

Livestock News

Cumberland County Center

January 2014

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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

Cape Fear Regional Cattle Conference

The fifth annual conference will be held on Tuesday, January 21st, at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center, 1027 Hwy. 74 East, Lumberton, N.C. This conference is an excellent opportunity to receive updates on the cattle industry, learn new management practices, and visit with other cattle producers in the area. The program includes a meal and time to visit with vendors. There will be a \$5 charge to help cover speakers and meal costs - pay at the door.

Schedule

- 4:00 p.m. Registration and visit with vendors
- 4:30 p.m. North Carolina Cattlemen's Association Update
- 4:45 p.m. Avoiding Drug Residues in Beef Cattle & Important Diseases for the Cow-Calf Producer in NC - Dr. Geoff Smith, NCSU College of Vet Medicine
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner and visit with vendors
- 6:45 p.m. Weed Control in Forages – Leon Warren, NCSU Weed Science Technician
- 1 hour of Animal Waste Continuing Education Credit will be given.**
- 7:45 p.m. Wrap up and evaluations

To register for the conference or if you have any questions, please call the Bladen Extension Center at 910-862-4591 by Tuesday, January 14. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact Becky Spearman at 910-862-4591 or by email at becky_spearman@ncsu.edu by January 10.

NC Forages and Grasslands Council Winter Conferences

The same program will be at 3 different locations across the state starting on January 28 in Kenansville, January 29 in Statesville and January 30 in Canton. Program starts at 1 pm and topics include Opportunities and Challenges with Multi-species Grazing; The Future of the NCSU Forage Program; Planning and Implementing Successful Grazing Systems; and a producer panel on Developing Grazing Systems. Price is \$20-\$30. The flyer is at http://www.afgc.org/affiliate/doc/2014_WC_Flyer_North_Carolina.pdf

Peak-season Soil Testing Fee - \$4

NCDA & CS will be charging a \$4 fee for all soil samples processed by the lab during December through March. There will be no fee from April through November. Payment should not be placed inside shippers. Clients can enter sample and payment information online or set up an escrow account.

Change in Waste Sampling Fees - \$8 per sample

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**COOPERATIVE
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Empowering People · Providing Solutions

Animal Waste Management

Initial Animal Waste Certification Training

A 10 hour training class for type A license will be on **January 29 & 30, 2014** at the Bladen County Extension Office from 10 am - 4 pm both days. Cost of the class and manual is \$35 or \$5 for just the class. Call 910-862-4591 to sign up by January 24th. The 2014 exam dates are March 13, June 12, September 11 and December 11.

Animal Waste Operators must send in their \$10 renewal fee for their license to DWR by December 31st. There is a 30 day grace period to submit your \$10. You can go to this website to check and see if your fee has been processed. <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/tacu-renewal>

Change in Soil Sampling Frequency for Swine Farms

There was a change in legislation this year on soil sampling on swine farms. **The soil testing frequency stated in G.S. 143-215.10C(e)(6) has been changed from annually to every three years.** So farms that did a soil test in 2012 will be good until 2015. If you did a soil test in 2013, then you will be good until 2016.

NOTE: The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has recently changed their name to Division of Water Resources (DWR).



Developing Personal Risk Management Plans Workshop

Risk has always been a part of agriculture, but farming in America has changed drastically over the past few years. Increasingly, farmers are learning that it is now a game with new risks. The most successful farmers are now looking at a deliberate and knowledgeable approach to risk management as a vital part of their plan. For them, risk management means farming in a more rapidly changing world. It is the ability to deal with risks that comes with new farming opportunities.

Farmers generally deal with five types of risks. They are Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Issues, and Human Resource Issues. Farmers will have the opportunity to learn more about these risks and develop their personal risk management plan by attending a series of three risk management

workshops. The objective of these workshops is to teach farmers how to understand and implement farm business planning principles for successful risk management decision making.

The first in the series of workshops will be held on **January 14, 2014**, at the O.P. Owens Agriculture Center in Lumberton. The workshop will be from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm with registration sign-in starting 8:30 a.m. The other workshops are scheduled for February 11 and March 11. Pre-registration is required to participate. Please register early as space is limited to 35 participants. Travel will be reimbursed to the workshops and lunch will be provided. Please call Nelson Brownlee to register for the class by calling 910-671-3276.

Hay Directory

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. It lists people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay for sale on-line.

Forage Management Tips

From Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina

JANUARY

- * If winter pasture is limited, feed hay in the pasture or allow cows to graze every other day. The priority for limited pasture is (1) calves by creep grazing, (2) stockers, (3) nursing cows, and (4) dry cows.
- * Winter annual pastures that were planted on a prepared seedbed may be severely damaged if animals trample on them during wet periods. Allow calves first priority to these high-quality annual pastures.
- * Sample hay and send to NCDA lab for analysis.
- * Determine animal feed requirements for the year and outline a 12 month forage plan to meet animal's needs.

FEBRUARY

- * Apply nitrogen to cool-season grasses to stimulate early spring growth.
- * Lime fields that will be prepared for spring plants.
- * Locate sources of hybrid bermudagrass sprigs for planting next month.
- * Burn warm-season grass residues in late February or early March.
- * Get herbicide sprayers ready to control weeds in dormant bermudagrass fields.

Ways To Be Safe When Putting Hay Out This Season!

By: Kaitlyn M Cranford, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Moore County
from the article Large Round Bale Safety

With all the rain and warmer weather, most have not started thinking about feeding hay and moving the large round bales of hay around. But when the time comes to start putting hay out there are a few key safety tips to keep in mind.

Baler Machinery Safety

Large round baling creates unique safety problems for farmers. Large round balers have many moving parts that can cause injury or death if a person becomes entangled. Never leave the tractor seat until the PTO has been disengaged and all moving parts have stopped. Balers and bale handling equipment should carry warning signs or labels and all safety warnings should be read.

When handling larger round bales, assure that the size of the tractor has been matched to the size of the baler. A small tractor for a baler may be pushed down a hill. With insufficient traction on grassy slopes, its brakes may lock, causing the wheels to slide and the tractor go out of control.

Many fatal accidents have occurred when a by-stander has become entangled in a baler during its operation. The following mechanisms require special attention: 1) Gathering tines and bale chamber belts - they cannot be shielded and must be avoided while the unit is in operation. 2) Baler gate - it can close on a bystander (Figure 1). As an operator, make sure that everyone is clear before engaging the equipment.



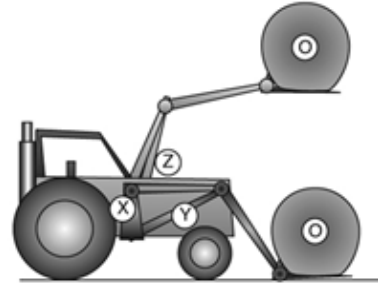
One last very important tip for machinery is to keep a dry chemical fire extinguisher on the tractor. Heat can build up due to friction created by contact of dry hay or forage material with faulty bearings and baler belts. Farmers report that this friction and overheating has caused bales to ignite. People have been burned trying to deal with a baler fire.

Front-End Loaders

Many people use front-end loaders to move and stack large round bales. Use caution when hauling large round bales or any heavy load on a front-end loader so that you avoid side overturns and being crushed from a bale rolling down upon the tractor. It is extremely important that the size of the tractor

and loader are matched properly to the size and weight of the bales being handled.

Side overturns result from the change in the tractor's center of gravity due to the additional weight of the bale. Figure 2 shows what happens to the center of gravity.



The normal center of gravity with a front-end loader is at the point marked "X." When a large round bale is carried on the front-end loader close to the ground, the center of gravity moves forward, represented by point "Y." The point marked "O," or half the diameter or length of the bale, is the bale's center of gravity.

Some operators will carry the load high for improved visibility while driving. However, when the loader is raised as shown, the center of gravity moves to the point marked "Z," which is both forward and higher than the original center of gravity, "X." In the raised position, the tractor is less stable and the potential for side overturn increases.

The chance of side overturns increases when carrying a load on the front-end loader, especially on slightly rough ground. Moving the center of gravity forward causes a transfer of weight from the rear wheels to the front, making it much easier to bounce a rear tire off the ground when passing over bumps or holes. Plus, the additional weight on the front tires may exceed the axle and tire load-carrying capacity.

A loss of traction occurs when weight is transferred from the rear tires during bale handling. This can be a problem when moving bales up a slope or on wet soil. Loss of traction can result in a braking loss on all surfaces. Mounted front-end loaders should be used when the load is properly counter-balanced by adding weight to the rear of the tractor. This additional weight will bring the center of gravity back to the original center.

With some of these important safety tips in mind operators as well as by-standers should be safer when putting hay out!

A Few Thoughts on Bull Fertility

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

With the holiday season upon us, a lot of cattle farms are preparing to get their bulls turned out for the winter breeding season. Bulls are sort of like accountants to a lot of farming operations. You don't need them very often, you only pay attention to them for a few weeks out of the year, but at the end of the day they are an awfully important factor in determining if you will make any money this year.

For an animal that is responsible for up to 40 calves every year and ½ their genetic makeup, we are all guilty of taking something so valuable and hard working for granted. *At least we get mom some flowers once a year and maybe take her out to dinner.* So with breeding season just around the corner, here are a few notes on bull management.

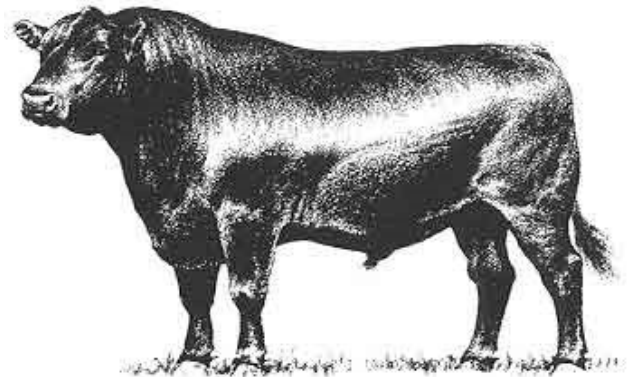
Never use a strange bull without getting a Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) no more than 60 days before the breeding season. Any reputable bull sale will have this done as a standard practice, but with private treaty bull sales this may not have been done. Even older bulls that were successful breeders the year before can get injured, get sick or even gotten too old, all of which can cause a major drop in fertility from year to year. If there is one disaster you do not want to experience it is finding out a few months after the fact that your herd bull took a year off from breeding any cows.

Young bulls need extra attention. If they are just a yearling or even a 2 year-old that has never covered any cows before, make sure you watch them carefully at the start of the season. Spend some time heat checking and watching any new/young bulls covering these females. While your neighbors may talk about your new hobby behind your back, visually confirming that a young bull can successfully copulate with a receptive female may potentially save you a major headache down the road. Another tactic is to make a note on your calendar of which cows are being bred early in the season then re-checking them 17-23 days later to see if they come back in heat. If a majority of these cows are not re-cycling then you can feel pretty confident that the bull is getting the job done.

Pay attention to how much weight loss a new bull occurs as the breeding season progresses. All bulls, but especially young bulls, will drop some weight while running with a cycling cow herd. However, if a bull gets below a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 4 you potentially

could run into some fertility issues. If this happens, do whatever you need to do to increase his nutrition level. Hand feed him daily, reduce the number of cows he is with, even putting him up for a couple of weeks may be necessary to keep him from getting too worked down.

How many cows are you going to breed a bull too? The age-old rule of thumb is that starting at a year old, a bull can cover a cow per month of his age. In other words, a two-year old bull (24 months) can cover around 24 cows. The maximum number to stop at is a little bit of a debate. No doubt that you should be conservative with younger bulls (less than 2-3 years of age) but with mature bulls a lot of farms will work them pretty hard. Bulls are expensive, and good bulls tend to be really expensive. A lot of cattle farmers have the opinion that bulls only work for 2-3 months out of the year, so they expect them to really work during that time, say in the range of 35-45 cows. There are some considerations to make when it comes time for you to determine how much risk you're willing to take along these lines. Is the bull in good shape at the start of the season? In terms of both weight (a BCS of 6-7) and good physical shape walking around the bull lot. Is your breeding season in the winter or the summer? A bull cannot exert himself the same in the dead of summer as he can in the winter. Has this bull shown that he is an aggressive breeder and covered ample cows the year before? Finally, are you willing to get more calves out of this one bull but risk him potentially missing a couple of cows in return? Depending on how you feel about these risks will determine if you want to be conservative and stop at say 30 cows versus being aggressive and running him to 40-50 cows.



Kidding/Lambing Management

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

The first thing to think about around kidding time is getting the does ready. You can give them vaccinations and shots 30 days prior to kidding. It is a good idea to give 2 cc of *Clostridium perfringens* CD and Tetanus toxoid combination and possibly Vitamin E and Selenium. Fifteen days before kidding, the doe needs to start receiving an increased ration with more protein and TDN. When the doe starts milking, you can increase her nutrition even more. The most stressful time in a doe's life is during the lactation stage, which is why body condition is very important. Free choice mineral is also very important to keep them healthy.

Kids are born worm and coccidia-free. They start ingesting them after birth from their environment such as from the doe's feces, the ground, and pastures. We have had a particularly rough worm season this summer because of all the rain we received and lots of does have a higher worm load than they usually do going in to kidding season. That is why it is important to deworm the doe a few weeks before her due date with a dewormer that is safe for pregnant does. She is in a fragile state, so handle her gently. It will also help the kids if the doe is eating a feed with a coccidiostat in it to prevent them from ingesting a lot of coccidia eggs. It will be effective to deworm kids when they are 1 month of age because that is when they will start to eat solid food and you can also give them feed containing a coccidiostat at this time. You can help to prevent kids from getting coccidiosis by keeping their pens and bedding clean and dry, keeping water fresh, and not crowd areas with too many goats.

As kidding approaches, you may need to move does to a cleaner and dry area. Start preparing a kidding pen or area with clean dry straw. After the kid is a few days old, you can switch to shavings, but straw is better for kidding so that shavings don't stick to the baby while the doe is trying to clean it up. It is important to understand the signs of labor in does so that you can be prepared. It is recommended to isolate her on the early due date which is around 145 days gestation. This is where good breeding records come in handy. Does usually kid in late afternoon or early evening. These are good times to check on her. The early signs of labor include: restlessness, smelling the ground, pawing at bedding, looking behind her, lifting tail, rising and lying down frequently, increased urination, udder fills up, and a white discharge appears.



A doe may show all these signs or only a few of them. During the delivery, you can remove water buckets so that babies don't drown, and stay with the doe in case she needs assistance. The signs of final labor include: extensive discharge, strong labor pains, ears stand out and lips curl, straining, a fluid filled bubble may appear, water breaks, and feet or nose will become visible. Does usually deliver with the head lying on the forefeet with the chin on the knees or with both rear legs in the birth canal first with the kid's back facing up towards the does' back. These positions are usually normal and won't require any assistance. Abnormal positions include: head first with only one foreleg forward, head first with no legs forward, breach position with rump and tail first, and feet first with head turned back. Some important things that you may need in your kidding kit include: disinfectant (for naval), old towels, ob sleeves, lubricant, bulb syringe, and a flashlight. It may be necessary to clear the newborn's nose and mouth of any fluid. You can use a baby bulb syringe to do this easily. Kids should try to stand within 15 minutes of birth. It's a good idea to dip the naval with diluted iodine or nolvasan. Kids need 4-8 ounces of colostrum within the first 4 hours of birth. Kids acquire immunity to most diseases from their mother in utero and from colostrum, which protects them for the first 30 days. After that, they need their own vaccinations. It is important to work on your herd-health program with your veterinarian and always read the label when giving medication or vaccinations. All the above information applies to sheep as well.

If you need help with kidding information, please call your local Livestock Agent. The Richmond County Adult Meat Goat Club also has educational meetings on the first Monday of every month except during the summer at 6:30 pm. There are no membership dues and farmers from all counties are welcome to attend.

Keeping Your Horse Comfortable During Cold Weather

Written by Mike Yoder, PhD, NCSU Equine Specialist

Submitted by Tyrone Fisher, County Extension Director and Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett Co.

The Christmas song, *Baby it's Cold Outside*, made famous by Lee Ann Womack with Harry Connick, Jr., pretty well describes the 2013 winter to date. To make matters worse, 65^o one day, followed by 36^o the next, is hard on humans and horses alike. I have put on a jacket more times this winter than in the past 3 winters combined and more than once pulled out a heavy jacket for a 26^o morning. So, what about the comfort of your horse?

As is the case with humans, some horses handle cold temperatures better than others. A normal Fall, when temperatures decline steadily over a two-month period allows healthy horses to grow a full winter coat. The normal equine winter coat will protect most horses from cold temperatures and wind but, throw in rain on top of wind and chilling temperatures and even the best of coats may not provide adequate relief. This is the Rule of Two out of Three. Simply put, a healthy horse can generally withstand a combination of two of the three extreme environmental conditions (wind, rain, cold temperatures) but may need assistance keeping warm when all three conditions exist in combination. Then, there are always those horses that do not grow sufficient coats to handle even two of the three factors comfortably.

Options for helping horses handle the winter weather include, stabling the horse during extreme weather, blanketing the horse as needed or providing windbreaks that provide needed protection. Just a quick word about stabling horses during the winter. Most barns are built more for human comfort than for that of the horse. Avoid heating barns if horses are going to be spending at least part of their time outdoors each day. Research indicates that horse health is enhanced if the inside temperature of the barn is no more than 10^o warmer than the outside temperature. So, if the inside of your barn is more than 10^o warmer than the outside, you may need to blanket your horses when turning them out.

So, when should you blanket your horse? Answer: when all three of the above mentioned weather conditions exist or when the temperature drops low enough to make your horse uncomfortable. Observe your horse multiple times each day to be sure it is not shivering. A horse that is really cold may shiver like you and I do. If your horse has a poor winter hair coat, you should anticipate this problem. If the weather report calls for cold temperatures, wind and precipitation and horses do not have shelter, make plans to blanket those horses that need it. Remember, just because your horse didn't show signs of being cold during one weather event, does not mean it won't the next time.



Blankets come in all different sizes and colors and, like cars, come with many options. Do you want a closed front or buckled/Velcro front? How much insulation do you want? What denier should the outer shell be? Denier refers to the fineness of the yarn/thread that was used to make the product and thus, the ability of the material to keep wind and water out. A higher denier indicates a higher level of protection and durability. How much insulation do you want, 200 grams, 400 grams? Do you want a cut-back neck line or regular? The cut-back neck line works well for some horses and may actually help the blanket fit better.

To provide the greatest comfort and to avoid slippage, a blanket should fit the horse properly. Measure the horse from the center of the chest to the point-of-the-buttock (as viewed from the side) to determine proper blanket size. Blankets may be sold according to the length in inches or as Small (60"-66"), Medium (69"-72") or Large (>74"). If you will turn horses out in a blanket during cold weather, it should be a heavy duty blanket with double stitching and reinforced stress points.

For extreme cases, you may also include a hood. Hoods give extra protection and are made having most of the same properties as blankets. Hoods should have large eye holes, so the horse can see effectively and usually attach to the blanket by means of one or more elastic straps so the horse may extend its head to the ground for feeding purposes. Also, for horses turned out in a blanket, be sure the blanket and hood are waterproof. During extended rain your horse will likely get at least partially wet anyway, but water proof materials will extend the protection and extend the life of the blanket. Higher quality blankets may include materials that actually wick-heat and moisture away from the horses skin if the horse gets too hot. This is particularly helpful for young horses that may run and play while blanketed and when temperatures vary throughout the day.

A couple of points to remember: 1. We blanket the horse to protect it from the elements. Some horses will actually sweat from being blanketed, especially if a hood is used in combination. If your horse sweats while wearing a blanket, cool the horse and re-evaluate the need for a blanket at that temperature. 2. When purchasing blankets for turnout, it is recommended that materials of greater than 1200 denier be used because of their strength and durability. 3. In cold weather, feeding additional hay to horses will actually help generate more body heat than feeding an equal amount of additional grain; a practical way to keep your horse comfortable during cold weather.

Conservation Considerations

By: Gavin Thompson, District Conservationist USDA-NRCS in Bladen County

Now that the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season and New Year's celebrations have ended, it's time to get back to business. Hopefully you have taken time to rest, enjoy being with family, and enjoy the fruits of your hard labor in 2013. All the summer crops should be harvested and winter crops should be growing well. I'm sure you're busy collecting bills/receipts from this past year and balancing the books to see how everything turned out financially last year in preparation for taxes. When you get finished with that, I would encourage you to take a look back at what you did for natural resources conservation last year. If you had fields that washed out during the heavy rains this year, did you repair these gullies or washouts? How much of that field's soil was lost? How much money was attached to that soil in terms of lost production and expensive nitrogen and potash fertilizers? If you raise livestock, how was your livestock management? Are your cattle, hogs, chickens, turkeys, etc. healthy? Have you provided the most sanitary conditions possible for them (clean water, clean air, ample high quality food and forage)? What did you do with mortality from your operation this year (and was that the best thing to do for the environment)?

Many people look at "conservation" as an added expense to their operation. You may have even thought to yourself that you can continue to patch the problem cheaper than you can fix it. That may be true in the short term, but in the long term is that sustainable farming? Down the road, will you have anything left that is worth repairing? Conservation practice installation is a long term investment that pays dividends throughout the life of the practice. The best part is that it pays dividends to you, the farmer, but it also benefits the entire community that is impacted by those resources. When you stop erosion on your farm, for instance, you are benefitted by the soil and nutrient savings. If you fence your cattle out of the stream that they drink from and instead provide them with a permanent clean water source, your cattle will be healthier and make you more money. If you were having a dead haul truck dispose of your farm's mor-

tality and you install a composter you will have reduced your risk of cross contamination from the dead haul trucks coming onto your farm. If you were burying mortality, you will improve water quality and if you were incinerating you will improve air quality with the composter. The entire county benefits from the improved water and air quality associated with the reduced sediment and nutrients entering the streams and rivers of Bladen County. This is precisely the reason NRCS offers cost share assistance to install approved conservation practices.

Many conservation practices are eligible for cost share assistance for installation. Common practices include no-till, cover crops, grassed waterways, field borders, filter strips, fencing, livestock watering facilities, stream crossings, animal mortality facilities, waste storage facilities, tree planting, prescribed burning and the list goes on.

Contact your NRCS office today at the number below with any questions or to request an appointment to have a conservation plan developed specifically for your operation. Your conservation plan will be your guide to sustaining your farming operation well into the future and will help you address the resource concerns on your property, as well as make you eligible for cost share assistance.

Local Offices (you may need to choose an extension for the NRCS office when you call):

Bladen County	910-862-3179 ext. 3
Cumberland County	910-484-8479
Duplin County	910-296-2121
Harnett County	910-893-5101
Hoke County	910-875-8111
Johnston County	919-934-7156
Moore County	910-947-5104 ext. 101
Richmond County	910-895-3950
Robeson County	910-739-3349
Scotland County	910-895-3950

No Arsenic In Poultry Feed

By: James Parsons, Area Poultry Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension

I have had several calls recently regarding arsenic in poultry feed and litter. There is NO arsenic in poultry feed and has not been since June 2011. The following information taken directly from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website provides information about the past use of 3-Nitro as a coccidiostat in poultry feed and the termination of its use. Please be aware that arsenic is an element that is present in the environment as a naturally occurring substance or as a result of contamination from human activity. It is found in water, air, and soil in organic and inorganic forms.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today announced, June 8, 2011, that Alpharma, a subsidiary of Pfizer Inc., will voluntarily suspend U.S. sales of the animal drug 3-Nitro (Roxarsone), a product used by poultry producers since the 1940s.

The move follows a recent FDA study of 100 broiler chickens that detected inorganic arsenic, a known carcinogen, at higher levels in the livers of chickens treated with 3-Nitro compared with untreated chickens. FDA officials stress that the levels of inorganic arsenic detected were very low and that continuing to eat chicken as 3-Nitro is suspended from the market does not pose a health risk.

“FDA detected increased levels of inorganic arsenic in the livers of chickens treated with 3-Nitro, raising concerns of a very low but completely avoidable exposure to a carcinogen,” said Michael R. Taylor, FDA deputy commissioner for foods. “We are pleased to announce that the company is cooperating with us to protect the public health.”

Arsenic is in the environment as a naturally occurring substance or as a contaminant and is found in water, air, soil, and food. Published scientific reports have indicated that organic arsenic, a less toxic form of arsenic and the form present in 3-Nitro could transform into inorganic arsenic. In response, scientists from the FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine and the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition developed an analytical method capable of detecting very low levels of inorganic arsenic in edible tissue. Using the new method, FDA scientists recently found that the levels of inorganic ar-

senic in the livers of chickens treated with 3-Nitro were increased relative to levels in the livers of the untreated control chickens.

Alpharma decided to voluntarily suspend sale of 3-Nitro and to facilitate an orderly process for suspending use of the product in the United States. Alpharma’s plan provides for continued sales of 3-Nitro for 30 days from today. The company stated that allowing sales for this period will provide time for animal producers to transition to other treatment strategies and will help ensure that animal health and welfare needs are met. In addition, the company is working with the FDA to examine all relevant scientific data regarding the use of 3-Nitro in animals.

In 1944, 3-Nitro became the first arsenic-containing new animal drug product approved by the FDA. It is used primarily in broiler chickens. Combined with other animal drugs, 3-Nitro has been used by some in the poultry industry to help control coccidiosis, a parasitic disease that affects the intestinal tracts of animals. It has also been used for weight gain, feed efficiency and improved pigmentation.

FDA has consulted with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is working with Alpharma to minimize the impact on the animal agriculture industry as 3-Nitro is suspended from the market.

For more information:

- [FDA Study on 3-Nitro \(Roxarsone\) and Chicken](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm257540.htm) found at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm257540.htm>
- [Questions and Answers Regarding 3-Nitro \(Roxarsone\)](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm258313.htm) found at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/ProductSafetyInformation/ucm258313.htm>

