



Why Fresh Water Beats the Pond

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Water is the most critical nutrient for livestock, yet it is often overlooked. As drought conditions continue and temperatures rise, proper water management becomes even more important. Stagnant ponds and low-flowing creeks can quickly become breeding grounds for bacteria and parasites, increasing health risks for your herd.

The Formula for Disease: Heat + Low Water Volume

When water levels drop and temperatures climb, natural water sources become concentrated with contaminants. Wildlife gathering around these areas further increases the spread of harmful pathogens, leading to a higher risk of serious herd health issues, including:

- **Leptospirosis disease** – Commonly spread through wildlife urine in shared water sources and capable of causing devastating abortion storms.
- **Gastrointestinal illnesses** – Parasites, coccidiosis, and Johne's disease often increase during hot, dry conditions when clean water is limited.

Water Management Goals

- **Exclusion:** Fence off receding ponds and low creeks whenever possible.
- **Accessibility:** Provide fresh water troughs or automatic waterers in every pasture, ideally near shaded areas where livestock spend most of the day.

Clean, cool water not only helps reduce disease pressure but also improves dry matter and mineral intake, supporting overall herd health and performance.

Beat the Heat: Smart Electrolyte Utilization

Summer also means increased transport for shows, sales, and trailering. Heat stress and long trailer rides can quickly lead to dehydration. Electrolytes help replenish essential sodium, potassium, and chloride lost during stress and high temperatures.

When treating dehydrated livestock, offering both electrolyte-treated water and regular water side-by-side allows animals to self-regulate and recover more effectively.

Electrolyte products by TechMix are available at our Athens location. Hydraslushie™ Buckets and Bluelite® are effective herd-level solutions, while BovAlign™ oral drench can be used for individual animals.

Keep your herd healthy and hydrated this summer with fresh water solutions and electrolyte support from your local AgCentral Co-op®.