**LIVESTOCK NEWS**

**Important Information**

**March 19 - Clinton Feeder Calf Sale** - Will be held at 7 p.m. at the Sampson County Livestock Facility. Cattle should be brought to the facility for grading, penning, etc., on March 19 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information or to request a consignment form, please call Paul Gonzalez at Sampson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at 910-592-7161.

**April 14 - All You Wanted to Know About Motor Carrier Laws But Did Not Want to Ask A Weight Man** – Meeting to be held 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the O. P. Owens Agriculture Center, Highway 72 West, in Lumberton. The Motor Carrier Enforcement Section of the N.C. Highway Patrol will provide a special meeting for farmers and truckers who specialize in transporting agricultural products. The major topics to be discussed are the Federal Motor Carrier Rules and Regulations and North Carolina’s size and weight laws. Additional subjects related to both local and interstate trucking will be presented. Ample time will be allowed for questions and answers. For more information and to reserve your space, please call me at 910-671-3276.

**Hay Directories** - Due to the drought, hay supplies are still limited. There are two web sites that list hay for sale.

- NCDA Hay Alert is at [http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/](http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/).
- Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222.
- The Southeastern Hay Directory is available online at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow/AG/hay/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow/AG/hay/).

If you have hay for sale or need hay, call the me at the Extension Center and leave your contact information.

If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, please call me at the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at 910-671-3276 or E-mail me at Michelle_Shooter@ncsu.edu. Individuals with disabilities and/or special needs desiring accommodations to participate in these activities should contact me by calling 5 days prior to an event.

Sincerely,

**Michelle M. Shooter**

Michelle M. Shooter
Extension Agent
Agriculture - Livestock
Ronald Hammonds was born and raised in the Saddletree community of Robeson County. After working for CP&L for ten years, he decided to move back to the family farm and begin a cattle business. He is now the third generation of his family to work and live off the land.

He remembers when he went to the bank to take out a loan to get started in the hay baling and cattle business, the banker kept asking how much tobacco he was going to grow as well. He stated that he didn’t plan on growing tobacco and was getting into the hay and cattle business.

Many years later, Mr. Hammonds has established himself in both. He runs a herd of Angus/Hereford/Simmental cross cattle and really likes producing black baldie calves. He ships hay to all areas of the country, and has even purchased a couple of long-horned cattle and a dozen buffalo, which graze in the pasture in front of his house. Like the rest of the farmers and producers in the state, he was greatly affected by the drought and hot weather. He ended up culling a great number of cattle from his herd. Mr. Hammonds weans and preconditions his calves and markets them through feeder calf sales.

One of Mr. Hammond’s top priorities is educating the youth in Robeson County by having field days at his farm. Local high school students work with his animals and learn about farming. His concern is that the more removed people are from agriculture, the harder it’s going to be for us to have a safe food supply. He says, “Our responsibility is to encourage youth and present opportunities for young people to farm or they are going to leave us,” making us rely on other places for food.

Mr. Hammonds is also involved with many local groups. He is currently the president of the Robeson County Livestock Producers Association and served as President of the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association in 2007. Mr. Hammonds and his wife are the proud parent’s of four grown children.
Animal Waste Management
by Becky Spearman, Bladen County Livestock Extension Agent

10 Hour Animal Waste Operators Certification Training Class
A proper waste management plan and waste application system are vital parts of a confined animal operation. If waste from animal operations is not properly managed, it can have many negative impacts on the overall farming operation as well as the community. The negative consequences of a poorly managed waste application system can cost in terms of dollars, loss of land values, impaired environmental quality, and loss of good standing in the community. Legislation requires certification of operators of animal waste management systems. To become a certified operator, one must complete an approved training course on the operation of animal waste management systems, pass an appropriate examination, and pay the required fees. This training is designed to provide operators of animal waste management systems the basic understanding needed to operate and maintain these systems in an efficient and environmentally sound manner.

April 23 and April 24, 2008 - Bladen County Extension Office. Call Becky or Sherry at 910-862-4591 to register. The cost is $5 for the class or $30 for class and a manual. The manuals and tests have changed this year, so we recommend purchasing a new manual to study for the test. The class will be limited to 40 people, so sign up early.


Animal Waste Continuing Education Classes
March 12 from 12 - 3 p.m. (2 hrs) in Bladen County. Call 910-862-4591 to register.
March 13 at 7 p.m. (2 hrs) in Bladen County. $10 charge if you are not a member of the Bladen Livestock Association. Call 910-862-4591 to register.

Forage Management Tip
From Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina.

March
• Apply fertilizer to cool-season grasses to increase spring production.
• Dig weed free bermudagrass sprigs and plant them before growth begins. Consider using a herbicide.
• Control winter annual weeds in dormant bermudagrass with herbicides, burning or grazing pressure.
• Grass tetany may be a problem as rapid grass growth and cool, wet weather prevails - supplement with a high magnesium mineral.
• Scatter manure from areas where cattle congregated during the winter.

April
• Fertilize cool-season grasses if you have not already done so.
• Watch for symptoms of grass tetany.
• Use all winter annual pastures before grazing on other pastures which may be harvested as hay.
• Fertilize warm-season grasses as soon as dormancy breaks.
• Get all hybrid bermudagrass established this month unless irrigation is available.
• Plant bahia grass, crabgrass, switchgrass. Plant seeded varieties of bermudagrass at the end of the month.
• Graze cool season grasses down to 2-4 inches. Harvest for hay if growth is too rapid to maintain grazing pressure.
• Winter annuals should be completely grazed or harvested for hay before grazing other pastures.
Bermudagrass is the main permanent forage grass planted in Southeastern North Carolina. In the past several years, there have been some new sprigged varieties available and some improved seeded varieties. This article will discuss some of the differences between sprigging and seeding bermuda.

**Sprigging Bermudagrass** - Sprigging bermudagrass is a relatively dependable method for establishing hybrid bermudagrass. Some of the Hybrid cultivars include Coastal, Tifton 44, Tifton 78, Tifton 85, Midland 99 and Ozark. Hybrids do not make viable seed and are sprigged. Recommendation for sprigging rate is 50 bushels per acre. It is recommended to plant dormant sprigs in late winter - typically Feb 20 to Mar 20 in SE NC. Cover fresh sprigs with 1.5” soil and cultipack. Dormant sprigs (no green leaves) are more desirable than non-dormant sprigs. Dig and transplant on the same day to keep from drying out. The sprigs should be evenly distributed and covered. Plant sprigs less than 2 inches deep. Sprigs may be broadcast or planted in rows. Soil should be well-firmed after planting to improve contact with sprigs and encourage rapid root development. If sprigging results in one healthy sprig every 6 square feet and moisture is adequate, a full stand of grass can be achieved in one year. Don’t graze until complete coverage; graze/hay if weeds are a problem. Use an aerator to help peg down sprigs to promote growth. Pre-emergent weed control (diuron - Direx 4L) is labeled for use in establishment year, if not grazed.

**Seeded Bermudagrass** - Seeded varieties are newer to the market. Choose a well-adapted variety that meets your needs. Avoid pure sources of Giant or common bermudagrass. Varieties are often blended and sold under different names – check what is in blend. Yields of true seeded varieties are similar to the yields of most hybrids. Seeding rate varies, but most companies recommend 15 pounds per acre. Plant seeds when soil temperature is 65 degrees or higher at a 4” depth - usually by late April. Seed into a well-packed clean-tilled seedbed. Prepare the ground as soon as possible in the spring to allow the soil to settle. Broadcast seed and immediately cultipack into a firm seedbed. For no-till seeding, control seed depth - not deeper than 1/8”. Remove seed tubes from disc openers to allow seeds to fall directly in front of the press wheel for good seed/soil contact. Avoid fields with heavy competition such as crabgrass, goosegrass, and nutsedge. There is no effective weed control and stands can be lost to weed competition in the first year. Use glyphosate or paraquat to create a weed-free seedbed. Do not disturb the soil after spraying; tillage encourages more crabgrass germination. For sprayfields, producers must use a Superior Variety (see note below).

**Seeded vs. Hybrid for Swine Sprayfields.** The Interagency Nutrient Management Committee (INMC) recommended that RYE database assign superior seeded varieties the same yield for Nutrient Management Plans. The INMC has a memo on RYE values for Superior Lines of Seeded Bermudagrass. Call the Extension Office for a copy of the memo.

**Panoramic 2SL Herbicide**

*Information from NCSU Weed Specialists*

There is now a labeled product for grass control in bermudagrass - Panoramic 2SL. Panoramic 2SL herbicide is an imazapic product distributed by Alligare, LLC. It controls the same weeds and has the same potential to injure bermudagrass as Plateau. Some of the weeds controlled are smooth crabgrass, large crabgrass, broadleaf signalsgrass, field sandbur, yellow foxtail, green foxtail, giant foxtail, fall panicum, Texas panicum, barnyardgrass, johnsongrass, vaseygrass, bahiagrass, and yellow and purple nutsedge. Panoramic 2SL will NOT control goosegrass.

4 to 6 ounces per acre will control most labeled weeds. Control annual grasses when in the seedling stage. The rate will range from 4 to 12 ounces, but use the 4 ounce rate whenever possible. This is due to the bermudagrass injury that will be observed. Depending on the grass, 6 to 12 ounces may be needed.

There are no grazing restrictions and a 7 day haying restriction. Panoramic may be applied to common and coastal bermudagrass varieties. Jiggs bermudagrass is more sensitive than other types. Expect 30 to 45 days of bermudagrass suppression after application. Do not apply 1) to drought-stressed bermudagrass, 2) during spring transition, 3) to newly aerated fields for 30 days, 4) to newly sprigged or seeded bermudagrass, 5) to World Feeder bermudagrass. To speed bermudagrass recovery, apply with nitrogen fertilizer as the spray carrier and do not add a spray adjuvant. If spray carrier is water, add a nonionic surfactant at 0.25% v/v or methylated seed oil at 1.5 to 2 pints per acre. Panoramic controls winter weeds such as annual ryegrass, tall fescue, wild oats, and little barley when applied to dormant bermudagrass and can be mixed with glyphosate at this time.
Fencing
Adapted by Michelle Shooter from “The Estimated Cost for Livestock Fencing,”
Iowa State University

Fencing can be your greatest asset or your greatest nightmare. Fencing decisions should be based on the animal species, age of the animal, breed and temperament of the animal, production system, and situation. Remember, it is always harder to keep a hungry animal in a fence!

There are two types of fences - - physical barriers, such as woven wire, barbed wire, high tensile, and wood, and physiological barriers, such as poly wire, poly tape, and low-tension smooth wire.

Woven wire should be placed 12 inches apart and 39 inches high. Woven wire is expensive up front but lasts longer than barbed wire fences. It can be used to fence the whole pasture, but from an economic standpoint, it can be used just for holding pens, corral areas, and other areas where the animals are to be worked.

High tensile fences have ease of construction, long life, and less maintenance than woven wire. Wire (11-14 gauge) with a tensile strength of 170,000-200,000 psi (pounds per square inch) has a breaking strength of 1,800 pounds.

Wood fences are also expensive, but very attractive. The main thing to remember when building a wood fence is to put the horizontal post on the side with the livestock so that when they push against it, it has the bearings of the vertical posts. Also, make sure your wood posts are treated.

The post spacings are as follows: woven wire - 14- to 16-foot spacing, barbed wire – 12- to 16-foot spacing, high tensile wire - 16- to 90-foot spacing, and electric wire - 20- to 90-foot spacing.

Remember to do your research. Your local Cooperative Extension agent can work with you to develop the right fencing for your needs.

Fence Laws
Adapted by Michelle Shooter from “North Carolina Fence Law and Liability for Livestock, Horses, and Dogs,”
The NC State Economist

North Carolina law requires livestock (bovine or equine animals, swine, sheep or goat), poultry, and horses to be fenced in with adequate space. Although there are currently no regulations in North Carolina for the type of fencing that must be used to restrain livestock, the livestock owner must take all reasonable precautions to keep the animal within a fence.

Livestock owners who do not act reasonably to keep their animals fenced in are liable for damages caused by their stray animals. This potential liability can range from damage to a neighbor’s vegetable garden to a fatal traffic accident. Also, a livestock owner who knowingly or recklessly fails to keep his/her animals fenced in can be charged with a misdemeanor.

Liability for damages caused by stray livestock depends upon whether the livestock owner took sensible steps to keep the livestock fenced. If the livestock owner acted reasonably and the livestock escaped, the owner will not be held liable.

If stray animals are running at large on your property, you may impound the animal, but you are required to provide the animal good and wholesome feed and water and immediately notify the owner. To get their animal back, the owner must reimburse the keeper of costs to keep the animal and any damage the animal might have caused. If the owner cannot be found or refuses to pay, there is a further procedure for providing public notice and conducting a public sale of the animal. North Carolina encourages impounding stray animals rather than killing them. A person who kills a stray when it is possible to impound the animal may be civilly liable for its value and may even be guilty of a misdemeanor.
Meat Goat Marketing

By Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña, Richmond County Livestock Extension Agent

So, I’ve got my goats, now what do I do? This is not a good situation for producers to be in. In any new business, it's important to have a business plan that includes a well thought out marketing component BEFORE you get your goats. Below are several example marketing strategies that producers are using to successfully sell goats in North Carolina.

On-Farm Sales- This is a very common and profitable way to market your goats because you are saving on fuel cost, sales commission charges, and time spent at sale barns. If you decide to do this, you will need to be an excellent advertiser. You can do this by putting a “Goats For Sale” sign near the road in English and Spanish, making your own business cards and put them in key locations such as the farm store, grocery store, etc., put your goats on a website so that people throughout the state can find you, put a flier in Spanish advertising your goats in locations that Hispanics frequent such as Mexican restaurants and stores. You will be even more successful at this if you get involved in County and State goat organizations to network with people who will come to recognize you as a reputable breeder or quality grower of meat. Remember that the consumer must legally take the goat off your farm for slaughter. One disadvantage to on-farm sales is that they can be time consuming, and unless you have a set time for sales, people may come any day of the week and any time of day. Also, you may not enjoy negotiating the price of your animals. Biosecurity can also be a concern.

Value Added- You can double or even triple the value of an animal by having your goats slaughtered and selling the packaged meat. You will need a meat handlers license and will need to take your meat to a certified slaughter facility. You can work with them on getting your own label on the meat for advertising. You can sell your meat out of your home, but will need a deep freeze or cooler and can sell at Farmers Markets, but will need a refrigerated truck. You could even sell your meat on the internet or to local grocery stores. This type of marketing, of course, takes more time, but may be well worth the profits.

Weekly Auctions- Many producers sell their goats at weekly auctions. An advantage of auctions is that little planning or effort is needed in order to find a buyer, however you will have very little control over the price that you will get for the goats. Another disadvantage of graded and weekly sales are “shrinkage”. Shrinkage occurs when animals lose weight from being handled and transported. They can lose between 4-10% of their live weight. Graded sells also occur in an auction format, but are scheduled just a few times a year, and will result in a higher price as compared to weekly auctions since the animals are graded and sorted into uniform groups.

Vaccinations and Deworming Schedules for Horses

By Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña

It’s important to properly vaccinate your horses in order to prevent disease. Horses need a 3-way Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis with tetanus toxoid, as well as a West Nile vaccine twice a year starting right before mosquito season. They also need a rabies vaccine once a year. Pregnant mares need an Equine Herpesvirus 1 vaccine to prevent abortions at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation. Your veterinarian may sell you all the vaccines to give the horse yourself in order to help save money, but the veterinarian must legally inject your horses with the rabies vaccine. It’s a good idea to work with your veterinarian on your vaccination program, because there may be diseases that are rampant in your area that it would be a good idea to vaccinate for, as well as specific diseases on your farm. You should start vaccinating foals at age 1-6 months depending on when your mare was vaccinated during gestation. Foal vaccinations usually occur in a 3 series system.

Also, since trail riding season is about to begin, please don’t forget to get a Coggins test pulled to make sure any horses leaving the farm have negative test results. Your veterinarian will pull the blood from your horses and send it to the laboratory to be analyzed. You will need to have a Coggins test performed once per year. Don’t forget your deworming program because it is important year round. It’s a good idea to write all vaccination and deworming schedules on a calendar so you don’t forget which horse should be vaccinated on which day. You can make things simpler on your farm if you get all your horses on the same schedule, but the mare and foal vaccinations will depend on when the mare became pregnant and when the foal was born. Happy safe trail season!
James Parsons - New Area Poultry Agent

James Parsons is the new Area Specialized Poultry Agent for this area. His area covers the following counties: Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Hoke, Onslow, Robeson, Sampson, and Wayne. James received his BS degree in Agricultural Education from NCSU in 1975 and his ME degree in Agricultural Education with a minor in Poultry Science from NCSU in 1988.

His work experience includes: Vocational Agriculture teacher at Plymouth High School from January 1975 to June 1976, Feed Mill Manager for First Colony Farms in Creswell from June 1976 to December 1976, Broiler Service Representative with Central Soya from December 1976 to October 1981, University Poultry Research Unit Manager at NCSU from October 1981 to January 1987, Farm Superintendent for all poultry research at NCSU from January 1987 to November 1988, and Area Specialized Poultry Agent with CES from November 1988 to present with the exception of 9 months as Interim County Extension Director in Pender County from June 2000 to March 2001.

He works closely with local poultry integrators and conducts quarterly educational service representative meetings for the service personnel. Nutrient management, mortality disposal, and water quality are currently his primary focus areas. He also strives to keep integrators and contract poultry growers abreast of the changing and increasing regulations facing the poultry industry.

If you have any poultry questions you can reach him at 910-296-2143 or 910-289-7624.

Stockpiled Poultry Litter
By James Parsons, Cooperative Extension Area Poultry Agent

The high price of commercial fertilizer has greatly increased the demand for poultry litter. A few years ago, some poultry farmers considered poultry litter a liability. It was a waste product that had to be removed from poultry houses and fed to cattle or used as a fertilizer source for crop production. Now, poultry litter is in high demand from crop farmers who want it for its fertilizer value. I have not heard of a poultry farmer recently that had difficulty finding a home for his litter.

While poultry litter is in demand by crop farmers and much is being stockpiled, I think it is time to review some of the regulations related to poultry litter.

1. Poultry litter cannot be stockpiled closer than 100 feet from a perennial stream or perennial waterbody or well
2. Each field that receives an application of poultry litter must be in someone’s nutrient management plan.
3. Poultry litter cannot be spread with 25 feet of perennial waters.
4. Poultry litter cannot be spread within 100 feet of wells.
5. Poultry litter cannot be spread within 200 feet of a dwelling other than those owned by the landowner.
6. Poultry litter must be sampled within 60 days of application.
7. Poultry litter must be applied at nitrogen agronomic rates or phosphorous agronomic rates if the phosphorous index is above the trigger value for the soil type receiving the litter. Anyone receiving cost-share monies must adhere to the phosphorous rates.
8. Poultry litter must be applied to fields on an actively growing crop, a crop that will break dormancy within 30 days or on a field where a crop will be planted within 30 days.
9. Litter that is stockpiled more than 15 days must be covered. Plastic covers will suffice.

Over the last few weeks I have seen numerous fields with UNCOVERED stockpiled poultry litter. I hope this litter will be applied according to the regulations listed above and covered if it will be stockpiled more than 15 days. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 910-296-2143.
Please remember that the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is here to serve you. Livestock agent Michelle Shooter is certified to teach BQA, PQA, and TQA courses, but she needs to know who is interested in these programs in order to plan programs for this year. If you are interested in these programs, any other livestock programs, or have any questions, please contact Michelle at the Cooperative Extension Center at 910-671-3276. If you are new to these programs, information and website links are listed below.

**Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA)**
BQA is a program designed to increase consumer confidence in beef production. According to the national Beef Quality Assurance website, the “programs provide information to U.S. beef producers and beef consumers of how common sense husbandry techniques can be coupled with accepted scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management and environmental conditions. BQA guidelines are designed to make certain all beef consumers can take pride in what they purchase – and can trust and have confidence in the entire beef industry.” Being a Beef Quality Assurance certified producer increases beef consumer confidence as well as opens more marketing opportunities, such as the yearly BQA sales around the state. The cattle at these sales must come from certified producer farms. More information can be found at http://www.nccattle.com/ncbqa.html or you can contact Michelle at 910-671-3276.

**Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) & Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA)**
Most slaughter facilities require independent pork producers to be certified in one or both of these programs. In the same way as the Beef Quality Assurance Program, the PQA and TQA programs are for independent producers aimed at producing safe, wholesome pork products for consumers in both domestic and export markets. Producers should be certified in PQA, but TQA is targeted towards those transporting the hogs from the farm to the slaughter facility. According to the TQA website, “the TQA certification will identify you to producers and meat packers as a transporter who is conscientious about properly transporting hogs and who understands the value of producing quality pork products. More information can be found at http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQA/PQA.aspx or http://www.pork.org/Producers/TQA/TQA.aspx.

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**Robeson County Livestock Association Meeting** - The March meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the O. P. Owens Agriculture Center, Highway 72 West, Lumberton.

The topic will be:

The Future of Agriculture in Robeson County:
How You and Your Farm Can Offer Opportunities for Our County's Youth

Please register by calling me at the Extension Center at 910-671-3276