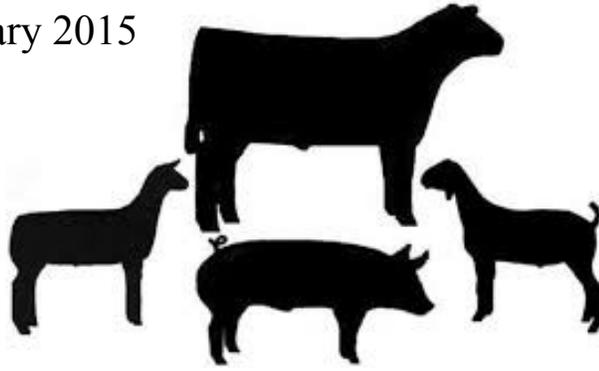


January/February 2015



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I hope each of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Poultry (Youth Livestock Program)

This Spring we will be offering a special program for children interested in growing poultry as either a hobby or possibly for their SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience), if they are involved in their High School Ag Program. In a collaboration with other counties in the southeast, we will be able to provide children with birds to raise (must be in either FFA or 4-H to be eligible– Call for ways to get involved). There will be a charge for the birds, depending on the number and whether you want to raise a Broiler (meat bird) or a Laying Hen.

We will have a poultry show at the end of the growing season in May where there will be cash prizes for the children. They will be required to produce a record book of their activities, as well as attend a few afternoon classes which will focus on the record books and other information about poultry showmanship. We are very excited to start this program as it was a huge success in the northeast. The Laying Hens will be available for pick up in the middle of February, and the Broilers will be available the end of March since they grow much quicker than laying hens.

The Show will be held in Bladen County on a date to be announced later. Please contact me for more information and to reserve your birds!



North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

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Renovating Old Pastures

Take advantage of this time of the year to plan ahead for what you need and what you want for the upcoming growing seasons. If you had problems with the last crop it is important to determine why the previous stand did not persist before you reseed.

Weak pastures can be improved by simply resting, applying fertilizer, lime, weed control, and implementing rotational grazing. Pastures with big gaps between plants may require reseeding to thicken stands.

The best time to control weeds is the season prior to the renovation. Broad-leaf weeds can be control using herbicides however this will damage or kill any desired legumes that you may have in the pasture. A good practice would be to control broadleaf weeds before interseeding legumes.

Like always, test your soil to determine if lime and/or fertilizer is needed. Soil acidity is a limiting growth factor in forages. Dolomitic lime supplies both calcium and magnesium to the soil while lowering acidity and reducing the availability of toxic metals such as aluminum and manganese.

Suppress existing grasses to allow the seed to have good soil-seed contact. This can be achieved by hard grazing in the late fall to early winter.

Make sure the forage that you choose will grow well in the soil type that you have in your area.

Control post-seeding competition by keeping all weeds and other grasses mowed to allow the seedlings to grow.



Benefits of a Grazing Plan

Do you spend too much time in your pasture year after year?

Are you taking advantage of the fertilizer that you already have on your field (Livestock manure)?

Are there changes that you would like to make to your farm operation but don't know how?

Call ME!! I know that there is no way for me to answer every single question that I may have thrown at me, but I have a huge support system at NCSU and the Grassland Council that are very happy to help. I have recently learned how to create Grazing Plans for farms and would be more than happy to come out and talk with you about your concerns and ideas, as well as share a few of my ideas. Working together I hope that we can increase the productivity of your farm and help reduce your costs. There are also many programs for financial assistance that you may be eligible for with a Grazing Plan in place. My goal is for my counties to produce enough forage on their property that the need for supplemental feeding is very minimal.

Have a Grazing Plan!

A producer sleeps much better when 30 pounds of dry matter per day are known to be available for a 1,200 pound cow while she is grazing.

Beef News

Special thanks to the area Beef Producers who were able to make it to our Beef Cattle Reproductive Series this November. If you could not come then make sure you keep an eye on my e-mails and newsletters in the future. It was such a great and successful event that we will surely be doing another one in the future. I would like to post a few pictures of some faces that you may recognize!



In the picture above, Buron Lanier is palpating “Breeding Betsy” the new teaching aid at NCSU. With this model we can detect pregnancy or use it to practice AI techniques.



Upcoming Events

2015 will bring some new and exciting topics for discussion. Please join us in Pender for our monthly Livestock Association meetings that are held the first Tuesday of every month.

For January's meeting I am working on getting some FSA and Soil & Water employees over to talk to us about how they may be able to help us.

At the February meeting we will touch on the proper ways to trailer livestock based on NCDOT laws.

Please e-mail, call or stop by and let me know what topics you would like to learn about and we will work on getting that together.

I will also be doing the same talks in Onslow County office. Again please e-mail, call or stop by to give me your contact information and I will let you know the day and time that I will be able to get the speakers.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

Livestock Owners Questionnaire

Which types of animals do you own? (Circle all that apply)

Cattle Ducks/Geese Llamas/Alpacas Horses
Sheep Chickens Goats Swine
Turkeys Donkeys Other:

What topics are you interests in receiving more information about?
(Circle all that apply)

Pasture Management Herd Health General Nutrition
Marketing Agri-Tourism Breeding Management
Waste Management Artificial Insemination Byproducts
Other:

When would you prefer to attend an educational program?

Weekdays Weeknights

Please share any additional comments or suggestions you may have
to help Extension meet the needs of the area livestock owners:

Thank you for your input!

Please fill this out and return to you Extension Office as