

North Carolina Cooperative Extension
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November 13, 2007

Yadkin Beef Cattle Producers

* There will be a Yadkin County Beef Producers Meeting, Tuesday, November 27, at Deep Creek Friends Church, in the fellowship hall. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM with a sponsored meal. With the drought causing producers to alter their management and adjust spending, we will be discussing better ways to utilize financial resources as well as smarter borrowing techniques. We will be discussing the Current Drought Situation, Ways to Get Through the Drought, Options to Have Some Grass Next Year and a Question and Answer time. We will go back in time to the droughts of '86 and '02 to see what worked and what did not to help you make plans for the near future. We will discuss alternative feeds, supplementations, culling and where hay can be found and at what price can you afford to purchase it.

Please call the Extension Office at 679-2061, **NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26**, to make reservations. We need an accurate count so food preparations can be made.

* The drought has depleted most pastures and hay fields. Even with adequate rainfall, grass will probably struggle to be productive due to the stress the drought has inflicted. Be prepared to give your grass what it needs to recover and produce quality forage in 2008. Take the time to test your fields so you will know what fertilizers will give you the most bang for your buck. Don't look at fertilizer as an expense but more as an investment in the future or your grass land. Without the proper nutrients, grass will not be productive and applying proper nutrients this coming year will be very important to help your forage try to recover as well as be productive. A Soil Test will help you apply what the forage needs, in proper amounts so you will spend your fertilizer dollar more wisely. Come by the office to get your soil test boxes and help your pastures work more efficiently for you.

* While we are in the testing mode, forage quality has been compromised this year and grazing as well as hay may not pack the nutritive punch it normally does. To make sure you are meeting your cattle's nutritional needs, sample your hay to see what your cattle are actually consuming. If cattle are lacking vital nutrients, production will suffer. If you feed more than needed, you will be wasting valuable feed resources. This is the year to be cost effective and feed what the animal needs: nothing more, nothing less. Contact the Extension Office to see how to get your hay tested. It only costs \$10 dollars but the information you receive can save you resources you can use to meet other needs.

* Make plans to attend the Statesville Regional Beef Conference, Thursday, January 3, 2008. The program offers something that every cattle producer can use. Some of the topics that will be covered are: Pasture Management Recovery from Drought, Drought Management Strategies for Beef Operations, Fly Control Strategies, Update of Animal Health Products and we will look into our crystal ball for the Market Outlook for 2008. This conference has been very useful and educational for the many participants. This conference will provide information to help producers make wise decisions concerning their operations.

The conference starts at 3:30 PM at the Iredell Agricultural Resources Center, 444 Bristol Dr., Statesville, NC. There will be a sponsored meal at the conclusion of the conference. Please mark your calendar to attend this event. It looks like a program that you don't want to miss.

MANAGEMENT TIPS & DROUGHT STRATEGIES

- # 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
- # Deworm cattle and keep them healthy (utilize feed more efficiently)
- # Utilize supplements to reduce grazing stress
- # Utilize feeding strategies to reduce wasted feed
- # Be open to trying different feeds and feeding strategies
- # 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
- # Formulate a plan to help you better prepare for disasters and down years

Please make plans to attend as many of these events as you can.

Nov. 17: Yadkin-Davie 4-H Beef Bar-B-Q, 4:00 – 7:00 PM, Wm. R. Davie VFD

Nov. 27: Beef Producer Meeting, 6:30 PM, Deep Creek Friends Church

Jan. 3, 2008: Statesville Regional Beef Conference

There are several bull sales coming up in the near future. If you need a good herdsire, contact the Extension office at 679-2061 and I'll be happy to tell you about some upcoming sales, as well as put you in touch with producers who have bulls for sale.

Sincerely,

Phillip Rucker, Jr.
Extension Agent
Agriculture - Livestock