

# Livestock News

Cumberland County Center

May 2015

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## Contact Us

NC Cooperative Extension  
 Cumberland County Center  
 301 E Mountain Drive  
 Fayetteville, NC 28306  
 (910) 321-6860 Phone  
 cumberland.ces.ncsu.edu

Liz Lahti  
 Extension Agent, Livestock  
 Elizabeth\_joseph@ncsu.edu

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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## Regional Chicken Show

The Regional Chicken Project was an opportunity for youth in FFA and 4-H in the Cape Fear Region to learn more about chickens. Youth chose hen or broiler chicks to raise. They completed a project record book to record their care and knowledge learned about chickens. The youth attended a beginning care and a showmanship training to prepare their projects.

On May 14, the youth will participate in a Regional Chicken Show, where they will demonstrate to the judge their knowledge of the bird. At the end of the project the youth will have the opportunity to donate their broilers to process for local food pantries or keep for their own processing. The hens can be kept to lay eggs for a potential egg business or the hens could be sold for profit.

You can join us for the chicken show on Thursday, May 14th at 5:30 pm at the Bladen County Parks Soccer Field located on Hwy 701 just south of Elizabethtown. For more information, call Becky or Stacie at 862-4591.



Disclaimer - The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

## Horse Blog

The blog has articles on management, nutrition, health care, reproduction and other topics every week. The link is <http://nchorse.blogspot.com>.



## Bladen County Voluntary Agriculture District (VAD)

Bladen County adopted a Voluntary Agriculture District program in 2007. The purpose is to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. You can enroll your farm in the program by completing an application and paying the \$65 fee. The fee provides a membership sign for your farm. For applications and information, contact Bladen County Cooperative Extension.

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## Animal Waste Management News

By: Amanda Hatcher, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Duplin County

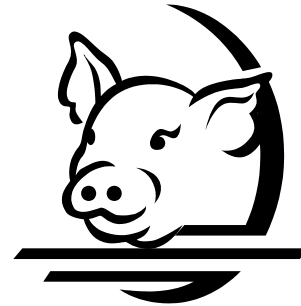
### Here are a few deadline reminders:

- Sludge surveys: complete once a year (unless you have an extension from NC Division of Water Resources (DWR).
- Irrigation calibrations: complete once every other year.
- Soil samples: complete once every three years on fields receiving animal waste (including poultry litter and sludge). We are now past the peak season so samples for North Carolina residents are processed at no cost to the resident now through the end of November.
- Waste samples: complete within 60 days before or after a waste application. Cost through NCDA & CS is now \$8 each.
- Notify DWR of changes (change ownership, operator-in-charge, address, etc). For forms, see the following website for copies <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/aps/afo/report>, call DWR at 919-807-6464, or contact your local extension agent for assistance.

### Upcoming classes related to animal waste:

May 7 from 2-5pm in Goldsboro OR  
May 19 from 2-5pm in Kenansville OR  
May 21 from 2-5pm in Burgaw (choose one site only)  
Credit: 3 hours animal waste, 1 hour pesticide  
Topics: storm expectations, sludge surveying, understanding pesticide labels.  
To sign up: Call the county in which you want to attend:  
Goldsboro: 919-731-1521  
Kenansville: 910-296-2143  
Burgaw: 910-259-1235 (no cost to attend)

The next 10-hour class is tentatively planned for July in either Greene or Lenoir Counties.



## Hay Directory

North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayaalert/>. 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*

### May

- \* Plant summer annuals at two-week intervals to stagger the forage availability.
- \* Fertilize warm-season grasses with nitrogen after each cutting or every four to six weeks on pastures.
- \* Spray pasture weeds while they are small (3 inches) for most effective control.
- \* Do not apply nitrogen to fescue pastures from April until August.

### June

- \* Soil sample fields to be overseeded or planted in the fall.
- \* Apply limestone as far in advance of planting as possible.
- \* Consider a late planting of summer annuals.
- \* Cross fence to help manage feed quality.
- \* Graze bermudagrass close (1 to 2 inch stubble) and harvest any growth not grazed every four-six weeks.
- \* Control summer weeds before they get too mature.

## Summer Weed Control in Bermudagrass

By: Dan Wells, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Johnston County

Summer is almost upon us, and it will soon be time to make hay and graze bermudagrass. Along with that are sure to come some issues with summer weeds in this forage. This article will deal with some of the more common weed problems and strategies for control.

The most critical component of weed control is to properly identify the weed or weeds to be controlled. Certain weeds just simply do not respond well to certain herbicides, or control may be dependent on a particular timing of application. Your local Cooperative Extension Agent can help you identify problem weeds, or you can consult the *Weed Identification in Pastures and Hayfields* publication available at your local Cooperative Extension Office.

Right now there are many cool season weeds still present, such as henbit, chickweed, Carolina geranium, dandelion, cudweed, buttercup, curly dock, etc. Ideally, these weeds would have been controlled earlier in the spring or during a warm period of late winter. Most of these weeds have entered their reproductive stage and gone to seed, so killing them now would clean up the first cutting of hay, but the weeds will return next winter and spring. All of the weeds above, except cudweed, respond very well to metsulfuron-methyl, or Cimarron Plus. Two applications of Cimarron Plus may be required for satisfactory control of cudweed species. Better control of cudweed can be achieved with Banvel (dicamba) or WeedMaster, which is a mixture of 2,4-D and dicamba. Weedmaster is also an excellent choice for buttercup or dandelion, but is poor on henbit and chickweed. If you've seen these species this year, you'll most likely see them next year, so be ready to control these cool season weeds in February-March next year. Early control is especially important for control of curly dock, which has a deep strong taproot and can be very hard to control once it begins to bolt.

Now to turn to what's ahead. Warm season broadleaf weeds such as dogfennel, marestail, amaranth, horsenettle, and lambsquarter are beginning to emerge, along with grassy weeds such as crabgrass and sandbur. Cimarron Plus or Weedmaster offer fair to good control of most of these. For dogfennel, a product containing triclopyr, such as Remedy or Crossbow, offer excellent control. Marestail responds best to Banvel or Weedmaster.

Horsenettle is one of the more problematic warm season broadleaf weeds. Of the more common broadleaf herbicides, Weedmaster is more effective, but may require repeated applications. The best time to control horsenettle is during the thirty or so days between flowering and fruit set. Pyridine herbicides, such as Chaparral and ForeFront, offer much better control of horsenettle, but these herbicides require very careful stewardship due to their high residual activity. These chemicals are transported in hay and pass

through the animal's manure and urine, so off-site movement of the chemical occurs very easily. If hay is transported to a sensitive crop area, damage is very likely. Also, if animals have been eating forage treated with a pyridine herbicide, either as pasture or hay, the chemical will pass through their waste for three days after they cease eating treated forage. So moving animals to a sensitive crop area, even if the sensitive crop will not be planted for months afterward, is very likely to result in damage. In fact, many of these herbicides' labels now carry the requirement that hay treated in the preceding 18 months shall not leave the farm where it was produced. Pay very careful attention to label requirements and consult with your Extension Agent before selecting one of these herbicides.

Grassy weeds that are likely to be a problem this summer include bahiagrass, crabgrass, fall panicum, sandbur and goosegrass. Bahiagrass can be controlled with Cimarron Plus if applied at a higher rate before first seedheads are set, with the ideal timing being late April-May. Pastora also offers excellent control of bahiagrass at this same time. For certain annuals (crabgrass, sandbur and panicum) Pastora is about the only post-emergent option in bermudagrass, but must be applied before these plants reach 2-4 inches in height. If you've had these weeds in the past, be scouting fields to find them germinating and initiate control early. Goosegrass will not be controlled with Pastora. Another option for these weeds, along with goosegrass, is to apply Prowl H2O pre-emergent during the dormant period. So, if you see these weeds this summer, plan to apply this pre-emergent treatment late next winter.

Since we've mentioned Pastora, I think it's also worth mentioning that yellowing of bermudagrass for a couple of weeks after application of Pastora is normal. Pastora should not be applied to bermudagrass that is stressed by severe weather conditions, drought, low fertility, disease or insect damage. Keep in mind that Pastora has two chemicals; metsulfuron-methyl and nicosulfuron. Metsulfuron is the same active ingredient found in Cimarron, so if you are only targeting broadleaf weeds sensitive to metsulfuron, and are not targeting any grassy weeds sensitive to nicosulfuron (crabgrass, ryegrass, sandbur) then you're really not helping matters to select Pastora over Cimarron Plus.

There are certainly many more considerations to controlling weeds in bermudagrass forage, and many more weeds that could be a problem than were mentioned here. My hope is that this article will provide food for thought and stimulate you to think about weed control. Producers are strongly encouraged to visit with their Extension Agent in making plans to control weeds, and always follow label directions for applying herbicides and observing grazing and harvest restrictions.

## Fly Control in the Beef Herd

By: Becky Spearman, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Bladen County

It is that time of year when we have to worry about fly control in our herds. We talk a lot about integrated pest management (IPM) and fly control is one place where it is critical. One thing to remember is that you will never have 100% fly control, but you can manage them.

The first step is to know what flies are the problem, so you can decide control methods and timing. There are several flies that are a concern in beef cattle. The horn fly is considered the most economically important fly pest in beef herds. Horn flies are biting flies that feed on cattle and cause blood loss, annoyance and reduce calf weaning weights. Horn fly presence is temperature dependent, while abundance is influenced by humidity and precipitation. So during wet and humid weather, populations peak. Other flies of importance include the face fly (not seen much in coastal plains), stable fly, house, horse fly and others. This article will discuss options for horn flies. There are many control options available, but unfortunately none are permanently effective. Using combination methods is most effective.

The recommended threshold to start treating cattle is when levels reach 200 flies on the cow. Figures 4b and 4c give you an illustration of what a cow with 100 and 200 flies will look like. It is best to look at multiple cows to determine when to start treating, not just one cow.

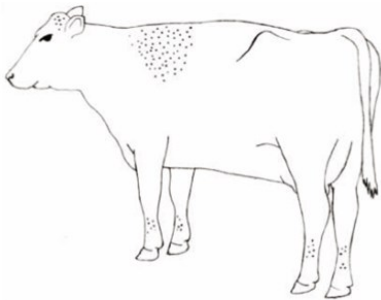


Figure 4b. Illustration of a cow with 100 horn flies.

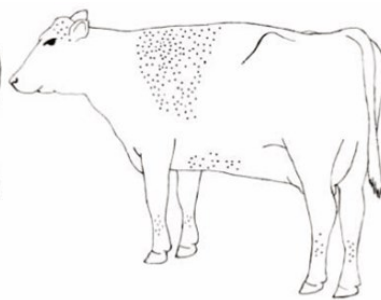


Figure 4c. Illustration of a cow with 200 horn flies.

**Topical sprays/pour-on products** are the quickest method to knock down fly populations. Most labeled products do a good job, but they have the shortest residual control of the methods. They are considered a secondary method especially for early and/or late season control. Pour-on dewormers are included here and offer 2-3 weeks of effective fly control if timed correctly (spring deworming in late May).

**Back-rubs** have been used for a long time and work very well if managed correctly. First they must be set-up in an area where cattle pass-through regularly (gate between pastures, in front of a water trough, a mineral feeder, etc.). Second, you must rotate the charging chemicals from year to year and keep charged regularly throughout the summer.

**Insecticide Ear Tags** or fly tags are easy to use and are one of the longer acting methods of controlling flies, but resistance is a concern. There are many brand names and active chemical ingredients available. The three main chemical classes are Pyrethroids, Organophosphates, and Endectocides. No matter which fly tag you use, here are some tips.

1. Tags have a limited life span, so use them when threshold numbers approach 200 flies (June time frame).
2. Rotate insecticide chemical classes. Don't use the same insecticide year after year. Read the label to know the active ingredient. There are several different chemicals *within* the same class, so switching the brand may not switch classes.
3. There has been much documented resistance of flies to fly tags over the years, especially with the Pyrethroids, but rotating between chemical classes every year will spread out this resistance greatly.
4. Remove insecticide ear tags when they are no longer effective, when the label recommends or in the fall.

**IGR Minerals** (Insect Growth Regulator) and similar products have been in use for 20+ years. They are additives that can be given in several forms including through minerals or boluses. They reduce the number of fly eggs hatching in manure and hay piles. For operations that do a good job with their mineral program and is either isolated or surrounded by cooperating farms, this system works well. The down side of feed-through products is that they work by controlling the fly population in a very specific area. If you are in an area with several other cowherds not using an IGR product, you cannot control the area population effectively.

**Walk-through Fly Traps** have been around for a long time, but have made a comeback due to organic, all natural beef and dairy farms. There are several designs and they work by brushing the flies off the backs as the cows walk through a gate area. At the top of the trap is a box made of transparent material (such as plexiglass) that traps the flies as they naturally fly up to try to get out. The advantages are the trap does not use any chemicals, so resistance should not occur and it works well all season long. The biggest disadvantage is price and availability. Lower-end models will cost several hundred dollars initially and require regular up-keep. Cattle must pass through for them to be effective.

**Putting it Altogether** - No matter what system you use, rarely does one method give you complete control. Most farms that do a good job controlling flies will use a combination of two or more of the above methods. Decide what works for your operation considering time, money, and how you manage your cattle. For more information, call your Extension Agent.

## Spring Time is Here and the Trails are Open!!!

By: Tyrone Fisher, County Extension Director with Equine Responsibilities - N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County

As the April showers end and the May flowers start blooming, equine riders hit the trails to enjoy nature. Here are a few tips so you can enjoy your time on the trail with family, friends, and your horse!

### Travel responsibly

- Stay on designated roads, trails and other areas open to horses.
- Ride single file to reduce trail damage. Spread out in open country where there are no trails. Spreading out disperses impact and avoids creating a new trail.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers.
- Riders should match their skill level to the temperament and ability of the horse they ride.
- At trailheads or staging areas, park vehicles and secure horses to provide a safe distance between the horses and passing traffic.
- Less experienced horses and riders should ride behind more “trail-wise” horses and riders.

### Respect the rights of others

- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Be prepared to let other trail enthusiasts know what needs to be done to keep you, the horse and other passersby safe when you meet.
- Be alert and aware of the presence of other trail enthusiasts. If possible, pull to the side of the trail when you hear oncoming off-highway vehicles or bicycles.
- Leave gates as you find them. If crossing private property, ask permission from the landowner(s).
- Do not disturb historical, archeological or paleontological sites.
- Avoid “spooking” livestock and

wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.

- Water animals in areas where stream banks and water access can withstand hard use and are downstream from campsites.

### Educate yourself

- Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to your type of pack animals.
- Make a realistic plan, stick to it and tell someone of your plans.
- Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures and permit requirements.
- Check the weather forecast. Plan clothing, equipment and supplies accordingly.
- Carry a compass or a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and know how to use it.
- Carry water and emergency supplies even on short trips.
- Keep groups small and carry lightweight gear to reduce the number of animals needed.
- Pre-plan camp locations with plenty of room and the proper environment for confining animals.
- Take responsibility for your horse’s education. Introduce it to vehicles and situations it may encounter on shared trails.

### Do your part

- Pack out what you pack in. Carry a trash bag and pick up litter.
- Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites and camping 200 ft. from water resources and trails.
- When selecting a campsite, choose a site that accommodates your horse without damaging the area.
- When breaking camp, remove or

scatter manure, remove excess hay and straw, and fill areas dug up by animal hooves.

- Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- Bring pellets, grain or weed-free hay where feed is limited or grazing is not allowed. Helps reduce the spread of invasive species.
- Wash your gear and support vehicle and check your animal before and after every ride to avoid the spread of invasive species.
- Build a trail community. Get to know other types of recreationists that share your favorite trail.

### Conclusions about trail riding:

- Slowing a horse down on the trail shows control and trust
- Let horse investigate unfamiliar objects – remain patient
- Reward for success
- The more you put your horse in safe situations, the more it will have confidence in you as a rider
- Try to find someone who rides the trails in your area and join them
- Join or visit a horse organization (clubs or state horse council) and ask for advice on where to ride
- Check out state park websites for horse trails and maps
- Consider you and your horse’s level of experience, the difficulty of the terrain, your horse’s conditioning, etc.
- Add a route with a potable water source so your horse will be able to drink or loop to the trailer if riding all day and there are no potable water sources.



Source:

## Pneumonia in Goats and Sheep

By: Taylor Chavis, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Robeson County

As summer approaches, the risk of goats and sheep getting pneumonia increase. Most producers think that pneumonia only occurs in the winter months, but with increasing temperatures, humidity, and the chance of wet weather makes for perfect conditions for pneumonia in the summer. Pneumonia can also occur year round and can be devastating to the whole herd.

Not only the drastic change in weather can make animals more susceptible to pneumonia, but management practices can also play a role. Kidding stress, transportation stress, overcrowding, dirty conditions, ventilation issues, lung parasites and changes in feed are also contributors. Making sure to do best management practices will reduce the chance of your animals getting sick.

### What is pneumonia?

Pneumonia is an infection or inflammation of the lungs and can be caused by bacteria, virus, and parasites. It is a common respiratory problem in goats and sheep. It occurs mostly in kids, but can affect adult goats and sheep. Pneumonia causes the lungs to become inflamed and weak and can result in severe damage. There are several types of pneumonia and can be difficult to detect which type the animal may have. It is important to have a good working relationship with a veterinarian to get an accurate diagnosis and the most effective treatment.

### What are the symptoms?

There are several types of pneumonia. The most recognizable form of pneumonia usually has symptoms of elevated fevers above 104 degrees Fahrenheit, yellowish-green nasal discharge, and heavy, labored breathing.

Signs of other types of pneumonia are coughing, crackle like sounds, difficulty breathing, eye discharge, nasal discharge, depression, weight loss, off-feed, and death.

### Treatment Options

It is important to work with a veterinarian when diagnosing and treating pneumonia. Pneumonia can be devastating to the animals, so prompt treatment is key. A veterinarian only prescribes some medicines. Veterinarians can also provide extra label use.

Medicines that are effective in treating pneumonia include, penicillin, ampicillin, tetracycline, oxytetracycline, tyolsin, florefenicol, and ceftiofur. Trade names of these products may be Nuflor (florefenciol), Naxcel (ceftiofur), and Excenel RTU (ceftiofur hydrochloride).

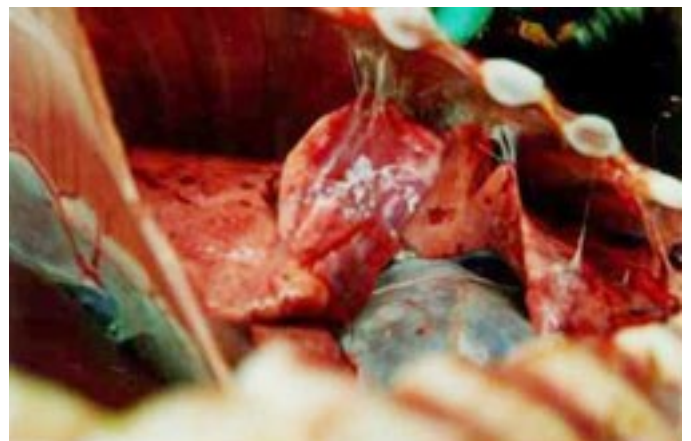
It is a good practice to keep a sick animal in a shaded, dry location with access to fresh water and hay or grass. It may be necessary to add electrolytes to the animal's water to replenish lost fluids.

### Prevention

Prevention is key. Pneumonia is fast acting and developing a vaccination program with your veterinarian to fight against respiratory illnesses will decrease the likelihood of an animal developing pneumonia. Improving management practices, such as, sanitation and ventilation conditions will also help to prevent the risk of pneumonia. Be sure to always quarantine any new animals brought on to the farm before introducing them to the herd. Always have access to fresh water, hay and minerals. Minerals help to provide and enhance immune function. Be cautious about copper toxicity in sheep.

Remember that pneumonia is fast acting and can cause death pretty quickly. If an animal suddenly dies on your farm, NCDA laboratories can perform necropsies to determine the cause of death. Determining the cause of death will be useful in making management decisions for the rest of the herd.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Livestock Agent.



**A necropsy of lobes from the lungs will show hemorrhagic (bloody) secretion, and possibly pus and dead tissue lesions.**