

North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Yadkin County Center
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RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013



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.
- # If in need of a new herd sire, don't wait until the last minute. **Start Looking NOW!**
- # Reduce Stocking Rate to reduce stress on grass and improve forage vigor.
- # Keep livestock healthy, they will utilize feed more efficiently.
- # Test your hay to make sure of its nutrient content before you start to feed it.
- # Don't waste expensive feed on non-productive animals (Cull open cows).
- # Formulate a plan to help you better prepare for future decisions.

2 COUNTY BEEF PRODUCER MEETING

There will be an Area Hands-On Forage Improvement Workshop, Saturday, September 28, 2013. The event will be held at Henry Walker's Farm, 1493 Godbey Road in Mocksville. Registration is at 9:00 am and the program will begin at 9:30 am. We will be discussing improved methods of weed control in pastures, new chemicals as well as options on how to apply those chemicals. This year was a difficult year to try and control weeds and next year, weed pressure could be tough. A new type of herbicide applicator will be on display and you can see for yourself how well it works. We will also be discussing ways to improve your current stand of grass. Everything from new varieties, planting methods and management will be covered and you will have plenty of time to ask questions and talk with company representatives.

This will be a GREAT opportunity to gain some valuable information on ways to improve your pastures and improve animal performance at the same time. This event has been approved for 2 hours of N, D, O & X pesticide credits so bring your card to get those valuable credits.

The workshop will conclude with lunch and plenty of questions & answer time. This workshop will be limited to the first 75 who call and make reservations. You can make reservations by calling either the Davie Extension Center 753-6100 or the Yadkin Extension Center 679-2061. You must call in NO LATER than Tuesday, September 24, 2013. Don't be left out, call in your reservation today.

**Phillip Rucker, Jr.
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Livestock**

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 753-6100, at least one week before the scheduled event.





JOINT BEEF PRODUCER MEETING IN YADKIN

There will be a Beef Cattle Producer Meeting for both Davie and Yadkin Counties on Thursday, October 3. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm at Deep Creek Friends Church. With all the rain we had over the summer, there has been lots of leaching of nutrients as well as erosion. Steve Woodruff with the Natural Resources Conservation Service will have a hands-on demonstration showing how much soil and nutrients are lost during heavy rains. He will show why keeping a good thick stand of grass is very important to the integrity of your pastures and hayfields.

We will discuss ways to improve your stand of grass while providing more available forage for your herd. We will also discuss different types of forages to use to meet specific goals and how to incorporate them into your existing forage system.

There will be a meal and reservations are **REQUIRED**. Please call the Extension Office in Davie 753-6100 or Yadkin 679-2061 by 5:00 pm, Tuesday, October 1 to make your reservation. This will be an eye-opening program and one that will help you make plans for future grazing success.

NOT ALL DONKEYS MAKE GOOD GUARD ANIMALS

With the numbers of coyotes and roaming dogs increasing all the time, many livestock owners are turning to donkeys as guard animals. Donkeys can be very useful but please heed these warnings.

Jennys (females) and geldings (castrated males) are preferred as they are usually less trouble. Jacks (intact males) have been known to be very loud. I have heard of jacks chasing, injuring and even killing calves. Jacks can be unpredictable and have chased and injured humans. Jacks do a great job as guard animals but some of the “side effects” can outweigh the good they do. If you are looking at a donkey for a guard animal, make sure you understand the good, the bad and the ugly of using a jack. I have had livestock owners contact me saying they don’t need their donkey anymore or the jack is causing problems and they need a find him a new home. Please consider all options when selecting a guard animal especially where this animal will go when their service is no longer needed.

STOCKPILING FORAGES CHEAPER THAN FEEDING HAY

Extension livestock budgets show winter feed costs make up 60 percent of total expenses for the typical fall calving cow/calf producer who feeds hay. One way to lower feed costs is by stockpiling forages for winter grazing. Stockpiling is a process of allowing forage to accumulate growth during the late summer and fall to be grazed by cattle instead of the normal practice of feeding hay after the growing season has ended. Most cow/calf producers, who stockpile, will make the last hay cutting or remove cattle from pastures in early to mid-August to allow these fields sufficient time for regrowth before growth stops in the fall.

Tall fescue is a common cool season grass found on most farms throughout the state and is ideal for stockpiling. It produces both higher yields and forage quality when compared to other cool season grasses used for stockpiled winter grazing. A 3-year study showed that stockpiled tall fescue contained more energy and crude protein than the average grass hay.

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 need to purchase hay, contact the Extension Office and maybe I can assist folks in meeting their needs. Please think about your hay needs for this winter and don't wait until you are feeding that last bale to start hunting hay.

WEED CONTROL PROGRAM/ PESTICIDE CREDITS



Come to the **Davie Extension Center on Tuesday, September 17** for a workshop on weed control in pastures, hay fields, ponds and controlling internal & external parasites of livestock, poultry and equine. This program will provide you with up to date information to help you in your battle against weeds and animal parasites. We will cover weed control in pasture and hay field situations as well as fencerows, 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. This workshop is approved for 2 hours of N, D & X as well as ½ hour of A and 1.5 hours of K. Great opportunity to earn some pesticide credits to help you keep your license.

The program will begin at 7:00 PM at the Davie County Extension Center at 180 South Main St., in Mocksville. Please call the Davie Extension Center, 753-6100 by Monday, September 16 to register so we will have enough space and handouts.

On a side note: If your pesticide license expires this year, plan to earn your credits by September 30. Contact me if you need to attend a class. There are still a few left to attend, in the area. Whether you need "X", "V" or other credits, there are several pesticide update opportunities in surrounding counties. Contact the Extension Office for more information on classes or to check on your credit status. You can go to the following website to see a list of trainings throughout the state.

<http://www.ncagr.gov/aspzine/str-pest/pesticides/PesticideCalendar/calendar.asp>

HORSE OWNERS



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.

Summer and mosquito season is not over and if you have not vaccinated your horse(s) for any of the mosquito borne diseases, please talk with your veterinarian about this. There have been several cases of infected horse's down east that had to be euthanized due to not being vaccinated.



WANT TO SAVE MONEY?

Be prepared to give your grass what it needs to recover and produce quality forage in 2014. Take the time to soil 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 of your grassland. 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. The rainfall we were blessed with this year has leached nutrients from the soil. 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 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. The plentiful rainfall made it difficult to harvest hay at the right time and quite a few acres got wet after cutting. To make sure you are meeting your animal'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 help save you so much more as well as provide better feed for your animals.

SOIL SAMPLE FEES TO APPLY

The Agronomic Division of the N. C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services recently announced that a \$4 fee per sample will be charged to soil samples that arrive at the Soil Lab in Raleigh during the peak season for soil sampling. The peak season and when fees apply will be December through March. The soil sample fee will be based on the date the sample is logged in the system, and not the day of arrival which is usually a few days preceding log in. To make sure your soil samples arrive on time and are entered into the system prior to December 1, please plan to send your samples by November 15th.

If you send samples during the peak season when the \$4 fee applies, clients will need to pay in advance of sending samples, either by using a credit card on-line or using an escrow account. The on-line credit card payment system will be in place by late fall on the Agronomic Division website, <http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals/>

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Davie County Center, is encouraging producers to soil test early to eliminate having to pay this soil sampling fee. Soil sample boxes and information sheets are available at the Davie County Extension Center, 753-6100. Please call me or email phil_rucker@ncsu.edu if you have questions or need further information.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 17	Pesticide Recertification Class for X credits, 9:00 AM in Yadkinville
September 17	Pesticide Recertification Class for X credits, 7:00 PM in Mocksville
September 28	Forage Program at Henry Walker's, 9:00 AM in Mocksville
October 3	Cattle Producers Meeting in Yadkinville
October 15-17	Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA
October 29	Cattle Producers Meeting in Mocksville

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 pasture available and feed resources.
- * Check 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”.

ODDS AND ENDS

**The NCDA&CS has announced that the cost of processing Waste Sample has increased from \$5 per sample to \$8. The increase is expected to take affect around November 1.

**If you are looking for some good fruits, vegetables and home made goodies, make plans to attend a local Farmers Market. There are several in both Davie and Yadkin Counties so call the Extension Office for information on locations and times of operation.

**If you have youth who want to participate on Livestock Competition Teams, please contact the Extension Office. We have opportunities for youth to participate on livestock judging teams, skillathon teams, quiz bowl teams and other opportunities.

** The Annual Yadkinville Harvest Festival will be Saturday, September 21 in downtown Yadkinville. Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau, local beekeepers and farmer's market vendors will have displays beside the Extension Building. The festival runs from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. Come and enjoy the Harvest Festival.



I HAVE MENTIONED BOTH OF THESE BEFORE BUT THEY BEAR REPEATING

****According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),** certain farmers must prepare and implement their Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans. The purpose of the SPCC rule is to help facilities and farms prevent a discharge of oil into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. These plans help farms prevent oil spill as well as control a spill should one occur. Under the SPCC rule, a farm is a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during the year. According to the EPA website, a farm will be required to comply with the SPCC program if a facility:

1. Stores, transfers, uses, or consumes oil or oil products, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil, or animal fat;
2. Stores more than 1,320 US gallons in aboveground containers (only count containers 55 gallons or greater, includes fuel tanks mounted on trailers, fuel trucks, and tanks in pickup trucks) or more than 42,000 US gallons in completely buried containers;
3. Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams.

In a nutshell if you store over 1320 gallons of oil or oil products above ground, 42,000 gallons underground and/or if you had a spill it could easily discharge into a creek, river, pond or other body of water, you need to call me for further information. If not you should be in compliance.

****The North Carolina State Highway Patrol's Motor Carrier Enforcement Division** will begin implementation of a program for intrastate commercial motor vehicles requiring many intrastate motor carriers to obtain an Intrastate USDOT number and display that number on all of their commercial vehicles. There is no cost to the companies to obtain the numbers.

Only those companies doing business solely within North Carolina – intrastate – are required to obtain Intrastate USDOT numbers. Companies that operate in multiple states- interstate – are required to have USDOT numbers. A company would be required to obtain a USDOT number if it operates a commercial motor vehicle in intrastate commerce that:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), a gross combination weight rating (GCWR), a gross vehicle weight (GVW) or gross combination weight (GCW) of 26,001 pounds or more: or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 16 passengers, including the driver, or
- Is used in transporting hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Parts 170 through 185.

This program went into effect December 1, 2012, however, enforcement of this program will not begin until December 1, 2013 to allow the affected companies to obtain the Intrastate USDOT number and mark their vehicles. This does apply to farm vehicles that weigh, or combined weight if trailering, over 26,001 pounds. Although it does not say this, the name and number must be permanent and visible from 50' - so 2-3" letters/numbers are suggested. For more information or to see if you are required to obtain a number, contact one of the following:

NC Dept. of Public Safety 919/715-8683 www.ncdps.gov
NC Trucking Association 919/281-2472 www.nctrucking.com
www.fmcsa.dot.gov