

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

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

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JOINT BEEF PRODUCERS MEETING IN DAVIE

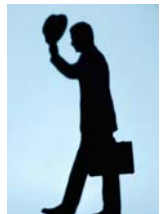
There will be a meeting for Davie and Yadkin County Beef Producers Tuesday, September 30, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Center Community Building, in Mocksville, beginning at 6:30 PM. Our topic of discussion will be: Alternative Feeds for Beef Cattle. The spring and summer rains were very inconsistent this year compromising the quality and quantity of our hay crop and fall grazing. Some hay got wet or was very mature at harvest so there is a chance the nutritive values could be less than in previous years. A lot of hay did not get the growth of past years so the tonnage is low as well. As a result, it might be necessary to provide cattle with a feed supplement to meet their needs. There are many types of feed options available and this meeting will address some of the common feeds as well as some alternative by-products that have a place in our cattle nutrition programs. We all want to get as much out of our cattle as we can, but without quality nutrition, that is difficult to achieve. So come join us as we discuss different feed supplements to use for your cattle grazing forages with questionable nutrient quality and to help stretch your limited hay supply. Supplements will help your cattle produce better and be less destructive to your pasture forage.

There will be a sponsored meal and **RESERVATIONS ARE NEEDED!!!** Please call the Extension Center at Yadkin 679-2061 or email phil_rucker@ncsu.edu NO LATER THAN 12:00 noon, Friday, September 26, 2014, 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 753-6100 or 679-2061, at least one week before the scheduled event.

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 it's nutrient content before you start to feed.
- # Don't waste expensive feed on non-productive animals (Cull open cows).
- # Formulate a plan to help you better prepare for future decisions.

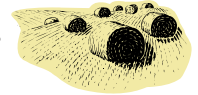


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EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

HAY DIRECTORY

This year I have had only a few requests to purchase hay. Along that same line, I've only had a few individuals say 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 meet their needs. Hay seems less plentiful this year so don't wait until you are feeding that last bale to start hunting.



LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BULLS & COWS

Cattle prices are high so more producers are marketing their calves right off mamma. Nothing wrong with that but it has led to a potential problem for some. Cattle producers are not keeping back as many bulls to market and the local bull supply has dwindled. I have had several producers asking if I know of any bulls for sale and I put out my feelers but have little response. Most folks are saying they sold their bull calves or have finished using their current bull and sold him at the market because prices were high and it was easier than holding on to him until they found another breeder to buy him. Same thing with females; they market potential replacement heifers right off mamma to the weekly auction and there are none to fill the holes when producers market older cows who are no longer meeting farm expectations.

I'm creating a list of producers who need cattle to purchase and one's with cattle to market. PLEASE contact me if you have bulls and heifers you would like to sell. Breeding season is approaching and the bull situation could get serious. I know prices are good at the weekly auction but that bull or those heifers you need to move might be just what another breeder needs. Please contact me and I'll see if we can't get some folks together and make this into a win-win situation for everybody.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING SCHOOLS

Several of you have expressed interest in learning how to perform Artificial Insemination (AI) on your cattle herd. Getting enough participants to hold a school has been the problem. PROBLEM SOLVED. Two nationally respected cattle breeding services will hold AI schools in the next few weeks. If interested, you need to contact the local representative to register for the course.

There will be class time to learn the reproductive cycle, general reproduction basics and other management practices. There will be plenty of practice time with the cattle so dress appropriately and expect to get a little "dirty".

All participants are responsible for meals, travel and lodging (if necessary) each day.

American Breeder Service will host an AI School Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, at Harward Bros. Livestock Market in Turnersburg. Class will run from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Deadline is Sept. 19. Contact Steve Gordon 704-506-7204 for more information and to register.

Select Sire Power will host an AI School Oct. 16 – 18. The Oct. 16 class will begin at 5:00pm at the Wilkes Extension Office. The classes on the 17th & 18th will begin at 9:00am at the Wilkes Livestock Exchange in N. Wilkesboro. For information and to register contact Clell Seitz 828-612-7226 or Steve Furrow 540-520-4804. Deadline is Oct. 6. Limited to the first 15 applications.

HELP US HELP YOU

As you can see things get busy, events happen and some are announced with little time between me finding out about the event and the impending deadline. This makes email such a valuable tool. Many of you have provided us your email (if you have one) and this allows us to forward information to you MUCH QUICKER. If you have an email and have not provided it to me, please do so I can add you to the list serve. There are times my schedule, the office staff schedule, Post Office delivery schedule and/or equipment may not be working, creating difficulties in getting out printed information in a timely manner. This makes email such a wonderful tool for us to use to help keep you informed. I fought technology for a long time but now I see the benefits and it can reduce time in getting important information out to the public. If you have not shared your email with our office, please do so. I would hate for you to miss a deadline or important event because I could not MAIL the information out in enough time.

ATTENTION!!!

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. 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 herd 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.

Make sure you have an ample supply of quality hay to get your equine friends through the winter. Some say this will be a normal winter but some rumors are flying around that this winter could be worse than last year. Hay looks like it could be in short supply so make arrangements NOW!

Check the barn and other facilities for wear and maintenance needs. Loose boards, nails that stick out, broken gate hinges and other hazards could cause potential injury for your horse. Loose roofing materials that flop in the wind could startle your horse. Take the time to look around and fix any potential issues before they become a problem.

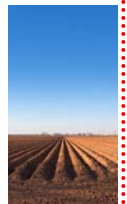
**SOIL SAMPLE EARLY TO AVOID FEES**

Be prepared to give your grass what it needs to recover and produce quality forage in 2015. 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 or your grassland. A Soil Test will help you apply what the forage needs, in proper amounts so you will spend your fertilizer dollar more wisely.

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. More information can be found on the Agronomic Division website, <http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pals/>

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Yadkin 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 Yadkin County Extension Center, 679-2061. Please call me or email phil_rucker@ncsu.edu if you have questions or need further information.



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 26	Deadline to register for Cattlemen's Meeting
September 30	Cattle Producers Meeting in Mocksville
Sept 30 – Oct 2	ABS Artificial Insemination School, Turnersburg
October 16-18	Select Sires Artificial Insemination School, Wilkesboro

**PLANTING & GRAZING ANNUALS**

There are times when our permanent forages just need a vacation. Overgrazing can reduce production. Hot dry summers can weaken even a good fescue stand. Planting annual forages allows you to rest permanent pastures and not give up cattle performance. Mark Hollar in Yadkin County hosted a trial on a summer annual grazing mix and the mix grew during the hot dry summer while the fescue slowed down and even went backwards. Mark's cattle remained in good flesh during this trial. Some late summer rains came helping the fescue revive which will provide some grazing this fall. Utilizing a rotational grazing system, Mark was able to increase the number of grazing days on this summer forage, reduce the wasted/trampled grass and the quick regrowth allowed Mark additional grazing time helping rest his fescue even more. At the September 2 workshop at Mark's, producers saw the benefits of this grazing management system. Contact me if you are interested in trying some annuals or utilizing a rotational grazing system.

