

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION

FALL 2012

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

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BEEF PRODUCER MEETING

There will be a Cattle Producers Meeting for Davie and Yadkin Counties, Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at the Center Community Building, at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing upcoming workshops, events and opportunities to help you improve your operation. Our sponsor and featured speaker will share with us a supplement product and a full management plan to improve the growth rate of our calves, reproduction efficiency of our cows and help improve the overall performance of your cattle. Prices are good but inputs have increased so we need to be efficient and provide everything our cattle need to perform at their best.

This product is showing evidence of improving breeding performance, reducing stress at weaning and just improving basic performance in cattle herds. There are times when cattle need extra minerals and vitamins. Coincidentally our soils can lack these minerals and stress can reduce the animal's ability to utilize what they consume. This injectable product provides necessary nutrients to help cattle overcome these temporary deficiencies.

We will be having a sponsored meal and reservations are REQUESTED. Please call the Yadkin Extension Center (336/679-2061) **NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon, Friday, October 26**, to reserve your meal or for more information.

MANAGEMENT TIPS

- # Soil Test to know what your forage needs to be productive this spring.
- # Check your feed inventory now and be prepared to purchase supplemental feed to assure you have enough for the winter.
- # Prepare for calving, foaling, lambing or kidding season. Have supplies and the veterinarian's number close at hand.
- # Finish grazing summer grasses before grazing cool-season forages or stockpiled fescue. Stretch grazing as far as possible before feeding hay.
- # Be careful if feeding stressed forage. Some millet, sorghums, johnsongrass and some weeds can accumulate nitrates and prussic acid. Contact me if you need forages tested.
- # Poultry producers need to prepare their poultry houses for winter.
- # If in need of a new herd sire, don't wait until the last minute. **Start Looking NOW!**

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, at least one week before the scheduled event.

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QUICK HIT MANAGEMENT TIPS

Calculate Your Feed Resources: Be sure to evaluate your feed resources to see if you have not only adequate amounts but also the quality is sufficient. Purchasing feed spur of the moment can be costly and you might not get what you need/want. Having plenty of low quality feed can be just as bad since cattle can have difficulty consuming enough poor quality feed to meet their nutritional needs. Check your supplies, test forages if you have questions, number and size of animals to feed and performance expectations. Remember it takes more high quality feed for cows nursing calves, growing weanlings, cows trying to rebreed and first calf heifers trying to raise a calf and breed back.

Think About Some Improvements: Winter is a great time to curl up by the fire and reflect about what worked and what didn't. Think about weed pressure, herd health, marketing plans and a record system to keep track of the farm happenings. Take the time to jot down your weed issues (types, population and control method results), herd health issues and how a different vaccination program could help and what marketing options worked best for you. Make decisions to improve on weak areas and enhance those areas that worked well for you. Develop a system to keep up with cattle information as well as the other aspects of your operation so you can look back and see what worked or didn't and why. This information will be valuable as you plan your future management practices.

WANT TO SAVE MONEY?

Be prepared to give your grass what it needs to recover and produce quality forage in 2013. 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 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 ten (\$10) dollars but the information you receive can save you resources you can use to meet other needs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 18	Equine Program on Cushing's, 7:00 PM in Mocksville
October 30	Davie/Yadkin County Beef Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Mocksville
November 2	NCAA Down East Angus Sale, Clinton