We have decided to add a new article to Fencelines in 2009. This article or activity area will most often provide information for our youth readers. Please let us know of any youth that may enjoy or benefit from receiving Fencelines and we will be glad to add them to the mailing list. We hope you continue to enjoy Fencelines in 2009 and our new youth section!

For this inaugural article, I recently read something that I wish to share with you. Most of you are receiving Fencelines because you own or manage livestock in some way, and many of our youth readers also own and possibly show livestock. I’d like to challenge you to help tell our story as producers and as animal caretakers to those that may not completely understand what we do and how we do it. There are millions of Americans out there that love animals, including us. However, often times there can be a lack of understanding of how we raise and care for our livestock. You can help share your story and educate the public on animal agriculture, animal welfare and animal husbandry that you perform each day.

If we don’t tell our story, rest assured that others will be telling a different story that the public will probably hear. This is the story told by the Humane Society of the US. While there are many worthwhile efforts of the Humane Society to ensure caring of animals, there are also efforts against animal agriculture. Now I am not an expert on their entire agenda, but I do believe we all need to become more aware and in tune to what that agenda is, and what parts of it are unrealistic and unnecessary to our livestock operations and projects. This gets back to the article that came to my attention, written by Amanda Nolz of Beef Daily Magazine. In her article, Amanda says “Of their priorities, they (the HSUS) have listed 100 goals they want to conquer through legislative propositions in the upcoming months. There are several worth noting that pertain to the animal agriculture industry. I’m becoming increasingly concerned about the future of animal agriculture production, and I’m worried that the HSUS train could be hard to slow down.” She goes on to say “HSUS is doing an incredible job of connecting with consumers—something I don’t think we are doing a good enough job at”.

I agree with Amanda’s assessment that we could be doing a much better job at connecting with consumers and educating them on animal agriculture. This is where you come. If you are raising an animal for an upcoming livestock show, and the animal is a meat animal that will be
marketed for beef, pork, lamb, or chevron, consumers need to know how well you care and look after your animal. Amanda gives a great suggestion for us. She recommends we try the “3-Steps to Connect” method, by “using three points to quickly tell the food production story. 1) Shake their hands, introduce yourself and how you are involved in production; 2) Explain how you care for the land and the animals every single day, because you truly care; 3) Reinforce that your commodity product is a healthy part of a well-balanced diet and that you and your family enjoy the benefits in your active lifestyle.” In Amanda’s article, she also elaborates on the top 100 priorities in the 2009 agenda of the USHS. It was a very eye-opening experience to me when reading her article and this agenda. If you’d like to do the same and learn more about this situation, you can read on at http://blog.beefmagazine.com/beef_daily/

So, the next time you are in the grocery store, a restaurant, or anywhere an opportunity arises to share your story, please do! If we don’t educate our customers and the public on what a safe, wholesome food supply we produce, and how well we care for our livestock, we are missing out. You can be sure someone else is somewhere out there telling the opposite story.

WAITING TO INHALE

Eve H. Honeycutt, Livestock Agent, Lenoir and Greene Counties.

I love the smell of freshly cut hay. As I write this article, it is a very sunny 70 degree day in February. It makes me hope that spring is indeed just around the corner and once again the smell of freshly cut hay will fill the air. For those of you with bermudagrass in your pastures, hayfields, and sprayfields, warm weather usually means you need to begin thinking about the needs of this management intensive summer crop. As you sit idly by, waiting for this grass to transition from winter brown to spring green, start pondering some of the following strategies.

One of the cheapest ways to improve a stand of bermudagrass is to take a soil sample and follow the liming recommendations. Many of you with sprayfields and a waste management plan are required to do this, but it is a recommendation that everyone should follow. Lime is very cheap when compared to some of the other applications made to pasture and hayfields. The optimum pH for bermudagrass is 6.5. Lime should be applied 60-90 days before the crop begins actively growing for the best performance. If you haven’t taken a soil sample for this year’s crop, you should be aware that the wait period on the results right now is around 6-7 weeks. However, soils in Eastern NC are naturally acidic (low pH) so if you haven’t added lime in a few years and you don’t have a recent soil sample, it’s a safe bet that your soil could use some time.

Early March is usually the last best chance to control winter weeds and get them out of the way so your bermudagrass can green up to its full potential. Most of our winter weeds can be controlled with either metsulfuron methyl (Cimarron) or paraquat (Boa). Both of these should be applied according to label directions in late February or early March. Paraquat has a 40 day hay restriction.

Another option is glyphosate (Roundup Ultra), also applied in early March. When using glyphosate, livestock should be removed before making the application and should remain off the treated area for 60 days (same length of time for haymaking). Glyphosate is unique in that you can also use it immediately after the first cutting of hay and your bermudagrass will be unharmed if you following the label carefully. There is a 28 day grazing and hay restriction when using this method. However, you cannot use it in March and then again after the first cutting in the same year. This would stress the plants too much. Using glyphosate after the first cutting is usually only recommended if the area has a severe weed problem.

For those of you with bermudagrass that is not being fertilized with wastewater, the next few weeks are prime time to apply commercial fertilizer. The average bermudagrass stand will produce 6 tons of hay to the acre. Based on the yields from previous years, you can adjust this accordingly. If you do not have a current soil sample it is suggested that the stand receive 40-50 lbs of N per ton of yield, applied in three or four applications, but not after September 1. An additional 40 lbs of P₂O₅ per acre and 180 lbs of K₂O per acre are needed for optimum performance.

All of the recommendations in this article
come from the 2009 NC Agricultural Chemicals Manual. If your bermudagrass is in a sprayfield you should always obey the parameters set in your waste management plan.

Feel free to call your local Extension office with any forage questions. I wish you all good luck with your bermudagrass harvest this year. As you drive by with a big load of freshly cut hay, I’ll roll my window down and take in a big whiff. Aaaahhh…I can smell it already.

Mark your Calendar!
Goat and Sheep Roundup III at the Guilford County Extension Center in Greensboro, NC
August 14-15, 2009

State Graded Goat and Sheep Sales
1st Wednesday of every month at Union County Livestock Auction. Monroe, NC
New* 1st Thursday of every month starting February 5th at Southeastern Livestock Chadbourn, NC

Weekly Goat and Sheep Sale
Every Wednesday at Powell's Livestock Auction Smithfield, NC

NEW NCDA GOAT MARKETING INITIATIVE
Amy Andrews, Livestock Agent, Craven & Jones Counties

NCDA is launching a marketing website for sheep and goat producers. This is a good place for producers to let folks know what they have for sale. Check it out by visiting the following website: http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/livestock/goatandsheep/directory/

SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING FOR GOATS
Amy Andrews, Livestock Agent, Craven & Jones Counties
(information excerpted from JM Luginbuhl and MH Poore, NCSU Dept. Animal Science)

Minerals
As a general recommendation, trace mineralized salt containing selenium should be given to all goats year-around.

Browse & Forages
Goats raised on browse should also be offered high quality forages in order to help meet their nutritional requirements. When forages or browse is limited or low quality (less than 10% protein), lactating does, does in the last 30 days of gestation, and developing/breeding bucks should be fed 1.0 lb/day of a 16% protein mixture such as a 77:20:2.5:0.5 mixture of ground corn: soybean meal: goat mineral: limestone.

Alternatively, ground corn and soybean meal can be substituted by whole cottonseed for lactating does. Low to medium quality forage (greater than 10% protein) will meet requirements of dry does and non-breeding bucks. When forage or browse is limited or of low quality (less than 10% protein) weanlings, and yearlings should be fed 1 lb/day of the 16% protein mixture. Goats can be forced to eat very low quality feed including twigs, tree bark, etc., but producers should be aware this practice will hurt the productivity of superior meat and fiber goats.

COW/CALF MANAGEMENT AND VACCINATION SCHEDULE
Emily Herring, Livestock Agent, Pender County
Adapted from Mel Pence DMV, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Herd Health Programs For a Beef Cattle Enterprise. The full article can be viewed at: http://www.ads.uga.edu/extension/beefteam/pdf/MCurrentprotocol.pdf

For a herd vaccination program to be effective it’s important to use the right tool, for the right job, at the right time. It is not cost effective to vaccinate all of your cattle for all of the possible diseases. Because there are certain diseases that affect different regions it’s important to gear your vaccination program for your herd in your region to get more bang for your buck. Cows and bulls should be boostered for reproductive diseases when they are at a greater risk for the disease. In general the best time to vaccinate the cowherd is about two to four weeks before the breeding season. IBR, BVD, Lepto and Vibrio are some of the most common diseases related to reproduction loss. When a calf is born it has no immunity to diseases but as it receives colostrum in its first hours it
develops immunity. This is why it is important to protect them from calf hood diseases before the time they typically become infected. Diseases of weaned calves are normally respiratory diseases and they need to be immunized two to four weeks before weaning. Some respiratory diseases include IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, and a booster of 7-way Blackleg.

At Calving- ID, weigh, dehorn, castrate and implant calves. Sort body condition score of 4 and below and young cows and put these on a diet higher in nutrition

30 or more Days Before Breeding- For the calves, finish castration dehorning, vaccinate 7-way Clostridial, re-implant all steers if more than 30 days old, implant only the heifers you wish to sell. Vaccinate both the cows and bulls for MLV IBR/BVD, 5-way Lepto, Vibrio. Only de-worm cows and bulls 3 days before the beginning of spring grazing if you are going to move them to a pasture that hasn’t been grazed for months. Do a Breeding Soundness Evaluation for the bulls.

Beginning of Breeding Season- Allow the bulls to be in with the cows.

Sixty to Ninety Days After the Bull Turn In- Take bulls out and check for fly control, if necessary you may want to use a pour on for cows and bulls. For once a year de-worming, de-worm the first of July.

30 or More Days Before Weaning- For calves over 4 months of age re-implant all except replacement heifers, vaccinate against IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, 7-way Clostridia, and Pasteurella.

Prior to Winter Feeding- Balance winter rations and test winter hay.

Weaning Time (calves 5-7 months)- revaccinate calves for IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, Pasteurella while also pouring for lice and de-worming. Re-implant all calves besides replacement heifers and vaccinate them with 5-way Lepto. For cows check for pregnancy, pour for lice, weigh, and re-tag them if needed, and then body condition score them. The only thing suggested for bulls is to pour for lice.

Around July 1- De-worm all calves, cows and bulls

30 or More Days Before Calving- Revaccinate cows for E-coli and re-pour for lice along with the bulls. Pay close attention to the biosecurity of newly purchased bulls/heifers. On day of arrival test for BVD PI, Bangs, Lepto, Johne’s disease and also vaccinate them against IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV, Lepto. To make sure they don’t bring unwanted parasites into the herd also de-worm them upon arrival. After these precautions have taken place isolate the bulls/heifers for 30-60 days for the safety of the herd.

Located above are suggested procedures for a Cow/Calf herd. Your local veterinarian may know more about your herd and area to be able to give more specific recommendations. If you are interested in the new Eastern Carolina Cattlemen’s Alliance a vaccine schedule like above is one of the requirements for the alliance. The alliance is a new marketing opportunity for local cattle producers to maximize their profits. Contact Brandon Cox for more information at Brandon_cox@ncsu.edu or at 910-296-2143

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has two updated rules that will affect concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) with 2,500 or more swine weighing 55 pounds (sow or finishing) or 10,000 or more swine, weighing less than 55lbs (nursery). If you operate a swine farm that falls into this category, then you will need to take action regarding these rule changes. The two rules are the EPA rule for Air Emissions reporting under EPCRA and the EPA NPDES rule.

For the Air Emissions rule, if you participated in the EPA Air Consent Agreement by paying the required fees in 2005, you are not required to take any action on this rule change. The first part of the rule requires farm owners to call local and state emergency management prior to January 20, 2009 to alert them that your farm is over the specified threshold. If you have not already done so, it is recommended that you go ahead and make these calls. Tell them your name

NPDES PERMIT AND AIR EMISSIONS UPDATE

Emily A. Walton – Livestock Agent, Onslow County

For the Air Emissions rule, if you participated in the EPA Air Consent Agreement by paying the required fees in 2005, you are not required to take any action on this rule change. The first part of the rule requires farm owners to call local and state emergency management prior to January 20, 2009 to alert them that your farm is over the specified threshold. If you have not already done so, it is recommended that you go ahead and make these calls. Tell them your name
and address, the integrator you are associated with, and that you’re calling in reference to Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act for animal feeding operations, as required, and that you are reporting ammonia. It is possible that the individual at the agency you call will not be familiar with the reporting requirement, so make a note of the date and time you called and also the name of the person you spoke with. As long as you’ve made the call, you’ve satisfied the requirement to notify these officials. Also, within 30 days of making this call, you will need to submit a written report to both local and state emergency management. You can receive assistance on how to make the phone calls and how to submit the written forms by contacting your integrator, NRCS, or Extension.

The second rule is regarding the NPDES rule. You must choose to operate under one of the following options by February 27, 2009:

1) Operate with CAFO rule NPDES permit. This means you have an NPDES permit with the associated Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) by February 27 that has been reviewed and commented on by the public and approved by the permitting authority, and that complies with the terms of that permit and the NMP.

2) Operate under a no discharge “certification”. This means you do not have an NPDES permit, but operate the animal housing and manure storage areas so as not to have a discharge under any circumstances. A sound nutrient management system is used for land application of manure that complies with agricultural stormwater exemption requirements, demonstrated through modeling that the production facility will not discharge, and this is certified in writing to the permitting authority.

3) Operate under a no discharge validation. Includes everything described in the above option, except a certification letter is not sent to the permitting authority and the facility is operated as a no discharge operation, according to the NMP.

4) Operate without a CAFO NPDES permit. No NPDES permit, but the animal house and manure management system is operated so as not to have a discharge under any circumstance. A sound nutrient management system is used for land application of manure that complies with the Agricultural Stormwater Exemption (ASE) requirements.

There are pros and cons for each of the options available. The exact details of these options are still being determined as this article is being written, and Extension will try to keep you updated on the latest information as we find out. If you feel confused, then don’t feel bad – we have all been confused as well! If you need clarification on any of the information in this article, please contact your local Extension office.

One last note: It will soon be time for the state permit to be up for renewal. Producers should be receiving information about this around the first of April.

Forage Management Tips

March

- Apply nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium to cool-season grasses to increase spring production.
- Begin grazing of fall-planted fescue and clovers when growth reaches 6 inches.
- Overseeding ladino clover into grass pastures should be completed early.
- Spread manure accumulated in pastures where hay was fed or where cattle congregated during the winter.
- Dig weed-free bermudagrass springs and plant them before growth begins; consider using a herbicide.
- Consider controlling winter weeds (ex: henbit, hairy buttercup, etc) with herbicides.
- Grass tetany may be a problem as rapid grass growth and cool, wet weather prevails.

April

- Fertilize cool-season grasses if you have not already done so.
- Watch for symptoms of grass tetany.
- Winter annual pastures should be completely used before grazing pastures that will be harvested as hay.
- To maintain clover in grass pastures and to maintain quality, develop a rotational grazing system in which cattle can graze forage to a 2-inch height before moving to another pasture.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses as soon as dormancy breaks.
Upcoming Events

MARCH

7th - 8th – Eastern NC 4-H Livestock School, Tarboro, NC

APRIL

13th & 14th - Coastal Plains Junior Livestock Show and Sale, Lenoir County Livestock Arena

SPOTLIGHT

Extension Volunteers Recognized

The annual Onslow County Agricultural Awards Banquet was held on February 10th at the Onslow Multipurpose Complex. Recognition was given to the various groups of volunteers that give of themselves to support and expand the work of the NC Cooperative Extension Service here in Onslow County. During 2008, Onslow County Master Gardeners volunteered 3,300 hours of service to local citizens.

Special recognition was given to Willie Wooldridge, Lea Crews and John Burns for their 500 hours of volunteer time and Brian Wheat was also recognized for 1500 hours of volunteer time as Master Gardeners.

Special recognition was also given to Willie Wooldridge, who was named the 2008 Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year for his devotion to increasing the knowledge level of other master gardeners and the public.

Several local farmers received awards for crop production contests:

Corn Yield Champion: Barry Shepard with Dekalb 69-44, 226.02 bushels per acre. Runner-Up: Jack and George Pierce with 162.91 bushels per acre, Pioneer 33M57.

Wheat Yield Champion: Winzell Taylor Jr. with 65.04 bushels per acre, Pioneer.

The Onslow County Agricultural Hall of Fame award was begun in 1984. The nominee can only be inducted to the Agricultural Hall of Fame once, as either a recipient of the Master Farmer Award or the James R. Strickland Service to Agriculture Award. This year’s inductee was for the Master Farmer Award and that inductee was Mr. Jack Aman.

On January 27th 4-H recognized Leona Walton as the 4-H Volunteer Leader of the year. Along with Mrs. Walton all 4-H volunteers were thanked and recognized for the years of service at the annual 4-H Volunteer Leaders Banquet. The theme this year was “4-H..Celebrating 100 Years”.

The Onslow County Extension and Community Association (ECA) celebrated their 2008 achievements on February 24th. The speaker for the event was Mrs. Chase Padgett, Retired Home Economist Agent for the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

The event started off with a memorial to ECA members that had passed away since the last Achievement Day.

Several members were recognized for special awards. They are as follows:

Perfect Attendance – 13 members were recognized for attending all of the club's monthly meetings.

Reading Certificates – 7 members were recognized for reading a total of 115 books and submitting book reports of all books read. Ruth Clifton was recognized for reading a total of 50 books.

Cofer Leader Program Award - Annie Lane received this award for a lesson she presented to her club. All clubs voted on a member that had presented information during the year. Judges then picked the overall winner from reports presented to them.

Most Outstanding Club Member – The following members were recognized after being voted on by the club members as the club's outstanding member: Barbara Crossman – Harmony; Mary Sabourin – Jacksonville; Faye Gould – Meadow View and Barbara Nichols – Sneads Ferry.

Most Outstanding Club – This award is voted on by judges after seeing all the work done by a club's members. This year's award was presented to the Harmony Club.

Extension and Community Associate of the Year – This award is given to an outstanding member that goes above and beyond the call of duty. This year's award was presented to Ida McNamara.

Other awards were given by were not available at the time of this release.

For more information regarding the Extension and Community Association please call Peggie Garner at 455-5873.

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