

Hey Equineers,

Included is the **Weekly Pile of Information** for the week of **July 26, 2015**, Extension's Equine related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. To have something included in the **Weekly Pile**, please follow these simple guidelines.

- **Information included needs to be educational in nature &/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.**
- **provided information is a resource to the citizens of Rockingham/Guilford Counties.**
 - **provided information does not require extra time or effort to be listed.**
 - **Listings for Swap Shop will not list pricing details.**
 - **Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.**
 - **Please keep ads or events as short as possible – with NO FORMATTING, NO unnecessary Capitalization's and NO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.**
 - **(If sent in that way, it may not be included)**
 - **Please include contact information - Phone, Email and alike.**
 - **PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.**
 - **The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.**

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was probably an oversight on my part, but please let me know!

If you have a question or ideas that you would like covered in the Weekly Pile, please let me know and I will try to include. As Always, I would like to hear your comments about the Weekly Pile or the Extension Horse Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

I NEED YOUR FEEDBACK & IDEAS!

Included in The Pile this Week:

- 1. Guilford County 4-H Jr. Livestock Show August 8**
- 2. September 3 - Southern Forages Conference**
 - **Changes, Challenges and Opportunities**

3. Manage Your Waste

4. You Asked

5. Benefits of a Sacrifice Area

**6. Droughts Affect Farms in So Many Ways -
Do What You Can??**

7. Snakes

**8. Avian Influenza – How to Register Your
Poultry**

9. Birds

**10. Piedmont Horseman's Association Show
8/29**

11. HAY

12. Swap Shop

13. Take A Load Off

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1. August 8 - Guilford County Jr. Livestock Show

Excitement is in the air about the 3rd Annual Guilford County Junior Livestock Show that will be held on August 8th, 2015 at the Guilford County Agricultural Center. The Guilford County

Extension Livestock Show Committee and the Guilford County 4H Livestock Club host this event with Farm Bureau being a major Sponsor and Farm Credit Sponsoring the Show Circuit. The show will begin on August 8th at 8:30 am with the Steer Show with Heifer, Goat & Sheep shows to follow. The Guilford County Agricultural Center (Arena & Barn) is located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro.

We would like to invite you to come and be a part of this event!

This show is the beginning of the Fall Livestock Shows which will conclude at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh in October. This is a Great opportunity for local youth to participate in this area show to gain show experience. As participants in the livestock projects at these shows, these youth are responsible for raising and training their animals for exhibitions and as part of showmanship they are also responsible for knowledge pertaining to the Management, Business, Herd Health & Marketing of these animals. This show on August 8th is also part of a Multi-County Livestock Show Circuit. These youth that are participating in this Show Circuit earn points at the different shows and then are compiled & recognized at the completion of the Circuit Show Season.

We are very excited to host this event in Greensboro and the youth that show Livestock are very excited about it too. The Guilford County Junior Livestock Show is open to youth 5-19 years old and enrolled in 4H Club or FFA program in their school. Any students or parents with questions pertaining to the livestock show should contact Ben Chase Extension Livestock Agent in Guilford & Rockingham Counties at 800-666-3625, ben_chase@ncsu.edu or Livestock Show Committee Chair, Rhonda Ingram at 978-5897.

Please make plans to attend the Annual 2015 Guilford County Junior Livestock Show on August 8th starting at 8:30am & held at the Guilford County Agricultural Center, located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro. You will have an enjoyable time watching the Youth and the Animals.

It takes a lot of volunteers to help put on a show such as this. If you would like to volunteer to assist with working at the Show on August 8th, please let me know of your willingness to help.

Hope to see you there!

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2. Southern Forages Program - Changes, Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Don Ball, Auburn University & Dr. Garry Lacefield - University of Kentucky, Authors of

Southern Forages will be here to discuss:

- Influences and factors affecting forage and livestock production
- Forage management options to make operations more profitable

This conference will be held **Thursday,
September 3, 2015**

6pm Registration

6:30pm Dinner/Program

Must pre-register by August 28th at:

<http://go.ncsu.edu/southernforagesseminar>

Cost: \$10/person (pay at the door)

This event will take place at the Guildford
County Extension Center

3309 Burlington Rd. Greensboro, NC 27405

Questions Call 336-342-8235

3. Manage Your Waste

If you have Horses or Livestock, you will have flies & waste. Management can control many issues that go along with these things. Sometimes, even under the best management, neighbors may still call and complain about your farm, the smells, and flies or may even say that you are polluting because of the waste that is generated by the animals.

Please make sure that you are managing your waste. Depends on what Agency is called with the complaint, if the NC Dept. of Environmental & Natural Resources is called with a complaint of nutrients from animals (waste) causing

a problem, (waste water coming from the waste pile, or animals in a creek...) they will be out to investigate the complaint. If mismanagement, or no management, is observed in that investigation, you could possibly face, charges, fines or in the worst case, shut down your animal operation.

Animal Waste Management - <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/animal-waste-mgmt/>

Down Left Side, Click on Equine Programs --- Equine Waste Management - <http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/animal-waste-mgmt/equine.htm>

Appendix A: Resources and Technical Assistance

(Note Horse Threshold for Equine is 75 head)

<http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/certification/Manual/b/appendA-B.htm>

Animal Waste NPDES Permits

http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/home?p_p_id=20&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=exclusive&p_p_mode=view&_20_struts_action=%2Fdocument_library%2Fget_file&_20_folderId=47897&_20_name=DLFE-26717.pdf

Technical Services - Animal Waste Management Technical Assistance -

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/tech/animalwaste.html>

Welcome to NC Aglaw - <http://www.ncagr.gov/aglaw/index.html>

Click on Agricultural Waste on Left Hand side, http://www.ncagr.gov/aglaw/agricultural_waste.htm

NC Animal Feeding Operations:: Rules and Statutes

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/aps/afo/rules>

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4. You Asked: (OK, this one is a little different)

Why is it that most of the time when we come across a dead cockroach, it is on its back with its legs in the air?

Coby Schal is a professor of entomology at N.C. State. Here, he explains how roaches meet their demise.

The insecticides we use to kill roaches can have the same effect. Most of these insecticides are neurotoxins – poisons that can trigger tremors and muscle spasms, eventually causing the cockroach to flip on its back. A healthy cockroach can easily right itself, but the tremors, lack of muscle coordination and, again, the rounded back and high center of gravity cause the intoxicated cockroach to get stuck that way. There are two basic reasons. Cockroaches have a slightly rounded and greasy back, and a flat body that helps them squeeze and hide in narrow cracks and crevices. Their long legs give them a high center of gravity, meaning they carry most of their weight around their backs. When a cockroach is dying of old age, its high center of gravity pulls its back toward the floor, and its rounded back and weakened muscles prevent it from righting itself, particularly on smooth surfaces.

We humans usually have no trouble righting ourselves after lying down. But then again, we can't climb up walls. How are roaches wired differently than humans to affect how they move? Because we have two legs and cockroaches have three pairs of legs, the equivalent action for us would be going from lying to standing. We also have a high center of gravity, and righting or standing becomes more challenging as we age.

Despite this similarity, there are many striking differences that affect mobility. In the cockroach, the brain doesn't coordinate everything. Instead, each pair of legs is controlled by its own bundle of nerves. So, a headless cockroach can still move around and try to right itself. Most cockroach species also have two sharp claws on each foot similar to a tree climber's spurs, and a suction cup-like pad between the claws that enables them to walk upside-down even on smooth glass.

We often witness the deaths of these pests in our homes, but how do roaches

typically die in the wild? Most people are not aware that about 5,000 cockroach species have been described and named worldwide, and there are just as many yet to be named. Only about half a dozen are household pests, but often outdoors cockroaches inadvertently enter the home and cannot find their way back out. The most important household pest, the German cockroach, has adapted so well to living in our homes that we don't know of any wild populations of this species.

Cockroaches that live outdoors rarely die of old age because predators and parasites are rampant in the wild. For example, more than 50 percent of the diet of the red-cockaded woodpecker consists of wood cockroaches. Cockroaches are often the dominant prey in the stomach contents of lizards, geckos, birds, spiders and scorpions – so they are a part of the food chain feeding other critters, some kinds of cockroaches actually “swim” through the desert sand and serve as an important food for the desert fauna.

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5. Benefits of a Sacrifice Area

You can greatly improve the health and productivity of your pastures by creating and using a sacrifice area. A sacrifice area is a small enclosure such as a paddock, corral or pen, or turnout area. The concept is that a selected area is sacrificed from the grazing system and is used to confine the horses to protect pastures from over-use at critical times.

Sacrifice areas give flexibility to the management of your horse property. Horses can be confined to the sacrifice area when:

- pastures need a rest from grazing**
- you want to control the amount of grass your horse consumes on a daily basis**
- you want to prevent over-consumption of lush pasture in the spring and early summer**
- you need to care for sick or injured animals**

Sacrifice areas also have other benefits. They can serve as a central watering location for rotational grazing systems, and they provide a location for supplemental feeding. Sacrifice areas are also ideal for helping to juggle the turnout of compatible groups of horses when pasture area is limited. In addition, manure deposits are confined to a smaller area, which can be cleaned and the manure removed more frequently.

When choosing a location for a sacrifice area, select a site on higher, drier ground, away from wetlands, streams or ditches. Surround the area with at least 8 to 15 m (25 to 50 ft.) of lawn, pasture, trees or bushes. This vegetative buffer will act as a natural filter for contaminated water running off the area.

For chore efficiency, you may want to keep the area close to the barn. You may have several turnout paddocks that you rotate stalled horses through during the day. Alternatively, you could set up a sacrifice area for each horse as a run off of each stall.

The amount of land you have available and the number of horses and their temperaments will all affect the size of the sacrifice areas you need. Approximately 100 square meters (1,000 ft²) will be needed for each horse. The shape of a sacrifice area can be square or it can be a long, narrow enclosure that allows horses to run and play. Approximately 6 to 9 m (20 to 30 ft.) wide by 30 m (100 ft.) in length will allow a horse to trot; 60 m (200 ft.) in length will allow a horse to canter.

Footing for the horses is an important consideration for sacrifice areas. The objective is to have a hard-wearing, steady surface that is able to cope with plentiful hoof traffic without degenerating into dust and mud. The area should slope 2 to 4 per cent to avoid ponding of water and to reduce erosion. Roof runoff from barns and other structures should be drained away from the sacrifice area.

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6. Droughts Affect Farms in So Many Ways Do What You Can??

As you are probably aware, we are dry, even with the occasional shower of rain, the ground is very dry. According to US Drought Monitor of NC

<http://nc-climate.ncsu.edu/climate/drought/monitoring>

- Guilford County and parts of Rockingham County are Abnormally Dry.

Drought Update: Severe Drought Creeps into NC

<http://nc-climate.ncsu.edu/climateblog?id=143&h=a231028e>

North Carolina Weather & Crops Report can be viewed at:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/stats/weather/2015/CW071915.pdf>

Drought affects farms directly in terms of the amount of forage produced and water availability for livestock. Lost forage production is the most critical aspect. A drought at any time of the year will have an impact on production because growth may occur at any time of the year when temperatures are high enough and precipitation occurs.

From an economic standpoint, since a drought causes forage production to go down, the farm is faced with few options:

- Continue to graze the same number of animals and hope the drought breaks
- Reduce the herd size to match the amount of forage produced
 - Seek additional forage sources, (or)
 - Feed hay or other harvested feed.

Each of these options will affect the ranch economically, but in different ways. Continuing with the same numbers will cause the pastures to be overgrazed and will eventually result in reduced animal production either in weight gained or in reproductive rates.

Reducing the number of animals can increase short-term income from the sale of livestock but at the same time reduce future income due to fewer head being produced. Also, as the herd gets built back up when the drought ends, more replacement animals will be retained, further reducing income. The secondary effect is that if many farms seek to reduce their herds at the same time, it can cause the market price for their animals will be reduced as well.

Seeking additional forage sources for grazing or through feeding hay are generally costly options. As with livestock sales during this time, if everyone is seeking land to lease to graze or to buy hay, available land will decrease and prices (for land & hay) increase.

Besides these direct costs to the farm, there are likely to be some intangible costs. Some may seek

to retain livestock that is suited to their resources. If the farm has to sell those livestock to match forage availability, the loss of those livestock may have a longer-term impact on what the ranch can produce.

Lack of rain this translates into grass growth slowing and even stopping, right in the peak production period for pastures. What is a grazer to do? We have been here before - dry periods are expected, but not enjoyed. Rotations need to slow down. Grass is growing slower, it takes longer to start regrowth after being grazed and it takes longer to reach optimum grazing mass (height) for the next grazing. The number of days grazing a paddock can be increased, as long as you do not over graze.

The rest period needs to increase. For most graziers this means pulling more acreage into the rotation. Many use fields where they made first cutting hay. Another consideration is unused fields in your area. Every year landowners look for someone to mow their fields and take all the hay. They just want it mowed. Check around, many of these could easily be cut for hay or grazed.

Every grazer works to protect their perennial forage resource. Do not overgraze! Overgrazing is something we try to avoid in normal years, but critical in dry ones. Overgrazing during a drought causes slower recovery when we do get rain, reduced productivity even longer after recovery and can cause stand loss.

During dry periods we need to be extremely protective of our residual. Residual is the term used for the amount of green forage left after grazing. Residual is an important aspect of managing grazing. In a dry year it becomes even more critical. The amount of residual has an effect on many things.

The amount of residual affects root growth. In research studies on leaf area removal and root growth data showed that at 50% leaf removal only 2% of the roots stopped growing. At 60% leaf removal 50% of the roots stopped growing. All of the roots stopped growing at 80% leaf removal. A healthy root system helps the plants survive the dry times. If more than 50% of the leaf area is removed then root growth stops. Root growth is used to capture more water and nutrients. At the very least this slows re-growth.

The amount of residual affects re-growth. Green leaves are needed to capture sunlight for photosynthesis. This creates the non-structural carbohydrates needed to fuel re-growth. Without enough leaf area the forages must fuel re-growth from their stored reserves. Growth fueled by the root reserves is slower than growth fueled from active photosynthesis.

The amount of residual affects water absorption by the soil. Grazing below 2-3" will cause most of the rain that does come to run off and not be absorbed by the soil. One of the classic forage studies

from the 1930's shows the runoff results from a 10% slope where three inches of rain was applied through a sprinkler system over 90 minutes. Pasture grazed to 95% cover experienced a little over 10% runoff. Overgrazed pasture, 50% ground cover, lost 75% of the rain that was applied.

More leaf area means less water runoff. The more vegetative material you have will shade the soil and slow the movement of rain allowing the water to be absorbed by the soil.

When we consider grazing management during dry times remember that without rain pastures grow slower, and close grazing will compound the problem. Slow growth means the rest between grazing needs to be longer. Do not take more residual to allow for this rest. Consider other options, like annual forages, supplemental feeding, and putting animals in a sacrifice area/drylot animals (penning up) and feeding them. If growth stops, the worst option would be to open up all of the gates letting animals overgraze the whole farm. Drylot may be the best option.

One word on the side of caution: during droughts and the decrease in available forages for animals to eat, animals may eat plants that they would not normally eat. Be aware of poisonous plants - lack of available forage may cause your horses and other animals to eat them.

Manage your Forage/Water Resources and Livestock/Horses accordingly.

Dry lots Preserve Pastures - <http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/livestock/horse/documents/DrylotsPreservePasturesFactsheet.pdf>

Keep an Eye on Horse Health during Drought - <https://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/forglvst/horsdrot.htm>

Purchasing and Feeding Forage to Horses in a Drought Year - <http://www.myhorseuniversity.com/EE/August2012/Drought>

Managing Horses During Drought - <http://www.thehorse.com/articles/28103/managing-horses-during-drought>

Managing Small Acreage Pastures During and After Drought - <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/>

<pubs/natres/06112.html>

Poisonous Weeds in Horse Pastures - <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/fs938/>

Drought & Forage Management - <https://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/corn/cafe/drought/forages.html>

Forage Management for Drought Recovery - <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/forglvst/forgman.htm>

Drought Management and Recovery for Livestock Systems
<http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp530.pdf>

Drought Management Strategies - <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2562/NREM-2870web.pdf>

Forage Use and Grazing Herd Management during a Drought - <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C914>

Management tips for drought-stressed forages - <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/articles/others/BarOct12.html>

The "Basics" of Livestock Drought Management - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2PrPmwJ0Cw&feature=youtu.be>

Drought Management Before, During, and After the Drought - <https://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/forglvst/Drought.pdf>

Drought Reduces Fall Pastures - <https://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/forglvst/drought.htm>

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7. Snakes

You have seen the article in the Pile about Snake Bite First Aid, and this time of year is when my office gets calls about snakes. Most often people say that they have seen or killed a Copperhead. Not all snakes are poisonous (and not all snakes are Copperheads). Below is a list of resources about snakes.

Snakes

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston/Pests/reptiles/sprsnakes.html>

Snakes of North Carolina http://www.herpsofnc.org/herps_of_NC/snakes/snakes.html

Control of Nonpoisonous and Nonvenomous Snakes

<http://icwdm.org/handbook/reptiles/nonpoisonoussnakes.asp>

The Handbook: Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/icwdmhandbook/>

NORTH CAROLINA SNAKE PICTURES

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston/Pests/reptiles/snakepix3.html>

Snake Eggs

The Life Cycle of a Snake - Eggs

<http://www.thematzats.com/snakes/life1.htm>

Managing Wildlife Damage: Snakes

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/420/420-021/420-021.html>

Snakes - National Wildlife Control Training Program

<https://universityofnebras599-public.sharepoint.com/species-information/snakes>

Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage Series - Nonpoisonous Snakes

https://books.google.com/books?id=gt-Yk3CRuXMC&pg=SL6-PA15&lpg=SL6-PA15&dq=Prevention+and+Control+of+Wildlife+Damage+Series+-+Nonpoisonous+Snakes&source=bl&ots=jMJxPYG4QB&sig=nH7X_FHTj2SgggzcdSjcqnPgFXA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDwQ6AEwAmoVChMI0_2yjbKFxwIVxpANCh27mgd1#v=onepage&q=Prevention%20and%20Control%20of%20Wildlife%20Damage%20Series%20-%20Nonpoisonous%20Snakes&f=false

Snakes and Their Control

<http://www.entm.purdue.edu/wildlife/Controlling%20Snakes.pdf>

Animal Damage Control - Extension Resource Catalog

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/animal-damage-control.pdf>

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8. Avian Influenza – How To Register Your Poultry

You have seen the alerts in the past weeks about the Devastating & Highly Contagious Disease - Avian Influenza. If you have Poultry, you are required to register. A common question that I have been getting is How to register your Poultry?

It is a pretty simple process by going to the North Carolina Dept. of Ag & Consumer Services - NCFARMID website (<http://www.ncagr.gov/ncfarmid/>) and register or contact the Office of the State Veterinarian, N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 919-733-7601

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9. Birds

Many of you enjoy birds and bird watching. Below is a resource that should be of interest.

BIRDS - <http://gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/wildlife/birds/>

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10. Piedmont Horseman’s Association Show August 29th

The next Piedmont Horseman’s Association show will be on Saturday, August 29th at Shooting Star Horse Farm in Greensboro. This is one you don’t want to miss. This facility is beautiful and this is their first annual show so be sure to check them out. They will award high point and reserve high point awards in each division. The show will start 10am. The show is open to everyone. We have something for everyone; adults and youth. This year PHA is offering field hunter, stock type hunter, working western and western pleasure. You do not have to be a member to show, but there are many benefits of being a member of PHA; reduced entry fee at sanctioned shows, accumulate points for year-end awards, and much more.

We hope you will become part of the PHA family!!

You can find all the details about all the shows as well as membership forms on the web site:<http://www.phasince1971.com>

Also find us on Facebook.

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11. HAY

In the past couple of weeks we have had a lot of hay cut. With it getting so dry, Please make sure you are managing your grass if you are grazing or cutting for hay. Let grass grow to proper height before harvesting and once you do, pull animals off when taken down to proper height.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE HAY FOR SALE!

A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County and Guilford County area. This directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. If you are in need of hay or would like to be added (or removed) from this list please call me at **1-800-666-3625** or **342-8235** and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.

MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

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12. Swap Shop

- Fiore Farms has a Few spots available for board.

Yoga on horseback starting back up in the Fall.

-Horses for lease @ Fiore Farms

BellEquine.org

FioreFarms.com

336.423.6981

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13. Take A Load Off

I need your clean Jokes, so please send em to me! -

Thanks For This Send In

Does Your Dog Bite??

There was a hound dog laying in the yard. An old man in overalls was sitting on the porch. "Excuse me, sir, but does your dog bite?" the traveling salesman asked.

The old man replied, "Nope."

So the traveling salesman stepped out of his car. The dog ran over snarling and growling and bit him on his arms and legs. As the dog was dragging him away the traveling salesman was flailing around in the dust and yelled, "I thought you said your dog didn't bite!"

The old man replied, "Ain't my dog."

I always need more help with the jokes!

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I always want to know what you think of the **Weekly Pile**, good or bad,
Especially if it has had **ANY IMPACT** on you. Let me hear from you!

PLEASE SEND TO ME YOUR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS!

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!

Please remember our **Troops who are serving our Country** (and their families), those who have come home with wounds, and the families that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!

Ben

Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
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<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture>