January-March 2008

The Livestock Line

From the Barnyard

In the last newsletter, I asked for emails from all that have them. I received very few responses, so please, if you have an email and didn’t respond, send me an email with your email and which of the following list you would like to be on, (you can be on as many as you would like) BEEF, SHEEP/GOAT, HORSE, FORAGE, and YOUTH LIVESTOCK. These email groups will allow me to get information out to you faster and more often. These groups will not take the place of this newsletter but will enhance my ability to communicate to you faster. So please, if you have an email address, email me the group(s) you wish to be included on, to barry_foushee@ncsu.edu. All email addresses will be kept confidential.

Please be sure to look at the “up-coming events” for important meetings and events.

Here is all of my contact information:
Office: (336)318-6000
Cell: (336)382-0806
Nextel: 150*25*16007
Email: barry_foushee@ncsu.edu
Address: 2222-A S Fayetteville St, Asheboro, NC 27205 (until February 29th)

UP-COMING EVENTS

January 30th - February 1st
Southern Farm Show; NC State Fairgrounds; Raleigh, NC

February 12th
Forage Management and Recovering From the Drought; 7:00 p.m., Davis Feed & Seed; Cedar Square (2 hours “N, O, D, X” credit for pesticide and 2 hours for Animal Waste Applicators)

February 14th
Forage Management and Recovering From the Drought; 7:00 p.m., Extension Office, Asheboro (2 hours “X” credit for pesticide and 2 hours for Animal Waste Applicators)

February 19th
Beef Cattle; Basic Nutritional Management and Feeding Your Cow Herd After a Drought; 7:00 p.m., Davis Feed & Seed; Cedar Square.

February 21st
Beef Cattle; Basic Nutritional Management and Feeding Your Cow Herd After a Drought; 7:00 p.m., Extension Office; Asheboro

February 22-23rd
57th Annual North Carolina Cattlemen’s Conference; Hickory, NC

February 28-29th
NC Cooperative Extension Office moving to New Office; 112 W Walker Avenue, Asheboro, NC 27203
March 11\textsuperscript{th} & \textit{Weed Management and Control in Pastures}; 7:00 p.m.; Davis Feed & Seed; Cedar Square (2 hours “N, O, D, X” credits for pesticide and 2 hours for Animal Waste Applicators)  \\
March 13\textsuperscript{th} & \textit{Weed Management and Control in Pastures}; 7:00 p.m.; New Extension Office; 112 W Walker Avenue, Asheboro, NC (2 hours “N, O, D, X” credits for pesticide and 2 hours for Animal Waste Applicators)  \\

\textbf{NC Cooperative Extension Office Moving}  

If you read the “Up-Coming Events” you notice that February 28-29\textsuperscript{th} the NC Cooperative Extension Office is moving to a “new” office. We are moving to a “NEW” office space on the ground floor of the Sandhills Mental Health Building. The building is located at the corner of Church Street and Walker Avenue. If you exit off of US Hwy 64 on to Fayetteville Street North (220 Business north) and go to the first stop light and turn left, cross the railroad tracks, the building will be on the right (Asheboro High School will be on the left) and our entrance will be on the north end of the building. The main telephone number (318-6000) will be the same however once we move you will need to dial the main number to reach any agent, the individual numbers for agents will no longer work. Please notice that the March 13\textsuperscript{th} meeting will be in the new office.

\textbf{Beef Cattle Meetings}  

If you noticed there are 3 meetings scheduled for February and March and they will be done in 2 locations. I am doing this in hopes of reaching more producers in the county. They will be offered at Davis Feed & Seed is located, on Davis Country Road in Cedar Square, on February 12\textsuperscript{th}, February 19\textsuperscript{th} and March 11\textsuperscript{th} and at the Extension Office on February 14\textsuperscript{th}, February 21\textsuperscript{st} and March 13\textsuperscript{th}. Please see the “Up-Coming Events” above to find out which meetings carry pesticide and animal waste applicator credits. With the severe drought that we had in 2007 the Forage Management meeting will be a very important meeting. I will discuss critical management tips as well as alternative grasses that are better suited for drought situations.

The Beef Cattle; Basic Nutritional Management and Feeding Your Cow Herd after a Drought will be another very important meeting for cattle producers to attend. I will go over the basic nutritional needs of cattle, how to read forage analysis reports, body condition scoring and how you should use it. Also I will have a easy ration balancing program to introduce to you as well as discuss alternative feedstuffs and how to figure how much a cow eats. Since pastures will probably be short through the spring, this will be an important meeting to learn how to meet the nutritional needs of your cattle.

Weeds in pastures will be worse this year than any other year so I am offering the Weed Management and Control in Pastures in order to better arm you with the information you will need to control the weeds in your pasture. I will be going over all herbicides available for use in Randolph County and which ones you will need to use for certain weeds.

I think you will find all of these meetings helpful in meeting your needs as livestock producers and I hope you will attend all three in one of the locations. Please invite your neighbors to come with you. I ask that you call (336)318-6000 and register for the meetings you plan to attend and which location.
Governor’s Emergency Hay Program

On Dec. 4, the Council of State voted unanimously to authorize the state to use up to $3.5 million to purchase and transport hay to North Carolina. The state will sell the hay to livestock owners for the same price the state pays for the forage and transportation. Loads have begun to arrive in the state. Livestock owners should contact the location closest to them about hay availability. For general questions, contact the department’s toll-free Hay Alert hotline at 1-866-506-6222.

Large and small bales will be available at each of the following locations: Mountain Research Station, 265 Test Farm Road, Waynesville, (828) 456-3943; Upper Mountain Research Station, 8004 N.C. Highway 88 East, Laurel Springs, (336) 982-2501; Piedmont Research Station, 8350 Sherrills Ford Road, Salisbury, (704) 278-2624; Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Road, Colfax, (336) 605-9157; Caswell Research Farm, 2415 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, (252) 208-3360; Oxford Tobacco Research Station, 300 Providence Road, Oxford, (919) 693-2483.

The six distribution sites were chosen because of their proximity to areas with large livestock populations where the need for hay is great. They also have the facilities for storing hay.

To serve as many people’s emergency needs as possible, the program currently limits livestock owners to purchasing up to four large bales and 20 small bales per day. Limits may be adjusted based on supply and demand.

Hay buyers must have an N.C. Farm ID Premises Identification Number. If you do not have one, you can go to the web site http://www.agr.state.nc.us/ncfarmid/ download the registration form (PDF file), fill it out and bring it with you to a distribution site. This will start the Farm ID registration process and qualify you to purchase hay. Please understand this is NOT an FSA farm number, or your tax ID number. This is a Premise ID number given out by NCDA.

NOTE: If you need a full truckload of hay, you are encouraged to use the Hay Alert Web site or hotline to find and order hay. By doing this, you could be eligible for transportation cost-share assistance of up to $500 per load through Ag Partners or Equine Partners. This should be more economical than buying hay from the Emergency Hay Program.

Ag Partners Hay Relief Program

This is the cost-share program mentioned above for helping with the cost of shipping out-of-state hay. The Governor approved $250,000 for this program, there have been donations from many other organizations, and fund raising efforts continue. This program will provide $1/loaded mile up to a maximum of $500 per load and an individual will be eligible up for up to 3 loads. Reimbursement will be done as applications come in as long as the funds last.

This is going to be a very difficult period and I realize everyone is stressed. Many producers have waited around too long and now are in a difficult situation with no reasonably priced feeds left available.

Some livestock owners must make some difficult decisions and decide whether they should sell more of their livestock or purchase expensive feed. As the winter progresses livestock will become worth less and feed will become more expensive, so it is imperative that producers take action now. This goes for cattle, horses, goats, and sheep.

I am available to help anyone who asks for help and the tools above are what we have available to us. Many producers are calling for the government to come to their aid with free or subsidized hay. Based on all we know today there will be no free or cheap hay program, and whatever disaster funds that eventually becomes available will not come in time to help producers this winter.

Also, if you have alternative feeds you would like to feed but are uncertain on how to feed them, please give me a call. I can sit down with you and use the ration balancing program I have and come up with a way you can utilize the available forage and feedstuffs you have.
**How do you figure how much a cow eats?**

A mature lactating cow needs to eat about 2.3% of her body weight as dry matter.

Typical hay contains 90% dry matter, so she will eat 2.6% of her body weight on an “as fed basis”.

About 15% of the hay you give the cow she will waste, so you must feed her 3% of her body weight. Her calf will also need feed later in the winter, so we figure another 0.3% of body weight for that, giving a total need of 3.3% of body weight.

For a 1200 lb cow and a 60 day feeding period (February 1 to April 1).

\[1200 \text{ lb} \times 0.033 = 40 \text{ lbs/day}\]

\[40 \text{ lbs/day} \times 60 \text{ days} = 2400 \text{ lbs or 1.25 tons/cow}\]

The typical round bale (4 x 5 size) will weigh about 750 lbs, so she will need about 3.5 round bales to get from February 1 to April 1.

She could be fed concentrate as part of that feed need, and you can substitute 1 lb concentrate for 1.5 lbs hay.

Again, if you have alternative feeds or concentrates you would like to feed but are uncertain on how much to feed them, please give me a call. I can sit down with you and use the ration balancing program I have and come up with a way you can utilize the available forage and feedstuffs you have.