



When we look back at 2018...

It seems like weather abnormalities were the major theme. Many ranches and farms across our vast country had excessive rainfall, flooding and mud. That is never fun. Probably the only thing worse would be drought, which was also plaguing many large areas. If only we could average the moisture out! Then of course we are sending our prayers out to those farms suffering from storm damage, severe fires and other ravages. It's always something! The one thing that is common to all these ranching weather-woes is that it just makes it even harder to keep up, to keep a profit and to keep livestock healthy and productive. Therefore, we have come up with a plan for 2019 to help you achieve all those goals.

Stick to your Mineral Program

The first basic is to stick with your mineral program. We have found **CRAFTS-MIN** mineral to exceed every other mineral we have compared it to, and that covers a lot of minerals. At only 1-2 oz/day when offered free-choice, it also pencils out to be very economical, even less expensive than the "cheap stuff". In addition, keep your free-choice SALT totally separate from the mineral but make it also easy to access, right next to the mineral mix. We have also found that there are very few things that detoxify mold myco-toxins, heavy metals, pollutants,





and pesticides better than **Desert Dyna-Min Detox Clay**.

The Importance of ACV

Lastly, is the raw, fully-alive **Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV)**. We probably haven't done a great job of fully explaining why this substance virtually "pays you to give it". Where you will first notice it is in the manure. What we will see in just a few days of giving ACV is that smooth, rather soft patty. You will no longer see any fiber (your money) passing through undigested. Then, if you measure anything at all, you will notice that within just a few days the hay, or forage consumption will drop. This is most easy to see in the winter when you are hauling or unrolling bales. In the summer, it means that the rate of paddock moves or paddock size itself can be lowered. One herd last week reported dropping their consumption from 4.5 bales per week to only 2.5 bales/week! Additionally, they were capturing an additional half pound of gain per day! More gain, AND with less hay. There are several other ways you can measure your ROI (return on investment), such as in the bulk tank for dairy animals, where there will be more volume but also additional butterfat and protein, as well as to measure the weaning weights of calves whose mothers are given ACV. We expect to see an additional 50-100lbs. of calf weight at the end of weaning. And, besides, mother will not be milked-down, this helps her maintain condition for the upcoming calving of the one inside her. By giving ACV to stockers or fat cattle, we expect you to be able to clip an additional 4-6 months off the time it takes to finish your cattle, typically dropping herd average from 28-30 months to a stunning (and profitable) 18-24 months.



Things you need to know

Here are some major woes all of you face out there, here are our suggestions for addressing these directly:

LOW ENERGY (LOW BRIX) FORAGES- This problem makes it impossible to get good average daily gains, impossible to finish cattle to a high degree of marbling fat and may even allow more diseases to manifest. To help get the most out of these forages, help with weight gain and health we recommend using **ACV** poured



onto the hay in winter and mixed with their water in the summer. There are also more high-octane options such as **Lassahol, Moolah** and **Cane Molasses**, that can help get gains and energy up in your cows and calves.



EXPENSIVE WINTER HAY- Yes, this is a common problem and has been particularly problematic this year. The classic sign that your herd is “wasting hay” is if you see stacked-up manure piles loaded with sticks and fiber. The true energy in all forage is hidden in the cellulose and hemicellulose. To unlock that cellulose and hemicellulose we recommend using **ACV** on your hay so that your hay bill can go down significantly, and your animals will produce better forage.

MOLDY HAY- Also common with haylage, baleage, and sorghum-type silage. This is a one-way ticket to disease, abortion, infertility, and financial disaster. There are certain molds, like aspergillus, that make myco-toxins that kill livestock outright, which is terrible, but some of the so-called “stealth” molds, like Fusarium are even more common, and are stealthy in that they don’t kill but they knock the immune system so there is more pinkeye, blackleg, foot rot and other diseases plus they knock out herd fertility and reproduction. To prevent mold, we suggest spraying **ACV** on your bales before you bale them.

OLDER GRASS FATS- These are cattle (or sheep, goats, hogs or birds) that are just plain not fat enough, even though they are pushing the 30-month limit for cattle. This means two things, one, that you will have to carry them a second winter, and two, that they are eating grass that could be going into the next crop of stockers or calves. To prevent this, we suggest an energy supplement like **Lassahol** in poor forage times, but overall these animals should be getting **Crafts-Min** and **ACV** each day.

Herd Health Consultations with Will Winter, DVM

If you are interested in consulting about your mineral program, a health issue with your livestock or would like to redesign your entire herd health program, consider a consultation with Will Winter, DVM!

Will Winter, DVM handles all consultations for Grass Farmer Supply and has over 30 years of full-time practical experience utilizing many forms of holistic and alternative modalities including homeopathy, herbal medicine, acupuncture and chiropractic healing. He is also a livestock nutritionalist, pet food formulator and grazing consultant. He lectures, teaches and writes for several national magazines and newsletters.

He can be contacted at (612) 756-1232 or emailed at willwinterdvm@gmail.com



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Matt Maier, Owner of Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed
and Grass Farmer Supply



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