N.C. Cooperative Extension
Davie County Center
180 South Main St., Ste. 210
Mocksville, NC 27028
P: 336.753.6100
davie.ces.ncsu.edu

N.C. Cooperative Extension
Yadkin County Center
2051 Agricultural Way, Ste. 201
Yadkinville, NC 27055
P: 336.849.7908
yadkin.ces.ncsu.edu

RUCKER'S RAMBLINGS
ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INFORMATION
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2017

It's finally fall and we can feel the crisp change in the air. Temperatures are cooler and we are all getting busy with those final chores to wrap up the growing season and prepare for whatever winter decides to throw at us. In this brief update, you will find a few management tips as well as announcing some upcoming events. Please take notice of the dates and times so you will not miss these educational opportunities.

We are about to finalize a Cattlemen Meeting to discuss Bull Selection, The Value of Breeding Soundness Exams, Understanding and Using Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), along with how to determine stocking rates and how different forages and stage of growth affects stocking rates. The meeting will be in late November or early December. Watch your email or mailbox to information on this upcoming educational opportunity. We have had numerous producers ask questions on these topics and it appears these topics need to be addressed. Tying up a few loose ends and then we will send out the announcement.

DAVIE COUNTY 4-H CHILI LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Davie County 4-H will hold a Chili Lunch Fundraiser on Thursday, November 9, from 11:00 – 2:00 pm. The lunch will be held at the Davie County Office Building, 180 S. Main St., Mocksville. The lunch will be by donation to support the Davie County 4-H Academic Scholarship program. Scholarships will be offered to graduating, senior 4-H members who plan to further their education. Come enjoy a bowl of chili, dessert and drink (dine in or carry out) and help local youth to reach their goals of going to college. Call the Davie Extension Center at 753-6100 for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Look at attached fliers for more details.)

* NC Beef Cattle Field Day will be close by this year. This opportunity will be October 28 at the Upper Piedmont Research Station in Reidsville. The station tours/programs begin at 9:30 AM covering topics like Focus on Feed Efficiency, Winter Feeding Area, Forage Systems/Tall Fescue, Reproduction, Genetics and others. After a sponsored lunch, there will be a heifer sale at 1:30 PM with some Angus cattle, commercial and Senepol cattle. A selection of some good quality females to add to your herd. After the sale, you can take the BQA recertification test if you need to be recertified.

Phillip Rucker, Jr. Phil Rucker Jr
Extension Agent
Agriculture-Livestock
phil_rucker@ncsu.edu

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, political beliefs, family and marital status, sex, age, veteran status, sexual identity, genetic information or disability.
NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

* Amazing Grazing Workshop for New and Small Scale Farmers will be held November 11 at the Butner Beef Cattle Field Lab in Bahama, NC. The workshop topics include proper operation of agricultural sprayers, handling pasture chemicals safely, soil sampling techniques and principles of pasture improvement.

* McMahan Farm Annual Registered Angus Bull Sale will be November 18 at Noon. The McMahan Family is once again offering a set of bulls developed on forage that will work hard and add production to your herd. All bulls have passed a breeding soundness exam and are ready to start working. If you need a herdsire, this is a good place to find what you are looking for.

TIME FOR TESTING

A Soil Test will help you apply what the forage needs, in proper amounts so you will spend your fertilizer dollar more wisely. Come by the office to get your soil test boxes and help your pastures work more efficiently for you. Samples logged in at the lab November 30, will be assessed a $4/sample fee, but that's still a bargain to assure that you are providing your forage the nutrients it needs. While we are in the testing mode, forage quality is questionable this year. To make sure you are meeting your livestock's nutritional needs, sample your hay to see what your livestock are actually consuming. In animals lacking vital nutrients, production will suffer and feeding more than needed, will waste valuable feed resources. Contact the Extension Office to see how to get your hay tested. It costs ten ($10) dollars but the information you receive can save you resources you can use to meet other needs.

Be cautious with sudex or similar type forage or you have hay fields with lots of Johnsongrass. Dry weather, frost or other weather circumstances can cause certain forages to accumulate nitrates which can be toxic to livestock. If you have forage that was frosted on before mowing or suffered under dry weather, contact me about sampling the hay. Nitrate testing is free.

A FEW MANAGEMENT TID BITS

It's getting cooler and livestock will need more calories/energy/feed to meet their needs plus stay warm. Be prepared to supply enough feed to meet those needs.
Start checking all facilities, equipment, water supplies, etc. to make sure your operation is prepared for winter.
Calculate stocking rates for ALL pastures and make sure you do not overgraze. That causes the spring growth to be slow which allows weeds to get a head start. Properly grazed pastures respond well to spring fertilizer and water.
Get your veterinarian to give your horses a good "once over" to evaluate body condition and general health. This helps you make good decisions about adding supplements to the feed regime. Check those hooves for cracks and other issues that need attention before winter hits.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 28	NC Beef Cattle Field Day, Reidsville
November 9	Davie County 4-H Chili Lunch Fundraiser, Mocksville
November 11	Amazing Grazing Workshop for New and Small Scale Farmers, Bahama
November 18	McMahan Farm Annual Registered Angus Bull Sale, Noon, Mocksville