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Feeder Calf Sale

WNC Regional Livestock Center - Canton
September 7, 2011 - 7:00 pm
Check-in: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

- Steers and heifers sold by hundred weight
- Calves have to be vaccinated for blackleg and malignant edema
- Cattle are tagged and weighed as received

Grading Guidelines:
L1 - large frame, average or above in thickness
M1 - medium frame, average or above in thickness
S1 - small framed, average or above in thickness
LM2 - variable in frame size, thin to average in thickness

Sponsored by N.C. Cattlemen’s Association
N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
N.C. Cooperative Extension Service
For more info contact:
John Queen - 828-421-3446
Bryan Blinson - 919-422-9108

Leadership and Cattle Handling for Women Producers

The North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service and the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association are working together to offer a second workshop for women who would like more information and hands-on experience with cattle. This time the workshop will be offered here in the West on Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 to 4:00 at the WNC Regional Livestock Center in Canton.

There is no cost to the participants for the workshop or lunch, thanks to a grant from the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association.

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate in activities mentioned in this newsletter. Please contact Steve Duckett at 828-255-5522 during business hours at least 3 days prior to the event to discuss accommodations.
Leadership and Cattle Handling for Women Producers continued

Participants will start the day hearing a presentation from Bryan Blinson, Executive Director of the N.C. Cattlemen’s Association, who will talk about “Becoming a Leader in the Cattle Industry.” This will be followed by Dr. Mark Alley’s presentation and demonstration of “Low Stress Cattle Handling.” The 20 participants will then be divided into four small groups for hands-on activities:

- **Low Stress Cattle Handling** - April Shaeffer, Research Specialist, Animal Science, NCSU
- **Proper Techniques for Vaccinating, Deworming and Ear Tagging** - Lisa Shelton, Beef Quality Assurance Trainer and Farm Manager, John Queen Farms
- **Pasture Management** - Dr. Matt Poore, NCSU Cooperative Extension
- **Calving: Normal Presentation and Difficulties** - Dr. Mark Alley, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine

The workshop will be limited to 20 participants, and the selection will be made on September 27. Anyone who is interested in applying needs to be sure the application is sent to Jeanette_Moore@ncsu.edu and is received by 5:00 pm on September 26. An application may also be faxed (919-515-8753), or mailed: Dr. Jeannette Moore, Campus Box 7621, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7621. The participant application must be written or typed clearly and contain the following information:

1. Name of applicant (must be 18 years of age or older)
2. E-mail address
3. Phone number
4. Mailing address
5. Years of cattle experience: 0-5, 6-10, 10+
6. Type of farm: Cow/Calf, Stocker, Feedlot/Finishing
7. Number of cattle on the farm
8. Type of cattle on the farm (registered or commercial)
9. County the farm is in.
10. Are you a member of the N.C. Cattlemen’s Association?
11. Briefly (1 or 2 paragraphs) explain why you would like to attend the workshop.
12. Briefly (1 or 2 paragraphs) explain what you would like to learn/take home from the workshop.

All applicants will be notified by September 28 as to what their acceptance status is. A third workshop is in the planning process, and we hope to present it in the southeastern part of the state in 2012.

Nickels for Know-How Referendum

*Keeping a Good Thing Going*

It is time again to cast your vote in the Nickels for Know-How State Referendum. The vote will be held on **Wednesday, November 16, at the Buncombe County Center of NC Cooperative Extension, 94 Coxe Avenue, in Asheville.**

Nickels for Know-How is a voluntary assessment of $0.15 per ton on fertilizer and feed that generates approximately $1.2 million for extension, research, and academic efforts in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University. In addition, these funds help provide operating support for our N.C. Cooperative Extension Service Foundation, the N.C. 4-H Development Fund, the North Carolina FFA Foundation, and the N.C. Family and Consumer Sciences Foundation. Please make an effort to come out and cast your vote on November 16.

Fence Line Weaning Reduces Stress During Weaning of Beef Calves

Contributed by Clyde Lane, UT Animal Science

Producers should try to reduce the stress of weaning to improve calf health and subsequent performance and to add value to the calves. The stress of weaning beef calves can be reduced by following a few simple guidelines.

Removal of a calf from its mother is second only to birth in creating stress. Weaning stress can be reduced by letting the calf become familiar with the area where the weaning will take place. This can be accomplished by moving the cows and calves into the weaning pen a few days before the weaning process begins. During this time calves can learn from their dams where the feed and water are located. Calves can also learn from their dams that it is alright to eat the feed and drink the water. At weaning, remove the cows from the weaning area to an adjoining pasture and leave the calves in place. The process of weaning calves while they can have limited contact with their dams is called fence line weaning. The fence should be adequate to keep the calf from reaching through to nurse its dam. Usually 7 to 14 days are required for the weaning to be completed.

The stresses caused by the weaning process can also be reduced by using fence line weaning. Calves that cannot see or hear their dams undergo greater stress. A research trial on different methods of weaning produced the results given in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Nonweaned (Pasture)</th>
<th>Fence Line Contact (Pasture)</th>
<th>Separated (Pasture)</th>
<th>Separated Preconditioned To Hay (Drylot)</th>
<th>Separated Not Preconditioned To Hay (Drylot)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lying Down</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocalization (10 calf group)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>216.7</td>
<td>434.6</td>
<td>371.2</td>
<td>518.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As noted from the table, four different methods of weaning were evaluated. The observations indicate that calves weaned by the fence line method spent less time vocalizing (bawling) than calves weaned away from their dams. The fence line weaned calves also spent less time walking around in the pen than did those separated in a pasture and more time either resting or eating than those separated and placed in a drylot. Common sense indicates that calves that are eating, resting and not bawling are having less stress. These calves will be better able to withstand disease challenges and will have greater gains.

Other things that can reduce stress at weaning are related to management practices. Management practices, such as dehorning and castrating, should be completed prior to weaning. Ideally these practices will be performed when the calf is just a few days of age when there is less sexual development and the horns are smaller, therefore, creating less stress.

Vaccinations should also be completed prior to weaning. This will insure that the calves have acquired immunity prior to weaning. In addition the calves vaccinated prior to weaning will have already gone through the stress caused by the vaccinations. Although the stress caused by vaccinations is quite small, it does not need to be added to the others that occur during weaning.

Weaning should be combined with a minimum of a 45-day preconditioning program so calves can better handle the stress that will occur during shipping, backgrounding and finishing. The key to reducing stress during the weaning process is utilizing those techniques that keep calves calm and eating. Fence line weaning is the best way to wean calves while keeping the stress level low.
Cow Culling—A Management Strategy to Stretch Limited Feed Supplies

Contributed by James Neel, Extension Beef Specialist, University of Tennessee

A systematic culling of beef cows can aid Western North Carolina producers in stretching a limited winter feed supply. Brood cows are the greatest consumers of feed in cow-calf operations. Research at UT indicated that the brood cow consumed 94 percent of the total annual feed consumed by the cow-calf unit in the production of a weaned calf.

A 1,000 pound beef cow will need about 20 to 25 pounds of average or better quality grass hay per head per day during the winter feeding period. Depending on length (days) of the wintering period, this could amount to 1.5 to 2.0 tons of hay or more.

In most herds, there are hay burners that should be culled under normal feeding conditions. Under restricted feeding conditions, such as drought, culling low-producing cows that would take feed from the productive ones would be a profitable practice. Culling cows would reduce the numbers and total amount of hay needed to get through the winter feeding period. It could also result in a little extra feed for the remaining cows and the receipts from marketing of the culls could be used to purchase feed for the remaining herd.

A systematic, constructive approach should be taken to culling cows. Following are some suggestions that would be helpful in making culling decisions:

- Cull open cows first. Open beef cows are a liability. They offer no profit potential, only profit reduction. There are no other options except to cull open cows during a feed shortage.
- Cull older cows. As cows pass 10 years of age, their productivity and market value begin to drop. Cull these cows before they become a profit drain and get them on the market while they can still fetch a respectable market price.
- Cows with physical problems should be culled. Cows with bad udders, bad eyes, crippled or bad feet and legs should be shipped. These cows will only go down hill in production, condition and value. They also create a poor image for the industry. These cows are also more susceptible to stress and are likely to die before grass.
- Cows that calve out of season should be considered for the cull pen. During short feed supply is a good time to get rid of these cows. An argument for keeping these cows might be made during times of a plentiful feed supply, but not in times of feed shortage.
- Take a hard look at late calving cows. Calving dates should be evaluated and those cows that calve late may miss getting bred next breeding season. For those producers working to shorten the breeding season, culling late calving cows would help.
- Poor-producing cows should be critically evaluated. This is the place where a good set of records would be needed. If records are available, cull those cows that produced calves with low weaning weights. If records are not available, take a look at the calves with their dams.
- Cows that lost their calves for any reason should be considered for culling. A reason to cull a wild, easily excited cow is not needed either in times of plentiful or limited feed supply.

While most of our producers are enjoying a fairly good hay year, it is always a good idea to evaluate the cow herd each year. By taking a systematic approach to culling, improvement in performance could be optimized, and the result could be a better cow herd as well as improved feed utilization.
Non-Native and Invasive Forest Plants Workshops for Landowners

The Non-Native and Invasive Forest Plants Workshops for Landowners is a series of six one-day educational workshops featuring presentations by experts in non-native invasive plants that impact North Carolina’s forests. Each workshop will engage regionally-based stakeholder groups in the planning and educational content. These workshops are designed for family forest landowners, but all forestland ownership types and professional forestland managers and advisers are welcome. Commercial and educational exhibits will be displayed at each workshop.

Workshop Dates and Locations:

- September 13, 2011 - Crowne Plaza, Asheville, NC
- October 18, 2011 - Duplin County Extension Center, Kenansville, NC
- February 7, 2012 - Sen. Bob Martin Center, Williamston, NC
- May 1, 2012 - Bur-Mil Park, Greensboro, NC
- May 8, 2012 - Wilkes County Community College, Wilkesboro, NC

Contact the NCSU Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program at 919-515-9563, or by email: forestry_outreach@ncsu.edu to register or for more information.

For General Workshop Agenda see: http://www.ncsu-feop.org/NNI/

Are Your Cattle Handling Facilities in Good Shape?

Contributed by James Neel, Extension Beef Specialist, University of Tennessee

How safe are your cattle handling facilities? Are they in the state of repair that will allow the cattle to be worked easily and with reduced potential risk of injury to both you and your cattle?

Producers working cattle should be aware that there is the possibility of personal injury, especially if the facilities are not in a good state of repair. Most cattle are normally calm; but, when brought into an unfamiliar environment and frightened, they are capable of causing injury to the workers and themselves.

Mature cattle are heavy, strong and easily excitable. Facilities that are in a poor state of repair or constructed of panels or gates that were not intended for working cattle are dangerous.

If there is a weak spot in the facilities, brood cows will find it. If they detect a give in the facilities, they will quickly determine if they can break out. If facilities are in a good state of repair and do not indicate a possible breakout site, the cows will settle down and can be worked.

With the USDA ruling regarding downer cows, an injury to an animal could result in either a severe discount or non-acceptance of crippled cattle at local livestock markets that might be a downer before the animal reaches the harvest site. This is another economic reason for maintaining handling facilities and keeping equipment in a good state of repair.

Before working cattle, check the facilities. Be sure they are safe and strong and the risk of injury is low. If needed, make repairs. Don’t attempt to work cattle if facilities are not in a good state of repair.
Simplifying Farm Recordkeeping With QuickBooks Workshop Series

September 27, October 4 & October 11
9:00 am – 12 noon
Location: BCCES, 94 Coxe Avenue, Asheville

Are you struggling with bills, invoices, income and expense? There may be a computer program that will help you wrestle all your paperwork problems into order. Come learn about QuickBooks and how it may work with your farming business. We will work with the free edition of QuickBooks Simple Start and learn how to manage checking accounts, invoices, bills, receipts, payroll, etc. If financial management is stressing you out, then this is the class for you.

Please let us know if you will be bringing a laptop or need to use a teaching laptop. **Space is limited to 15 participants.** **Registration is $20.00 which will include a copy of QuickBooks for Dummies.** To register or for more information, contact the Buncombe County Center of NC Cooperative Extension at 828-255-5522 or email Melinda Roberts at melinda_roberts@ncsu.edu.

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
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