HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL YOU Sheep & Goat Emailers!
I hope all of you have gotten 2008 off to a GREAT Start!

Included is some Extension's educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties.

I would also like your comments about the the Extension Livestock Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

Thanks to those of you who sent me letters and notes of how the Extension Livestock Program, Visits or Emails in Rockingham & Guilford Counties have impacted you. Many of these were very nice and I appreciate some of the kind comments.

Thanks
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Included in This Cattle Call 1/2/2008
1. 2008 Guilford County Extension Horse Management Short Courses
2. Federal Disaster Loans Available to Small Businesses in NC
3. Are You Missing Your Horse?
4. NCDA - HAY PRESS RELEASE
5. Line Your Pasture Seed Up
6. NCDA NEWS PRESS RELEASE - NEW CHEMICAL RULES MAY AFFECT FARMERS
7. LOCAL Hay
8. Annual N. C. Cattleman's Conference February 22-23
9. 2008 Virginia and North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council Winter Conferences

1. 2008 Guilford County Extension Horse Management Short Courses
Well this years Guilford Co Extension Horse Management Short Courses are fast approaching and I think we have a really good line up of speakers. In fact, all of these courses have been approved for Continuing Education Credits for United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Instructors. I hope you will plan to come and support these programs! I could use your help with promoting this. If you would make a few copies of the attached flier, and place at places that you frequent so other horse owners will see and know about. Thanks!

2008 Guilford County Extension Horse Management Short Courses
Guilford County Agricultural Center, 3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405 7:00 p.m. -- 9:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 28 - Health Care - The Healthy Horse -- Vaccinations, Deworming and Biosecurity - Dr Becky Scarlett - Scarlett Mobile Large Animal Services, Asheboro, NC
- Monday, February 4 - Skin Conditions: hives, ring worm, Rain Rot, Thrush, Sunburn - fungus on head and legs (summer problems)- Reidsville Veterinary Hospital Group, Reidsville, NC
- Monday, February 11 - Equine Chiropractic & Acupuncture - Dr Jim Myers -- Neuse River Veterinary Hospital, Wendell, NC
- Monday, February 18 - Hauling & Transporting Horses -- Laws & Regulations for the towing vehicle, Weigh Stops, Horse Trailer Maintenance, Safety tips for the trip - Graham Moore - NC Horse Council
- Monday, February 25 - Management, Care & Feeding of the Young & Older Horse - (Birth to Yearling, and the Senior Horse) - Dr Bob Mowrey, NCSU Extension Equine Specialist
- Monday, March 3 - Importance of Rider Position & Balance To Achieve The Right Response From the Horse - Cindy Sydnor, Dressage trainer, Judge, Instructor, USDF examiner - Braeburn Farms - Snow Camp, NC
- Monday, March 10 - Forages for horses, Pasture Management & Fertilization, Weed Management & Poisonous Plants in the Southeast - Sue Ellen Johnson, NCSU Extension Forage Specialist, Leon Warren, NCSU Extension Crop Science
- Monday, March 17 - Equestrian Trails & Trail Riding - Trail design and maintenance, Trail issues in North Carolina, Where to trail ride in NC (and near-by), Planning your riding/camping trips, trail etiquette and trail tips. - Barbara Oslund - NC Horse Council

2. Small Business Administration has announced that federal disaster loans are available to small businesses located in the State of North Carolina as a result of drought. SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS FOR MORE DETAILS (can be agriculture related, but not farmers)
3. Are You Missing a Horse??
A horse has shown up in the Summerfield area around the intersection of Scalesville Road & Lake Brandt Road. If you or anyone you know are missing a horse please let Randy Boles (or me) hear from you. Randy can be contacted at 430-8020. This mare is in good shape and has some very distinctive markings and could be described verily easy. So if this is you, call and describe her and get your horse back!

4. NCDA - Hay PRESS RELEASE
Wednesday - January 2, 2008
Drought NEWS

NOTE - To Participate in the Hay Programs you must have a NCFARM ID # (A Premise ID#) This is not a FSA Farm Number! Call the Hay Alert hotline at 1-866-506-6222 or log on to www.ncagr.com/hayalert for more information!

Hay Shipments: The first shipment of hay bought by the state for resale to livestock farmers will be delivered to six sites across North Carolina in early January, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced last week. The six distribution sites were chosen because of their proximity to areas with large livestock populations where the need for hay is great. Large and small bales will be available at each of the following locations: Mountain Research Station, 265 Test Farm Road, Waynesville; Upper Mountain Research Station, 8004 N.C. Highway 88 East, Laurel Springs; Piedmont Research Station, 8350 Sherrills Ford Road, Salisbury; Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Road, Colfax; Caswell Research Farm, 2415 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston; Oxford Tobacco Research Station, 300 Providence Road, Oxford. The department has placed an initial order for 36 truckloads of hay, which will be distributed evenly among the six locations. Delivery dates for each site are still being finalized. As livestock owners buy up the hay, the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will purchase additional loads. Increase in Hay Reimbursements: Amid increasing costs for hay shipments, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler today announced higher reimbursement limits for two programs aimed at helping drought-stricken livestock owners with the cost of transporting hay to their farms. The programs will now reimburse livestock owners up to $500 for a load of hay moved from out of state. Livestock owners may seek cost-share funds for up to three loads. The higher limits are possible because the Council of State recently approved $250,000 in emergency funds for the cost-share programs. Previously, payments were limited to $300 for a single load of hay. Reimbursements will be made on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available. Meanwhile, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced last week that the state has received its first shipment of hay to distribute and sell to farmers. Call the department's Hay Alert hotline at 1-866-506-6222 or log on to www.ncagr.com/hayalert for more information.

Hay-Relief Donation: The N.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has donated $18,000 to help North Carolina farmers cope with a massive hay shortage brought on by extreme drought, Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler announced today. The funding will assist the Ag and Equine Partners hay relief programs. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services set up the programs to help livestock and horse owners defray a portion of the cost of transporting hay from outside the state to their farms. In addition to the original contribution to the department's relief programs, the Lutheran synod has started "No Hay in the Manger," an effort to collect hay-relief donations from its Lutheran members and the community. Almost $2,000 was donated in the first weeks. See www.nclutheran.org to contribute. Drought Conditions: Gov. Mike Easley said Thursday that North Carolinians still aren't doing enough to curb water use during the drought. Easley now wants local governments to hike prices for residents who use more water than necessary. The plan would keep prices low for necessary water use but "significantly" raise the price of water on customers who use excessive amounts. Easley said during a meeting of the Drought Management Advisory Council, a panel of local and state officials, that he wants the plan to remain permanent for long-term conservation. Water usage dropped about 30 percent between August and the end of October after Easley issued a call to cut water usage by 50 percent. But water use has crept back up. Easley plans to convene a meeting in Greensboro on Jan. 14 of representatives of the 30 systems with the lowest supplies to make sure they have back-up sources of water and emergency plans in place. The representatives also will discuss plans to connect their systems to those with more plentiful supplies. Currently, 78 of the state's 100 counties are experiencing “exceptional” drought, the most intensive category of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. At Thursday's meeting, weather forecasters issued a bleak outlook for the next six months, noting that the La Nina climate pattern is driving wet weather away from the drought-parched Southeast.
They expect that to continue through the spring, bringing lower-than-normal precipitation.

Hay Alert hotline at 1-866-506-6222 or log on to www.ncagr.com/hayalert

5. Line Your Spring Seed Up Early
According to what I have been told and what I have read, is that things are indicating that orchardgrass, tall fescue and clover seed supplies will be limited in 2008. I would strongly suggest that if you are intending to establish or over-seed your pastures next year, that you buy early to lock in current prices and to make sure you get the varieties that you are wanting to plant.

6. NCDA NEWS: PRESS RELEASE - NEW CHEMICAL RULES MAY AFFECT FARMERS:
Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler reminds farmers and agribusinesses that store certain chemicals that they may be affected by a new U.S. Department of Homeland Security regulation. The new rule requires facilities that fall under the guidelines to fill out an assessment form or face possible penalties. "North Carolina farmers and agribusinesses storing fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals might be affected by this regulation. We want farmers to be aware of this change and review their materials to see if they need to complete an assessment form or not," Troxler said. "The deadline for filling out the required form is Jan. 19, so every farmer needs to look at the list and quantities of chemicals involved as quickly as possible to be sure they are in compliance. Farmers with questions about the requirements should contact the U.S. Department of Homeland Security." Information on how to register in order to complete the assessment is available on the Department of Homeland Security's Web site at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity. "We urge farmers and agribusiness officers to get started on this right away," Troxler said. "We are concerned that DHS may be overwhelmed by the response as the deadline approaches."

7. Hay Sources
NCDA Hay Alert Website, Hotline 1-866-506-6222 (Buy or Sell Hay) http://www.ncagr.com/HayAlert/

I am being very selfish with the following LOCAL HAY list and sharing only with folks in Rockingham & Guilford Counties. I would like to keep our hay here for the producers here that need it. If I get calls that these producers/suppliers saying are not getting calls, I will forward on for others in NC to call on.

LOCAL Hay
Richard Isley -- Hardins Feed & Farm Supply 643-4978, c-908-3302
Watt Combs - 540-537-3315 - Stoneville - Large 660 lb. Rectangular Bales, Northern Grown Timothy/Alfalfa Mix
Farmer's Feed and Seed in Kernersville (993-2116) has Northern Grown Grass Mix hay Also has good quality soybean hay. 300 bales @ 60-70 lbs/bale.
John Ward -- Ward Farms -- 698-0408 -- 5337 Cook-Stewart Road, Whitsett, NC 27377 (Trucker) Timothy Square Bales (has been tested) and various types of hay Also has Grass Round Bales --
Rudy Langley - 3667 Troxler Lane, Elon, NC 27244 336-263-4609 - tractor trailer load. 3x3x8' and 800lb Alfalfa bales
Ed Beeson 4541 Beeson Farm Road, Sophia 27350 (Randolph Co) 336-302-2879, 336-302-6428 Northern Grown Timothy/Orchardgrass Mix
Barry Brown -- 6900 Burnham Road Brown Summit, 706-2233 Oat Hay Sq Bales, some round
Harold Page 2304 Estes Road, Ruffin 939-2940 -- Wheat/Bermuda Mix Square Bales, also has Wheat Straw
Southern States - Reidsville -- 336-349-7074
CLIFFORD COBB, 5456 TIMBERMILL RD MCLEANSVILLE, NC, 27301 Cell 669-1400 Corn Stalks
Marcus Faucett 656-3927 cell-312-7479 385 Square Bales Soybean Hay
Wallace McKinney cell-613-5500 Soybean Hay, Also GrassMix hay (Round Bales)
*Steve Field's - Trucker 451-4787 Timothy mix Square bales  & can get round bales of Bermuda
Doug Sockwell 6837 NC 61 North GIBSONVILLE, NC, 27249 Home: (919)449-6323 cell-516-1126 Corn Hay
Gerald Fryar 6298 McLeansville Rd Mc Leansville, NC 27301-9707 (336) 621-1341 Corn Hay
8. NC BCIP Bull Test Sales - For Information Contact Gary Gregory -
919-515-4027 or gary_gregory@ncsu.edu for more information

- January 5 - Waynesville Bull Test Sale 1pm - Haywood County
  Agricultural & Activities Center

- January 12th - Butner Bull Test Sale - Noon - Granville County
  Livestock Arena, Oxford

9. There is a forage conference on Jan 23rd in the Oxford, NC area and
this should be a real good program. The same program will be delivered
in three locations in Virginia, and this is a combined effort of the VA
and NC Forage and Grasslands Council. The focus if drought
preparedness, and how to manage pasture during recovery.
Building Robust Grazing Systems: Drought Proofing Your Pastures

2008 Virginia and North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council Winter
Conferences

January 23, 2008
Southern Livestock Center
Oxford, NC

1:00 pm Registration
1:30 pm Managing Pastures for Drought-Sue Ellen Johnson, NCSU and Chris
Teutsch, Southern Piedmont AREC
2:15 pm Forage Species for Robust Grazing Systems-Ben Tracy, Virginia
Tech Break and visit sponsors
3:00 pm Break and visit with sponsors
3:30 pm Stocking Rate: Getting it Right- Ed Rayburn, WVU
4:15 pm Drought Tolerant Grazing Systems for Grass Finished Beef-Mac
Baldwin, Baldwin Family Farms, Yanceyville, NC
5:00 pm Grazing Lands Conservation- Lane Price, Assistant State
Conservationist for Technology, NRCS, Raleigh, NC
5:15 pm Cost Effective Watering Systems- Jim Green, Professor Emeritus NCSU.
5:30 pm Dinner and visit sponsors
6:30 pm Cost Effective Fencing Systems-Lewis Sapp, Stay Tuff Fence
Manufacturing, Winston-Salem, NC
6:50 pm Conserved Forage, Crop Residues, and Byproducts as a Component
of Drought Management Strategy-Matt Poore, NCSU
7:30 pm Complete survey and adjourn

If you plan on attending, please contact Kim Burge, 919-552-9111 or
e-mail Kim@nccattle.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Ben

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