



The Bull's Eye

hitting the target



McDowell County Center

October 2013

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Cattlemen's Association Fall Meeting



I look forward to seeing each of you at our next cattlemen's meeting

on **Thursday, November 7 at 6:00pm at the Old Fort Senior Center located at 909 East Main Street, Old Fort.** We had a great turnout at our last meeting and I hope you can join us again.

The program will be on electric fencing and proper grounding of the charger. **Pasture Management Sys-**

tems will be presenting the program. We will also be taking nominations for the 2013 *Beef Producer of the Year Award.*



A meal sponsored by **Pasture Management Systems** and the McDowell Cattlemen's Association will be provided. We need to have an accurate head count so please **RSVP by Friday, November 1 to 652-7874,**

so we will know how much food to prepare.



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SOIL TESTING FEE

charged by NCDA&CS
Agronomic Division



\$4 Fee

December - March

Free - April - November

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MANAGEMENT OF THE CALF--THE FIRST DAY

*Adapted from W. Warren Gill Professor
Animal Science University of Tennessee*

Management of the baby calf on the first day can help assure many healthy days to come.

Here are several things to do to make the calf's first day a successful one.

Following are some management suggestions for the first day in the life of a calf:

- **Dip the navel.** Prevent navel ill by dipping or spraying the cord with a mild iodine solution.
- **Implant.** Use growth providing implants in accordance with label instructions on calves which will not be used as breeding stock.
- **Castrate.** It is less stressful when calves are castrated at an earlier age. Elastrator bands are widely used. Removal of the testicle via blade castration is recommended preferably before three months. Castration on the first day is acceptable, particularly if the calf is healthy, it is being kept in a clean environment and growth-promoting implants are used .
- **Weigh.** Birth weights within 24 hours of birth are required by many breed associations. Commercial cattle producers are less likely to need birth weights.
- **Dehorn.** The earlier the horns are removed, the less stress on the calf. Electric dehorner and dehorning paste are available for young calf horn removal. Follow product directions carefully. The best way to dehorn is to use a polled bull.
- **Identify.** Ear tags and/or tattoos are often used to I.D. young calves. Freeze brand or hot brands are more typically reserved for a later cattle working when a number of animals can be branded at once.



- **Vaccination.** Probably not a typical practice for new-borns, unless your veterinarian recommends it for a particular situation, such as an unusually high incidence of blackleg. An important exception may also be an injection to prevent scours, but most veterinarians prefer to build immunity to scours by vaccinating the pregnant cow.

- **Vitamins/mineral injections.** Again, probably not for most new-borns, the most likely exception being vitamin A, particularly, if cows have been maintained for over a month on a lower quality hay or hay which is over one year old. Injectable vitamin A is available through veterinarians or at most farm supply outlets. Some people like to inject selenium, but, unless there has been a specific problem on your farm or in your area, it is unlikely that this should be recommended as a routine practice.

LOW QUALITY HAY SUPPLY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PROBLEMS FOR COW-CALF HERDS

*James B. Neel
Professor of Animal Science*



With the supply of low quality hay that is available to feed cow-calf herds, problems with calf survival this winter can be anticipated. Increased incidence of scours, other health problems and eventually death of calves are the result of poor nutritional condition of pre-calving cows. Most cattle producers will be inclined to place the greatest responsibility for the losses on disease causing organisms. They will attempt to reduce or overcome the problem through vaccinations. How-

ever, it should be emphasized that the same disease causing organisms found in herds with incidences of scours and calf deaths can also be identified in herds where there are no losses of newborn calves. Why the difference? The real culprits in baby calf losses are poor nutrition, winter environment and the inability of the producer to recognize the combined effect of these factors. Extended periods of wet, cold weather create a "chill factor" that both cow and the calf must endure. Wet weather produces mud. Cold mud has a greater effect on energy expended or energy loss by the cows and calves than if the ground was frozen. Mud is also a reservoir for disease causing organisms. Cold mud withdraws body heat, and therefore energy, of the cows and calves and also harbors populations of disease causing organisms.

Mud affects springing cows just as adversely as it does feedlot cattle, but the results are not as easily quantitated when a late gestation cow's energy or protein needs are not met, and the fetus is deprived of fat reserves. A lactating cow deprived of needed nutrients in late gestation produces less colostrum and milk for her young calf. Cattle exposed to dry, cold weather will increase their consumption of forages by up to **30 percent**, but digestibility goes down. Conversely, recipitation and muddy conditions, at any temperature, may depress forage intake by up to 30 percent. The reduced forage consumption can only be compensated by feeding grain or other appropriate concentrates or providing some type of shelter or wind break. Forages with inadequate protein content will be even less digestible and a poor source of energy. The energy requirement for an 80 lb. new born calf in good weather (above 45 F) is about 2 mega calories. When the effective temperature (chill factor) falls to 20 F the calf's maintenance requirement increases by about 50 percent. In cold weather, baby calves need more than a gallon of milk a day just for maintenance. A cow in a poor condition, fed low quality hay will produce very little milk. It will not be difficult to determine the fate of a calf that is receiving a quart to half gallon of milk per day.



WINTER FEEDING MANAGEMENT CRITICAL FOR BEEF CATTLE

*Adapted from Warren Gill, Professor & Jim Neel, Professor
Department of Animal Science University of Tennessee*

The wintering period for beef cattle is critical from both a management and cost standpoint. This year, management decisions are complicated due to weather conditions which have caused the hay crop to be highly variable (mostly poor) in quality. Following are some management and feeding practices that should be considered:



1. Evaluate feed resources and put feeding priorities on feeding to meet feed needs of various production classes. Feed lowest quality forage to mature, dry pregnant cows during late fall/early winter (mid-pregnancy). Feed medium quality forage to dry cows during late pregnancy. Feed highest quality forage to young calves, lactating cows and replacement heifers.
2. Evaluate the herd and if feasible, sort into production classes and feed to meet nutritional needs as outlined above.
3. Evaluate the condition of the cows and sort and feed as outlined.
 - a. In order to rebreed on time following calving, cows should be in an "average to good" (5 to 6) body condition at calving.
 - b. Those cows that are "thin" (4 or less) in condition should be sorted from the other cows and fed so they can reach a condition of "average" to "good" (5 to 6) by calving.
4. For those cows and beef females that are "average" to "good" in condition, the following feed stuffs and rations are suggested:
 - a. Weaned heifer calves (Fed to gain 1.5 lb. per day):
 1. Full-feed of mixed legume-grass hay (11 to 12 lb.) plus 5 to 7 lb. grain.
 2. 5.0 lb. mixed legume-grass hay plus 30 to 35 lb. corn silage.
 - b. Coming 2-year old pregnant heifers, thin 3-year olds and thin mature cows:
 1. Full-feed of mixed legume-grass hay (20 to 30 lb.) plus concentrate, according to body condition.
 2. 45 to 55 lb. corn silage plus 3/4 lb. soybean or cottonseed meal.
 - c. Dry Cows, mid-pregnancy:
 1. 20 to 25 lb. grass hay (supplement only if needed to improve body condition.
 2. 40 to 45 lb. corn silage plus 0.75 lb. soybean meal or cottonseed meal.
 - d. Dry Cows, late pregnancy (to gain 0.75 lb. to 0.90 lb. per day):
 1. 25 to 30 lb. mixed legume-grass hay.
 2. 50 to 55 lb. corn silage plus 0.75 lb. soybean meal or cottonseed meal.
 - e. Lactating Cows
 1. Full-feed of mixed legume-grass hay plus grain if needed.
 2. 60 to 80 lb. corn silage plus 1 to 2 lb. soybean meal or cottonseed meal.

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WINTER FEEDING MANAGEMENT CRITICAL FOR BEEF CATTLE

*Adapted from Warren Gill, Professor & Jim Neel, Professor
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- f. Rule of thumb to raise a thin cow's condition by one score, i.e. 4 to 5, she will need to gain at least 125 lb. during the last 90 to 100 days of pregnancy. To accomplish this, feed some extra concentrate. Following are some example rations:
1. 25 lb. mixed legume-grass hay plus 6 lb. grain.
 2. 55 to 60 lb. corn silage plus 1 lb. soybean or cottonseed meal.
- g. Offer a properly balanced salt-mineral mix free-choice to all classes of breeding cattle. Be sure that it contains magnesium oxide - especially for brood cows that are approaching calving and/or recently calved.
5. For the most efficient and economical winter feeding program, test forage for nutrient content. Rations can then be developed that will meet the cattle's nutrient needs. **Don't guess, forage test.**

The McDowell County Extension Service is developing a **Local Foods Directory** of all farm products grown in the county. Information found in the directory will include the farmer's name and contact information, type products grown, hours of operation and time of year the products are available. If you would like to have your farm listed in the directory, please contact our office at 652-8104 to get a Local Foods Directory Information Sheet.

Local Foods
Directory



Would you or someone you know like to learn more about all aspects of gardening and landscaping and then use that knowledge to help others? If the answer is yes, the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program is for you. Applicants for the program should have some experience with gardening, a willingness to learn, and a desire to share their knowledge with others. The Master Gardener Training will include thirteen 3-hour sessions that will begin on Thursday, February 20, 2014. The class will be from 1:00-4:00pm. The cost for program will be \$100.00 plus 40 hours of volunteer time.

Call the Extension office at 652-8104 for an application.

1st Place Winner at Mountain State Fair

Beef and Bean Super Soup

Sharon Gates of Leicester, NC



1 ½ lb ground beef
1 medium onion, chopped
3 Tbsp olive oil
½ teaspoon garlic powder
1 envelope taco seasoning
3 cups beef broth
2 (15 oz) cans black beans, rinsed

1 can whole kernel corn
1 can tomatoes & chopped green chilies (Ro-tel)
1 cup instant brown rice
1 (11 Oz) can condensed nacho cheese soup
2 Tbsp lime juice
Garnish: sour cream & shredded cheddar cheese

In a large sauté pan over medium-high heat, brown ground beef and chopped onion in olive oil until beef is browned through, about 5-7 minutes. Drain any excess grease.

Sprinkle beef with garlic powder and taco seasoning. Add beef broth, black beans, corn, tomatoes and green chilies. Stir to combine. Bring to a boil. Add rice and stir. Reduce heat to med-low, cover and simmer 5 minutes, until rice is cooked through.

Remove cover and stir in the cheese soup and lime juice. Simmer another 10-15 minutes, uncovered.

If desired, top each bowl of soup with a dollop of sour cream and sprinkling of cheese. Serve with crunchy tortilla chips or corn chips.

Note: For spicier soup, stir in a bit of chopped cilantro during the last few minutes of cooking. For milder soup, swap Ro-tel for diced tomatoes.

Yield: 6 servings.



Livestock Market Report

WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton

Weighted Avg for Monday, October 14, 2013

Feeder Steers

Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
4	260-290	278	190.00-202.50	198.18
7	305-340	321	172.50-195.00	184.03
9	350-380	365	160.00-190.00	172.78
9	405-440	423	159.00-175.00	170.12
2	465-470	468	165.00-177.50	171.22
19	510-530	524	151.00-162.00	153.84
1	560-560	560	140.00	140.00
3	605-625	618	135.00-140.00	137.98
6	660-690	666	140.00-141.00	140.83
8	703-735	707	126.00-138.00	136.44
1	760-760	760	129.00	129.00
1	825-825	825	94.00	94.00
1	910-910	910	100.00	100.00
1	955-955	955	119.00	119.00
1	1200-1200	1200	85.00	85.00



Feeder Heifers

Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
1	210-210	210	150.00	150.00
3	260-290	277	150.00-162.50	157.50
1	340-340	340	168.00	168.00
7	350-390	365	147.00-160.00	153.09
9	400-435	415	140.00-149.00	144.72
22	450-495	472	138.00-150.00	142.63
11	500-540	511	131.00-145.00	138.09
19	550-597	573	125.00-138.00	130.31
6	600-630	618	115.00-126.00	120.93
5	650-675	658	120.00-132.00	123.40
4	784-784	784	109.00	109.00

Feeder Bulls

Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
9	400-425	414	170.00-185.00	176.69
6	450-465	457	150.00-167.50	157.41
5	515-540	526	142.50-157.50	149.20
8	550-580	571	130.00-142.00	134.39
5	615-645	630	120.00-131.00	124.69
3	655-660	657	130.00-139.00	133.66
1	710-710	710	116.00	116.00
2	765-780	773	100.00-110.00	104.95
1	925-925	925	84.50	84.50
1	960-960	960	86.00	86.00

Slaughter Cows

Breaker 75-80% Lean

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
7	1305-1390	1351	70.00-77.00	73.22
9	1400-1495	1460	70.00-79.00	73.22
1	1805-1805	1805	83.50	83.50 High Dressing
Boners 80-85% Lean				
3	735-875	822	70.00-74.00	71.90
1	880-880	880	63.00	63.00 Low Dressing
19	975-1320	1141	70.00-76.00	72.31
2	920-1360	1140	84.50-86.00	85.11 High Dressing
8	935-1355	1125	61.00-69.00	66.06 Low Dressing
Lean 85-90% Lean				
1	770-770	770	65.00	65.00
2	975-1000	988	61.00-68.00	64.46
1	930-930	930	58.00	58.00 Low Dressing

For up-to-date event schedule
check our Events page at:
<http://mcdowell.ces.ncsu.edu>

**Mark Your
Calendar!**

- PLACES TO BE**
- November 1- RSVP for McDowell Cattlemen’s Association Meeting
 - November 2- Down East Angus Sale, Clinton, NC
 - November 7 - McDowell Cattlemen’s Association Meeting
 - December 6- Knoll Crest Farms Bull Sale, Red House, VA
 - December 20-Butner Bull Test Sale, Butner, NC
 - January 4-Waynesville Bull Test Sale, Waynesville, NC

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For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the McDowell County Center at 828-652-7874, no later than ten business days before the event.