

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

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

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CATTLE PRODUCERS MEETING

There is a Yadkin County Beef Producer meeting on Thursday, March 20 beginning at 6:30 PM. We are having to secure a new meeting location and we will share it with you when you make reservations.

Cattle nutrition is a subject that is receiving lots of attention and should be a primary focus for your herd. Providing your herd the proper nutrition, at an affordable price is one way to improve performance without upsetting the budget. There are options to meet the nutrition requirements for your herd at a price you can withstand. Come and listen to an industry representative discuss feed supplementation as well as a sound mineral program to help your cattle work more efficiently for you.

A meal will be served and reservations are requested. Please call the Extension Office at 679-2061 or email cathy_sprinkle@ncsu.edu, NO LATER THAN NOON TUESDAY, March 18.

CATTLE PRODUCERS MEETING IN DAVIE

There will be a Cattle Producers Meeting, Tuesday, March 18, at the Center Community Building, beginning at 6:30 PM. Yadkin County producers are invited to attend. A local livestock business will be on hand to discuss a spring herd health program to improve the performance and marketability of your cattle. He will also be discussing new forages and management practices to help you improve your pastures and hay-fields. With the price of feed inching up, maintaining a healthy and productive pasture can help the bottom line. Healthy cattle that can utilize feed more efficiently will help reduce the price squeeze. This should be a very informative meeting so mark your calendars.

A meal will be served and reservations are requested. Please call the Extension Office at 679-2061 or email cathy_sprinkle@ncsu.edu, NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 14, to make reservations.

Check out our website at <http://yadkin.ces.ncsu.edu> for a current update of programs and offerings from the Yadkin Extension Staff.

NEED "V" PESTICIDE CREDITS?: A Pesticide Recertification Training will be held Wednesday, March 12 at Farmington Community Center. Participants will receive 2 hours of "V" credits when completed. The training begins at 10:00 am and should finish about noon. Call the Davie Extension Center 753-6100 or email karen_robertson@ncsu.edu to register or for more information.

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UPCOMING CATTLE PRODUCER MEETINGS

There will be two (2) Cattle Producer Meetings in April that I want to make you aware of, in case announcements are delayed. I should be able to get out an announcement but things do happen. This is one reason we are trying to move more to emails so we can get the word out and not rely on snail mail as much. Put these dates down and observe the call-in deadlines. Both meetings are open to both Davie and Yadkin County Producers. Contact your County Extension Office for reservations.

Tuesday, April 15 at Deep Creek Friends Church. 6:30 PM. Cattle Health, Vaccination Protocols, Deworming and other health management practices. We will discuss the Select VAC vaccination program that will be used with the precondition calf sale in July. Deadline to call in reservations is Friday, April 11.

Thursday, April 17 at Center Community Building in Mocksville at 6:30 PM. We have a new Forage Specialist at NC State and this is your chance to meet him and pick his brain. Miguel Castillo will be giving us some up to date forage management tips as well as answering questions that have long been on your mind. Deadline to call in is Tuesday, April 15.

MEETING FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

The Yadkin County Cooperative Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Piedmont Land Conservancy are hosting a public meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2014, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Yadkin County Commissioners Meeting Room in the Human Services Building located at 217 E. Willow St., Yadkinville, NC 27055.

The purpose of this meeting is to seek input from farmers and others interested in the future of agriculture in Yadkin County to help develop a Farmland Preservation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to help preserve and strengthen agriculture by inventorying agricultural resources, assessing agricultural needs, such as the availability of markets, infrastructure, etc., and recommending tools and policies to ensure a strong agricultural economy into the future. With help from the County, Piedmont Land Conservancy will develop the plan, which will be submitted for approval to the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners in 2015.

If you have questions about the meeting or need more information, please contact Palmer McIntyre (pmcintyre@piedmontland.org) or Mindy Mock (mmock@piedmontland.org) or call the Piedmont Land Conservancy office at 336-691-0088.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!!

March 11	Horse Referendum, vote at the Extension Center in your County
March 12	Pesticide Recertification for "V" credits, 10:00 am – noon, Farmington
March 13	Farmland Preservation Plan Meeting, 6:30 pm, Commissioners Room
March 18	Cattle Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Center Community Building
March 20	Cattle Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Location to be Determined
March 24	Farm Bureau Ag Transportation Program, 6:00 pm, Davie Co. Library
April 3	Wilkes Area Feeder Calf Sale
April 15	Cattle Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Deep Creek Friends Church
April 17	Cattle Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM, Center Community Building

GRASS TETANY

When the grass starts to turn green and grow, grass tetany is a threat, especially to cows nursing calves. Magnesium in commercial mineral supplements or home mixtures should be provided. Your goal is to get one ounce of magnesium oxide in the cow each day. If not using a commercial mineral, a mixture of 3 lbs. magnesium oxide with 97 lbs. of grain or protein supplement fed at 2 lbs. per head per day will work. Start feeding high magnesium now, if you are not already, because it takes a while to build the levels high enough to resist grass tetany.

DAVIE COUNTY 4-H

Will be hosting a Golf Tournament, April 25 to help provide academic scholarships. The tournament will be held at Pudding Ridge Golf Course. If you are interested in playing, sponsoring a hole or supporting in other ways, contact the Extension Office at 753-6100 for more information.

FEEDER CALF SALES

The Feeder Calf Sale dates have been set and you need to begin preparing your calves for these events. Feeder calf sales usually average more per calf and the cattle are weighed quicker so they don't shrink and lose weight on your nickel. The dates and basic information are below. Contact me for rules or consignment forms.

Wilkes Area Sale is April 3 with the consignment deadline on April 1. Calves must weigh at least 300 lbs.

Pre-Condition (Value-Added) Sale at Turnersburg is July 24. Cattle must weigh 400 lbs., be weaned by June 10th and receive the required vaccinations and deworming. The Feeder Calf Committee will pay \$5/head up to 20 head for the vaccines. First time we have tried a pre-condition sale in years, so let's make it work. Contact me at 679-2061 or phil_rucker@ncsu.edu for a detailed set of rules and more information. We must have consignments by June 10th to help in the marketing of these specially processed calves.

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.

TRANSPORTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PROGRAM

Farm Bureau will be sponsoring a program to discuss some new rules, as well as rules already in place, when transporting agricultural products on state maintained roads. There are a few new rules that we all need to be made aware of so the Highway Patrol will be here to conduct this program and they will be ready to answer your burning questions.

The program will be Monday, March 24 at the Davie County Public Library. Light refreshments will be served at 6:00 pm with the program beginning at 6:30 pm. Contact the Davie County Farm Bureau at 751-6207 for more information. You do not have to pre-register to attend.

HORSE MANAGEMENT TIPS

Spring is close by and summer is just around the corner. Warm weather calls for management practices to help keep horses healthy and ready for those pleasurable riding experiences. Grass will soon be actively growing and full of nutrition. Talk with your veterinarian about the possibility of nutrition issues to reduce the risks of digestion, hoof or obesity problems. The age, size and activity of your horse goes a long way in determining the nutritional needs.

Be careful grazing your horses this spring. The horse is at a higher health risk during periods of lush grass growth. During photosynthesis, grass makes fructane (simple carbohydrate). High levels of fructanes can cause hoof and other issues. At night, those fructanes are used by the grass to grow or are stored in the root system. Thus, you can decrease the risks by grazing during the night and early morning while fructane levels are lower. During periods of lush growth, stabling the horse during the day, might be a good idea. Maybe use poly-wire temporary cross fencing to allow only a little fresh grass each day to help limit free access to pasture during lush growth. Using a grazing muzzle during daytime turnout would help reduce the risks also. Seek advice from your vet, on this issue and the potential risk for your horse.

Have your horse updated on all necessary vaccinations if not already done. Mosquito season is not far off and these pesky insects carry numerous diseases that can be transmitted to horses. Spring is also a good time to deworm your horse. Deworming your horse before the grazing season increases forage uptake as well as nutrient utilization.

Contact the Extension Center for more information on these management practices, forages, pasture management and other equine production issues.

HORSE REFERENDUM

Horse and other equine animal owners/lessors will vote across the state on March 11, 2014 to determine whether to continue to voluntarily assess themselves two dollars (\$2.00) per ton of commercial horse feed in order to provide funds to promote the interests of the horse industry.

The vote in Yadkin County will take place in the County Extension Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Any North Carolina resident who has reached his/her 9th birthday as of January 1, 2014 and who has complete or partial ownership or lease of an equine (horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny) is eligible to vote. Individuals must sign a statement certifying eligibility at time of voting. A provision has been made for absentee voting. Between now and March 10, horse owners may visit or phone (679-2061) the County Extension Center and request a ballot and absentee registration form. These must be turned in to the Extension office by March 10, and will be counted along with the other ballots on March 11.

With a favorable vote, the NCDA & CS will collect the assessment from manufacturers and/or distributors of horse feed, and remit the money to the NC Horse Council. The funds will be used for 4-H and other youth programs, REINS volunteer programs, trails advocacy, equine research, representation of horse interests in government, marketing programs, enforcement of horse laws, and improved public awareness of diseases and other threats to horses' well-being.

Horsemen may receive a refund of the assessment by writing to the NC Horse Council within a year of purchase and including proof of purchase.

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 at 679-2061, at least one week before the event.