Hello There Sheep & Goat Emailers

Included in this 8/25/2008 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
Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Sheep/Goat Newsletter

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1. Drought/Forage Management Field Day SEPTEMBER 4 -Upper Piedmont Research Station – REMINDER – PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

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. This is the required program to attend for those receiving funds from the NC Drought Recovery Program. This will also serve as the September meeting for the Rockingham County Cattlemen’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. ** We are also offering 2 hours of Pesticide X Credits and 4 Hours of Continuing Education Credits for Animal Waste Applicators for those who attend. So 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 a.m.

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.

All livestock and crop producers are encouraged to attend this program on Thursday September 4th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and held at the Upper Piedmont Research Station located at the at Historic CHINQUA PENN Plantation,1944 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. Direct Marketing of Meat & Eggs 9/9/2008 7pm
(Beef, Pork, Lamb, Goats or Poultry Products)

On SEPTEMBER 9th beginning at 7 pm at the Guilford County Agricultural Center Auditorium 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.

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 interested, program, 342-8235, 1-800-666-3625 or email at ben_chase@ncsu.edu so we have enough handouts. For more information or directions call 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 FSA, (336)-342-0460  Ex2
Rodney Speas, Guilford County FSA, 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 be $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. Test Corn for Aflatoxin -  If you grow corn and planning to use it as a feed source for your livestock you are strongly encouraged to have the corn tested for aflatoxin to prevent contamination of feeds.

Aflatoxin is a byproduct of mold and can be harmful & can be deadly to livestock and humans. The fungus is quite common in nature, but its population increases during hot dry weather. Aflatoxin contamination is greater in corn that has been produced under stress conditions. Thus, drought, heat, insect, nematode, and fertilizer stress are all conducive to high levels of aflatoxins. Aflatoxin levels are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at 20 ppb (parts per billion) in food and feed. Aflatoxin can also appear in milk of lactating animals fed aflatoxin-contaminated feed. The allowable limit in milk is 0.5 ppb.

Aflatoxin can cause a lot of problems, some symptoms of Aflatoxins are liver necrosis, liver tumors, reduced growth, depressed immune response, carcinogens it’s worth a farmer’s time and effort to submit corn samples to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for testing.

In North Carolina, NCDA will test for Aflatoxins for free to farmers. If you are interested is getting some tested, let me know and I will assist you in the process with the forms and bags needed for submitting samples. It requires 5- to 10-pound sample of shelled corn for the lab to process. (Commercial feed samples can not be tested)
5. Yellow Jackets
This is the time of year when bee stings are most prevalent. We have already had several reports of folks being stung by yellow jackets both at work, at home and working in the field. (THIS CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS IF NOT DEADLY WHILE ON A TRACTOR!) The hot dry weather makes it even worse. I don’t have any answers for prevention except to be on the lookout for nests in the ground. They might not get ya the first time around, but the next time, they will be on ya! Awareness is the key and be prepared if attacked by a swarm of bees. Swatting at these little creatures only puts them in a really bad mood.

Yellow Jackets Can Interfere With Fall Activities
Fall activities can be ruined by the activities of Yellow Jackets. Many experts consider yellow jackets one of the most dangerous of insects because of their aggressiveness and the prevalence of folks very sensitive to bee and wasp stings. Their constant scavenging for sugar puts the wasp in direct conflict with folks visiting picnic areas, parks, backyard patios, and golf courses. Yellow jackets and other ground-nesting wasps can also establish underground nests in the yard, and the unobservant mower can face serious injury.

Yellow jackets also love to hang around trash cans, and the hapless soul assigned to take out the garbage can also be rewarded with many stings. Wasps do not lose their “stinger” like bees, and thus can sting repeatedly, as ill-tempered yellow jackets often do. Call a pest-control service if yellow jackets take up residence in an inaccessible area. The pesticide carbaryl (Sevin) can be very effective in controlling infestations.

Tips To Avoid Yellow Jacket Confrontations
Don’t wave or slap at the wasps – this only makes them believe you are “ready to rumble”.
Serve soft drinks with tops and straws – many yellow jackets end up inside soda cans unbeknownst to the thirsty human. Serious injury to the face and throat can result.
Cover all meat and sweets when outdoors – have your outdoor activities in the evening or preferably, in a screened porch area. Quickly clean up spills around picnic tables or other food areas.
Avoid wearing perfume or fruity after-shave when outdoors. Wearing bright-colored or “flowery” shirts can make the wasp believe you are the next course of an after-dinner snack. Change trash can liners often, and secure the lids tightly to prevent wasp entry.

The Animal Welfare Approved program and food label promote the well-being of animals and the sustainability of humane family farms. We unite conscientious consumers with farmers who raise their animals with compassion. Is your food Animal Welfare Approved? Ask your grocer or chef today.

The Animal Welfare Approved program and food label is pleased to announce its 2008 Good Husbandry Grants program. Farmers who are approved, or who have applied to be in the program, are eligible to apply for grants of up to $10,000 to improve animal welfare on their farms. The application deadline is October 15, 2008. Grant guidelines and an application are attached, but these forms and further details may also be obtained at http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org/index.php?page=good-husbandry-grants-for-farmers.

All press inquiries should be directed to Beth Hauptle (beth@animalwelfareapproved.org).

Questions from farmers regarding applying should be directed to Emily Lancaster (emily@animalwelfareapproved.org), and completed applications should be directed to Julie Munk (Julie@animalwelfareapproved.org).

For more information about the Animal Welfare Approved program and food label, visit www.AnimalWelfareApproved.org.

7. Members of the North Carolina Meat Goat Producers
There has been a meeting with a prospective meat packer who is interested in purchasing goats and sheep for meat throughout the year. Prices have not been discussed yet, but we are sure they will be fair and profitable. What the NC Meat Goat Producers need from members is a forecast of how many goats and sheep you can provide to the NCMGP throughout the year. This means January through December. Please
respond either by e-mail to lgsnuffy@hotmail.com or by calling Larry Smith at (336) 573-4155 with your information no later than Monday September 08, 2008. We look forward to hearing from all of you on this matter.

This is only for members but it is very easy to join, if interested, call or Email Larry Smith at the above phone & email.

8. 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.

9. Rockingham County Weavers and Fiber Arts Guild Announcement
The 1st meeting of the Rockingham County Weavers and Fiber Arts Guild will take place Sunday September 14, 2008 at Chingua Penn Plantation in the Gate House Meeting Room. After this first meeting, beginning in October, the Guild will meet here in the Rockingham County Agricultural Building on the 2nd Sunday afternoon of each month at 2:00 p.m.

"Enhancing lives through expression in Weaving & Fiber Arts" - Be apart of a community of fiber enthusiasts. Attend monthly meetings and programs. Show & share your work. Register for Guild workshops. Volunteer for projects, sales, and other activities. Participate in a study group for special interests. Receive the Guild Newsletter. Enter textile exhibits and competitions. Be listed in the membership, specialty, business and resources directory. Become a mentor offering friendly help and advice. Enjoy field trips to craft schools and seminars and take part in outreach programs. For more information and questions call 549-1351.

10. The 5th annual NCSU Hands-on Cheese making Short Course
This Course is designed to convey the basic concepts of Farmstead cheese production including basic sanitation and milk processing, basic and cheese microbiology, quality control, hands-on cheesemaking and packaging / labeling issues. For more information on the course contact Gary Cartwright at gcart@unity.ncsu.edu or 919-513-2488.

Who Should Attend - The content of this course is directed at individuals that are investigating the requirements of Farmstead cheese making, prepared to begin or already making Farmstead cheese.

The course will begin on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. and end on Friday, December 5 at 4:00 p.m. It will be held on the NC State University campus. Class location and hotel suggestions and rates will be provided at a later date.

Fee for the short course is $550 for registrations postmarked by September 26, 2008 and $650 after September 28. Fee includes short course materials, lunches and breaks. Hotel and other meals are not included. To apply for the Short Course, please: Complete an application form and return with payment postmarked by September 26, 2008. Class is filled on a “First Come” basis.

Make check payable to: NCSU Creamery. Fee for the short course is $550. The fee increases to $650 after September 26th. Fee includes short course materials, lunches and breaks. Payment may be sent separately from application, but must be received by 9/26/2008. Mail, fax or email the application form to: NCSU, Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences, Farmstead Cheese & Dairy Program, Campus Box 7624, Raleigh, NC 27695 Fax: 919-515-3643, Email: gary_cartwright@ncsu.edu

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!
Ben

Please Don’t Forget Our Troops!

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