Cattlemen’s Association Spring Meeting

This year’s spring meeting will be held on May 29th, 6:00 pm at the McDowell Ag Center on Hwy 226 just south of I-40. We have an excellent program lined up for this year’s meeting. Pasture management costs are a large percentage of the operating expense in a cow-calf operation. With the increase cost of fertilizer, lime, herbicides, fuel and other management expenses, decisions on management practices must be based on economic considerations to be justifiable. When should you make applications of fertilizer and herbicides and how much should you apply to get the biggest bang for your buck, What product should you be using and is there a less expensive product available that will do the same job. We will have representatives from 2 major companies, Dow AgroSciences and United Ag Products as guest speakers to provide us with information to help us make these informed management decisions.

We will also have information presented on the new Drought Recovery Cost Share Program recently announced to help with the reseeding of pastures and drilling and redrilling of farm wells. We also hope to have a demonstration of a no till seeding unit which is currently available for use by our producers.

As you can see, this should be an interesting and informative meeting for everyone. As always, spouses and family members are always welcomed and encouraged to attend. Dow AgroSciences and United Agri Products (UAP) will be sponsoring the meal so we will need to have an accurate head count on the number attending. Please RSVP to my office at 652-7874 by 5:00 pm Friday, May 23rd. Looking forward to seeing you on the 29th!!!
Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) Sign-Up
By: Kim Rumfelt, County Executive Director

The Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs resulting from natural disasters occurring between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. To be eligible the livestock must be: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. The livestock must have been owned or cash leased and maintained for commercial use. Beef and dairy cattle must have weighed 500 pounds or more on either January 1, 2007 or April 6, 2007. Producers will choose either April 6, 2007 (start date of the freeze) or January 1, 2007 (start date of the drought).

Information needed includes:

1. **List all your farming interests**: If you have not been to our office to update your farming interests such as: acquiring farmland, leasing/operating a new farm then bring deed(s) if you have bought a farm. If land is leased bring the lease agreement if applicable. If operating as a partnership or corporation bring articles of organization/ incorporation. Bring a **voided check** for direct deposit.

2. **Know number of acres grazed what type of grass and how many days grazed.** Also, need to know where the livestock was physically located on January 1, 2007 and where they are now.

3. **Livestock kind, type and weight range**: For beef and dairy cattle there are 2 categories of weight ranges; **non-adult** weighing 500 lbs or more and **adult** cows and bulls. Calves are not eligible. Sheep and goats have no weight range category, so count all. Poultry count all weighing 8 pounds or more.

4. **Also need to know if livestock was removed as a direct result of the disaster.**

Applications will not be accepted until all documentation is on file. We don’t want you to make several trips to have a completed application, so give us a call if you have any questions prior to coming in to sign up. No deadline has been set at this time for taking applications. Get you information together. Call if you have questions 828-439-9727 ext 106.

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**ESTIMATE TALL FESCUE COVER THIS SPRING**
Submitted by: Gary Bates—-University of Tennessee

Last year’s drought caused many tall fescue stands to have significant stand loss. Trying to thicken these stands is often a difficult thing to do. In order to improve the odds of getting a good stand back during 2008, take the following steps:

- Evaluate the tall fescue coverage of the field this spring. When the tall fescue is 6-8 inches tall, estimate what percent of the ground is covered by tall fescue leaf.

- If over 60% of the ground is covered, there is no need to add more tall fescue plants to the stand. Concentrate on soil fertility and clovers on these fields.

- If less than 30% of the ground is covered, kill the field this spring, plant a summer annual, then replant the tall fescue this fall.

- If between 30 and 60% of the ground is covered, then concentrate on weed control this summer, then graze hard during late summer. When soil moisture becomes adequate in September, get the cattle off the field and immediately drill 15 lb per acre of tall fescue.
FACT SHEET
N.C. AGRICULTURE DROUGHT RECOVERY PROGRAM

Purpose: This cost-sharing project will assist farmers with restoring drought-damaged pastureland and providing additional water supply for livestock and crops.

Description: The project responds to immediate, critical needs resulting from the record-breaking drought of 2007. Grants will cover 75% of the cost of certain projects necessary to restore pasturelands to usable condition or to create new or improved water supplies for livestock and crops, to avoid crises in the event of future drought. Recipients will cover the remaining 25% of the cost. Eligible projects include:

- Pasture renovation
- Drilling and redrilling wells
- Pond construction and renovation
- Conversion of closed lagoons to fresh water ponds
- Upgrading existing irrigation systems

Technical assistance will be available to assist farmers with grass selection and other pastureland management for long-term productivity.

Who is eligible: Eligible applicants are all North Carolina farmers adversely affected by the drought of 2007 with a total adjusted gross income of less than $250,000 or those who derive 75% of their income from farming operations.

How it will be administered: The Division of Soil and Water Conservation of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources will operate the program through its 96 district offices, located throughout the state. Farmers may contact their local district office to learn if they are eligible and how to apply.

Timetable: The program gets under way May 1. It will end upon the depletion of available funds or until the need has been met.

Source: The N.C. Tobacco trust Fund commission has awarded a $6 million grant to launch the project. An additional $6 million is being requested from the N.C. General Assembly.


For more information: Contact Billy Guillet, Director of the Agricultural Advancement consortium, N.D. Rural Economic Development center, at (919) 250-4314 or bguillet@ncruralcenter.org.
**Spring Calving Herds**

- Calving should be coming to an end
- Vaccinate calves more than 3 months old with clostridial vaccines (black-leg).
- Castrate and dehorn any calves missed at birth
- Give pre-breeding vaccinations to cows – IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV and Lepto Use modified live vaccines on cows with calves; killed vaccines on pregnant cows
- Begin estrous synchronization programs for AI (begin AI this month some herds)
- Breed heifers 2 to 4 weeks before cows
- Check on condition of bulls during breeding season. Provide supplemental feed if needed.
- Breeding soundness exams need to be performed on all bulls
- Supplement 1st calf heifers with energy through breeding
- Spot check to make sure cows are settling.
- Implant calves at turnout if not implanted at birth
- Keep high quality, high magnesium, high selenium minerals available
- Make 1st cutting of hay
- Start creep grazing and/or managed intensive grazing
- Watch for grass tetany.
- Control flies using sprays or backrubs early and delay using fly tags as long as possible.
- Control pasture weeds by clipping or with chemical weed control

**Fall Calving Herds**

- Creep graze calves while on cows
- Implant calves at turnout
- Vaccinate calves more than 3 months old with clostridial vaccines (black-leg).
- Wean calves if it was not done in April
- Deworm calves if needed
- Make 1st cutting of hay
- Continue feeding high magnesium minerals to prevent grass tetany
- Continue to manage intensive grazing; hay pastures with excess forage
- Pregnancy check cows when calves are weaned. Sell open cows if the y are in BCS of 5.0 or better. Otherwise put them on good pasture and plan marketing date.
- Check cows for bad eyes, udders, legs and production records to find other cows that need to be added to the cull list
- Watch for grass tetany.
- Control flies using sprays or backrubs early and delay using fly tags as long as possible.
- Control pasture weeds by clipping or with chemical weed control
RALEIGH — North Carolina farmers reeling from drought can obtain help under a program unveiled Tuesday in Raleigh. The program will cover 75 percent of the cost of restoring drought-damaged pastureland and providing additional water supply for livestock and crops.

The N.C. Agricultural Drought Recovery Program will be administered statewide through local Soil and Water Conservation district offices beginning May 1. It was made possible by a $6 million grant from the N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

“This grant makes it possible for more than 1,000 farmers and farm operations to restore some of the damage from last summer’s severe drought and to prepare, so the next long, hot and dry summer doesn’t do as much damage,” said Billy Ray Hall, president of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center.

The Rural Center worked with the General Assembly’s Joint Select Committee on Agriculture Drought Response, the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission, several state agencies and other agricultural interests to design the program and arrange funding. The Division of Soil and Water Conservation, which will administer the program, is part of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Others participating in the program design were the N.C. Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Grange, N.C. Farm Bureau, N.C. State University Agricultural Extension Service, N.C. Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Agricultural Advancement Consortium.

Rep. Ray Rapp, co-chairman of the legislative committee, said a bill seeking an additional $6 million to extend the program to more farmers will be submitted to the General Assembly in May.

“We recognized that any proposal we made to the legislature could not go into effect before July at the earliest, too late to save many of our farmers,” Rapp said. “Fortunately, the friends of agriculture in North Carolina are not limited to members of the General Assembly. Money from the Tobacco Trust Fund lets us put this project into effect immediately.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last year designated 85 of North Carolina’s 100 counties as natural disaster areas. As of April 8, 80 counties remained under drought conditions with the other 20 considered abnormally dry.

Farmers affected by the drought may apply to one of the state’s 96 Soil and Water Conservation district offices for help with several types of projects. These include pasture renovation, drilling and redrilling wells, pond construction and renovation, converting closed lagoons to fresh water ponds, and upgrading existing irrigation systems to more efficient models. The program is open to farmers with a total adjusted gross income of less than $250,000 or those who derive 75 percent of their income from farming operations.

“North Carolina farmers lost a half billion dollars in crops last year because of this drought – that’s 17 percent of total crop revenue in a typical year,” said Sen. Charlie Albertson, also a committee co-chair. “The damage wasn’t merely in lost harvest. Pastureland needs to be renovated and reseeded before livestock can graze again, and we’re still in this drought. Farmers really need our help to go forward.”
Shelby Livestock Yard, Shelby, NC     Report for Tuesday May 13, 2008

Cattle Receipts:  225   Last week:248   Last year: 441  Slaughter cattle trended 2.00 higher. Feeder cattle trended 2.00 to 4.00 higher. Slaughter cows made up 15 percent of the offering, slaughter bulls 2 percent, replacement cows 3 percent, other cows 0 percent, and feeders 79 percent.  The feeder supply included 19 percent steers, 29 percent heifers, and 52 percent bulls. Near 24 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs.  (Figures in parentheses are weighted average weights and prices for each category)

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 155-155 lbs (155) 135.00 (135.00); 205-205 lbs (205) 110.00 (110.00); 250-280 lbs (262) 100.00-115.00 (106.56); 305-330 lbs (318) 105.00-112.50 (109.07); 360-390 lbs (373) 99.00-109.00 (103.44); 400-440 lbs (414) 102.00-110.00 (106.36); 490-490 lbs (490) 95.00 (95.00); 580-580 lbs (580) 90.00 (90.00); 600-610 lbs (605) 85.00-96.00 (90.55). Small 1-2 200-200 lbs (200) 82.50 (82.50); 410-410 lbs (410) 83.00 (83.00). Medium and Large 3 330-330 lbs (330) 87.00 (87.00); 415-420 lbs (418) 81.00-92.00 (86.53); 465-465 lbs (465) 85.00 (85.00). Holstein Large 3 115-135 lbs (125) 57.50-62.50 (59.93).

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 270-270 lbs (270) 90.00-92.50 (91.25); 330-330 lbs (330) 94.00 (94.00); 390-390 lbs (390) 90.00 (90.00); 400-435 lbs (413) 95.00-105.00 (101.27); 470-495 lbs (481) 90.00-102.00 (94.28); 500-545 lbs (516) 85.00-97.00 (91.43); 550-590 lbs (573) 83.00-87.50 (85.73); 630-660 lbs (630) 85.00 (85.00); 650-655 lbs (653) 75.00-80.00 (77.51); 720-720 lbs (720) 74.00-82.50 (78.25). Small 1-2 370-370 lbs (370) 60.00 (60.00); 405-405 lbs (405) 85.00 (85.00); 470-470 lbs (470) 55.00 (55.00); 540-540 lbs (540) 69.00 (69.00). Medium and Large 3 410-445 lbs (425) 85.00-90.00 (87.54); 460-480 lbs (470) 68.00-83.00 (75.23); 510-540 lbs (530) 70.00-76.00 (73.28); 585-590 lbs (588) 60.00-71.00 (65.52); 605-625 lbs (615) 66.00-73.50 (69.81).

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 405-445 lbs (427) 99.00-107.00 (103.96); 460-495 lbs (479) 98.00-110.00 (103.69); 505-545 lbs (527) 94.50-104.00 (99.72); 555-590 lbs (573) 93.00-107.00 (98.14); 600-640 lbs (618) 87.00-100.00 (91.89); 660-695 lbs (677) 88.00-92.00 (89.58); 705-745 lbs (725) 83.00-87.50 (85.13); 750-765 lbs (758) 83.00-87.00 (85.32); 810-810 lbs (810) 76.00 (76.00); 860-890 lbs (875) 71.00-73.00 (71.98); 965-965 lbs (965) 72.00 (72.00). Small 1-2 370-370 lbs (370) 60.00 (60.00); 405-405 lbs (405) 85.00 (85.00); 470-470 lbs (470) 55.00 (55.00); 540-540 lbs (540) 69.00 (69.00). Medium and Large 3 410-445 lbs (425) 86.00-95.00 (90.84); 420-420 lbs Brahman x (420) 60.00 (60.00); 475-490 lbs (484) 80.00-91.00 (85.90); 515-545 lbs (538) 88.00-92.00 (90.00); 550-575 lbs (560) 60.00-88.00 (74.30); 615-615 lbs (615) 82.00 (82.00); 705-705 lbs (705) 64.00 (64.00); 755-755 lbs (755) 79.00 (79.00).

Slaughter Cows: Breaker 70-80 percent lean 1145-1360 lbs high dressing (1260) 56.00-61.00 (58.97); 1405-1930 lbs high dressing (1592) 54.00-64.50 (59.89). Boner 80-85 percent lean 805-885 lbs (845) 45.50-48.00 (46.69); 915-1380 lbs high dressing (1122) 52.00-57.50 (54.29); 1555-1555 lbs high dressing (1555) 53.00 (53.00). Lean 85-90 percent lean 780-780 lbs (780) 44.00 (44.00); 1210-1270 lbs (1240) 43.00-44.50 (43.73); 960-1285 lbs low dressing (1158) 25.00-32.00 (27.29).

Other Cows: Medium and Large 1-2 Young 920-920 lbs (920) 61.00 (61.00).

Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 1005-1005 lbs (1005) 67.00 (67.00); 1390-1390 lbs high dressing (1390) 74.00 (74.00); 1810-1810 lbs (1810) 65.00 (65.00); 2135-2135 lbs high dressing (2135) 83.00 (83.00).

Cows/Calf Pairs: Small 1 and 2 750-750 lbs young age cows with calves 285-285 lbs 540.00 per pair. Medium 1 and 2 915-1030 lbs middle age cows with calves 150-325 lbs 710.00-940.00 per pair. Large 1 and 2 1125-1160 lbs middle age cows with calves 150-265 lbs 800.00-830.00 per pair.

Baby Calves, per head: Holsteins 60.00.
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2008
6:00 PM AT MCDOWELL AG CENTER
RSVP by Friday, May 23