

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY 2014

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



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CATTLE PRODUCERS MEETING

There will be a Yadkin County Beef Producers Meeting, Tuesday, April 15 at Deep Creek Friends Church. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM. Topics of discussion will be: Cattle Health, Deworming, Effective Vaccinations to Improve Health and Make Your Calves More Marketable. We will discuss the Value Added Precondition Sale coming up July 24.

There will be a sponsored meal so PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS by Friday, April 11. Please contact the Extension Office, 679-2061 or email Cathy_Sprinkle@ncsu.edu to make your reservation or for more information. Come learn how healthy cattle will not only produce more pounds to market but higher quality calves that will demand a higher price. At today's prices, reduced production or a dead calf, from not vaccinating, can offset any price increase you receive.

CATTLE PRODUCERS MEETING IN DAVIE

There is a planned meeting for Davie Beef Producers and Yadkin is invited to attend. The meeting will be Thursday, April 17, at the Center Community Building, beginning at 6:30 PM. We have a new forage specialist at NC State and this is your chance to pick his brain. Miguel Castillo will be giving us some forage tips as well as answering those questions you've been wanting to ask. We will also discuss different mineral programs and ways to get economical nutrition into your cattle to improve performance and help your bottom line. With the price of feed inching up, maintaining a healthy and productive pasture and using economical feed can help the bottom line. This should be a very informative meeting so mark your calendars.

There will be a sponsored meal and **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED**. Please call the Extension Office at 679-2061, NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM MONDAY, APRIL 14, to make reservations. We need an accurate count so food preparations can be made.

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.

DAVIE MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

The Davie County Master Gardeners will hold their annual plant sale on Friday, May 2. This is a great time to purchase a wide variety of healthy plants to decorate your landscape and get some wonderful presents to give mom on Mother's Day. All proceeds are used to support the Master Gardeners and their projects. The sale will begin at 8:00am at the Mebane Building next to the Extension Center. Call the Davie Extension Center at 336/753-6100 for more information.



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Contact Us

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HERD HEALTH TO-DO LIST FOR LIVESTOCK

- * Vaccinate equine (horses, donkeys, mules) against West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis. Take precautions to minimize standing water where mosquitoes breed.
 - * Feed cattle a COMPLETE mineral mix with Hi-Magnesium to help prevent grass tetany.
 - * Check pastures for toxic plants or trees and treat accordingly. Repair fences, barns and working facilities to reduce the chance of injury.
 - * Keep a close eye on ALL livestock grazing lush forage growth for potential problems.
- Use good judgment and read the labels when returning livestock to pastures that have been recently fertilized or treated for weeds.



FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS

- * If you have not fertilized, it's getting late for cool season grass (fescue and orchard grass) so get some advice before applying. Spreading late could benefit weeds more than the grass. If you decide to fertilize, think about split applications to spread out the forage growth.
- * Identify problem weeds and spray if you have not already. Different types of weeds come up at different times of the year so make a weed control plan for the whole growing season.
- * Develop a grazing plan for your operation to help you utilize the forage efficiently. Overgrazing as well as under grazing will reduce forage vigor and stimulate weed growth.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT TIPS

- * Work on hay equipment now instead of when you need it.
- * Cattle producers need to be feeding a High-Mag mineral free choice to reduce the risk of cattle getting Grass Tetany.
- * Make cost effective decisions on fertilizing grassland.
- * Get those hooves checked out by your farrier. Winter was tough on feet and legs.
- * Plan your war against worms & flies NOW! Use the most cost effective options.

TAKE NOTE OF THESE IMPORTANT DATES!!

April 11	Call-in deadline for Yadkin Cattle Producers Meeting
April 12	High Country Regional Cattle Conference
April 14	Call-in deadline for Davie Cattle Producers Meeting
April 15	Cattle Producers Meeting in Yadkin County, 6:30 PM
April 16	Hay Day at the Piedmont Research Station beginning at 9:00AM
April 17	Davie Cattle Producers Meeting, 6:30 PM
April 25	Davie 4-H Golf Tournament, call 753-6100 for details
May 2	Master Gardener Plant Sale
May 8	Pesticide Collection Day in Yadkinville, call 336/679-2061



FLIES AFFECT EVERYONE:

Flies are attracted to ALL livestock and poultry because manure and leftover feed are food sources for them. Flies can reduce animal performance as well as irritate human and animal alike. The recent weather has been pretty wet setting-up a potential banner year for flies. Make your battle plans now. Don't wait until the animals are covered, your outside activities are invaded or even worse, your neighbors complain and relationships might be strained. Please contact me for options to control flies early before they become a major problem.



VALUE ADDED PRE-CONDITION FEEDER CALF SALE

The Statesville Area Feeder Calf Sale Committee is hosting a Value Added Pre-Condition Feeder Calf Sale this year. The sale will be Thursday, July 24th and has some new requirements that will make the sale more successful. The new rules include:

- * Weaned no later than June 10, 2014
- * Weigh at least 400 lbs. on July 24th
- * 2 rounds of Bovishield Gold Live
- * 1st round of Ultrabac 7/Somubac
- * 2nd round of One Shot Ultra
- * Dewormed and Tagged
- * Males must be castrated and healed prior to June 10



The committee also agreed to pay \$5/head up to 20 head for the vaccines. There must be a minimum of 400 head of like cattle consigned by the weaning deadline of June 10th. Extension will help with the vaccination process and will pre-grade your cattle on the farm to help you send quality cattle that will enhance the sale and the reputation of southeast cattle.

If you are interested in becoming BQA Certified, we can train you during the vaccination process and you can take the test at home or come to the office. At the Grading Workshop in early March, David LeMaster said that feedlots like southeastern cattle they just needed them to be better vaccinated and healthy when they got off the trucks. This is a good chance to show the feedlots we have the kind of cattle they want and they are worth the extra premium that value added cattle demand.

Contact the Yadkin Extension Office 679-2061 or the Iredell Extension Office at 704-873-0507 for more information on consigning.

LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD CHICKENS

It is time again for the spring Hy-Line Brown pullet sale. They are vaccinated against: Newcastle, Bronchitis, Fowl pox, Bovine, A.E., L.T. and Marek's disease. These pullets will begin to lay shortly after their delivery. The source is Snider Poultry Company, Staley NC. **The pick up point is West Rowan Farm, Home, and Garden, (formerly known as Steele Feed and Seed), Mt. Ulla, NC. The price is \$6.75. The number is limited, so order soon. Remember to bring your own crates.**

The Iredell County Cooperative Extension and West Rowan Farm, Home, and Garden will take orders for pullets and roosters and pass them along to the supplier. **If you want to order pullets, please call the Iredell Extension Office at 704-873-0507 before Monday, May 12, 2014. No orders will be taken after this date.** So that we can have an accurate number, please call in as soon as possible. **The delivery date is Thursday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** Please leave your phone number when you place your order.

If you have any questions or need directions, call the Yadkin or Iredell Extension Office. If you have friends that are interested please pass this information along to them.



Educational opportunities seem to pop up quickly making it difficult to send notices through the mail in a timely fashion. If you have email, please send me an email with your areas of interest (cattle, horses, forages, poultry, ponds, etc) and this way I can notify you by email of upcoming opportunities that might interest you. My email is at the top of this page.

HORSE MANAGEMENT TIPS



Start hunting hay for the upcoming winter months. Make contacts and find the hay that you feel is the best buy and meets your horse's nutritional needs. Many producers are getting ready to start mowing and now is a good time to get your foot in the door. If you have a place to store hay, buying hay out of the field can sometimes save you some money. Don't wait until snow is on the ground and you are out of hay to start looking.

With spring and summer comes beautiful weather as well as hot humid days. While we can go inside and enjoy a cold drink, our equine friends are mostly left to fend for themselves. Be sure to make preparations to provide your horses with shade, lots of cool clean water, and fly protection. When horses are hot, lack water or are irritated by flies, they become stressed and that weakens the horse's immunity, increasing the chances of illness and giving the horse an un-thrifty condition.

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

OPPORTUNITIES YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

HIGH COUNTRY REGIONAL CATTLE CONFERENCE



The Upper Mountain Research Station, 8004 NC Hwy. 88 in Laurel Springs will host a Regional Cattle Conference. The event will be Saturday, April 12 beginning at 9:00 AM. Topics from Management, to Forage, to Ag Safety will be discussed. Contact the Ashe County Extension Office, 336-846-5850 by April 9 to reserve your lunch or for more information.

HAY FIELD DAY, APRIL 16

There will be a Hay Field Day, Wednesday, April 16 at the Piedmont Research Station. It will begin at 9:00 AM rain or shine. There will be equipment vendors demonstrating machinery to mow, ted, rake and bale hay. The Research Station is located at 8350 Sherrill's Ford Rd, Salisbury, NC 28147. Please call the Rowan Extension Office at 704-216-8970 by April 14 to reserve your lunch or for more information.

FREE PESTICIDE COLLECTION DAY IN YADKIN



If you have old pesticides that are taking up space in your barn, garage or storage shed, make plans to bring them to the FREE Pesticide Disposal Day. NCDA&CS will accept any pesticide, (insecticide, fungicide, herbicide, etc.) in original containers and clearly labeled.

There is no charge for this service; however we *cannot* accept products with unknown identities, or not in pesticide containers. Paints and other hazardous waste will not be accepted.

The collection will be Thursday, May 8 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the County Landfill, off of Sugartown Rd. Call the Yadkin Extension Office, 679-2061 for more information or directions. This is a great opportunity to properly dispose of any unwanted pesticides.

