

Livestock News

July 2022

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Antibiotics for Livestock – Changes Coming in June 2023

In 2017, the Food and Drug Administration implemented the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) which focused on veterinary oversight of medically important antibiotics delivered to livestock through feed and/or water. This initial change did not include medically important antibiotics available over-the-counter by other dosage forms, such as via injection. Because of this, additional guidance will remove any remaining medically important antimicrobials to be obtained over-the-counter.

These product labels will now contain the prescription (Rx) statement, "Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian." With this new change, livestock producers will be legally required to obtain a prescription from a licensed veterinarian with which the producer has a valid veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR). A VCPR means:

- 1) The veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions;
- 2) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal. This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal by virtue of an examination of the animal or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept; and
- 3) The veterinarian is readily available or has arranged for emergency coverage and for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

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Robeson County Center
 O. P. Owens Agriculture Center
 P. O. Box 2280
 455 Caton Road
 Lumberton, NC 28359

Phone - 910-671-3276
 Fax - 910-671-6278
 Website - robeson.ces.ncsu.edu

Hay Directory

North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert lists people selling or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay. To access, visit <http://www.ncagr.gov/HayAlert/>.

If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact the Extension Center at 910-671-3276 or visit our website at robeson.ces.ncsu.edu. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Cooperative Extension no later than five (5) business days before the event.



Taylor Chavis
Extension Agent
Agriculture - Livestock

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Animal Waste Management

By: Becky Spearman, Extension Livestock Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Bladen County Center

10 Hour Initial Operator in Charge (OIC) License Class

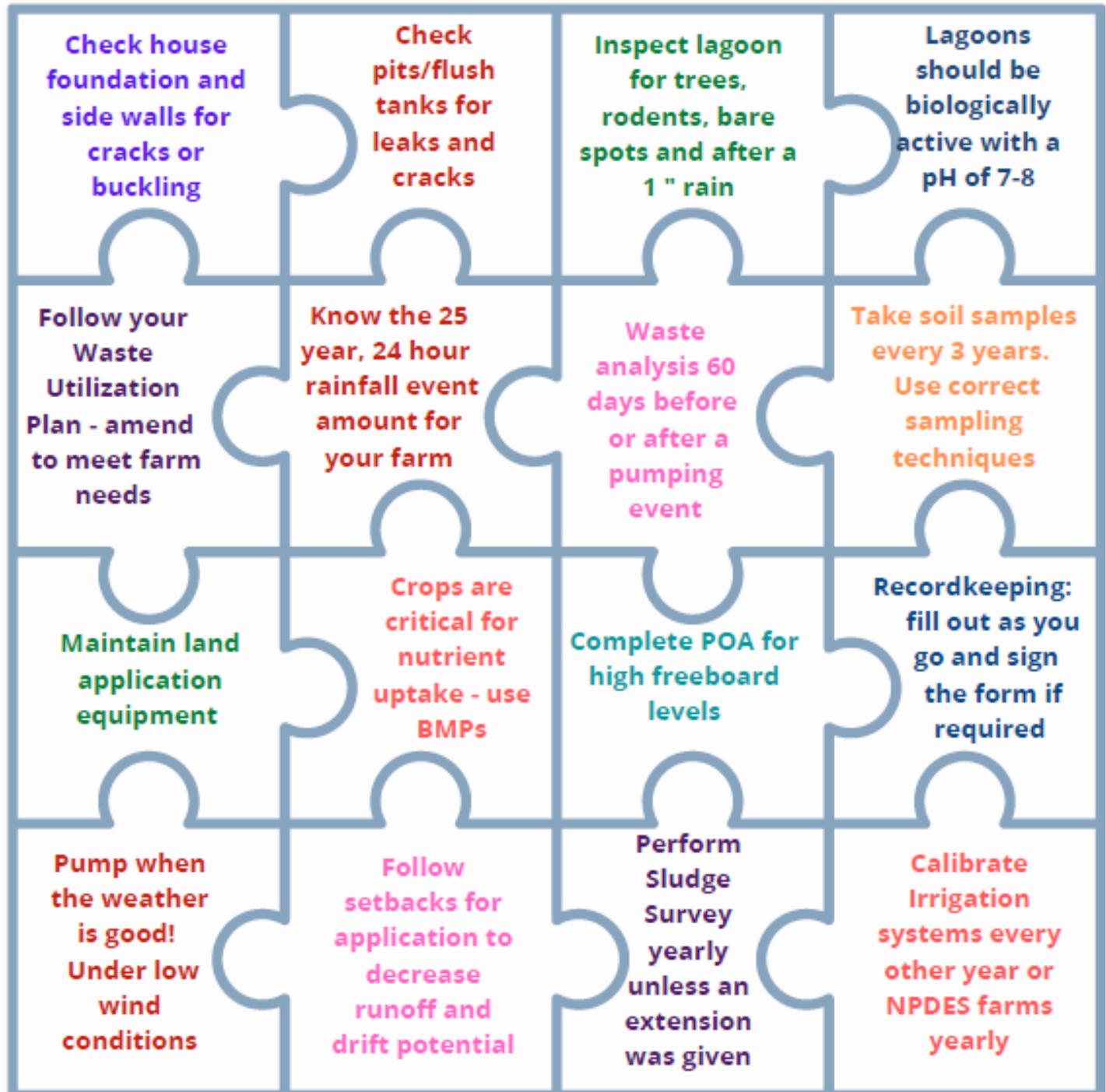
July 19th - 20th, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. both days

Location: Lenoir County Livestock Arena

Address: 1791 NC-11 Kinston NC, 28504

Cost: Manuals: \$20 (cash or check) and Exam fee: \$25 check made out to WPCSOCC

Contact: Kaelyn Mohrfeld, kfmohrfe@ncsu.edu or (252) 560-6094 (call or text)



Preconditioning Calves — Is It for You?

By: Randy Wood, Extension Livestock Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Scotland County Center

For cow-calf farmers that make their living selling feeder calves, what avenue you use to market these calves is an important decision. For years, most cattle farmers in the Southeast used the tried-and-true graded feeder calf sales at their local stockyard. Today, there are less of these traditional graded sales (non-weaned calves that have had a set of vaccinations) to choose from, as more and more of them are moving towards preconditioned sales. Some farmers view this trend with an attitude of “whatever makes me more money”, while others are viewing this as just another way the feed yards are taking even more money out of the pocket of the small farmer. Whatever your view of this evolution of feeder-calf marketing is, it seems to be here to stay. Let’s take a minute to discuss preconditioning and see if it’s right for you.

What is Preconditioning?

Preconditioning is a process where calves are run through a series of on-farm management protocols prior to selling. There are all types of preconditioning programs out there, and each type of sale has their own rules and regulations they want you to follow. Regardless of what program or sale you follow, they all revolve around three major areas: the calves are weaned for 45-60 days prior to selling, a complete vaccination and health program is followed, and the calves must be broke to a feed bunk and water trough. There are different variations and additional rules to follow for various programs, but these three areas are the main points they all revolve around. In theory this is not a big deal; wean the calves for a few weeks, give them some shots, and put them on feed. BUT, if all you have ever done is round up calves on sale day and weaned them on the trailer on the way to the stockyards then there’s no doubt it’s a lot more work and time on your part to precondition.

The question I get asked all the time is, “Should I switch to a preconditioned sale if I’ve never sold in one before?” I always respond by asking, “Do you have adequate facilities to wean a group of calves? Do you have space to feed/graze these calves for 2 additional months on farm? Can you

feed these calves some type of concentrate to recoup the weight loss they will experience during the weaning process?” If you answered yes to these questions, then at a minimum you need to strongly consider at least trying a preconditioned sale if you’ve never sold in one before. However, If you do not have a decent weaning pen, or will not put in the time and expense feeding these calves leading up to sale time, then you probably want to avoid the inevitable head-aches coming with keeping these calves on farm for two more months.

There is no doubt that prices on a preconditioned sale of any type will be much higher than a traditional non-weaned graded sale, and most certainly higher than a weekly slaughter sale. How much higher is anybody’s guess year to year, and even week to week. I’ve seen calves bring anywhere from \$0.05 to \$0.20 over a traditional graded sale. On a 5 weight calf, 5 cents is not enough to get anybody excited, but 15 cents on a 750 steer is nearly \$120. That kind of price premium is worth a whole lot of aggravation. While nobody can every tell you for sure how much your calves will bring until 10 minutes after the sale, what you can feel sure about is your calves will bring a better price, will be healthier, and should be walking across the scales at a heavier weight if you have put some feed and extra growing time in them.

Is it enough money to justify the time and money you will invest? That will be up to each farmer to decide on their own. I’ve personally sold preconditioned calves where I was more than happy with the returns and other times where I was fit to be tied they did not bring any more than they did. The same statement holds true however for every other method I’ve sold cattle by. The buyers and feedlots love preconditioned cattle sales as they know they are getting better cattle that should not fall to pieces once they leave the sale barn; whether they are paying you enough to off-set your additional investment will be up to you to decide. Inevitably some farms will never adopt preconditioning, but for the farms that can make it work it seems that this is here to stay.

Parasite Management and Grazing for Sheep and Goats

By: Tom Shea, Extension Livestock and Row Crops Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Moore County Center

Parasites and predators are two of the largest problems that producers face when raising sheep and goats, especially in the southeastern United States. Predation is often dramatic and traumatic, but parasites are the silent killer. Predation can be prevented by strong fences, livestock guardian animals, and other precautionary measures. Compared to predation pressure, parasite issues can be more difficult to deal with.

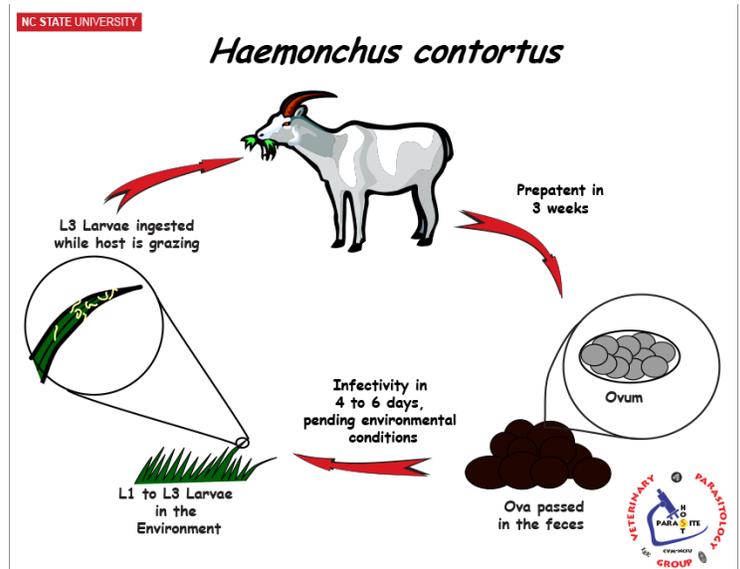
Many of the parasite treatments that we have available to us are overused and parasites are becoming resistant. This is leading to more and deadlier parasite issues in small ruminants. People often ask, "How often should I dewormer my sheep or goats? Every 3 months, 6 months?" The answer is neither. In order to slow down resistance to the dewormers we have, you should only administer dewormer based on FAMACHA© scores. FAMACHA© is a diagnostic test to help small ruminant producers identify animals that require anthelmintic treatment and those which do not require deworming. The tool is a card that matches eyelid color to anemia levels, an indicator of clinical barber pole worm infection. Its use is limited to the parasites which cause anemia. Producers must receive training in order to receive a card. Producers can receive training on-line or through an N.C. Cooperative Extension event.

Wormx.info is a website from the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control. This is a great resource for producers to use to gather information about parasite control in their small ruminant herds and flocks. They have the most up-to-date information for using dewormers, including using combination dewormers to reduce the risk of dewormer resistance. The website puts out newsletters in both English and Spanish. They also provide training for FAMACHA© through their on-line portal. They have best management practices suggestions that include genetic selection for parasite resistance to pasture management to prevent parasite issues.

One of the most effective ways to prevent

parasite issues is good pasture management. Most parasites live on the bottom 2 inches of grass blades and stalks. The best management practice for grazing is not to graze below 3 inches. This maximizes forage productivity and availability and reduces the likelihood of the sheep and goats ingesting parasites. This can be accomplished by subdividing pastures with temporary fences which allows flexibility in your grazing plans. This is often the cheapest and most effective way to combat parasites. Moving animals weekly or more often allows to the animals to move from affected areas before parasite eggs have time to hatch.

Please contact your local Extension office for more information on how to combat parasite issues in sheep and goats.



Native Warm-Season Grasses

By: Brian Parrish, Extension Agriculture Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Harnett County Center

Native warm-season grasses are bunch grasses that are most productive during the warmer months of the year (April through mid-September). The many benefits of native warm season grasses include nutrition for livestock, high forage yield potential, drought resilience, and the wildlife habitat they provide. Native warm-season grasses can produce good yields with low nitrogen inputs as well.

“In a recent three year study in Alabama, a mixture of big bluestem, little bluestem, and indiagrass was managed under continuous grazing as a system for developing beef replacement heifers. Pastures were grazed when grasses reached a target height of 20 inches. Over the three-year study there were no differences in seasonal forage production in this mixture when receiving 60 lbs of Nitrogen per acre or no nitrogen at spring emergence. Average forage mass was 2,970 pounds of dry matter per acre. Beef heifer performance was 1.1 pounds per day of gain, with an average stocking rate of 855 pounds of animal body weight per acre. For Comparison, heifer average daily gain on other warm-season perennial grasses adapted to the Southeast are often 1 to 1.5 pounds per day.”

Disadvantages of Native Warm Season Grasses:

1. Establishment of native grasses is slow and requires planning to be successful. The seed bed should be relatively grass- and weed-free prior to planting. There are also relatively few herbicides that can be used during establishment.
2. Native grasses are slow to emerge and establish.
3. They also require more attention to grazing management than some other more commonly used summer grasses. For example, Native grasses in the study mentioned were grazed from 20 inches down to 15 inches. This is a lot different than grazing down to 3 to 4 inches, which is common with other grasses.

When these grasses are grown for hay, they can help producers save money on fertilizer costs. These grasses, once established, have an incredible root volume that goes way down into the soil. These extensive, deep roots allow warm-season grasses to perform and yield well even during drought periods. Some of the warm-season grasses such as lowland switch grass and gamagrass also grow well in areas that are too wet for hybrid Bermudagrass. Having some of your forages in native warm-season grasses could benefit your operation in times of drought and in times when fertilizer prices are high. For more information on native grasses, visit the Center for Native Grassland Management website at <https://nativegrasses.tennessee.edu/>. There is also a new book out, “Native Grass Forages For the Eastern U.S.” by Patrick Keyser <https://nativegrasses.tennessee.edu/native-grass-forages/>.

References: Hay and Forage Grower, April-May 2022 “Cut Nitrogen with Native Warm-Season Grasses” Kim Mullenix and Landon Marks, Alabama Cooperative Extension Center for Native Grassland Management Website



Coggins Test — How and Why

By: Stefani Sykes, Extension Livestock Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Wayne County Center

Those of you that travel regularly or show often are probably familiar with the requirements of a Coggins test. You know it's a blood draw from your horse, and it's sent off, and you need a "negative" result in order to travel or show. However, do you know what that test is actually testing? Do you know why it should be "negative?"

The Coggins test determines if a horse is a carrier for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), a viral disease that has no known cure. It is important to prevent the spread of this diseases. A vet must draw blood from your horse and send it off to be tested for the presence of antibodies. Your results will be sent to your vet (and possibly yourself) and the paperwork should be kept with the rest of your horse's health papers.

On all Coggins tests, the following information is usually provided:

- *Owner information:* name, address, phone number
- *Stable information:* point of contact, address, phone number
- *Veterinarian information:* name, clinic, accreditation number, address
- *Horse's identifiable information:* name, barn name, breed registration number, breed, sex, color, age, microchip/tattoo, pictures or drawings of markings on the animal
- *EIA test information:* type, lab that performed the test, reason, date received, date reported, results

Transmission of EIA is normally done through biting flies; it is a bloodborne illness with no known cure or vaccine protocol. A fly biting a carrier horse, and then another horse, can spread the disease very quickly.

Horse shows require a negative Coggins test, usually within 12 months. Depending on state-to-state travel and their requirements, you may be required to do it more often. Be sure to check the requirements for whatever show or state you are traveling to prior to travel.

See reverse for more OIB information.				FORM APPROVED - OMB NUMBER 0579-0127				
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA LABORATORY TEST <small>(VS Memorandum 355.8)</small>				SERIAL NO. B	1. ACCESSION NUMBER	2. DATE BLOOD DRAWN		
Forms Without Adequate Descriptions Of The Horse and Complete Addresses Including Zip Codes, Counties, and Telephone Numbers Will Not Be Processed.								
3. REASON FOR TESTING <input type="checkbox"/> Market <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Show <input type="checkbox"/> First Test <input type="checkbox"/> Retest <input type="checkbox"/> Export				7. NAME AND ADDRESS OR STABLE/MARKET (Please print or type)				
4. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) (idmrvvwy)				5. VETERINARY LICENSE OR ACCREDITATION NO.		8. TEST TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> AGID <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA		
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER (Please print or type)				9. NAME AND ADDRESS OF VETERINARIAN (Please print or type)				
Tel No. _____ County _____ Zip Code _____				Tel No. _____ County _____ Zip Code _____				
CERTIFICATION OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN								
I certify the specimen submitted with this Form was drawn by me from the horse described on this Form and indicated on the label.								
10. SIGNATURE OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN				11. TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN		12. SIGNATURE DATE		
CERTIFICATION OF OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT								
I certify that I have examined this form and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this form is correct and complete.								
13. SIGNATURE OF OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT				14. TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT		15. SIGNATURE DATE		
16. Tube No.	17. Official Tag No.	18. Tattoo/Brand	19. Name of Horse	20. Color	21. Breed	22. Electronic I.D. No.	23. Age or DOB	24. Sex M - Male F - Female G - Gelding N - Neuter
SHOW ALL SIGNIFICANT MARKINGS, HORLS, BRANDS, AND SCARS								
1 - Coronet, 2 - Pastern, 3 - Fetlock, 4 - Knee, 5 - Hock								
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND REMARKS								
25. HEAD				26. OTHER MARKS AND BRANDS				
27. LEFT FORELIMB				28. RIGHT FORELIMB				
29. LEFT HINDLIMB				30. RIGHT HINDLIMB				
FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY								
31. LABORATORY NAME/CITY/STATE		32. DATE RECEIVED		33. DATE REPORTED OUT		34. TEST RESULTS <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> AGID <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA		
35. SIGNATURE OF TECHNICIAN				35. REMARKS				
Falsification of this form or knowingly using a falsified form is a criminal offense and may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both (U.S.C. Section 1001).								
VS FORM 10-11 (MAY 2000) (Replaces the VS 10-11 (4-90) and VS 10-11T (10-97), which may be used.)								

Caring for Livestock in Severe Heat

By: Anthony Growe, Extension Livestock and Row Crops Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Richmond County Center

There's no doubt the past couple of weeks have been some of the hottest on record. With high temperatures reaching into the low 100s in some areas of the state, many of us have been cranking up the A/C and staying out of the heat. Unfortunately for livestock, we cannot just simply bring them in the house to cool off. Being out in extremely hot weather puts them at risk for experiencing heat stress, which can lead to reduced performance and, in severe cases, death. Luckily, there are a few things livestock owners can do to help livestock beat the heat.

Identifying Heat Stress

For most animals and livestock, the main signs for heat stress include: panting, increased respiration, lower feed intake and increased water consumption, and salivation. We should monitor our animals closely on hot days to ensure we catch and treat any animal that may be experiencing heat stress before it gets too severe. In severe cases, animals may become unconscious or have a heat stroke. To treat for heat stress, move the animals to shade immediately, offer clean water mixed with electrolytes and hose them down with cool water or apply a cold sponge to the body. If animals are in a barn or shed, increase air movement with fans and proper ventilation.

Access to Cool Water

The most critical component to minimizing heat stress is providing cool, clean water to your livestock. As temperatures increase from 60 degrees to 90 degrees, water intake will increase by 20 to 50 percent, depending on the class of livestock. Make sure water troughs or stock tanks are large enough to provide an adequate supply to all of your animals. If livestock such as cattle or goats are kept in large pastures, think about providing multiple watering points to reduce the travel distance. Research has shown when cattle are required to travel more than 1000 feet to a water source, they actually drink 15 percent less compared to those who have a shorter walk (less than 600 feet).

Providing Shade

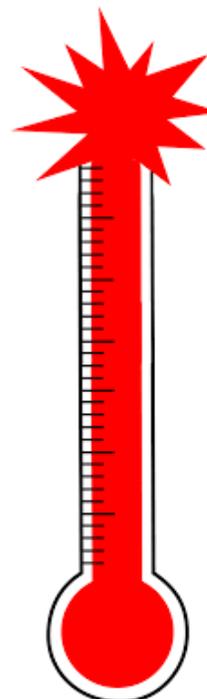
Shade is another factor we can control when trying to reduce heat stress in livestock. When designing pastures, try to include natural shade such as trees and forests, or made shelters that cast enough shade for livestock to get out of the

sun. At the University of Arkansas, research found that providing feeder calves with tree shade increased daily weight gains by 60 percent compared to calves that did not have access to shade. If existing pastures do not have any shade source, consider grazing the pastures overnight and remove animals before temperatures begin creeping up in the morning.

Handling Animals in the Heat

When handling livestock such as cattle or horses, we should use some common sense on when to ride, trailer, or handle them. Cattle needing vaccinations or processing should be done early in the morning before temperatures rise. Avoid riding horses in the heat of the day, and if transporting them, make sure there is adequate airflow throughout the trailer and avoid sitting still for prolonged periods of time. For trailering cattle and other livestock, reduce the stocking rate by 15 percent to provide more airflow and space.

High temperatures can impact both the performance of our livestock and their well-being. When we are experiencing high temperatures, we should strive to minimize heat stress by providing cool, clean water, proper ventilation, and adequate shade. If you have any questions about livestock management or pasture management, contact your local Livestock Agent.



Fall Armyworm Damage to North Carolina Pastures

By: Ryan Adams, Extension Associate, Center for Integrated Pest Management, NC State Extension, NC State University

The fall armyworm is a chronic pest in the Southeast and can cause severe damage to grass and forage crops alike. The caterpillars feed on a variety of turf and forage species including: bermudagrass, tall fescue, alfalfa, corn, and sorghum sudan grass. Damage varies in appearance and severity according to the type of forage and management practices.

Even though feeding usually occurs for a week or more before being noticed, fall armyworm damage is said to appear “overnight” due to the light appetite of small early instars. It is not until later instars that the caterpillars begin consuming large amounts of forage. The grass rapidly thins out and brown spots develop, resembling drought damage.

An easily detectable sign of armyworms is the presence of birds, especially crows, in your fields. Closely examine the areas where most of the birds are congregating. Also, check in areas where grass is brown or patchy. Scouting pastures can help detect fall armyworms before they cause economic damage. The economic threshold for fall armyworms is 3 or more per sq. ft. If infestations higher than 3 are found, it is recommended to treat with insecticides.

Please refer to the following page developed by the entomology team for insect treatment options:
<https://entomology.ces.ncsu.edu/2019/08/insect-control-on-forage-crops/?src=rss>

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3. The veterinarian is readily available or has arranged for emergency coverage and for follow-up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or the failure of the treatment regimen.

Disclaimer - The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by NC State University nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

Fall Showmanship Circuits

By: Dan Wells, Extension Livestock Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Johnston County Center

Showmanship circuits consist of multiple youth livestock shows at various locations and dates across a region. In our readership area of North Carolina there are two showmanship circuits: The Eastern Carolina Showmanship Circuit and the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit. Each has different rules and procedures, but the concept behind all is that both circuits have several participating shows, and a child may compete in as many of the shows as he/she likes. Awards are given for each individual show, but participants also become eligible for circuit awards by competing in a minimum number of the shows. Circuit winners are recognized at the NC State Fair (Eastern Circuit) or at a year-end banquet (Farm Credit Circuit.) Following is a bit more information about each circuit. Even if you don't have children showing, please consider attending and supporting a show in your area.

Eastern Carolina Showmanship Circuit

This circuit began in 1992 for heifers and lambs. Some years later, separate circuits for meat goats and swine began in the same area. In 2019, the meat goat and swine circuits combined into the ECSC, resulting in one organizing body for all four species. Shows in this circuit are all east of Raleigh. Updates can be found at the Eastern Carolina Showmanship Circuit Facebook page.

County	Goat Show	Lamb Show	Heifer Show	Swine Show
Halifax	August 6	August 6	August 6	N/A
AGR (Johnston)	August 12	August 13	August 13	N/A
Jones	August 20	August 20	August 19	N/A
Lenoir	August 26	August 27	August 27	August 27
Elizabeth City	September 2	September 3	September 3	September 3
Edgecombe	September 9	September 10	September 10	September 10
Duplin	September 16	September 17	September 17	September 15
Wilson	September 24	September 23	September 25	September 20
Pitt	September 25	September 22	September 20	N/A
Wayne	September 30	October 1	October 2	September 29

4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit

This circuit is sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit and Cape Fear Farm Credit. Shows in this circuit are held in the south-central area of North Carolina. This year's awards banquet will be held in Robeson County on November 18. Updates are posted to the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Facebook page.

County	Goat Show	Lamb Show	Heifer Show
Randolph	August 6	N/A	August 6
Guilford	August 13	August 13	August 13
Stanly	August 20	N/A	August 20
Anson	N/A	N/A	August 27
Montgomery	August 27	N/A	August 27
Cumberland	September 8	September 6	September 9
Richmond	September 10	N/A	N/A
Chatham	N/A	September 10	September 10
Lee	September 14	N/A	September 15
Union	September 17	September 17	September 17
Moore	September 24	N/A	September 24
Robeson	October 1	October 8	October 8