

Hello EveryOne,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of October 1st, 2017 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. Those Carb's
2. Six ways to slow horse feed intake
3. Equine Business Resources
4. *You Asked*
5. Tips for a Successful Grazing Program
6. **Create More Pasture?**
7. **Summer annuals that are NOT Recommended for Horses**

8. *From The Round Pen*

9. Jamestown Rotary Piedmont Horseman's Association Show October 7

10. 2017 North Carolina State Fair 11. Upper Piedmont Research Station Field Day 10/28

12. The Ag Tax Issues Short Course Nov 3

13. VA-NC Horse Festival CANCELLED

14. Amazing Grazing Workshop Workshop 11/11

15. Farm Service Agency Reminder

16. NCSU Equine Grazing and Pasture Management School 12/2/17

17. HAY DIRECTORY

18. Swap Shop

19. Take A Load Off

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1. Those Carb's

Sugar content of grass hay is not related to color, texture, amount of stem, or age of the haystack. Contrary to popular myth, the NSC content of well-cured, properly stored hay will not change over time. The only reliable way to choose appropriate hay for your carbohydrate-intolerant horse is to get it tested using a direct analysis method.

In your quest to find low-NSC hay, an interview with the grower (to get information about pre-harvest weather conditions) will be far more useful than any visual characteristic of the hay. Some conditions help reduce NSC in forages, and hearing that such conditions were present can help you narrow down which stack to test, if the hay grower has not already done that.

Seek hay that is:

Properly fertilized--Slow growth due to nutrient deficiency can cause high NSC; fertilized stands should have grown quickly and avoided this problem. Also, thick stands shade lower leaves from the sun, thereby reducing their ability to make sugar.

Cut after a period of cloudy weather--Plants synthesize sugars during sunny weather, and periods of cloudy weather will result in reduced NSC. Rain after cutting may be a plus if humidity is low and hay dries without mold. Some carbohydrates might dissolve in water and leach out of the hay.

Mixed with legume--If your horse has not previously shown sensitivity to alfalfa, grass mixed with a little alfalfa may be low in NSC as the alfalfa provides needed nitrogen (fertilization) and shades the grass. Be careful; some laminitic horses seem to react to some unknown triggers in alfalfa and clover.

Already tested for NSC--Let your hay grower know that this information is valuable to you so you can choose hay that is appropriate for individual classes of animals. With proper testing, he may be able to sell his high-sugar hay at a higher price for dairy cattle or performance horses. He may be able to sell his rained-on, but not moldy hay for a better price if tests low in NSC and therefore is more suitable for easy keepers and metabolically challenged horses. Let him know that horse owners are requiring appropriate testing, just like his dairy clients do.

Hay is likely to be higher in NSC if:

It was cut after drought or cold nights, especially when cured under cloudless skies.

It comes from thin, sparse stands of grass that have more sunshine on every leaf.

It was grown under growth-limiting levels of nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium (inadequate fertilization).

It is made from cereal grains such as oat, wheat, rye or barley that tend to be higher in NSC, even if the grain is not developed yet. The stems collect sugar in preparation for seed development.

Recommendations for Low Starch Feed

Consider a senior diet with beet pulp and added fat, It maybe your best chance at limiting carbohydrates. Also, limit fructan intake in pastures.

Graze in early morning/night

- limit grazing time from first growth until temps rise
- regulate grazing time in the mornings on grasses during normal rainfall periods
 - remove horses during environmental stress (drought, frost)
- after killing frost, remove until the plant is dead, allow rainfall to leach out sugars
 - reintroduce on dead/stock piled fescue up to 6 hours daily

Test hays for non-structural carbohydrate levels (NSC) Feed hays with fructan levels below 10% Soak hays for 60 minutes prior to feeding

Eliminate grain and sweet feed (both high in NSCs) from the diet.

Carbohydrate Metabolism in Horses

<http://www.ivis.org/advances/Ralston/hoffman/IVIS.pdf>

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2. Six ways to slow horse feed intake

Krishona Martinson, PhD, University of Minnesota Extension

There has been a recent trend to manage horses in a more "natural" manner, especially when it comes to feeding. Extending the length of time horses spend foraging has been linked to improvements in horse health and wellbeing, including reductions in unwanted behaviors, ulcers, choke and insulin and glucose responses after a meal. Slowing feed intake is also important for horses on restricted diets, those who are meal fed a few times each day and horses who tend to aggressively and quickly feed. Many horse owners can slow equine feed intake rates by simply altering how they deliver feed to their horse.

- 1. Slow-feed Hay Nets.** Researchers from the University of Minnesota recently evaluated different hay nets to determine the effect on horse intake rates. Horses were fed hay (1% body weight twice daily) off the boxstall floor (control), or from one of three hay nets, including a large net (6 inch openings), medium net (1.75 inches) and small net (1.0 inch). The study revealed that horses feeding from the medium net took just over 5 hours to consume the hay meal, while horses eating from the small nets took 6.5 hours to consume the meal. Both the control and large net resulted in consumption times of 3.2 and 3.4 hours, respectively. If small or medium hay nets (Hay Chix hay nets) were used for twice daily feedings, the anticipated amount of time horses would spend foraging would be 10 to 13 hours each day, more closely mimicking a horse's natural grazing behavior.
- 2. Grazing Muzzles.** Recent research has shown that grazing muzzles can help slow horse intake of both pasture and grain. Researchers from the University of Minnesota determined the use of a grazing muzzle (Weaver) reduced a horse's pasture intake by approximately 30%. Researchers from Illinois recently evaluated two grazing muzzles (Tough 1 Nylon and Easy Breathe) when horses were fed grain and determined that the use of a grazing muzzle slowed grain intake but tended to spill more grain. However, horses were able to acclimate to the grazing muzzle and increased their intake rate over time.
- 3. Specialized Grain Feeders.** Researchers from Texas A&M University tested a newly designed feed bucket (Pre-Vent Feeder) and determined that the bucket slowed grain consumption and reduced grain spillage. Horses spent 21 to 60 additional minutes eating grain from the feeder compared to a bucket or tub. In some situations, regular cleaning of the feeder will be needed. In a separate study, researchers from North Carolina State University developed a waffle structure that was inserted into a feed bucket. They concluded the waffle insert increased grain consumption time by nearly 50% compared to a bucket without the waffle insert.
- 4. Obstacles.** Researchers from North Carolina State University tested grain feeding time using a bucket with four movable bocce-style balls (4 inch diameter) placed in it and found the balls were effective at extending (by 4 minutes) and maintaining the time it took horses to consume feed after multiple days of use. Additionally, the researchers found that the balls produced the lowest glucose and insulin responses compared to other feeding methods tested.
- 5. Forage Quality.** The fiber content in hays can be used to slow horse consumption. Neutral detergent fiber (NDF) is a measurement of insoluble fiber and provides the plant with structural rigidity. The higher the NDF, the less a horse will consume. NDF levels between 40 and 50% are considered ideal and promote hay intake, while NDF levels above 65% tend to result in a reduction in intake by most horses. Hays high in NDF tend to be classified as "busy hay" and are especially useful when managing aggressive and quick eaters or horses on a restricted diet. However, only a small proportion of a horse's diet should be comprised of "busy hay" high in NDF.
- 6. Feeding Order.** Many people believe that feeding hay before grain slows feed intake. Research by Purina Animal Nutrition confirmed this belief and determined that horses consumed grain slower when hay was fed 20 minutes before the grain meal. When hay was fed before grain, grain consumption was 0.3 pounds per minute compared to 0.4 pounds per minute when hay and grain were fed simultaneously.

Slow-feed hay nets, grazing muzzles, specialized grain feeders, obstacles, forages high in NDF and feeding order are all effective management strategies for slowing horse feed intake and represent simple and affordable management options horse owners can implement.

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3. Equine Business Resources

Business Structures

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/66254/equine-business-resources-business-structures>

Developing a Business Plan

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/66252/equine-business-resources-developing-a-business-plan>

Financial Planning for Equine Enthusiasts

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/horses/FS-657%20Financial%20Planning%20for%20Equine%20Enthusiasts.p

Financial Control Aids for Equine Enthusiasts

https://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/horses/FS-658%20Financial%20Control%20Aids%20for%20Equine%20Enthusias

Horse Boarding Enterprise

http://extension.umd.edu/sites/extension.umd.edu/files/_docs/programs/woodland-steward/RES_10HorseBoarding.pdf

Horse Cost Calculator

<http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-exclusives/horse-expense-calculator.aspxexpense-calculator.aspx>

Farm Financial Risk Management Series Part III: Introduction to Farm Planning Budgets for I Beginning Farmers

http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/AAEC/AAEC-116/AAEC-116-PDF.pdf

2011 Virginia Farm Business Management Livestock Budgets (including horse budgets)

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/446/446-048/446-048.html>

MANAGEMENT AND COST CONSIDERATIONS FOR OWNERS OF HORSE BUSINESSES

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W371-B.pdf>

The Economic Aspects of a Small Equine Boarding Operation in North Florida

<http://ufdcimages.uflib.ufl.edu/IR/00/00/19/82/00001/FE42800.pdf>

How to Write a Horse Business Plan

<http://www.successful-horse-training-and-care.com/sample-horse-business-plans.html>

Online Budget Tools for Horse Owners Offered by UK College of Agriculture

<http://www.thehorse.com/articles/26557/online-budget-tools-for-horse-owners-offered-by-uk-college-of-agriculture>

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4. *You Asked:* In the past few years I have gone from a beautiful grass pasture to a pasture full of broomsedge. How can I do about it to to control this stuff?

BROOMSEDGE

North Carolina fields and roadsides are painted with broomsedge, and it seems to be in every spot that can grasp the rays of the sun. Broomsedge, is actually not a sedge at all but is a grass. (same genus as big bluestem). It is a clump-forming perennial warm season grass that grows slender stems to three feet tall in late summer producing numerous white, wind-borne seeds that glow when the sunlight catches them just right.

Broomsedge tends to grow on nutrient-poor soils and is especially tolerant of low nitrogen and phosphorous levels.

In the spring during its vegetative stage grows close to the ground and produces clumps of curly, boot-top-tall blades that animals may graze for a short period of time (nutritive value very low) but soon ignored until the plant goes reproductive and the slender stems appear. Broomsedge is hardly noticed except during the fall and winter when it turns to tan, beige, orange and copper in winter.

It is called broomsedge because it made a passable broom for use by pioneer homesteaders. Several handfuls of broomsedge stems harvested after the first frost, tied tightly around a stout stick and then trimmed to length made a broom, though not very durable but very economical.

Invasion by broomsedge can mainly be attributed to low nutrient levels in the soil (soil fertility), and excessive grazing pressure. Broomsedge tends to thrive in soils with a low pH (< 5.5) and low levels of phosphorus (< 30 lbs./acre). At these soil fertility levels, our desirable forage species will not survive under grazing and haying pressure. As a desirable forages dies, it leaves a void in the canopy, allowing additional light to penetrate the canopy and setting up an environment suitable for the germination and propagation of broomsedge.

Close grazing adds to the problem. Grazing animals avoid eating broomsedge. This means desired grasses and legumes are being grazed around it. This shifts the environmental factors in favor of broomsedge. Allow this the intense grazing pressure and low soil fertility to go on for several years there will be a broomsedge explosion making broomsedge a more permanent member of that plant community.

In nutrient-poor sites, broomsedge will maintain a grip on the land for many years, but in more fertile soils its hold is usually under a decade before it begins to give way to other species.

What to do about Broomsedge?

- Don't go in search of a silver bullet – in this case chemical control. Broomsedge is not competitive in a well-managed pasture.
 - Begin with a simple soil test.
- Look at pH and phosphorus levels in particular, but do not ignore other nutrients. If lime and phosphorus are required and you have a limited soil fertility budget, begin with lime.
 - Work the phosphorus level up. Phosphorus is extremely important for maintaining legumes in the pasture. It is also used in making of the "energy currency" of plants (moving energy throughout the plant). Poultry litter is a good source of phosphorus as well as organic nitrogen. If it is available, it might be worth exploring. Use caution when pricing poultry litter. Price it on a 'cost of nutrient' basis. What might appear to be cheap fertilizer may be high if the concentration of nutrients is low.
- Evaluate your grazing strategy. If all your pasture grasses underneath that golden canopy of broomsedge are maintained at a height of less than 4 inches, seriously look at the reasons why and what can be done to enhance plant competition. Utilize pasture rotation to prevent overgrazing.

Does burning help?

Fire does improve the forage quality of a pasture but has little to no negative effect on broomsedge. Regrowth after a burn will be higher quality than what was burned. However, continued use of fire in cool season pastures will eventually reduce the desired grasses. Broomsedge is a warm season grass and *is not damaged* by early spring fires.

Does mowing help?

Probably not, due to the growth habit of broomsedge. By the time it gets high enough to mow it has reached the reproductive stage. Hence mowing probably aids in seed distribution.

What about herbicides?

There are no labeled herbicides on the market that will control broomsedge without killing the desired grasses. A selective application (spot spraying, a wick /weed wiping) that targets the broomsedge, but is not applied to the desirable forages, may be possible.

Be patient.

Your pastures didn't get in poor condition overnight and won't be fixed that quickly either. It will take some time to gain control of broomsedge and changes to your management program will be rewarded by increased forage productivity and grazing days.

When the above steps above are not taken, conditions are created that favor the growth of broomsedge allowing it to become competitive with desirable species. These conditions combined with a thin stand of desirable grass allow broomsedge seeds to find bare soil and establish/spread rapidly.

Once broomsedge is established control options are limited. If only small amounts of broomsedge are present, spot spraying (WICK) with glyphosate may be an option. While glyphosate is effective, if applied to actively growing broomsedge, it will also kill the surrounding desirable grasses. This ultimately results in bare soil, which could lead to new weed problems or re-infestation by broomsedge if soil conditions have not been corrected. Complete pasture renovation may be required for serious infestations, which could include rotation to row crops for a year or two, followed by replanting of desirable grass species.

The steps to achieving long term control of broomsedge are the same as preventing it; take care of your pastures. Improving the growing conditions for desirable grasses will help them out compete the broomsedge, but it may take several growing seasons to do so. After efforts have been made to improve soil fertility, steps may be taken to reduce the vigor of the existing broomsedge. Regular grazing early in the growing season can help suppress broomsedge. This practice is more effective in areas where broomsedge is well established and livestock have little choice but to graze the broomsedge.

Sources used:

- Pasture Soil Fertility Essential to Prevent Broomsedge Infestations, University of Florida Extension
- *Broomsedge: What causes it to come into a pasture? How can I get rid of it?* Alabama Extension

More Reading:

BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM – Fact Sheet

https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_anvi2.pdf

Broomsedge Infestations are Highly Visible in Fall Pastures

<https://www.agweb.com/article/broomsedge-infestations-are-highly-visible-in-fall-pastures-naa-university-news-release/>

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5. Tips for a Successful Grazing Program

- Allow pastures to become established before grazing.

- Have a plan/pasture sections and rotate - Subdivide large pastures into smaller pastures and develop a pasture-rotation grazing system. (At least four to six pastures)

- Cut out continuous season-long grazing. As mentioned, pasture acreage should be divided, Continuous grazing weakens and thins stands and allows weeds and poisonous plants to invade pastures.

- Do not over graze/graze pastures closer than two to four inches. Never allow pastures or portions of pastures to become overgrazed. Since horses are spot grazers, rotate to a new pasture when the grazed areas reach the minimum height rather than waiting for the entire pasture area to be grazed to the minimum height.

- Allow for pastures to Rest in your rotation, turn your horses out into a sacrifice lot if necessary to feed them hay. Move livestock off pastures when 3” to 4” of height remains. Do not put animals back on pasture to re-graze until grasses are at least 6” high (will usually take two to six weeks). Even the best pasture needs rest after grazing to allow plants time to regrow and replenish food reserves. The length of the rest period will depend on the time of the year and weather conditions. It should be based on the height of the regrowing plant. Rotate animals and only graze pastures when pasture growth is at proper grazing height.

- Provide a clean fresh water source – Water can be the limiting factor in every pasture, you have to have it!

- Do not graze wet, saturated soils.

- Horses do not need 24-hour access to feed or forage. Their nutrition needs can be met with only a few hours of grazing on good pasture each day. Confine animals for the remainder of the day to prevent overgrazing of plants and extend the forage available in your pastures.

- On limited acreage you may have only enough pasture to exercise your animals and will need to feed year-round.

- Do not graze pastures that are not actively growing. So During winter months hold animals in a confined area.

- Feed hay when pasture growth is slowed or stopped.

- Mow pastures to remove mature forage and encourage grazing.

- Spread manure to promote even growth and even grazing.

- Have a sacrifice/exercise area to feed when pastures are not ready to be grazed.

Target heights for starting and stopping grazing of commonly used forage species.

Starting and stopping grazing heights for forage species commonly used in horse pastures.

(Can vary due to time of year)

Forage Type	Start Grazing	Stop Grazing	Target Rest Period
Fescue	4-8 Inches	2-3 Inches	3-4 Weeks
Orchardgrass	8-12 Inches	3-4 Inches	3-4 Weeks
Bermudagrass	4-6 Inches	2-3 Inches	2-3 Weeks

(A excellent grazing reference or bible is attached "Grazing Management")

How Grazing Affects Root Growth - Overgrazing occurs when 50 percent or more of the grass plant is removed at once. Overgrazing stops root growth and reduces grass production. It affects the vigor of the stand and is less drought resistant. This leads to higher management costs involving seeding and weed control.

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6. Create more pasture?

These publications cover the topic nicely.

To Clear or Not To Clear -- That Is the Question

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/465/465-340/465-340.html>

Options for Clearing Land: Pasture Establishment for Horses

<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/465/465-341/465-341.html>

Managing Pastures to Feed Your Horse

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/managing-pastures-to-feed-your-horse>

Fences for Horses

<https://equinehusbandry.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Fences-for-Horses.pdf?fwf=no>

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7. Summer annuals NOT Recommended

Summer annuals that are not recommended for grazing horses include sudangrass, sorghum, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, and foxtail millet. Sudangrass, sorghum, and sorghum-sudangrass hybrids can accumulate prussic acid, especially after frost. When drought-stressed plants are grazed, they may cause cyanide poisoning, cystitis, incoordination, and sometimes fatal kidney disease. Since prussic acid volatilizes during curing, properly made and stored hay produced from these grasses may be safely fed to horses. Foxtail or German millet has been reported to have a diuretic effect

in horses that may lead to kidney and joint problems. The coarse, fuzzy heads may also lodge in the tissues of the mouth and gums and create sores.

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8. *From The Round Pen*

Equine Dental Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2dWSL9nLEE&app=desktop>

Legal Rights of Landowners when drones fly over property or livestock

<https://www.progressivecattle.com/news/industry-news/7905-legal-rights-of-landowners-when-drones-fly-over-property-or-livestock>

Building a Horse Property From the Ground Up

<http://www.thehorse.com/articles/36072/building-a-horse-property-from-the-ground-up>

Considerations for Getting Started in the Horse Trail Riding Business

<https://athenaeum.libs.uga.edu/bitstream/handle/10724/18745/CR-03-08.pdf>

Horse Building Plans

http://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/our_offices/departments/biological-ag-engineering/extension/building_plans/horse

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9. Jamestown Rotary Piedmont Horseman’s Association Show October 7

Jamestown Rotary has partnered with PHA to put on their 56th Annual horse show on October 7 at Piedmont Saddle Club in Colfax. At this show there will be something for everyone! Every class award will be money!!

We have something for everyone; adults, youth, novice. PHA is offering field hunter, stock type hunter, working western and western pleasure. The show will start at 10am with halter. There will also be 2 calcutta classes so be sure to get involved with those classes!

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/index.htm>

Also find us on Facebook.

There has been a Facebook event created for this show - "56th Jamestown Rotary PHA Horse Show"

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10. 2017 North Carolina State Fair

<http://www.ncstatefair.org/2017/index.htm>

Horse Shows

<http://www.ncstatefair.org/2017/Competitions/HorseShow.htm>

Livestock Competition

<http://www.ncstatefair.org/2017/Competitions/Entering/LivestockCompetitions.html>



11. Upper Piedmont Research Station Field Day - 10/28

Come one, Come All to the annual **North Carolina Beef Cattle Field Day** that will be held at the **Upper Piedmont Research Station** on **Saturday, October 28, 2017**.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and Dr. Joe French will kick off the North Carolina Beef Cattle Field Day with a welcoming address and provide a brief history of the Angus herd and the research station. The station tours, starting at 9:30, will provide an overview of livestock and forage research being conducted within the NC Beef System.

There will be a 3 tour stops in the morning at various locations on the **Piedmont** Research Station. The tours will consist of the following stations.

Focus on Feed Efficiency Station: Using the historic Black Angus herd at UPRS, we have been collecting data to identify cow families that produce feed efficient progeny. These projects monitor growth and development in heifers in an effort to produce more pounds of beef with less feed. By selecting only those that are very efficient in converting feed to pounds, costs can be lowered. Dr. Joan Eisemann, Professor of Animal Science, will discuss how this **feed efficiency** research could lead to the discovery of a gene or genes responsible for efficient feed conversion in beef cattle. Understanding these genes could decrease the cost of beef production and revolutionize the beef cattle industry. Additionally, Kelli Retallick, Angus Genetics Inc. Genetic Service Director, will expand on this topic and convey how this information is a benefit all beef producers. The heifers evaluated on this feed efficiency study are fed **sorghum silage**, produced by forage-type sorghum with higher digestibility than corn silage. Sam Ingram, Animal Science PhD student, will share his research demonstrating the advantages sorghum silage has in NC over the traditional corn silage. Heifer development is a critical component of selection the next generation of brood cows in your herd. Dr. Harrison Dudley, Clinical Assistant Professor, Ruminant Health Management, conducts **heifer breeding soundness exams**, including reproductive tract scoring and pelvic area measurement to improve the reproductive efficiency of our replacement heifers. He will discuss how application of these techniques in your herd can add values to your replacement heifers.

Winter Feeding Area Station: Most all cattle operations have winter feeding areas. These sites are usually on well drained soils and easily accessible. However, using the same place over many years can lead to nutrient accumulation which can pose environmental risks and wastes a valuable nutrient source that could be used in other areas. After **winter feeding** is complete these sites can be seeded with annual forages to capture nutrients, alleviate soil compaction and provide high quality summer grazing. In addition, some producers have used management strategies to more efficiently use the nutrients that pass through their cattle's digestive system. Johnny Rogers, Coordinator of the Amazing Grazing Program, will discuss options for rotating feeding areas and/or unrolling hay to improve nutrient distribution. Furthermore, extending the grazing season with stockpiled Tall Fescue can reduce hay requirements and reduce the impact of winter feeding. **Stockpiling Tall Fescue** starts with close grazing or clipping in early September (August 15th in the Mountains) and nitrogen is added to increase the quantity of accumulated forage. But do you receive enough added forage growth to cover the nitrogen cost? In **healthy soils** the microbiology cycles plant available nitrogen which could allow for optimum forage production. Yield response to nitrogen fertilizer is small in soils with high soil biological activity, but large and cost-effective only in soils with low biological activity. Some commercially available soil health tests could be beneficial in determining the value of supplemental nitrogen in stockpiled fescue. Dr. Alan Franzluebbers, USDA Professor of Soil Science, will address how grazing principles will improve soil health and add value to pasture-based livestock systems.

Forage systems/Tall Fescue Station: Forages provide the feed base for all beef production systems in North Carolina. Mountain and Piedmont forage systems are typically based on tall fescue and other cool-season forages, while Coastal Plain forage systems are typically based on bermudagrass. Either system is imbalanced in terms of season of production, so without complimentary species a long hay feeding season is required. Recently there have been new opportunities and interest in the use of annual species to fill specific gaps in growth, and also to provide a higher level of nutrition than is supplied by the base forages. Producers with bermudagrass-based systems have long used overseeding with rye or ryegrass to give them winter and spring production, but often this still leaves a significant autumn and winter feeding situation. In fescue-based systems very few producers have used annuals in the past due to the tenacity of the base forage, and the challenges to implement a successful annual system. Additionally, most of the tall fescue in North Carolina is infected with an endophytic fungus that produces toxins that negatively impact the health and well being of the cattle. Conversion of some or all toxic fescue is a common goal of many progressive producers in North Carolina, but many of the same factors that limit adoption of annuals also limits the conversion of toxic fescue to non-toxic varieties.

Topics to be explored at the Forage systems/Tall Fescue Station will include how to build a successful forage system, with a primary focus on the Piedmont region. **Selection of annuals** for use as complimentary forages, and the use of mixtures or single species will be discussed by Dr. Deidre Harmon, Extension Mountain Livestock Specialist. Non-toxic fescue is ideally suited to the Piedmont and Mountains of North Carolina but adoption rate has been slower than expected. Research at NCSU funded by the NC Cattle Industry Assessment Program is exploring the most commonly recommended system for **converting toxic fescue to non-toxic fescue** (Spray-Smother-Spray) as compared to a longer-term process using two years of annuals. At the Field Day, Dr. Matt Poore, Professor & Extension Ruminant Nutrition Specialist, will be discussing the progress of this research project, and we will discuss the process of selecting a variety of non-toxic infected fescue.

While conversion to non-toxic fescue has great potential it will be virtually impossible to eliminate toxic fescue from our farms, so finding animals that are naturally tolerant of fescue toxins must be part of our long-term strategy to enhance the efficiency of fescue-based systems. A number of projects funded by the NC Cattle Industry Assessment Program have focused on identifying animals that are tolerant to fescue toxins, and determining the biological basis behind the **fescue**

tolerance. Dr. Dan Poole, Associate Professor of Animal Science will share results of that recent research and include the usefulness of commercial tests being offered for fescue tolerance.

Lunch starting at 12:30 pm, sponsored by NC State University and North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, will conclude with Dr. Carrie Pickworth, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, introducing you to the multiple pathways to NC State with her talk entitled "*Red Brick Road: connecting with NC State from 9 to 99*".

Following lunch, there will be an **Open Heifer Sale** starting at 1:30. There will be approximately 20 Open Heifers offered at the sale. They will consist of approximately 10 Open Registered Angus heifers from the Upper Piedmont Research Station and 10 Commercial Open heifers from Butner Beef Cattle Field Laboratory and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems. We will have a link to the sale catalog after the first of October on the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association website. The website address is www.nccattle.com. Lastly, producers will have opportunity to take the Beef Quality Assurance recertification test after the open heifer sale.

NOTE: This Field Day has been approved for 1 Hour of Pesticide Credit (D,N,O & X) and have for 2 Hours of Animal Waste Credits!

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12. The Ag Tax Issues Short Course – Guilford County Nov 3

The Ag Tax Issues short course is a day long class in which tax issues relative to production agriculture and agri-business are discussed. Attendees generally are professional tax preparers though farmers (or the farm's bookkeeper/accountant) are most welcome. A working knowledge of taxation is needed to understand discussion topics. Topics in the past have covered income and deduction reporting, Special issues such as Christmas trees income reporting and renewable energy taxation have also been discussed.

Attendees receive a text which is the basis of the course framework. The short course is not a straight "lecture" course as questions and topics of interest are brought to the session by attendees. A goal of the course is to provide a suggested 8 hours of continuing education for professional income tax preparers.

This will be either the 19th or 20th year this program has been available. Though the "farming community" is not the primary target audience, farmers are welcome to attend. This is a fee based program.

To register for this or other Tax Short Courses go to:

<https://www.ncsu.edu/mckimmon/cpe/brochures/pdf/taxSchools.pdf>

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13. Virginia – North Carolina Horse Festival

**The VA-NC Horse Festival that was scheduled for November 11, 2017
in Chatham, Virginia has been CANCELLED**

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14. Amazing Grazing Workshop Workshop 11/11

Amazing Grazing

Pasture Based Livestock Education Program

Amazing Grazing Workshop

for New and Small Scale Farmers

November 11, 2017

10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Butner Beef Cattle Field Lab

8800 Cassam Road

Bahama, NC 27503

Workshop Topics

- Proper Operation of Agricultural Sprayers and Spreaders
 - Handling Pasture Chemicals Safely
 - Soil Sampling Techniques
 - Principles of Pasture Improvement

Cost: \$10 (Payable at the door Cash or Check made to NCFGC)

To register online: <http://go.ncsu.edu/amazing-grazing-workshop>

For more information:

april_shaeffer@ncsu.edu

jrroger3@ncsu.edu

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15. Farm Service Agency Reminder

November 15th is the deadline to report acreage planted to perennial covers (grass acreage) and apiculture (honey bees) to the USDA Farm Service Agency in Rockingham & Guilford Counties. Most Farm Service Agency programs require a complete acreage report for the entire farm, which often includes grass fields and pastures. Failure to report your grass and apiculture crops timely may result in a late filed crop report penalty. Visit the Rockingham/Guilford County Farm Service Agency before November 15 to complete your crop reports on grasses and apiculture. **Note: You may have signed a continuous certification for your grass acreages after certifying your 2017 crops. If you did, your grass acreages have rolled over into 2018 and you will not have to visit the office to complete your acreage report by the above deadline as long as no changes have been made. However, to avoid possible late filed crop report penalties, you should contact the office to verify if you need to complete an acreage report by November 15th.**

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16. NCSU Equine Grazing and Pasture Management School 12/2/17

Presented by NC Forage and Grasslands Council,

NC Horse Council, Amazing Grazing and NC State Extension

Saturday 2 December 2017

8:30 AM to 5 PM

NCSU Beef Educational Unit

3720 Lake Wheeler Rd Raleigh NC 27603

For more information contact: paul_siciliano@ncsu.edu

Topics

- Learn to improve horse health through sound grazing management
- Learn the latest principles and practices of pasture management/renovation
- Live demonstrations and multiple opportunities for hands-on training One-half day of lecture + one-half day of hands-on-training

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17. 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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18. Swap Shop

- **FIORE FARMS** - Premiere Equestrian Facility,

turn key **is FOR SALE**

~117 Ac total. Min available purchase ~92 Ac.

Private treaty

www.fiorefarms.com

Please contact: seahorseriders7719@yahoo.com

- **FOR SALE**- three 275 gallons plastic Totes, used only once.

features: large opening on top, spigot with valve at bottom, a galvanized protective cage with lift fork set up in good shape. Great for water storage. Email Ms.White @ fwhite2@triad.rr.com

or call 336 817 2144

Rockingham County Soil & Water has a no-till drill (grass specific) available to rent. The cost is \$10 per acre planted. Call 336-342-8230 for more information.

(One also available in Guilford County at 336-641-2440)

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19. Take A Load Off

Short Jokes by Others

- I bought some shoes from a drug dealer. I don't know what he laced them with, but I've been tripping all day.

- I told my girlfriend she drew her eyebrows too high. She seemed surprised.

- My wife told me I had to stop acting like a flamingo. So I had to put my foot down.

- What's the difference between in-laws and outlaws?

Outlaws are wanted.

- I have an EpiPen. My friend gave it to me when he was dying, it seemed very important to him that I have it.

- So what if I don't know what Armageddon means? It's not the end of the world.

- My friend asked me to help him round up his 37 sheep.

I said "40"

- I've found a job helping a one armed typist do capital letters. It's shift work.

- Wife says to her programmer husband, "Go to the store and buy a loaf of bread. If they have eggs, buy a dozen."

Husband returns with 12 loaves of bread.

- Communism jokes aren't funny unless everyone gets them.

- Have you heard about those new corduroy pillows? They're making headlines.

- I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

- People in Dubai don't like the Flintstones.

But people in Abu Dhabi do!

- How did the hipster burn his mouth?

He ate the pizza before it was cool.

- Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you do criticize them, you're a mile away and have their shoes.

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

Have A GREAT SAFE Weekend!

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In Rockingham County - Will Strader, County Extension Director, at (336) 342-8230 or by email at william_strader@ncsu.edu or In Guilford County – Karen Neill, County Extension Director, at (336)641-2400 or by email at karen_neill@ncsu.edu

Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock

North Carolina State University

North Carolina Cooperative Extension,

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(336) 342-8235 800-666-3625 Fax: 336-342-8242

Email : ben_chase@ncsu.edu

<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture>