



The Bull's Eye

hitting the target



McDowell County Center

January 2013

Inside This Issue

- Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting 1
- Annual Membership Dues and Drive 1
- Balancing Milk Levels in Beef Herds 2-3
- The Importance of Colostrum 3
- Extension Master Gardener training 3
- Mountain Cattle Alliance 4
- NC Forage and Grassland Council 4
- Are You Using a Hay Feeder 5
- National Radon Month 5
- Livestock Market Report 6
- Recipe 7
- Upcoming Events 8

Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the McDowell Cattlemen's Association will be held **Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 6:00 at the McDowell Senior**

Center, located beside the YMCA. The program will be presented by **Mr. Bob Blankenship from Farm Bureau Insurance.**

Farm Bureau has sponsored our annual meeting for many years and will once again sponsor our dinner.

We will have election of new

officers and directors, as well as presenting the award for the **2012 Beef Producer of the Year.**



Please call 652-7874 or email Cheryl or Greg by **Thursday, January 10th** so Wanda will know how many meals to prepare. In case of inclement weather, contact the extension office or tune into WBRM AM1250 for the meeting cancellation notice. Looking forward to seeing you on the 17th.

Contact Us

McDowell County Extension
60 E Court Street
Marion NC 28752

(828) 652-7874 Phone
(828) 652-8104 Fax

<http://mcdowell.ces.ncsu.edu>

Greg_Anderson@ncsu.edu

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Annual MEMBERSHIP DUES and DRIVE

McDowell Cattlemen's Association dues are \$20 and are due in January. You will be able to pay your dues at our meeting on January 17. Be sure to bring a friend to the meeting and tell them the benefits of membership, such as:

- * Meal sponsorships at meetings
- * County sponsored activities and promotions
- * Beef Producer of the Year award



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EXTENSION**

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Balancing Milk Levels in Beef Herds

By Jane Parish, Extension Beef specialist, Mississippi State University

One of the challenges in beef cattle selection and culling involves finding the optimum level of milk production for the herd. Optimum does not necessarily mean maximum. Too much milk production in a herd can have some negative consequences. Likewise, too little milk can result in lighter weaning calves. The level of milk production in a cow-calf herd must fit the forage and feed environment to ensure that nutrient requirements of lactating cattle are met and rebreeding is not hindered by inadequate nutrition.

Performance Tradeoffs

There are genetic antagonisms present in beef production where improvement for one trait tends to decrease the level of performance in another trait. Milk production is no exception to such performance tradeoffs. As milk production increases, more energy, protein, and other nutrients are leaving the beef female and being transferred to the suckling calf through the milk. This benefits the calf but also increases the dam's nutrient requirements. If these increased nutritional needs are not met, then the lactating cow or heifer may lose body condition. In turn, reproductive rates can be negatively impacted if body condition drops below moderate levels.

As cow body size increases, larger quantities of nutrients are required. A higher milking cow, on the other hand, requires a diet that is higher in both quantity and quality. Because high-milking beef females often cannot consume enough extra low-quality forage and feed to meet added nutrient demands, high genetic milking potential may not match up well to a low quality diet. Of course, increased nutritional demands resulting from high milk production or larger body size can be met with a proper feeding program, but expenditures for feed and pasture must increase to meet these demands. Optimizing milk production level with nutritional program costs is a balancing act.

As nutrient costs increase, high milking or larger cattle may be less desirable in a cow-calf operation. In contrast, reasonably priced feed favors heavier calves from higher milking dams in cow-calf production and lighter-weight calves fed over a longer period in the feedlot. Increasing milk yield has been shown to increase both weaning weights and efficiency to weaning in the cow-calf sector, with mixed results on efficiency to slaughter. Therefore, for cow-calf producers who sell their calves at weaning, increasing milk and size may be practical for increasing weaning weights and optimizing production when feed prices are reasonable. However, for producers retaining ownership of calves through post-weaning phases, maximizing profit by increasing weaning weights via milk production works in some cases and not in others.



Genetic potential for milk production can vary widely among cattle. An efficient level of milk production and mature body size for the herd may vary from one farm to the next. A moderate level of milk production is generally most appropriate. However, low or high milk production levels may be applicable, depending on production and market conditions. In general, larger body size is more suitable with larger quantities of forage, and higher milk genetics fit better with adequate levels of high quality forage.

Optimizing milk production level with nutritional program costs is a balancing act.

Continued on page 3

Selection Considerations

Selection tools are available that provide information on the genetic potential of individual animals for specific traits, such as milk production. Expected progeny differences (EPDs) give an indication of the expected performance of an animal's calves for a particular trait. Milk is an important maternal trait that directly affects calf weaning weights, and milk EPDs are one of the more common EPDs available from breed associations. **Milk EPDs are expressed as pounds of calf weaned due to the milk production of the dam, not as pounds of milk produced.**

Another important selection consideration related to milk production is evaluation of udder structural soundness. A cow should have a healthy, well-suspended udder with a level floor and four proportionally sized teats. Calves can have a difficult time nursing pendulous udders or balloon teats, which can cause weaning weights to suffer.

As with many other traits, selection for milking ability involves assessing production resources and determining what works best for the production and marketing environment. **Selection decisions should focus on finding an acceptable balance among milk production and other economically important traits.** There is no one right answer that will work for every cow-calf operation, but there may be opportunities for improving production efficiency through informed cattle selection and culling decisions within individual herds.

The Importance of Colostrum

The sooner a newborn calf gets up and nurses, the more readily colostrums antibodies are absorbed. If a calf has not nursed within two hours after birth, you should take action to help the calf nurse. If that doesn't work, the cow can be milked and the colostrum hand-fed to the calf. When that isn't practical, milk from another cow will do. Or, frozen colostrum secured ahead of time can be thawed, warmed and fed to the calf. A lot of people want to thaw frozen colostrum in a microwave oven, but that will destroy the antibodies you need to give the calf. There are powdered commercial colostrum-substitute products available as well. They aren't as good as momma's milk, but it's better than nothing.



Would you or someone you know like to learn more about the 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 7, 2013**. The class will be from 5:30pm until 8:30pm. The cost for the Master Gardener Program will be \$100.00 plus 40 hours of volunteer time.



For more information or an application, Molly or Jane at 652-8104.

Last year we had a program about the Mountain Cattle Alliance and the marketing opportunities that it offers to us as cattlemen. John Knighten spoke at our August meeting about his experience marketing his cattle through the Alliance. **John made an addition \$120 profit per head by selling his cattle through the Alliance verses selling them at the weekly livestock auction.** If that doesn't get your attention I don't know what will. If you are interested in marketing your cattle through the Mountain Cattle Alliance give me a call and I will help you get started.

Mountain Cattle Alliance Dates and Information for 2013 Sales

Sale Date	Delivery Date	Vaccination Date 1st Vaccine not before	2nd vaccine not after	Vaccination Protocol	Wean Date	Weights to Southeast Livestock Exchange
March 5, 2013	March 20, 2013	December 20, 2012	February 27, 2013	Pfizer Select Vac	February 3, 2013	February 15, 2013
July 9, 2013	August 14, 2013	May 16, 2013	July 24, 2013	Pfizer Select Vac	June 30, 2013	June 14, 2013
August 6, 2013	September 25, 2013	June 27, 2013	September 4, 2013	Pfizer Select Vac	August 11, 2013	July 19, 2013

**The North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council
2013 Winter Conference
January 31, 2013**

**WNC Regional Livestock Center
474 Stock Drive, Canton**

Tradeshow and registration 12:30

Program 1:00—6:00

Dr. Chris Teustch, Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont AREC
“Building and Maintaining Soil Fertility in Times of High Fertilizer Costs”

Dr. Chris Teustch, Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont AREC

“Building Year Round Grazing Systems”

NCSU Extension Update

The Grazing Experts Panel

NCFGC Winter Conference Registration

Cost: NCFGC Members=\$20 Non-members=\$30 Students=\$10

***Join NCFGC for \$25. New members will receive a free grazing stick
Pre-registration and on-site registration are the same price***

If you are in need of hay or want to sell hay the NC Dept of Ag Hay Alert website may be beneficial to you.

www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/

Producers can also call the

Hay Alert Line at 866-506-6222

Be sure to let me know also, I often get calls from people looking for hay to buy.

FREE Radon Test Kits

Our extension office is offering

FREE

test kits for testing your home for radon. Radon poses a serious threat to our community's health, but there is a straightforward solution. For more information on radon contact Kristin Mart our FCS agent at 652-7874.

JANUARY IS
NATIONAL
RADON
ACTION MONTH
www.epa.gov/radon/nram

Are you using a hay feeder?

Studies have indicated up to a **28 percent loss of hay by not protecting it with a hay feeder**. The chart below lists some of the different designs and the amount of loss that can be encountered in feeding hay. Clearly, there are some advantages of different types of hay feeders.

Type of feeder	Hay waste %	Cost of feeders
Cone	4	\$585
Ring	6	\$185
Cradle	15	\$225
Wagon	11	\$2,650
None	28	0

Let's look at the savings we can expect from using a feeder. For every 100 rolls of hay you feed on the ground with no feeder you will waste 28 rolls of hay. At \$30 per roll you are wasting \$840 for every 100 rolls you feed without using a hay feeder. If you use a cone type hay feeder you will only waste 4 rolls per 100 rolls fed. At \$30 per roll that's \$120. So by using a cone feeder versus no feeder you will save 24 rolls or \$720 for every 100 rolls you feed. A cone feeder cost \$500-\$600 and a ring feeder \$175-\$300. **Can you really afford NOT to use a hay feeder?**



Livestock Market Report

WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton

Weighted Avg for Monday Dec 10, 2012

Feeder Steers

Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5	255-290	276	140.00-185.00	174.12
5	300-340	312	142.50-177.50	158.53
9	355-395	373	140.00-175.00	157.80
2	430-435	433	149.00-154.00	151.51
3	460-485	475	149.00-152.00	150.65
2	550-580	565	136.00-140.00	138.05
2	605-640	623	130.00-132.00	131.03
2	655-685	670	126.00-131.00	128.44
2	730-735	733	127.00	127.00



Feeder Heifers

Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5	305-340	324	135.00-150.00	142.51
3	360-390	372	125.00-140.00	133.12
9	400-435	416	125.00-147.50	137.80
10	450-490	467	120.00-138.00	132.69
10	500-545	523	120.00-135.00	126.95
8	550-595	573	115.00-134.00	124.98
8	600-635	616	114.00-128.00	122.63
4	665-695	679	115.00-124.00	118.45
5	700-725	709	100.00-118.00	111.92
4	770-795	783	101.00-115.00	107.48

Feeder Bulls

Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
10	450-495	466	130.00-148.00	139.55
7	510-540	529	125.00-141.00	132.97
7	550-595	576	121.00-134.00	127.49
6	610-635	619	107.50-122.00	113.06
9	650-695	675	100.00-119.00	108.32
5	700-735	719	104.00-111.00	107.17

Slaughter Cows

Breaker 70-80% Lean

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	1220-1340	1272	71.50-73.00	71.98
3	1440-1660	1523	69.00-76.50	72.67
4	1415-1710	1588	77.00-79.50	77.94 High Dressing

Bonar 80-85% Lean

26	1015-1365	1192	67.00-76.00	70.67
6	1025-1390	1177	62.00-65.00	63.44 Low Dressing
2	1410-1550	1480	74.00-75.00	74.52

Slaughter Bulls

Yield Grade 1-2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
2	1255-1390	1323	82.00-83.00	82.47
2	1050-1165	1108	81.00-84.00	82.58 Low Dressing
3	1830-1970	1890	90.00-92.50	91.35 High Dressing

Pacific Rim Grilled Steak & Noodle Salad

1 beef flank steak (1-1/2 to 2 pounds)
Toasted sesame seeds and sliced green onions (optional)

Marinade & Dressing:

2/3 cup teriyaki marinade and sauce
1/2 cup orange marmalade
3 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger
4 garlic cloves, minced



Noodle Salad:

8 ounces uncooked whole grain, whole wheat or regular spaghetti
2 cups broccoli florets
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1/4-inch strips
1 cup carrot, cut diagonally into 1/4-inch slices
1/2 cup fresh chopped fresh basil and/or mint



Combine marinade ingredients in glass measuring cup, whisking until just blended. Cover and refrigerate 2/3 cup for dressing. Place beef steak and remaining marinade in plastic bag; turn steak to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 6 hours or as long as overnight, turning occasionally.

Cook pasta according to package directions, adding broccoli, bell pepper and carrot during last 3 minutes of cooking; drain. Place pasta mixture in large serving bowl. Stir in basil. Heat reserved 2/3 cup dressing in microwave on HIGH 30 to 60 seconds or until hot, stirring once. Add to pasta mixture, tossing to combine. Set aside.

Meanwhile, remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Place steak on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 11 to 16 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 16 to 21 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.

Carve steak diagonally across the grain into slices; sprinkle with sesame seeds and green onions, if desired. Serve steak with noodle salad.

Nutrition information per serving, using beef top sirloin: 417 calories; 9 g fat (3 g saturated fat; 4 g monounsaturated fat); 70 mg cholesterol; 932 mg sodium; 51 g carbohydrate; 6.9 g fiber; 36 g protein; 15.3 mg niacin; 0.8 mg vitamin B₆; 1.5 mcg vitamin B₁₂; 3.7 mg iron; 59.5 mcg selenium; 6.2 mg zinc; 107.5 mg choline. This recipe is an excellent source of fiber, protein, niacin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, iron, selenium, zinc and choline.

**BUBBA
APPROVED**

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

*Mark Your
 Calendar!*

PLACES TO BE	
January 5	NC BCIP Bull Test Sale, Waynesville NC
January 10	RSVP for McDowell County Cattlemen's Meeting
January 17	McDowell Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting
January 31	NC Forage and Grassland Winter Conference, Canton
February 2, 9, 16	McDowell Honeybee's Bee School, Marion NC
February 7	Extension Master Gardener Training begins
February 15-16	NC Cattlemen's Conference, Hickory NC
March 8-10	Tennessee Beef Agribition, Lebanon TN
March 23	Maternal Edge Sale, Clinton NC

Compiled and edited by:

Greg Anderson

Greg Anderson
 Extension Agent
 Ag & Natural Resources

Secretarial support by: Cheryl Mitchell

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