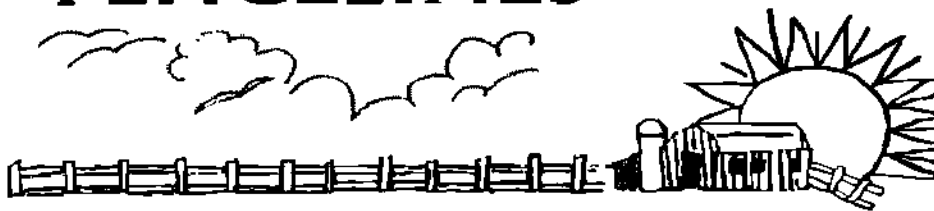


# FENCELINES



## Livestock Newsletter of the Southeast Extension District

Winter 2013

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### Winter Weed Identification and Control in Bermudagrass Pastures Q&A

By: Margaret A. Bell, Extension Agent – Livestock, Craven & Jones Counties

*Adapted from Leon Warren's "Winter Weed Identification in Coastal Bermudagrass Fields" presentation at CCA Training.*

**\*Why should I be concerned with grass weeds and broadleaf weeds?**

Grass weeds interfere with hay drying and growing pure stands. Grass weeds are not typically a health concern except johnsongrass. Broadleaf weeds are noxious, toxic, and due to their prickly nature, make it hard or impossible for livestock to graze them.

**\*Why is it important to identify your weeds early?**

Early identification will help you control the weeds before your actual crop gets thinned out. You may be able to save money because younger plants usually require less herbicide. Some mature plants can not be controlled by herbicide no matter the rate. Weed seeds will not be killed by herbicides, just the parent plant- not offspring.

**\*When is the best time to control weeds in winter annuals and cool season perennials?**

Usually October through December because weeds are young and actively growing. There are many factors that affect the best time to control weeds such as germination. Another good time to control winter weeds is February through April because they are starting their final growth spurt. However, you don't want to wait too late by allowing the weeds to seed out.

**\*When is a bad time to try to control weeds in winter annuals and cool season perennials?**

Usually December through February is a bad time to try to control your winter weeds. However, you can apply glyphosate and paraquat to winter weeds on dormant bermuda during these months.

**\*Is it permitted to pump hog waste on dormant bermuda in the winter?**

No, because nitrogen will not be utilized and you increase the potential for runoff in streams and ditches. However, you can apply hog waste to cover crops such as cereal grains and winter grasses because they are actively growing in the winter.

**\*What are several common winter weeds that I need to look out for?**

Henbit – winter annual broadleaf; common chickweed – winter annual broadleaf; white clover – perennial broadleaf; curly dock – perennial broadleaf; wild mustard – winter annual broadleaf; wild radish – winter annual broadleaf; Carolina geranium – winter annual broadleaf; Shepard's purse – winter annual broadleaf; spiny sowthistle – winter annual broadleaf; hairy bittercress – winter annual broadleaf; common dandelion – perennial broadleaf; buckhorn plantain – perennial broadleaf; buttercup – annual / perennial broadleaf; horseweed – annual broadleaf; vetch – winter annual or perennial broadleaf; cutleaf evening primrose – biennial broadleaf; wild garlic – clump forming perennial.

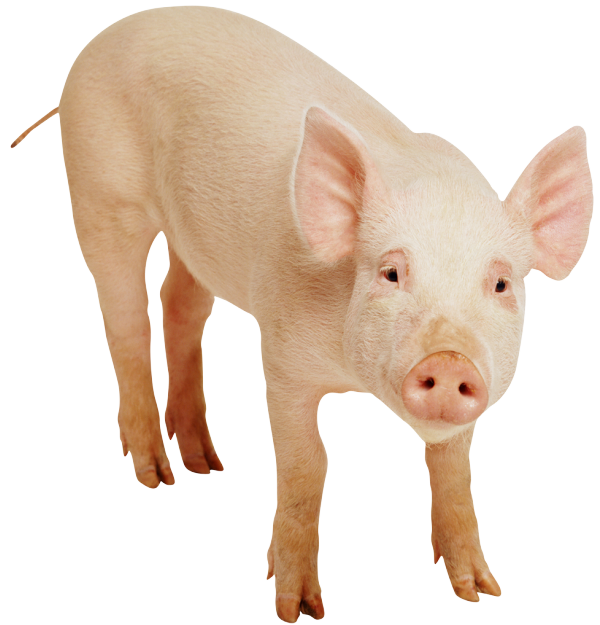
**\*\*\*ALWAYS READ LABELS.** Cooperative Extension agents can help you identify your weeds and help recommend a weed control program. However, it is very important you always read labels and adhere to restrictions – in livestock, especially hay and grazing restrictions. For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension livestock agent.

## Make 2013 a Waste-full year

By: Eve Honeycutt, Extension Agent – Livestock, Lenoir & Greene Counties

These days farming takes a lot of planning. Swine farms take even more. Here are a few key points to remember when planning around your waste management for the swine farm in 2013.

- If you have row-crops in your operation, and you plan to add a new crop on one of your sprayfields (ex: sorghum) then don't forget to get your waste plan updated to reflect that change.
  - If you have a sludge problem, or even close to a problem, start planning now. It takes time to plan to remove sludge and even more time if you apply for cost share. After you select fields to use, don't forget to choose the right time to apply so that the sludge can be soil-incorporated within two days, or before a rain event.
  - Your farm permit will be up for renewal in 2014, and there will be public hearings conducted about the changes during 2013. You are encouraged to attend these meetings and stay updated about the potential changes to your new permit.
  - You will only have one inspection per year, so don't get behind on your recordkeeping. It's easy to write your information down in your truck and keep going, but making an effort to keep your formal records up-to-date on a regular basis can save you a lot of headache the week before the inspector comes.
- Don't forget your annual sludge survey and bi-annual irrigation calibration. Many of you had sludge survey extensions that will expire in 2013 because of the permit renewal process.
  - You have until January 31, 2013 to get your credit hours and pay your license renewal fee of \$10. They did not mail out the invoices this year until you received your credit hours, but you must still pay the fee and return it by January 31, 2013. If you still need credit hours, call the Extension office for the last-chance classes available in limited locations.



## Critical Hours for Calves

By: Eileen Coite, Extension Agent – Livestock, Wayne County

Summarized from *The Cow-Calf Manager – First 72 hours Critical for Calves*, by Dr. John Hall, Extension Animal Scientist, Beef, Virginia Tech, 2001 Livestock Update.

At our recent Eastern Carolina Cattlemen's Conference, Dr. Dee Whittier, DVM of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, presented a session titled "Getting Calves out Alive". Cattlemen and women in attendance observed and learned many tips and techniques from Dr. Whittier regarding normal vs. abnormal calving positions, and were reminded of the critical timing that can come into play when a cow prepares to calve. It's hard to put into words what was learned in this session of the conference. It was one of those events you just had to "be there", but, I have found what is a very helpful article by Dr. John Hall that may help us through the calving season.

You may be in the middle of calving season, finished, or just about to start, but wherever you are in this process, the following tips will be good to file away for reference whenever needed. Dr. Hall breaks up the calving process into a helpful timeline that we all can follow:

### **Hour -4 to 0 – Labor through Calving**

Montana research has shown that nearly 50% of calves that die in the first 24 hours after birth and most stillborns are because of dystocia (calving problems). When it's calving season, cows and heifers should be checked often, 3-4 times a day or more is best. Some tricks to this might be moving them to a pasture closer to the house, and notifying family and neighbors that "its time" and asking others to notify you if they see activity. When should you assist? Earlier is better than too late, meaning if you think there is a problem, take a closer look, and if they cow is dilated assist her or get the vet there! Yes, this means spending some money, but a live calf will pay for the vet call, while a dead one (and the risk of a dead cow) is surely to lose you money. If you missed Dr. Whittier's calving presentation at the conference, we did videotape the presentation, and there are other videos available for review. Again, calling your local vet is always a good plan too.

### **Hour 0-4 –Birth to Standing**

Especially during bad weather times, it is critical to see a newborn calf during the first 4 hours of its life. Sometimes we may not see them this soon, but the more that can be seen, the better. Calves should stand and nurse within two hours of birth under normal conditions. Cows and calves should be checked to see if the cow has been nursed and if calves need assistance nursing so they can

get colostrum. If they have not nursed within four hours of birth, they will most likely need to be tube fed colostrum. Also, during extremely cold or wet weather, weak calves can develop hypothermia, and need to be moved to a warm area.

### **Hour 4-12 – Standing to Processing**

If the calf has not received colostrum for some reason by 12 hours, the ability of their digestive system to absorb it is reduced by 50%. Therefore, this is the last chance to receive large amounts of colostrum and absorb antibodies from it. Scours and respiratory problems are common in these calves. Processing of all calves should be done at this time. Processing includes procedures such as: tagging, navel dipping, castration of bull calves, followed by implants, tattooing (purebred operations), and documentation of weight and sex of calves. Cows should be checked at this time for expelling of afterbirth, and in severe cold weather, calves should be checked for hypothermia.

### **Hour 12-24 – First day**

All calves not processed should be done at this time. Checking to make sure everyone is healthy, warm, and nursing is also important. If any cow-calf pairs are having problems, they can be isolated in a barn or pen at this time for closer monitoring and assistance.

### **Hour 24-48 – Second day**

Calves should continue to be monitored, and should be easily following cows, nursing, and alert. They will of course rest and sleep a lot too as with all newborns.

### **Hour 48 -72 – Third day**

By this time, calves probably will be and should be hard to catch, moving around well with lots of energy. Moving all healthy cows and calves into a larger, but well drained pasture is common at this time. Any cows with retained placentas should be treated at this time with antibiotics (before being turned out in a larger area). Again, keep weak or sick calves and cows in a smaller, well drained pen or barn area to monitor and treat.

These tips should give a good framework for getting cows and calves off to a good start during the calving season. Hope this give some helpful tips for starting off your new calf crop in the New Year!

## Detecting and Addressing Animal Health Concerns of the Small Ruminant Producers

By: Abby Dilley, Extension Agent – Livestock, Pender and Onslow Counties

*By Uford A. Madden Veterinarian and Toxicologist, Tallahassee, Florida.*

Being a small ruminant producer you are the first line of defense for identification and prevention of introduction of disease-causing agents (pathogens). By reducing the current on-farm vulnerabilities, improve food safety and food security, and enhance your capabilities of providing safer and more wholesome products for your consumers.

As a small ruminant producer you should know what is normal for your animals, and be able to recognize the abnormal changes in animals to determine and address the animal health concern at hand.

Changes of behavior to be aware of include:

- Walking
- Feeding Habits
- Temperament
- Appearance,
- Hair coat
- Eyes
- Nose
- Feet
- Stomach
- Genitals
- Hooves
- Horns
- Tail
- Head
- Back

Problems from lameness in goats and sheep may result from excess moisture. Their hooves may reveal overgrowth, darkened cuts, and tears that serve as reservoirs for bacteria, molds, fungi. Affected animals are unable to walk and feed normally.

Affected animals should be separated from the herd to reduce stress and provided adequate feed and water for easy observation and treatment. As a producer do not substitute treatment with drugs for good management and production practices to prevent infections and disease-agent transmission. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of farm areas will result in better prevention and control of diseases. Colostrums should be provided to newborns from mothers within 24 hours after birth; if not, should be provided by producers. Vaccination for animals should be updated to minimize susceptibility to diseases and to build strong immunity among animals.

### Determining the causes of health concerns

Animals with runny noses and coughing may suffer from respiratory diseases, including pneumonia. Other factors may be environmental: poor sanitation, poor ventilation, poor housing, and drenching animals. Stress of any type, shipping, animal shows, overcrowding, extreme temperature, feed changes, and weaning can cause pneumonia.

### How to Diagnose Diseases to Determine Treatment

Diagnosis of diseases should include a history of the animals, clinical signs and symptoms and a careful physical exam. Confirmation can be done by isolation and identification of causative agents(s). Animals with runny noses, swelling in

lower jaw, and coughing may suffer from respiratory diseases caused by single or a combination of agents, bacteria, fungi, molds, parasites and toxic fumes. Bacterial culture and sensitivity test will help to determine the antibiotic of choice to treat animals.

### Treating Diseases

Treatment of lameness may include trimming overgrown hooves, cleaning pockets in hooves, and applying iodine, betadine, povidone iodine, or zinc sulfate. Foul smell detected in hooves and fevers are indications of infections. Common antibiotics used to treat disease-causing agents include Penicillin, Albon, Gallamycin, and LA-200. Consulting with your veterinarian is advised before starting treatment.

### Preventing and Controlling Diseases

Reducing stressful incidences will decrease disease cases in animals. Young animals are more susceptible to stress and can relapse during feeding periods. Coughing can cause rectal prolapsed in feeder lambs. Prevention and control measures must involve good management practices to reduce pneumonia and respiratory diseases. Proper ventilation will reduce pneumonia problems, infectious agents, high humidity, and noxious gases like ammonia. Avoiding overcrowding will reduce animal-to-animal contact and spread of contagious diseases. Reducing the impacts of disease agents on the immune system of animals and building resistance to diseases are important to maintain healthy herds.

Producers' increased awareness of the changes that can occur because of introduction of pathogens into production systems will allow them to improve food safety and food security and reduce current vulnerabilities on their farms.

## Water and Hay: Critical to Winter Health

Submitted by: Eileen Coite, Extension Agent – Livestock, Wayne County

*Horse Blog: [nhorse.blogspot.com](http://nhorse.blogspot.com)*

With brisk temperatures and frequent fluctuations of our North Carolina winter weather, it is always good to remember how critical these changes can be to our equine companions. If you've been in the horse business long enough, you have probably encountered a horse experiencing colic due to temperature changes. Keeping horses warm and hydrated in the winter, as well as in good body condition can be a challenge, especially during weeks like this one. Key factors in achieving this are providing shelter from the wind and rain, along with plenty of clean water and good hay. Here are some things that should help keep your horse healthy this winter.

Maintaining ample water intake is the most critical part of ensuring the health of your horse during cold weather. The horse prefers a water temperature of 45-65°F. Under normal conditions, the horse will consume one gallon of water per 100 pounds of body weight per day. An 1100 pound horse will consume 10-12 gallons of water daily. As the water temperature decreases, horses will consume less water. An 1100 pound horse may consume as little as 1-3 gallons of water per day when water temperature is 32°F.

Low water intake is directly related to the increased incidence of impaction colic. Water intake can be encouraged by increasing the amount of forage being fed prior to a drop in temperature. The resulting increase of dry matter encourages the horse to drink more water. Concentrate mashes can also be fed during the actual cold period when water temperature is below 45°F. Feeding 2-3 gallons of hot water mixed in a mash with a textured or pelleted concentrate mix will provide additional water intake. To minimize gas colic, allow for the mash to sit for 15 minutes. This will permit the feed to expand prior to feeding. If possible, offer 10 gallons of water (at 65°F or warmer)

twice daily. Break and remove ice from water tubs, making certain to provide water that is available free choice.

Providing good quality, nutritious hay is another critical aspect to winter management of horses. This is the time of year where hay supplies sometimes get thin, so planning ahead and purchasing enough hay to get through the winter is critical. When temperatures get below freezing, winter pasture growth reduces tremendously, and hay is our only forage option. Horses, along with other grazing animals, need hay to stay warm. Hay and other forages are digested in the cecum and large intestine of the horse, and this digestion process is the primary source of regulating body temperature. Many horses can maintain their weight through the winter with just an increase in hay consumption. Those that are harder to keep weight on or older will often need a gradual increase of grain as well. Horses should consume at least 1.5% of their body weight in hay during cold periods. For example, a mature 1000 pound horse should consume 15-18 pounds per day of hay to meet these temperature needs in cold weather. It's important to pay close attention to body condition during these periods, and actually "feel" your horse. A long hair coat or winter blanket can often cover up thin spots on a horse, so be sure to examine your horse closely and get a feel for where your horse's ribs, backbone, etc. are and how much fat or "cover" there is over and around them. If a horse given plenty of hay is having trouble maintaining weight, increasing fat to the concentrate diet may also be helpful. Many "high fat" feeds are on the market just for this purpose.

These are just a few tips to help you and your horses get through these brisk winter days. For more information or advice, don't hesitate to contact your Extension office.

## Forage Management Tips

### January

- If winter pasture is limited, feed hay in the pasture or allow cows to graze every other day. The priority for limiting pasture is (1) calves by creep grazing, (2) stockers, (3) nursing cows, and (4) dry cows.
- Keep animals off newly planted winter annuals during wet periods to prevent damage. Allow calves first priority to graze.
- Sample hay bales which are stored outside that will be fed during the next four to eight weeks.
- Decide which fields will be re-seeded or overseeded during late winter and early spring; obtain soil test and supplies for planting.
- Lime may be applied during this off season.
- Keep a record of winter weed problems so that control measures can be taken next fall. This is the latest month that some herbicides may be used on legumes.
- Determine animal feed requirements for the year (about 6 tons of hay equivalent/cow-calf pair) and outline a 12 month forage production and use plan to meet the needs.

### February

- Apply nitrogen to cool-season grasses to stimulate early spring growth.
- Overseed legumes, such as ladino clover, into well-grazed (2 inches or less) grass pastures.
- Lime fields for spring plantings.
- Divide pastures to improve the quality and persistence of pasture plants.
- Locate sources of hybrid bermudagrass sprigs for planting.
- Burn warm-season grass residues in late February.
- Get herbicide sprayers ready to control weeds in dormant bermudagrass fields.

### March

- Apply nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to cool-season grasses to increase spring production.
- Begin grazing of fall-planted fescue and clovers when growth reaches 6 inches.
- Overseeding ladino clover into grass pastures should be completed early.
- Spread manure accumulated in pastures where hay was fed or where cattle congregated during the winter.
- Dig weed-free bermudagrass springs and plant them before growth begins; consider using a herbicide.
- Consider controlling winter weeds (ex: henbit, hairy buttercup, etc) with herbicides.
- Grass tetany may be a problem as rapid grass growth and cool, wet weather prevails.

## Calendar of Events

**January 10, 2013:** Animal Waste Operators 6hr CEC, Duplin County Cooperative Extension Office, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. For more information and to register, contact Amanda Hatcher at the Duplin County Office at (910) 296.2143.

**January 13, 2012:** Jones County Bits and Spurs 4-H Horse Club Meeting, Bay Branch Stables, Pollockville, NC. For more information, contact Jones County 4-H agent, Erin Morgan, at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**January 23, 2013:** Strategic ACX-Change Meeting, Duplin County Center, 11:00 AM. For more information and to register, contact Amanda Hatcher at the Duplin County Cooperative Extension Office at (910) 296.2143.

**January 25 – 26, 2013:** FAMACHA Training by Dr. Luginbuhl in Jackson County and Gaston County. For more information, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**January 26, 2013:** NC Jr. Hereford Association Judging Event, NCSU Beef Educational Unit. For more information, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**January 29 – 31, 2013:** North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council Winter Conferences. For more information, contact the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**January 30 – February 1, 2013:** Southern Farm Show, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM each day. For more information, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**January 31, 2013:** Coastal Carolina Cattle Alliance Meeting, Duplin County Cooperative Extension Office. For more information, contact Justin Whitley at the Duplin County Cooperative Extension Office at (910) 296.2143.

**February 7, 2013:** Cotton Meeting 12:00noon- 3:00pm Jones County Cotton Gin. Dr. Keith Edmisten and Dr. Alan York will be presenting at the meeting and hopefully Dr. Jack Bacheler will also be able to attend to discuss insects. Lunch will be served at this meeting, however PLEASE RSVP. Those that RSVP will go through the line first like last year so if you want to be sure you eat please RSVP. We want you to come to the meeting and we want you to be able to eat so please call the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office to register at (252) 448-9621 – ask for Jacob Morgan if you have questions. Pesticide and CCA credits will be applied for.

**February 8, 2013:** Marketing Meeting, Dr. Michael Roberts, Craven County Cooperative Extension Office, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. For more information and to register, contact the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**February 9, 2013:** Nance Family Meat Goat Institute, NCSU Beef Educational Unit. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**February 12, 2013:** Farmers Manage Deer - Turning Problem into Profit  
Each year deer consume \$30 million dollars worth of crops in North Carolina - that's money taken right out of the hands of hardworking NC farmers. And each year local food banks consistently report a shortage of meat protein, such as venison. "Farmers Manage Deer", an initiative of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF), which has been sponsored by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, seeks to address these concerns. Farmers Manage Deer will lease 24,000 acres of row crop farmland across eastern North Carolina for 15 days from farmers during the 2013 hunting season and recruit sportsmen to harvest deer according to a property-specific deer harvest management plan. **Farmers will benefit from both increased crop yield and new hunt lease income.** Funding for this program will also pay for the processing of deer harvested during these special hunts and then donated to Hunters for the Hungry for processing and distribution to local food banks.

**Farmers win, their community wins, hunters win, and deer win as well** because deer herd numbers that are in line with what their habitat can support are less likely to suffer from disease and have a greater chance of achieving their full potential.

**Enrollment of farmland is now in progress.** To enroll your land, to pledge volunteer support, and/or to learn more about the NCWF Farmers Manage Deer project you are invited to register and attend a Farmers Manage Deer Town Hall meeting (listed below) or contact Guy and Judy

Gardner at (919) 608.3386 or by e-mail to: <guyandjudy@ncwf.org>

**Join us at the Farmers Manage Deer Town Hall Meeting:**

**February 12, 2013 6:00pm – Onslow, Jones, and Pender Counties**

Onslow County Multipurpose Complex

4024 Richlands Highway

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Meal will be served

Registrar: Nita Walton, NC Cooperative Extension (910) 455.5873

**February 15 – 17, 2013:** Perry & Dorris Teeter Beef Leadership Institute, Hickory, NC. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**February 23, 2013:** Pitt County Livestock Judging and Skill-A-Thon Competition. For more information, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**February 26, 2013:** Craven and Jones Counties Livestock Association Interest Meeting, speaker will focus on cattle production, Craven County Cooperative Extension Office, contact Craven County Cooperative Extension at (252) 633.1477 for more information and to register.

**March 2 – 3, 2013:** Eastern Carolina Showmanship Clinic, Tarboro, NC. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**March 9, 2013:** Tri-Livestock Competition, Clinton, NC. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**March 15 – 16, 2013:** Show-Rite Jackpot Show, Elizabeth City, NC. March 15: goats. March 16: pigs and lambs. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**March 16 – 17, 2013:** Clover Classic Livestock Show. March 16: cattle. March 17: lambs and goats. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**March 16, 2013:** Tarheel Classic Show. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Jones County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 448.9621.

**April 1 – 2, 2013:** Coastal Plains Jr. Livestock Show and Sale, Kinston, NC. For more information and to register, contact Margaret A. Bell at the Craven County Cooperative Extension Office at (252) 633.1477.

**Deadline to register to show your animal is February 14, 2013.**

<http://lenoir.ces.ncsu.edu/coastal-plains-jr-livestock-show-and-sale/>

**Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD Program)**

\*Craven County agricultural field crop and livestock producers generate \$50-70 million dollars of farm sales each year. Enrollment of lands into farmland preservation programs identifies and preserve existing farmlands. Additionally, it adds additional protection for the producer and landowner against nuisance lawsuits, notifies potential new landowners of agricultural activities and provides a priority ranking or reduced cost share for some USDA programs. Please consider enrolling lands into either the Voluntary Agricultural Districts or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural

Districts if you are a landowner. The Craven Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications for enrollment into the Voluntary Agricultural and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts. Applications can be obtained from the Craven County Soil & Water Conservation office, our office or downloaded from our web page (<http://craven.ces.ncsu.edu/>). Cost of enrollment is \$76. For more details, visit, [http://craven.ces.ncsu.edu/content/VAD\\*](http://craven.ces.ncsu.edu/content/VAD*)



We're on the web! Check out our website for more upcoming events.

<http://craven.ces.ncsu.edu/>

<http://jones.ces.ncsu.edu/>

<http://cravenjoneslivestock.blogspot.com/>

<http://nchorse.blogspot.com/>



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