

# Livestock News

Cumberland County Center

July 2012

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For any meeting in this newsletter, persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting the Extension Office where the meeting will be held by phone, email, or in person at least 7 days prior to the event.

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## Important Information

### Horse Blog

Check out the NC Horse Blog with articles on management, nutrition and forages, health care and diseases, reproduction/breeding/foaling, and other topics every week. The blog can be found at <http://nchorse.blogspot.com>.

### Clinton Feeder Calf Sale

The sale will be on September 11th at 7 pm at the Sampson County Livestock Facility. Cattle should be brought to the facility for grading, penning, etc. on September 11th between 7:30 am and 4 pm. For more information or to consign, call Paul Gonzalez at Sampson County Extension at 910-592-7161.



The 2012 State 4-H Livestock Judging and Skillathon Contests were held in June. Pictured above are participants Ben Herndon and Mary Vorder Bruegge. Mary competed in the junior division and won 2nd in oral reasons, 6th in goats at the livestock judging contest, and 11th overall in the skillathon contest. Ben competed in the senior division. Congratulations to all!

### Pesticide Classes in Bladen County

at the Extension Office at 5 pm.  
V Credit on September 4th  
X credit on September 10th

### Motor Vehicle Law Changes

*Article courtesy of the NC Pork Council, Porkline June 22, 2012*

A bill has passed the General Assembly that makes various motor vehicle law changes that benefit farmers and agricultural producers. The bill came as a result of more than a year of negotiations between NC Farm Bureau, the NC Highway Patrol, and the NC Department of Transportation.

The bill adds livestock, live poultry, animal waste to the list of items that can be hauled on a farm trailer without registration; exempts header trailers from registration when being transported to/from dealer or sale; makes changes to prevent farmers from being double-ticketed for not having enough weight on registration; instructs NC DOT to develop an application process by which oversized farm equipment can be driven on controlled access highways or interstates; adds water, fertilizer, pesticides, seed, fuel, and animal waste to the list of materials allowed on light-traffic roads; and provides additional axle weight options for certain vehicle configurations hauling crops, livestock, poultry, forestry products, and other agricultural products. A copy of the bill can be found here:

<http://ncleg.net/Sessions/2011/Bills/Senate/PDF/S749v4.pdf>

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## Animal Waste Management

### Initial Animal Waste Certification Training

There will be a 10 hour initial training class for type A license on **August 1 and 2** at Mount Olive College at 9 am. Call Kim Davis at (919) 731-1520 to register. There will be a class in Duplin County on **September 26 and 27**. Call Amanda Hatcher at (910)296-2143 to register. The 2012 exams are September 13th and November 8th.

### Temporary Adjustments in Lagoon Stop Pump

**Level:** The NRCS Technical Guidance Document allows an optional, temporary adjustment in the lagoon operating procedure. This adjustment allows the operator to pump into the top 8 inches of the treatment volume from June 15th through October 31st to provide irrigation water during drought periods to establish/maintain vegetation in application areas and allow additional temporary storage for excessive rainfall during the hurricane season and winter months. There are several restrictions to the rule. For more information, call your Extension or NRCS Office.

### Storm Warning Permit Information

On October 1, 2009, your general permit changed and some of the permit conditions changed too. Below is the new land application rule in regards to a Hurricane Warning, Tropical Storm Warning or a Flood Watch. If you have any questions, call your Livestock Agent.

Section II 22. Land application of waste is prohibited during precipitation events. The Permittee shall consider pending weather conditions in making the decision to land apply waste and shall document the weather conditions at the time of land application on forms supplied or approved by the Division. Land application of waste shall cease within four (4) hours of the time that the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Hurricane Warning, Tropical Storm Warning, or a Flood Watch associated with a tropical system including a hurricane, tropical storm or tropical depression for the county in which the facility is located. Watches and warnings are posted at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) or by calling your area NWS office.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

Date	Location	Time	Contact
November 8th	Scotland County	9am (6hrs)	910-277-2422
November 29th	Bladen County	9am (6hrs)	910-862-4591
December 4th	Cumberland County	9am (6hrs)	910-321-6872
December 14th	Sampson County	9am (6hrs)	910-592-7161

**Hay Directories** are below for people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay.



1. North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/>. Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222. You can sign up to list your hay on-line.
2. The Southeastern NC Hay Directory is available at <http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/67/HayDirectory.pdf>. Call your Extension Agent to learn how to include your farm on the list.
3. Cumberland County Hay directory is available at [http://cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/26/hay\\_directory\\_march\\_2012.pdf](http://cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/26/hay_directory_march_2012.pdf)

## Forage Management Tips

*From Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina*

### JULY

- \* Continue a four to six-week schedule of nitrogen applications on summer grasses. Do not delay application because of dry weather unless it has not rained at all since the previous application.
- \* Maintain harvesting frequency for quality hay.
- \* Hot dry weather can result in nitrate and prussic acid poisoning of animals grazing stunted, highly fertilized summer annuals.
- \* Sample soils and apply lime on fields to be planted in the fall.

- \* Decide which fescue pastures to stockpile. Apply nitrogen (60 to 80 pounds/acre) around September 1st.

### AUGUST

- Apply lime to pastures with pH below 5.8 to be over seeded.
- Start harvesting corn silage in the hard dent state and when the dry matter is between 35% to 40%.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses.
- Fertilize fescue and keep cattle off of the pastures to be stockpiled.

## Not too Soon to Get Ready For Winter

*By: Tyrone Fisher, County Extension Director and Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County*

Although it is summer, temperatures are constantly in the 80's, 90's, and even the 100's. A farmer must always be preparing for the future, especially if he is utilizing his pastures as resource for feeding their animals.

Many grasses can be planted on tilled land or sod-seeded into bermudagrass. Combinations of bermudagrass and well-managed winter pasture are an excellent nearly year-long approach to horse pasture. Well-managed winter pastures can provide forage from November to late May or early June, depending on the forage combinations. Rye will usually provide earlier grazing, grow better during cold, and produce excellent forage yield. Winter pastures can be greatly refined and fitted to individual needs. These forages have to be established annually, which creates the disadvantage of being more troublesome and costly. However, because they have a high nutritional value, the cost can be easily offset when compared with the cost of purchased feeds.

Cattle grazing studies show that oats are more palatable than wheat, wheat is more palatable than rye, and rye is more palatable than barley. Cattle consume all classes of small grains, and the same is true of horses. It is wise to plant these in pure stands for horses, since they tend to be more selective grazers. Annual ryegrasses are an excellent choice for the North Carolina. They can be easily established as pure stands in clean tilled fields or in grazed off bermudagrass. They provide excellent forage from March to June. There are several excellent varieties.

The key to a successful clean-seedbed winter pasture is getting it established as early in the fall as feasible and developing the plants as fast as practical while fall weather is favorable for growth and fall stockpiling of forage. Moisture and plant nutrition are the limiting factors in getting good stands and rapid plant development. Over seeding winter forages into bermudagrass residue is a common practice. Over seeded winter pasture coupled with proper fertilizer can produce economical winter and spring pasture. Many horse farms over seed pastures into bermudagrass because more extensive land area is unavailable for tilled pastures. Over seeding any cool-season annual grass into bermudagrass is often done with special planting equipment that will place the seed in contact with the soil or into a furrow up to 1 inch deep. Broadcast planting or planting with a common drill can also be done successfully. Most no-till drills satisfactorily plant into a

grass sod. Some drills have a fertilizer attachment so that a nitrogen-phosphorus starter fertilizer can be placed with the seed. Common grain drills and fertilizer spreaders can be used to affect a no-till drill planting, which is especially applicable when more precise no-till drills are unavailable. The common drill technique usually results in better stands than broadcast seeding does.

Broadcast planting can be successful where drills are unavailable. Good stands of winter pasture can be achieved by broadcasting seed into bermudagrass or other grass residues. Some kinds of winter pasture perform better in this case than others. Although the efficiency of getting a stand from broadcast plantings is lower than that with a drilled stand, broadcast stands can be successful. Good fertilization and rotational grazing allows good pasture production from these broadcast-planted stands. Clovers or ryegrass can be broadcast-planted on the soil surface of clean tilled lands before or after drilling.

Summer time is the best time to start locating and confirming your resources. Sometimes droughts or a natural disaster from previous years in other parts of the country makes certain varieties limited or unavailable. Need to start planning your budget to prepare for gas, fertilizer, and weed application cost.

Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office if you have any questions.





## Summer Fly Control

By: Randy Wood, County Extension Director and Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Scotland County

Beef cattle farmers must contend with controlling flies in their herds every summer. Some cattlemen make this a bigger priority than others. Regardless if you view this as a major economic management issue or as an after thought, flies (namely face, horn and stable flies) are a major external parasite that you and your cows must deal with. Dozens of studies on fly management conducted on beef cattle around the country have all shown that the blood loss, aggravation and other health related issues (such as pink eye) are all a potential source of money loss in a beef herd. Even if you don't personally see the economic advantages of controlling fly populations on your cows, we have a humane obligation on helping our animals deal with this issue.

### A few quick management reminders on fly control:

All parasites (both internal and external) are extremely good at developing resistance to the chemicals that we use to control them with. Make sure that regardless of what type of chemical delivery method you are using that you rotate your active ingredients (and the base chemical class if at all possible) from year to year.

If you are using back rubs make sure you keep them charged throughout the summer, and take them down during the cold months to avoid residual flies being exposed to sub-lethal doses of insecticides after fly season is over.

Fly tags will have a limited effective life so do not apply them until the fly population has started to build up on your farm and on your cows.

### A note on fly control in bulls (with excerpts from Damon Pollard, Burke County CES)

Recently, studies on the effects of Pyrethroid insecticides in bulls have been getting a lot of publicity. In a nutshell, a limited number of studies that have been conducted on this issue have shown that exposure to Pyrethroids will have a detrimental short term effect on semen quality in bulls. These studies are pretty limited at this time, and while no clear consensus has been reached on how this should affect the use of Pyrethroid insecticides in bulls, there is enough evidence for cattlemen to start to think about their own situation when it comes time to manage flies around their bulls. This is especially important if you have a spring calving season or if you calf year round and

your bulls are breeding cows in the summer.

At this point, the biggest problem is that there has not been a large number of research trials conducted on this issue. What limited research that has been published seems to center around the chemical Bifenthrin. Bifenthrin is a synthetic pyrethroid that is commonly used in insecticidal fly sprays. In one trial, exposure to Bifenthrin shows a significant decrease in semen motility for 60 days after exposure. While it is still at this point unclear exactly how much beef producers should alter their management decisions on this issue, here are a few items to consider as a general rule of thumb;

Only use Pyrethroids in one form of fly control, not in two or more. For example, the three most commonly used fly control methods are fly tags, back rubs and sprays/pour-on applications. Most farms will use a combination of two of these methods over the course of the summer. In this case, make sure that only one of these methods is using Pyrethroid as its base chemical. So if you're using a Pyrethroid chemical as the charge on your back rubs, use an Organophosphate fly tag in combination, and vice-versa.

Make sure you are accurately mixing any Pyrethroid sprays and backrub charges and are not making them too strong. The higher the exposure rate to the chemical the greater the detrimental effect.

While I am not at all advocating that beef farmers stop using all forms of Pyrethroid fly control measures on their bulls, caution should be taken as to when and how much you use.

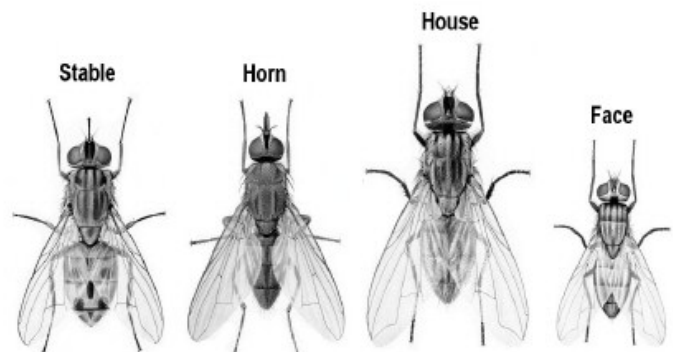


Photo from Michigan State University Extension

## Contagious Ecthyma or Sore Mouth

By: Mandy Harris, Extension Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County

Contagious ecthyma, also known as orf or sore mouth is a zoonotic disease, which means that it is easily transmitted from animals to humans. It is categorized by acute pustular lesions in the skin of goats, sheep, and wild ruminants world-wide. Sore mouth is a viral disease that is very prevalent in North Carolina. The disease results in great losses in the sheep industry. Young animals are the most susceptible to the disease and can contract orf after a few weeks of birth. The most frequent outbreaks in young animals are postweaning.



Sore mouth is caused by a poxvirus that has an affinity for the skin. Infection occurs from direct contact. The incubation period is short and susceptible animals usually develop symptoms four to seven days after exposure and can take one to four weeks to run its course.

Outbreaks occur more often during periods of extreme temperatures, such as late summer and winter. The disease starts out as papules (an elevation of the skin) and then progresses to blisters before encrusting. They can spread around the outside and inside of the mouth, face, lips, ears, vulva, lets, scrotum, teats, and feet, usually in the interdigital region. If lesions get too bad on the feet, it can cause lameness in affected animals. The infection is spread by direct and indirect contact from infected animals or infected tissue or saliva containing the virus.

During the course of the disease, blisters breakdown and release more of the virus and then turn into wet pus-like scabs. These can last for three weeks and can pose more of a problem if development of a secondary bacterial infection occurs. These scabs are extremely painful and can cause sick animals to go off feed. Infected kids and lambs

can pass the disease on to their mothers by nursing. The lesions on the udder are due to direct contamination during nursing that causes mastitis. Animals with sore mouth may also experience severe to moderate enlargement of lymph nodes, arthritis, and pneumonia. After contracting the disease, most animals acquire immunity, but additional outbreaks in herds are common with a less severe form of the disease.



Lesions can be treated with an application of three percent iodine solution. Animals are cured spontaneously in most cases. In severe cases that result in secondary bacterial infections, antibiotics are recommended. It is very important to treat the lesions on the teats of the ewes and does to prevent mastitis from developing. Infected lambs and kids need to be fed artificially.

To prevent and control orf, stress from transportation should be minimized, always quarantine new animals before introducing them to the rest of the herd or flock, separate sick animals in an outbreak, always feed and treat sick animals after feeding the rest of the herd or flock, incinerate gloves and all tissues that come in contact with lesions, and always wear gloves when handling sick animals.



## 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit

By: Tiffanee Conrad-Acuña, Extension Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Richmond County



4-H'ers are gearing up for the fall livestock show season. Many of them already have their animals and are starting to break them to lead. While others are anxiously awaiting the time to go and pick out their animal. Participating in livestock shows takes a lot of time and dedication on the part of 4-H members and a lot of patience on the part of

the parents! These youth are the future of agriculture. We appreciate them for the promise they bring to continue to grow our food or to be advocates for others who do!

Youth ages 5-19 years may show at any individual county show that they have an interest in. Forms can be found on-line in July at this website address: <http://hoke.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=youth4h> or you can work with your county Agent if you don't have internet access. If a 4-Her from Alexander, Anson, Bladen, Catawba, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Lincoln, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, or Union County wants to be part of the Circuit, they will have an opportunity to show at several local county shows and the points add up towards an overall Division Champion. Each youth must pay a \$10 fee and show in a minimum number of shows depending on what animal species they show. The showmanship circuit is co-sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit and Cape Fear Farm Credit and is judged based on the youth's showmanship ability and not the quality of the animal. The goal is to make the animal look its best. This allows for a fair judging process, because if the youth work with their animals everyday, they will be successful. The kids work hard at feeding their animals, and learn everything they possibly can about them. Not only do they learn about livestock, they also enhance their responsibility, self-esteem, and record keeping skills. They make new friends from all across the state that have the same interest in animals as they do.

4-Hers who are interested in joining the Circuit from other counties need to speak with the Agent in their county about participating. Their Agent will then notify the Circuit coordinator by February 28<sup>th</sup> and the new county will be voted on by the board. There is a \$100 commitment that each county pays every year. Eastern Counties may also be interested in joining the Eastern Circuit and may

call Eve Honeycutt at 252-527-2191 for more information about showing goats or Walter Earle at 252-237-0111 for lambs and heifers.

The 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Banquet will be held this November in Montgomery County. The youth each receive a t-shirt and winners are awarded belt buckles, banners, and ribbons. New this year is a Show-Rite Meat Goat Showmanship Clinic in Raleigh on July 21. The clinic will be taught by Kevin Mock and Bronc Fleming. They are world renown instructors for showmanship. They will teach one class for youth and one for their parents. For a flier and registration form, please go to [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/ah4h.html](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/4hyouth/ah4h.html).

If you would like to learn more about youth livestock opportunities, please call your local Extension office today. We are looking forward to the start of a successful 2012 show season starting in August!

