

## Weekly Pile For Week of April 22 2012

Hey Timber Hoppers, Stump Jumpers & Trail Blazers,  
Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of April 22, 2012,  
Extension's Equine related educational information & announcements for Rockingham  
& Guilford Counties. To have something included in the Weekly Pile, please follow  
these simple guidelines.

- Information included needs to be educational in nature &/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.
- provided information is a resource to the citizens of Rockingham/Guilford Counties.
- provided information does not require extra time or effort to be listed.
- listings for Swap Shop will not list pricing details.
- Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.
- Please keep ads or events as short as possible – with NO FORMATTING, NO unnecessary Capitalization's, and NO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.

(If sent in that way, it may not be included)

- Please include contact information - Phone, Email and alike.
  - PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.
  - The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.
- If I forgot to include anything in this email it was probably an oversight on my part, but please let me know!

If you have a question or ideas that you would like covered in the Weekly Pile, please let me know and I will try to include. As Always – I would like to hear your comments about the Weekly Pile or the Extension Horse Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

### **Included in This Weeks Pile:**

- 1. Scarce Seed**
- 2. Hay Quality**
- 3. BSE (aka Mad Cow Disease)**
- 4. You Asked**
- 5. Grazing Sticks Available**
- 6. Meat Handling & Cutting Workshop**
- 7. St. Jude's Trail Ride – DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED**
- 8. Bryan Park Workday**
- 9. Flintrock Farm Activities**
- 10. Cooler Horsemanship**
- 12. HAY DIRECTORY**
- 13. SWAP SHOP**
- 14. Take A Load Off**

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### 1. Scarce Seed

You probably know this by now, but some of our seed is in short supply. The crabgrass seeds (and some others ) had basically a complete crop failure and sources are basically slim to none. I have called across the country at various places and Pearl Millet, Sorghum Sudan & Hybrids are getting the same way. So I would suggest if you had plans to plant a warm season forage that you check your seed source to see what is available and the cost of it.

There should not be a problem if you were looking at planting bermudagrass, that seed is available.

Some seed places in mid-west are suggesting to plant Teff, I am not a big fan of that at this point in time due to little experience with it. From my limited experience with it is not the golden egg, but it could have potential under proper management and environmental conditions.

Below is a little bit about this grass so check it out

Teff Grass- Crop Overview and Forage Production Guide

<http://www.producerschoiceseed.com/documents/TeffGrassManagementGuide.pdf>

Northwestern Nevada Teff Production Costs and Returns, 2008

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/2008/sp0813.pdf>

TEFF: Old Plant – New Use

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/Teff%20Old%20plant%20-%20new%20use.pdf>

Summer Annual Opportunity: Teff Grass

<http://msucares.com/crops/forages/newsletters/09/7.pdf>

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### 2. Hay Quality

- There are two methods of hay evaluation: visual and chemical.
- Visual analysis is most often used to provide an indication of overall hay quality.

Color - Is an unreliable measure of quality. Color can be influenced by fertilization, sun-bleaching, curing, moisture content and species

- All hays will gradually “lose color” with storage

In General:

- a bright dark green color usually indicates high vitamin and protein content.

- **Browning of hay usually indicates a loss of nutrients. A dark brown color is a sign that the hay was heat-damaged, which may cause mold.**
- **Used alone, color is a relatively poor measure of quality**

**Aroma - Smell the hay - a musty or moldy odor indicates that the hay was not cured or stored properly and mold is present. Mold will appear as a grayish-white dust when the bale is slapped, or as a white flaky substance in tightly packed sections of the bale. Mold usually eliminates hay as a horse feed.**

**Presence of Foreign Material – All materials considered foreign to pure or mixed hays will alter the nutritive value, and some may be dangerous. Look closely for insects, weeds and trash (wire, nails, glass etc.).**

**Texture - Stem size and flexibility provide an indication of how palatable the hay will be to livestock and horses.**

- **Large, long stems which are hard and rigid are much less desirable**
- **Small, flexible stems are desired**

**Moisture content - Hay becomes stable once moisture has been reduced to about 15 to 20 percent.**

- **High moisture content is not only critical and damaging to quality BUT also a real FIRE threat (barns, hay supplies, property)**

- **Hay should not be put up when moisture content is greater than 20%.**

**Plant Maturity is probably the single most important factor influencing nutrient content and quality of hay.**

**Stage of Maturity at Time of Harvest**

**The presence of large, coarse stems and seedheads indicates that the plant was more mature than desired at the time of harvest.**

**So an abundance of leaves and lack of seedheads is desirable. Leaves contain more digestible energy and protein than stems, and leafiness decreases as the plant matures (Leafiness)**

**\*\*The maturity of the plant is not related to a particular cutting BUT rather to the stage of maturity of the plant when harvested.**

**Simple Rule of Thumb - As the Plant Matures Quality Decreases**

**BUT As the plant matures – Increases Quantity or amount of the forage cut <<So if harvested early, smaller amount harvested but Higher Quality>>**

**Harvesting - Hays experience a decrease in highly digestible sugars and starches during the curing process because of continued plant respiration after harvest.**

- **Decreases in digestibility can also occur from leaching of soluble nutrients during rainfall and physical loss of leaves at harvest**
- **Different management techniques that minimize curing time (use of a mower- conditioner or use of drying agents/preservatives) can minimize the loss.**

- **Preservative products consisting of propionic acid and acetic acid have successfully preserved alfalfa hay baled at moisture levels up to 35% without affecting intake. Aids with leaf retention & decreases heating and spoilage (works with grasses & legumes**
- **Hay that is stored above 20 percent moisture favors the growth of fungi. These organisms generate heat and can increase hay temperature to about 150 degrees. Once hay heats beyond this point, chemical reactions may lead to spontaneous combustion and, in turn, to barn fires. Combustion is most likely to occur when hay is stored at 30 to 40 percent moisture. Hay that has heated and molded as a result of fungal activity has usually undergone serious losses in quality.**
- **Light rain on hay, occurring within several hours after mowing, is not as damaging as rain falling on dried, cured hay in the swath or windrow ( as long as the hay is properly dried to less than 20 percent before baling**
- **Rule of thumb- if you think that hay has been put up wet, to check for heating take a ground rod or metal rod, put in hay, leave in a few minutes and when you pull out you should be able to grab**

#### **Hay Storage**

- **The way you store your hay is as important as your timing when you make it.**
  - **Number of studies show there can be up to 50 percent dry matter loss depending on bale quality, storage conditions, and length in storage.**
  - **Bales stored outside and unprotected will show the greatest loss. There are a number of options to protect round bales that prove economical when you do the figuring.**
  - **Some options to consider: plastic wrap, net wrap, reusable tarps, bale sleeves, or a permanent hay storage structure like a pole barn.**
- If hay is stored outside:**
- **use a well-drained site**
  - **use poles, pallets, tires, crushed rock, or other material to break the contact with the wet soil and to provide some air space between the bottom of the bale and the soil surface.**
  - **don't stack big round bales unless you cover them. Large, deep stacks of wet, heating hay can lead to spontaneous combustion, particularly when stored inside.**
  - **if large round bales are to be stacked and covered or stored inside, consider moving them to the storage site about a week after baling to allow some loss of moisture and heat.**

Even though many factors affect forage quality, No Single factor, including Color can be used for predictions.

- Color Leafiness
- Aroma/Smell/Odor Foreign Matter
- Stage of Maturity Texture

Chemical analysis is the only true indicator of nutritional value

- Chemical analysis identifies nutritionally strong and weak points so proper supplementation can be planned

NCDA offers analysis of forages and grain mixes. For \$10 per sample, the laboratory analyzes levels of dry matter, protein, digestible energy, minerals, etc. Nitrate levels may also be tested at no cost.

- Feed testing kits are available from the Cooperative Extension in each county

Advantages using feed analysis include:

- Increased accuracy of ration formulation
- Provides ability to monitor accuracy of feed mixing services
- Identifies good quality feed ingredients
- Identifies inadequate or toxic rations before damage or loss occurs
- Assists in the diagnosis of nutritional-related diseases

### Taking a Forage Test

Taking a representative sample is the key if forage testing is to be of value.

If there are several lots of hay from different fields, cuttings or sources, than each should be sampled and submitted separately

A bale probe or core should be used to collect samples in round or square bales At least 20 square bales or 10 round bales that are representative or appear average should be tested.

- If a probe is not used you can reach into the center of each bale to remove a handful of forage.
- Cut up with scissors or shears and fill a gallon plastic bag and send to lab
- If probe is used, fill a quart plastic bag

### Bottom Line

Its worth it to know the value of the forage you are feeding to your animals

- If you are selling hay, it is important that you have taken forage test
- So a premium can be placed on quality  
- and To ensure it is safe to feed - (liability)

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### 3. BSE (aka Mad Cow Disease)

As you have probably heard, USDA confirmed that a positive test result for an atypical case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow in central California, as

**part of the USDA targeted surveillance program. The animal was never presented for human consumption and does not pose any risk to human health and that U.S. beef is safe.**

USDA's ongoing BSE surveillance program tests approximately 40,000 high-risk cattle annually, bringing the total of tested animals to more than 1 million since the program began. BSE is fast approaching eradication worldwide. According to USDA, there were only 29 cases of BSE worldwide in 2011, which is a 99 percent reduction since the peak in 1992 of more than 37,300 cases.

Below is information about BSE I thought would be of interest:

FDA Statement on USDA Announcement of Positive BSE Test Result (Apr 26, 2012)

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm301850.htm>

**USDA's Chief Veterinary Officer on the Recent BSE Case -**

**[http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/04/25/usdas\\_chief\\_veterinary\\_officer\\_on\\_the\\_recent\\_bse\\_case/](http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/04/25/usdas_chief_veterinary_officer_on_the_recent_bse_case/)**  
**Frequently Asked Questions on**

**BSE [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=BSE\\_FAQs.xml&contentonly=true](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=BSE_FAQs.xml&contentonly=true)**

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**4. You Asked: - I have some old seed and I wanted to plant it, How do I know if the seed is good or if it will come up??**

**One pretty good way to determine the viability of seed is to do a "RAGDOLL" test to see seed germination. It is often important to determine the germination of seeds that have been held over from previous years. In the case of warm-season grasses such as switchgrass, one needs to get an idea about how many seeds may be dormant. It is always best to send a sample of seed to the NCDA Seed Testing Lab. Nevertheless, a fairly simple procedure can be conducted at home to get some indication of germination. Seeds that will not germinate in an ideal environment like that of a "ragdoll" most likely will not germinate in a field situation.**

**Properly used, the ragdoll test is very valuable. Following are some suggestions to help you obtain the most reliable results.**

**Use a firm paper towel such as a brown hand towel or equivalent. The soft, very absorbent paper towels often used in a kitchen make poor ragdolls because they allow roots and shoots to penetrate into the fiber, making seedlings difficult to remove during counting. If no other type of towel is available, the soft towels can be used, but it**

is best to use two layers. These towels often hold too much water which drowns the seeds.

- Wet the towel and allow free water to drip off for a minute. Lay the wet towel flat and add seeds.

- Count out 100 seeds (50 for larger seeds like corn, peanuts, and soybeans) and place them on one half the towel. Fold the towel in half and roll it into a moderately tight tube. Rolling it around a pencil works well. Place the tube in a jar or sealable plastic bag.

- Position the ragdoll so the tube is upright. Doing this causes roots to grow down and shoots to grow up so that seedlings are more easily removed during counting. The ragdoll should be kept in a warm place (between 75 and 85 F). A little water in the bottom of the jar or plastic bag will insure adequate moisture.

- Make the first germination count for most crops in about three days. Open the towel and count the seedlings as you remove them. After another three to four days make another count. If you had 100 seeds, the number of seedlings removed equals the percentage germination.

- You can distinguish hard or firm (dormant) seeds from dead seeds by pushing down on each non-germinated seed with the flat part of a pencil eraser. If the seed does not flatten with gentle pressure, it is considered dead. Dead seed will usually be moldy at the end of the test.

- You can test your procedures using viable alfalfa or clover seeds that you know have good germination. Those seedlings should look normal in a ragdoll test if the ragdoll procedures are favorable.

Source: Dale Wolf and Dave Parrish, Research Agronomists, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg.

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**5. GRAZING STICKS AVAILABLE –  
GRAZING STICKS ARE HANDY TOOLS THAT SIMPLIFY THE  
TASKS OF WHEN TO ROTATE ANIMALS ON AND OFF A  
PASTURE TO GRAZE, MEASURING PASTURE YIELD, AND**

TRACKING CHANGES IN PRODUCTIVITY. THESE ARE ALL CRITICAL ASPECTS OF GOOD PASTURE MANAGEMENT.

GRAZING STICKS ARE A SIMPLE AND USEFUL TOOLS FOR MAKING IMMEDIATE PASTURE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS, BUT ALSO GOOD RECORDS OF PASTURE YIELD, GRAZING DAYS, AND OTHER DATA WILL PROVIDE A MEANS TO EVALUATE PAST EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM.

THE GRAZING STICK IS A QUICK GUIDE, SO CARRY THE STICK WITH YOU WHENEVER YOU CHECK ANIMALS OR MOVE FENCES; YOU CAN QUICKLY ASSESS PASTURE REGROWTH AND READINESS FOR GRAZING. YOU WILL SEE THE SUGGESTED STARTING HEIGHT FOR GRASS SPECIES ON THE STICK FOR HEIGHT WHEN TO GRAZE WHICH ENSURES THAT FORAGE IS IN A HIGH-QUALITY VEGETATIVE STAGE, AND WHEN TO STOP GRAZING HEIGHT THAT ENSURES THAT SOME LEAF TISSUE IS AVAILABLE FOR GRASS REGROWTH. REMOVAL OF BASAL LEAVES WILL SLOW GRASS REGROWTH AND LIMIT YIELD. IF PASTURES ARE GROWING QUICKLY IN THE SPRING, YOU MAY NEED TO HARVEST OR CLIP THEM TO KEEP THEM PRODUCTIVE AND IN A HIGH-QUALITY CONDITION.

THERE ARE GRAZING STICKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ONE OF THESE GRAZING STICKS – PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL ME FOR DETAILS! THESE ARE GREAT MANAGEMENT TOOLS!

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## **6. Meat Handling & Cutting Workshop**

**Cooperative Extension In Rockingham County will be holding a Meat Workshop on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center from 1-4pm.**

***There will be a registration fee of \$20 for this workshop.***

**At this workshop we will have a Meat Cutting Demonstration & Discussing things such as:**

**Perceptions or Misconceptions of the Meat industry,  
Food Safety  
Meat Myths**

**Common Calls  
Meat Quality**

**Freezing Packaging  
Handling Meat for Market**

**We will also have time allotted for Questions & Answers.**

**Go ahead & make plans to attend this workshop. Space Will Be Limited to 50 participants.**

**To reserve your place for this event, fill out the registration form and turn in your \$20 fee.**

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**7. St. Jude's Trail Ride – DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED  
St. Jude's Trail Ride will be postponed from April 29 to May 6th!  
For more information contact Carole Moore.**

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**8. Bryan Park Workday**  
The next trail clearing day for Bryan Park will be Saturday, April 28 at 9:30, weather permitting.  
For questions or more information contact Paula Nelson, Equetsrian Trails Alliance of Guilford County at [pasharr@triad.rr.com](mailto:pasharr@triad.rr.com)

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**9. Flintrock Farm Activities**  
Thanks to everyone that showed with us this Saturday, we had a great turn out!  
Next 2 shows in the Flintrock Farm 2012 Show  
Series: [www.flintrockfarm.com](http://www.flintrockfarm.com)  
May 12th - Schooling Hunter Show  
June 2nd - Open Show [www.flintrockfarm.com](http://www.flintrockfarm.com) for more information For class sheets, entry forms and more information... [www.flintrockfarm.com](http://www.flintrockfarm.com)

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**10. Cooler Horsemanship Trail Sessions and Clinics**  
Need to build your horse's confidence outside the arena and on the trail? Want better control while riding in a group? Join us at Fiore Farms for our Trail Sessions.  
Saturday May 19th, 9am - 12pm  
Have a group that wants to do a Trail Session, contact us to schedule a date.

April 27-29 - Weekend Horsemanship Clinic at Fiore Farms  
Friday evening overview/demo - 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Auditors welcome: \$5 for Friday overview, \$15/day, or \$25/for entire weekend

May 25-27 - Weekend Horsemanship Clinic at Fiore Farms

Friday evening overview/demo - 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Auditors welcome: \$5 for Friday overview, \$15/day, or \$25/for entire weekend

[www.CoolerHorsemanship.com](http://www.CoolerHorsemanship.com) for more info on all upcoming events.

[kate@coolerhorsemanship.com](mailto:kate@coolerhorsemanship.com) This e-mail address is being protected from spambots.

You need JavaScript enabled to view it , [843-304-3407](tel:843-304-3407)

Fiore Farms, 7600 Millbrook Road, Summerfield, NC 27358

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11. Fun Show at Flintrock Farm on May 5, 2012 from 9:30 to 4:30. Divisions include Over Fences, English, Western, Therapeutic and Fun classes. New this year is high point champion and reserve champion ribbons for each performance and age division. Grilled hotdogs and hamburgers concessions will be on site. \$7/class or \$50 all day. All proceeds go to benefit

HorseFriends Therapeutic Riding Program! For more information please visit [www.horsefriendsnc.org](http://www.horsefriendsnc.org). The Event and class list can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/events/291348067606249/>

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12. 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](tel: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.

MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

Please let me know if you have hay to sell!

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### 13. SWAP SHOP

- FOR SALE- 2002 Horse Trailer, bumper pull, step up, with stabilizer attachment, steel frame, galvalume shell, two horses slanted, tack/changing room, saddle area. Drop down windows w/bars and screens.Lights. Lightly used. Excellent shape. Email Ms.White @ [fwhite2@triad.rr.com](mailto:fwhite2@triad.rr.com) or call [\(336\)817-2144](tel:(336)817-2144)

**- FOR SALE- we have five 275 gallons plastic Totes, used only once. Large opening on top, spigot with valve at bottom. They have the galvanized protective cage with the lift fork set up. Excellent shape. Great for water storage. Email Ms.White @[fwhite2@triad.rr.com](mailto:fwhite2@triad.rr.com) or call (336)817 2144**

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#### **14. Take A Load Off –**

**I need your clean Jokes, so please send em to me! -**

#### **Lawyer and a Senior**

A lawyer and a senior citizen are sitting next to each other on a long flight.

The lawyer is thinking that seniors are so dumb that he could get one over on them easily.

So, the lawyer asks if the senior would like to play a fun game.

The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks.

The lawyer persists, saying that the game is a lot of fun... "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only \$5.00. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.00," he says.

This catches the senior's attention and, to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?"

The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a five-dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the senior's turn. He asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?"

The lawyer uses his laptop to search all references he can find on the Net.

He sends E-mails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up.

He wakes the senior and hands him \$500.00. The senior pockets the \$500.00 and goes right back to sleep.

The lawyer is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the senior up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

The senior reaches into his pocket, hands the lawyer \$5.00, and goes back to sleep.

*Seniors –*

*Remember: Many times they have already been there & done that!*

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I always want to know what you think of the Weekly Pile, good or bad,

Especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!

\*\*\*\*\*I NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES In FUTURE

Newsletters!\*\*\*\*\*

**I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**\*Please remember our Troops who are serving our Country (and there families) those who have come home with wounds and the families that paid the ultimate sacrifice. We owe everything to those who are and have served!**

Thank You!

I hope that you all have a Great Safe Weekend!

Ben

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**<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture>**