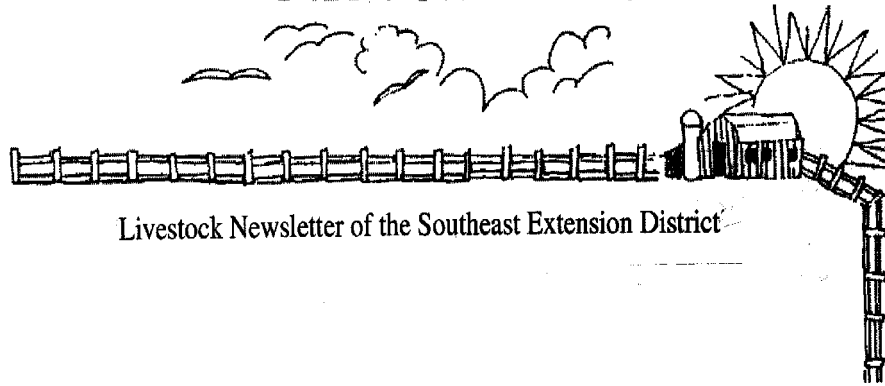


# FENCELINES



Livestock Newsletter of the Southeast Extension District

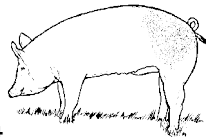
March/April 2005

## WASTE MANAGEMENT/SWINE

### **EPA's Air Consent Agreement and Air Monitoring Study**

*Information provided by the NCPC  
Submitted by Eileen Coite, Livestock  
Agent, Wayne County*

The EPA Air Consent Agreement involves a two-year benchmark study of the air emissions from livestock and poultry operations across the country. Based on the findings of the study, EPA will set national air policies, identify farm emissions thresholds and then regulate higher levels. A key part of the agreement provides legal protections from past emissions if participating producers meet all the requirements of the agreement and comply with the subsequent regulatory policies for applicable requirements. The sign-up period has begun for the air emissions



consent agreement between the pork industry and EPA. The deadline to sign-up to participate in the agreement is May 1. The North Carolina Pork Council will be providing information through producer meetings in the coming weeks. For more information about the agreement, producers may contact Tommy Stevens at 919-781-0361 or e-mail him at [tommy@ncpork.org](mailto:tommy@ncpork.org) or contact your extension office.

### **Frequently Asked Questions about the Agreement:**

1. Why is the agreement important?  
EPA considers air emissions from livestock barns and lagoons, if above certain levels, to be subject to CERCLA, EPCRA and perhaps Clean Air Act requirements. Since most producers haven't known about these requirements, past violations could pose a significant liability – even for contract growers. In the past few years several citizen, state and

EPA lawsuits have resulted in consent agreements and court decisions that involve multi-million dollar penalties and requirements for corrective action. The air laws allow groups to sue for emissions violations that occurred in the past, with substantial penalties assessed for every day and every facility involved, even though farm managers weren't aware that the air laws could be applied to their farms. The high cost of attorney and consultant fees, disruption of normal business, and possible fines could make the risk of past and current emissions violations a business-threatening risk – especially for producers with limited resources. Signing the agreement will wipe the slate clean for all potential past emissions violations with EPA, and provide legal protections from state and citizen suits too.

2. What will it cost? The only cost to a contract grower is the small civil penalty. The Agreement makes it clear that paying this penalty is not an admission of liability or wrongdoing, but simply a formality of the federal “consent agreement” mechanism to provide legal protections for past emissions. The penalty is \$200 for a farm with less than 2,500 finishing hogs or less than 10,000 nursery pigs, \$500 for more than that up to 25,000 finishing hogs or 100,000 nursery pigs, and \$1,000 for any farm that is larger than that. An integrator signing up multiple farms will determine his total cost from a sliding scale, capped at \$100,000 for signing up more than 200 farms. If both integrators and contract growers

sign up the same farm to each gain legal protections for that farm, both entities must pay the penalty for that farm.

3. Who can sign up? The Agreement is written to allow: (a) individual producers, (contract grower or independent producer) to sign up their farm(s); (b) integrators may sign up all of their corporately-owned farms; (c) integrators may also sign up any or all of their contract growers' farms so that the integrator can get legal protections; or (d) corporations and their contract producers together may sign up the same contract growers' farms so both get the legal protections. Whoever signs up gains the legal protections for past emissions violations at that farm.
4. What information must contract growers give? A single agreement can be signed that describes one farm or hundreds of farms, and, with the agreement for each farm there is a separate farm description sheet in “Appendix A” at the back of the agreement. There producers must give the name, location, and describe the type of farm (e.g., nursery, farrow, finish), describe the size and age of each barn and lagoon, indicate whether there is mechanical or natural ventilation, and describe the type of manure handling system for each (e.g., pull plug, deep pit, flush). For each farm signed up by the integrator there is a separate sheet in Appendix A. They'll be asked to provide a simple sketch of each farm, showing the number and locations of buildings and

lagoons.

What about farms that are built after the sign up period ends? Only current farms can be listed, not any new farms built after the sign up period closes. If a producer signs up a farm and later adds additional barns or lagoons, the new parts are not covered by the agreement. However, new construction would not have any historic emissions that need the legal protections of the agreement.

5. What do contract growers need to do to make the legal protections permanent? At the end of the air study, EPA will convert the research data into “look up” charts that producers can look at to determine if their farm(s) are subject to the requirements of the air laws. Contract growers will then need to comply with the laws if the charts predict that their farms’ emissions of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, methane and other VOCs, or particulate matter (dust) exceed the standards (based on farm size, location, animal age, manure handling methods, etc.). Producers will have a number of months to comply and certify to EPA that they have done so.
6. Who will pay for the air emissions study? The pork check off is providing \$7 million to fund the pork portion of the study. In the highly unlikely event that the money runs short before the pork study is finished, integrators could be responsible for providing up to \$2,500 per farm to complete the study. Contract producers are exempt from this potential expense.

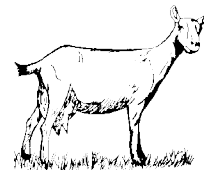
## GOATS AND SHEEP

### **Supplemental Feeding for Goats**

(information excerpted from JM Luginbuhl and MH Poore, NCSU Dept. Animal Science)

Submitted by Amy Andrews, Livestock Agent, Craven and Jones Counties

#### Minerals



As a general recommendation, trace mineralized salt containing selenium should be given to all goats year-around.

#### Browse & Forages

Goats raised on browse should also be offered high quality forages in order to help meet their nutritional requirements. When forages or browse is limited or low quality (less than 10% protein), lactating does, does in the last 30 days of gestation, and developing/breeding bucks should be fed 1.0 lb/day of a 16% protein mixture such as a 77:20:2.5:0.5 mixture of ground corn: soybean meal: goat mineral: limestone.

Alternatively, ground corn and soybean meal can be substituted by whole cottonseed for lactating does. Low to medium quality forage (greater than 10% protein) will meet requirements of dry does and non-breeding bucks. When forage or browse is limited or of low quality (less than 10% protein) weanlings, and yearlings should be fed 1 lb/day of the 16% protein mixture. Goats can be forced to eat very low quality feed including twigs, tree bark, etc., but producers should be aware this practice will hurt the productivity of superior meat and fiber goats.

## Basic Meat Goat Facts

### Female

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Age of puberty     | 7-10 months                                       |
| Estrous cycle      | length – 18 to 22 days, duration – 12 to 36 hours |
| Estrous Signs      | tail wagging, mounting, bleating                  |
| Ovulation          | 12 to 36 hours from onset of standing heat        |
| Gestation          | 146-155 days                                      |
| Breeding Season    | August to January                                 |
| Seasonal anestrous | February to July                                  |

### Male

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Age of puberty  | 4-8 months          |
| Breeding Age    | 8 -10 months        |
| Breeding Season | all yearlings       |
| Breeding ratio  | 1 buck : 20-30 does |

### Physiological Data

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Temperature       | 101.7. - 104.5 F |
| Heart Rate        | 70-80/minute     |
| Respiration Rate  | 12-15/minute     |
| Ruminal Movements | 1-1.5/minute     |

## FORAGES

### Save Money! Use Lime!

Submitted by Emily Adams, Livestock Agent, Onslow County



A common fertility problem of Eastern North Carolina is low soil pH. With all of the rainy weather our area has experienced over the past several years, the problem has become worse than usual. In order to avoid letting low pH plague your pastures this year, don't wait any longer to take a soil sample if you haven't already done so and apply lime according to the results of your test report.

Fertilizer costs are expected to be higher in 2005 and lime can be one of the best ways for growers to get the most out of

their money when using fertilizers. Adding lime can help improve the growth of your plants and make soil nutrients more available to them. The money spent on fertilizer is not money well spent if the pH of your soil is not properly adjusted before you apply it.

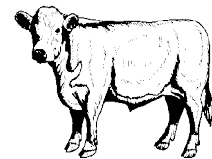
In our area of the state, excessive rainfall and the use of fertilizer that is ammonia-based are two main factors that contribute to the acidity of the soils. When water moves through the soil, it can remove nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, and potassium, and replace them with aluminum and hydrogen. As a result, the pH of the soils will decrease. When using ammonia-based fertilizers, natural processes in the soil convert the ammonium nitrogen to nitrate nitrogen. Many times the conversion in the soil is made before plants have a chance to use it and this helps to create an acidic environment.

Problems resulting from poor soil can include stunted plants, discolored leaves, and poor root growth. Many of these problems can be helped by using lime to increase fertilizer efficiency. Growers can contact their local Extension offices for assistance in soil sampling, interpreting test results, or locating sources of lime.

## BEEF CATTLE

### Avoid calving mistakes

From Drovers Journal, submitted by Eve H. Honeycutt, Livestock Agent for Lenoir and Greene Counties



When a cow goes into labor, it's usually best to let nature take its course and stay out of the way. Sometimes, however,

cows and heifers need assistance—just make sure it's the right kind of help.

Howard Tyler, a dairy scientist at Iowa State University, and Frank Garry, a veterinarian at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Colorado State University, point out practices still used on some farms that are actually detrimental to the cow or calf during calving.

- Do not use sawdust as bedding in calving areas. Calves can inhale the sawdust, potentially damaging their lungs. Straw is the better choice if you put animals into calving pens.
- Avoid moving cows and heifers multiple times during labor. Research shows that moving cows once they progress to stage 2 labor—when the water bag is showing—can add significant time to the labor process because the cow or heifer stops labor to explore her new surroundings. Instead, move her at the first signs of stage 1 labor or earlier.
- Do not rupture the water bag. Contrary to popular belief, rupturing the water bag does not speed up the calving process.
- Do not use soap and water as a lubricant. Soap removes the animal's natural lubricants in the birth canal. You should only use commercial lubricants designed for this purpose when necessary.
- Avoid pulling unless the cow is pushing. Only pull when the cow pushes and hold the position when she rests so the calf does not slip back in. This helps maintain pressure on the cervix and speeds dilation.
- Stop pulling once the last rib is delivered. This allows time for the transfer of blood from the placenta to the calf prior to

umbilical rupture. It also allows some fluids to drain from the nasal cavity and for the calf to take its first breath. Rotate the hips 45 degrees and the rest of the body will deliver on its own.

- Do not hang a calf upside down or swing it to clear fluids. This does not clear fluids from the lungs, but instead compresses the digestive organs against the diaphragm making it more difficult for the calf to take its first breath. Instead, sit the calf sternally and elevate a bit to help drain fluids from the nose.

### **Upcoming events:**

- February 21<sup>st</sup> Advanced Forage Management Educational Meeting  
Craven County Cooperative Extension  
6:30 PM, RSVP  
252-633-1477
- NCMGP 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Breeders Sale Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
Johnston County Livestock Arena
- March 19: Wayne County Horse Festival, see enclosed flyer
- March 28 & 29: Coastal Plains Livestock Show and Sale, Lenoir County Livestock Arena
- April 19: Banquet for Coastal Plains Livestock Show and Sale, Kings Restaurant 6:00 pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Old Dominion Open Boer Goat Show May 14<sup>th</sup> 2005  
Rockingham Co. Fair  
Contact Randall White @ 919-497-0631  
or email [crooked-creekgoat@aol.com](mailto:crooked-creekgoat@aol.com)