



Cattle Round Up

November 2014



Guilford County Extension Beef Newsletter

Guilford County November 18th Cattleman's Program

The Guilford County October Cattleman's program will be held on November 18th, starting at 7:00pm. This event will be held at the Guilford County Agricultural Center in Greensboro (located at 3309 Burlington Road). At this educational program Millie Langley, from Guilford County Soil & Water will be coming to discuss Conservation Programs and Services that you may be eligible to participate in. These programs all deal with soil erosion and water quality problems that are a concern for all of us. The Conservation district provides technical assistance to landowners and educational programs on soil and water quality and administers a State program that provides cost share funds to farmers and landowners with water quality problems to install Best Management Practices on their farms.

If you are planning to attend this program on November 18th, please call Ben Chase, Extension Livestock Agent 342-8235, by Friday November 14th (or Monday Noon) to reserve your place. When you call, please leave your name, phone number and the names of those planning to attend. (Dinner is DUTCH \$10 so. If you make the reservations and any of the reservations you



reserved do not attend, you will be held responsible for the cost of the places you reserved) I hope you plan to come and hear about these programs on Tuesday November 18th at 7:00 p.m. All Guilford County Cattlemen are invited! (and anyone else that is interested)

Cattleman's Christmas Gathering – Tuesday, December 16th

The 2014 Guilford County Cattlemen's Christmas gathering will take place on December 16th, beginning at 7pm at Hodgin Valley Farm located on Hodgin Valley Road in Pleasant Garden. Members of the Guilford County Cattlemen approved to provide or cover the cost of this event for its members and one guest. The cost of this event is \$25 per person for Non - Guilford County Cattleman's members (this pays the membership dues). As always, this event will be a great festive and entertaining event for area cattle producers. Make sure you come out for Good Food & Good Entertainment that will include Beef with all the fix'ins.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED if you are planning to attend this event, so if you did not make your reservations at the November Cattleman's program, please make sure that you call to do so. PLEASE CALL Ben Chase, Extension Livestock Agent at 342-8235/800-666-3625 or

email ben_chase@ncsu.edu by Friday December 12th to reserve your place. When you call, please leave your name, phone number and the names of those planning to attend. (If you make the reservations and any of the reservations you reserved do not attend, you will be held responsible for the cost of the places you reserved) I hope you plan to come on Tuesday December 16th at 7pm to be a part of this enjoyable evening. All Guilford County Cattlemen are invited!



Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Centennial Celebration & Agricultural Showcase

November 20, 2014 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Rockingham County Extension Center located at 525 NC 65 Reidsville, NC

Presentations at 12:30 pm



Celebrate with us as we showcase Rockingham County's rich agricultural heritage and the impact that Cooperative Extension has had on the people and economy over the last 100 years. Featuring educational booths, displays from local farms and agri-businesses, historical pictures and artifacts, food, and giveaways.

For 100 years, North Carolina Cooperative Extension has been fulfilling the university's land grant mission by connecting academic research with community needs. Boys corn clubs and girls canning clubs began in 1909 and 1911, respectively. These programs were the beginning of 4-H in the state and they taught agricultural, economic, and leadership skills. Farmers also relied on work done by the corn clubs to increase yields on their own farms.

So Come & CELEBRATE with us on November 20th!

2015 Piedmont Regional Beef Conference

February 24, 2015

Guilford County Ag Center



The 2015 Piedmont Regional Beef Conference will be held on February 24, 2015 at the Guilford County Extension Office. This will be a great opportunity to hear from several regional experts in the cattle industry. This program is in the process of being finalized. We are bringing in speakers from various places and will also have some con-current sessions with industry speakers presenting. This will be another Great Conference with Nationally known speakers, so go ahead and put it on your calendars and plan to come out & network with other cattle folks and learn ideas in the cattle industry.

Pinkeye in Cattle – Be On The Lookout! Infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis, commonly called pinkeye, is a contagious bacterial eye disease. This disease spreads rapidly and causes economic losses. Studies in the US have estimated losses of Hundreds of millions from decreased weight gain, milk production, and treatment. Many studies show Pinkeye is second to scours as the most prevalent condition affecting unweaned beef calves over 3 weeks old, according to a report of the National Animal Health Monitoring System of the USDA: APHIS: Veterinary Services. Pinkeye (1.3% infection rate) and footrot (0.8% infection rate) were the two most prevalent conditions affecting all breeding beef females (replacement heifers and cows), according to the same report. Young stock are most susceptible to pinkeye, but the disease may be found in cattle of all ages. Many older animals may have a natural immunity to pinkeye because of previous exposure. Pinkeye is most frequently found in grazing and feedlot cattle. Summer herd outbreaks involving up to 80% of young cattle and lasting 3 to 4 weeks are common.

Pinkeye is characterized by a reddish inflammation of the eye ball, swollen eye membranes (the conjunctiva), tearing, frequent blinking, & sensitivity to light. A white raised or ulcerated area appears on the center of the eye ball within 1-2 days. Left untreated, the entire cornea becomes thickened and opaque, resulting in a white color

and blindness. The ulcer on the cornea may penetrate to the eye interior and the eye may even rupture. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

condition loss and severe pain are common. On rare occasions, severely infected cattle stop eating and die of starvation.

The main cause of the infectious pinkeye syndrome is the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*. Tear secretions in cattle appear to be deficient in an enzyme that kills bacteria (lysozyme). Recent work has shown that infected carrier animals may be a major source of infection. A carrier is an animal that may or may not have suffered from pinkeye in the past and may show no outward signs of disease. Nevertheless, in the presence of a number of predisposing factors, this animal is still able to spread the *M. bovis* bacterium.



High numbers of face flies (*Musca autumnalis*) are associated with higher rates of pinkeye. These flies cluster at the edge of the eyes to feed on tears and are very irritating to cattle's eyes. Face flies also carry and transfer the bacteria *M. bovis* from infected to non-infected animals. The house fly (*Musca domestica*) and the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) also may spread pinkeye infections.

Other contributing factors include eye irritants such as ultraviolet sunlight, dust, mechanical irritation from seeds, tall pasture grasses, awns on small grain seed heads, and dust. Rough forages such as fescue, hybrid Sudan grass and other forage sorghums mechanically irritate the eyes. Weeds and brush produce air-borne irritants, pollen and chaff, as well as serve as mechanical irritants. The incidence of foreign body irritation is greatly increased when animals eat out the middle of round bales, leaving a hay shelf over their heads. The same situation occurs when hay is fed in overhead feeders. This is especially true with hay made from small grains.

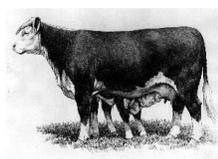


Pinkeye is often confused with the presence of a foreign body in the eye, physical injury or other diseases. Early cases of cancer eye and Infectious Bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) can look like pinkeye. Veterinarians are best able to recognize and differentiate cattle eye disease problems. The veterinarian will also provide professional advice regarding the treatment of pinkeye.

Carefully follow all treatment advice and prescription label instructions. Recheck all withdrawal times with your veterinarian. A veterinarian – client – patient relationship is necessary for the use of all prescription drugs and “off-label” prescriptions (drugs used at dosages and for purposes other than defined on the label).

Using over-the-counter aerosol sprays and powders often further irritates infected eyes. These products cause increased tear secretion that washes away the antibiotic. Eye drops or ointments are better alternatives for mild or early cases of pinkeye. They are non-irritating and do not result in excessive tear secretion. Repeated doses are necessary to sustain adequate drug levels. Most strains of *M. bovis* appear to be sensitive to tetracyclines, penicillin, erythromycin and neomycin. The bacterium is usually resistant to cloxacillin (commonly found in dry cow mastitis ointments). Injection of a mixture of antibiotics such as penicillin, streptomycin or gentamycin, under the lining of the affected eyelids is recommended in herd outbreaks where repeated treatments are impractical. Often one injection is sufficient, but the treatment will need to be repeated in three or four days for severe or advanced cases of pinkeye. An intramuscular treatment is generally not recommended because very high dosages of an antibiotic are required to ensure adequate levels of the drug reach the eyes and tear glands.

Treatments for severe corneal ulceration include performing eye surgery to protect the affected eyeball from further injury and promote healing, or creating a 3rd eyelid flap or the gluing of protective plastic covers onto the skin around the eyes to avoid further eye irritation. Consult your veterinarian for assistance in these methods to enhance the healing process. In addition to medical treatment, good management and nursing care is required to bring about full recovery. General recommendations include: housing in shaded areas (to avoid direct sunlight); provision of adequate feed and water; reduction of dust, flies and other physical causes of eye irritation.



While many optical antibiotics are available for pinkeye, treatment is not always successful in saving vision. Success depends on finding and treating cases early in the course of the disease. Complete recovery may take 3 to 5 weeks. Since face flies both carry the bacteria that causes pinkeye from one animal to another and irritate the eye, fly control is extremely important once

pinkeye has been diagnosed. Spraying cattle with a fly knockdown spray will reduce new pinkeye cases.

The best protection against pinkeye is prevention. Vaccination against pinkeye is economically justified if the vaccine protects against multiple strains. Fly control is an important part of a pinkeye prevention program. Tall grasses can be kept short through pasture management, to prevent eye irritation while the cattle are grazing.

For more information on Pinkeye, (with photos) go to:

<http://animalrangeextension.montana.edu/articles/beef/Prime%20Cuts/Prime%20Cuts%20March%202017.pdf>

Prussic Acid - I have had calls over the last week with concern about prussic acid due to areas having a frost. Livestock producers who are grazing sorghum, sudan sorghum hybrids or Johnson grass should take some precautions to avoid problems from prussic acid poisoning. Prussic acid, or Hydrocyanic acid, is most often produced when the sorghum, sorghum-sudan crosses, Johnson grass, or wild cherry are eaten by cattle, sheep horses or goats. Under normal conditions prussic acid is not a major problem; however, conditions that interfere with normal growth, such as drought, frost, heavy trampling or physical damage, will cause an increase in the amount of free prussic acid in the plant, therefore increasing the chances for toxicity upon ingestion. The poisoning can occur under pasture conditions when animals are grazing young seedlings, young regrowth shoots, stunted growth or frosted plants. Heavy nitrate fertilization followed by abundant rainfall may also increase prussic acid level of the plant. Fatal prussic acid poisoning may also occur from the ingestion of wilted leaves from wild cherry.

Prussic acid interferes with normal oxygen exchange & can be fatal. Animals literally die from lack of oxygen. The first sign of a problem may be dead animals. The typical symptoms of prussic acid poisoning are nervousness, abnormal breathing, convulsions or trembling muscles, blue coloration of the lining of the mouth and extreme pupil dilation. Animals treated quickly in early stages can be saved by intravenous injection with a combination of sodium nitrate and sodium thiosulfate or methylene blue. The following points should be kept in mind: - Prussic acid poisoning is not cumulative and upon removal from the forage source animals not showing evidence of being poisoned will likely not be adversely affected. Normally, grazing of the target plants can resume 4-6 days after a killing frost. Since frosts may not occur uniformly within the county, it is suggested that animals be taken off the target crops until it is certain that the plants have been frozen to below 26 degrees at least once. - Do not graze for 2 weeks after a non-killing frost. - Do not graze wilted plants or young plant shoots (tillers). - Do not graze at night when frost is likely. - Graze these type plants only when they are at least 15 inches tall. - Don't graze plants during or shortly after drought when growth is reduced and plant has been stressed. Prussic acid poisoning is not a problem when crops are cured for hay or ensiled for more than 4-6 weeks. Don't allow access to wild cherry leaves, wilted or not! (Alfalfa and White Clover can also produce Prussic Acid)



Cattle Management Reminders - November - *Fall Calving* Cows should be calving so observe frequently and give assistance if needed. Place heifers with calves on high quality forage to maintain feed & supplement level. ID animals and start checking estrus in yearling heifers. Maintain nutrition level for bulls. *Spring Calving* Cows on lower quality pasture. Stockers fed to gain 1.5 lbs/day. Replacement heifers should be gaining 1 to 1.5 lbs/day. **December** - *Fall Calving*- Start breeding yearling heifers...December 20, they should weigh between 600 & 800 lbs. Conduct breeding soundness exams on bulls. Start checking for estrus. Consider creep feeding calves on 1st calf heifers. *Spring Calving* - Prepare for calving season. Maintain condition on cows. Check identification on all animals. Clean & disinfect calving area. **ALL CATTLE:** *Provide (and check) clean fresh water. *Check cattle regularly*. *Continue parasite control.* Provide High Magnesium mineral supplement. *Deworm and treat for grubs. *Monitor for health problems. Forage Test. Look into the use of Ionophores. Ionophores – (Rumensin, Bovatec, Gainpro) – can be cost-effective tools for managing growing cattle on winter pasture or hay. They work by shifting the microbial population of the rumen to enable cattle to pull more energy out of the hay and pasture. Results include lower overall feed consumption, improved gains, and hastened puberty in heifers. Most products can be fed in a supplement, mineral mix, or molasses black. Product use recommendations and labeling are specific, so be sure to consult with your nutritionist or veterinarian.



Forage Management Tips - (November - December) Take soil samples (& get to the lab before they start the Peak season charge on samples, get in BEFORE Thanksgiving) to be overseeded or planted next spring. Plant winter annuals (rye, wheat, etc.) as soon as possible if you have not done so already. Early planted winter annual pastures may need nitrogen application (30-50 lbs/acre)

Sample all hay prior to feeding to livestock and prevent possible problems such as nitrate poisoning & to ensure adequate nutrition. Feed hay stored outside before using hay stored inside. Allow lactating cows access to best quality pastures and hay be fed to cows with nursing calves. Limit grazing of winter pastures by feeding hay on pasture or restricting acres available to animals. Check alfalfa plantings for nodule formation & complete weed control. Stretch grazable feed by cross fencing with electric wire. If pasture availability is limited, graze one day in 2 or 3 or 2-4 hours per day. Don't graze permanent pastures planted in the fall until the root systems have developed sufficiently to withstand the "plucking" action of grazing animals. Rule of thumb, don't graze until growth reaches 6 to 8 inches. Rotate or Clip pastures as needed. Drag pastures to break up manure piles. Keep good records for tax purposes, and for future management decisions. Weed control in fall plantings of legumes should be done November early January.

Beef Cattle E-Mail List – If you would like to be added to a Beef Cattle E-mail list for Rockingham or Guilford Counties, please send me an E-mail at: ben_chase@ncsu.edu and put in the body of the message your name, and the Email mailing list you wish to be on and you address. This will make it easier to get information to you quicker and cheaper.

December 19 - Butner Performance Bull Test Sale, Granville County Livestock Arena

I always want to know what you think of the Cattle Round Up, good or bad, especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Please let me hear from you!



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Please Don't Forget Our Troops!

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