

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

Our New Website: <http://yadkin.ces.ncsu.edu>

North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Yadkin County Center
PO Box 97
209 E. Elm St.
Yadkinville, North Carolina 27055
336-679-2061
phil_rucker@ncsu.edu
<http://yadkin.ces.ncsu.edu>



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Contact Us

North Carolina
Cooperative Extension
Yadkin County Center
PO Box 97
Yadkinville NC 27055
336.679.2061 (ph)
336.679.3088 (fax)



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Phillip Rucker, Jr.
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Livestock

MANAGEMENT TIPS

- # Reduce Stocking Rate to reduce stress on grass and improve forage vigor.
- # Soil Test to know 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.
- # Test your hay to make sure of it's nutrient content before you start to feed it.
- # Attend education meetings to help you learn new strategies and methods.
- # Don't waste expensive feed on non-productive animals (Cull open cows).
- # Formulate a plan to help you better prepare for future decisions.

TWO COUNTY BEEF PRODUCERS MEETING

There will be a Beef Producers Meeting for Davie and Yadkin Counties, Thursday, September 9, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Lone Hickory Indoor Arena, beginning at 6:30 PM. The arena is located on Bethel Church Rd., in Yadkin County. Our topic of discussion will be: Options to Optimize Your Cattle Marketing Dollar. We all want to get as much out of our cattle as we can and marketing professional Lemmy Wilson will explain ways to improve your cattle marketing results for both big and small producers. Lemmy will show you different ways to market cattle and when to use different options at different times.



There will be a sponsored meal and **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED!!!** Please call the Extension Center (336/679-2061) NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon, Tuesday, September 7, to reserve your meal or for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| September 4 | NC Simmental Fall Sale, Shuffler Sale Facility, Union Grove |
| September 9 | Joint County Beef Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Yadkinville |
| September 18 | Horse Management Program in Mocksville |
| September 23 | Statesville Area Feeder Calf Sale, Turnersburg |
| September 30 | Wilkes Area Feeder Calf Sale, North Wilkesboro |

Special accommodations will be made for the physically disabled, vision or hearing impaired person upon request. If special accommodations are required, please call Phil Rucker 679-2061, before September 2, 2010.

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LOCAL HORSE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

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 upcoming Horse Management Seminar. This educational opportunity is co-sponsored by Cooperative Extension and Davie County Large Animal Hospital. The program will be Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon, at Davie Large Animal Hospital. We will have some demonstrations as well as discussions on: "From the Inside Out" - A Look at Equine Anatomy and How It Relates To Overall Health. We will also discuss "Winter Preparations" - Making Sure You, Your Horse and Your Pasture Are ready For Old Man Winter. There will be an opportunity for open question and answer time.

The previous management seminars we have held were 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.

This is the last program we have scheduled this year. Make plans now to attend this event. Contact the Extension Center 679-2061 or Davie County Large Animal Hospital 998-7131 to register or for more information. Concessions will be available. Please bring a folding chair.

PESTICIDE NEWS

The General Assembly has mandated fees for administered examinations and an increase in licensing fees in accordance to General Statutes 143-448, 143-452 and 143-455 of the NC Pesticide Law of 1971. Under this new legislation, the Structural Pest Control and Pesticide Division within the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) will be fee supported.

All pesticide licensing exams, regardless of license type, are now subject to a non-refundable \$50 examination fee as of July 14, 2010. Private applicator exams are an additional \$10. The private applicator certification fee of \$6.00 every three years has increased to \$10 every three years. In a nutshell, if you let your private applicator certification expire or want to obtain one, it will cost an initial \$60 and then \$10 every three years. You also have to earn continuing education credits in Pesticide Safety Training (V credits) and Private subclass (X credits).

If you have a private pesticide applicators license, it might be a good idea to keep the credits up to date instead of having to obtain a new license. Call the Extension Office for more information and opportunities to earn credits before your license expires. Look at the expiration date to make sure your license is not about to expire.

LOOKING FOR SOME PRODUCTIVE CHICKENS?



Many people are wanting to get back to nature and raise some chickens for eggs and meat. If you are interested, now is the time to order some quality hens. The Hy Line Brown pullets (red chickens, brown eggs) are being offered for sale by Snider Poultry Company in Staley. These birds are vaccinated against a variety of diseases and will begin to lay shortly after their delivery.

The hens are \$6.00 each, including delivery. Orders must be placed by Thursday, September 30 and the delivery date is October 5 at Steele Feed and Seed in Mt. Ulla. For more information or to place an order contact Phil Rucker at the Extension Center, 679-2061.

WINTER WILL COME, ARE YOU READY?

Even with the heat, humidity and the other signs of the summer season, winter is not too far away and we need to prepare. ALL livestock producers need to begin looking at their own individual situation NOW so you will be ready when “Old Man Winter” makes his appearance. This is just a brief list of things to check-on and help you and your livestock survive the winter elements.



- * Take a feed inventory and obtain more feed as needed.
- * Adjust stocking rates in accordance to available pasture and feed resources.
- * Check your animals overall health.
- * Prepare equipment and facilities for feeding, housing and extra abuse from animals.
- * Assure water supply will be adequate during extended cold periods.
- * Check your attitude. Make sure you WILL properly care for your animals no matter the weather.

These are just a few things to consider. I'm sure you have many others. Please make adequate preparations now. “People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan”.

STATEWIDE EQUINE COURSES TO BE OFFERED



The 2010-2011 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. Courses begin in September 2010 and run through April 2011.

Some of the topics to be covered are: Unwanted Horse Symposium, Horse Breeding, Judging, Judges' Certification Training, Foaling and Foal Management, Business Management, Equine Health, First Time Horse Owners and the 4-H Horse Volunteer Leaders Conference. The classes start in September 2010 and run into April 2011. Most of the classes are held in the Raleigh area. There is a registration fee to attend and you are responsible for meals, travel and lodging expenses.

If you are interested in attending any of these courses or want additional information, please feel free to contact NCSU EHH at (919) 515-5784, send an email to Dr. Mike Yoder at mike_yoder@ncsu.edu or go to the NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry website www.cals.ncsu.edu/horse-husbandry/.

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 you are needing to purchase hay, contact the Extension Office and maybe I can help folks meet their needs. Hay seems very plentiful this year but don't want until you are feeding that last bale to start hunting.

