

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS
ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION
FALL 2009



North Carolina Cooperative Extension
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MANAGEMENT TIPS

- # Reduce Stocking Rate to reduce stress on grass and improve forage vigor
- # Soil Test to provide what your forage needs to be productive
- # Push a pencil to be COST EFFECTIVE in your operation
- # Keep livestock healthy. They will utilize feed more efficiently
- # Contact the local NRCS to rent their no-till drill when overseeding pastures
- # Be careful if feeding stressed forage. Some millet, sorghums, johnsongrass and some weeds can accumulate nitrates. Contact me if you need forages tested
- # Utilize feeding strategies to reduce wasted feed
- # Talk with FSA about their Livestock Disaster Program and other useful programs
- # Be realistic and honest with your situation and be ready to adjust as needed
- # Attend education meetings to help you learn new strategies and methods
- # Don't waste expensive feed on non-productive animals
- # Formulate a plan to help you better prepare for future decisions

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 30 Deadline to order minerals or protein supplements through the alliance
October 3 2009 Regional Cow College, Dobson
October 6 NC Cattlemen's Beef Referendum, voting from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
October 24 Horse Management Program in Mocksville

HAY DIRECTORY

So far this year I have had only a few requests to purchase hay. Along that same line, I've only had a few individuals tell me they have hay for sell. If you have hay for sell or are needing to purchase hay, contact the Extension Office and maybe I can assist folks meet their needs. Hay seems more plentiful now than at this time last year but don't wait until you are feeding that last bale to start hunting.

**Phillip Rucker, Jr.
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Livestock**

Special accommodations will be made for the physically disabled, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. If special accommodations are required, please call 679-2061, one week prior to the event or activity.

North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

2009 COW COLLEGE

The cattle industry is an ever-changing creature that sometimes creates more questions than answers. As producers, we have to stay up to date with current issues, trends and needs and be ready to adjust our operation to meet those challenges. Make plans to attend the 2009 Regional Cow College in Surry County. This program is sponsored by Cooperative Extension in Surry, Yadkin and Davie Counties.

The Cow College will be held Saturday, October 3 at Johnson Farm on Zephyr Road. We will begin at 9:00 AM and finish in the early afternoon. You will state and area specialists discuss topics such as: Pelvic Measurements for Heifers, Heifer Selection, Feeder Calf Grading, Specific Calving Issues, Forage Sampling, Hay Management, Proper Mineral Supplementation, Pasture Management and Weed Control and there is an optional Haylage Demonstration at a nearby farm.

This program will help improve some management practices, improve overall herd performance, improve profit potential as well as increase marketing opportunities. Make plans to join us Saturday, October 3. Lunch will be provided and your reservation is requested. Please contact one of the Extension Centers: Surry 401-8025, Davie 753-6100 or Yadkin 679-2061 by September 28 to make your reservations or for more information. Please bring a lawn chair.

Directions to Johnson Farm:

Go I-77 North to the Dobson exit (Exit 93), turn right, go approx 3/4 mile, farm is on the left, there is a large round hay barn there and a board fence entrance.

Or take Highway 601 to the Dobson Exit, turn left, go to first light, turn right, at the next light turn left, go through the next light and the farm will be about 3 miles on the right, once again, round hay barn and board fence entrance.

MONEY SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Yadkin Valley Beef Alliance has had a successful year helping producers purchase quality products in bulk, at reduced costs. This year, alliance members saved money on a custom blend free choice mineral and on a protein supplement. These savings increased animal performance as well as profit potential for each operation.

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 will be made on November 1. Alliance and prospective alliance members need to place their orders with Eddie Leagans 998-2515, by Wednesday, September 30. Contact Eddie for prices, to place an order or for more information.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS FOR HORSE ENTHUSIASTS

The NC Rural center and the NC Horse Council are hosting regional town hall meetings across the state. You are invited to attend to hear the report on the findings and recommendations of the Equine Economic Impact Study. The closest meeting to us will be Tuesday, September 29, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Rockingham Community College in Reidsville. Light refreshments will be served and copies of the report will be available for those who attend. For more information call 919-854-1990 or 1-800-529-9206. Plan to attend this meeting and see what the study reveals about the economic impact the horse industry is making.

LOCAL HORSE MANAGEMENT SERIES

How many times have you had questions about your horse and how to manage him but didn't know who to ask? Make plans to attend the Horse Management Series this fall. This educational series is co-sponsored by Cooperative Extension and Davie County Large Animal Hospital. The first program will be Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon, at Davie Large Animal Hospital. We will have some demonstrations as well as a panel of experts answering questions on Oral Joint Supplements, Hoof Supplements, Shod Horses vs. Barefoot Horses as well as New Recommendations for Vaccinating and De-worming Horses. There will be an opportunity for open question and answer time.

The management series we held in the spring was well attended and received. Many topics were covered and questions answered. This was an opportunity to hear local experts, talk face-to-face with professionals, get YOUR questions answered and hear how other horse owners handled different situations.

The other programs will be held October 24 and November 21. Make plans now to attend these events. The topics will be determined based on local needs, surveys and questions. Contact the Extension Center 679-2061 or Davie County Large Animal Hospital 998-7131 to register or for more information. Concession will be available. Please bring a folding chair.

STATEWIDE EQUINE COURSES TO BE OFFERED

The 2009-2010 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, Feeding, Animal Cruelty Issues and the 4-H Horse Leaders Conference. The classes start in October 2009 and run into March 2010. 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.

Starting in 2009, the NCSU Equine Short Course Series Brochure will be available online only. Please go to the link listed below to access the short course brochure:
http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/PDF%20Files/2009-2010%20Short%20Course%20Brochure.pdf

If you are interested in attending any of these courses, additional information, proposed schedules and registration forms are available on the NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry website.
NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry Website: www.cals.ncsu.edu/horse-husbandry/

All short course information is now updated and all courses are open for registration. If you need additional information or have questions regarding any of these courses, please feel free to contact NCSU EHH at (919) 515-5784 or send an email to Jessica Hicks at jessica_hicks@ncsu.edu. To be added to our Short Course Mailing List, please have all interested parties send an email to jessica_hicks@ncsu.edu requesting that their email address be added to the mailing list.

NC CATTLE ASSESSMENT REFERENDUM

The NC Cattlemen's Association has announced that the NC Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum vote will take place on October 6, 2009. With passage of the referendum, the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association would collect \$1.00 per head sold, in addition to the National Beef Checkoff. Funds collected from the North Carolina cattle assessment would stay in the state and allow for the enhancement of programs for our youth, defense against laws and regulations detrimental to the industry, research and education designed to assist in production of cattle in the state and promotion of North Carolina cattle.

Funding Opportunities: Suggested funding levels allow for additional support of certain areas depending on immediate need. Most of these topics cannot be funded under the current national checkoff program but would be allowed with the state referendum funds.

Youth: Leadership development, educational opportunities, and support for programs. Examples of potential funding areas: Beef Ambassador, Junior Beef Round-Up Programs, 4-H and FFA support. Fund the tools and materials necessary to help the exceptional young people involved in the beef and dairy industry in the state to spread the word about the beef industry and agriculture as a whole.

Issues Management: Inform lawmakers, the press, and governmental agencies about the North Carolina producers' dedication to providing the safest, highest quality cattle and beef. Highlight production practices that include humane handling and environmentally sound practices. Examples: Legislative summits, legislative monitoring, press monitoring and information to help protect the interests of cattle producers with lawmakers and bureaucrats at the county and state levels. Have funds available should an issue arise that requires immediate media or legislative attention.

Education: Coordinate efforts to provide producers with educational opportunities to efficiently produce beef. Examples: Increased Beef Quality and Assurance programs, assistance with Extension educational programs' expenses, help to fund practical educational meetings to provide information to producers to help them stay in business.

Research: Scientific research to address challenges to producers. Examples: To assist in funding research programs and to help provide avenues for the distribution of information resulting from the research; to help fund practical research to help maintain profitability for the cattle industry. Potential topics could include: forages, insect control and disease, or other topics that present challenges to the industry.

Promotion: Promotional programs for both North Carolina cattle and beef. Examples: Enhanced awareness and promotion of quality NC feeder cattle and additional promotion of beef in North Carolina

Producers may request a refund within 30 days of sale. The request shall be in writing and submitted by mail to the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association.

There will be an opportunity for absentee voting in addition to the regular on-site voting at the county extension offices. Contact your local Extension Center for more information.

Note: An equitable portion of the proceeds of the assessment would go to the North Carolina Dairy Producers Association to assist with their programs in these areas.

If you have questions regarding the referendum, please contact Bryan Blinson at the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association at (919) 552-9111 or bryan@nccattle.com.