



Livestock News, Updates, & Information

Thank you for reading this month's newsletter! I am excited to put together a cohesive resource for the most up to date information that is going on in our livestock community. Information is intended to be timely and practical. If you have any questions regarding any information provided, events, or suggestions on topics to be addressed, please reach out to Abby at abby_whitaker@ncsu.edu. Be sure to visit our website and our social media sites!

Visit our Website



Cancelled Upcoming Events

In efforts to do our part in keeping everyone safe, the following Livestock programs are cancelled. Please refer to our website and follow email announcements for the latest information regarding programs.

1. April & May Cattlemen's Meetings
2. All dates of Livestock Basics 101



Upcoming Events

Piedmont Regional Sheep & Goat Webinar Series– FREE

Join us online from the comfort of your home as we take our originally planned conference schedule and move it to a webinar series!

The series will take place on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m. and will feature the speakers and topics from our conference (the only session that will not be held will be the shearing demo, we will move that to 2021).

You can choose to register for one or multiple sessions. The entire webinar series is FREE!

[Register Here!](#)

[More Information Here!](#)



Webinar Schedule– Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

April 21: Small Ruminant First Aid & Being Prepared for Lambing or Kidding Season

April 28: Livestock Guardian Animals

May 5: Hoof Health (including hoof trimming)

May 12: Grazing Management to Promote Small Ruminant Health



Pasture Management Webinar Series

Livestock Pasture Management: April 20, 2020, 7-8 p.m.

- Forage Quality
- Nutrition
- Grazing Systems

Register for this event: <https://tinyurl.com/livestockpasturewebinar>

Each webinar has a different URL, register for each session separately. For questions about the series or for instructions to access Webex please email Hank Bignell at hdbignell@njaes.rutgers.edu.

[More Info Here](#)



Livestock Webinar Series

Learn from the comfort of your home! This FREE webinar series will focus on timely, seasonal topics related to livestock and pasture management. Each week will feature a different topic and you can choose which webinar you want to register for. Webinars will be taught by Lauren Langley, Livestock Extension Agent, Alamance County unless noted otherwise.

2020 Webinar Series Schedule:

- April 16: Equine Pasture Management Tips
- April 23: Getting Started Selling Local Meats *Guest Speaker, Lee Menius, NC Choices
- April 30: Caring For Your New Chicks
- May 7: Small Ruminant Pasture Management Tips
- May 14: Managing Fire Ants in Pastures *Guest Speaker, Dr. Wes Watson, NC State University
- May 21: Parasite Control in Cattle (both internal and external parasite control)

[More Info Here](#)

How to Sample Hay Bales for Nutritive Value Analysis



Hay sampling is the only way to know the nutritional value of your hay crop. Sampling is quite simple and easy to do but must be done properly in order to get accurate results! Check out a couple videos at the link below to learn how to sample hay.

Need to borrow a hay core sampler? Call Abby at 336-342-8230.

[Hay Sample Videos](#)

Local Dairy Products

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, dairy products have been hard to come by. If you, someone you know, or your local food bank is in need of dairy products, check out this list to find dairy products near you!



Abby's Corner



Hey everyone! My name is Abby Whitaker and I am the Livestock and Forage Crops Extension Agent for Rockingham County. Hopefully we have met or talked before, but if not, I look forward to meeting you soon!

I wanted to provide my contact information here, as well as a quick shoutout about what Extension can do for you!

Extension is your friendly neighborhood educational resource for all things agriculture! Our office houses agents that specialize in field crops, horticulture, family and consumer science, 4-H, and livestock! We want to help you!

My contact information is as follows:
Email- abby_whitaker@ncsu.edu
Office: 336-342-8230
Work Cell: 336-520-2548
If you call me, please leave a message if I do not answer!

I love my job and look forward to continue serving Rockingham County!

Using a seed drill to plant grass this summer or fall? Learn to calibrate!



A Recipe for Seed – Drill Edition

Deidre Harmon
Extension Livestock Specialist
Animal Science

Dennis Hancock
Extension Forage Agronomist
University of Georgia

Calibrating a seed drill before planting is an important task that can help to maximize the success of your forage stand. Economically speaking, if the equipment is not properly calibrated, you risk losing money by planting either too much or too little seed. Planting lower than the recommended seeding rate may compromise your bottom line by allowing for weed competition within the stand. This leads to both lower yielding and lower quality forage. Meanwhile, planting more seed than required is an unnecessary means of increasing establishment costs.

[See Full Article Here](#)



Face Fly Pest Management

Dr. Wes Watson
NC State Entomology

FACE FLY, *Musca autumnalis*

The face fly is a common problem for cattle and occasionally horses in the piedmont and mountain regions of North Carolina. Description and Biology. The face fly was introduced into North America from Europe and entered the United States from Canada in 1952. The fly has since spread across the northern states and southward. The face fly is a common pest of pastured cattle in western North Carolina and an occasional pest in the piedmont. The fly is relatively rare on the coastal plain. Traditionally, face fly population densities on NC cattle are highest in the spring, but may be significantly reduced in number under dry conditions.

Read more [Here](#)

Livestock Management Calendar

The following section will be monthly information to take into consideration for a year round management plan! Depending on the goals of your operation, these monthly tips may look different for you. However, the same general ideas can be adjusted and still be beneficial! We take care of our livestock year round, so here's a chance to look at that month by month.



Cattle

Revised by Ronnie Silcox and Lawton Stewart, Extension Animal Scientists
Original manuscript by Ronnie Silcox and Mark McCann, Extension Animal Scientists
UGA

May– –General

- Control pasture weeds by clipping or with chemical weed control.
- Fertilize bermudagrass and bahia pastures according to soil test recommendations, if not done previously.
- Check hay equipment and make sure it is ready for operation.



Meat Goat

Steven M. Jones
Associate Professor Animal Science
University of Arkansas

May–

- Discontinue supplemental feeding to does as economics dictate.
- Plant summer annuals for pasture, if needed. Do other pastures seem healthy and growing well?
- Feed kids at regular hours each day. Be sure feed, hay and water are fresh and clean.
- Watch your animals while they eat; are they energetic? Watch for ones that are off feed, sluggish (ears can be an indication of how they feel) or starting with scours or bloat.
- At the first sign of scours, consider treating with a coccidiostat. Better yet, have your veterinarian check fecal

- Control flies.

–Spring Calving

- Vaccinate calves more than 3 months old with clostridial vaccines (black-leg).
- Castrate and dehorn any calves missed at birth.
- Implant calves. Calves that were implanted at birth may be re-implanted.
- Check on condition of bulls during breeding season. Provide supplemental feed if needed.
- Spot check to make sure cows are settling.

–Fall Calving

- Pregnancy check cows 45–60 days after breeding season ends. Sell open cows.
- Check cows' eyes, udders, feet, legs and production records for others that should be culled.
- To precondition calves for shipment, vaccinate for respiratory diseases (IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, H. Somnus) 45 days before weaning. Check with your veterinarian for product recommendations.

samples to identify any parasite that might be involved.

- Make sure you save enough colostrum from those last does to freshen, to heat treat and freeze for the start of the kidding season next year.
- In smaller herds, it is time to give all your goats a clipping overall, whether they are going to be shown or not. This will help control external parasites and make them cooler and cleaner for the hot weather.
- Trim feet on the whole herd. Remember the kids.
- Monitor body condition of nursing does and supplement as needed.
- Graze fescue closely to keep it vegetative.
- Harvest extra hay fescue and winter annuals as hay.
- Rotate pastures to minimize exposure to internal parasites.
- Seed summer annuals for forage, according to Extension recommendations.



[Full Article Here](#)

Feeding Horses with a Round-Bale Feeder

University of Minnesota

Quick Facts

- Round-bale feeder design affects waste and costs, but not safety, hay intake or herd weight in horses.
- Feeding your horse round bales without a feeder can result in:
 - 57 percent wasted hay
 - Weight loss
 - Reduced hay intake
- Storage can cause 2 to 40 percent hay waste depending on the forage type, storage method, environment and length of storage.
- Covering round bales with plastic can reduce waste by half when storing bales outside.
- However, hay waste occurs during feeding and storing of round bales. Using a feeder and properly storing round bales can help reduce your hay waste.

Recorded Webinars

Due to current circumstances, a lot of content has been made available online. Webinars and Zoom sessions are overflowing with opportunities to learn new

things from the comfort of your own home. The scheduled times are easily missed and do not always fit into our new crazy schedules. As these webinars are recorded and made available online, I will add to this list and send them in the newsletter.

[Searching for the Bottom of the U.S. Beef Cattle Price Cycle](#)

[Cattle Markets & COVID 19](#)

[UI Extension Sheep & Goat Webinar Series - Vaccines & Dewormers](#)

[Equine Fly Control Webinar](#)

Did you find this newsletter informational?

Yes

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No

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