

January 14, 2008

TO: Yadkin County Cattle Producers

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BEEF PRODUCER MEETING: There will be a joint meeting of the Yadkin and Davie County Beef Producers, Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at Deep Creek Farms and Grain, in Yadkinville. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM with a sponsored meal. With the drought causing a reduction in grass stands, causing an increase in weed pressure, we will be discussing cost effective weed control programs. There is a better than average chance weed populations will be high this year adding to the stress of the already hurting pasture grasses. We will be offering one (1) hour of pesticide credits for attending this program. Be sure you bring your pesticide card so we have your information. We will also discuss current Hay Relief Programs as well as any Disaster Relief Programs that may be available.

Please call the Extension Office at 679-2061, NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, to make reservations. We need an accurate count to make food preparations.

BE PREPARED FOR 2008: I have stressed that the hard freeze and drought of 2007 will have an affect on forage production and cattle management in 2008. Please take the time to assess your operation NOW and make plans to provide for your animals. Have viable options in mind in case you need to make adjustments. Most if not all producers had to make adjustments that they did not plan, much less want to make. Look at your goals for 2008 to see how to manage the cattle, forage, water and other resources to meet your goals. Here are a few things to consider in your decisions.

- * Forage will more than likely be reduced from normal production due to damage from the drought. How many animals can your pastures handle without further forage reduction or damage? Adjust stocking rates so you have less animals per acre to allow more forage growth, supplying more grass for the herd. Remember hayfields might not be as productive as previous years so let this influence how many animals you can realistically manage.
- * Plan to fertilize!!! Trucks will not run without fuel and grass will not grow without fertilizer. It looks like fertilizer will be higher so a cost effective plan is a MUST. Grass is stunted and needs help to recover. Proper fertilizer and reduced grazing pressure will help.
- * Improve herd health and other management practices to increase the efficiency of your herd.

Contact the Extension Office for other ideas, help or further information.

Look on the back for the NCDA & CS Emergency Hay Program

On Dec. 4, the Council of State voted unanimously to authorize the state to use up to \$3.5 million to purchase and transport hay to North Carolina. The state will sell the hay to livestock owners for the same price the state pays for the forage and transportation.

Loads have begun to arrive in the state. **Livestock owners should contact the location closest to them about hay availability.** For general questions, contact the department's toll-free Hay Alert hotline at 1-866-506-6222, or at www.ncagr.com/HayAlert or www.ncagr.com/HayAlert/EmergencyHay.htm.

Large and/or small bales will be available at each of the following locations:

Mountain Research Station, 265 Test Farm Road, Waynesville, (828) 456-3943;

Upper Mountain Research Station, 8004 N.C. Hwy 88 East, Laurel Springs, (336) 982-2501;

Piedmont Research Station, 8350 Sherrills Ford Road, Salisbury, (704) 278-2624;

Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Road, Colfax, (336) 605-9157;

Caswell Research Farm, 2415 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, (252) 208-3360;

Oxford Tobacco Research Station, 300 Providence Road, Oxford, (919) 693-2483.

The distribution sites were chosen because of their proximity to areas with large livestock populations where the need for hay is great. They also have the facilities for storing hay.

To serve as many people's emergency needs as possible, the program currently limits livestock owners to purchasing up to four large bales and 20 small bales per day. Prices vary by load, and the limits may be adjusted based on supply and demand.

Hay buyers must have an N.C. Farm ID Premises Identification Number. If you do not have one, download the [registration form](#) (PDF file on the Hay Alert web site), fill it out and bring it with you to a distribution site. This will start the Farm ID registration process and qualify you to purchase hay. Producers can go together to haul hay but must have multiple premise ID numbers with different names.

*****IMPORTANT!!!** Hay is currently in transit to these sites, but demand is high so waiting lists have been developed. Once again, PLEASE Contact the Location From Which You Intend to Purchase Hay. These locations are developing waiting lists so people will not need to continue to call back or feel like they might not be getting the latest information on when the hay is coming. Waiting lists will have the date and time called as well as the caller phone number and type of hay wanted so people are prioritized according to the order that called in. Once the site has a delivery, people will be called back to come and get their hay. If no one can be reached at the numbers left, a message can be left and if the call is not returned in a reasonable time, that person is skipped. If no message can be left, then that owner will be called again in a reasonable time.

NOTE: If you need a full truckload of hay, you are encouraged to use the [Hay Alert](#) Web site or hotline to find and order hay. By doing this, you could be eligible for transportation cost-share assistance of up to \$500 per load through [Ag Partners](#) or [Equine Partners](#). This should be more economical than buying hay from the Emergency Hay Program.