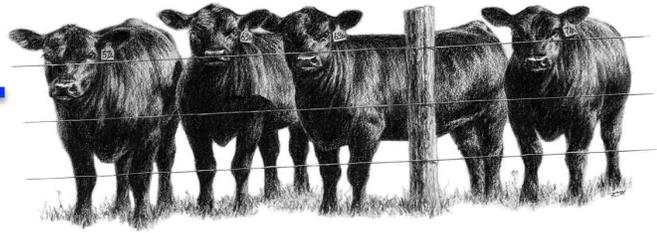


# Extension

September 2015

## Cattle Call



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### Common Sense Grazing

*Seth Nagy, Livestock Agent, Caldwell County*

We all can agree it has been a dry spring and summer. Some areas have been drier than others, but we all have received less rain than normal. Even though we have received less rain, we still need to be ready to take advantage, when it does rain. And it will rain. The question is, "How do we position our pastures to take full advantage of future rains?"



First, evaluate your pastures. Some are probably overgrazed and the fescue is weak or completely gone. Hopefully, some pastures still have fescue (and other cool season forages) at least 3-4 inches tall. Evaluate all your pastures and put them in one category or the other.

Pastures in the first category, thin and over grazed, should be re-planted in fescue or fescue mixed with other cool season forages. September is the month to plant tall fescue, orchardgrass, etc. To learn more about establishment of pastures visit (<http://www.forages.ncsu.edu/establishment-and-fertilization.html>). Here you will find information to re-establish your permanent pastures. Ask your local Extension Agent for help with your particular situation. Each farm is different and they will give tailored advice for your operation. Be sure to take a soil test too. This is the best way to determine fertility - lime & fertilizer - requirements.

Pastures in the second category, good fescue 3-4 inches tall, are ready to go to work. When it rains, they will come back and be productive this fall. For maximum growth apply 60 to 80 units of nitrogen along with additional requirements as indicated by a soil test. It is best to fertilize now in September. With either situation, over grazed thin pastures or good fescue minimum 3-4 inches tall, it is essential that these pastures rest. Animals must be removed. If pastures are not allowed to rest, they are not as likely to recover and become productive.

Move animals to sacrifice areas and feed hay now. If your animals are not able to get a full bite of grass on the pasture, you'll be feeding hay anyway. Put them up in one area and let your pasture recover until January 1st. This strategy of feeding hay now and grazing later, gives pastures a chance to recover. However, this all depends on rainfall. The current best prediction is we will have a wet fall since El Niño is in full effect in the Pacific Ocean (<http://climate.ncsu.edu/climateblog?id=152>).

Letting fescue (or other forages) accumulate is called stockpiling or deferred grazing. It is a technique that has been used very successfully for many years. The quality of fall stockpiled fescue is excellent and better than fescue hay. Stockpiled fescue will more than meet the needs of mature cattle and most lactating cows. Heifers on stockpiled grass alone can gain two pounds per day without additional feed. To get the maximum utilization of the available standing forage, it must be control grazed. Controlled grazing is nothing more that providing animals a fresh section of pasture every one to three days. Controlled grazing doubles pasture utilization as compared to providing cattle a 30-day allotment of continuous grazing. This is an underutilized technique by cattlemen.

On average, one acre of stockpiled fescue will feed a 1,000 pound animal from the first of January through March if controlled grazing is employed and we receive normal rainfall. This also assumes the stockpiling starts September 1 with 60 to 80 units of N fertilizer. Starting the stockpiling earlier yields more tonnage, but with lower quality. Stockpiling that begins after September 1 will have slightly higher quality, but less quantity.

If you would like to learn more about forages and grazing then make plans to attend the NC Forage and Grassland Council's Mid-Winter Conference in Statesville on January 28. To learn more visit (<http://www.nccattle.com/ncforageandgrasslandcouncil.aspx>).

## Recordkeeping Software on the Go

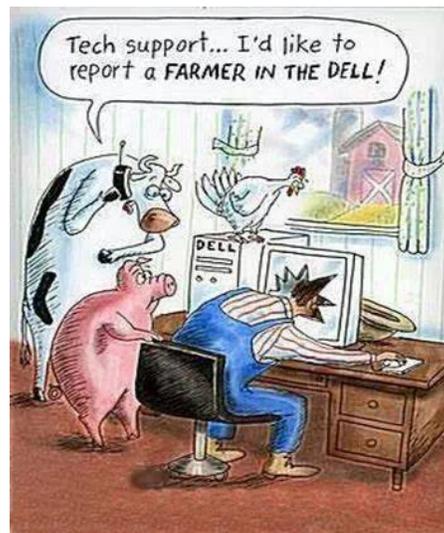
Teresa Herman, Livestock Agent, Iredell County

As cattlemen, we have lots of tools that help get the job done. Tractors, trucks, atv's, etc, help us with the day to day maintenance of the cow herd. But how many people use the most important tool of all – a pencil? With the technology available today, maybe a pencil is not the best tool to use but recordkeeping should be top priority. Without accurate detailed records, making informed decisions about the cow herd becomes more difficult.

There are hundreds of software programs available to make your recordkeeping tasks much easier. The one that we will discuss for this issue is Cattlemax. This online software can be accessible from any mobile device that has a data package. Therefore, if you are on the atv and need to look up a breeding record for a particular cow, it is as simple as looking at a screen on your smart phone.

Calving records can be entered directly on your smart phone, iPad, tablet, whatever and someone in the barn can access that information. The data exchange is lightning fast and can be utilized by as many users as you wish. Reports are easy to generate and the software has nice graphics that show cow statistics in colorful easy to see graphs.

The cost for Cattlemax is comparable to other software packages and has a free trial version that lets you learn how to use it before you buy. The purchase options are numerous. You can pay for one month at a time or the entire year.



## Remove Those Fly Tags!

**Don't forget to remove fly tags this fall once fly populations go down. Old tags should be cut out at the end of fly season each year so that sub-therapeutic doses administered by spent tags are not given the opportunity to allow flies to build resistance. Also remember what chemical ingredient your tags had this year, so you can rotate and use a different one next year!**

## EXTENSION CATTLE CALL GIVEAWAY

The Extension Cattle Call Team would like to invite each of you to participate in a drawing for 2.5 liter of Dectomax Pour-on sponsored by Zoetis and Dr. Bradley Mills. It only takes a minute to enter the drawing. All you need to do is call your local Extension office and tell them the key phrase is **"Fall Deworm"**. Someone will take your name and number and enter you into the drawing to be held on November 20th.



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