

LIVESTOCK NEWS

A NEWSLETTER PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS IN
BUNCOMBE, HENDERSON & POLK COUNTIES

Buncombe County Center

Spring 2015

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2015 Mountain Cattle Alliance Sale Dates

The Mountain Cattle Alliance was formed by cattle producers in western North Carolina and is a producer-driven alliance. The goal is to create a marketing plan that will benefit cattle operations of any size in a value-added program. This alliance was created in conjunction with the WNC Regional Livestock Center, LLC located in Canton, NC.

The Mountain Cattle Alliance has scheduled several sales for 2015 including spring, summer, and fall sales. Please see the schedule below for additional information about sale, delivery, vaccination, and wean dates. These sales are open to all producers with cattle that qualify on a quality basis. Please call Ethan Henderson at (828) 255-5522 if you would like to consign cattle or need additional information.

Sale Date	Delivery Date	Vaccination Dates		Wean Date	Weights to SE Livestock Exchange
6/2/15	6/16/15	1 st not before 3/18/15	2 nd not after 5/27/15	4/18/15	5/17/15
7/7/15	8/11/15	1 st not before 5/13/15	2 nd not after 7/21/15	6/11/15	6/19/15
8/4/15	9/22/15	1 st not before 6/24/15	2 nd not after 9/1/15	7/24/15	7/18/15
10/6/15	10/20/15	1 st not before 7/22/15	2 nd not after 9/29/15	8/21/15	9/20/15
11/3/15	11/17/15	1 st not before 8/19/15	2 nd not after 10/27/15	9/18/15	10/17/15

Livestock Workshops

If you like to learn more about strategic deworming and adding additional pounds to your livestock, please join us on March 23 at 11:00am, prior to the regular sale, at the WNC Regional Livestock Center for a presentation by Matt Hannah with Merck Animal Health.

Rutherford County Cooperative Extension will be hosting two workshops in April. The first workshop, **Record Keeping**, will be on **April 16 from 1:00-5:00pm** at the Rutherford County Cooperative Extension Center. The next workshop is a **Beef Quality Assurance Training on April 30 from 1:00-5:00pm** with the location to be determined. For additional information and to register for the upcoming BQA and Record Keeping Workshops, please contact Ethan Henderson at (828) 255-5522.

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate in activities mentioned in this newsletter. Please contact Ethan Henderson at 828-255-5522 during business hours at least 3 days prior to the event to discuss accommodations.

NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

AREA BEEF CONFERENCE

“Genetic Improvement of Beef Cattle”

Friday, March 20, 2015 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

To be held at:
The WNC Regional Livestock Center Canton, NC

A meal will be provided during the program.
The workshop is FREE, and registration
is required upon arrival.

AGENDA:

- **Registration (3:00 pm)**
- **Welcome (3:30 pm)**
 - Dr. Philipe Moriel, Assistant Professor, NC State University
 - Bryan Blinson, Executive Director, NC Cattlemen Association
 - Dr. Tom Melton, Deputy Director of NC Cooperative Extension
- **Losing or Winning Money with Artificial Insemination? (4:00 pm)**
 - Dr. Vitor Mercadante, University of Florida
- **Live Cattle Demonstration and Discussion:**
 - **Culling Cows Decisions for Genetic Progress (4:45 am)**
 - Dr. Shane Gadberry, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas
 - **Why Cull Cows Bring What They Do?**
 - Experienced Cow Buyer/Packer
- **Dinner (6:30 to 7:30 pm)**
- **Ask the Veterinarians (7:30 pm)**

For More Information Call
Your Local Extension Agent
or
Dr. Philipe Moriel, pmoriel@ncsu.edu, 828-456-3943

Interested in Profitable Farming on Leased Land?



*An Important discussion about gaining secure access to
farmland in Western North Carolina*

Free and open to the public
BBQ supper provided by our sponsor: Carolina Farm Credit

Access to land and land ownership is often identified as the number one barrier in getting a farm started. Join us as we explore strategies to legally, safely and profitably farm on leased land.

- Thursday, April 9, 2015 from 5:00 to 6:30 with supper served at 6:30.
- Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center, 455 Research Drive, Mills River, NC 28759
- **Please RSVP to Transylvania County Cooperative Extension at 828-884-3109 or email bmrenner@ncsu.edu by April 5th**

Presented by:

Ronnie Holman - Hard Rock Beef Cattle

Bart Renner - NC Cooperative Extension Service, Transylvania County



Spring Should Be Green, Not Yellow

Gary Bates, Director
University of Tennessee Beef and Forage Center
UTBeef.com

One of the most common questions I get about pastures is how to control Weeds. That begins a discussion about which specific weed is in question. There are summer weeds that need to be sprayed during June and July, while there are cool-season weeds that need to be sprayed during the winter. One of the most common weeds we see across the state is yellow buttercup. Driving across the state in May can be quite colorful, with many pastures solid yellow with blooming buttercup. While this might be pretty, it doesn't make for a productive pasture.

Yellow buttercup, like many other weeds, is detrimental because it reduces the yield from a pasture or hayfield. It uses nutrients that should be for the grass and clover. It also decreases the nutrient content and palatability of a field.

Although buttercup is damaging to a farm's forage production, it is an easily controlled weed. Now is the time to start planning for buttercup control. Paying attention to the following details can help you obtain excellent control of yellow buttercup on your farm.



1. **When should I spray?** You need to spray before the buttercup blooms. This is normally anytime between late November and early April. You need to wait to spray until daytime temperatures reach 60 degrees for a few days.
2. **What should I spray?** The ester formulation of 2,4-D is very effective in buttercup control. There are several brand names for this chemical, so read the label to make sure you are getting the right herbicide.
3. **How much should I spray?** For buttercup control, apply 1 quart per acre of 2,4-D. If you have buckhorn or broadleaf plantain, increase the rate to 2 quarts per acre. Apply the chemical in 20-25 gallons of water per acre. It is important that the label is read carefully, and all instructions are followed, including avoiding drift to sensitive crops and waiting periods for hay cutting.
4. **Will this kill my clover?** The 1-quart rate of 2,4-D will not kill established white clover, but it will kill red clover. Higher rates will kill all clover.

Remember that herbicides are just one step in a forage weed control program. Fertilizing and liming according to soil test, and good grazing management will also help reduce the impact of weeds on a pasture. Following these recommendations will help you have beautiful green pastures this spring. Yellow flowers belong in the flowerbed, not the pasture.

Weed Identification

One key component of a successful weed control program is weed identification. Rates and timing can vary depending on the weed that you are trying to control.

If you need help identifying weeds in your pasture or hayfield, please contact Ethan Henderson at (828) 255-5522. **Please remember to always follow the recommendations on the label.**

Current Strategies in Parasite Control in Virginia Beef Cattle

*Dee Whittier, D.V.M., M.S., and John F. Currin, D.V.M.,
Extension Veterinary Specialists, Virginia Tech*

Many advances have been made in the field of livestock parasite control over the past few years. Because parasites decrease production, usually through decreased weight gain, advances in the control of parasites can have a direct economic impact on beef cattle operations. Parasites that affect cattle can be divided into two major categories, internal and external.

Internal Parasites

Internal parasites which affect cattle include: roundworms, flukes, and tapeworms. Tapeworms are not considered to be of economic importance in cattle. Flukes are a problem in the Gulf Coast states and Pacific Northwest, but do not pose a major concern for Virginia cattle producers.

There are several different species of roundworms that can affect cattle in Virginia. Of these species, the one thought to be of most importance is *Ostertagia*, also known as the brown stomach worm. There are several aspects of this worm's life cycle that are important in designing a complete deworming program. Cattle are most susceptible to this worm at less than 2 years of age. Most cows greater than 2-3 years of age have developed immunity to this worm and do not show an economical benefit to deworming. However, deworming of cows can decrease the exposure of younger animals pastured in the same field.

Another important aspect of this roundworm's life cycle is its ability to go into hibernation in the abomasum, or true stomach, of cattle. This is commonly known as the inhibited larval stage of *Ostertagia*. This process can occur during the winter with these larvae maturing and developing into adult worms in the spring. While not common, large numbers of inhibited larvae can cause individual calves to show severe signs of parasitism, severe diarrhea, and rapid weight loss. This condition is known as Type II *Ostertagiasis*. Most but not all dewormers kill inhibited stage larvae.

Deworming

Dewormers for beef cattle come in several forms including paste, injectable, drench, pour-on, bolus, and as a feed or mineral additive. Products also have various lengths of activity and costs. See Table 1 for comparisons. [Table 1. Dewormer products commonly used in Virginia](#)

Strategic Deworming

Strategic Deworming involves developing a program with the goal of maximizing the economic benefit of deworming cattle while also removing the larvae from infected pastures. Animals have often been dewormed at the start of the grazing season and at the end, but this is insufficient. One deworming in the spring is not cost effective because it does not prevent a buildup of the worm burden later in the grazing season. Deworming in the fall may prevent the "sleeping" larvae from doing damage the following spring; however, this is only the case if the right drug is used and cattle are kept off contaminated pastures following deworming.

Newer deworming programs, based on current knowledge of the persistent activity of dewormers, provide for much greater benefits of deworming. Studies have shown that strategic deworming programs can provide 30-100 extra pounds of gain per grazing season. In order to be most effective, these programs should start when cattle are first turned on to pastures to graze in the spring, with subsequent dewormings depending on the length of persistent activity of the chosen dewormer (See Table 1). Studies have also shown that an adjusted strategic deworming program can be accomplished by deworming at turnout and midsummer.

The benefits from doing this type of deworming program are less, however, than for strategic deworming. Consult your veterinarian to help you design the optimal deworming program for your herd.

External Parasites

External parasites which affect cattle include lice, warbles (grubs) and flies. Lice are most commonly a problem in late winter, affecting both younger animals and adult cows. The primary clinical signs of lice are severe itching and hair loss, primarily around the neck and tailhead. The entire life cycle of the louse is spent on the animal's body, making development of a control program easier. There are three stages of the louse's life cycle: (a) nit (egg), (b) larva, (c) adult. All products kill both the larvae and adult stages, but no products kill the nit. In order to completely eradicate lice from a herd of cattle, they must be treated with the product twice 2 weeks apart or treated with a product that has greater than 2 weeks persistent activity. Lice problems will typically clear up as temperatures rise in late spring and early summer, but they can cause decreases in body condition and milk production if severe enough.

Grubs (warbles) are the larval stage of the heel fly that migrates from the animal's heel (where the eggs are deposited by the adult fly in early summer) to the back of the animal. These larvae can cause damage to the hide of the animal and if treated during the wrong time of the year can cause paralysis due to their location near the spinal column. **Cattle should not be treated with grubicide between November 15 and March 1.**

Flies are probably the most common nuisance and have the largest economic impact of the external parasites. The 2 major types of flies are face flies and horn flies. Both of these types of flies cause decreased weight gain in cattle. The two major classes of chemicals currently being used to control flies include pyrethrins and organophosphates. There are several different methods available for applying the insecticides. These include:

Fly Tags - May contain either pyrethrins or organophosphate compounds or both together.

Pour-ons - Have different formulations that provide protection from known resistant fly populations for 2-11 weeks.

Back Rubs - Concentrates of either pyrethrins or organophosphates can be mixed with diesel fuel and applied to the back rub (Must be placed in a high traffic area).

Spray Applicators on Mineral Feeders - Sprays a small amount of chemical on the animal when it sticks its head in the mineral feeder.

Hand Sprayers - Concentrates can be mixed up in sprayers and applied to cattle 2-4 times a month. Because flies can develop resistance to products that contain pyrethrins and those containing organo-phosphates, rotation between the two types of insecticides on an annual basis is thought to reduce the likelihood of the development of resistant fly populations.

Disclaimer

Commercial products are named in this publication for informational purposes only. Virginia Cooperative Extension does not endorse these products and does not intend discrimination against other products which also may be suitable.

Table 1. Dewormer products commonly used in Virginia.

Drug	Trade Name(s)	Delivery Route	Cost for 500 lb. animal	Gets important Virginia worms?	Gets inhibited worms?	Special Features	Persistent Activity Length
Thiabendazole	Moorman's Blonde Block	Block	\$1.00	Sometimes	No		
Levamisole phosphate	Tramisol Injectable Solution	Injectable	\$1.00	Yes	No		
Levamisole phosphate	Totalon	Pour-on	\$1.45	Yes	No	Pour-on convenience	
Morantel Tartrate	Rumatel	Boluses, Feed additive	\$1.25	Yes	No		
Fenbendazole	Safe-Guard, Panacur	Drench, Paste	\$1.35/ \$2.70	Yes	At high dose		
Fenbendazole	Safe-Guard pellets, mineral, etc., Moorman's Moorguard Minerals	Oral consumable	\$1.50 to \$2.00	Yes	Probably not	On pasture or in feed treatment	
Albendazole	Valbazen	Drench	\$1.30	Yes	Yes		
Oxfendazole	Synanthic	Drench, Paste	\$1.00	Yes	Yes	Small dose drench	
Ivermectin	Ivomec Cattle	Injectable	\$2.25	Yes	Yes	Grub and lice control	2 Weeks
Ivermectin	Ivomec Pour-On	Pour-on	\$2.25	Yes	Yes	Grub and lice control, Residual Effect, Pour-on convenience	3 Weeks
Ivermectin	SR Bolus	Bolus	\$10-\$12	Yes	Yes	Grub and lice control	4 Months
Doramectin	Dectomax	Injectable	\$2.75	Yes	Yes	Grub and Lice control 3 Weeks	3 weeks
Doramectin	Dectomax	Pour-on	\$2.75	Yes	Yes	Grub and lice control, Residual Effect, Pour-on convenience 4 weeks	4 Weeks
Moxidectin	Cydectin	Pour-on	\$2.25	Yes	Yes	Grub and lice control, Residual Effect, Pour-on convenience 4 weeks + rain proof	4 Weeks
Eprinomectin	Eprinex	Pour-on	\$2.50	Yes	Yes	Grub and lice control, Residual Effect, Pour-on convenience 4 weeks + rain proof	4 Weeks

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2015 Upcoming Events

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|--------|--|
| Mar 20 | Area Beef Conference , 3:00pm, WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton |
| Mar 21 | 4-H Livestock Judging Clinic , WNC Agricultural Center |
| Mar 23 | Pounds Pay Deworming, Implanting, & Fly Control , 11:00 am,
WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton |
| Apr 9 | Profitable Farming on Leased Land , 5:00-6:00pm, Mountain Horticultural
Crops Research & Extension Center, Mills River |
| Apr 16 | Record Keeping Workshop , 1:00-5:00pm, Rutherford County Cooperative
Extension Center |
| Apr 30 | Beef Quality Assurance Training , 1:00-5:00pm, Rutherford County
Cooperative Extension Center |