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Important Information

Montgomery County plans to start a chapter of the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers. Anyone may participate, but certain programs are only available to farmers 35 and under. Youth participants are welcome to join. Please contact our office at (910)576-6011 for more information. There will be a regional social at Patterson Farms in Rowan County on Saturday, August 6th from 4-8 PM. Family friendly with activities for all ages! Please call to RSVP.

Montgomery County 4-H Youth Livestock Show: Saturday, August 27th at 9:00 am at the Agriculture Center (200 Glen Road, Troy). The show will be a heifer and goat show. Please call 910-576-6011 for registration information. Registration is due Friday, August 19th at 5:00 PM. All are welcome to come out and support the youth showmen! Higgins & Son BBQ and the Loveshack food trucks will be on site.

Pesticide Recertification Class (2hours X & 2 hours V credit): Monday September 12th from 4:00-8:00 PM at the Ag Center, 200 Glen Road, Troy. Call 910-576-6011 to enroll in the class.

Save the Date for the first Cattlemen’s Meeting of the fall, Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 PM.

The 4-H Livestock Club meets every 3rd Monday at 6:00 PM at the Ag Center, 200 Glen Road, Troy. All youth 5-18 are welcome.

Hay Directory

North Carolina Department of Agriculture’s Hay Alert is at <http://www.ncagr.gov/HayAlert/>. It lists people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay.

For any meeting listed, persons with disabilities 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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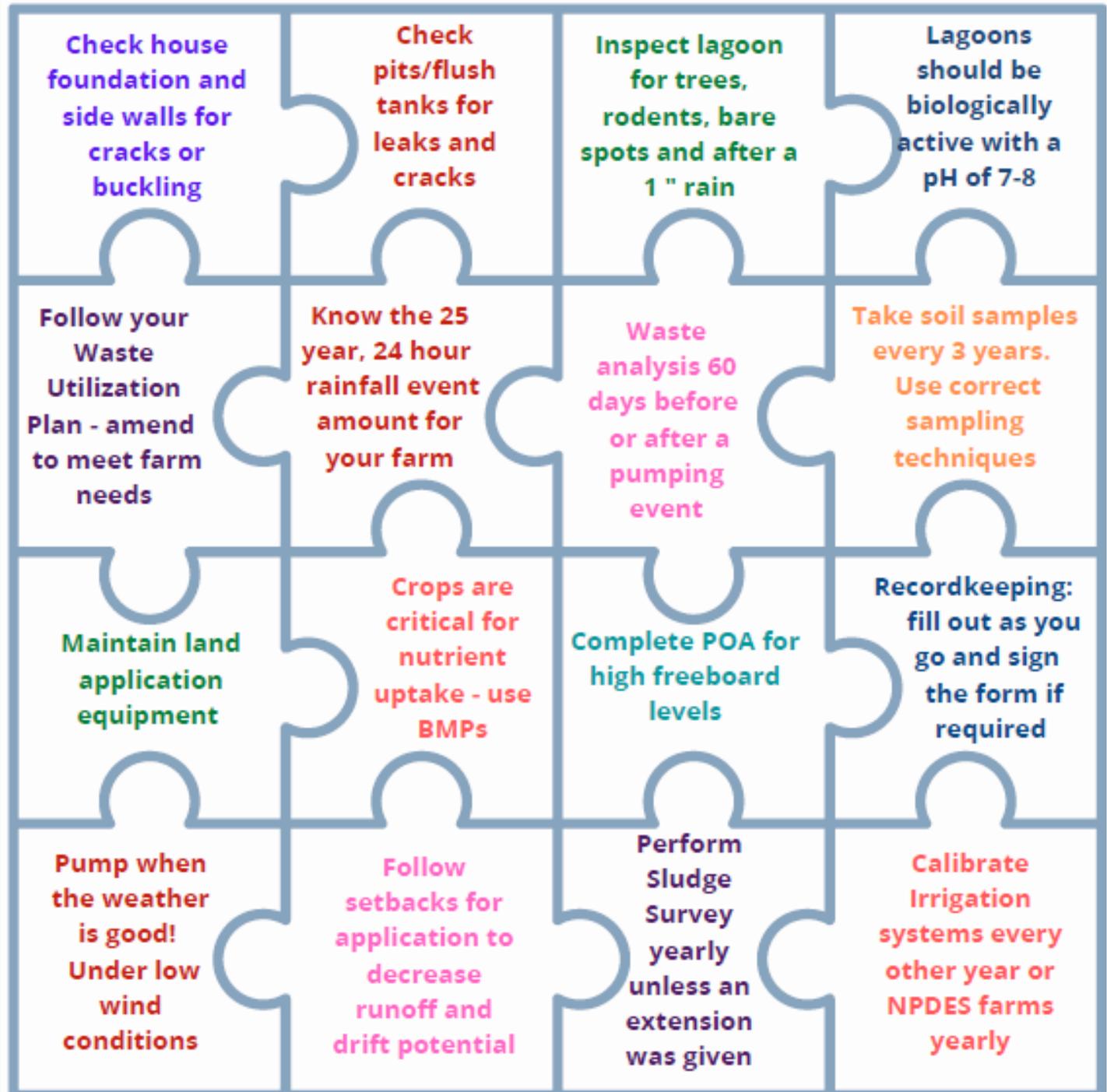
Animal Waste Management

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

10 Hour Initial Operator in Charge (OIC) license class

July 19th-20th from 10 AM-4PM both days

Location: Lenoir County Livestock Arena, Address: 1791 NC-11 Kinston, NC 28504 Cost: Manuals: \$20 (cash or check) and Exam fee: \$25 check made out to WPCSOCC Contact: Kaelyn Mohrfeld, kfmohrfe@ncsu.edu or (252) 560-6094 (call or text)



Pre-Conditioning Calves—Is It for You?

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

For cow-calf farmers that make their living selling feeder calves, what avenue you use to market these calves is an important decision. For years most cattle farmers in the southeast used the tried-and-true graded feeder calf sales at their local stockyard. Today, there are less of these traditional graded sales (non-weaned calves that have had set of vaccinations) to choose from, as more and more of them are moving towards pre-conditioned sales. Some farmers view this trend with an attitude of “whatever makes me more money”, while others are viewing this as just another way the feed yards are taking even more money out of the pocket of the small farmer. Whatever your view of this evolution of feeder calf marketing is, it seems to be here to stay. Let’s take a minute to discuss pre-conditioning and see if it’s right for you.

What is Pre-conditioning?

Preconditioning is a process where calves are run through a series of on-farm management protocols prior to selling. There are all types of pre-conditioning programs out there, and each type of sale has their own rules and regulations they want you to follow. Regardless of what program or sell you follow, they all revolve around three major areas: the calves are weaned for 45-60 days prior to selling, a complete vaccination and health program is followed, and the calves must be broke to a feed bunk and water trough. There are different variations and additional rules to follow for various programs, but these three areas are the main points they all revolve around. In theory this is not a big deal, wean the calves for a few weeks, give them some shots and put them on feed. BUT, if all you have ever done is round up calves on sale day and weaned them on the trailer on the way to the stockyards then there’s no doubt it’s a lot more work and time on your part to precondition.

The question I get asked all the time is should I switch to a pre-conditioned sale if I’ve never sold in one before? I always respond by asking, “Do you have adequate facilities to wean a group of calves? Do you have space to feed/graze these calves for 2 additional months on farm? Can you feed these calves some type of concentrate to recoup the weight loss they will experience during the weaning process?” If you answered yes

to these questions, then at a minimum you need to strongly consider at least trying a pre-conditioned sale if you’ve never sold in one before. However, If you do not have a decent weaning pen or will not put in the time and expense feeding these calves leading up to sale time then you probably want to avoid the inevitable headaches coming with keeping these calves on farm for two more months.

There is no doubt that prices on a pre-conditioned sale of any type will be much higher than a traditional non-weaned graded sale, and most certainly higher than a weekly slaughter sale. How much higher is anybody’s guess year to year and even week to week. I’ve seen calves bring anywhere from \$0.05 to \$0.20 over a traditional graded sale. \$0.05 on a 5 weight calf is not enough to get anybody excited, but 15 cents on a 750 steer is nearly \$120. That kind of price premium is worth a whole lot of aggravation. While nobody can every tell you for sure how much your calves will bring until 10 minutes after the sale, what you can feel sure about is that your calves will bring a better price, will be healthier, and should be walking across the scales at a heavier weight if you have put some feed and extra growing time in them.

Is it enough money to justify the time and money you will invest? That will be up to each farmer to decide on their own. I’ve personally sold pre-conditioned calves where I was more than happy with the returns and other times where I was fit to be tied they did not bring any more than they did. The same statement holds true however for every other method I’ve sold cattle by. The buyers and feedlots love pre-conditioned cattle sales as they know they are getting better cattle that should not fall to pieces once they leave the sale barn, whether they are paying you enough to offset your additional investment will be up to you to decide. Inevitably some farms will never adopt preconditioning, but for the farms that can make it work it seems that this is here to stay.

Parasite Management and Grazing for Sheep and Goats

By: Tom Shea, Livestock and Row Crops Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension, Moore County

Parasites and predators are two of the largest problems that producers face when raising sheep and goats, especially in the southeastern United States. Predation is often dramatic and traumatic but parasites are the silent killer. Predation can be prevented by strong fences, livestock guardian animals, and other precautionary measures. Compared to predation pressure, parasite issues can be more difficult to deal with.

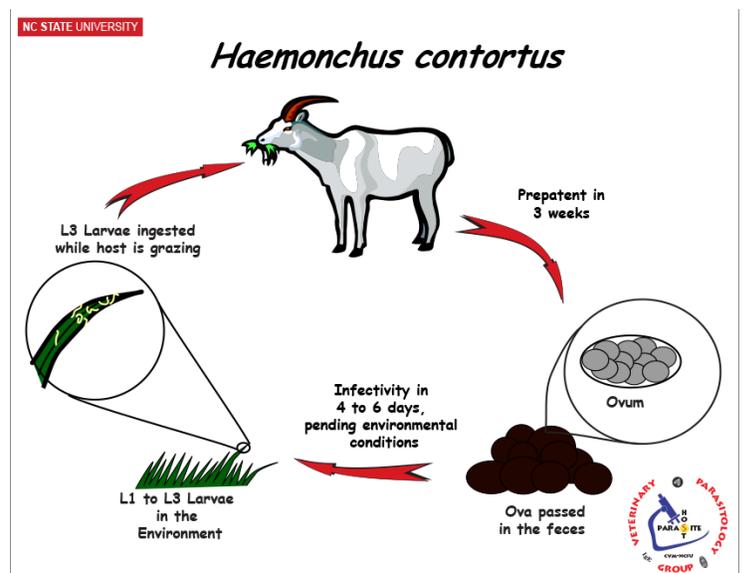
Many of the parasite treatments that we have available to us are overused and parasites are becoming resistant. This is leading to more and deadlier parasite issues in small ruminants. People often ask, "How often should I dewormer my sheep or goats? Every 3 months, 6 months?" The answer is neither. In order to slow down resistance to the dewormers we have, you should only administer dewormer based on FAMACHA© scores. FAMACHA© is a diagnostic test to help small ruminant producers identify animals that require anthelmintic treatment and those which do not require deworming. The tool is a card that matches eyelid color to anemia levels, an indicator of clinical barber pole worm infection. Its use is limited to the parasites which cause anemia. Producers must receive training in order to receive a card. Producers can receive training online or through an NC Cooperative Extension event.

Wormx.info is a website from the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control. This is a great resource for producers to use to gather information about parasite control in their small ruminant herds and flocks. They have the most up-to-date information for using dewormers, including using combination dewormers to reduce the risk of dewormer resistance. The website puts out newsletters in both English and Spanish. They also provide training for FAMACHA© through their online portal. They have best management practices suggestions that include genetic selection for parasite resistance to pasture management to prevent parasite issues.

One of the most effective ways to prevent para-

site issues is good pasture management. Most parasites live on the bottom 2 inches of grass blades and stalks. The best management practice for grazing is not to graze below 3 inches. This maximizes forage productivity and availability and reduces the likelihood of the sheep and goats ingesting parasites. This can be accomplished by subdividing pastures with temporary fences which allows flexibility in your grazing plans. This is often the cheapest and most effective way to combat parasites. Moving animals weekly or more often allows to the animals to move from affected areas before parasite eggs have time to hatch.

Please contact your local Extension office for more information on how to combat parasite issues in sheep and goats.



Native Warm Season Grasses

By: Brian Parrish, Agriculture Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County

Native warm season grasses are bunch grasses that are most productive during the warmer months of the year (April through mid-September). The many benefits of native warm season grasses include nutrition for livestock, high forage yield potential, drought resilience, and the wildlife habitat they provide. Native Warm Season grasses can produce good yields with low nitrogen inputs as well.

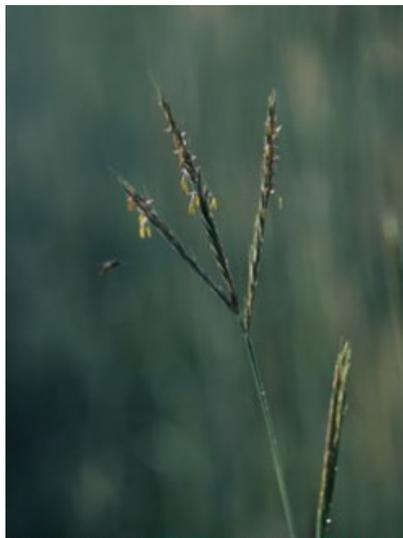
“In a recent three year study in Alabama, a mixture of big bluestem, little bluestem, and indiagrass was managed under continuous grazing as a system for developing beef replacement heifers. Pastures were grazed when grasses reached a target height of 20 inches. Over the three-year study there were no differences in seasonal forage production in this mixture when receiving 60 lbs of Nitrogen per acre or no nitrogen at Spring emergence. Average forage mass was 2,970 pounds of dry matter per acre. Beef heifer performance was 1.1 pounds per day of gain, with an average stocking rate of 855 pounds of animal body weight per acre. For Comparison, heifer average daily gain on other warm season perennial grasses adapted to the Southeast are often 1 to 1.5 pounds per day.

Disadvantages of Native Warm Season Grasses

1. Establishment of native grasses is slow and requires planning to be successful. The seed bed should be relatively grass and weed free prior to planting. There are also relatively few herbicides that can be used during establishment.
2. Native grasses are slow to emerge and establish.
3. They also require more attention to grazing management than some other more commonly used summer grasses. For example, (Native grasses in the study mentioned were grazed from 20 inches down to 15 inches.) This is a lot different than grazing down to 3 to 4 inches which is common with other grasses.

When these grasses are grown for hay, they can help producers save money on fertilizer costs. These grasses, once established have an incredible root volume that goes way down into the soil. These extensive, deep roots allow warm season grasses to perform and yield well even during drought periods. Some of the warm season grasses such as lowland switchgrass and gamagrass also grow well in areas that are too wet for hybrid bermudagrass. Having some of your forages in native warm season grasses could benefit your operation in times of drought and in times when fertilizer prices are high. For more information on native grasses visit the Center for Native Grassland Management website at <https://nativegrasses.tennessee.edu/>. There is also a new book out “Native Grass Forages For the Eastern U.S.” by Patrick Keyser <https://nativegrasses.tennessee.edu/native-grass-forages/>

References: Hay and Forage Grower April May 2022 “Cut nitrogen with native warm-season grasses”
Kim Mullenix and Landon Marks Alabama Cooperative Extension
Center for Native Grassland Management Website



Flowering big bluestem and syrphid fly. Photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center.



Indiangrass

Form
Montrealais
CC BY-SA 3.0



Form (Lambton, Toronto, ON)-Early Fall
Douglas Goldman, USDA
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Little Bluestem

Form (Lambton, Toronto, ON)-Early Fall
Douglas Goldman, USDA
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Inflorescence
Joshua Mayer
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Coggins Test—How and Why

By: Stefani Sykes, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Wayne County

Those of you that travel regularly or show often, are probably familiar with the requirements of a Coggins test. You know it's a blood draw from your horse and it's sent off, and you need a "negative" result in order to travel or show. However, do you know what that test is actually testing? Do you know why it should be "negative?"

The Coggins test determines if a horse is a carrier for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), a viral disease that has no known cure. It is important to prevent the spread of this diseases. A vet must draw blood from your horse and send it off, to be tested for the presence of antibodies. Your results will be sent to your vet (and possibly yourself) and the paperwork should be kept with the rest of your horse's health papers.

On all Coggins tests, the following information is usually provided:

- Owner information: name, address, phone number
- Stable information: point of contact, address, phone number
- Veterinarian information: name, clinic, accreditation number, address
- Horse's identifiable information: name, barn name, breed registration number, breed, sex, color, age, microchip/tattoo, pictures or drawings of markings on the animal
- EIA test information: type, lab that performed the test, reason, date received, date reported, results

Transmission of EIA is normally done through biting flies, it is a bloodborne illness with no known cure or vaccine protocol. A fly biting a carrier horse and then another horse, can spread the disease very quickly.

Horse shows require a negative Coggins test, usually within 12 months. Depending on state-to-state travel and their requirements, you may be required to do it more often. Be sure to check the requirements for whatever show or state you are traveling to prior to travel.

See reverse for more OMB information.										FORM APPROVED - OMB NUMBER 0570 - 0127	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA LABORATORY TEST (VS Memorandum 555.8)							SERIAL NO.	1. ACCESSION NUMBER	2. DATE BLOOD DRAWN		
							B				
Forms Without Adequate Descriptions Of The Horse and Complete Addresses Including Zip Codes, Counties, and Telephone Numbers Will Not Be Processed.											
3. REASON FOR TESTING <input type="checkbox"/> Market <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Show <input type="checkbox"/> First Test <input type="checkbox"/> Retest <input type="checkbox"/> Export			4. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (State) (City/Town/Village)			5. VETERINARY LICENSE OR ACCREDITATION NO.		6. TEST TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> AGID <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA		7. NAME AND ADDRESS OR STABLE/MARKET (Please print or type) Tel No. _____ Zip Code _____ County _____	
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER (Please print or type) Tel No. _____ Zip Code _____ County _____							9. NAME AND ADDRESS OF VETERINARIAN (Please print or type) Tel No. _____ Zip Code _____ County _____				
CERTIFICATION OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN I certify the specimen submitted with this Form was drawn by me from the horse described on this form and indicated on the label.											
10. SIGNATURE OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN							11. TYPE OR PRINTED NAME		12. SIGNATURE DATE		
CERTIFICATION OF OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT I certify that I have examined this form and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this form is correct and complete.											
13. SIGNATURE OF OWNER OR OWNER'S AGENT							14. TYPE OR PRINTED NAME		15. SIGNATURE DATE		
16. Tails Official Tag No.	17. Official Tag No.	18. Tattoo/Brand	19. Name of Horse		20. Color	21. Breed	22. Electronic I.D. No.	23. Age or DOB	24. Sex	M - Male F - Female G - Gelding N - Neuter	
SHOW ALL SIGNIFICANT MARKINGS, HORLS, BRANDS, AND SCARS											
1 - Coronet, 2 - Pastern, 3 - Fetlock, 4 - Knee, 5 - Hock											
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND REMARKS											
25. HEAD						26. OTHER MARKS AND BRANDS					
27. LEFT FORELIMB						28. RIGHT FORELIMB					
29. LEFT HINDLIMB						30. RIGHT HINDLIMB					
FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY											
31. LABORATORY NAME/CITY/STATE			32. DATE RECEIVED		33. DATE REPORTED OUT		34. TEST RESULTS				
							<input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> AGID <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA				
35. SIGNATURE OF TECHNICIAN						36. REMARKS					
Falsification of this form or knowingly using a falsified form is a criminal offense and may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years or both (U.S.C. Section 1001).											
VS FORM 10-11 (MAY 2000) (Replaces the VS 10-11 (4-90) and VS 10-11T (10-97), which may be used.)											

Fall Showmanship Circuits

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

Showmanship circuits consist of multiple youth livestock shows at various locations and dates across a region. In our readership area of North Carolina there are two showmanship circuits: The Eastern Carolina Showmanship Circuit and the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit. Each has different rules and procedures, but the concept behind all is that both circuits have several participating shows, and a child may compete in as many of the shows as he/she likes. Awards are given for each individual show, but participants also become eligible for circuit awards by competing in a minimum number of the shows. Circuit winners are recognized at the NC State Fair (Eastern Circuit) or at a year-end banquet (Farm Credit Circuit.) Following is a bit more information about each circuit. Even if you don't have children showing, please consider attending and supporting a show in your area.

Eastern Carolina Showmanship Circuit

This circuit began in 1992 for heifers and lambs. Some years later, separate circuits for meat goats and swine began in the same area. In 2019, the meat goat and swine circuits combined into the ECSC, resulting in one organizing body for all four species. Shows in this circuit are all east of Raleigh. Updates can be found at the Eastern Carolina Showmanship Circuit Facebook page.

County	Goat Show	Lamb Show	Heifer Show	Swine Show
Halifax	August 6	August 6	August 6	N/A
AGR (Johnston)	August 12	August 13	August 13	N/A
Jones	August 20	August 20	August 19	N/A
Lenoir	August 26	August 27	August 27	August 27
Elizabeth City	September 2	September 3	September 3	September 3
Edgecombe	September 9	September 10	September 10	September 10
Duplin	September 16	September 17	September 17	September 15
Wilson	September 24	September 23	September 25	September 20
Pitt	September 25	September 22	September 20	N/A
Wayne	September 30	October 1	October 2	September 29

4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit

This circuit is sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit and Cape Fear Farm Credit. Shows in this circuit are held in the south-central area of North Carolina. This year's awards banquet will be held in Robeson County on November 18. Updates are posted to the 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Facebook page.

County	Goat Show	Lamb Show	Heifer Show
Randolph	August 6	N/A	August 6
Guilford	August 13	August 13	August 13
Stanly	August 20	N/A	August 20
Anson	N/A	N/A	August 27
Montgomery	August 27	N/A	August 27
Cumberland	September 8	September 6	September 9
Richmond	September 10	N/A	N/A
Chatham	N/A	September 10	September 10
Lee	September 14	N/A	September 15
Union	September 17	September 17	September 17
Moore	September 24	N/A	September 24
Robeson	October 1	October 8	October 8

Caring for Livestock in Severe Heat

By: Anthony Growe, Livestock and Row Crops Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Richmond County

There's no doubt the past couple of weeks have been some of the hottest on record. With high temperatures reaching into the low 100's in some areas of the state, many of us have been cranking up the A/C and staying out of the heat. Unfortunately for livestock, we cannot just simply bring them in the house to cool off. Being out in extremely hot weather puts them at risk for experiencing heat stress which can lead to reduced performance and in severe cases, death. Luckily, there are a few things livestock owners can do to help livestock beat the heat.

Identifying Heat Stress

For most animals and livestock, the main signs for heat stress include: panting, increased respiration, lower feed intake and increased water consumption, and salivation. We should monitor our animals closely on hot days to ensure we catch and treat any animal that may be experiencing heat stress before it gets too severe. In severe cases, animals may become unconscious or have a heat stroke. To treat for heat stress, move the animals to shade immediately, offer clean water mixed with electrolytes and hose them down with cool water or apply a cold sponge to the body. If animals are in a barn or shed, increase air movement with fans and proper ventilation.

Access to Cool Water

The most critical component to minimizing heat stress is providing cool, clean water to your livestock. As temperature increases from 60 degrees to 90 degrees water intake will increase by 20 to 50 percent depending on the class of livestock. Make sure water troughs or stock tanks are large enough to provide an adequate supply to all of your animals. If livestock such as cattle or goats are kept in large pastures, think about providing multiple watering points to reduce the travel distance. Research has shown when cattle are required to travel more than 1000 feet to a water source, they actually drink 15 percent less compared to those who have a shorter walk (less than 600 feet).

Providing Shade

Shade is another factor we can control when trying to reduce heat stress in livestock. When designing pastures, try to include natural shade, such as trees and forests, or made shelters that cast enough shade for livestock to get out of the

sun. At the University of Arkansas, research found that providing feeder calves with tree shade increased daily weight gains by 60 percent compared to calves that did not have access to shade. If existing pastures do not have any shade source, consider grazing the pastures overnight and remove animals before temperatures begin creeping up in the morning.

Handling Animals in the Heat

When handling livestock, such as cattle or horses, we should use some common sense on when to ride, trailer or handle them. Cattle needing vaccinations or processing should be done early in the morning before temperatures rise. Avoid riding horses in the heat of the day and if transporting them, make sure there is adequate airflow throughout the trailer and avoid sitting still for prolonged periods of time. For trailering cattle and other livestock, reduce the stocking rate by 15 percent to provide more airflow and space.

High temperatures can impact both the performance of our livestock and their well-being. When we are experiencing high temperatures, we should strive to minimize heat stress by providing cool, clean water, proper ventilation, and adequate shade. If you have any questions about livestock management or pasture management, contact your local Livestock Agent.

