Howdy Folks (Horse E-mailers),

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of August 15, 2011, 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.
- Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.
- Please keep ads or events as short as possible - with NO FORMATTING with 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 a like.
- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send in to me.

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was a 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. **Thank You**

2. Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis Found in Eastern North Carolina

3. **You Asked:** – We need help understanding Johnson grass.

4. Termite Swarms

5. August – Time to Stockpile Fescue

6. New Funding Opportunity
7. Cooler Horsemanship Activities

8. Jumping/Gymnastics Clinic September 3rd with CHA Certified Master Instructor Linnea Markham.

9. Forest Management Program - September 12 - Rockingham Co Agricultural Center

10. Making Medicine Workshop: Teas, Tinctures and Salves - September 16 - Rockingham Co Agricultural Center

11. Swine Identification Law

12. HAY DIRECTORY

13. Take A Load Off

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1. Thank You!
Thanks for the support that has been shown to me through my wife’s Stroke. The life of my family has been turned upside down, but our lives are still looking Up. My wife Kathy is and has been a true Miracle. She continues to make very small improvements in her recovery. This will be a long process but God is with us. Things are still changing and I know things will never be the same, but that is how life is.

I have learned about many things I didn’t want to learn and I would like to share with others if given the opportunity. I feel like the life’s lessons I have learned could save others from some difficult times during difficult times. Some things in life are certain, please make decisions now that can prepare you AND your family. Making preparations now can save you a Great deal of grief and a lot of money later.

Thanks for your calls, cards, emails and those who came or gave at the benefit dinner. I cannot begin to express how much that has meant to my family. Thanks to the Extension Staffs at both offices for their Love & Support. Thanks to all of you for your patience and most of all Thanks for your continued prayers.

I am still trying to get in a routine, it has been difficult. I am so ready for that routine and for things to normalize.

Thanks Again!

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2. Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis Found in Eastern North Carolina

North Carolina’s Office of the State Veterinarian and the Center for Disease Control were notified August 26th that one horse in eastern North Carolina had tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE). Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system of all members of the equine species. EEE is classified as a zoonotic disease, meaning humans may also contract the disease. Symptoms include high fever and headaches, while older adults and children may become severely ill. The equine mortality rate due to EEE ranges from 75 to 90 percent.

Equine infected with EEE may show signs that include fever, depression, loss of appetite, irritability, weakness, excitability, circling, lack of coordination, head pressing, the tell-tale “saw horse” stance, sensitivity to light, and blindness. North Carolina’s Office of the State Veterinarian and the Center for Disease Control were notified August 26th that one horse in eastern North Carolina had tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE). Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system of all members of the equine species. EEE is classified as a zoonotic disease, meaning humans may also contract the disease. Symptoms include high fever and headaches, while older adults and children may become severely ill. The equine mortality rate due to EEE ranges from 75 to 90 percent.
signs of the disease prior to death.

Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis is spread when a mosquito feeds on an infected horse, then moves on to a healthy horse. Programs for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Veterinary Division noted that in many years we would have had one or more cases of the disease prior to early August and, that recent rains following drought conditions in eastern North Carolina may have increased the likelihood of the disease.

The best way to protect your equine against EEE is to keep their vaccinations up-to-date. Work with your veterinarian to be sure your horses are vaccinated annually. In addition, measures to limit mosquito populations will help decrease spread of the disease. While a few cases of the disease are reported in North Carolina annually, it is unreported. Reporting any suspicious signs to your veterinarian may save other equine and possibly human lives.

If you would like a APHIS - Veterinary Services Factsheet about Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis, please ask me to send it to you & I will be happy to do so.

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3. You Asked: – We need help understanding Johnson grass.

We have discovered a patch of sporadic Johnson grass mingled with our other grasses in one of our horse pastures. We are studying that it is considered a toxic weed and undesirable for horses to graze. Some are telling us that if it were toxic, every horse in this area would be dead because horses eat it all the time and they have never heard of a horse dying from eating it. Some have said that letting the horses graze it is the best way to get rid of it because it does not stand up to grazing. As for other herbicides, I read that spraying with a round up type spray will only kill the top growth, (as well as everything else growing there), with the Johnson grass plant coming back in full the next season.

We are afraid to rotate our horses onto this pasture and are fencing off the area where it is growing until we can, for sure, know what is best. Is it truly able to be grazed?

You have asked a very good complex question, with no simple or short answer and one that is difficult to address.

Johnsongrass is in the grass family, that is native to the Mediterranean, grows throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Australia. Johnsongrass has been used for forage for livestock but it is often considered a toxic/noxious weed. Due to growing conditions johnsongrass can contain hydrogen cyanide (1 - Prussic acid poisoning .(This condition is also known as Cystitis in horses) is caused by the toxin cyanide that can be produced in several types of plants under certain growing conditions. All species of farm animals can be affected with this acute poisoning are johnsongrass, sudangrass, common sorghum, arrowgrass, black cherry, chokecherry, pin cherry, or accumulates nitrogen (2 - Nitrates). This grass grows and spreads very quickly that it can choke out other cash crops that have been planted. The leaves may remind one of corn leaves.

1 - Prussic acid poisoning .(This condition is also known as Cystitis in horses) is caused by the presence of cyanide under certain growing conditions. All species of farm animals can be affected with this acute poisoning are johnsongrass, sudangrass, common sorghum, arrowgrass, black cherry, chokecherry, or accumulates nitrogen (2 - Nitrates).
damage, will cause an increase in the amount of free prussic acid in the plant, therefore increasing the chances for toxicity upon ingestion.

Johnsongrass is the most toxic of the sorghums and commonly causes poisoning when subjected to stress. Grazing of these forages should be delayed until they are more mature. Feeding forages following heavy nitrogen fertilization, plant injury by trampling, or stunting of plant growth due to adverse weather should be avoided. If large amounts of forages containing prussic acid are ingested, symptoms are seen, the animal may go down, and death will likely occur due to respiratory paralysis. Horses that live one to two hours after the onset of these signs will usually recover. Prussic acid is quite volatile, and there is little danger from feeding well-cured hay containing prussic acid.

Cyanide concentration drops to safe levels in johnsongrass when cured for hay, (~ 3 – 4 weeks), and in this form, the grass contains a cyanide compound, which when metabolized, inhibits the body’s ability to absorb oxygen. Young shoots of johnsongrass contain the highest concentration of the toxin. Because horses do not metabolize the cyanide within the leaves, rendering them dangerous to all species. Horses rarely have problems eating johnsongrass, but circumstances that injure the plant can cause the cyanide within the leaves, rendering them dangerous to all species. Horses that live one to two hours after the onset of these signs will usually recover. If you have a horse that is exhibiting any of the signs listed, call the vet IMMEDIATELY. The longer you wait to get treatment, the lower the chance that the vet can save your horse.

The following points should be kept in mind for Prussic Acid:

- Prussic acid poisoning is not cumulative and upon removal from the forage source animals not showing evidence of being affected.
- Normally, grazing of the target plants can resume 4-6 days after a killing frost. Since frost may not occur uniformly within the county, it is suggested that animals be taken off the target crops until it is certain that the plants have been frozen to below 26 degrees at least once.
- Do not graze for 2 weeks after a non-killing frost.
- Do not graze wilted plants or young plant shoots (tillers).
- Do not graze at night when frost is likely.
- Graze these type plants only when they are at least 15 inches tall.
- Don’t graze plants during or shortly after drought when growth is reduced and plant has been stressed.
Prussic acid poisoning is not a problem when crops are cured for hay or ensiled for more than three days.

Don’t allow access to wild cherry leaves, wilted or not!
(Alfalfa and White Clover can also produce Prussic Acid)

2 - NITRATE POISONING FACTS
The facts concerning the conditions that cause nitrates to accumulate in plants are not fully understood.

Nitrate is the form of nitrogen taken up in the greatest amounts from the soil by plants. Under normal conditions this nitrate is rapidly converted to plant proteins. However, under DROUGHT CONDITIONS changes occur that cause normal nitrogen metabolism to shut down and as a result nitrates accumulate in plants. LIGHT INTENSITY may also influence nitrate levels of plants. Low light conditions tend to elevate nitrate concentration. HIGH SOIL N LEVELS tend to set the stage for excessive nitrate accumulation. N from excessive manure or fertilizer N applications or because applied fertilizer N was not taken into soil solution due to drought conditions are predisposing factors.

Certain plants tend to be NITRATE ACCUMULATORS, in other words they tend always have higher levels of nitrate over a wide range of environmental conditions. RAGWEED, PIGWEED, LAMBSQUARTER, SORGHUMS, (Johnsongrass) SMALL GRAINS AND OTHER ANNUAL GRASSES SUCH AS FALL PANICUM and others have been known to be nitrate accumulators.

THE STAGE OF GROWTH can also affect nitrate concentration in plants. Nitrate levels tend to be high in immature, actively growing plants that have been "shut down" or stunted by drought. Also, immediately after a drought when young shoots are actively growing, plants tend to be high in nitrate.

Plants can be consumed by animals in several different forms such as hay, pasture, silage or green chop. The amount that can be tolerated by the animals will depend on such factors as physiological state and class of animal species, plant form, and what proportion of the total ration DM the nitrate forage composes.

Nitrates can be a problem in horses when Nitrate levels of 1% of the total diet or greater are toxic for the horse. Grazing steers seem to be able to tolerate higher levels of nitrate ion in the herbage than if the forage were conditioning of the rumen microbes gradually while animals are on pasture over an extended period and also because less nitrate is consumed per unit of time due to the low DM concentration of the forage. Pregnant animals appear to be most sensitive to elevated nitrate levels.
0.44% nitrate ion). Relatively high levels of nitrate in forage may be considerably dissipated during the fermentation (as much as an 80% reduction). However, it should be noted that extreme caution should be taken with high nitrate forage that is being ensiled because poisonous nitrogen gases may be evolved from the silo for several weeks during the fermentation process.

Nitrate Management Options

**CUT OR GRAZE ONLY THE UPPER PART OF THE PLANT CANOPY.**
Nitrates tend to concentrate in the bases of grass tillers. Therefore, it makes sense to leave the cutter bar to leave the lower 1/3 to 1/4 of the plant. This is also true in pastures; by not forcing animals to graze pastures to low stubble heights, we can help offset potential problems with high nitrate forage. The use of electric fence and rotational grazing will help in this case.

**TEST FORAGES FOR NITRATES.** This should be done for all suspect forages including hay, silage and pasture before the herbage is fed. Even if some of your forages show elevated nitrate levels, they can often be fed if eliminated by dilution with other feeds or supplements.

**CHECK WATER SOURCE.** If for some reason your water source is also high in nitrate, this can present a “double whammy” if you are feeding high nitrate forage. Anything above 10 parts per million nitrate nitrogen in the water could be a problem.

Control — We have had success using Round Up with a Wick Applicator. As you may or may not know, there has been some Johnsongrass resistance in the World... Johnsongrass is considered by some to be in the top ten worst weeds. If you would like more herbicide suggestions, let me know.

SO — In general, Sorghum & sorghum-sudangrass hybrids (Johnsongrass) are not recommended for grazing horses. But knowing why could allow you to more effectively utilize this forage.

4. Termite Swarms

There has been some swarming activity taking place outdoors which is simply a reminder that termites are around us outdoors. It's a good reminder for homeowners to inspect their houses for termites. If you are going to do it yourself, you need to look carefully for the termite shelter ("mud") tubes on foundation walls and piers. You also need to check the wood along the top of the foundation looking carefully for tubes and/or damage. This often means pulling back insulation to inspect.

If there is no evidence of termite activity, a pest control inspector cannot tell someone that they need to have their house treated. On the other hand, if it's been 10+ years since the house was last treated, one might "suggest" a treatment as a way of protecting a major investment. In instances where people have termite contracts with pest control companies, it allows them to require retreatment of the home after some interval (usually 5 years). So, the advice is simple and the same as any other contract you sign - READ IT CAREFULLY.

- Rains will also leave behind water sources that can produce mosquitoes. While puddles of

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those items people have around their property: buckets, old tires, flower pots with dishes underneath, tarps covering boats and other items, and even tree holes. Remind people to "Tip and Toss" - Tip the item to drain the water and Toss the items you don't need.

- Also, if you're in fire ant infested area, don't be surprised if you see mounds popping up. We've seen this same situation where dry summer conditions reduce surface activity but significant rainfall often affords the ants the opportunity to form mounds from what was wasp holes.

5. August – Time to Stockpile Fescue
Extending the grazing season using cool season grasses and legumes can be one of the most cost-effective practices available to farmers. In North Carolina, this is most often accomplished by stockpiling tall fescue in the late summer and early fall. Stockpiling recommendations in North Carolina are to supply 50 to 60 lbs. of nitrogen around August 15th. The quality of the stockpiled forage is as good as the "good hay" in your barn.

To further enhance the utilization of stockpiled forage, use strip grazing to limit access. Strip grazing can be accomplished by using temporary electric fencing, which can be moved easily and quickly. In cattle work done in North Carolina in 1995, savings of $20/head was gained by using strip grazing on an unfertilized pasture/hay field - fescue, blue grass, orchard-grass, red and white clover.

Don’t forget that our Soil Conservation offices have a drill available to interseed clovers and grasses into your hayfields and pasture.

6. New Funding Opportunity
A new USDA grant has just come out to pay for creating gardens that can facilitate informal science education.

Deadline: Applications must be received by Grants.gov by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, August 26, 2011.

Interested potential applicants can participate on a teleconference to get details about the People’s Garden Grant Program on Aug. 4, 2011 at 1 p.m., EDT. To participate, call toll-free (888) 858-2144; the access code is 1059897. For those unable to participate in the call, NIFA will post a summary of the questions and information provided to our website. Dr. Tom Bewick is directing the program and can be reached at Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-OP-003503

This page includes links to the request for applications (RFA), the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the application package, and abstracts of funded projects.

Grants.gov Synopsis Page: http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?jsessionid=KzYXTv7Q09w7VLVlxsh43vTsqhLDwp10CGNwTmB7vCfB0vM&pipeline=2637 This page includes a synopsis of the funding opportunity, a link to the full announcement (RFA), and links to other related announcements.

Grants.gov Application Package: http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/GetGrantFromFedgrants;jsessionid=tQ4bTv7Tjw2LQp8J2TwDlv
This page links to the application instructions and the application package.

If you have questions regarding the RFA, please contact: Dr. Tom Bewick, tbewick@nifa.usda.gov

If you have any questions related to Grants.gov content, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center:
Email: support@grants.gov, Phone: Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726, 24 hour support, excluding Federal holidays.

Useful Links:
NIFA Grant Application Information: www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/application_info.html;

7. Cooler Horsemanship Weekend Clinic
August 26-28 at Fiore Farms
Friday evening overview/demo - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday Clinic - 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Clinic Participants - $300 for weekend
Equipment not included. Please contact us if you will be needing any horsemanship equipment.
This clinic will be split into 2 sessions each day with 5 participants/session (10 participants total).
Morning Session: 9am-1pm
Afternoon Session: 2pm-6pm
Auditors welcome - Friday Free. $15/Day or $25/Weekend

Cooler Horsemanship Trail Clinic at Fiore Farms
October 1, 2011- 9:00am-1:00pm
Cost is $100/rider, limited to 7 participants.
Need to build your horse’s confidence outside the arena and on the trail? Join us at Fiore Farms for our Trail and Saddle Play in our pastures and surrounding areas and work through emotional boundaries while building confidence in preparation for trail. Once on the trail we will work on maintaining relaxation and control.

www.CoolerHorsemanship.com
kate@coolerhorsemanship.com
843-304-3407

8. Dayenu Equestrian will be hosting a Jumping/Gymnastics Clinic Saturday September 3rd with CHA Certified Master Instructor Linnea Markham.
Learn how gymnastic jumping can improve your balance, strength and confidence along with your horse’s balance, strength and confidence as well as learn new exercises to increase your performance at horse shows.
Cost: $60/person
    Optional $10/stall, only 9 stalls available
Students will ride in groups of 4
First group will ride at 8:30a, the next ride time will be 90mins after the previous ride time begins.

Clinic will be hosted at 5095 Ashlyn Dr Winston-Salem, NC.

NEW!! learn more about DAYENU EQUESTRIAN CLUB - increase your equine education by participating in upcoming events. Each event provides each participant gets hands on experience handling daily farm tasks and various equine related projects.

For additional information please contact Linnea Markham 410-271-5875

9. Forest Management Program
Monday September 12, 2011
6:30pm
Rockingham Co Agricultural Center
525 Hwy 65 Reidsville, NC 27320

Come learn about forest management from start to finish!!!! Dr. Robert Bardon from NCSU will be presenting on practicing forestry while keeping in mind fiscal considerations. This is a good presentation for those already in forestry in the future but are not sure about the different fiscal aspects!!!!

Call Kathryn Holmes, Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Agent at 342-8230

10. Making Medicine Workshop: Teas, Tinctures and Salves
Rockingham County Cooperative Extension and RCC
Friday September 16, 2011
5 - 8 pm - Rockingham County Agricultural Center

Pre-registration required. Space limited to 30 participants. Cost $25. Make checks payable to Rockingham County Agricultural Center.

Come learn to create botanical medicine using plants we can grow in our own gardens. This workshop will turn our home apothecary with safe, effective, natural medicine. Gain hands-on experience and learn the fundamentals of creating teas, tinctures, and salves.

Instructor Chip Hope from the Sustainable Agriculture and Horticulture programs at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, NC as well as the Department Head of Engineering.
Contact Kathryn Holmes, Horticulture Agent 336-342-8230 for more information or to register.

Participants will take home tincture, salve, and handouts!

11. Swine Identification Law
For those who have not heard, if you own a pig(s) and you transport the pig on the highway, it is a requirement that the pig(s) be identified with an approved tag or approved method of identification.

Below is the question & answer sheet about this law. (If you need more info, please ask)

**SWINE IDENTIFICATION BILL – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. Will I have to pay for official tags?
No, official “brite” tags used during TB and Brucellosis eradication will be supplied by NCDA&CS, Veterinary Division free of charge. If you choose to use other forms of official tags or identification approved by the State Veterinarian (SV), but different than those provided free of charge by NCDA&CS, you will have to cover whatever those costs will be.

2. What is included in “official identification approved by the State Veterinarian?”
The SV is working with producers to determine methods of identification that will satisfy the needs and requirements of the law and place as little inconvenience, hassle and cost on producers. An example of suggestions that have been made would be the ear notch numbering system.

3. How can I get official tags?
Call the State Veterinarian’s office (919-733-7601) and speak to someone in the livestock section. They will ask for your name, address and FarmID/State ID. One will be assigned to you. We will notify the Vet Division field staff located nearest to you and they will provide you with a minimum of 25 tags; these will be assigned to your name, address and FarmID/State ID. Again, there will be no charge for the tags and no charge for delivering them to you.

4. If I don’t have tags, can I borrow some from my neighbor who does have some?
NO. Official tags should only be used on animals from the owner and farm they were assigned to; using someone else’s tags or providing tags assigned to you to someone else will make you in violation of the statute and subject to a fine. Do not borrow tags or let someone else use yours!! Tags will help stop illegal transporters of feral hogs from getting these official tags and placing them in feral pigs.

5. If my hogs never leave my farm, do I still need to identify them?
No. Only hogs leaving the farm will need official identification. If you only raise a couple of hogs and they are for your own consumption, and you process them on your farm, you will not need any method of identification or be subject to this new law.

6. Will I need identification on hogs going directly from my farm to slaughter?
Yes. All hogs traveling on public roadways must have official identification. The State Veterinarian (SV) could assign a specific slap tattoo to each farm for this form of official identification that should satisfy the law and cause the least inconvenience and cost to the producer.

7. Will slap tattoos work for hogs going to market or being used (boars/sows) by another farmer?
Yes. The purpose of this bill is to be able to tell the difference between domestic pigs (identified) and feral hogs (not identified) during movement. It is not meant to be a form
tracing animals. If there is an official, approved form of identification, whether it be official ear tags, slap tattoos with officially assigned numbers and/or letters, or any other method of “official identification approved by the state veterinarian” on the hog during transport, your animal will be covered and you will have met the requirements of the law.

8. Will there be any different form of ID required for fairs that I take my hogs to show?
Attending fairs and shows involves two separate issues. During movement, identification is necessary to tell feral pigs from domestic pigs; this is covered at fairs are exposed to other animals from all over the state and even from other states. If there is a disease issue, we have to know where animals came from and where they go after leaving. Animal identification at fairs is definitely a traceability issue. Outbreaks of Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) at the Washington State Fair have demonstrated this fact all too well. But identification that meets traceability requirements, and that is the bottom line “take home message” with regards to identification at fairs.

9. What is “official identification approved by the State Veterinarian” going to include?
Any form of ID currently listed as “official” in Vol. 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 71.19 (“Identification of swine in interstate commerce”) will be approved by the SV. Additionally, the SV is working with producers to determine other methods that will meet the requirements of the new Swine Identification Bill (HB 432) and place as little inconvenience and cost on producers. The SV’s office will provide the metal “brite” tags (used in TB and Brucellosis eradication for years) be used as permanent, official ID and is looking at slap tattoos to meet official, temporary ID requirements.

10. Will small and medium sized farms have different ID requirements than the large, commercial hog farms?
No. Any method of identification that is available to one production size and style will be equally available and approved for all. The 9 CFR Part 71.19 is the standard used by the swine industry and if the requirements for any form of official identification listed is met, it does not matter what size or production style the hogs come from, they can use that form of ID.

All hogs, regardless of where they are coming from or where they are going, moving in the state will be required to have some form of official identification.

11. Will my hogs need to travel with any type of paperwork?
We are looking into developing an official form (from the SV’s office) that will include your name, address, farm name (if available), and FarmID/State ID, that you can use to fill in the number and individual ID of hogs in your shipment for transporting hogs. In other words, if you have official paperwork with your own method of official identification ear notches, or slap tattoos, for example – this would serve as satisfying the requirement of “official identification approved by the State Veterinarian.” Also, as with the brite tags, these forms will be provided to all producers when they request tags or tattoos, be assigned to a specific owner and farm, and be free of charge.

12. Will I need a permits to move my hogs?
No. There will be no permitting requirement for any movement, just that the animals have official identification if they move out on public roads. A “permit” requires inspection and/or getting permission prior to movement. The official forms described directly above would NOT require any inspection or notification necessary for movements.

13. Will I need to have a veterinarian examine my hogs in order to move them?
No. There is no requirement for exams or health certificates to move hogs within the state. To move any animal across state lines (interstate), health certificates issued by accredited vets are typically required by the receiving state, but that is something entirely different, established years ago by state and federal officials and not this new law.

14. Will someone from the state have to come and examine my operation before I can get the free tags?
No. To get tags you will need to call the SV’s office (see #3 above). Once we have your information, we will deliver the tags as a courtesy and convenience to you. This will not be for any type of inspection of your operation but we hope that you will get to know them as a resource for any assistance they can provide you.

15. Isn’t this really just another way to try to sneak NAIS into small and medium sized farms that oppose the national identification system?
No. The national identification system, which is now called “Animal Disease Traceability,” is a system that
The goal of this program is not traceability, but rather to identify bona fide hog producers in transport, regardless of size of style of production, in order to domesticate hogs from feral hogs—it really is that simple. The law actually says that the lack of identification on a hog will be presumed to identify that pig as a feral hog.

16. Why doesn't the state go after the people who are illegally transporting feral swine instead of punishing legitimate hog farmers with these requirements?

By the very nature of engaging in illegal activity, people who are transporting feral hogs are doing everything they can to hide that fact and hide from being looked out. State resources, focusing activities solely on this illegal sector will be ineffective. Identification of legitimate producers and their hogs and illegal transporters of feral hogs. The real punishment will be in a $5,000 fine for each feral hog they are moving, but the only way we will be able to distinguish between commercial and feral will be the official identification on the domestic pigs. Yes, there will be a $5,000 fine for each feral hog they are moving, but the only way we will be able to distinguish between commercial and feral will be the official identification on the domestic pigs.

17. When will the $5,000 penalty become effective?

Although the law becomes effective October 1, 2011, the SV's office looks at the first year of this law as an opportunity to educate and do everything possible to assist producers in coming into compliance with the requirements of the new law. We do not intend to use this year for strict compliance, civil actions or penalties and fines. Unless we find someone who is obviously and blatantly conducting illegal activities that are endangering the livelihood of legitimate hog farmers in the state, we will do everything we can to make people aware of the requirements in the law, find out how we can help you come into compliance, and get the word out to everyone that might be affected.

18. Who could stop me and inspect my hogs for identification?

Because H.B. 432 is a state law, any law enforcement/public safety officer in the state could stop a shipment of hogs to inspect them for identification. Because Department of Agriculture personnel are not sworn public safety officers, we would be assisting law enforcement officials. Especially during the first year, we will focus our efforts on making folks aware of the law, assisting with getting into compliance, and performing other methods of education and outreach with regards to this law.

19. Can I kill or trap feral hogs on my property?

Yes! There is no restriction on the season (open season, year-round), bag limit, or days you can kill feral hogs. Exact details, but you will need to have a hunting license and wear hunter orange. Except for during deer season, their upcoming rules propose to allow night hunting with lights. As far as trapping—again see the NC WRC for details, but be aware that it will be illegal to remove a feral hog from a trap alive, and doing so will be punished by a $5,000 civil penalty for removing them alive and $5,000 for illegal transportation per animal! Contact NC WRC at:

20. Could the State Vet's office put me on some sort of email list to keep me informed in any developments?

Yes. The SV's office would like to put together a distribution list in order to quickly and efficiently provide new items of interest, notices regarding feral swine, etc., to any and all producers regardless of size or style of operation. If you would like to be included in this distribution list, please send an email to the SV's information/inquiry email address, “Joe Webb” at Joe.Web@ncagr.gov. Information you provide the SV, your personal informal information is protected by state confidentiality law.

**Please feel free to provide feedback and know that we encourage your input in order for us to get information and answers to other questions that are sure to be out there. The “Joe Web” address of Joe.Web@ncagr.gov (same as in #20 above) would also be the best way to contact NCDA with your input.

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12. HAY DIRECTORY - A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. The directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. If you are in need of hay or wish 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, etc.
**MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!**

**WHEN YOU HAVE CUT HAY AND HAVE SOME TO SELL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!**

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**13. Take A Load Off** - I know this isn’t a funny one, but a FRIEND sent this to me today, and with my circumstances I thought I would include for you.

- A Birth Certificate shows that we were born, A Death Certificate shows that we died, what will be left from between the two after we are gone is totally up to you!

- I Believe…. That just because two people argue, It doesn’t mean they don’t love each other. And other.

I Believe…That we don’t have to change friends if We understand that friends change.

I Believe…. That no matter how good a friend is, they’re going to hurt you every once in a while.

I Believe… That true friendship continues to grow, even over the longest time & distance. Same goes for true love.

I Believe… That you can do something in an instant That will give you heartache for life.

I Believe… That it’s taking me a long time To become the person I want to be. (I am NOT there Yet!)

I Believe… That you should **always** leave loved ones with Loving words. It may be the last time.

I Believe… That you can keep going long after you think you can’t.

I Believe….That we are responsible for what We do, no matter how we feel.

I Believe…That either you control your attitude or it controls you.

I Believe…That heroes are the people who do what has to be done, when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I Believe…That my best friend and I can do anything or nothing and have the best time.

I Believe….That sometimes the people you expect to kick you when you’re down will be the one.

I Believe…That sometimes, when I’m angry, I have the right to be angry, but that doesn’t give me the right to be cruel.

I Believe…That maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you’ve had And what you’ve learned from them, and less to do with how many birthdays you’ve celebrated.
I Believe….That it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

I Believe… That no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world doesn’t stop for your grief.

I Believe….That our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but, we are responsible for who we become.

I Believe… That sometimes you shouldn’t be so eager to find out a secret. It could change your life forever.

I Believe….Two people can look at the exact same thing And see something totally different.

I Believe…That your life can be changed in an instant by people who don’t even know you.

I Believe…That even when you think you have no more to give, When a friend cries out to you, you will find the strength to help.

I Believe...That credentials on the wall do not make you a decent human being.

I Believe...That you influence people everyday & you do not realize it.

I Believe…That a smile, or a kind word, can change a life.

I Believe… ’The happiest of people don’t necessarily have the best of everything; They just make the best of everything they have.

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 WEEKLY PILES!*****

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