



# Regional Beef Notes

## Spring 2015

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- Making the Most of Hay Season

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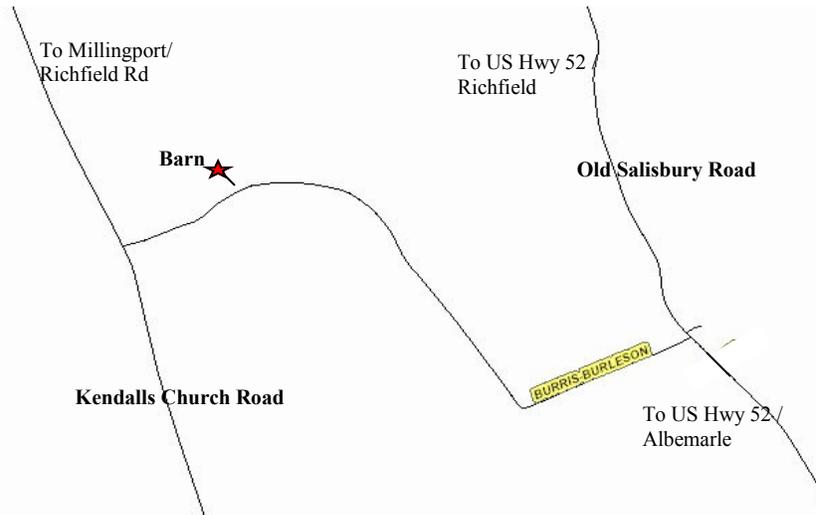
**April 2, 2015**

**5:30 PM**

**Burleson & Sons Farm (Cow Unit)**  
**29219 Burris-Burleson Rd, Richfield**

**Call 704-983-3987 to Register.**

## Cattle Handling Facilities & Pasture Walk



Anson County Cattlemen's Scholarship Deadline to apply is May 15, 2015. Scholarship Amount \$1,000. Applications available on line at [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu). Any Anson Co. High School Senior majoring in an agriculture field is eligible to apply. Also, any direct family member of an Anson County Cattlemen's Association member who is a senior of any school district and majoring in agriculture is eligible.

For more information contact Jessica Morgan, at 704.694.2415 or [jessica\\_morgan@ncsu.edu](mailto:jessica_morgan@ncsu.edu).

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# Changes to the Feeder Cattle Sale Program

The first change to note is the addition of the sale on **May 21, 2015**. This will be a regular feeder cattle sale. Non-preconditioned but clostridial/blackleg vaccination is still required just like our other graded feeder cattle sales. Castrated, dehorned, and properly healed are also still requirements.

Another change to the program is with the Value Added BQA sales as the health protocol now follows the Merck Animal Health pre-wean protocol. This requires 2 doses of Vista Once SQ and 2 doses of Vision 7 Somnus, which will provide protection from respiratory disease, clostridial/blackleg, h. somnus, and pasteurella. The

sample record keeping form is below with further information and if you have any questions please let me know.

As always we'd like to encourage consignments which assist us in knowing cattle numbers and potential truckload numbers. This enables better communication and allows buyers to organize trucking and cattle placements which can help increase feeder cattle prices. Consignments can be made by calling the NC Cooperative Extension, Stanly County at (704)983-3987.

<b>Norwood Area Value Added BQA Sale Record Keeping Form</b>	
This document meets animal health record keeping requirements for (BQA) Beef Quality Assurance standards.	
<b>Health Protocol—PrimeVAC 45</b>	
<b>Pre-wean protocol highlighted</b>	
<b>Health Protocol</b>	Date / Serial #
Projected Sale Date	
Cattle Weaned (Minimum of 45 days before the sale date)	
1st dose— <b>Vista Once SQ - Pre-wean</b> - Vista 5 SQ	
1st dose— <b>Vision 7 Somnus - Pre-wean</b> - Vision 7 Somnus	
Parasite Control— <b>Safe-Guard or Panacur</b> (This deworming can be done pre-weaning or post weaning.)	
Booster — <b>Vista Once SQ - Pre-wean</b> - Vista Once SQ	
Booster — <b>Vision 7 Somnus - Pre-wean</b> - Vision 7 Somnus	
Administer "Value-Added BQA Tags"	
Heifers Guaranteed Open	
Implant (optional) - Ralgro	

Producer Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm/Operation Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*The pre-wean protocol is an option that allows for younger calves to be vaccinated but the calves must be a **minimum of 3 months of age** to ensure proper efficacy of the vaccine.**

**\*Booster vaccinations (2nd doses) must be administered within **4 months of the sale date**. But also a minimum of **21 days before the sale date**.**

Sale Date	July 16	September 3
Booster Dose	March 16-June 25	May 3-August 13

**Subcutaneous (SC)**

**Intramuscular (IM)**

**Approved Location for Implant Administration**

If the middle of the ear has been damaged, place implant on the top of the ear.

## 2015 Norwood Area Feeder Cattle Sales Schedule

**May 21**  
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale  
**July 9**  
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale  
**July 16**  
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

## Making the Most of Hay Season

Jessica Morgan, Extension Agent, Agriculture, Anson County Center

This past winter has been a rough one, on not only farmers and cattle, but on hay supplies. I have heard from multiple folks that said this is the most hay they have ever fed. As if summers aren't busy enough, this year many will be busy trying to restore their hay supply. Consider the following tips to make this years hay crop the best quality and quantity of hay you can possibly make.

**Fertilize Appropriately.** It's something that is preached on a lot, but you don't know what your crop needs unless you test. A soil test can be done with little effort, analyzed for free and you have taken one step towards proper fertilization. Hay crops remove large amounts of nutrients from the soil, so fertilizing properly not only ensures quality forage, but also helps prevent weed encroachment by maintaining a healthy forage stand.

**Plant species.** In this part of the world the major thought is that you have two options: fescue or bermudagrass. Think outside the box and look at interseeding some legumes like clover, or additional grasses such as orchardgrass into hayfields. Another option is to plant a summer annual to cut for hay. Popular options include Sorghum sudangrass, foxtail, pearl, or browntop millet, or forage sorghum.

**Stage of maturity when harvested.** As grasses and legumes mature from vegetative to reproductive (seed) stage they become higher in fiber and lower in protein, digestibility, and palatability, all major factors in hay quality. Forage quality will rapidly decrease as yield continues to increase, so finding the right combination of quality vs. quantity can be tricky. Use the following table to help make harvest decisions.

Table 1: Recommended stage to harvest various forage crops

<i>Forage Species</i>	<i>Time of Harvest</i>
Fescue, orchardgrass, timothy	Boot to early head stage for first cut, every 4-6
Wheat, rye, ryegrass, oats, barley	Boot to early head stage
Sudangrass, sorghum hybrids, pearl millet	40 inch height or early boot stage, whichever comes first
Bermudagrass	15-18 inch height for first cutting, every 4 weeks

This next chart shows the effect of maturity stage at harvest on hay quality, animal intake and subsequent milk yield. The biggest impact low quality hay has is shown though the lower intake, but also the lower milk production. We all know that cows don't like to eat poor quality hay, but research shows lower intake effects their milk production and potentially calf growth.

Table 2: Effect of stage of maturity at harvest of timothy on hay quality, animal intake, and milk yield.

<i>Stage at Harvest</i>	<i>Crude Protein (%)</i>	<i>Acid Detergent Fiber (%)</i>	<i>Intake (lb DM/day)</i>	<i>Intake (% of body wt)</i>	<i>Milk (lb/day)</i>
Late boot	11.3	35.9	33.3	2.84	37.5
Late bloom	5.4	42.1	24.3	2.17	20.1

based on Dry Matter basis

Source: Vinet and co-workers. 1980. Canadian Journal of Animal Science. 60:511

**Curing and handling conditions.** After mowing, poor weather and handling can lower the quality of hay. Sunlight can cause bleaching, rain can cause nutrient leaching and leaf loss. It's hard to predict the weather, but harvesting when there is no rain predicted for the next few days with warm, partly sunny days are ideal conditions. Also take into consideration what you do after the hay is baled. Leaving it in the field to be rained on is almost as damaging as a rain before baling. Under shelter is the preferable place to store hay, although covering with a tarp or plastic is a suitable alternative. Round bales kept on the ground with no cover will see a 20-35% spoilage rate. Even stacking bales on pallets will greatly reduce the spoilage.

Remember to fertilize, spray for weeds appropriately, cut at the right stage and watch the weather. Contact your local Extension Agent for any assistance during your hay season or information presented here.

## Upcoming Events

<i>Stanly Co. Cattlemen's Bi-Monthly Educational Meeting</i>	
<i>Pasture Walk - Farm Demonstration.....</i>	<i>April 2</i>
<i>Anson Co. Cattlemen's Meeting</i>	
<i>Sponsored by: Southern States 7pm Anson Co Extension Center.....</i>	<i>April 14</i>
<i>Union Co. Cattlemen's Meeting</i>	
<i>Scott Baucom Field Day 6:30pm @ End of Dr. Blair Rd. Marshville.....</i>	<i>April 16</i>
<i>Pesticide Disposal Day- Union Co. ....</i>	<i>April 25</i>
<i>Regular Feeder Calf Sale.....</i>	<i>May 21</i>

Persons with disability or persons with limited English proficiency can request accommodations by contacting Jessica Morgan, Extension Agent, 704.694.2415, Fax 704.694.2248, or e-mail [jessica\\_morgan@ncsu.edu](mailto:jessica_morgan@ncsu.edu) at least five days prior to any event listed in this newsletter.

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