LIVESTOCK and FORAGE NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2006

MANAGEMENT TIPS

* Work on hay equipment now instead of when you need it.
* Develop a farm record system. Know where your money is coming from and going to.
* Attend educational events to help you keep up-to-date.
* Provide livestock plenty of feed and adequate shelter.
* Provide plenty of CLEAN water and complete minerals with Hi-Mag to reduce Grass Tetany risk in cattle.
* Plan your war against flies now! Use the most cost effective method that fits into your program.
* Keep an eye on livestock due to give birth and be ready to give assistance, if needed.
* If in need of a new herd sire, don't wait until the last minute. MAKE PLANS NOW TO START LOOKING!
* Use bad weather days to work on herd records and make plans for the up coming year.
* Start preparing calves for the 2006 Fall Feeder Calf Sales. Castrate and dehorn soon, to reduce stress on the calves.

BEEF PRODUCER MEETING: The Yadkin County Beef Producers will have a meeting on Thursday, March 16, beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall of the East Bend United Methodist Church on Main Street. We will be discussing Pasture Management, Herd Health Practices and finalizing the upcoming barbecue on Saturday, March 25.

The meeting will begin with dinner so RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED!! As discussed at the last meeting, there will be a small administrative fee ($3) charged for the meal. Please call the Extension Office (336/679-2061) BY 5:00 PM Tuesday, March 14 to reserve your meal or for more information.

Good habits should be cultivated; bad ones plowed under.

PHILLIP RUCKER, Jr.
EXTENSION AGENT
AGRICULTURE-LIVESTOCK

UPCOMING STOCKER SALE

The Wilkes Regional Stocker Sale will be held Thursday, April 6, 2006 at Kilby's Livestock Market. The sale will begin at 7:00 PM. The cattle will be processed from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
This is a great opportunity to market your calves, to try to get the most out of your cattle. Cattle are grouped in uniform lots and buyers are willing to pay more for large groups of quality calves. Sale fees are less than the weekly sale. Calves are weighed first and then go to the pens to wait on the sale so cattle are sold on a weighed-in basis (you lose less to shrinkage).

The consignment deadline is March 23, so contact me for rules or a consignment form. Don't miss this marketing opportunity.

**JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EVENTS**

If you have kids or know of someone interested in participating on the Livestock Judging Team or showing livestock, let me know as soon as possible. We need to get organized and make sure all interested participants get registered. Some registration deadlines are just around the corner.

**CATTLE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP**

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, March 21, 2006 and plan to attend the Beef Cattle Management Workshop at Harward Brothers Livestock Market in Turnersburg, starting at 3:00 PM. You will see demonstrations on Cattle Records Software, Fencing and Cattle Grading as well as NCDA will give us an update on the Animal Identification progress. There will be vendors exhibiting numerous types of cattle equipment and supplies.

There will be a sponsored meal and reservations are requested so please call the Extension Office 679-2061 before Friday, March 17 to make reservations.

**LAST CHANCE TO STAY ON THE MAIL LIST**

In my last newsletter I asked for persons wishing to stay on the Livestock Newsletter to notify the office or risk being deleted from the mailing list. We will purge the list soon and if you have not notified us, do it soon or you might be removed from our mailing list.

*It's just as important to forget a wrong as it is to remember a kindness.*

**PASTURE AND HAYLAND PROJECTS**

Fertilizer is more expensive this year due to numerous reasons. While cutting costs can be good, being more efficient is better. Soil testing tells you what nutrients are needed, reducing over application while increasing yields. Be sure the pH is in the desired range to insure more efficient utilization of nutrients. Liming is one of the
most cost effective but under-used practices you can do. Adding clover improves forage quality and supplies some nitrogen to the forage. Proper grazing and harvesting management, along with a good weed control program strengthens the forage stand, increasing the effectiveness of fertilizer applications. Dragging pastures to break-up manure piles increases the overall health of the pasture. Utilizing several or even one of these management practices will increase the effectiveness of your fertilizer application.

Don't decide you CAN'T afford to fertilize this year. You must look at ways to be more cost effective with the applications. Tractors will not perform without fuel and forages will not perform without nutrients. Trying to STARVE A PROFIT into forage production will eventually lead to a weakened stand and unwanted expense to save it or start over.

Control buttercup and thistle. These weeds are becoming a problem in Yadkin County as well as across the state. The good news is they are easy to control. Now through late March is a good time to spray these weeds. After three days of high temperatures in the 60’s, apply 2 pints of 2,4-D per acre. This rate of 2,4-D will not kill established clover but can damage seedling clover. Mixing additional herbicides, such as Banvel, will help control a wider variety of weeds but increases the risk of clover injury. When utilizing any herbicide, READ and FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. Be sure to treat the weeds before blooms appear or you will be disappointed with the results.

Seed clover into pastures. Adding clover can help improve the protein and energy content of the forage as well as help reduce the nitrogen fertilizer requirement. Clover will lengthen the grazing season as well.

Sound management will help you keep a strong stand of grass that will work for you for years. With a few management practices, pastures and hay land can be very productive, providing abundant quality forage to our livestock. Isn’t that what we want? Contact me if I can help or answer any questions.

The secret of a happy life is not to do what you like but to like what you do.

**B-B-Q FUNDRAISER**

The Yadkin County Cattlemen’s Association is holding a Beef B-B-Q, Saturday, March 25 to raise money to help sponsor the annual scholarship and other youth activities. This is a take-out only event and tickets are on sale now. If you want to sale tickets or buy tickets contact the Extension Office. All members are encouraged to help in some way with this event. In order to make accurate preparations and not over purchase food, we are asking that tickets be turned in March 16 at the Beef Producers Meeting.
This is for a worthy cause so roll-up your sleeves and help.

**LOCAL LIVESTOCK MARKETS**

I have been asked to list the local livestock markets, their sale days and phone numbers. Keep this information handy for future reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Sale Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Stockyards</td>
<td>Siler City</td>
<td>919/742-5665</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmers Coop Livestock Mkt.</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>336/248-2173</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harward Bros. Livestock</td>
<td>Turnersburg</td>
<td>704-546-2692</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilby’s Livestock Market</td>
<td>Wilkesboro</td>
<td>336/838-3442</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mt. Airy Livestock Market</td>
<td>Mt. Airy</td>
<td>336/786-8192</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Livestock Yard</td>
<td>Shelby</td>
<td>704/487-4023</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanly Co. Livestock Market</td>
<td>Richfield</td>
<td>704/474-7681</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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Stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, and shut up to be appreciated.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 14</td>
<td>Deadline to call-in for Beef Producer Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 16</td>
<td>Beef Producer Meeting, 6:30 PM, East Bend</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 21</td>
<td>Cattle Management Workshop, 3:00 PM, Turnersburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 23</td>
<td>Deadline to consign for the Wilkes Area Stocker Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 25</td>
<td>Cattlemen’s Assoc. B-B-Q, Yadkinville</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 6</td>
<td>Wilkes Area Stocker Sale</td>
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