers, make glass containers explode and cause some pesticides to volatilize. Low temperatures can cause freeze damage. Extreme temperatures can also affect potency and stability.

Keep protective equipment nearby but away from pesticides. Train farmworkers on proper procedures. Post emergency telephone numbers.

Other tips:
• Locate pesticide storage facilities away from people and livestock. Avoid flood-

prone areas to reduce risk of contaminating water sources. Make sure the site is protected from severe weather and high winds.

- Lock storage facilities and post warning signs on doors and windows noting that chemicals are stored inside. Also post a “no smoking” sign.

- Keep chemicals in their original containers. Choose a well-ventilated area. Store dry chemicals on pallets.

- Do not store where heat or electricity can spark.

- Check routinely for rusting containers and signs or labels that are unreadable.

- Choose a well-lit area so labels can be read and containers can be easily inspected for leaks and corrosion.

- Close containers tightly to avoid spills, evaporation and cross-contamination. Do not store liquid chemicals above dry chemicals.

- Rotate older products to the front of the shelf to use first. When switching to a new formulation, use existing inventory first. Use unsealed containers the same season they were opened.

More information:
• “Pesticide Storage,” extension.missouri.edu/ipm1013.

- Links to contacts, databases, fact sheets and other resources, muext.us/PrivatePesticideTraining.

- “National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual,” extension.missouri.edu/mx328.

Source: Sam Polly, 573-884-8596



MCF Annual Farm Safety College

By **Missouri Cattlemen’s Assoc.**
Contributed

September 23, Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation hosted their annual Farm Safety College in Columbia, Missouri. More than 60 students attended the event in honor of National Farm Safety Week.

FFA members from chapters across Mid Missouri heard from several speakers throughout the duration of the day. Jason Medows of the Ag State of Mind podcast kicked off the day with a session on mental health. From there, attendees traveled through a cycle of six stations where they

learned about electrical safety, pesticide use, cattle handling, equipment operation and firearm safety.

Another Farm Safety College was scheduled for the following day, September 24, in Springfield, Missouri, as coordinated by the Missouri State University Collegiate Cattlemen's Association. MCF is proud to sponsor the event and have representation present.

The mission of Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation is to promote the educational development of rural youth by aiding injured children, providing farm safety training, leadership programs and scholarships.

Gradual weaning of calves reduces stress, increases profits

By **Linda Geist**
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Weaning at home reduces stress and improves profit in calves, says University of Missouri Extension beef nutritionist Eric Bailey.

Unfortunately, more than 55% of calves are weaned on the trailer on the way to the sale barn, according to USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System surveys.

Calves face many types of stress in their early days, including weaning, castration, vaccinations, diet changes and transportation. Stress increases their risk of contracting a respiratory disease upon entering the feedlot. Bailey says 17% of calves entering the feedlot show signs of respiratory disease. This costs the beef industry \$800 million annually.

Producers can reduce some of that stress by weaning at home, which Bailey calls a “tried-and-true” method.

A couple of “at home” techniques:

- Nose clips in the nostril, which prevent



Photo courtesy of Eric Bailey

Producers can reduce stress on calves by weaning them while they are still on the farm. Calves with less stress have fewer diseases and lower morbidity when they go to the feedlot.

the calf from sucking and encourage them to eat hay and feed concentrates. After the nose clip is removed, calves are physically separated from their dams. This low-stress

method costs about \$2.25 per nose flap.

- Fence line weaning puts calves on one side of the fence and mama cows on the other side for five to seven days after

weaning. Good fences help in this method. Fence line weaning improves performance and helps calves bawl less. Calves that are abruptly removed from their mothers bawl twice as much as gradually weaned calves.

Calves that don't eat well after weaning face risk for illness, generally 14-28 days after weaning. Producers can encourage drinking and eating by placing physical barriers within the pen so that calves must walk past water and feed sources.

Bailey also suggests a method to adapt weaned calves to new feed. On the day of weaning, offer calves 1% or more of their body weight in high quality grass hay. The next day, offer hay at 1% of body weight and begin to offer 0.5-1% of body weight in grain. Put the grain under hay in the bunk to get calves to eat down to the new feed. Putting a new feed on top may cause calves to avoid it, he says.

Increase the concentrate to 1 pound (dry matter basis) each day until cattle are eating 2.5% of their body weight in concentrate. Discontinue hay between days three and five.

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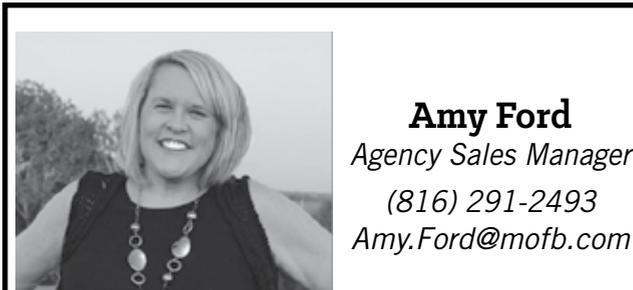


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