Hello There Sheep & Goat Emailers

Included in this 8/21/2008 week of Shepard’s Announcements is Extension's Sheep & Goat related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties.

As Always - I would like to hear your comments about the Shepard’s Announcements or the Extension Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

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Shepard’s Announcements
August - September 2008
Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Sheep/Goat Newsletter

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1. Drought/Forage Management Field Day SEPTEMBER 4 –Upper Piedmont Research Station - A Drought/Forage Management field day has been scheduled for Thursday, September 4 at the Upper Piedmont Research Station from 8:30 am until 3pm. At this field day, the focus will be on Forages and Forage Management and Beef Cattle. ***This is the required program to attend for those receiving funds from the NC Drought Recovery Program in Rockingham County.*** This will also serve as the September meeting for the Rockingham County Cattleman’s Association.

The discussion at the field day will be focusing on beef cattle, but the forage principles discussed will be applicable for all livestock, so this field day would benefit ALL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS that graze or harvest hay. It is also hoped that we will be able to offer pesticide credits and possibly waste credits at this training. Plan on attending, it will be good! The Day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with Registration and the program will begin at 9:00 am.

Topics will include: Forage Establishment and Management Principles, Economic Realities of Good Pasture Management and Revitalizing Drought Stress Pastures, Grazing Management & Pasture Walk, Research Station Update and Current activities, Identifying desirable plants and Weeds & Weed Control, Drill and Sprayer Calibration Demonstrations and a Rotary-type weed wiper demonstration.

At this point we do not have not hours of credits finalized but hopefully 2 hours of pesticide license credit, and 4 hours of Continuing Education Credits for Animal Waste Applicators will be received for those who attend this field day.

All livestock and crop producers are encouraged to attend this program on Thursday September 4th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at the Upper Piedmont Research Station located at the at Historic CHINQUA PENN Plantation on Wentworth Street in Reidsville. (even if you did not sign up for the drought relief funds). IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS FIELD DAY, PLEASE RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY CALLING Melissa Lynch, Extension Livestock Secretary at 342-8248 BY TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND, This will help us better prepare for the day as well as ensure enough food at lunch! IF you would like more information call, Ben Chase, Agricultural Extension Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service in Rockingham & Guilford Counties at 342-8235, 1800-666-3625 or Email at ben_chase@ncsu.edu.

Hope to see you all there!

2. Are You Interested in Direct Marketing locally produced Meat & Eggs (Beef, Pork, Lamb, Goats or Poultry Products)
On SEPTEMBER 9th beginning at 7 pm at the Guilford County Agricultural Center located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro, there will be a program that will discuss the direct marketing of meat and egg products. There are many issues that need to be well thought through such as who will be your customers that you will market your product, What Farmers Need to Know to Direct Market meat and eggs in North Carolina, the Regulatory requirements and the product liability issues that may be involved. Planning for Success is a key to being a success. Developing a Plan for Your Meat & Egg Business begins with the end in mind. Please look at the entire overview of the operation and consider where and how to market your product.

When looking at direct marketing of livestock and livestock products producers must concentrate on the production end of things, looking at breed of animals, pasture management & nutrition or Husbandry management practices that influence the economics of the livestock business. There are many resources that folks need to be aware of if you are considering this venture. One Great local resource is the Cooperative Extension as well as the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Extension can provide you with the production management and budgeting information and NCDA has detailed information regarding the regulations for the sale and distribution of meat & Eggs and is also responsible for the enforcement of these laws.

The Extension website can be found at [http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture](http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture) and the North Carolina Department Of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences – Meat and Poultry Inspection Division Home Page is located at: [http://www.ncagr.com/meatpoultry/index.htm](http://www.ncagr.com/meatpoultry/index.htm). On this web site is a list of Frequently Asked Questions about Processing and Marketing of Meat products as well as the NCDA&CS Directory of Meat and Poultry Processing and Slaughter Plants & Facilities in North Carolina that are either inspected by NCDA&CS as state plants or custom processing facilities, or by USDA.

Resources for Evaluating Some of the Economic Aspects of Direct Marketing such as Enterprise budget guidelines are available from the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NCSU. These include forage budgets and beef production budgets, including a budget for finishing cattle on pasture. Budgets are available in print or spreadsheet versions and come with explanatory notes. They are available on line at [http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension/Ag_budgets.html](http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension/Ag_budgets.html).

At this meeting the basics of Direct Marketing will be discussed. (Slaughtering on The Farm, Meat Handlers License, and Labels) The NCDA & Consumer Services custom exemption law allows an Individual to slaughter up to 1,000 chickens or rabbits of their own raising for retail or wholesale sale without benefit of inspection.

If you are interested in Direct marketing of Meat or Eggs, plan on attending this program on September 9th beginning at 7 pm at the Guilford County Agricultural Center Auditorium located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro. This program is open to anyone in the surrounding counties. Please let me know by Monday September 7th if you are planning to come to this program, 342-8235, 800-666-3625or email at ben_chase@ncsu.edu so we have enough handouts. For more information or directions give Ben Chase, Extension Livestock Agent in Rockingham & Guilford Counties a call at 1800-666-3625 or 342-8235.

3. Notes from the Farm Service Agency – Important

Neil S. Burnette, CED Rockingham County Farm Service Agency, (336)-342-0460 Ex2
Rodney Speas, Guilford County Farm Service Agency, 336-375-5401 Ex2

Attention Livestock Producers – The new farm bill offers many new programs for farmers to consider for 2008 through 2012 but one of the most promising for Rockingham County Livestock farmers is the Livestock Forage Program for 2008. The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides farmers assistance for grazing losses for eligible livestock because of drought, on land that is either of the following: native or
improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or planted to a crop specifically for providing grazing. Farmers in counties with droughts designated by the Drought Monitor as: Severe (one month’s payment); Extreme (two month’s payment); Exceptional (three month’s payment) will qualify for assistance. The payment is 60 percent of either: - the monthly feed cost for the total number of livestock covered or, - the monthly feed cost calculated by using the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land, (whichever is smaller.)

To be eligible for LFP in 2008, an eligible livestock producer who did not purchase NAP coverage must pay a “buy-in” fee of $100.00 per grazing crop by September 16, 2008.

Rockingham & Guilford Counties have been designated as in an extreme drought area for 1 week during the grazing period for 2008; therefore producers who have a 2008 grazing loss will be eligible for a payment if the “buy-in” fee is paid by September 16, 2008. To be eligible for LFP in 2009, an eligible livestock producer must purchase Noninsured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all grazing crops. The cost will by $250.00 per crop and must be paid by December 1, 2008.

Producers are encouraged to visit the Farm Service Agency Offices in Rockingham or Guilford Counties for additional details. Tuesday, September 16, 2008 is the last day to submit the “buy-in” fee to be eligible for payment in 2008. There is very little information available on how payments will be calculated for this program but livestock producers are strongly encouraged to inquire further about this program right away and be prepared to pay the “buy-in” fee when you visit. The one thing we do know for sure is that if you do not signup by the deadline you will not be able to participate in this program.

4. HAY DIRECTORY – A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County and Guilford County area. This directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. If you are in need of hay or would like to be added (or removed) from this list please call me at 1-800-666-3625 or 342-8235 and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.

5. Adding clover - Can save you money
Adding clover to an existing stand can help lower your Nitrogen fertilization need/requirement as well as increase the nutritional value for the grazing animal. Clover will for sure lower your Nitrogen requirement and your fertilizer bill, but one also needs to make sure that they have taken a well thought out approach to the forage management plan. Remember, your neighbor’s forage management plan will probably be different than yours! There is one thing that you should have in common with your neighbor, in that the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about adding clover (or legume) is the fertility of the soil, has there been soil test taken? Soil testing ensures adequate fertility for planting success. (Proper Ph).

The second thing to is what is in the field or what plant competition (weeds) are present? You need to get the weeds under control first before planting clover (any legume) because the products you spray to control weeds will damage or kill your clover. The key is to try to get your weeds under control prior to adding the clover to the pasture mix for a few reasons: - to kill the weeds & not your clover ($$$) and - so that when you fertilize your grass/clover you are not fertilizing the weeds.
- Decrease competition above and below the soil surface – Ladino Clover (is a White), Will Clover is also good blend if ya can find it. Most Ag dealers will have varieties of clover that have done well in this area. You can drill it or broadcast. Drilling the seed will use less seed and gets you good soil seed contact. (Just don’t plant to deep) Broadcasting the seed works fine, just increases your seeding rate ($). Plant timing is everything (Moisture/Temperature) the planting dates for this area for fall planted Clover is from August 25th-October 25th. Stop by the Extension office for a soil testing kit; take the soil test first, so
you can follow the fertilization recommendation to ensure stand success. If Ph is off, you are probably wasting money adding fertilizer. So proper Ph is critical and essential for nutrient uptake! (if you have been adding lime every year without a soil test you can also run into problems with the Ph being too high, this has been seen this week).

There are various weed control methods & products. Determine the weeds, to determine management control choice. Example: if Buttercup, the time to Spray is early spring.

So, what are other concerns with clover:
- Bloat keep 35% or less legume in pasture mix to help prevent bloat, fill cattle up with hay prior to putting them on these pastures. If suspect a problem poloxalene can be fed.

6. FORAGE TIPS: August -September-October
*To get maximum use of available grass, utilize cross fencing. This will stretch out your forage and decrease wastage. *Evaluate your current situation and consider overseeding or planting for fall & winter grazing with rye, ryegrass, etc. in late September. Small grains can provide grazing from December through May *With the high price of fertilizer it is very important to take soil samples for fall plantings. Come by and pick up your free soil sample boxes and sheets. *Fertilize and lime cool season grasses. Apply lime to pastures with pH below 5.8., if proper ph is not maintained, fertilizer may not be utilized by the plant. *Plant cool season grasses (fescue, orchardgrass, clovers, etc.) as late as October 25. *Finish grazing cool season grasses before grazing warm season. *Apply nitrogen to warm-season grasses after each cutting (or 4 to 6 weeks) *Graze bermudagrass to a 2-4 inch stubble and harvest excess every 4-6 weeks. *Control weeds *Be aware of potential of Nitrate & Prussic Acid poisoning from animals if grazing stunted, highly fertilized summer annuals. *Keep good forage records. *DRAG PASTURES TO BREAK UP/Spread MANURE PILES (This helps with fertility and flies). -Rotate/Clip pastures as needed. *Be cautious of combustion - Hay Fires - Hay in round bales should not contain more than 18% moisture and square bales no more than 20%.

Grazing Management - Established fescue can withstand heavy grazing during its peak production. In general, grazing should be started between 6-8 inches and maintain a 3-4 inch stubble as practical to achieve the best animal performance and persistence of the plant. Continuous grazing below 2 inches will reduce animal performance, slow the growth rate of cool season grasses and may result in stand thinning.

During the peak spring growth period, take special care to reduce wasted forage and developing seed heads. Cross-fencing which will restrict acreage available to the animals and, in turn, allow the harvest of excess growth for hay can do this.

7. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted
- Donkeys For Sale - (Standard) Jennies with foals at side (colts & fillies) 336-349-4457
- Hay For Sale - Fescue/Orchardgrass Square bales 45-50 lbs. $5.50/bale call Don Powell in Reidsville 669-3501 or email at powelldon43@yahoo.com
- Hay for sale: 800 pound rolled fescue/orchard grass $50 per roll, $250 minimum purchase - We load your trailer Call Lee 336-951-2871 or 336-337-8777 for an appointment
Hay stored in completely enclosed barn
- For Sale - Katahdin Sheep - Rams, Ewes and lambs... large selection 336-349-4457

I always want to know what you think of the Shepard’s Announcements, good or bad, especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!

Thanks & Have A Great SAFE Weekend!
Please Don’t Forget Our Troops!

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Ben Chase
Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock
North Carolina State University
North Carolina Cooperative Extension,
525 Highway 65, Suite 200
Reidsville, NC 27320
(336) 342-8235 1-800-666-3625 Fax: 336-342-8242
ben.chase@ncsu.edu
http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture