This is a reminder that the nutritional and mineral needs of cattle increase during the winter months in Kentucky. Producers need to be aware that moderate to severe trace mineral deficiencies, especially selenium and copper, are often diagnosed at the UKVDL and these deficiencies likely contribute significantly to the causes of death. Similarly, many of the dead cattle brought to the UKVDL during the winter months are in thin or emaciated condition. Thin or malnourished animals are much more susceptible to disease and subsequent death than those on a good plane of nutrition.

It must be emphasized that the nutritional needs of cattle in terms of energy and protein are higher in cold weather, especially for lactating or growing animals. Much of the forage in Kentucky is low in both energy and protein and often a grain supplement is needed to keep cattle in good body condition.

Questions? Contact—

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