

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

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

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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!**

BEEF PRODUCER MEETING OPPORTUNITIES

There will be a Regional Hands-On Beef Cattle Workshop, Friday, September 21, 2012. The event will be held at Barney Gibson's Farm, 322 Rash Road in Olin. The program will begin at 1:00 PM. Topics of discussion will be: NC Cattle Industry Assessment Program, Low-Stress Animal Handling, Improving Forage Quality and Utilization, Mineral supplementation and an Update on Beef Cattle Marketing Programs. The program is free and offers plenty of information for everybody. Read the attached flyer for more details and directions to the location.

There will be a Cattle Producers Meeting for Davie and Yadkin Counties, Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at the Center Community Building in Davie County, 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.

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.

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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HORSE OWNERS

As horses get older, they are more at risk for Cushing's Disease. On Thursday, October 18, 2012, Davie county Large Animal Hospital will host "The Aging Equine: Management of PPID (Cushing's disease). This seminar, beginning at 7:00 pm will be on geriatric horse care. There will be a significant focus on Cushing's and whole horse management of the disease. Up to 70% of horses seen for laminitis are found to have PPID. PPID affects as many as 1 in 7 horses and ponies over 15 years of age. If you have a horse increasing in age, make plans to attend this presentation. Contact Davie County Large Animal Hospital at 998-7131 or www.LargeAnimalHospital.com for more information.

Horse Management Tip: Please make time to evaluate, with your veterinarian, your heard health program and any changes or updates that are needed, to assure your horse stays healthy. Also discuss your feeding program and if any adjustments are needed. Don't change a horse's feed ration without advice from a veterinarian or other qualified source. Even small changes in the ration can offset delicate mineral ratios that could have a negative effect on your horse.

STILL NEED PESTICIDE CREDITS?

Come to the Davie extension Center on Tuesday, September 25 for a workshop on weed control in pastures, hay fields, ponds and more. This program will provide you with up to date information to help you in your battle against the never ending enemy "WEEDS". We will cover weed control in pasture and hay field situations as well as fence rows, ponds and specific weed problems. As an added bonus you can earn "X" credits toward your pesticide certification. If you have not met your "X" credit needs, this is one of the last opportunities.

The program will begin at 7:00 PM at the Davie County Extension Center at 180 South Main St., in Mocksville. Please call the Extension Center, by Monday, September 24, to register so we will have enough space and hand-outs.

NC CATTLE ASSESSMENT REFERENDUM

The NC Cattlemen's Association has announced that the NC Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum vote will take place on October 4, 2012. With passage of the referendum, the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association would collect \$1.00 per head sold, in addition to the National Beef Checkoff. Funds collected from the North Carolina cattle assessment would stay in the state and allow for the enhancement of programs for our youth, defense against laws and regulations detrimental to the industry, research and education designed to assist in production of cattle in the state and promotion of North Carolina cattle.

Bryan Blinson, executive director of the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association, states that, "The assessment will be for a period of six years with a recurring referendum if requested. Also, Mr. Blinson states that producers will be eligible for a full refund of their North Carolina assessment by request within 60 days of the sale of the animal with proof of sale. This is a provision that is not available in the national program due to federal law."

All cattle owners who are at least 18 years of age as of October 4, 2012, will be eligible to vote. Voting will take place at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension offices. All eligible voters must vote in their county. Absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting the North Carolina Cooperative Extension office.

If you have questions regarding the referendum, please contact Bryan Blinson at the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association at (919) 552-9111 or bryan@nccattle.com.

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

We will be having several educational seminars/workshops coming up in November and December. Topics will cover Backyard Poultry Flocks, Improving Forages, Weed Control, Developing Replacement Heifers, Financial Aspects (setting goals, writing a business plan, records, marketing and other financial related topics) and “I just bought/inherited a few acres, what do I do now”? Some programs will be held in each county and some will be held in only one. Be on the look-out for more information. These are some topics you have said you want to learn more about. If you have other program needs, contact me and we will see what can be worked out.

WHERE IS PHIL TODAY?

As life gets busier and I get pulled in different directions, I can’t always keep a set schedule. I know it may seem a difficult task to find me sometimes. I do apologize for moving around so much. I do try to stick with the following schedule: Monday, Tuesday and odd number Fridays I try to be in Davie. Wednesday, Thursday and even number Fridays I try to be in Yadkin. I can’t always stick to this schedule so if you want to “Pop-in” for a visit, I suggest you call to see if I’m in. I might be on a farm visit, in the other county or on personal leave. I do try to stick to this schedule as best as I can to try and help you to be able to contact me.

As life gets busier, it does get more difficult to provide program notifications in as timely a manner as I would like. Sometimes I have to send several announcements at the same time due to time limitations as well as postal budget. As a result, some notifications arrive real early. I’m asking you to please **MAKE NOTE** of program dates and write them on your calendar so you will not forget them. There will be times I may not be able to remind you about a program and the one notification (sent early) may be the only notice you get. This will help reduce the chance of you missing an important program. We are about ready to begin using a list serve so we can send emails to groups to notify them about programs and late breaking news. You must have email to utilize this. More information will be coming soon. This will allow us to notify you of events, immediately through electronic methods therefore saving time and postage. But until then **PLEASE** write programs and dates on your “**DO NOT FORGET CALENDAR**”.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 21	Regional Cattle Workshop, 1:00 PM in Olin
September 25	Pesticide Recertification Class for X credits, 7:00 PM in Mocksville
September 27	Statesville Feeder Calf Annual Meeting
September 29	Back Creek Angus Sale, Turnersburg
October 4	NC Cattle Assessment Referendum, vote at the Extension Office
October 18	Equine Program on Cushing’s, 7:00 PM in Mocksville
October 30	Davie/Yadkin County Beef Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Mocksville