



# Regional Beef Notes

## Fall 2016

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### Winter Annuals Deserve a Look to Supplement Winter Feeding Jessica Morgan, Agriculture Agent, Anson County

This summer has been rough, no doubt about that. Extreme heat and scarce and spotty rains has made hay production hit or miss this year. For those who will be short on hay, winter annuals may be able to fill a need and reduce the amount of hay fed during the winter months. Below are some options as agronomic information for these crops. As always, if you have specific questions or want more information, please contact your local Extension agent.

#### Ryegrass, Annual

Tolerates wet, and poorly drained soils. High moisture requirement and high nutritive quality.

Establishment: 10-15lb/A in mixes, or 20-30 lb/A alone. September or Early October plant. Responds well to nitrogen. Can mix with small grain (rye, wheat, oat) if putting up for hay or clover if grazing.

Produces forage mostly late February through May. Look for armyworm pests around plant.

#### Small Grains (Rye, Oats, Wheat, Barley, Triticale)

Wheat is more tolerant of heavy, wet soils. (Bottomlands). Oats are generally more cold sensitive and can be winter killed if too low of temperatures occur. Rye is more tolerant of soil acidity than others, so if you haven't put out lime lately, it might be a good choice.

Rye- pasture

Barley, Wheat, or Oats- pasture, hay, or silage.

Triticale- hay or silage

Plant in September or October. In mixes, 60-90 lbs/A. Stand alone: 90-120 lb/A

All small grains are highly responsive to nitrogen and require adequate amounts of phosphorous and potash.

Production typically occurs November –December and again February to April.

Cut for hay or silage in the boot to early heading stage.

#### Arrowleaf Clover

Late season annual with high quality and digestibility, better than crimson clover.

Broadcast at 5-10lb/A in September to early November. Requires a particular seed inoculant.

Responds well to phosphorous and potash fertilization. Legume so does not need excess nitrogen.

Produces forage from March to early July. Graze to a height of 2-4 inches to promote regrowth. Graze til mid-April and then Harvest at early to mid-bloom in May.

#### Crimson Clover

Does not tolerate poorly drained soils.

Broadcast at 20-30 lb/A in late August- October.

Produces forage in November and then March-April

## Stanly Co Feeder Cattle Sale Program

### **NC Cooperative Extension would like to thank all our farmers who participated in the 2016 Feeder Calf Sale Program!**

We will be holding an informational meeting at the sale barn on December 1st, time TBD for farmers who will participate and plan on participating in the program for 2017. This is your chance to have your voice heard as we determine sale dates for 2017, BQA Vaccination protocol and sale requirements.

**We will be discussing the possibility of a June 2017 sale and would like input.**

Look for more information closer to the date.

For any questions about this meeting, please contact Jessica Morgan at 704.694.2415.

## Possible Flood Recovery

As I am writing this, Hurricane Matthew is rearing his ugly head somewhere near Cuba. Although the path is not hitting us directly, we might see some localized flooding in areas, especially south and east in our mailing area. Please plan accordingly and here are some tips when dealing with livestock and poultry buildings after flooding.

### **Personal Safety before Entering Flooded Buildings**

- If you still have electrical power at the farm, shut it off before entering or working around a damaged building.
- Shut off valves to all petroleum tanks.
- Until all power sources have been shut off or stabilized and buildings have been well ventilated, do not smoke or have open flames near buildings or fuel sources.
- LP gas or above-ground gasoline or diesel storage tanks may have floated from their foundations. If so, they should be secured and any damage to valves, fittings, lines or meters should be repaired by a qualified professional.
- If hydrogen sulfide gas is smelled (rotten egg odor), leave the area immediately. Return only with appropriate respiration apparatus.
- Lower all side or endwall curtains, or use a generator and portable fan to ventilate the building before entering or working in it.
- Check for obvious structural damage; e.g., building shift from foundation, eroded or damaged earthen floors or foundation walls.

### **Inspect Structural Integrity of Building**

- Check for racking or stresses in structural members, exposed ends of structural members, loosened trusses or roof members, large cracks in masonry walls. Specifically, examine nailed joints for signs of movement. Assessment of questionable damage and repairs should be made by a qualified professional.
- The foundation of upright silos may have been weakened and should be assessed by a qualified structural professional. When working in the buildings, wear protective clothing, boots, a face mask, protection for open wounds, eyes, nose, and mouth. After working in buildings that have been flooded, immediately bathe and wash thoroughly with an antibacterial soap.

These are suggestions for generalized buildings. If you have localized flooding in poultry or hog houses, please contact your local Extension agent for more information on clean-up.

## Fall Calving Season is Here! Are you Ready?

Samantha Foster, Extension Agent, Agriculture, Stanly County Center

Without a doubt, calving season can be stressful. However, making sure that you are adequately prepared can help ease some of that stress. Before calving starts, take a step back and evaluate what you may need to do beforehand.

Prior to calving, cows and first calf heifers need to be kept in good body condition. Remember, nutrition requirements increase by 10%- 15% during the last 30-45 days of pregnancy. A cow in good body condition is going to have an easier time producing milk and eventually breeding back. Special attention needs to be paid to heifers during this time as well; these animals are not only raising a calf, but are still growing themselves. Additionally, it is a good idea to use a high- magnesium mineral supplement starting about a month in advance of calving. Now is also a good time to make plans regarding what you will be feeding this fall and winter. If you have harvested your own forage, it may be a good idea to have it analyzed for nutrient content. Harvested forages that experienced stress during the growing season or were grown in a field that had a large nitrogen application may also need to be tested for nitrates.

Cows who are nearing their due date should be kept in a clean, grassy pasture. Mud and moisture can exacerbate potential health issues like scours and can make it difficult for you to work with cattle if there are issues during birth. It is also ideal to have a clean, dry sheltered area in case of severe weather. If using bedding, keep it as clean and dry as possible and change as often as needed. Some producers may wish to vaccinate cows and heifers for scours prior to calving. There are different vaccines on the market with different time frames that apply, so make sure to pay attention to the directions and timing for the specific one that is purchased. Keep in mind that how cattle are worked can impact how successfully a vaccine performs. Separating calves less than four weeks of age from older calves has also been shown to help reduce the incidence of scours. Contact your veterinarian to come up with a protocol for dealing with scours specific to your herd.

*Before* calving starts is also a good time to make sure that everything that you need is accessible and ready-to-go. Here is a quick checklist of things to keep on hand:

- Record book or preferred record- keeping system
- OB sleeves and lubricant
- OB chains and handles
- Calf puller or “calf jack”
- Disinfectant for both tools and navels
- Clean towels
- Bottles, nipples, and tube feeder(s)
- Replacement colostrum
- Milk replacer
- Electrolyte mix
- Ear tags and applicator
- Debudding supplies (if applicable)
- Implanting supplies (if applicable)
- Castration supplies

Castration and dehorning don't necessarily need to be performed the moment a calf touches the ground, but remember that these procedures are less stressful to the calf when done earlier rather than later. Performing these procedures on a smaller animal also tends to be easier for the person doing them as well. surgical castration using a knife or scalpel is the preferred method for the least stress and chance of complications later. However, cleanliness and good technique are critical for any method.

Proper management at calving will translate into how well your calves perform as they get older. For more information about best management practices for calves, contact your local extension agent.

# Upcoming Events

<b>Anson Co. Cattlemen's Meeting</b> .....	<b>October 11</b>
7pm Anson Co Extension Center	
<b>NCDA Pesticide Collection Day</b> .....	<b>October 13</b>
10am-12pm, Anson Co. Farmers Market	
<b>Union Co. Cattlemen's Meeting</b> .....	<b>October 20</b>
7pm Union Ag Center	
<b>General Parasitology Workshop</b> .....	<b>October 25</b>
3:30pm-5:00pm Stanly Co. Agri-Civic Center	
<b>Union Co. Cattlemen's Association Replacement Heifer and Quality Female</b> .....	<b>October 29</b>
12pm, Union County Livestock Market	
<b>Cattle Working Workshop with Demonstration</b> .....	<b>November 3</b>
9am 28767 Kendalls Church Rd Richfield	
<b>Feeder Calf Sale Marketing Meeting</b> .....	<b>December 1</b>
Time, TBD Stanly Co Livestock Market, Norwood	
<b>Union County Bull Sale</b> .....	<b>December 3</b>
12pm, Union Co. Livestock Market	
<b>Stanly Select Bull Sale</b> .....	<b>January 7</b>
12pm, Stanly Co. Livestock Market	
<b>Pasture School for Livestock Management</b> .....	<b>Jan. &amp; Feb</b>
Thursday Evenings at Anson Co. Extension Office	

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

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