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## CASWELL AMAZING GRAZING EXTENSION NOTES

### LATE SUMMER 2015

Hello again,

It's been since the spring when I sent out my last newsletter. As I sit at my desk and write this newsletter, I think about all the rain that we need because of the dry summer months. Hopefully, soon we will get adequate rainfall before the fall planting season. I would like to thank all of you for your support that you bestow toward the Caswell County Center.

If the Caswell County Extension Center can be of assistance to you and your farm business in any way, feel free to call me here at the office (336-694-4158) or my cell phone (434-728-5980). Here's some latest information that I hope will help you in your farming enterprise.

### NCSU BCIP Butner Bull Test

Currently, there are 95 bulls on test. This is the largest group of bulls that we have had in several years. Also, there are several Hereford bulls in the test station. It will be a good opportunity for you to find a bull that will fit your needs. The sale will be December 18, 2015 at the Granville County Livestock Arena with the sale starting at 12:00 noon.

### Fall Feeder Calf Sales

Carolina Stockyards at Siler City will conduct one graded feeder calf sale this fall. The date is August 26, 2015. To be sold at Graded Sales, all calves must be less than one year old, males must be castrated and healed, and all must be dehorned. In addition the calves must be vaccinated against Blackleg and Malignant Edema. There are other graded sales in Norwood, Statesville, and North Wilkesboro if this date does not fit your schedules.

If you need consignment forms to designate feeder cattle to one of these sale barns, then feel free to contact me.

### Soybean Rust Update

Asiatic Soybean Rust was confirmed on soybeans in a sentinel plot in Amite County, Mississippi. Earlier, rust had been confirmed on soybeans in Hidalgo County, Texas, and Gadsden County, Florida so far this year. The Mississippi rust is approximately 455 miles from Murphy, the Texas rust is more than 1,000 miles from any NC soybeans, and the Florida rust is

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approximately 315 miles from Murphy, 390 miles from Charlotte, and more than 400 miles from Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Raleigh, Washington, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem. Rust has also been confirmed on kudzu in Louisiana and Florida.

I do not consider these confirmations to signal any imminent threat to NC soybeans. I still consider Steve Koenning's (recently retired Extension Plant Pathologist) and my recommendation to not spray soybeans that have not yet bloomed, nor blooming soybeans that are more than 100 miles from confirmed presence of rust on soybeans, to be a valid recommendation. The current status of rust in the continental US can be found anytime at <http://sbr.ipmpipe.org>.

### **Helpful Hints In Making Corn Silage**

Here are some helpful recommendations when cutting corn for silage:

- 1) Kernel milk-line is a measure used when determining the right time to harvest corn for silage. Around 1/2 milk-line stage of maturity is best. Do not harvest at black-layer stage because silage will tend to be too dry and cows will not utilize the silage as well.
- 2) Corn silage should be harvested when there is 65 to 70 percent whole-plant moisture. Harvesting whole-plant corn with more than 70 percent moisture will increase acidity and seepage therefore leading to lower dry matter intake.
- 3) A 3/8-inch chopping length is recommended but may vary from 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch because of whole-plant and kernel moisture, forage harvester, and hybrid type.
- 4) Silage cutter roll clearance ranges should be set at 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch. If kernel and cob breakage is not complete, tighten the rolls until kernel damage is complete.
- 5) Estimated milk production goes up when the chopper head is raised from 6 to 18 inches because of more fibrous feed and increased TDN (total digestible nutrients).

In conclusion, harvesting corn for silage at the right moisture and particle size is crucial to achieve high quality livestock feed.

### **August-Time To Stockpile Fescue**

Extending the grazing season using cool season grasses and legumes can be one of the most cost-effective practices available to farmers. In North Carolina, this practice is most often accomplished by stockpiling tall fescue in the late summer and early fall. Stockpiling fescue can help reduce feed cost by 50-60 percent.

Standard recommendations in North Carolina are to apply 60 to 80 lbs. of nitrogen around August 15. Typically the quality of the stockpiled forage is as good as or better than the "good hay" in your barn.

To further enhance the utilization of stockpiled forage use strip grazing to limit access. Strip grazing reduces the loss of forage to trampling, bedding on grass, manure, etc. Strip grazing can be accomplished by using temporary electric fencing, which can be moved easily as needed. In work done in North Carolina in 1995, savings of \$20/head was gained by using strip grazing of 47 yearling heifers and 22 first calf cows on 35 acres of unfertilized pasture/hay field - fescue, blue grass, orchard-grass, red and white clover. Don't forget to call our office if you need to use the no-till drill to interseed clovers and grasses into your hayfields and pastures.

## **N.C. Continues to Prepare for Possible Avian Influenza Outbreak**

State Veterinarian Doug Meckes announced additional precautions that are being put in place to help North Carolina prepare for a possible introduction of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is requiring all poultry owners, regardless of the number of birds, to register for an [NCFarmID number](#), Meckes said. This will facilitate the department in alerting poultry owners about an outbreak, especially owners in close proximity to a positive farm. Poultry owners can also sign up for a national premises ID number, but it is not required. Anyone already part of the National Poultry Improvement Plan is exempt from this requirement. An online sign-up form will be available after Aug. 1.

“In planning our response for highly pathogenic avian influenza, one problem we’ve come across is that we can’t protect birds that we don’t know exist,” Meckes said. “We need to know where poultry are located so we can properly protect commercial and backyard flocks.”

Information gathered through NCFarmID registration is used solely for animal health purposes. This critical data will provide animal health officials with necessary contact information in case of an animal health concern, and help identify animals and premises that may have been affected.

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is also requiring any commercial poultry grower with 200 or more birds to submit a HPAI outbreak plan. A commercial grower would be any grower under contract with an integrated company.

“It’s very important that growers think through the worst-case scenario, because a confirmation of high-path avian flu would certainly be a worst-case scenario,” Meckes said. “We want each grower to consider their resources and location to determine how they can best handle an outbreak in a way that is environmentally sensitive and gets them back online as soon as is feasible.”

An HPAI Outbreak Plan template will be available on the department’s website after Aug. 1. Growers will need to submit the plan to the Veterinary Division no later than Sept. 15. While only commercial growers will be required to submit the plan, all flock owners are encouraged to plan ahead and consider how they would respond to a confirmed positive.

Last month, Meckes and Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced that [bird shows and sales would be halted](#) from Aug. 15 to January 15, 2016. The intent is to prevent birds from commingling and spreading the HPAI virus. Individual sales are still allowed to take place.

For more information about avian influenza and the department’s response plans, go to [www.ncagr.gov/avianflu](http://www.ncagr.gov/avianflu) or contact Joey Knight, Caswell County Extension Director at 336-694-4158.

## **On-Farm Fuel Storage Tanks Update**

Last year, Congress mandated a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study to determine the number of total gallons of storage that will trigger regulatory requirements on aboveground storage tanks on farms—the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) rules. To comply, farmers must develop a plan and install secondary containment for regulated tanks to prevent spills or overflows of oil or fuel from reaching waters. Congress told EPA to consider a range of 2,500 – 6,000 gallons and the law set a temporary threshold of 6,000 gallons. On June 30, EPA released the study and said the threshold that triggers the rules should be 2,500 gallons. Now that the study is complete, EPA will start rulemaking to finalize the 2,500-gallon threshold. No date for a proposed rule was given. Contacts: NCFB’s Anne Coan or Paul Sherman, [919-782-1705](tel:919-782-1705). To view EPA’s April 24 fact sheet on farm tank compliance with the SPCC rules visit: [http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/final\\_wrrda\\_fact\\_sheet\\_4-24-15.pdf](http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/final_wrrda_fact_sheet_4-24-15.pdf)

## **August Beef Management Calendar**

### *Spring Calving Herds*

- \* End breeding season early in month if not already stopped; pull bulls
- \* Feed 1st calf heifers separately; give them best forage and supplement if needed
- \* Plan marketing of calves at Fall Special Graded Sales
- \* Continue fly control program
- \* Continue feeding high Selenium trace mineral salt
- \* Continue creep grazing and grazing warm season grasses
- \* Fertilize pastures that will be stockpiled for fall-winter grazing
- \* Move cattle to some hay fields to give pastures a rest

### *Fall Calving Herds*

- \* Body condition score cows
- \* Separate thin cows from supplement until calving rest of the herd, and feed them best pasture or a grain.
- \* Prepare for calving season; make sure you have all equipment and supplies
- \* Continue fly control program
- \* Continue high Selenium trace mineral salt
- \* Move cattle to some hay fields to give pastures a rest
- \* Fertilize pastures that will be stockpiled for fall-winter grazing
- \* Market calves early in month if not already done or continue back grounding calves.

## Southern Forages (Changes, Challenges, and Opportunities)

I have included a flyer pertaining to the Southern Forages Conference that will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2015. The authors of Southern Forages will discuss the influences and factors affecting forage and livestock production and forage management options to make operations more profitable. (Please see flyer for more information)

Hope to see you there!

Have a great rest of the summer!

Sincerely,



Joey E. Knight, III  
County Extension Director

Enclosure: Southern Forages



Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Joey E. Knight, III County Extension Director at 336-694-4158 (phone) or [joey\\_knight@ncsu.edu](mailto:joey_knight@ncsu.edu) (email) or 336-694-5930 (fax), or in person at the Caswell County Extension office at least (5) days prior to the event. Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.



# Southern Forages

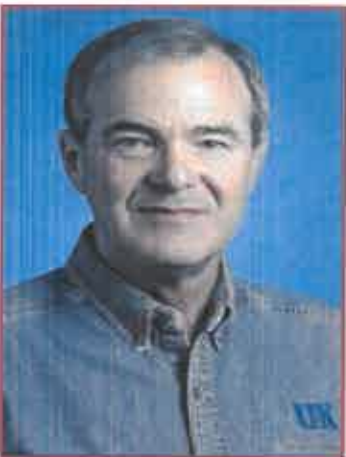
## Changes, Challenges, and Opportunities



Dr. Don Ball  
Auburn University

The authors of Southern Forages will discuss:

- ⇒ Influences and factors affecting forage and livestock production
- ⇒ Forage management options to make operations more profitable



Dr. Garry Lacefield  
University of Kentucky

**Thursday, September 3, 2015**

Guilford County Extension Center  
3309 Burlington Rd. Greensboro, NC 27405

Registration: 6:00 pm

Dinner and Program: 6:30 pm

**Must pre-register by August 28th at:**

**<http://go.ncsu.edu/southernforagesseminar>**

**Cost: \$10/person (pay at the door)**

*Questions?? Call 336-570-6740*

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College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

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