



Regional Beef Notes

Winter 2015

Inside This Issue

- 2015 Norwood Area Feeder Calf Sales Schedule
- NC Southern Piedmont Area Beef Conference - 2/5/15
- Cattle Market Mobile

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Cold Weather Herd Management Tips

Jessica Morgan, Extension Agent, Anson County Center

Old man winter has settled in, and with that should come an increased concern about your cattle. The following pointers should help manage cold stress in cattle during this frigid time.

- **Reduce wind speeds to increase animal comfort**
We don't see the same type of below zero wind chills like out west, but we can get some pretty cold winds that can decrease the temperature dramatically. Any available protection, whether natural (think barn) or man-made (trees) can help tremendously in reducing wind chill.
- **Cows' energy needs increase as the temperature drops**
One of the ways cows respond to cold is by increasing their feed intake. The cows' metabolism increases in activity to keep itself warm. This increases processes such as roughage digesting in the rumen to increase through the rest of the digestive tract. This increased activity will correspondingly increase the cows' appetite.
- **Make sure feed intake is maintained**
The limiting factor for feed intake is water. Make sure that water is available, and not frozen, at all times. If there is no water, she won't eat, and if she doesn't eat, she's not producing heat.
- **Sort thin cows to be cared for separately**
Sort off thin cows or first time heifers into a separate area if space allows. By providing them their own space, you are eliminating competition from other cows. This ensures that these animals get their nutritional needs met for lactation and fetal growth during the cold months.

Resources: BEEF Daily. Amanda Radke. "Tips for Managing Cold Stress in Cattle."

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Norwood Area Value Added BQA Feeder Cattle Program Update

At the annual feeder cattle program meeting held on December 4, 2014, area cattle producers met to discuss the feeder cattle program and decide on sale dates, value added health protocols, and any other relevant changes that will help the program continue to add value to our cattle and sustainability to our area cattle operations. The most significant change was a producer vote to a new health protocol for the Value Added BQA Feeder Cattle Program. The new protocol is called *Prime VAC 45* from Merck Animal Health. The main reason for change as stated by producers was the flexibility and the option to vaccinate calves for the first set of vaccinations while still on the cow earlier in the spring. These calves must be a minimum of three (3) months of age however to ensure that maternal antibodies do not interfere with the efficacy of the vaccine. The biggest advantage of this option is that cattle will not have to be worked twice in the summer months after weaning but only once therefore minimizing stress during the hotter summer weaning period. Lower stress during weaning should equate to cattle gaining more consistent weight and therefore heavier weights at marketing given they are receiving adequate nutrition and care. For those producers that are unable to vaccinate calves in the spring, they will still have the option as before to vaccinate twice at or after weaning. These varying vaccination options add to the flexibility of the herd health protocol and if you have specific questions contact Steve Lemons (704-983-3987).

On **February 5, 2015**, NC Cooperative Extension will host a workshop with the Stanly County Livestock Market. We will begin at 1 PM with a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training for anyone needing certification or those wanting to learn more about best management practices and the NC-BQA program. We will then have chute side demonstrations on various working practices such as but not limited to proper subcutaneous injections and vaccine handling. This will start at 4 PM and we will be joined by Merck Animal Health representatives, Matt Hannah, area sales representative, and Dr. Harold Newcomb, Technical Services Veterinarian with Merck Animal Science. We will then have a meal followed by a presentation from Merck Animal Health on the new Prime VAC 45 program and herd health for cow-calf producers in general.

We look forward to seeing you at this event – an excellent hands-on educational opportunity!

Please **call** the NC Cooperative Extension, Stanly County office at (704)983-3987 to pre-register to ensure we have enough food and supplies.

2015 Norwood Area Feeder Cattle Sales Schedule

March 19
Pre-conditioned
(45 days, 2 respiratory & 2 clostridial/blackleg)

July 9
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale

July 17
Value Added BQA Feeder Cattle Sale
(Prime VAC 45)

August 13
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale

September 3
Value Added BQA Feeder Cattle Sale
(Prime VAC 45)

September 10
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale





2015 NC Southern Piedmont Area Beef Cattle Conference

February 5, 2015
Stanly County Livestock Market

Schedule of Events

1 PM BQA Certification (*Pre-Registration requested*)

Cost for BQA Cert- \$15 for Members of NC Cattlemen's Association
\$40 for Non Members of NCCA

4 PM Chute side and Hands-on Demonstration with live cattle

Cattle Handling & Vaccine Handling

6 PM Sponsored Meal (*Pre-registration required*)

7 PM Presentation on Vaccine Programs and Herd Health Programs

Dr. Harold Newcomb

Technical Services Veterinarian with Merck Animal Health

Sponsors:

Stanly County
Livestock Market

Merck Animal Health

Persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency may request accommodations by contacting Lori S Ivey, County Extension Director, (704.983.3987) no later than five business days before events held in Stanly County.

To Register
Call 704-983-3987
Or

Contact your Local Cooperative
Extension office

Pre-Register For
Meal and BQA Certification

Stanly County Livestock Market Location
13215 Indian Mound Road
Norwood, NC

NC State University
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Cattle Market Mobile – On Your Smartphone

Thomas Cobb

Extension Agent, Rowan County



With the many apps available in today's world it is hard to decide which ones are good and which ones is just a waste of time. Cattle market mobile is one that has many useful applications for beef producers. Cattle Market Mobile is an app that allows you to see current cattle prices for North Carolina and other states as well. Weekly reports are posted for most of the major stockyards in NC including, Norwood, Turnersburg, and Wilkesboro to name a few. Other states are included so producers can compare prices state to state. Also included in the app is the calf calculator. This takes in account location, sex of animal, weight, frame/muscle score, and any exceptions to determine an estimated price. This is useful for producers who want to get a rough estimate of what their calves are worth. To download the app simply click on the APP Store on your smartphone and search Cattle Market Mobile and download. This App is really useful when you are out in the field or traveling.

Upcoming Events

Pesticide Recertification Opportunity - V Credit - 10 AM-12 PM - Union Ag Center February 10
Anson County Cattlemen's Meeting– 7PM– Anson Extension Center February 10
NC Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference - Hickory February 12-14
Pesticide Recertification Opportunity - V Credit - 10AM - Anson Extension Center February 17
Pesticide Recertification Opportunity - V Credit - 1-3 PM - Stanly Ag Center February 25
Pesticide Recertification Opportunity - V Credit - 7-9 PM - Stanly Ag Center March 3
Spring Pre-Conditioned Stocker Sale March 19

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