Livestock Newsletter

Special points of interest:
• 10 hour Animal Waste Training Class
• 2008 Exam Dates
• New Herbicide for Grass Control in Bermudagrass
• High Demand for Poultry Litter
• Website for Listing Your Hay
• VAD Program

Inside this issue:
Animal Waste Mgmt. 1
Forage Mgmt. Tips 1
Bermudagrass—Sprigged Vs. Seeded 2
Meat Goat Marketing 3
Hay Directories 3
Stockpiled Poultry Litter 3-4
Voluntary Agricultural District Program 5

Animal Waste Management
By: Becky Spearman, Livestock Extension Agent with NC Cooperative Extension in Bladen County

10 Hour Animal Waste Operators Certification Training Class

A proper waste management plan and waste application system are vital parts of a confined animal operation. If waste from animal operations is not properly managed, it can have many negative impacts on the overall farming operation as well as the community. The negative consequences of a poorly managed waste application system can cost in terms of dollars, loss of land values, impaired environmental quality, and loss of good standing in the community. Legislation requires certification of operators of animal waste management systems the basic understanding needed to operate and maintain these systems in an efficient and environmentally sound manner.

Animal Waste Continuing Education Classes
April 23 and April 24, 2008 - Bladen County Extension Office. Call Becky or Sherry at 910-862-4591 to register. The cost is $5 for the class or $30 for class and a manual. The manuals and tests have changed this year, so we recommend purchasing a new manual to study for the test. The class will be limited to 40 people, so sign up early.


Forage Management Tips

Tips
From Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina.

March
• Apply fertilizer to cool-season grasses to increase spring production.
• Dig weed free bermudagrass sprigs and plant them before growth begins. Consider using a herbicide.
• Control winter annual weeds in dormant bermudagrass with herbicides, burning or grazing pressure.
• Grass tetany may be a problem as rapid grass growth and cool, wet weather prevails - supplement with a high magnesium mineral.
• Scatter manure from areas where cattle congregate during the winter.
April

- Fertilize cool-season grasses if you have not already done so.
- Watch for symptoms of grass tetany.
- Use all winter annual pastures before grazing on other pastures which may be harvested as hay.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses as soon as dormancy breaks.
- Get all hybrid bermudagrass established this month unless irrigation is available.
- Plant bahia grass, crabgrass, switchgrass. Plant seeded varieties of bermudagrass at the end of the month.
- Graze cool season grasses down to 2-4 inches. Harvest for hay if growth is too rapid to maintain grazing pressure.
- Winter annuals should be completely grazed or harvested for hay before grazing other pastures.

Bermudagrass - Sprigged versus Seeded
By: Becky Spearman

Bermudagrass is the main permanent forage grass planted in Southeastern North Carolina. In the past several years, there have been some new sprigged varieties available and some improved seeded varieties. This article will discuss some of the differences between sprigging and seeding bermuda.

Sprigging Bermudagrass - Sprigging bermudagrass is a relatively dependable method for establishing hybrid bermudagrass.

Some of the Hybrid cultivars include Coastal, Tifton 44, Tifton 78, Tifton 85, Midland 99 and Ozark. Hybrids do not make viable seed and are sprigged. Recommendation for sprigging rate is 50 bushels per acre. It is recommended to plant dormant sprigs in late winter - typically February 20 to March 20 in SE NC. Cover fresh sprigs with 1.5” soil and cultipack. Dormant sprigs (no green leaves) are more desirable than non-dormant sprigs. Dig and transplant on the same day to keep from drying out. The sprigs should be evenly distributed and covered. Plant sprigs less than 2 inches deep. Sprigs may be broadcast or planted in rows. Soil should be well-firmed after planting to improve contact with sprigs and encourage rapid root development. If sprigging results in one healthy sprig every 6 square feet and moisture is adequate, a full stand of grass can be achieved in one year. Don’t graze until complete coverage; graze/hay if weeds are a problem. Use an aerator to help peg down sprigs to promote growth. Pre-emergent weed control (diuron - Direx 4L) is labeled for use in establishment year, if not grazed.

Seeded Bermudagrass - Seeded varieties are newer to the market. Choose a well-adapted variety that meets your needs. Avoid pure sources of Giant or common bermudagrass. Varieties are often blended and sold under different names – check what is in blend. Yields of true seeded varieties are similar to the yields of most hybrids. Seeding rate varies, but most companies recommend 15 pounds per acre. Plant seeds when soil temperature is 65 degrees or higher at a 4” depth - usually by late April. Seed into a well-packed clean-tilled seedbed. Prepare the ground as soon as possible. In the spring to allow the soil to settle. Broadcast seed and immediately cultipack into a firm seedbed. For no-till seeding, control seed depth - not deeper than 1/8”.

Remove seed tubes from disc openers to allow seeds to fall directly in front of the press wheel for good seed/soil contact. Avoid fields with heavy competition such as crabgrass, goosegrass, and nutsedge. There is no effective weed control and stands can be lost to weed competition in the first year. Use glyphosate or paraquat to create a weed-free seedbed. Do not disturb the soil after spraying; tillage encourages more crabgrass germination. For sprayfields, producers must use a Superior Variety (see note below).

Seeded vs. Hybrid for Swine Sprayfields - The Interagency Nutrient Management Committee (INMC) recommended that RYE database assign superior seeded varieties the same yield for Nutrient Management Plans. The INMC has a

Panoramic 2SL herbicide Information from NCSU Weed Specialists

There is now a labeled product for grass control in bermudagrass - Panoramic 2SL. Panoramic 2SL herbicide is an imazapic product distributed by Alligare, LLC. It controls the same weeds and has the same potential to injure bermudagrass as Plateau. Some of the weeds controlled are smooth crabgrass, large crabgrass, broadleaf signalgrass, field sandbur, yellow foxtail, green foxtail, giant foxtail, fall panicum, Texas panicum, barnyardgrass, johnsongrass, vaseygrass, bahiagrass, and yellow and purple nutsedge. Panoramic 2SL will NOT control goosegrass. 4 to 6 ounces per acre will control most labeled weeds. Control annual grasses when in the seedling stage. The rate will range from 4 to 12 ounces, but use the 4 ounce rate whenever possible. This is due to the bermudagrass injury that will be observed. Depending on the grass, 6 to 12 ounces may be needed.

There are no grazing restrictions and a 7 day haying restriction. Panoramic may be applied to common and coastal bermudagrass varieties. Jiggs bermudagrass is more sensitive than other types. Expect 30 to 45 days of bermudagrass suppression after application. Do not apply 1) to drought-stressed bermudagrass, 2) during spring transition, 3) to newly aerated fields for 30 days, 4) to newly sprigged or seeded bermudagrass, 5) to World Feeder bermudagrass. To speed bermudagrass recovery, apply with nitrogen fertilizer as the spray carrier and do not add a spray adjuvant. If spray carrier is water, add a nonionic surfactant at 0.25% v/v or methylated seed oil at 1.5 to 2 pints per acre. Panoramic controls winter weeds such as annual ryegrass, tall fescue, wild oats, and little barley when applied to dormant bermudagrass and can be mixed with glyphosate at this time.

Informa-
**Meat Goat Marketing**

*By Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña, Livestock Extension Agent with NC Cooperative Extension in Richmond County*

So, I’ve got my goats, now what do I do? This is not a good situation for producers to be in. In any new business, it’s important to have a business plan that includes a well thought out marketing component BEFORE you get your goats.

Below are several example marketing strategies that producers are using to successfully sell goats in North Carolina.

**On-Farm Sales** - This is a very common and profitable way to market your goats because you are saving on fuel cost, sales commission charges, and time spent at sale barns. If you decide to do this, you will need to be an excellent advertiser. You can do this by putting a “Goats For Sale” sign near the road in English and Spanish, making your own business cards and putting them in key locations such as the farm store, grocery store, etc., putting your goats on a website so that people throughout the state can find you, putting a flier in Spanish advertising your goats in locations that Hispanics frequent such as Mexican restaurants and stores. You will be even more successful at this if you get involved in County and State goat organizations to network with people who will come to recognize you as a reputable breeder or quality grower of meat. Remember that the consumer must legally take the goat off your farm for slaughter. One disadvantage to on-farm sales is that they can be time consuming, and unless you have a set time for sales, people may come any day of the week and any time of day.

Also, you may not enjoy negotiating the price of your animals. Bio-security can also be a concern.

**Value Added** - You can double or even triple the value of an animal by having your goats slaughtered and selling the packaged meat. You will need a meat handlers license and will need to take your meat to a certified slaughter facility.

You can work with them on getting your own label on the meat for security can also be a concern. Also, you may not enjoy negotiating the price of your animals. Bio-security can also be a concern.

**Weekly Auctions** - Many producers sell their goats at weekly auctions. An advantage of auctions is that little planning or effort is needed in order to find a buyer, however you will have very little control over the price that you will get for the goats. Another disadvantage of graded and weekly sales is “shrinkage”. Shrinkage occurs when animals lose weight from being handled and transported. They can lose between 4-10% of their live weight. Graded sells also occur in an auction format, but are scheduled just a few times a year, and will result in a higher price as compared to weekly auctions since the animals are graded and sorted into uniform groups.

**Hay Directories**

*By: Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña*

Due to the drought, hay supplies are still limited. There are two websites that list hay for sale. If you have hay for sale or need hay, call the Extension Office and leave your contact information.

1. NCDA Hay Alert is at [http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/](http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/)

2. The Southeastern Hay Directory is available online at [www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow/AG/hay/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/onslow/AG/hay/)

**Stockpiled Poultry Litter**

*By: James Parsons, Area Poultry Agent for NC Cooperative Extension*

The high price of commercial fertilizer has greatly increased the demand for poultry litter. A few years ago, some poultry farmers considered poultry litter a liability. It was a waste product that had to be removed from poultry houses and fed to cattle or used as a fertilizer source for crop production. Now, poultry litter is in high demand from crop farmers who want it for its fertilizer value. I have not heard of a poultry farmer recently that had difficulty finding a home for his litter.

While poultry litter is in demand by crop farmers and much is being stock-piled, I think it is time to review some of the regulations related to poultry litter.

1. Poultry litter cannot be stockpiled closer than 100 feet from a perennial stream or perennial waterbody or well.
2. Each field that receives an application of poultry litter must be in some-
someone’s nutrient management plan.

3. Poultry litter cannot be spread with 25 feet of perennial waters.

4. Poultry litter cannot be spread within 100 feet of wells.

5. Poultry litter cannot be spread within 200 feet of a dwelling other than those owned by the landowner.

6. Poultry litter must be sampled within 60 days of application.

7. Poultry litter must be applied at nitrogen agronomic rates or phosphorous agronomic rates if the phosphorous index is above the trigger value for the soil type receiving the litter. Anyone receiving cost share monies must adhere to the phosphorous rates.

8. Poultry litter must be applied to fields on an actively growing crop, a crop that will break dormancy within 30 days or on a field where a crop will be planted within 30 days.

9. Litter that is stockpiled more than 15 days must be covered. Plastic covers will suffice. Over the last few weeks I have seen numerous fields with UNCOVERED stockpiled poultry litter. I hope this litter will be applied according to the regulations listed above and covered if it will be stockpiled more than 15 days. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact James Parsons, Area Specialized Poultry Agent, at 910.296.2143.

George R. Autry
County Extension Director

Recommendations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention of listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension in your county.
Cumberland County Approved as a
Participant in the Voluntary Agricultural District Program

On November 20, 2006, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners approved Cumberland County to become a member of the Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Program. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. The Cumberland County Voluntary Agricultural District will be governed by a Farm Advisory Board composed of nine members which includes: five (5) active farmers, one (1) representative from Natural Resources Conservation Service, one (1) representative from Farm Bureau, one (1) representative from the Cumberland County Joint Planning Board, and one (1) NC Cooperative Extension Agent.

To qualify for the program the farm must:
- Participate in farm land-use taxation
- Be certified as a farm by NRCS or
- Managed according to SCS erosion control practices or
- Subject to conservation agreement

The application procedure for inclusion into the program for Cumberland County is:
- Contact the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension office for an application.
- Return the completed application to the Extension office.
- Application will be reviewed by Cooperative Extension, NRCS, and the Cumberland County Tax Department to ensure the farmland meets the requirements for participation in the program.
- Final approval for participation in the program is given after the application is reviewed by the Farm Advisory Board.
- After Board approval, a Cumberland County Voluntary Agricultural Districts Membership Application must be completed and notarized. The membership application, accompanied by a $14.00 payment will then go to the Cumberland County Register of Deeds to be officially registered.

Approved Voluntary Agricultural District members will be issued a membership sign to display on their farm. A preview of the sign is below.

For applications or additional information please contact George R. Autry, County Extension Director, at (910) 321-6880.