NC STATE UNIVERSITY

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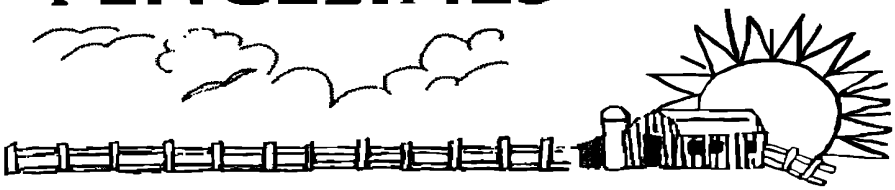

September & October 2016

Inside This Issue

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

Stefani Garbacik
Extension Agent, Livestock
Stefani_Garbacik@ncsu.edu

Check out our new website
www.waynecountyag.com

Important Information

Upcoming Events

- September 29th - October 8th Wayne Regional Agricultural Fair
- September 29th at 6 pm - Wayne County Hog Show
- September 30th at 6 pm - Wayne County Goat Show
- October 1st at 12 Noon - Wayne County Lamb Show
- October 2nd at 1 pm - Wayne County Heifer Show
- October 13th - 23rd NC State Fair in Raleigh
- October 20th Wayne County Cattlemen's Association meeting at 7 pm in the kitchen

Hay Directory

Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222. It lists people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay.

North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at

Www.ncagr.gov/hayalert/HaySellers_map.asp

ATTENTION: GRAIN GROWERS IN Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Wayne, Duplin, Sampson & Robeson Counties

A Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant was awarded to the Smithfield Agronomics program to fund EQIP contracts through USDA's Farm Service Agency and NRCS offices in your counties.

The funds are for grain growers interested in implementing nutrient management, conservation tillage and cover crop practices. RCPP applications will be screened and tanked in the EQIP program, but will only compete for contract funding within the RCPP pool.

SIGN UP:

For RCPP EQIP

* **Go to your county NRCS office**
* **Ask to sign up for EQIP**
* **Specify that you want to be screened and ranked for the SmithfieldGro RCPP grand fund**

CONTACT:

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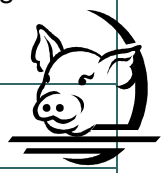
(910) 284-1761

New Animal Waste Operators Class & Continuing Education Opportunities		
October 26th & 27th, 2016 10 am to 4 pm (10 hours)	Duplin County Extension Office Kenansville New Animal Waste Operators Class	Call (910) 296-2143 to register
November 29th, 2016 9 am (6 hours)	Lenoir County Extension Office Kinston	Call (252) 521-1706 to register
December 1st, 2016 9 am	Bladen County	Call (910) 862-4591 to register
December 5th, 2016 9 am (6 hours)	Wayne County Extension Office Goldsboro	Call (919) 731-1525 to register
December 6th, 2016 9 am (6 hours)	Greene County Hookerton Community Center, Hookerton	Call (252) 521-1706 to register



Animal Waste Management News

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

Sprayfield Management

This year we have seen some unusual patterns in sprayfields because of weather related conditions. Winterkill has caused some stand loss in bermudagrass. Most stands will recover from winterkill and will regrow through the summer with adequate fertilization. Excess rainfall has contributed to micronutrient deficiencies and pH imbalances in forage crops, which has decreased yields. Even though soil sampling is only required every 3 years, if a fertilization problem is suspected, soil sampling should be performed to determine the cause of the problem. Don't wait until your crop is depleted to start trying to fix it. Contact your local Extension agent for help diagnosing crop problems or a technical specialist to help you choose a crop that can be better managed on a hog farm.

Lagoon Level Markers

Each lagoon is required to have a liquid level marker to identify the current level. Growers are required to maintain this marker and make sure it is accurate. Some companies have visited farms and re-surveyed the lagoon markers to make sure they are correctly placed. Older lagoons may have had dike erosion or settling which can mean the lowest part of the dike is changed and the marker needs to be reset. With the excessive rain we have seen, it is important to know that your marker is correct and your lagoon levels are accurate. Most companies have an engineer that can help you troubleshoot this process.

Center Pivots and Irrigation Systems

Many farmers that have the acreage available have been interested in switching to a center pivot irrigation system. Pivots are very efficient and operate at a low pressure. However, if you are considering a pivot, or if you have already installed one, be SURE that the pivot does not wet any area that is considered a 'setback'. The pivot and the end gun still must be 50 feet from a right-of-way, 100ft from a well, 200 ft from a house not owned by the farm owner, and 75ft from a perennial stream. The new pivot design must be certified by someone specially designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Just because an irrigation dealer sells it does not mean a farmer can install it without having the layout approved. Contact your technical specialist for more information or any questions.

Poultry Litter

Poultry litter calls still top the list of complaints that are called into the regional Division of Water Resources office. Make sure if you are supplying litter, cleaning out litter, or applying litter that you know how the regulations affect you. Once the litter is on your property, you are responsible for it and it can only be left uncovered for a maximum of two weeks. Litter should not be stored next to a ditch where rainfall can cause litter to enter the ditch. Employees that are driving the litter spreaders need to make sure the litter stays on the cropland and does not go anywhere near houses and property lines. If you have questions about litter handling, call your local Extension agent.

Choosing Cover Crops to Feed Your Herd

By: Zack Taylor, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Lee County

Corn harvest is underway in most of North Carolina and tobacco fields are being stripped as harvest season kicks into high gear. That means it is time to get those winter cover crops in the ground and the sooner the better. Not only do cover crops help prevent erosion and keep our friends at NRCS happy, they also scavenge leftover nitrogen and help to suppress weed growth. In fact, cover crops can be one of our best friends when it comes to suppressing pigweed emergence in the fall, that could possibly make a crop of millions of seeds before the first frost.

But why am I talking about cover crops in a livestock newsletter? Many of us here in North Carolina have diversified farms, raising a variety of crops, as well as livestock. Choosing the right cover crop will not only benefit our fields, but can also be a feedstock for our livestock. If fencing is in place around fields where crops have been grown, a cover crop can provide a high quality standing forage during the winter months. This increased quality not only benefits our livestock, but in many cases it can reduce costs by increasing our ability to graze during the winter months compared to feeding costly hay. If you do not have fencing, choosing the right cover crop can provide you with a harvestable feed supplement.

There are several options when choosing winter cover crops and each have different benefits. It is important to find a cover crop that will work on your farm for your situation. Small grains have traditionally been a go to cover crop. They offer versatility in that they can be used as either a forage, cut for grain, or cut for silage. Options include wheat, rye, oats, and triticale. Each grain can be grazed both in the fall, if planted early enough, and again in the spring before eventually being harvested for hay or silage. Rye produces a high amount of biomass production, which is excellent at helping to suppress weeds and also offers flexibility in planting times as it can be planted relatively late in the year. Oats offer a fast germination, which helps them to compete with emerging weeds. Wheat is an excellent scavenger of excess nutrients in the soil. Each of the small grains offer good nutritive values and digestibility, so it is important to find one that works best on you farm. When growing as a forage, consider planting a mix of small grains. Since the crop will not be harvested and sold as a cash crop, it is not necessary to choose just one species. A variety of species can offer variability in maturity rate, extending your grazing season.

Ryegrass is another options for excellent cover crop forage. It is easy to grow, has an extensive root system which helps it gather nutrients in the soil. It has an excellent forage quality and can recover quickly after a grazing event. Ryegrass also has the ability to survive in very wet conditions, which can sometimes arise during North Carolina winters.

Small grains and grasses are not our only option for cover crops. Clovers can be mixed with any of the grains or ryegrass to increase forage quality and provide nitrogen credits. Turnips are another cover crop option, which produce a high quality digestible forage, with potential digestibility between 80-90%. Turnips are an excellent option for strip grazing, as animals should be adjusted to grazing such a lush forage. Turnips though should not constitute more than 75% of the animal's diet and a lower quality forage should be supplied to prevent problems such as bloat.

Perhaps our best cover crops options are mixed systems. A mix of turnips, ryegrass or small grains, and clover provides a pasture with the benefits of a lush, high protein forage with the safety and balance of a palatable grass. Mixed cover crops can also be an option to consider when growing a crop for grain. Recent research has shown the potential for a mixed crop of wheat and winter pea. When planted together, wheat and winter pea can be successfully harvested with a combine. The resulting harvested grain offers a higher nutritive value than wheat alone and can be fed direct
as a livestock ration without the need for processing.

When choosing a cover crop for your farm, consider an option that will benefit both your land and your livestock. If space allows, consider planting several cover crops. Not only will that allow rotational grazing as different crops become available to graze at different times, but it will also allow you to find the right cover crop on your farm, as the right mix will likely vary between systems.

Getting Ready for Calving Season

By: Randy Wood, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Scotland County

Most cattle farms in our area that have a defined calving season will usually calf in the fall of the year (September-November). Fall calving has some significant advantages in our area compared to other times of the year. The weather is normally very agreeable (temps in the 60's & 70's and lower humidity). Most farms are normally done or at least wrapping up hay harvest for the year, plus it puts breeding season in the winter when bulls are able to work in the cooler months. The biggest reason this system is so popular is for marketing feeder calves the following summer, during the traditional calf sales around the state. For those farms that follow this time frame, here are some thoughts to help you get ready to calf in the coming weeks.

Move your cows to calving pastures about two weeks before you expect your first calf.
Most farms will have designated "calving pastures". A calving pasture or dry lot will hopefully offer some advantages over pastures that are used just for summer or winter grazing. These advantages often include;

They are highly visible on the farm. While you should never be reliable to just checking your cows driving down the road near the pasture, having your cows in a pasture that can be easily seen around your farm is a big plus over one that is way off the beaten path that you hardly ever see. Even if you are very disciplined and check your cows morning and night, inevitably you will have a few cows that will go into labor in the middle of the day. The easier it is for you to see your cows throughout the day the more likely you will spot a problem developing early in the process. The other thing a good calving pasture will have is easy access to a headgate or at least a decent catch pen. There will come a time in every calving season where you have to catch an agitated cow to pull a calf. The easier it is to get her into a working pen the more likely you will end up with a live calf. Having your cows on the backside of your farm, 4 pastures away from a catch facility is a recipe for a disaster.

Separate your 1st calf heifers.
The old saying "if you're going to have trouble calving, it's going to be with a heifer" is very true. Heifers should ideally be calved in a separate pasture from your mature cows. They need extra attention both during calving and immediately afterwards to make sure they accept the calf. If not, the quicker you can isolate the heifer with the newborn calf, the better the odds she will accept it. A small pen where she cannot walk off and leave the calf works best. You will want to keep them together for at least 48 hours after she accepts the calf to make sure she does not reject it again once she is turned back out. Having your two year olds in a separate pasture also allows you to feed these young cows better. Milking two-year olds will need the highest level of nutrition of any group on your farm. Having them in their own lot gives you this option.

Get your calving supplies ready.
The only thing worse than dealing with a difficult calf pull is having to spend 45 minutes looking for ropes, halters, OB chains, etc… than having to pull the calf after you have finally found everything. A week or two before you start to calf, make sure all your calving supplies are together and in working order. If you need to get some OB Lube on hand, now is the time to get it. Also don't forget you newborn calf supplies, like ear tags, iodine, castration supplies, implants, and other supplies.

Switching to Hay from Grass
Finally, the last difficult part of calving in the early fall is making the transition from summer grass to hay while you are in the middle of calving a group of cows. Cattle prefer to graze than eat hay. Yet there will come a time in the fall that a switch has to be made from grass to hay. It will often take cows 3-4 days to begrudgingly accept this transition. By late September, Bermuda grass is in the process of shutting down for the year. While it will not be truly dormant until the first killing frost, the growth rate, palatability and nutrition levels will all start to fall off by the time October comes. Normally regardless of temperatures or rainfall (which for 2016 both look pretty bleak at the time this article was written) day length will tell bermuda to shut down until next spring. While there may be a little green grass to pick through, experienced cattle farmers will realize that they need to start supplementing this late grazing with some hay. Normally your cows will tell you when they are hungry and ready for some hay. Just make sure you are looking for it when they do. A young, freshly lactating cow cannot consume enough rank bermuda in October to sustain herself. Don't be fooled by that last bit of green grass hanging around and let your cows drop weight after they calf. Go ahead and start feeding some hay. If you keep an eye of your hay feeders, it will be apparent when your cows make this switch.

Winter Hay Supply

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

Although it is still warm out, winter will be here soon meaning our green summer pasture will be gone until next year. Good quality hay is an important part of a horse's winter diet. Knowing how to select good quality hay, how to calculate the amount of hay needed, and how to properly store hay will ensure your horses will have hay throughout the winter.

Selecting Good Quality Hay

Visual and chemical analysis are two tools that can be used when selecting hay. Visual analysis includes the color, odor, texture, leafiness, and presence of foreign material. Generally the greener the hay the better, indicating a high vitamin and protein content. As hay browns there is a loss of nutrients, but don't choose hay on color alone. Bleaching from the sun can cause the outside of the bale to brown while the inside of the bale is still green. The odor of hay can uncover the presence of mold, usually caused by improper curing or storage. Mold typically appears as a grayish-white dust and can become flaky in tightly packed sections of the bale. Hay texture and leaf to stem ratio can be indicators of the nutritional value and quality of hay which is affected by the maturity of the grass when it was cut and baled. Immature hay is more easily digested by horses because as grass matures, the nutritional content begins to decrease. As grass matures stems become tougher and thicker and the leaf to stem ratio decreases. Hay texture is an important factor in palatability because horses prefer small, flexible stems as opposed to tough, thick stems. Leaves contain more digestible carbohydrates than stems, therefore the more leaves that are present the better. Foreign material is anything in the bale that is not the forage you intend to purchase. Look for weeds, insects, mold, and trash.

A chemical analysis can also be done. This is the only true indicator of the nutritional quality of the hay. It is recommended that all hay be tested before feeding to ensure that the hay is safe and providing adequate nutrients. Many of those who sell hay will have it tested, so you can ask to see the analysis results. Your local Extension agent can help you take a hay sample and get that sample tested.

Calculating the Amount of Hay Needed

Horses will eat 1.5-2.5% of their body weight everyday in dry matter. You can figure out how much hay your horse will eat using the following equation. Ask your hay supplier for approximate bale weights.

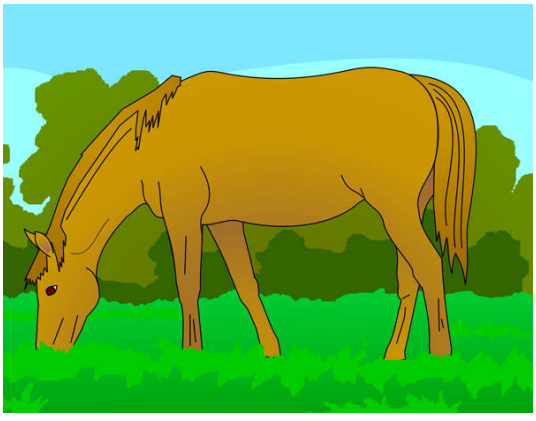
Horse weight (lb) x (percent daily intake of dry matter ÷ 100) = lb eaten/day
Lb eaten/day x 365 days/yr = lb/year
Bales/year = lb/year ÷ lb/bale
tons/year = lb/year ÷ 2,000 lb/ton

Example: A horse weighs 1,100 pounds and has a daily intake of 2%. Note the difference in bale weight plays in the total number of bales needed when the average bale weight is 35 lb vs. 50 lb.
1,100 lb x (2% ÷ 100) = 22 lb hay/day
22 lb/day x 365 days/year = 8,030 lb/year
Bales per year: 8030 lb/year ÷ 35 lb/bale = 230 bales/year
8030 lb/year ÷ 50 lb/bale = 160 bales/year
Tons/year: 8030 lb/yr ÷ 2000lb/ton = 4 tons/year

Hay Storage

Knowing how hay was stored prior to purchase and how it will be stored after purchase is key to making sure there is minimal loss. Hay left out in the elements is likely to lose nutritional value and become moldy. The best way to store hay is in a covered building elevated up off the ground. But any type of storage is better than leaving the hay directly on the dirt exposed to the weather.

Contact your local Extension agent if you have any questions about the information mentioned.



Foot Rot and Foot Scald in Sheep and Goats

By: Kelly McCaskill, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Moore County

If you have had sheep or goats for any period of time, chances are you have had to deal with lameness at some point. Keeping hooves trimmed will cut down on lameness significantly, but the wet and humid climate of the Southeast can contribute to lameness-causing hoof infections such as foot rot and foot scald.

Foot rot is a contagious disease of the hooves caused primarily by a combination of the the microorganisms Dichelobacter nodosus and Fusobacterium necrophorum which can be found in contaminated soil. The bacteria invades the sole of the hoof causing inflammation and separation of the tissue from the hoof wall.

Foot scald is an inflammation of the soft tissue between the toes caused by the same F. necrophorum bacteria that cause foot rot although it does not seem to be contagious. This infection occurs when the area between the toes stays wet for a long period of time.

Both of these infections occur most often during persistent wet weather with high temperatures, meaning that this summer has had ideal conditions for foot rot and foot scald on a lot of North Carolina farms. If an animal is left untreated then there is a possibility of the animal not only becoming permanently infected but also shedding the bacteria into the soil and infecting the rest of the herd. For these reasons it is important to catch and treat these infections early.

Diagnosing foot rot or scald correctly is the first step in keeping the damage to the animal, and contamination of your soil to a minimum. A goat or sheep with foot rot or foot scald will exhibit varying degrees of lameness ranging from a mild limp to putting little or no weight on the affected foot. A visual examination, and as disgusting as it sounds, giving the foot a quick sniff, are usually sufficient in making a diagnosis. Upon visual inspection of the hoof, if foot scald is present the skin between the toes will be wet, raw, inflamed and pink or white in color. Depending on the severity there may be a presence of pus and a foul odor. In foot rot, the tissue between the sole of the toe and the hoof wall will erode and there will almost always be a foul smell. In severe cases of foot rot the animal might show a fever, loss of appetite and hoof deformities. Animals with chronic infections can show a loss in body condition, decreased production and result in an overall unhealthy animal.

Treatment of both foot rot and foot scald are basically the same. The animal's feet should be trimmed to open any areas that may be holding moisture and bacteria. The infected feet should be squirted or sprayed with a solution of 10 percent copper sulfate or zinc sulfate. A solution of 7 percent iodine is also effective. If it is a single animal or a handful of animals that require treatment, the solutions can be individually applied, but if a substantial number of animals in your herd are affected, a foot bath is the most effective mode of treatment. Moving the herd through a chute where they are forced to stand in the foot bath one at a time can help make sure the solution is absorbed into the hoof wall. You can also use an absorptive pad saturated in the zinc sulfate or copper sulfate solution in a high traffic area such as in front of waterers or mineral blocks to treat the entire herd. If the infection is severe, an injection of antibiotics such as penicillin or oxytetracycline may be necessary, but you should consult with your vet before doing so. Lameness should be notably improved within a couple of days of treatment, otherwise you should reevaluate the hoof and try to determine if there may be another cause of lameness.

Although lameness is going to occur in goats and sheep from time to time, taking steps to prevent an outbreak of foot rot or scald in your herd can save you time and money in the long run. Cull highly susceptible animals and use selective breeding for resistance to foot rot. Keep feet trimmed to cut down on places for bacterial growth in the hoof. Check any animals that you are considering purchasing for foot lesions or signs of infection and quarantine new animals on your farm for several weeks. There is also a preventative vaccine for foot rot in sheep that may be a good option for your sheep herd if you have a reoccurring foot rot issue. Unfortunately, this vaccine is currently not labeled for goats.

If you have any questions about foot rot or foot scald, contact your local vet or your county extension agent.

(Above) Very Severe case of foot rot in a sheep

(Left) Severe case of foot scald in a goat

Tips for the Show Season

By: Taylor Chavis, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Robeson County

September and October bring cooler weather, county fairs, and the opportunity to show off your livestock. Animals have been purchased, fed, trained, groomed, clipped, washed, etc. for weeks. As our calendars fill up with circuit shows, county fairs (eventually leading up to the NC State Fair), and all the other tasks for the fall season, it is time to hit the road and the show ring to see how all that hard work and investment will pay off. Below are just a few tips for the show season and a link for a schedule of the NC State Fair Livestock Competitions.

Tips for the Show Season:

- **Practice makes perfect**. Exercise helps build endurance for a show and practice makes perfect, so practice at home with your animal as much as possible. You should practice walking around, setting up, and watching the judge as if you were in a real show. Learn the animal and the animal's flaws and how to best present them so that those flaws are somewhat hidden. It also helps to have other animals around, as well as some kind of background noise. This prepares your animals for a fair atmosphere so that they won't be in shock when they see and hear unfamiliar things.
- **Prepare ahead of time for the show**. Prepare your trailer, show box, feed, show clothes and anything else you might need at a show the night before. One of the worst things that can happen is to get to a show and realize you've left some important piece of equipment or a convenience item at home or at the barn. Adding that kind of stress to the show ring jitters can really create an unpleasant experience. It maybe helpful to create a checklist of what you will need. It can really help in the days leading up to a show. Remember your health papers, if required.
- **First things first at the show**. Animals should be weighed and checked in, feed them and get them clean. After your animals are ready, you get dressed. Knowing the appropriate dress for the show ring is key. You should dress neatly with clean jeans or slacks and a nice button-down or polo shirt. No camouflage shirts or t-shirts should be worn, and your shirts should be tucked in. Hats should be left in the truck and don't forget your belt and boots! It's showtime!
- **In the ring**. Take a deep breath and enter the ring with confidence. While in the ring, stay calm and just pretend you're practicing at the barn. Keeping yourself calm keeps your animal calm, therefore they will work better for you. Remember to keep your animal set up and keep your eye on the judge. It is also important to make sure you follow the animal in front. Even if the people between you and the first person are in different spots, you should always be in line with the first person. Also when on the profile, make sure you're in line with the first person; you don't want to be out further than everyone and hide someone else's animal. Know your project. The majority of judges want to know that you know your project, as well as the industry, so you will probably be asked some questions. Know everything about your animal, from what it eats, to what kind of stomach it has, to what kind of diseases it can get. You can call your Extension agent for help with preparing for questions the judge may ask you. Be a good sportsman. Not only do showmanship skills matter, but so does sportsmanship. Although the ultimate goal is to win, showing livestock teaches you that's not always the outcome.

NC State Fair Livestock Competitions schedule can be found at the following link: http://www.ncstatefair.org/2016/Competitions/Entering/LivestockCompetitions.html For more information, please contact your livestock agent**.**

Good luck this show season!

If You Give a Mouse a Home, He'll Eat You Out of Yours

By: Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Agent with the NC Cooperative Extension

As we wait for the cool temps of fall to return and the change of colors in the trees that follow, it is important to remember that with the much anticipated relief from the heat of summer comes the return of pressure from rodents looking for a winter home. While rodents are active year round, increased pressure is often placed on our control methods as they need to find a place that provides protection from the elements and food to over winter. If a rodent control program is weak or not performing as needed this added pressure can quickly overwhelm it and create a situation that is very difficult to get back into control. Hopefully you are aware of the importance of rodent control to prevent damage to the houses, and profits as the eat feed and spread diseases. A good rodent control program needs three key components: prevention, exclusion, and eradication. All three areas are important to ensure successful control at a reasonable cost.

Prevention is often the most overlooked component of rodent control but it is often the easiest for producers to carry out. Prevention when talking about rodents is really about reduction of habitat or favorable conditions that allow rodent populations to prosper. Rodents do not travel very far for food and water from their nest. In fact, as a general rule of thumb the smaller the rodent the shorter they roam. This means if growers will remove and reduce habitat around houses, equipment, and feed and litter storage there will be much less pressure inside facilities. This means removing debris, junk and abandoned equipment from farms or within 200 feet of facilities. Keep vegetative covers short and soils firmly packed. It is highly recommended to maintain a gravel dripline surface around houses to prevent erosion and it makes it difficult for rodents to bury under foundations and exposes rodents to natural predators as they cross these exposed surfaces.

Exclusion of rodents is often the most difficult because they can enter through small openings, chew through a wide range of materials and climb most surfaces. Exclusion starts at construction of the house by choosing rodent resistant materials such as concrete and metal over wood, plastic, and foam. Making sure construction is done properly and gaps and crevices are sealed will reduce future entry points. It is important that houses are inspected regularly and any holes and entry points are sealed using metal flashing or hardware cloth. Many times when updates or new equipment is installed, new entry points are created when hole are made for wiring and piping. Sealing these holes with spray foams or insulation products is important for energy savings; these products, when used alone will only become nesting material for rodents.

Eradication is the step most people focus on but when proper attention is paid to the other control areas this one becomes a lot simpler and cheaper to perform. It is important to understand that rodents can live almost anywhere in a poultry house and because they do not travel far from the nest the entire house must have control measures in place including bait stations and traps. Rodents also cannot see very well and typically travel along walls pipes or other structures and will only move into open spaces when forced. Bait stations or traps need to be placed against the wall with no space to allow rodents to bypass the entrance. Stations should not be more than 100 feet apart to make sure they are in range of all rodent types. Do not overlook the attic areas as the insulation and seclusion makes an excellent home. In fact, the Roof Rat species seeks out raised areas for nesting. Bait selection is also important both in choosing active ingredients and the bait form. You need to select baits that work with your stations and that are consistent with your conditions. Some baits may melt in high heat conditions or become rancid very quickly. Selecting baits for active ingredients based on rodent species and susceptibility is also essential in a successful eradication phase.

Improper placement of bait station not against the wall with a gravel dripline.

Cost Share Programs for Cover Crops

By Katie Stevens, Wayne County Soil & Water

The Purpose of Cover Crops… A crop or mixture of crops grown primarily for seasonal protection, erosion control and soil improvement. It usually is grown for one year or less.

Why is it useful? The major purpose is water and wind erosion control, to cycle plant nutrients, add organic matter to the soil, improve infiltration, aeration and tilth, improve soil quality, reduce soil crusting, and sequester carbon/nutrients. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Soil & Water Assist you by... Cover crop can be cost shared by the ACSP and EQIP he maximum payment for planting is $40.00 per acre, and the practice has a $15,000 lifetime limit per applicant and is limited to 3 annual contracts per applicant. Either certified seed or bin seed may be used for this cost share practice in order to receive payment Cooperators using bin seed must be careful to adhere to the restrictions imposed by the federal Plant Variety Protection Act, the NC seed rules and statutes, and laws governing the use of seed from patented plants. Animal waste or fertilizer may be applied to these cover crops when needed to improve the vigor of the crop. This practice precludes the planting of cover crop for harvest. The fields must not be grazed or the crop removed. No burning by fire of crop residue will be permitted. An applicant may not simultaneously receive the cover crop incentive and either the 3-year conservation tillage incentive, the long-term no-till incentive, or the nutrient scavenger cover crop incentive.

Other Assistance… A Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant was awarded to the Smithfield Agronomics program to fund EQIP contracts through USDA's Farm Service Agency and NRCS offices in the following counties: Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Wayne, Duplin, Sampson & Robeson Counties

WAYNE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

208 W. Chestnut Street
Room 104
Goldsboro, NC 27530

(919) 734-5281 Ext. 3

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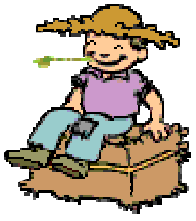
Forage Management Tips

September

- Fertilize and lime cool season grasses.
- Keep the grazing pressure on the summer grasses and completely use them before grazing cool season forages.
- Continue to watch for armyworms on established and seedling stands of forages.
- Overseed or no-till winter annuals onto summer perennial grass after they have been closely grazed.
- Make a winter feed supply inventory so deficiencies can be avoided now (by purchasing hay or planting more winter pasture).

October

- Finish using summer grasses before grazing the cool season ones.
- Overseed bermudagrass and other warm season grasses with winter annuals such as rye if you haven't already done so.
- Sample soils to be overseeded or planted next spring so the limestone can be applied early enough to react; two to four months are required for lime to effectively neutralize soil acidity.



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