Livestock News

Richmond County Center — November 2014

Inside This Issue

Contact Us

NC Cooperative Extension
Richmond County Center
123 Caroline Street
PO Box 1358
Rockingham, NC 28380
(910) 997-8255 Phone
richmond.ces.ncsu.edu

Tiffanee Conrad
Extension Agent, Livestock
tiff_conrad@ncsu.edu

For any meeting in this newsletter, persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting the Extension Office where the meeting will be held by phone, email, or in person at least 7 days prior to the event.

Pesticide Collection Day

There will be a Pesticide Collection Day for residents in Bladen and surrounding counties on Tuesday, November 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bladen County Cooperative Extension office (450 Smith Circle Drive). Most pesticide products will be accepted. For liquid pesticide containers larger than 5 gal or for unlabeled pesticides, please contact the office for information before bringing to the collection event. No gas cylinders are accepted at the event.

Beef Cattle Reproduction Series

There are a few slots left for the Beef Cattle Reproduction series. The classes will be held on November 6, 13, and 20 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Robeson Extension Office. A field day/hands-on demonstrations will be Saturday, December 6th at the Sampson County Livestock Arena from 9:30-2:30 pm to see practices discussed in class. The cost is $25 for the series and $10 extra for each additional person from the same farm. Call your Extension Agent to register for the class TODAY!

Peak-season Soil Testing Fee starts November 26

NCDA will be charging a $4 fee for all soil samples processed by the lab starting November 26th until March 31st. Samples must be at the lab in RALEIGH on November 25 by 6 pm to not have a fee. Samples must be at the Bladen Extension office by November 19th by 5pm and we will send to the lab by the deadline.

Eastern Carolina Cattlemen's Conference

The conference is Tuesday, December 2 at the Sampson County Agri-Exposition Center located at 414 Warsaw Road in Clinton. Preregistration is $20 and on-site is $25. This year the conference will start at 12:30 pm with registration and the trade show. Speakers and topics include Leon Warren, NCSU, discussing Weed Control in Forages; Dr. Mark Alley, Zoetis, discussing Cull Cow Issues; and Dr. Tom Troxel and Dr. Shane Gadberry, Universtiy of Arkansas, will talk on 300 Days of Grazing. See attached form.

Cape Fear Regional Cattle Conference

The sixth annual conference will be held on January 20th at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center in Lumberton. The conference starts at 4:30 pm and costs $5 - pay at the door. Richard Melton, Retired Cooperative Extension Director and Livestock Agent, will speak on Making Genetics Work in Your Herd and Dr. Matt Poore, NCSU Extension Beef Specialist, will speak on Meeting Nutritional Needs Through Forages. The program includes a meal and time to visit the vendors. Call your Extension Office by January 9th to register.

NC State University A&T State University COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Empowering People · Providing Solutions

Animal Waste Management News

By: Becky Spearman, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Bladen County

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

Date	Location	Time	Contact
November 5th	Sampson County	9 am (6 hrs)	910-592-7161
December 9th	Bladen County	9 am (6 hrs)	910-862-4591

INITIAL TRAINING CLASS:

- 10-hour Animal Waste Operator Class in Elizabethtown on January 22 and 23, 2015. Costs are $35 for a manual and the class or $5 if just the class. Registration deadline is January 14th. Contact Becky Spearman at 910-862-4591 to sign up.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- **Peak-season Soil Testing Fee - $4**
  NCDA will be charging a $4 fee for all soil samples processed by the lab during December through March. There will be no fee from April through November. So take your samples now.
- **Waste Analysis Fees are $8 per sample.**
- **Change in Soil Sampling Frequency for Swine Farms -** A change in legislation in 2013 states that the **soil testing frequency has been changed from annually to every three years.** Farms that soil tested in 2012 are good until 2015 and farms tested in 2013 are good until 2016.
- **Check your Continuing Education Hours! -** Call your Agent or go to http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/tacu-renewal
- **Reminder -** OIC Operators must send in their $10 renewal fee for their license to DWR by December 31st.

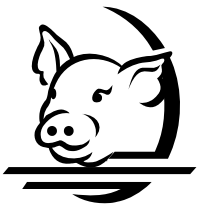
New General Permits

Every 5 years swine farms get new general permit rules. You should have gotten a copy of the new rules and a certificate of coverage for your farm in early October. The new permit cycle is from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2019. There were not a lot of changes in the rules. Listed below are some of the changes.

- Change soil sampling requirement from annually to once every three years. Requirement of General Statutes 143-215.10C(e) as modified by Session Law 2013-228 (Senate Bill 205).

- Modified language that the waste sample analyzed should represent the waste as applied – i.e., if lagoon is agitated for waste application, the sample should be taken when agitated rather than prior to agitation.

- You must notify the regional office if waste levels enter into structural freeboard zone. Added a requirement for a 5-Day Plan of Action within two days.



Hay Directory

North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/. Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222. It lists people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay for sale on-line.

Forage Management Tips

From Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina

November

- Do not graze cool season perennial pastures until growth reaches 6 to 8 inches.
- Separate lactating and dry cows and give the lactating cows the best quality pastures and hay.
- Winter annual pastures planted in September may be responsive to a nitrogen application (30 - 50 lbs/acre).
- Test forages before winter feeding begins.

December

- Limit the grazing of winter pastures by feeding hay or restricting acres available to animals.
- Feed hay stored outside before hay that is stored inside.

Minimizing Hay Loss with Good Feeding Management

By: Liz Joseph, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Cumberland and Hoke Counties

It's almost time to start feeding hay and thinking about how to minimize hay loss with proper feeding management. Hay loss due to feeding can range from two to sixty percent. The more time and energy put into managing hay feeding, the less hay and money that will be wasted. There are a number of factors that affect the amount of hay lost, including feeding method, interval between feedings, amount fed, the number of animals being fed, weather conditions, the method of storage, and overall hay quality.

Hay should be fed on well drained areas. Distributing hay on pasture land rather than concentrating the feeding traffic in one area will be beneficial to your pasture. This allows for animals to exhibit natural grazing habits and distributes their manure uniformly, improving soil fertility. This method usually works best if feeding hay daily or every two days. If hay is fed using hay rings, feeders, or racks that are moveable, choose a new area each time you put out a new bale. This will limit the amount of damage done to one area of the pasture and will also help distribute manure.

The greatest amount of hay loss occurs when animals are given free access to hay. They will trample, over consume, and contaminate between twenty-five to forty-five percent of the hay. Limiting animal access to hay will help limit waste. Feeding hay daily and matching the amount of hay fed with nutritional needs will also help decrease loss. Daily feeding will force the animals to eat hay they might otherwise waste. This requires a higher labor input, but will save the most hay and money.

If feeding daily or every other day is not an option, using hay rings, racks, and feeders will help limit animal access to hay and help decrease hay loss. Using feeders that keep the hay up off the ground limits the amount of loss due to trampling and fecal contamination. Hay rings with panels along the bottom also help limit loss due to trampling and fecal contamination because less hay will fall out the bottom. When using hay racks, rings, and feeders, it's important to keep in mind the amount of space around each feeder; make sure there is enough space for each animal to get to the hay easily.

Hay bales should be separated into lots according to their quality. The highest quality hay will be the most valuable and should be fed with the most care. The animals with the highest nutritional needs, such as young calves, yearlings, bred heifers, and lactating cows, should be fed the highest quality hay. Lower quality hay should be saved for animals with less nutritional needs, such as mature, dry pregnant cows, and bulls when not in breeding season. This allows hay quality to be matched with the livestock's needs. Hay stored outside should be fed before hay stored inside because hay stored properly inside will last longer than hay exposed to Mother Nature.

Determine what will work best for your operation to limit hay loss due to feeding this winter.

Factors Affecting Calving Difficulty

Revised by Tyrone Fisher, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County
Original publication by Timothy W. Wilson, Former Extension Animal Scientist – Beef and
Johnny Rossi, Former Extension Animal Scientist – Beef

Calving difficulty, otherwise known as dystocia, may result in reduced calf performance, delayed estrus and, in some cases, loss of the calf and/or dam. This article discusses several factors affecting calving difficulty and provides management suggestions that may be useful to prevent its occurrence. The majority of non-disease related calf losses in beef herds consist of calf deaths associated with dystocia, but here are some factors you may be able to control to improve success rate.

Sire Selection

Some cattle producers blame calving difficulty on the breed of the sire because of heavy calf birth weight and large frame size. There are sires within each breed that can cause calving difficulty when bred to certain females. Try to match the type of sire to that of the females. This will help prevent breeding large-framed sires to small-framed heifers. Consider sires that have been proven to produce low birth weight calves when breeding heifers to reduce possible calving difficulty. As heifers mature into cows, they can be bred to larger-framed sires since they will be more capable of delivering larger calves.

Although many producers evaluate breed, structure, frame score and genetics when selecting sires, the dystocia potential of a sire cannot be visually determined. Producers must rely on past calving records or the expected progeny difference (EPD) for each bull.

Temperature

Temperature has been shown to have a significant impact on calf birth weight. Although using sires with low birth weight EPDs may reduce some calving problems, environmental factors are responsible for approximately 55 percent of calving difficulties. Calf birth weights can vary significantly from year to year even though the same genetics and management are used.

Several studies have shown that calves born in the fall weigh less than calves born in the winter and spring months. The increase in fetal weight during the cooler winter months is most likely because of increased nutrient intake from supplemental feeding by the cow. As the nutrient intake increases, nutrient flow to the fetus increases, which can result in increased growth rate.

Feeding

Overfeeding heifers causes internal fat deposition, which obstructs the pelvic canal. In a beef cattle operation, overfeeding is seldom a major contributing factor to dystocia. All managers, however, must balance between achieving maximum frame growth without allowing excessive fat deposits. Fat heifers will have high incidences of dystocia just as often as underdeveloped heifers. Feed heifers to calve with a body condition score of 5 to 6 (scale 1 to 9; 1 = emaciated and 9 = obese). These heifers will have a much better chance of producing a live calf with minimal difficulty and returning to estrus sooner than a cow in poor condition.

Summary

Many factors affect calving difficulty, which can reduce the maximum production capability of the calf and extends the post-partum interval of the dam. Producers who focus on sire selection, time of year they calve (temperature) and feeding may reduce the incidence of calving difficulty. Managing your herd with the goal of reducing calving difficulty should result in more live, vigorous calves that achieve desired weight gains, along with dams that breed during the designated breeding season, and ultimately improve overall production potential.

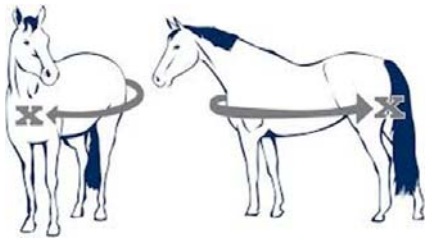
Choosing the Right Blanket for Your Horse!

By: Kaitlyn Johnson, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Moore County

With cooler weather quickly approaching and talk of a long winter, it's time to begin looking at getting the blankets out or purchasing new ones for your horses! Remember when considering the type of blanket and whether or not to blanket a horse to look at all the factors: shelter available, temperature, wind chill, and chance of precipitation.

When looking to buy a new blanket there are MANY different options to choose from and it can be confusing as well as pricy. Brands offer different features that affect fit, performance, and coverage. This article will focus on blankets for horses to be turned out in. There are three things that you should consider when looking at blankets for your horse: sizing, type and features.

Sizing: The fit of the blanket is very important for the horse. Blankets and sheets that are too big or too small can cause painful sores on the horse's withers, rubs on the shoulders and general irritation. Measuring a horse is easy. Use a flexible tape measure (like used in sewing). To measure, in inches, go from the center of the horse's chest straight back along his/her body to the center of the thigh, just next to the tail. Ponies' usually measure in the 60's, average size horses somewhere in the 70's and larger warmblood or draft breeds in the 80's. From this number you will select the size of the blanket. It is recommended to look at the size chart of the brand you are going to buy when selecting the size, as each company can run slightly different in sizes.



Type: There are different types of blankets depending on conditions the horse will be facing. The fill, waterproofing and outer shell durability will help you determine which will be best for your horse.

The fill of the blanket refers to the warmth the blanket will provide. There are three common ratings for fill: light weight, medium weight, and heavy weight. The fill is typically made of polyester and is measured in grams. On some blankets it will list grams of fill rather than weight. A light weight would be a stable sheet and it does not contain fill. The medium weight blanket ranges between 180 grams and 200 grams of fill. A heavy weight blanket usually offers between 300 grams and 420 grams of fill.

If you plan to turn your horse out in a sheet or blanket, it will need to be waterproof for the elements. Most are coated to repel water and many are Teflon® coated. The fabric repels water but is still breathable enough to allow air and moisture to escape from the sheet/blanket. The standard for waterproof and breathability is 3000 mm.

The outer shell durability of a sheet or blanket is generally referred to as denier. Denier refers to the size or coarseness of the fiber of the blanket. The higher the denier the tougher the outer shell. All blankets will vary in the denier and fabric type. An adequate blanket will be about 600 denier, while the middle range is about 800 denier. The toughest blankets will range from about 1200 denier to 1680 denier. Ballistic nylon is the toughest type available. Even though the later tend to cost slightly more, if your horse is known to be rough on blankets or has a pasture mate that likes to grab or play with the blanket you will want to consider these tougher options.

Features: When purchasing a blanket there will be many features that make them different: closures, neck style, gussets, tail flaps, leg straps, and fleece at the withers. All can provide various benefits depending on what you are looking for.

Blankets typically close in the front; there are several types of closures. Clip and dee closures can be adjusted the first time for an optimum fit, then be quickly released or attached without adjustment. Surcingles simply connect 2 straps. The hug chest panel closure overlaps for freedom of movement and greater adjustment.

Different neck styles can provide protection from the elements, by preventing water from entering the blanket and neck area. A high cut neck offers more protection than the regular cut neck. The combo neck has a full neck cover attached to the blanket. Some have an optional neck cover that can be removed.

The gusset is located in the shoulder area and allows for the freedom of movement. It retracts to keep the blanket closed for warmth, but can stretch open when needed. Tail flaps protects your horse from the elements and helps keep the blanket in place.

Leg straps prevent the blanket from shifting and blowing up in the wind and are also useful for hoses that pull their blanket off. Fleece at the withers prevents the blanket from rubbing the horse.

Resources: Dover Saddlery
http://www.doversaddlery.com/dover-library/a/254//

Tapeworms in Sheep and Goats

By: Dan Wells, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Johnston County
Adapted from Tapeworms: problem or not? By Susan Schoenian

Approaching the winter season, I have heard many sheep and goat producers speak of seeing higher than normal tapeworm infestations in their flocks this summer. Tapeworms often get more attention than other intestinal parasites because excreted worms can be easily seen in feces. They are flat, ribbon shaped worms that live in the intestines of hosts. They have hooks or suckers on their heads, allowing them to attach to the wall of the host's intestine then they absorb nutrients through their skin. Mature tapeworms shed segments that are packed with eggs, which is what is most commonly seen in an animal's feces.

Like most internal parasites, the life cycle of tapeworm includes periods inside and outside their primary host's body. Tapeworm eggs, once shed by a sheep or goat, are then ingested by mites that are common in the environment. Grazing animals are infested with tapeworms by ingesting the mites along with grazed forage.

Tapeworm infestations cause a variety of symptoms similar to other internal parasites: diarrhea, potbelly, weight loss and emaciation. Severe infestations can actually block the host's bowel and cause death. Tapeworm eggs can be seen under a microscope during fecal egg counts, and are triangular in shape. However, numbers of tapeworm eggs in a fecal sample are not reliable for diagnosis because the eggs are shed in segments, which is different from other worms. A necropsy may be necessary for definitive diagnosis.

Whether tapeworms present a serious problem to a sheep or goat is a matter of some debate. Most veterinarians consider tapeworms to be non-pathogenic. Others consider tapeworms to be a threat to young, unweaned animals. Studies in New Zealand have shown no difference in weight gain of lambs treated with drugs effective against tapeworm compared to untreated lambs. Another study in Germany found no significant difference in weight gain of treated and untreated lambs.

Albendazole (Valbazen) is considered to be the most effective drug against tapeworms and is usually sufficient for controlling infestations. Fenbendazole (SafeGuard, Panacur) is also reported to have some efficacy against tapeworms. It is important to note that, with the exception of fenbendazole administered at a 5-mg/kg dose, other drugs in this class are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in goats, and is considered extra-label use when used in goats. The FDA regards extra-label use of drugs as an exclusive privilege of the veterinary profession and is only permitted when a bona fide veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists and an appropriate medical diagnosis has been made. Producers are strongly encouraged to consult with their veterinarian and obtain a clinical diagnosis before beginning any treatment.

Also keep in mind that Valbazen should never be given to pregnant does during the first trimester of pregnancy, which could result in abortion of the fetus. Meat and milk withdrawal times are also important to observe. For Valbazen at a 20 mg/kg dose, the withdrawal time is 9 days for meat and 7 days for milk. For SafeGuard or Panacur at a 10 mg/kg dose, the withdrawal time is 16 days for meat and 4 days for milk. Add one day of withdrawal for each additional day the drug is used.

Tapeworm egg under microscope sheepandgoat.com

Tapeworm segments in feces sheepandgoat.com

4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Winners

By: Tiffanee Conrad, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Richmond County

Results for The 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit will be announced at the banquet in Stanly County. These youth accumulated points for their placings in showmanship at a series of shows in the South Central District in North Carolina this fall. If you know any of these young people, please congratulate them for all their hard work and accomplishments. Any youth from any county may now participate. If you have a child, grandchild, or neighbor who may be interested in competing in our Circuit, please call your local Livestock or 4-H Agent for help.

The 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit is for youth showing lambs, heifers, and goats. There are three divisions for all species. First place in each division will win a belt buckle and a banner ribbon, second place will win a banner ribbon, and third place through fifth place will win a tri-fold ribbon. Cape Fear Farm Credit and Carolina Farm Credit proudly sponsors the Circuit, providing the funding to operate it. Each youth participant receives a Circuit tee shirt. Final point rankings for the Circuit are below:

Lamb Showmanship Winners

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
	1. John Faatz II	1. Benjamin Herndon
	2. Jamey Hatley	2. Emerald Layton*
		3. Hannah Carter*

Heifer Showmanship Winners

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
1. Salem Sifford	1. Marcie Harward	1. Morgan Rockwell
2. Olivia Allen	2. Thomas Smith	2. Catherine Harward*
3. Hayden Allen	3. Mattie Harward	3. Cara Smith
	4. Madison Sifford	4. Wesley Dobbins
	5. Katelyn Batchelor	5. Sabrina Blake * & Spencer Walker

Meat Goat Showmanship Winners

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
1. Noah Beeson	1. Coleman Berry	1. Jordan Carroll
2. Cydney Leister	2. McKensie Beeson	2. Morgan Rockwell
3. Eli Maske	3. Savannah Chappell	3. Madelyn Chappell
4. Fallon Cain	4. Kali Mabe	4. Kacie Beeson*
	5. Paison Cain	5. Lauren Ingram*

***=Also won the Most Improved Award Ribbon for their species.**

Senior Showmanship Winners:

Can a Vegetative Environmental Buffer Make You a Better Neighbor?

By: Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension

As North Carolina's population continues to grow, agriculture producers of all types find we have new neighbors that do not farm or understand farming practices. This often leads to conflicts with new rural residents. Farming produces a variety of conditions many people consider as nuisances, from slow moving tractors and machinery, to dust, and a variety of smells. While we cannot completely prevent most of these things, we can be conscience of their effects on others, manage the impact they have and do our part to be good neighbors. Planning, a calendar and a watch can help mitigate impacts on neighbors; avoiding rush hour when moving machinery on local roads, not spreading litter, or spraying fields on holiday weekends when people are more likely to plan cookouts and family gatherings. Another simple thing that can be done to mitigate odor and dust from a poultry operation is adding or enhancing a Vegetative Environmental Buffer around a farm. VEB's utilize existing and site specific plantings of trees, shrubs and grasses to filter dust and odor particles, and aid in dispersing exhaust air into the upper strata. In addition, a well planned and maintained VEB can help reduce ammonia emissions from the farm, reduce carbon dioxide levels, and improve water quality. The benefits of a VEB are not just for your neighbors either. A properly designed VEB can help reduce the chances of disease transmission which is extra important if you are located in a poultry dense area. It can also reduce back pressure on exhaust fans and provide a wind break to reduce energy cost.

Existing tree lines and forest can be utilized to help form a complete VEB and may already be doing more than many realized to reduce odor complaints. Consideration of this benefit should be made before removing or repurposing these areas. Distance from nearby homes and farms will provide the greatest reduction in odor complaints and disease risk but VEB's can help compensate for areas of encroachment. There are several key factors to consider before installing a VEB. Because the layout, topography, house and fan orientation, and the soil type of each farm varies, most growers will need some assistance designing the VEB and/or selecting appropriate site-specific plants. I have included links to several web sites that can help develop a plan for your farm. NC Cooperative Extension agents can also help you customize and maintain a VEB that will work on your farm.

http://www.extension.org/pages/15538/air-quality-in-animal-agriculture#.VElQU4ck0Uw

http://www.extension.org/pages/26273/mitigating-air-emissions-with-vegetative-environmental-buffers#.VElQgock0Uw

http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/veb/about.html

http://www.extension.org/pages/25826/efficacy-of-vegetative-environmental-buffers-to-mitigate-emissions-from-tunnel-ventilated-poultry-ho#.VElQsIck0Uw

http://www.dpichicken.org/veb/