Cattle Call

Guilford County Extension Beef Newsletter

April 2017

Included in this April 2017 Cattle Call is Extension's Beef Cattle related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. Please send me any announcements, or buy and sale items, hay or other that you wish to be included in EACH Cattle Call. (SHORT AS POSSIBLE) THERE ARE NO CONTINUAL RUNNING SPOTS, SO YOU NEED TO SEND THESE TO ME FOR *EACH* Cattle Call.

*****PLEASE PUT IN SUBJECT LINE – ***Cattle Call. *****

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was a total oversight on my part. BUT LET ME KNOW!

******GOT A QUESTION OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOMETHING, LET ME KNOW SO IT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT CATTLE CALL!******

As Always - I would like to hear your comments!

Included in this

Cattle Call

1. **Guilford County April 18th Cattleman's Program**
2. Fifth Annual WOLFPACK ROUNDUP - NCSU ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT LIVESTOCK SALE - April 8 11:00 am
3. **Alamance County Cattlemen's Annual Field Day April 11**
4. **Guilford County's Spring Cleanup April 8th**

5. *What to do about Broomsedge?*

6. **Initial Considerations for Renovation of Pastures and Hayfields**

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11. **Sheep & Goat - FAMACHA Training & Certification**

12. Snakes

13. **Forage Management Tips**

14. **CATTLE REMINDERS**

15. **HAY DIRECTORY**

16. **Take A Load Off**

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1. Guilford County April 18th Cattleman's Program

The April Guilford County Cattleman's program will be taking place on Tuesday, April 18th beginning at 7:00 pm, at the Guilford County Agricultural Center, located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro. Most farmers & cattle producers are concerned about the environment and promoters of Agriculture. Having Cattle and running a farm, you are engaged in numerous farming activities. Sometimes these farming activities may offend or cause conflict with

nonfarm neighbors. If a complaint is made (for an example) by someone saying that your farming practices are causing water quality problems (or pollution). It is required by law that someone has to investigate. That investigation will fall upon the NC Division of Water Resources/ NC Department of Environmental Quality.

At this educational program on April 18th, Melissa Rosebrock, Environmental Senior Specialist, with the NC Division of Water Resources, NC Department of Environmental Quality, will be coming to discuss what takes place when she is called to go out to conduct such an investigation and some of the violations that are seen. Many times when she does these investigations, she finds/sees nothing and she can end up being one of the farmer's closest allies. The purpose of having her come is for numerous reasons but here are 2 good reasons. 1.When someone finds out they they are being "investigated" (especially when there is no guilt of anything) one can be very defensive to her being on their farm, so from this meeting you know who she is and what she is doing. 2 You will learn what common issues she often sees which most of the time there are best management practices which will solve the issue. 3. You may see something that will give you ideas on what you could do better on your farm.

Dinner will be served at this event (Dutch) and the cost of your meal will be $10.00 and your responsibility. I know that this will be a really great program, so make sure you make plans to attend. IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS EVENT, PLEASE CALL 336-342-8235 & RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY Friday April 14th, This will help us better prepare for the event and ensure that there is enough food! (If you would like more information call, Ben Chase, Area Livestock Extension Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in Rockingham & Guilford Counties at 342-8235, 1-800-666-3625 or Email at ben_chase@ncsu.edu. If you do reserve places to attend this event, you will be held responsible for the cost of ALL the meals that you have reserved.

Plan to come on Tuesday, April 18th beginning at 7:00 pm, at the Guilford County Agricultural Center, located at 3309 Burlington Road in

Greensboro. I know it will be educational and you will enjoy the fellowship of other cattlemen.!

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2. Fifth Annual WOLFPACK ROUNDUP

NCSU ANIMAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT LIVESTOCK SALE

April 8, 2017

11:00 am

NCSU Beef Unit, Raleigh, NC 919-795-9696 (Sale Day)

This sale is being conducted by members of the Livestock Merchandising class at North Carolina State University. The class was started to give students the opportunity to learn about different method available to merchandise livestock and to gain hands-on experience through promoting and conducting a livestock auction. This is a great opportunity to add to the genetics of your operation and help further the education of the agricultural leaders of tomorrow.

The sale will consist of cattle from the Beef Educational Unit and the Upper Piedmont Research Station in Reidsville sheep and goats from the Small Ruminant Educational Unit, and yearling horses from the Equine Educational Unit and also numerous other donated quality animals, embryos & semen.

Proceeds from this event go back to help support their operations and to raise money for the North Carolina State University Livestock Judging Team to help with travel expenses.

For more information you can contact Gary Gregory (919-515-4027 or ggregory@ncsu.edu). You can also go to the catalog:

https://projects.ncsu.edu/cals/an_sci/extension/animal/wolfpackroundup/Catalog%2017.pdf

Sale Address:
3720 Lake Wheeler Rd,
Raleigh, NC 27603

(*You will have to travel to Mid Pines Rd. to get to the Beef Unit*)

Directions:
[1]From Interstate 40 take Exit 297 (Lake Wheeler Rd) head south.**[2]**Drive about 2.3 miles. **[3]**turn right on Mid Pines Rd (This will be a gravel road). **[4]**Drive about 150 yards and then take driveway on your right.**[5]**Follow driveway to the Beef Unit.

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3. Alamance County Cattlemen's Annual Field Day April 11, 2017

The Alamance County Cattleman's Association Annual Field Day will be held on Tuesday April 11 at the Teague Ranch located at 3341 Preacher Holmes Road in Graham NC beginning at 1pm.

Agenda 1:00 p.m. - Field Day Begins, 5:00 p.m. - Dinner

6:00 p.m. - Reverse Cash Raffle

FOUR Chances to WIN For tickets call Robert Bowman at 336-266-1548

Field Day Activities - • Veterinary Feed Directive Requirements,

Rick Holder, Performance Feeds • Farm & Animal Safety, Callie Carson, NC Farm Bureau • Bull & Replacement Heifer Selection, Steve Furrow, Select Sire Power • Teague Ranch,Tommy & Randy Teague • Vendor Displays: livestock equipment, animal health, feed/seed/fertilizer, farm equipment, and more!

For more information about ACCA or the field day please contact: Robert Bowman- President (336-266-1548), Doug Gilliam- Vice President(336-339-3408)

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4. Guilford County's Spring Cleanup - April 8th!

Take advantage of this FREE, easy way to dispose of all that junk from your spring cleaning!

The upcoming 2017 Spring Cleanup collection event that will be held on April 8th from 8am until 2pm at 1730 W. Gate City Blvd. across from the Greensboro Coliseum. We will be accepting scrap tires, white goods, household hazardous waste (HHW), electronic waste, and personal documents for shredding. The event provides a safe, easy way to dispose of a variety of household waste that cannot be thrown away with your regular garbage. All Guilford County residents are invited to participate.

Below is the Press Release:

Guilford County residents can dispose of their household hazardous waste, outdated electronics, tires, appliances, and personal documents for free at the County's annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 8th from 8am to 2pm. Staff from Guilford County and the City of Greensboro will be ready to collect these waste items at the Gate City Blvd. parking lot, located at 1730 W. Gate City Blvd. across from the Greensboro Coliseum. The event is open to all Guilford County residents. Business waste is not accepted through this program.

Last year, 374 vehicles dropped off more than 9 tons of electronics and TVs, 5 tons of household hazardous waste, 38 tons of tires, 6 tons of appliances and scrap metal, and 3.5 tons of personal documents. This year, County staff are making preparations to collect more of these materials at this popular annual event.

Guilford County Planning and Development is again partnering with the City of Greensboro to offer this secure, free, and environmentally sound way for residents to dispose of many types of waste they have in their homes. The event is part of the County's environmental awareness campaign: "For PETE's sake RECYCLE!" By

participating in the 2017 Spring Cleanup, residents keep valuable commodities and toxic materials out of our landfills, ensuring they will be reused or recycled safely instead.

Document shredding will be provided onsite by ProShred Security, which specializes in providing secure records storage and onsite shredding services.

Residents can drop-off the following items:

Tires

· White goods (appliances – stoves, refrigerators, washers, air conditioners, water heaters, microwaves)

· Paint and supplies, farm and garden pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil and oil filters, cleaners, batteries, household and garden chemicals, fluorescent bulbs and other types of household hazardous waste

· E-waste, including computers, televisions, electronic games and toys, cell phones, VHS and DVD players, stereo equipment and any other household items with a microchip or a plug

· Personal documents for shredding (maximum of 3 boxes per vehicle)

Many of these services are available year-round to county residents. However, some like tire disposal and document shredding, are not always free of charge. Spring Cleanup 2017 will provide free services while helping raise public awareness about safe, responsible disposal of these materials. The event is also designed to assist the community in complying with the North Carolina landfill bans that apply to tires, large appliances, antifreeze, lead acid batteries, used oil filters, computer equipment and televisions.

The annual Spring Cleanup is sponsored by Guilford County Planning and Development, Greensboro Field Operations, Greensboro Coliseum, NC Cooperative Extension, NCDA&CS Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program, and Local Government Federal Credit Union.

For more information visit www.myguilford.com

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5. *What to do about Broomsedge?*

This has been a common weed & question the last few weeks as this is the time of the year that broomsedge is quite noticeable. The tall orange-brown stems stand in contrast to the new green growth

we desire to see. When broomsedge gets mature, the nutritional value is essentially zero. Even if the nutritional value was great it wouldn't matter since livestock don't usually consume mature broomsedge. Since this plant is just in the way and takes the place of more desirable grasses, controlling it is necessary. The question is, how?

Broomsedge is an indicator plant, meaning it is a symptom of a larger problem. That problem is many times (NOT ALWAYS) poor fertility. Usually, broomsedge thrives in areas where **phosphorus is low, or where the soil is so acidic** that phosphorus is tied up and can't be used by the plant. You may have heard that broomsedge means the soil needs liming. That may be true since lime is added to lower the acidity of the soil and make phosphorus and other nutrients more available. However, since the problem could also be related to the soil being deficient in phosphorus to begin with, a soil test should be done before lime or fertilizer is added.

Unfortunately, adding lime or phosphorus doesn't mean all the broomsedge will be gone next year. **Fertilizer and lime doesn't kill the broomsedge, but instead creates an environment that is more favorable to desirable grasses such as tall fescue and orchardgrass.**

Grazing management is another component of controlling broomsedge in pastures. Grazing tall fescue pastures more heavily when the broomsedge is small and still green can weaken a stand of broomsedge. Cattle will actively graze broomsedge when it is producing young vegetative growth and continued defoliation at this stage will help decrease plant vigor.

Herbicides are not a great option in controlling broomsedge since there are no labeled products that will kill the broomsedge without killing the desired grasses. A selective application (spot spraying, weed wiping) of glyphosate that targets the broomsedge, but is not applied to the desirable forages, may be an option for heavy infestations. However, if you spray without treating the cause of the problem (low fertility), you are treating the symptom and not the disease and the broomsedge or other weeds will come back.

Fields don't normally become heavily infested overnight and won't be cured overnight. In one experiment in Missouri, it took 4-5 years for broomsedge to be nearly eliminated through proper fertilization based on soil tests. Patience is required, but changes to fertility and grazing management will eventually be rewarded by a better stand of forage and a decrease of broomsedge and other weeds.

Two conditions favor broomsedge invasion:

(1) poor soil fertility and

(2) inadequate grazing pressure.

(1) When soil fertility and/or soil pH are not appropriate for active growth of desired forage plants, broomsedge often becomes a problem. Pastures

depleted of nutrients or with highly acidic soils create conditions unfavorable for growth of most forage crops. At the same time, these soil conditions are

favorable for broomsedge growth and competitiveness, causing it to become a problem in pastures. Maintaining soil fertility and pH is your best option for controlling broomsedge emergence. If broomsedge is already a problem, bringing soil fertility and pH back to the recommended level based on soil test recommendations is the first step!

(2) Inadequate grazing or defoliation pressure during the beginning of the growing season for broomsedge can also favor this plant. Animals will actively graze broomsedge when it is producing young vegetative growth. Early in the growing season broomsedge is quite palatable and continued defoliation at this stage will help decrease plant vigor. However, as broomsedge is allowed to mature, it becomes highly fibrous and unpalatable and animals will not eat it. Inadequate defoliation pressure reduces stress on the broomsedge while increasing stress on desirable forage plants, therefore creating a competitive advantage for the broomsedge.

Following step one (correcting soil fertility and pH issues) increased defoliation pressure either through increased stocking rates, or regular clippings will weaken existing broomsedge plants and cause them to be much less competitive.

* Your pastures didn't get in poor condition overnight and won't be fixed that quickly either. Having regular soil tests and maintaining soil health and fertility will help keep broomsedge problems at bay. The length of time required to correct broomsedge infestations will vary greatly depending on the extent of defoliation and fertilization and the initial health of the established broomsedge.

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6. Initial Considerations for Renovation of Pastures and Hayfields

Dr. Matt Poore, NCSU Animal Science

We have a lot of questions recently about pasture renovation due to damage caused last year by the drought in the western and central North Carolina and the flood in eastern North Carolina. The drought caused stand damage on many farms across the western region, and also in the east on pastures that stayed under water for ore than a week.

As the weather warms up you should be able to tell which fields have severe long-term damage, which are weakened, and which are in good shape. As you assess your pastures, keep in mind that you really need to be thinking in terms of how much bare ground there is, how much of the cover is desirable forage species, how much is undesirable species (weeds), and whether legumes are present. Your local advisors including your extension agents and conservationists have training on assessing pasture condition, so make sure you seek their guidance as you approach your pasture evaluation.

Our initial feedback from local advisors and our observations show that in the west some pastures show recovery and adequate stands, while others show a lot of bare ground, few desirable plants and active erosion. In the east, bermudagrass and bahiagrass that stayed under water for a long time is expected to survive, but fescue or other cool season forages that were flooded in many cases were killed.

Some people think that when the originally seeded forage crop starts to thin out, then the fields need to be completely reseeded. This is not necessarily the case as a pasture ecosystem will naturally evolve over time, and even if you seed one type of plant, eventually you will have multiple species. This is not necessarily bad as long as most of the plant population is of desirable species. On the other hand, if the pasture has a high percentage of undesirable plants, has low yield, little or no legume, and/or has a thin stand with a lot of bare areas then some sort of action is probably called for.

The first consideration is what the main purpose of the forage stand is. If you have multipurpose pastures for grazing and making hay for cattle, then you can tolerate more weeds than if you are trying to make high quality hay for sale to horse owners or other top end hay markets. If you have multiple animal species grazing (cattle and sheep or goats) then the “weeds” might actually have some nutritional value and would not necessarily be undesirable. Finally, if these fields are around your house, or if you just like things to look “clean” then there might be aesthetic reasons for doing some kind of pasture renovation.

If you decide a pasture or hayfield is in suboptimal condition for its purpose and is in need of attention, the next thing to think about is how it got in that condition in the first place. As I indicated earlier, with good management a pasture can remain productive indefinitely, and there is not necessarily a need to periodically renovate. From time to time inputs are needed (like lime and fertilizer), and doing those things on a timely basis will help keep the pastures healthy for a long time. Of course the poor season we had last year was a challenge for pastures, especially if they were overgrazed, but in many cases these pastures will only need rest and a careful look at the fertility program.

The first thing to consider as you approach renovation is soil fertility status. Many pastures that are in poor condition were already in bad shape before the drought or flood and really just need a good fertility program. Start your fertility management planning by doing soil testing. State labs can get the results back to you fairly quickly, and that information is the most valuable tool you have to improve your pastures. Lime, phosphorus and potassium should be applied based on recommendations, and while phosphorus and potassium can go to work as soon as applied, lime will take months to start increasing soil

pH. Nitrogen is obviously also a very important fertility input but without desirable pH, and potassium and phosphorus levels at least in the medium range the response to nitrogen will be less that you want.

The second thing to consider is if the problems were caused by poor grazing or hay cutting management. If pastures are undergrazed or overgrazed, pasture condition problems can result. Even with fairly light stocking, if you continuously graze pastures eventually many of the desirable plants will be killed out and undesirable ones will dominate. If you overgraze pastures, the stand can be thin resulting in a lot of weeds, erosion and loss of yield. That effect is magnified during a drought condition. No matter what you do to renovate the pasture, continuous grazing management will eventually get you back in the same situation, so couple any renovation efforts with an upgrade in how you manage grazing.

In hayfields, waiting too late in the spring to cut can thin the stand resulting in a lot of bare areas, and that can lead to increased weed populations. Cutting on time before the forage gets rank (early May for most cool season forages in the Piedmont) will help maintain a vigorous stand of desirable plants. Cutting too short is another problem for hayfields, and with disk cutters it is very easy to set them too low and remove too much of the base of the plant. Never cut a cool season pasture shorter than 4 inches or a bermudagrass pasture shorter than 2 inches.

There is no one method of pasture renovation that fits every situation. Once you decide you do need to do something, and take steps to correct management problems that caused the forage crops to get into bad shape, you need to decide how intensive your renovation efforts will be.

I have already mentioned fertility improvement, and any renovation effort should start with soil testing and liming/fertilization. Without that, most other actions will not live up to their potential for improvement. Some folks think that when a pasture gets into bad shape it just needs aeration. This is based on work that shows that when cattle graze a pasture soil bulk density increases reducing the ability of the forage roots to grow. Most research has shown that aeration alone may give a short-term response, but that in general aeration by itself is not a very effective renovation tool. Aeration does improve water infiltration and may be of benefit when wastewater is irrigated onto forage crops, and it will also help lime and phosphorus penetrate the lower soil profiles which might help with root growth. If you know compaction is a big issue, you might consider aeration, but in most cases it is not necessary.

If undesirable plants (weeds) are a problem, then frequent clipping or herbicides should be used. Frequent clipping can work against some weeds, and it certainly makes things look better for a while, but tough weed problems probably call for an herbicide. The problem with herbicides is that without proper timing, they might not get all the weeds that are causing you a problem. They might also cause collateral damage to desirable plants such as clovers. Still, if you have a broadleaf weed problem or a brush problem, the right herbicide applied at the right time can have a big impact.

If the weeds are localized, you might be better to use spot application of herbicides rather than treating the whole pasture. One example of this is the control of multiflora rose by spot spraying or with a granular herbicide that is applied only to the base of the rose bush by hand. The use of herbicides is a complex issue, so I will not give you any specific advice on herbicide use. That is best left up to your personal advisor.

In general, there is not a good way to handle undesirable grasses. If you have a weedy grass like Johnsongrass that is tall, you can use a wick applicator to apply glyphosate. Otherwise, you have to provide optimal management for the desirable grasses present so that they can effectively dominate over the undesirable grasses. One approach is to shift the grass population by changing fertilizer timing.

If warm-season grasses are a problem in cool-season grass pastures, then apply nitrogen only in fall after the warm-season grasses slow their growth, or in the early spring before warm season grasses are growing. If you have pastures that are mostly desirable warm-season species (bermudagrass, dallisgrass, or bahiagrass) don't apply nitrogen in the spring, but rather wait until early summer (June) & you will slowly shift the stand to the warm-season.

One good practice if you have weedy pastures is to add goats or sheep to your farm. They require some extra management, but they do like to eat most weeds over desirable forage crops. If you stock them heavy enough they can make a big difference in the weed populations in your pasture.

Once the weeds are under control, or if you have a good stand of grass with no clover, then you should seriously consider seeding clover or other legumes into the pasture. Clovers can be drilled in the fall or spring as long as the pasture is grazed periodically to allow the seedlings a chance to develop.

You might also have success with surface broadcast seeding of clover in late winter (also known as frost seeding). Clovers will only do well if pH is above 6.0, fertility is right (especially phosphorus), and if pastures are grazed pretty close to allow the seedlings to develop without a lot of competition from grass. As you read this in March it is really too late to frost seed (except at high elevation in the mountains) but keep that practice in mind for next winter to fill in thin stands of grass.

The ultimate in pasture renovation would be to completely establish a new stand. If you decide your pastures are so bad that you need to go to that extent, you need to be aware that this is a costly approach. Based on our forage budgets it costs close to $250/acre to totally establish a new pasture. You also have to figure that you lose nearly a full year of production due to the need to allow the plants to establish. Reseeding pastures without reducing animal pressure will in most cases lead to failure to develop a good stand.

If you decide that a cool season pasture must be reseeded completely, you will have to wait until fall to seed if you want your efforts to be successful. The options you have in May are; 1) to get the most you can out of the existing forage present and keep weeds under control, or 2) kill the existing stand and plant a summer annual (generally millet or sorghum-sudan). If you are short of forage for the number of animals you have, then the warm-season annual may be your best choice. Just remember, once you reseed the pasture you will have to do something to reduce the animal grazing pressure for the establishment year.

Seeding can be done either using complete tillage or no-till techniques. If fertility on a site is low, deep tillage after lime and phosphorus application is a good idea. If there are a lot of weeds present in pastures or hayfields, you must be aware that there is also a large viable seed bank present. If you till the soil and plant a forage crop, you will also get a good crop of weeds. If you are going to replant you are well advised to get the weeds under control several years before going to the effort of developing a new stand, or be prepared to spray for weeds that may compete with the new forage plants. In many cases, especially in the mountains no-till is your only option due to a very high potential for erosion. If you do reestablish (or if you establish forages on old cropland), make sure that you use the best quality seed available. There are many new forage options for you including non-toxic endophyte infected fescues (MaxQ, MaxQ2, BarOptima, etc) that have great potential, and there also are new orchardgrass varieties (e.g. Persist) that are available where orchardgrass is called for. These new varieties and the many other good forage varieties available can lead to improved pasture and animal performance and should be considered if you go the great effort and expense of establishing new stands. I would not recommend establishing endophyte infected fescue unless you currently have less than 1/3 of your acreage in fescue, or if you are in a heavy use pasture such as a bull lot, horse pasture (for non-reproductive horses) or some other kind of feeding/holding pasture.

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We are seeing renewed interest in legumes due to the high cost of nitrogen. If you are a very crop oriented farmer then alfalfa might be a good option if you have soils to which it is adapted. White clover is an excellent pasture plant that fixes a lot of nitrogen, and red clover works very well on hayfields. Unfortunately, most herbicides will kill legumes, so if you have a weed problem you need to get that under control before you work to establish clover. The best time to establish these legumes either in existing stands of cool-season pastures or in conjunction with establishing cool-season grasses is in the fall.

The final word as you approach pasture or hayfield renovation is to use common sense. Poor fertility and overgrazing are often the "root" of the problem, and you need to correct that no matter what you do. Herbicides can help if you make the right choice for the weeds you have and apply them at the right time. Generally, pasture condition problems result from poor pasture management in general and if you don’t improve your management in concert with the renovation, you are destined to have problems again in the near future. Usually, a combination of the less aggressive practices, including fertility improvement, use of a selective herbicide to get the problem weeds, reestablishing the legume stand and then improving grazing and hay cutting management will yield big results. Next month we will discuss in more detail the steps you need to take in Spring and Summer in preparation for an Autumn planting of a cool-season perennial pasture.

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7. Basic Vaccination Protocol for Beef Cattle

Please discuss with your Vet!

• Cows – Pre-Breeding:

• IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3

• Leptospirosis 5-way

• Vibriosis (30-60 days prior to breeding)

• Roto/Coronavirus

• Pasteurella-Hemophilus (*Consult Your Veterinarian*)

• Breeding Bulls – Pre-Breeding:

• IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3, RSV

• Leptospirosis 5-way

• Pasteurella-Hemophilus (*optional – Consult Your Veterinarian*)

• Vibriosis – (*Consult Your Veterinarian) Optional*- (30-60 days prior to breeding)

If servicing large numbers of cows or bull sharing situations-

• Calves

• IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3- RSV

• Both initial and booster prior to weaning

– Clostridials • 2-3 months, booster at 6 months

– Tetanus • Use when banding bull calves

• Pasteurella-Hemophilus (*optional – Consult Your Veterinarian*)

• BRUCELLA 2-8 months of age

• Heifers

• Leptospirosis (twice yearly)

• IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI3- RSV

• Vibriosis (30-60 days prior to breeding)

• Pasteurella-Hemophilus (*optional – Consult Your Veterinarian*)

(-way prior to breeding - Brucellosis vaccine- if selling breeding stock)

***ALL CATTLE**: Rabies Vaccine Annually

This is a core program of vaccination. Diseases such as calf scours, pinkeye, anaplasmosis, trichomoniasis may be of particular concern on some operations and can be addressed through proper vaccination procedures.

Should regulatory concerns arise concerning brucellosis, vaccination by an accredited and licensed veterinarian can satisfy regulations for interstate shipment of animals.

Parasite Control – Pre & Post Treatment fecal exam

Products to Control Internal Parasites should be disc used with your *Veterinarian*

Recommendations by NC State University School of Veterinary Medicine & Area Veterinarians

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8. Prolapses in Beef Cows

Prolapses occur occasionally in beef cows. Most prolapses occur very near the time of calving. Two distinct kinds of prolapse exist, Vaginal prolapse and Uterine prolapse.

1) Vaginal prolapses are those that occur in very late gestation. Vaginal prolapse is as the name implies, a protruding of the vagina through the vulva and exposed to sun, wind, and infectious pathogens. Vaginal prolapses are ***very repeatable***. In other words, if the vaginal prolapse is repaired, the cow calves and rebreeds, then she is very likely to prolapse again next year. This type of prolapse is known to have a genetic component, which means that *daughters of cows that have this problem will have an increased likelihood of suffering a vaginal prolapse themselves*. Therefore, when a cow is found with this malady, she should be marked for culling and daughters should not be kept as replacements. Certainly bull calves from this cow could also pass the genetic characteristics on to his offspring and proliferate the problem within a herd.

2) Uterine prolapses occur at or shortly after calving. Many times they occur with a difficult birth. The uterus is literally pulled through the birth canal with the calf or the afterbirth and again exposed to the weather elements, potential injury, and certainly infectious agents. Uterine prolapses, when repaired by proper veterinary attention, can have a very successful result. Cows with properly cared for uterine prolapses are no more likely than others to have a prolapse next year. Because of the trauma, possible infection, and recovery time, cows with

a uterine prolapse may take longer to re-conceive for the next year's calf. This often means that these cows will be late-bred or non-pregnant at weaning time when pregnancy checks are made. This may be a viable reason for culling these cows, but keeping pregnant cows that have experienced a uterine prolapse is not a bad risk.

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9. Ringworm

Ringworm is caused by infection of the hair and surface layers of the skin by fungi. It occurs in all species of animals including man. Animals get ringworm by direct contact with an infected animal or by being in an infected environment, such as a barn. Fungal infections cause little, if any, permanent damage or economic loss. However, because ringworm is a transmissible infectious disease, animals with lesions are barred from exhibitions or shows by regulations of the State Board of Animal Health.

Ringworm is characterized by hairless, crusty circular areas on the skin. Spores are shed from the lesion by broken hairs or scabs from the lesion. The spores remain alive for years in a dry environment; and because they do, halters, grooming equipment, or even a barn can remain infective for years.

People are infected with ringworm through direct contact with infected animals. In humans, ringworm forms itchy areas on the skin that are round and irritated. Good hygiene and thorough hand and forearm washing after handling infected cattle will help decrease the risk of ringworm.

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10. Livestock and Lightning

Kim Woods, Person County Extension Livestock Agent

Unfortunately, a call has already come into the Extension office about livestock being killed by lightning this year. With spring here and summer storms not far away, it may be a good time for a refresher on keeping animals safe. Of course, different types of livestock typically warrant various kinds of care and shelter, a lot of which is dependent upon owner's preference. Here are some points to keep in mind:

-Be aware if storms are forecasted. Knowing what's coming and having a plan to deal with it are the first steps in protecting livestock.

-Lightning's main goal is to seek the easiest pathway to Earth; the most likely area for a strike is toward higher elevations

-Higher elevations can include hilltops and hillside pastures. Other relatively tall objects are also attractive to lightning bolts – these can include single trees or even animals. Power lines and wire/metal fences can also be seen as pathways to Earth. Add moisture/rain and animals, and the pasture suddenly looks enticing to lightning.

-Ungrounded barns can be a potential problem as well. So a small, ungrounded barn may not be the best place for animals during a thunderstorm. If you have your barn grounded, make sure it is done correctly.

-If a grounded barn is not an option, safe havens can include a grounded, three-sided shed, lower elevations and a stand of trees. Lightning prefers single trees over a group of trees. However, a stand of trees does not guarantee lightning won't strike there. Fence out single trees so animals won't congregate under them.

-Of course, all these suggestions sound good, but we all know that Mother Nature can be unpredictable. Just because we do all these things to protect our animals does not guarantee their safety.

-Another concern with storms can be wind. Pick up debris or secure objects that may become airborne prior to a storm. Flying objects can be potentially dangerous.

-Both flash flooding and prolonged flooding can be a problem. Be aware of the flooding potential of your land and take appropriate actions.

If you lose animals due to lightning, you *may* be eligible for compensation through the Livestock Indemnity Program. Contact your local Farm Service Agency for details.

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11. Sheep & Goat - FAMACHA Training & Certification

Where: 5746 Trinity High School Dr., Trinity NC 27470

When: April 8, 2017

Sign-in begins at 1:00pm

Training will be from 1:30 – 3:00pm

Cost: $10/person

Please call Randolph County Extension Office @ 336-318-6000 to Register

Training will consist of educational portion on Sheep and Goat Parasites, followed by certification for FAMACHA.

Both checks and cash will be accepted at time of arrival. Checks make payable to Randolph County Cooperative Extension.

If you have any questions please contact Sara Beth Routh by phone at 336-318-6004 or by email at sbrouth@ncsu.edu

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12. Snakes

It's That Time Of year when we get a barrage of calls here at the Extension office about snakes, spiders, bees & carpenter bees so I thought I would include some information about snakes since we are getting so many calls.

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN VENOMOUS & NONVENOMOUS SNAKES

North Carolina's non-venomous snakes have many tiny teeth. These small teeth will make superficial cuts similar to briar scratches. If you, a child or a pet is bitten by a nonvenomous snake, the bite will look like a horseshoe of tiny scratches. Clean the area well with soap and water and wipe it with hydrogen peroxide. If only one or two puncture wounds are present, or if you are allergic to snakes, or if you are not sure the snake is nonvenomous, go to a doctor. Unlike venomous snakes, most nonvenomous snakes cannot bite through clothing.

Many times people kill snakes such as the young black or gray rat snake and the young racer snake, thinking they are copperheads. This is really a shame, because rat snakes and others do no harm and help keep the rodent and insect population down. Besides, most snakes -- even venomous ones -- are not aggressive and would rather avoid a confrontation with people. A snake can only strike with authority within a distance of one- half its body length. So a reasonable distance will keep you safe. Give the snake time to go on its way.If a confrontation is unavoidable, how can you tell the difference between a venomous copperhead and a harmless rat snake? The rattlesnakes, Copperhead, and cottonmouth are pit vipers. They are characterized by a pit between and slightly below the eye and nostril, long movable fangs, a vertically elliptical "cat's eye" pupil, undivided scales on the underside of the tail, and a large triangular-shaped head that has a small, smooth, shiny cap over the nose. Nonvenomous snakes have round pupils, a large smooth cap over the top of the head past the eyes, divided scales on the underside of the tail, no pits and no long fangs.

The coral snake, the only other poisonous snake in our region, is not a member of the pit viper family. It is recognized by its distinctive pattern: red, yellow and black rings.

Each red and black ring is separated by a yellow ring. The head and tail are encircled by yellow and black. The scarlet snake (*Cemophora coccinea*) and the scarlet kingsnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) are often mistakenly killed because they have the same color bands as the coral snake, but they have a different pattern. The coral snake has small, permanently erect fangs and divided scales on the underside of the tail.

Nonpoisonous snakes have round pupils, divided scales on the underside of the tail, and no pits. There are many more nonpoisonous snakes than poisonous ones. For example, more than 37 species of snakes are in North Carolina, but only 6 species are poisonous.

Tails of nonpoisonous snake (left) and poisonous snake (right).

Of the 37 species of snakes throughout North Carolina, only six are venomous:

Copperhead (found throughout NC) Canebrake Rattlesnake (found throughout NC)

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (found in southeastern NC) Pigmy Rattlesnake (found in southeastern NC) Cottonmouth or Water Moccasin (found in wetland areas in the eastern half of NC) Coral Snake (the rarest, found in the south and southeastern areas of NC). The odds of getting a serious snakebite in the Southeast are low for several reasons. The first is that only 6 of the more than 40 species of southeastern snakes are venomous. The second is that the five species with the most potent venom and greatest potential danger are less likely to bite a person than the sixth one. That sixth snake is the copperhead, North Carolina's most numerous venomous snake.

If you or your pet are bitten by any snake that you suspect is venomous, get medial attention immediately. For the most part, if you let snakes alone, they'll leave you alone. For more information, go to:

https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/gaston/Pests/reptiles/sprsnakes.html http://herpsofnc.org/snakes/

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13. Forage Management & Grazing Tips:

April: **Fertilize cool season grasses if you haven't done so *Harvest fescue and orchardgrass pastures or hayfields as soon as the seed heads begin to flower *Begin grazing of fall-planted fescue, orchardgrass, and clovers when growth reaches 6 inches *To maintain clover in pastures

and maintain quality, develop a rotational grazing system where animals take growth down to about 4 inch height before moving them to another section Fertilize warm season grasses as soon as dormancy breaks *Overseeding clovers (ladino, red, and alfalfa) into grass pastures should be completed early *Scatter manure droppings in pastures and where hay was fed *Control winter annual weeds in dormant bermudagrass with herbicides or by burning.

- Avoid overgrazing: do not graze canopy to less than 3-4 inches.

- Wait for the canopy to reach 8 inches before grazing. This will improve total yield over the season and improve the plant stand – especially by helping the pasture plants compete with weeds. - Intensive rotational grazing (moving the animals every 1-3 days) allows more animals to live off particular pasture acreage--because moving animals frequently optimizes regrowth.
- Be cautious with seeding investments. Definitely split fertilizer applications (if applying …).

You know we have been dry and drought is expected to persist so, this will only increase pressure on our pastures and hay supplies.

MANAGE YOUR FORAGES NOW!

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14. CATTLE REMINDERS:

April: Fall Calving – -*In purebred herds, separate cows with bull calves from cows with heifer calves. *Make initial heifer replacement selections. * No bulls should be with cows. *Make sure fencing & waterers are in order for creep grazing. Spring Calving - *Vaccinate and deworm - cows at least 2 weeks prior breeding- *Castration & dehorning should be completed. *ALL calves should be dewormed and vaccinated against blackleg and malignant edema *Start breeding mid April & End breeding season for heifers in May and cows in June. *Sell stockers and all cows not nursing calves. ALL CATTLE – Check cattle regularly & maintain body condition.- Provide magnesium mineral mix - Provide clean fresh non-frozen water at all times - Watch for bloat - To prevent bloat, fill cows with hay before turning onto pasture, or feed bloat preventing block.*Start Fly control practices.*Keep good health and forage records.

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15. HAY DIRECTORY

A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County & 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 & **If you have hay to sell**, hay is in short supply, especially quality hay, so please let me know & I will put you on the list!

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16. Take A Load Off

His-Communication

Wife Texts husband on a cold winter morning....

"Windows frozen; wont' open"

Husband texts back

"Pour warm water over it and gently tap edges with hammer"

Five minutes later, wife texts back

"Computer really messed up now"

Talking Frog

Two older fellas were playing tennis, at one point the ball was hit off the court and into some bushes. One of them went to retrieve the ball and was confronted by a frog claiming to be a beautiful princess who had been turned into a frog by a mean wizard. The frog pleads with the man to kiss her, saying that with a kiss the spell would be broken and she would revert back to the Beautiful Princess and would Marry him, promising him a happy exciting life of marital bliss for ever after.

The fella puts the frog in his pocket and returns to the match. After the match the frog begins to make a lot of loud croaking-rib-it noises and finally sticking her head out of his pocket saying - Sir, did you forget about me? I'm the beautiful princess that was turned into a frog, and with a mere kiss…..the older fella jumps in and said "Honey, I understand what you have promised, and in my younger years I would have already kissed you but I must be honest with you, at my age I believe I would rather have a talking frog than a new wife."

I *always* need more "Help" with Clean jokes!

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I always want to know what you think of the CATTLE CALL, good or bad,

especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!

I NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR FUTURE CATTLE CALLS!

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

Have A Great Day & SAFE Weekend

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Moreover, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of black students. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University regards discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to be inconsistent with its goal of providing a welcoming environment in which all its students, faculty, and staff may learn and work up to their full potential. The Universities values the benefits of cultural diversity and pluralism in the academic community and welcomes all men and women of good will without regard to sexual orientation.

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