NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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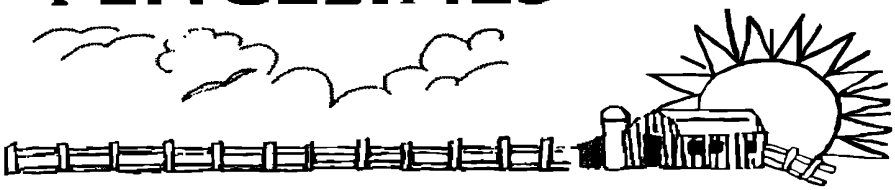
# FENCELINES



# November & December 2016

## Important Information

### Upcoming Events

- **November 19th** at 12 noon - Southeast Bull Expo and Sale at 93 Agriculture Place, Clinton
- **December 6th** at 9:30 am - Eastern Carolina Cattlemen's Conference, Clinton Agri Center

### Inside This Issue



For more information on material and events presented in this newsletter, contact your local Extension Agent at:

Stefani Garbacik at Stefani_Garbacik@ncsu.edu or (919) 731-1525

## Fencelines is going DIGITAL

Currently 553 copies of the Fencelines newsletter are mailed out 6 times a year. It currently cost $257.00 to mail each issue.

In order to help save postage we are asking everyone who has an email address to please email Kim so you can be put on the Fencelines email list.

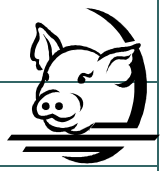
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.


Kim.davis@waynegov.com
or call
(919) 731-1525

## Regional Chicken Project for Youth

The Regional Chicken Project is an opportunity for youth in FFA and 4-H to learn more about poultry. Youth raise hens or broiler chicks and complete a project record book. In May, youth will participate in a show to demonstrate their knowledge of the bird. Training for this will be provided through workshops. Laying chick delivery will be mid February and broiler chicks delivery will be mid March. If you have kids or grandkids that are interested, contact your Livestock or 4-H agent for more details.

| New Animal Waste Operators Class & Continuing Education Opportunities | | |
|---|---|---|
| November 22nd, 2016<br>5:30 pm (2 1/2 hours) | Wilson Regional Pork Conference<br>Wilson County Extension Office | Call (252) 237-0111 to register |
| November 29th, 2016<br>9 am | Lenoir County | Call (252) 521-1706 to register |
| December 1st, 2016<br>9 am (6 hours) | Bladen County | Call (910) 862-4591 to register |
| December 5th, 2016<br>9 am (6 hours) | Wayne County Extension Office<br>Goldsboro | Call (919) 731-1525 to register |
| December 6th, 2016<br>9 am (6 hours) | Greene County, Hookerton<br>Hookerton Community Center, | Call (252) 521-1706 to register |
| January 19th & 20th, 2017<br>10 am (10 hours) New Waste Operators Class | Bladen County Extension Office<br>Elizabethtown<br>Cost $35.00 for manual, $25.00 for exam fee | Call (910) 862-4591 or email becky_spearman@ncsu.edu to register by January 12th |



## Two Animal Waste Amendments and What You Should Know About Them

*By: Eve Honeycutt, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Lenior and Greene Counties*

Two amendments have been approved to help during the periods of extended rainfall we recently received.

First, there is an **amendment available for temporary PAN rate modifications** on certain cool season crops. Second, there is an **amendment to change the application window for bermuda**. Here are the requirements of you for each crop:

- Bermudagrass – Extension of application window until October 31, 2016 for one year only, provided there is no frost on the bermuda before that date. This application window extension only applies to bermuda crops with a current application window that expired on September 30, 2016 or August 31, 2016. This window extension does not increase the PAN for the bermuda.
- Small grain overseeded into bermudagrass – for those farms who currently apply at the 50 lb PAN/acre rate, the rate would increase under the amendment to 100 lb PAN/acre. The 100 lb PAN will require a split application window: Up to 75 lb PAN/acre through Nov 30; **No PAN applied in December or January**; the remainder of the balance can be applied through the end of the application window. This rate change applies to pastures and hayfields. Because two months is a long time to not pump, I would suggest your amendment not apply to all your fields to allow you more choices in your animal waste management.
- Row-cropped sites with crops of wheat or other small grains – Extension of pre-plant application period for PAN from 30 days pre-plant to 45 days pre-plant.
- Row-cropped cover crops (non-harvested winter crops where PAN applied is deducted from the following harvested crop) – Increase the deductible PAN rate for small grain cover crops from current 35 lb PAN/ac to allow 50 lb PAN/ac to be applied and deducted. Also waive any restrictions on the species of winter annual small grain sown as the cover crop.
- Tall fescue hay and pasture – 25% PAN increase
- Winter cereals, prairie grass bromes, or annual ryegrass as a pure stand (not overseeded) hay, silage, or pasture – 25% PAN increase
- It is recommended that the animal waste operator let solids settle in the lagoons and get a representative waste sample

For either of these amendments to apply to your farm, you must have an amendment written by a certified technical specialist. Keep these amendments – they will be part of your nutrient management plan. Both these amendments are for one year only.

Contact your extension agent or other certified technical specialist for more information or to obtain an amendment for your farm.

## Disaster Information

*By: Matt Poore, NCSU Beef Extension Specialist and Becky Spearman, Livestock Extension Agent in Bladen County*

It has been three weeks since Hurricane Matthew and the flooding that most of Eastern North Carolina experienced. We are recovering and starting to get back in the normal day to day routine. This article will briefly discuss some things you need to consider. I want to tell you the old joke "We are from the government and we want to help you" is not a joke to your local livestock agent. We are here to help you. We may not know the answer, but we will find it for you.

**Disaster Assistance:** If you had animal mortality, flooded hay and/or feed supplies, damage to livestock barns, sheds, washed out roads, debris removal, etc., call NCDA & CS hotline at 1-866-645-9403 and contact your local FSA office. You may be eligible for assistance. Take pictures and keep records/ receipts of the impacted areas (before and after if you can), any work done (including your time) to repair your farm. Log hours of fence repair, chainsaw work, road grading, etc.. Our understanding is hay losses will be covered under the FSA ELAP program. To be covered, hay had to be baled and only covers hay purchased or cut to feed your livestock. It does not cover hay that was cut to sell. FSA deadlines vary by county but most sign-up periods will end in mid December.

**Flooded Hay and Feed:** NSU Beef Extension tested hay after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Hay that had been flooded was found to be severely damaged with little usable forage remaining. The amount of rotted hay and mold in this flooded hay makes it of little value, and potentially a hazard to livestock. Hay that didn't go under flood waters was in remarkably good shape with only a couple of inches of damage to the outside of bales which was consistent with what you see in normal outside storage. Our best advice on flood hay is that if it was in at least 1 foot of water for one day then it is likely in very poor shape and should not be fed, but rather counted as a loss.

Start lining up possible winter feed now. Consider using alternative feeds that are safe to feed. Call your Extension Agent if you need help in deciding possible feeding scenarios or if you need help in developing a ration to supplement the hay you have. Livestock Agents have had training in using excel to formulate rations for cattle and we can help with other livestock species too.

Consider having your hay that was not flooded tested for quality to include crude protein (CP), total digestible nutrients (TDN), nitrates, and minerals. It is a $10 test from NCDA & CS that provides you with great information about the feeding value or quality of your hay. We can use this information to decide if your hay will meet your animals nutritional needs over the winter or if you need to supplement their feed.

**Health of Grazing Livestock**

It appears at this point that few cattle, horses, sheep and goats were lost as a direct result of the storm. However, chronic issues will be likely as the winter progresses. Following Floyd, it was documented some animals having severe dermatitis, probably due to contamination with the flood waters and potentially to the ingestion of poisonous plants. During the winter months, animals were in poor body condition, animals had very weak calves, and higher than normal death loss due to chronic malnutrition during the aftermath. Start feeding animals to regain the body condition they lost during the flood. Pregnant cows need a good supply of protein and energy for normal fetal development. Make sure that a good quality mineral supplement is being provided and the cattle are eating the minerals. These are always our recommendations for winter, but this year it is especially important given the stress on the livestock.

Publications referenced here are Picking Up After the Storm on Pasture-Based Livestock Farms at https://goo.gl/s9JEFX and Dealing with Pasture and Forage Issues During Recovery from Hurricane Matthew at **http://go.ncsu.edu/livestockdisaster** If you have questions or need information, give your Extension Agent a call.

**Check out our website: www.waynecountyag.com**

## Pastures and Hay (Little Things Here and There Make a Difference)

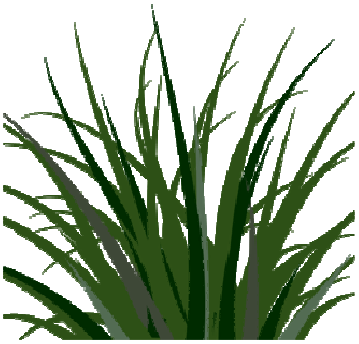
*By: Brian Parrish, Agriculture Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County*

I am a firm believer that before anyone tries to grow anything, they should pull a soil test first. The soil test will take the guess work out and will tell you exactly how much lime and fertilizer (N-Nitrogen, P- Phosphorus, and K-Potassium) is needed for the crop. The target pH for forages in our area is 6.0 to 6.5. If the soil pH gets too low or too high, it interferes with the forage plants ability to take up and utilize nutrients. So, taking a soil test and then getting the lime and fertilizer needed out there should be one of the first steps in proper forage management. Fertilizer can be very expensive, but skimping on recommended fertilizer rates can be especially detrimental to hybrid bermudagrass stands and to the yields of those stands. Are you one of those producers that puts the N-nitrogen out there but skimps on K (Potassium)? K (Potassium) is very important for bermudagrass and is essential for persistence of the stand! Without K (Potassium) bermudagrass stands are not as competitive, are more susceptible to leaf spot diseases, grow a lot slower, show poor stress tolerance, and show poor winter hardiness (survival).

Grasses should be seeded at the proper seeding rate, planting depth, and on best planting dates for our area. There are basically 2 types of perennial grasses; cool and warm season. Cool season grasses, like fescue, grow during the Spring and Fall when temps are cool. Timing of fertilizer applications for different grasses can also be important. For example, fescue should be fertilized with half of the (N) nitrogen the soil test calls for in Feb or March and then the other half should be applied in September. Bermuda is a warm season grass that grows when temperatures are warm, then turns brown and goes dormant in winter. Total season nitrogen rates for hybrid bermudagrass (the most common hay grown in our area) vary from 180 – 225 pounds per acre based on soil type and level of production desired. Generally, nitrogen is applied to Bermuda hay at 50-60 lbs/acre starting in April and the rest in equal amounts after each cutting; June, July, and August.

It is also important to know characteristics of different grasses. Fescue will generally grow in wetter areas and does not typically persist in sandy drought prone areas. Fescue can also grow well in partially shaded areas. It is also important to know where the forage plant stores its carbohydrates (energy for plant growth). Fescue stores its carbohydrates in the first 3 to 4 inches of the stem. If you are mowing or grazing fescue below 3 to 4 inches you are removing both the stored energy and leaves the plant needs to make more energy. You can kill fescue by simply grazing or cutting the grass too short. On the other hand, Bermuda will not grow well in wet areas or shaded areas. Bermuda can be grown in sandy drought prone areas because it can send roots very deep to find moisture. Bermuda stores its carbohydrates in underground roots called rhizomes and in stolons. Because of where Bermuda stores its energy, it can be grazed or cut very close to the ground without killing it. Just because you can graze or cut bermuda short does not mean that you should. I am also a firm believer that it takes grass to grow grass. If bermudagrass hay producers would leave about 4 inches of grass stubble when they cut their hay, I believe that they would quickly discover that their bermuda hay is growing back much faster and is producing a lot more hay during the growing season as a result. Many mowing manufacturers have attachments that can be added to the bottom of their mowers that will lift the mower up for this very purpose.

Attention to the details (little things here and there) can make a big difference when it comes to hay and forage management.



# Horse Blanketing

*By: Stefani Garbacik, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Wayne County*

Winter is fast approaching and we all like to be comfortable when the cold weather hits. The same goes for your horses, and you may be wondering when (*or if*) you should blanket your horses. In most cases, horses probably do not need a blanket. In fact, their coats begin to change as the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, in preparation for the upcoming winter. The healthy, active horse that has access to some sort of shelter should be just fine without a blanket, at least until it really turns frigid.

Make sure you are using the appropriate sized blanket for your horse. In order to determine this, stand your horse square and place a measuring tape in the center of the chest. Pull the tape around the chest and the widest part of the shoulder, then along the side of the horse's body to the rear.

It is also important to make sure you know what type of blanket you are buying. Is it meant for turning animals out in the pasture? Is it better for layering and ideal for stabled situations? Will it be warm enough? Blanket warmth is determined by the grams of "fill" and usually divided into lightweight, midweight, and heavyweight variations. The denier of the blanket determines how tough or sturdy the outer portion is. The higher the denier, the less likely it is to rip.

See the table below for determining what type of blanket your horse may need! Of course this will also depend on the environment, the presence of wind or rain, and your horse's age.

A wet horse in winter is a cold horse, so take care to ensure that your horse does not get wet and then cold. A blanket will NOT help in this case! Pay close attention on those warmer winter days where your horse may sweat, and then their blanket soaks up that sweat. When night comes, that horse will be wet, cold, and shivering.


https://www.rainbowsendtack.com/HowtoMeasureYourHorseforBlankets.htm

| Temperature | Unclipped | Clipped |
|---|---|---|
| **Above 50° F** | No blanket | No blanket |
| **40-50** | No blanket | Sheet or lightweight |
| **30-40** | Lightweight or none | Mid to heavyweight |
| **20-30** | Light to midweight or none | Heavyweight |
| **10-20** | Mid to heavyweight | Heavyweight + sheet/liner |
| **Below 10** | Heavyweight | Heavyweight + sheet/liner/neck cover |
| www.thehorse.com | | |

## Managing Does in Gestation

*By: Dan Wells, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Johnston County*

Many goat herds are bred in fall for late winter/early spring kidding. In this article, I'd like to address some management considerations for pregnant does. We have had recent articles in the Livestock Newsletter on preparing for the breeding season, the last thirty days of gestation, and on managing kidding. I'll try to review a few pertinent points of these and other thoughts those articles may not have addressed.

It's good to use body condition scores (BCS) as an objective evaluation of an animal's nutritional status at various times in the production cycle, and especially in managing reproduction. In fact, assessing BCS can pay biggest dividends in preparing for the breeding season. It's best to assign a body condition score to each animal. It's very helpful to write these down, as this will help you to more accurately determine the herd average, as well as to determine the success of your attempts to alter body condition. A nine-point scale is typically used; extremely thin animals are scored 1, extremely fat animals are scored 9, and others in between. Most of us can easily think of thin, fat and "just right." Well, that's essentially a three-point scale, so a nine-point scale is just a bit more refined, with 1-3 being thin, 4-6 being moderate, and 7-9 being fat. It's really helpful to handle the animals when evaluating body condition, as a hair coat can be misleading. Handling the spine and ribs to determine fat cover is especially important. Body condition scoring is an acquired skill, so practice is encouraged.

Breeding Season- We'll review a couple of very important points here. Does should be in BCS 5-6 prior to breeding, hooves of does and bucks should be trimmed a few weeks prior to breeding, and fecal egg counts or FAMACHA should be used to determine if worming is needed. Consider "flushing" does by feeding high quality pasture or supplementing grain (such as a ½ pound per head per day of cracked corn) for a few weeks prior to a couple of weeks after the breeding season.

The First and Second Trimesters- You may not see many visible changes in a doe during this stage, but pregnancy is a bit tenuous at this stage. A doe can absorb the embryo during very early gestation if she is stressed significantly. This would not be a good time to mix groups of does that haven't been housed together or bring in a new guardian animal, for example. If you've flushed does for the breeding season, once that has finished (a couple of weeks after the buck is removed) the diet could be as simple as good pasture (or medium quality hay) and mineral.

Pregnancy diagnosis is a wise decision, and can be accomplished several ways. One way is to expose the does to a buck (on a halter) to see if they "flag" or show signs of estrus. This is not 100% reliable, and would have to be repeated frequently because not all does that remain open would be in heat on the same day. So it's very possible to miss does that are open by doing this. This method may be fairly feasible only if the does were artificially in-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Managing Does in Gestation Continued

(Continued from page 6)

seminated or hand-mated on known days or if natural mating was observed and recorded (goats typically go into heat every 21 days.)

More reliable means of pregnancy detection include blood testing and ultrasound. Blood testing can be accomplished by submitting a vacutainer sample of the doe's blood to a testing lab at least 30 days after AI or 30 days after the buck was removed. Several suppliers sell kits containing vacutainers and blood collection needles, some even include vouchers for the lab fees for pregnancy testing. Ultrasound should be done by a skilled technician, such as a veterinarian. Using transabdominal ultrasound, fetal heartbeats can usually be detected by around day 25-30 of gestation, and very skilled technicians can usually determine between singles, twins and triples by around day 75.

It's a good idea to trim a doe's hooves again before she gets larger and harder to handle in late pregnancy. Trying to trim hooves of a very large doe in very late gestation is difficult for you and the doe!

The Last Trimester- Over 60% of fetal development typically occurs during the last trimester, and these changes are usually quite evident in the doe. The last thirty days of gestation are a good time to monitor parasite levels and deworm as needed. It's also wise to administer CD&T vaccine at this point to boost immunity in the doe, a portion of which will transfer to the new kids. Depending on your area and herd health history, your veterinarian may also advise administering Selenium (BoSe) at this time, as well.

Because of the rapid fetal growth in this period, BCS should be monitored and adjustments to the diet are likely needed. Does should be on good quality pasture or hay, along with mineral, but supplementation is usually necessary too. It may be necessary to feed a doe up to 1% of her body weight per day, along with hay and pasture, to maintain BCS and support fetal growth. However, very high-quality pasture such as ryegrass or small grains may provide adequate nutrition. Avoid getting does too fat (BCS 7 or higher) because they may experience kidding problems.

Minerals containing the maximum legal amount of Selenium should be fed during this period to help prevent retained placentas and white muscle disease. Does also need much greater amounts of Calcium in late gestation and early pregnancy, so a mineral with added Calcium may be needed or does may be given access to feed-grade limestone during this period.

As kidding season approaches, keep the does in areas where they can be monitored and easily moved to a birthing stall, if necessary. Whether in a barn or pasture, does should be in an area that is as dry and clean as possible for kidding. This is a good time to gather all the supplies you may need to assist a doe in giving birth and caring for young kids.

If you would like more information about caring for pregnant goats, contact your local Livestock Agent.

## The Importance of Sampling for Commercial Poultry Producers

*By: Margaret Ross, Eastern Area Specialized Poultry Agent*

Commercial poultry producers have a lot of recordkeeping to keep up with and sampling records are a big part of their routine. Understanding when and how producers should sample is key to getting an accurate sample analysis back from the laboratory.

Litter sampling is required within 60 days of a litter application, meaning the producer has a 120-day window to sample. When sampling stockpiled litter or a dry stack- a representative sample should be collected by taking core samples at least 18" deep in several different locations on the stack, then mixing the samples in a plastic bucket and placing about a quart of material in a clean plastic bag and shipping the sample to the laboratory in a suitable container to be analyzed.

Sampling in-house litter should be done by inspecting the house and estimating the percentage of floor space used for different activities such as feeding or watering. Then take core sections of litter in those defined areas to get a representative sample of the house. Mix samples well in a plastic bucket. Put one quart of material in a clean plastic bag and ship to the laboratory in a suitable container.

For both stockpiled litter (dry stack) and in-house litter sampling, the accompanying paperwork should be properly filled out, including an email address. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture laboratory will only mail you a hard copy if requested. Also, if you are using a third party applicator, it is your responsibility as the producer to provide the waste analysis to the third party applicator, as it will be used in determining proper application rates. Waste analysis fees are currently $8 / sample and $10 for each optional special test you request. Be sure to check fees before you send your samples off as they are subject to change. A few tips for proper sampling: always submit representative samples to get an accurate depiction of your waste, keep your samples cool- if you are going to store them for more than one day, they need to be refrigerated, and do not put the paperwork inside the sample containers.

Soil sampling should be done at least every three years. There is accompanying paperwork for soil samples as well. Be sure to check peak season fees. Currently, there are no fees for samples submitted from April-November. A $4 / sample fee should be submitted during December-March. To properly take a soil sample, you should first pick up a soil sample kit from your local Cooperative Extension office. Agents there will be able to answer any questions you may have on how to properly take a soil sample. First, be sure to use iron or stainless steel tools and only sample dry areas of 10 acres or less (per box). Avoid combining soils that may have different treatment histories. You should collect 15-20 cores at the appropriate depths: 0-8" for plowed soils and 0-4" for no-till soils. Use a plastic bucket to mix the cores well and fill the soil sample box to the appropriate line. Be sure not to put soil samples in a plastic bag. Ship to the laboratory in a suitable container.

You can find all these forms at your local Cooperative Extension office. If you have commercial poultry questions, feel free to contact me at Margaret_Ross@ncsu.edu.

# Wayne County Producers May Be Eligible for Emergency Conservation Program Assistance

A hurricane has caused severe damage in several areas of the county. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Wayne County Farm Service Agency (FSA)

For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- impair or endanger the land

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. No producer is eligible for more than $200,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations

Producers who have suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the Wayne County FSA Office and request assistance from **November 1, 2016 to December 30, 2016.**

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, please contact the Wayne County FSA Office at (919)734-5281 ext.2 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/sc.

## Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) Program

FSA borrowers with farms located in designated primary or contiguous disaster areas who are unable to make their scheduled FSA loan payments should consider the Disaster Set-Aside (DSA) program.

- DSA is available to producers who suffered losses as a result of a natural disaster and is intended to relieve immediate and temporary financial stress. FSA is authorized to consider setting aside the portion of a payment/s needed for the operation to continue on a viable scale.
- Borrowers must have at least two years left on the term of their loan in order to qualify.
- Borrowers have eight months from the date of the disaster designation to submit a complete application. The application must include a written request for DSA signed by all parties liable for the debt along with production records and financial history for the operating year in which the disaster occurred. FSA may request additional information from the borrower in order to determine eligibility.
- All farm loans must be current or less than 90 days past due at the time the DSA application is complete. Borrowers may not set aside more than one installment on each loan.
- The amount set-aside, including interest accrued on the principal portion of the set-aside, is due on or before the final due date of the loan.
- For more information, contact your local FSA farm loan office.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact **Richard Toler at 919-734-5281 ext**. 2 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

# Cost Share Programs for Rooftop Runoff Management System

*By Katie Stevens-Clarkson, Wayne County Soil & Water*

## The Purpose of Rooftop Runoff Management

A Rooftop Runoff Management System means a system of collection and stabilization practices (drip line stabilization, guttering, collection boxes, etc.) to prevent rainfall runoff from agricultural rooftops from causing erosion where vegetative practices are insufficient to address erosion concerns and protect water quality.

## Policies for Rooftop Runoff Management

1. Cost share shall be limited to the cost of installing a gravel drip pad and the minimum water management components necessary to diffuse the runoff or direct water to a stable outlet.
2. Drip pads must be a minimum of 2 feet in width, but they can be up to the width of the roof overhang plus one foot.
3. Cost share can be provided to install gutters and downspouts, in lieu of gravel drip pads, but not to exceed the estimated cost of an appropriately sized gravel drip pad.
4. It may not be necessary to treat all rooftop runoff if runoff from a portion of a rooftop can be managed vegetatively.
5. This practice may be used in conjunction with other practices (e.g., critical area treatment, diversion) as necessary to control erosion from rooftop runoff.
6. The life of this practice must be maintained for 10 years
7. BMP soil impacts are required on the contract. Include the treated area as well. Refer to the Minimum NCACSP Effects Requirements table later in this section for the correct methods of calculation.

If you are interested in installing a Rooftop Runoff Management System please visit the Wayne County Soil and Water office where staff will help you sign up for the practice. The Soil and Water Staff will also visit the site to assess erosion damage and survey the runoff area. If you have any questions about this practice or any other practice our office offers please call or visit us!

WAYNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

208 W. Chestnut Street
Room 104
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 734-5281 Ext. 3

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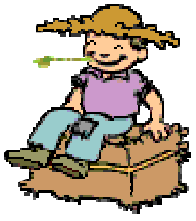
# Forage Management Tips

## November

- To improve feeding efficiency, test forages before winter feeding begins.
- As winter feeding begins, separate the herd into lactating and dry cows so the best quality pastures and hay can be fed to the cows with nursing calves.
- Do not graze fall-planted perennial pastures, such as tall fescue/ladino clover, until growth reaches 6 to 8 inches.
- Winter annual pastures that were planted early (September) may be responsive to an additional application of nitrogen (30 to 50 lbs per acre).
- Bermudagrass should have 3 to 4 inches of growth to serve as insulation against winter damage.



## December

- Avoid overgrazing by feeding hay on pasture or restricting acres available to animals.
- Feed hay stored outside before using hay that is stored inside.



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