Spring Is Here

Aren’t we thankful for the rain! I know that it is putting a lot of you behind in seeding and fertilizing but at least the grass is growing!!

2009 Regional Hay Project

The objective of this project is to determine the accuracy of producers in estimating the weights of bales produced by their own equipment. A secondary objective is to illustrate how different storage conditions affect storage losses.

The project will be conducted in the spring and fall of 2009. First cutting cool season grass hay’s will be baled by the producers under normal conditions. Local extension agents and the area Livestock Specialist will then come to where the bales will be stored to weigh and sample the bales. A total of ten bales will be sampled at each farm. These bales will be marked with spray paint to identify them for future weighing and sampling. Prior to the beginning of the hay-feeding season (approximately Nov 15th) the same bales will be weighed and sampled again. A survey will be conducted at each location to determine the producer’s methods and what they expect the bales to weigh at each date.

Survey questions:
1. What equipment was used to make the hay – Baler type and model, tractor size, mowing and tedding equipment?
2. At what stage of maturity was the majority of the field when harvested?
3. How was the hay stored – inside, under tarps, on pallets etc?
4. How much do you think the bales weigh at each date?

If you are interested in becoming a part of this project please contact Elizabeth Ayers at 828-649-2411, we are looking at roughly 10 producers to participate in this project which will be accepted on a first come - first serve basis.

2009 WNC Beef Commission Field Day

The WNC Beef Commission will hold a field day on June 6, 2009 at the Warren Wilson College Farm. The field day will begin at 9:00 am at the farm. Speakers for the event include Chase Hubbard Warren Wilson Farm Manager, Dr. Sue Ellen Johnson NCSU Forage Specialist, Steve Duckett Buncombe County Extension Director, and Dr. Jim Turner NCSU Beef Specialist. Topics to be covered include the management of the farm and how they are producing for alternative markets, a pasture walk with Dr. Johnson and a research and extension update with Dr. Turner. Lunch will be provided at the farm. Please preregister for the event with Linda Lamp at WNC Communities (828) 252-4783.
Beef Management Tips - John B. Hall, Extension Animal Scientist, Beef, Virginia Tech

May Beef Management Calendar

Spring Calving Herds

- Calving should be coming to an end
- Give pre-breeding vaccinations to cows - IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV and Lepto. Use modified live vaccines on open cows with calves; killed vaccines on pregnant cows.
- Begin estrous synchronization programs for AI (begin AI this month some herds)
- Breed heifers 2 to 4 weeks before cows
- Get breeding soundness exams done on bulls
- Supplement 1st calf heifers with energy through breeding
- Implant commercial calves at turnout if not implanted at birth
- Keep high quality, high magnesium, high selenium minerals available
- Make 1st cutting of hay
- Start creep grazing and/or managed intensive grazing

Fall Calving Herds

- Creep graze calves while on cows
- Give pre-weaning vaccinations (IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV, Pasturella) to calves
- Wean commercial calves based on marketing plan for calves - must be weaned 45 days for most value-added programs such as VQA
- Wean and weigh calves
- Body condition score cows at weaning
- Implant commercial calves at turnout
- Deworm calves if needed
- Make 1st cutting of hay
- Continue feeding high magnesium minerals to prevent grass tetany
- Continue managed intensive grazing; hay pastures with excess forage

Grazing Management Important During Dry Spring

This spring in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic appears to be an unusually dry one. Grazing management in early and mid spring is not something we usually worry about. Warm days, cool nights and plentiful rainfall usually make too much grass the problem; not too little. However, allowing cattle to graze early spring pastures too short could mean trouble this dry spring.

When pastures are grazed to shorter than four inches, it creates conditions that magnify the impact of dry weather on grass growth. Grazing below four inches removes too much leaf area so regrowth is slowed or stunted. In addition, removing this much leaf area allows the ground to be exposed to the drying actions of sun and wind. This exposure exacerbates the drought conditions.

Feeding and grazing strategies include rapid rotational grazing and supplementation. Rapid rotational grazing allows cattle to graze the pastures down to four inches then they are moved to the next pasture. If pasture recovery and regrowth are not sufficient by the time the cattle come back to the pasture then they should be supplemented. Periodic hay feeding and grain supplementation on a sacrifice pasture will increase season long grazing productivity and health of the remaining pastures.

Meat Goat Vaccination Program - Jean-Marie Luginbuhl

Should I vaccinate my goats?

Although some producers have had no problems so far without implementing a vaccination program, it is recommended that you vaccinate your goats.

What should I vaccinate my goats against?

1. Overeating Disease (Enterotoxemia) and Tetanus

What vaccine should I use?

1. Clostridium Perfringens Types C and D +Tetanus Toxoid in one vaccine, against overeating disease and tetanus. This vaccine is labeled for goats.

2. Multivalent clostridial vaccine (8-way vaccine)

One example of a multiway clostridial vaccine, labeled for sheep, is Covexin8. Covexin8 is more reactive and may cause a higher incidence of adverse reaction at the injection site. Covexin8 may preferably be used in herds, which have had problems with blackleg and malignant edema (gas gangrene). Although blackleg and malignant edema are common and costly infections in sheep and cattle, they are very uncommon in goats.

What dosage should I use when should I vaccinate my goats?

Always read the instructions provided with the vaccine.

1. Clostridium perfringens Types C and D + Tetanus

Dosage (Bar-Vac CD/T; Fermicon CD/T) -2 mL per animal, regardless of age and weight

Continued on next page
**Dates To Remember**

**May 12** - BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Certification training for Tuesday, May 12th at the Buncombe County Extension Office. It will begin at 6:30 pm. Please call to register at 255-5522 or if you have any questions ask for Jeff Bradley.

**June 6** - The WNC Beef Commission will hold a field day on June 6, 2009 at the Warren Wilson College Farm. The field day will begin at 9:00 am (see article in this newsletter for more information)

**July 7** - Please save the date! Direct - Marketing of Meat Workshop to be held on Tuesday, July 7th from 8:30am – 12:00pm at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office. Topics covered will be: Meat handling license, extending your grazing season, marketing, budgets and possibly a producer panel. More details will be coming soon!

**2009 Pesticide Recertification Classes**

**June 2** - 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Madison County Extension Office
2 hours of “X” credit

**June 16** - 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Madison County Extension Office
2 hours of “V” credits

**June 9** - 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Asheville, NC
2 hour credit A B G H I K L M N O T D X
Contact: Amanda Stone - (828) 255-5522

**September 1** - 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Asheville, NC
2-hour credit V
Contact: Amanda Stone - (828) 255-5522

**September 1** - 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Asheville, NC
2-hour credit A B G H I K L M N O T D X
Contact: Amanda Stone - (828) 255-5522

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**Meat Goat Vaccination Program – Cont’d**

When?
**Bucks.** Once a year

**Breeding females.** Once a year: 4 to 6 weeks before kidding (some immunity is passed on to the kids), or twice a year: 4 to 6 weeks before kidding and 6 months later (4 to 6 weeks before breeding if breeding does once a year).

**Kids.** If breeding females have been vaccinated before kidding, vaccinate kids at week 8 of age, then give a booster at week 12 of age. If breeding females have not been vaccinated before kidding and you experience problems, vaccinate kids at 2 weeks of age, then give a booster at 6 weeks of age.

2. Multivalent clostridial vaccine
   Dosage (Covexin8)
   - 5 mL per animal, regardless of age and weight. Kids get 5 mL initially, then a 2 mL booster 6 weeks later.

When?
**Bucks.** Once a year

**Breeding females.** Once a year: 2 to 6 weeks before kidding (some immunity is passed on to the kids).

**Kids.** If breeding females have been vaccinated before kidding, vaccinate kids at week 10-12 of age, then give a booster at week 16-18 of age. If breeding females have not been vaccinated before kidding and you experience problems, vaccinate kids at 4 weeks of age, then give a booster at 10 weeks of age.

**How should I give the injections and where?**
Both Clostridium perfringens Types C D /Tetanus and multivalent clostridial vaccines are given in sub-cutaneous or intramuscular injections. Sub-cutaneous injections are favored because of the greater tissue damage at the injection site from intramuscular injections.

For sub-cutaneous injections, pinch loose skin between thumb and index finger high on the neck (close to the head as possible) and insert the needle. Make sure that the needle is under the skin and does not stick out on the other of the pinched skin.

**Is there a slaughter withdrawal time?**
Yes, there is a 21-day waiting period between vaccination and slaughter for both vaccines.

**Should I vaccinate my goats against tetanus before castration and/or disbudding?**
If you have not implemented a vaccination program in your herd, it is advisable to vaccinate your goats against tetanus before disbudding and castration, whether using banding, cutting or using a burdizzo.

Tetanus Toxoid vaccines are available.

**Should I give a Tetanus Toxoid booster to my goat if a severe wound occurs?**
Yes.

Give a subcutaneous injection of Tetanus Toxoid for long-term protection (one year). Tetanus antitoxin can also be given to protect goats when a wound occurs, but this only protects for approximately 30 days

**Are there other vaccines on the market?**
Yes, many other vaccines are available, including those for leptospirosis, chlamydirosis, sore mouth, bluetongue, footrot, etc. However, those should be used to control existing problems upon veterinary recommendations - often only after management changes have failed.

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**Blue Mold Forecast**

The Blue Mold Forecast can be found on the internet through the link below or you can call me at 828-649-2411.
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/bluemold/

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**Scouting Tobacco in NC**

Disease and Insect Control can be found within your Burley Tobacco Guide. If you did not receive one please let me know we have plenty of extras or If you have a question about a disease or insect please feel free to contact me at 828-649-2411.
North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran’s status. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

Persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency may request accommodations to participate by contacting Ross Young, County Extension Director, at 828-649-2411 or ross_young@ncsu.edu or 828-649-2020, or in person at the County Extension Office at least days 10 prior to the event.

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