FARMLAND PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS

A series of educational workshops on Farmland Preservation are being held in November. The workshops will take place from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM in various locations in the state. The workshop nearest Yadkin County will be held Wednesday, November 29 at the Ag. Resource Center in Statesville. Topics include: farm transition, farmland protection plans, statute changes, state and federal programs, funding sources and others. To register contact the Extension Center, Lindsay Ballance with the NCDA&CS at 919/733-7125 or visit the web at www.ncagr.com for a brochure and more information.
MONEY SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Yadkin Valley Beef Alliance has had a successful year helping producers purchase quality products in bulk, at reduced costs. The results are nothing to sneeze at. This year 22 alliance members saved about $3 per bag on a custom blend free choice mineral. They saved over $200 per 500 ml bottle of generic dewormer and $15 on each 250 lb. protein supplement purchased. These savings increased the profit potential for each operation and animal performance did not suffer and in most cases was actually improved.

You can enjoy these same benefits by purchasing products with the alliance. The last order for minerals (both hi-mag and regular) and supplement blocks (24% protein) will be made on November 17. The blocks come in 500 lbs. or 200 lbs. These blocks are designed so they do not melt in the rain and cattle only eat what they need to meet their needs. The BETTER the Forage, the LESS Supplement They Will Eat!

The alliance is planning on marketing at least one truck load of feeder calves in 2007. Increased marketing ability and lower prices on products you purchase anyway, all for the low price of your alliance dues. If you are interested in participating, contact: Eddie Leagans, 1001 Pudding Ridge Road, Mocksville, 998-2515. You can’t participate unless you join and you get so much back for just a small investment.

Change the way you look at things, and the things you look at will change.

ORDER YOUR IRM RED BOOKS NOW

Cattle producers, if you are looking for a One-Stop book to keep a year’s worth of cattle information, as well as a pocket calendar to keep up with important scheduled events, you need to order a IRM Red Book from the NC Cattlemen’s Assoc. They are only $4.00 and have adequate room to record breeding dates, calving dates, vaccinations and lots more. Contact the Extension Center if interested.

Don’t worry about not being understood, but rather about not understanding.

BEEF BAR-B-QUE TO SUPPORT YOUTH

A Beef Bar-B-Que will be held with all proceeds going to help support local youth with 4-H Livestock projects. The Bar-B-Que will be Saturday, November 18 at Wm. R. Davie Fire Dept. Meals are take out only and they will begin serving at 4:00 PM and go until 7:00 PM. You can get a full plate with beef, slaw, beans, rolls and a dessert, or if you just want some Bar-B-Que for later, they will also sell it by the bag. All proceeds go to support Livestock Judging, Skillathon, Clinics and other Educational Livestock Projects.

The Bar-B-Que is sponsored by the Yadkin-Davie 4-H Livestock Assoc. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Extension Center at 679-2061. Even if you don't purchase a ticket, walk-ins are welcome. Delivery is available on a limited basis. Come out November 18, get a great deal on a great meal and help our local youth to have a brighter future.

PULLING A SOIL SAMPLE

When was the last time you took a soil sample? Soil reports are important in determining soil productivity. With a proper fertilizer and liming program, weeds can be reduced and grass can be more productive. Soil reports give important information like: pH, nitrogen requirement, phosphorous index, potash index and other important factors. The Only Cost Is Postage and Time! Come by the Extension Center to pick up some soil boxes.
**PREPARE POULTRY HOUSES FOR WINTER**

Poultry houses today are a vast improvement over houses from just a few years back, but still the winter weather can cause headaches if problems are not found and resolved. Before the start of winter, take some time to give your houses a good going over. Check for loose roofing material and any other roofing problems. A leaking poultry house will cause Big problems later on. Check to see if all insulation is secured and in place. Frozen or busted water pipes are not a welcomed sight. Make sure all ventilation equipment and temperature control equipment are working properly. Check the electrical system for loose, frayed or cracked wires that could cause a problem later. Check around foundation for water or rodent damage. These are but a few of the areas that could have problems. Take some time to make sure your operation is ready for the harsh realities of winter. Don’t wait until one cold, wet, miserable day and find out the roof is leaking, the fans won’t work and the feed augers have gone on the blink.

**POULTRY WASTE UTILIZATION PLANS**

As most of you know, the ratification of Senate Bill 1217 stipulates that poultry operations with 30,000 or more birds, that utilize dry litter waste management plans must develop animal waste management plans to assure that the waste is being handled properly. Farmers can write the plan themselves, if so desired.

All poultry operations utilizing dry litter waste management systems and under 30,000 birds are deemed permitted, but **ARE STILL REQUIRED TO KEEP RECORDS.** They must still spread litter at, or below agronomic rates. This means still taking soil tests and waste analysis to calculate how much litter can be utilized and also keeping records on amount totals. For more information, contact the Extension Office.

If you are planning to clean out your houses anytime soon, please have a plan to utilize the litter as soon as possible. Most litter will go directly from the house and spread on a field as a fertilizer source. Make sure you have enough land to utilize the litter. Some farmers are looking to buy poultry litter to help reduce commercial fertilizer needs. Make sure you have a plan for the litter your operation produces to help avoid future headaches. Contact the Extension Center if you have questions or need help with your records.

**STATESVILLE AREA BEEF CONFERENCE**

The 2007 edition of the Statesville Area Beef Conference will be held Thursday, January 4. The event begins at 3:30 PM at the Iredell County Agricultural Resource Center in Statesville. The educational program will cover many topics of interest. Discussions will include Herd Health Recommendations presented by Dr. Mark Alley of the NC State Vet School. Dr. Matt Poore, Animal Science Specialist at NC State will discuss Cattle Nutrition (Pasture Management, Commodity Feeds and Minerals). Marcus Harward will discuss Selling Steers vs. Bulls and help us understand the new marketing buzz word “Source Verification”. There will be a sponsored meal and reservations are requested. This has always been a fun and educational event. **Call the Extension Center (679-2061) to make your reservation** or for more information. **This program is worth your time to attend!!!**

**SEARCHING FOR A GOOD HERDSIRE?**

If you are looking for a herdsire, make plans to attend one or all of these sales or contact a “progressive” breeder that can supply the genetics you need for your operation.

The McMahan Family Forage Raised Bull and Replacement Heifer Sale will be Saturday, January 6, 2007.

The NCBCIP Bull Test Sales will be held in Waynesville, January 6 and Butner, January 13. Many good performance tested bulls with solid genetics will be offered. Several breeds will be represented at this event. Contact the Extension Office for further details or if you need help with herdsire or heifer selections.

**Stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard and shut up to be appreciated.**
WINTER TIME HORSE TIPS

Make sure you have made plans to assure your horse is ready for the chill of Old Man Winter. Cold wet weather can take a toll on the health of your equine friend but just a little bit of planning can reduce the ill effects and help keep your horse in a much healthier condition. The first thing you must have is a good working relationship with your veterinarian and follow their health recommendations so your horse begins the winter season healthy and in good condition. If you are not sure, have your veterinarian evaluate your horse's health status as well as body condition score and address any issues early in the season. It is also a good idea to have a qualified farrier to inspect your horse's hooves (if you are not on a set schedule with a farrier) to correct any potential problems. Wet cold weather as well as ice and snow can be rough on a horse's feet and legs.

There are three major management items horse owners/caretakers need to provide for their horses. the most important is Fresh, Clean water. Animals can not survive, much less perform at their best without water. Make plans so your horse is not without water even for a short period of time. Another item you must provide is proper nutrition and in the correct amounts. Life is tough enough for a horse to maintain a healthy thrifty condition and cold wet weather puts more stress on their nutritional needs. Contact your veterinarian or the Extension Center for a feeding program to meet the needs of your horse. A third item you need to provide is shelter from the elements. It doesn't have to be fancy, just keeping the horse dry and out of the wind can reduce extra nutritional needs and stress that could lead to illness.

Have a plan to meet your horse's needs during “extreme weather” days. To make sure your horse is well taken care of, extra planning and effort will be necessary when there is a heavy snow and/or ice, extreme low temperatures and also during power outages. Work with your veterinarian and learn the best way to help your horse if it should become ill or injured and the weather restricts travel. Ask your veterinarian to help you assemble a “first-aid kit” to help if an emergency should occur.

Caring for a horse is a big responsibility and winter time can add to that responsibility. With some planning and working with your veterinarian, you can reduce the potential problems resulting in a happier healthier horse and less demand on your time. Remember: “People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan.”

It isn't our position but our disposition that makes us happy.

EQUINE COURSES TO BE OFFERED

The 2006-2007 Equine Short Course & Clinic Series is accepting registrations. This annual event is a series of educational programs designed to provide the most recent information and technology concerning horses.

Some of the topics to be covered are: Horse Breeding, Hoof Care & Shoeing, Judging, Judges’ Certification Training, Foaling and Foal Management and the 4-H Horse Leaders Conference. The classes start in December 2006 and run into May 2007. Most of the classes are held in the Raleigh area. There is a registration fee to attend and you will be responsible for most of your meals, travel and lodging expenses.

For more information or a registration form, come by or call the Extension Center (336/679-2061) or contact the Extension Horse Husbandry Dept. (919-515-5784) or www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/hhmain.html.

CATTLE MARKETING RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The NC Cattlemen's Assoc. is teaming up with the National Cattlemen’s Beef Assoc. and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange to present a risk management workshop, Marketing Your Way to Profitability. The sessions will be held on Nov. 29, in Clinton and on Nov. 30 in Statesville. The same program will be presented at each location.

The workshop features hands-on training for using futures and options and how to use the marketing tools in your operation. Subjects covered are: Shifting Price Risk, Marketing Alternatives for Cattlemen, Mechanics of Futures with Hedging and others. This will be a beginning level course that includes instruction on the mechanics of futures with hedging and the basics of forward pricing with options.

Registration is required for this event. Meals and breaks will be provided with your registration fee. For more information or a registration form, contact the Extension Center (679-2061) or the NC Cattlemen’s Assoc. at 919/552-9111.

Laugh at yourself first, before anyone else can.
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

November 18  Yadkin-Davie 4-H Livestock Assoc. Beef Bar-B-Q. Wm. R. Davie VFD  4-7 PM  
November 29  Farmland Preservation Meeting, Statesville  
November 30  Cattle Marketing Risk Management Workshop, Statesville  
November 30  Beef Producers Meeting for Davie & Yadkin Counties  
January 4    Statesville Area Beef Conference  
January 6    McMahan Family Bull and Replacement Sale  
January 6    NCBCIP Bull Test Sale, Waynesville  
January 13   NCBCIP Bull Test Sale, Butner

---

**BEEF PRODUCERS MEETING**

There will be a Beef Producers Meeting for Davie & Yadkin Counties, Thursday, November 30, 2006. The meeting will be held at Sheffield-Calahaln Volunteer Fire Dept., beginning at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing ways to be more efficient with financial resources, keeping better records and allowing credit to work for you. We will also discuss management tips to help prepare you and your cow herd for the upcoming winter season.

There will be a sponsored supper and **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED!!!** Please call the Extension Center (336/679-2061) NO LATER THAN Wednesday, November 22, to make reservations or for more information.

---

**WINTER FEEDING**

Old man winter is just around the bend, are you ready to feed you livestock? Do you have enough feed supplies to get you through the winter? If you haven't made a check of your feed inventory, DO IT NOW! Check how much grazing you have and how much stored feed (grain, alternative feeds and forage) you have on hand or access to. Hay supplies will probably run short this winter so if you need to purchase some, make plans now before supplies run low and prices possibly climb higher. This might be a good year to look at feeding silage, for some livestock, in addition to hay.

If you have grazing to utilize, make controlled grazing an integral part of your management. This will allow you to stretch the length of the grazing period while getting more productivity from the same amount of forage (more is consumed and used by the animal and less is trampled and wasted). When turning livestock onto winter annuals, for the first time, fill the animals up on dry hay so animals will not over consume the lush forage, thus reducing the possibilities of bloat or other digestive problems.

If supplementation is necessary, push a pencil to see what form of supplement is the most COST EFFECTIVE, notice I did not say the cheapest. Check the feed value, availability as well as the price of grains, liquid supplements and alternative feeds (whole cottonseed, brewers grain and etc.) to see which one(s) are right for your operation.