

# Observations Of A Country Vet

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Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. George Washington Carver said in nature balance occurs. Cold follows hot, dry follows wet so next winter will be a cold wet bad booger. Old vet observation is that cows never get sick or have any problems during hot dry weather. My pasture is dry like everyone else's except we move the poly wire daily and ration the small amount of forage. With temperature 105, I opened the gate to low pond. They have nice cool well water to drink.

Last year we had a wet spring with, best I remember, average pasture. My cows had 45 pound Charolais cross calves, they were weak as well as small. Two cows starved their calves and the others gave little milk. Same Angus cows with same bull had 80 pound calves this year and they are milking good. Calves tough and growing. Day old bull calf charged us and was a pain to tag and castrate. Ground is so hard a battery drill is necessary to make a hole

for step in post. Forage is dried clover and Bermuda. Weeds are devoured with gusto, brown standing fescue stalks filled with seeds are left. The field is novel fescue so expect seeds to shed and make stand thicker. I see no reason to waste time and diesel mowing since there must be some shade value to the stalks. My summer teff pasture turned out to be solid pig weed. It is around the pond and cows are eating on them a little.

To sum it up, it seems dry matter is what matters and they don't have to eat very much to get the calories needed to do the job. Years ago when I knew more, my idea was that a July calf was worse than an early abortion. I have had four calves born in this tem over 100 and they are doing great and cows have milk. Only health problems are pink eye and foot rot in an older Polled Hereford bull. Black Bauldy's and Blacks have had no problems. I figure immune system is a factor. Δ

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