

Harnett County Center

# Livestock News

January 2023



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NC State Extension works in tandem with N.C. A&T State University, as well as federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership known as N.C. Cooperative Extension.

## 2023 Cape Fear Cattle Conference - January 17, 2023

Southeastern Agricultural Center, 1027 Highway 74 East, Lumberton, NC 28358

Registration is \$10 (cash or check ONLY) and will be accepted at the door.

Registration starts at 4:00 pm.

Speakers will start at 4:30 pm.

Topics will include: fire ant control, marketing beef cattle, and an update on the Veterinary Feed Directive antibiotic rules.

Pre-registration is required by January 13. Visit the link below to register.

<https://go.ncsu.edu/2023capefearregionalcattleconference>

## Soil Sample Pay Period

Soil samples will be \$4 per sample starting on December 1 through March 31, 2023.

## Upcoming Events

2023 Southern Farm Show—February 1-3  
Raleigh, NC

Annual North Carolina Cattlemen's Conference—February 24-25  
Hickory, NC

## Hay Directory

North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at <http://www.ncagr.gov/HayAlert/>. It lists people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay.

For any meeting listed, persons with disabilities 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.

Disclaimer - The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

## Animal Waste Management

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

### Initial 10-hour Animal Waste Operator Class (OIC)

There will be an initial class on January 26 and 27 in Bladen County. Participants will be able to take the March exam. To sign up, call (910) 862-4591.

## 2023 Swine Innovation Forum



**Following the success of the previous year's event, NC State's Swine Specialists are pleased to announce the plans for our 2023 Swine Innovation Forum.**

On Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 we will again meet in Goldsboro, NC at The Maxwell Center to discuss research and industry efforts. The goal of SIF23 is to collaborate with other swine production professionals to provide applicable research updates for swine producers and our allied industry colleagues.

Joining us to hear from prominent industry leaders, such as our keynote speakers Dr. Christina Phillips and Dr. Brett Ramirez.



Dr. Phillips is the Director of Production Research at Smithfield Foods and also serves as the Vice President of NC Pork Council's Board of Directors. Dr. Phillips received her B.S. and M.S. in Animal Science from NC State University before heading to the University of Minnesota to obtain her Ph.D. in Animal Science.



Dr. Ramirez is an Assistant Professor at Iowa State University. Dr. Ramirez received his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Iowa State University. He specializes in swine housing, ventilation, and instrumentation and environmental controls.

## How Silvopastures Can Benefit Cattle Producers in NC

*By: Brian Parrish, Agriculture Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County*

I presented an extension program in 2021 on forage management, weed control, and also included a section on silvopastures, primarily to provide pesticide and animal waste credits for producers here in Harnett County. I was surprised when two of the twenty producers who attended the training installed a silvopasture on their farm in 2022. Colby Lambert, Area Specialized Agent Forestry, and I have also helped several cattle producers in Harnett County establish silvopastures over the last few years.

Silvopasture combines trees, livestock and forages into a single system on one site. Silvopasture can be a way for cattle producers to diversify income sources. A possible win-win situation providing annual income from grazing as well as long term profits for fast growing, high value saw-logs. The shade can also improve the comfort levels and weight gains for summer grazing cattle. Winter hay costs are one of the biggest expenses for cattle producers in NC. A silvopasture can also be an excellent place to stockpile (store forage for later winter grazing). The trees can also provide shelter during high winds, rain, and snow. The tree canopy is usually managed at 25 to 45 percent cover for warm season grasses and 40 to 55 percent cover for cool season grasses. The added benefit of increased plant diversity in a silvopasture system helps attract wildlife including wild turkey, quail, deer, and songbirds.

A silvopasture has to be managed properly. Cattle should be moved from pasture to pasture in a rotational grazing system. Cattle are typically left in a pasture for 3 to 7 days. The cattle are then removed, and the forage is allowed to grow for at least 30 days before grazing again. Cattle should not be left in the same area for long periods of time, because soil compaction can damage the tree roots and promote insect and disease damage of the trees.

A Silvopasture system works well under loblolly pines that are planted in rows. The sweet spot, or the best time to establish a silvopasture appears to be when you have an existing pine stand that is 12 to 15 years old and needs thinning. At that point, the trees can be thinned by taking out every other row or by taking out two rows and leaving two rows. Then you add the grass. There is even a cost share program through EQUIP available to help NC producers establish silvopastures. There is also a climate smart grassland program coming up in 2023 focusing on native grasses, improved grazing management, alternative nitrogen sources, soil amendments, “**silvopasture**” and perennial grass buffers. The farm selection process for this program will be led by county agents in the summer of 2023. Farmers interested in participating should communicate with their local county livestock forage extension agent. This article contains just a few of the many basic principles of silvopasture. For more information contact Brian Parrish with the Harnett County office of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at 910-893-7530.





## Small Ruminant Winter Webinar Series

Email Liz Joseph, [liz\\_joseph@ncsu.edu](mailto:liz_joseph@ncsu.edu), for registration links and recordings of past programs.

# NC Small Ruminant Improvement Program 2022 Winter Webinar Series

7:00PM-9:00PM  
Via Zoom



### November 17

Feeding for Success:  
Nutritional Considerations for  
Your Small Ruminant Flock

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440348814157>

### December 15

Getting Off to the Right Start:  
Small Ruminant Health and  
Lambing/Kidding Management

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440350529287>

### January 19

Taking the Next Step: Small  
Ruminant Post-weaning  
Management

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440351141117>

### February 16

Marketing Considerations and  
Genetic Improvement for Your  
Small Ruminant Flock

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440351682737>

### March 16

Reproductive Management for  
Improved Small Ruminant  
Flock Productivity

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/440352154147>



"NC Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunities provider."

## Winter Weed Management

By: Anthony Growe, Livestock and Row Crops Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Richmond County

Like most warm-season grasses in North Carolina, bermudagrass pastures go into a dormancy period once temperatures begin to drop. This period of dormancy is when the bermudagrass focuses its energy to the roots which allows it to survive through the colder months. During this time, winter weeds thrive under the cool conditions and if left unchecked, can compete with bermudagrass as it breaks dormancy in the spring and affect pasture quality.

### Toxic Properties

Some winter weeds, such as buttercup, can be toxic to livestock if consumed. It has been reported that livestock that eat buttercup may develop: diarrhea, blisters in the mouth and on the skin. This usually occurs when there is no other forage growing in the pasture which highlights the importance of scouting your pastures and managing winter weeds in a timely manner.

### Weed Identification

Before controlling winter weeds, it is important that you properly identify your problem weed(s). There are numerous winter weeds that can be found in pastures including: henbit, dandelion, Carolina false dandelion, geranium, chickweed, wild onion/garlic, wild radish, primrose, red sorrel, buttercup, and the list goes on and on. Most weeds are pretty easy to identify once they begin flowering. Unfortunately, once weeds begin to flower you are going to have a hard time controlling them so the trick is to identify them before flowering. If you need assistance with weed identification and control options, please contact your local Extension Livestock Agent.

### Cultural Control

Some winter weeds such as red sorrel, are an indicator of undermanaged pastures and thrive in acidic soils with low nutrient indices. These can be managed over time with a proper fertilization plan and adding the recommended amount of lime and nutrients to the soil.

Overseeding pastures with cool-season forages such as cereal rye, oats, or triticale, can suppress many winter weeds by competing for sunlight,

nutrients and water. Using cool-season forages provides both weed control and feed for livestock to graze in the winter and spring.

### Chemical Control

Sometimes even after the proper management practices are made, such as liming and fertilizing, weeds seem to persevere in the field. For these troublesome weeds, you may need to consider an herbicide treatment. If treated early, many of our winter broadleaf weeds can be managed with an application of dicamba or 2,4-D while some weeds, such as wild onion/garlic, may require multiple applications. Undesirable grassy weeds like foxtail barley will not be controlled with a broadleaf herbicide. In this scenario, it may be best to apply glyphosate (Roundup, etc.) while the bermudagrass is dormant.

Regardless of the weeds that are present in your pasture, they must be treated early. This means making your application before flower development. As the days get longer, many winter weed species will begin reproduction or flowering. Weeds become much harder to manage during the flowering stage because at this point, plants have completed most of their vegetative growth. This usually occurs around March for most weeds so plan to make your application no later than February. Additionally, try to avoid making an application during a period of cold or wet weather. Research has shown that when temperatures are below 60 degrees, absorption of 2,4-D is lower compared to the absorption of 2,4-D at higher temperatures. Herbicides are only effective when the weeds are actively growing so pick a mild day and make your application to achieve good control. Remember: no matter what herbicide product you choose, always abide by the product label and keep an eye out for grazing restrictions!

If you have any questions about weed control or pasture management, please contact your local Cooperative Extension office.



## The Importance of Foal Watch

By: Tracy Blake, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Montgomery County

For performance breeders aiming for a January foaling date, the wait is almost over. However, after eleven long months, it's important to remain vigilant as the finish line approaches. Before becoming an Extension agent, I worked as a vet tech for an equine vet in Texas. One of the worst calls we answered while I was working there was a weekend emergency call from a non-client. The horse owners had purchased a pregnant mare a few months prior but had not established a relationship with any of the vets in the area. The mare had gone into labor overnight and due to the large size of the foal and other presentation issues, the foal did not survive. In order to save the mare, the vet and I had to remove the deceased foal from the exhausted mare, whose labor had stalled hours prior. The worst part about the situation was knowing that if the owners had been on foal watch and conducted night checks, there was a strong possibility we could have saved both mare and foal.

If you are a new breeder, I encourage you to take foal watch seriously, and if you are an experienced breeder, remember to never get complacent. Horses don't read text books, so even if you think you've calculated your foaling date perfectly, there can be surprises. While 330 days (11 months) is the average gestation length, the range can be anywhere from 320-380 days. With such a wide range, it's important to be observant throughout the mare's pregnancy so that you can spot the signs of impending labor.

Knowing your mare's normal behavior and appearance is the first step. If you know her baseline, you can monitor changes such as a "drop" in her belly, swelling and lengthening of the vulva, loss of appetite, agitation, etc. These can all be signs that labor is about to begin. Keeping a notebook with observations can be a good way to document changes, especially if more than one person is monitoring the mare.

Most mares will "bag up" three to five weeks before foaling. Her udder is filling with milk and the teats will become enlarged. The closer she gets to delivery; you may see white discharge or "waxing" on the end of the teats. There are products available that can be used to test the mare's colostrum (first milk) to measure the amount of calcium present. Calcium increases right before foaling. While these products can be helpful aids, nothing is more

valuable than consistent monitoring.



Photo: [www.ranvet.com](http://www.ranvet.com): Note "bagging up" and "waxing"

When to start foal watch and how often depends on your experience in assessing pregnancy signs, whether the mare is a maiden or an experienced broodmare, and the health status of the mare. On my family's breeding operation, we started doing night checks for an average pregnancy a month prior to foaling on a three-hour schedule. 9PM, Midnight, and 3AM. If we saw any signs of labor at those three-hour checks, we switched to hourly checks. While this may seem exhausting, remember that it only takes 30 minutes of stalled labor to create a potentially life-threatening situation for mare and foal. There are a number of stall cameras on the market that can make night checks as easy as checking your phone. Consider sharing the load with family members or barn staff to avoid foaling season fatigue.

Whatever your method, whether it's a stall cam, trudging out to the barn in your pajamas, or putting a cot in the tack room, make sure you're keeping a close eye on your mare and keep the vet's phone number on speed dial. It's always better to establish a relationship with your vet before you make the emergency call. If you need help locating an equine vet in your area, contact your local Extension Office.

## Upcoming Youth Livestock Events and Programs

By: Kaelyn Mohrfield, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Lenoir and Greene Counties

***The Mid-Atlantic Showcase is right around the corner. If anyone has questions please contact Brian Stallings (252) 202-6914 or check them out on facebook!***



The MidAtlantic Showcase Board of Directors is proud to announce that the MidAtlantic Showcase will be offering 7 shows for youth livestock exhibitors to attend in 2023. All youth, age 21 and under, will have the opportunity to exhibit pigs as well as participate in showmanship.

Shows in the Showcase will be held February 25th - March 19th with the awards ceremony following the last show on March 19th. Successful youth exhibitors will receive prizes as a reward for their hard work and show ring excellence.

New this year, March 18th, we will show in the morning, host an adult showmanship to fund a scholarship followed with a social event and meal for members and sponsors. Sponsors are welcome to have a display this weekend as well.

As a valued member of the community, we need your help. As you know, providing these opportunities require a tremendous amount of time and effort as well as funding from the community. The opportunity to sponsor can be done through becoming a MidAtlantic Showcase sponsor.

We will be accepting sponsorship funds throughout the year in order to be sure that you are recognized for your contributions, we ask that you return the form and appropriate logo file no later than **February 15th**.

We thank you in advance for your continued support of all Showcase youth exhibitors. Your commitment to not only the MidAtlantic Showcase but, also your support of youth livestock exhibitors and programs in North Carolina and surrounding states is greatly appreciated.

Again, Many Thanks,  
*MidAtlantic Showcase Director*



2/24+25	MARKET HOG MANIA	FRIDAY - NO POINTS
	THE PARAMOUNT	SATURDAY - POINTS
	Johnson Co. Livestock Arena Smithfield, NC	
2/26	TOBACCO ROAD CLASSIC	
	Wilson Co. Fairgrounds Wilson, NC	
3/5	EAST COAST EXTRAVAGANZA	
	Johnson Co. Livestock Arena Smithfield, NC	
3/11+12	THUNDER CLASSIC - 2 SHOWS	
	Lenoir Co. Livestock Arena Kinston, NC	
3/18	ALBEMARLE SPRING FEVER	SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER + SOCIAL
	Albemarle Area Livestock Arena Elizabeth City, NC	
3/19	THE FINAL DRIVE	AWARDS TO FOLLOW
	Albemarle Area Livestock Arena Elizabeth City, NC	

BRIAN STALLINGS 252.202.6914 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES 

## ***//Youth Livestock Programs and Events in January and February//***

***-Judging in January- Jan. 28th***

***\*Registration deadline January 20th, 2023\****

***Registration link below or visit <https://youthlivestock.ces.ncsu.edu/>***

***[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeT9svFlmzJSyOQ2l\\_w1uJsqbA9zt7YDYF3FvkYdbJwfHTuLw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeT9svFlmzJSyOQ2l_w1uJsqbA9zt7YDYF3FvkYdbJwfHTuLw/viewform)***

***-Billy Nance Family 4-H Meat Goat Leadership Institute- Feb. 4th***

***\*Applications due January 13th, 2023\****

The institute is designed to equip young people with the necessary tools needed to become an effective leader. Additionally, youth will be challenged to take the skills acquired at this event and put them into action in their home counties, districts, and at the state and national levels.

***Application link below or visit <https://youthlivestock.ces.ncsu.edu/>***

***[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9mv\\_st1Aj8chAkeDKlekkmVTv0Xk7e4AaxTRobzhYyi2foQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9mv_st1Aj8chAkeDKlekkmVTv0Xk7e4AaxTRobzhYyi2foQ/viewform)***

***-Livestock Showmanship Clinic- Feb. 18th- Lenoir County Livestock Arena, Kinston, NC***

***Look for more information to come at the link below-***

***<https://youthlivestock.ces.ncsu.edu/event/1128953646/livestock-showmanship-clinic/>***

***-Perry & Doris Teeter Beef Leadership Institute- Feb. 24th-26th***

***\*Applications due January 13th, 2023\****

Want to enhance your Beef Knowledge? Learn Team Building Skills? Enhance your Public Speaking? Learn about College Opportunities? Make new friends? Totally FREE!!

***Application link below or visit <https://youthlivestock.ces.ncsu.edu/>***

***[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN419WfUo3BfzXVGCoZUhg5OR--ftSQM9LReZv\\_ExvjXTmg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeN419WfUo3BfzXVGCoZUhg5OR--ftSQM9LReZv_ExvjXTmg/viewform)***