

Cattle Call for February - Rockingham County

Howdy Rockingham County Cattle E-mailers,

Included in this February 2012 Cattle Call is Extension's Beef Cattle related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. Please send me any announcements, or buy and sale items, hay or other that you wish to be included in EACH Cattle call. (SHORT AS POSSIBLE) THERE ARE NO CONTINUAL RUNNING SPOTS, SO YOU NEED TO SEND THESE TO ME FOR *EACH* Cattle Call.

*****PLEASE PUT IN SUBJECT LINE – ***Cattle Call. *****

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was a total oversight on my part. BUT LET ME KNOW!

*******GOT A QUESTION OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOMETHING, LET ME KNOW SO IT CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT CATTLE CALL!*******

As Always - I would like to hear your comments!

Included in This Cattle Call

- 1. Rockingham County Cattleman's February Program - February 14th**
- 2. VERY IMPORTANT: Fertilizer Applicators/Users REQUIRED TRAINING**
- 3. Public Input Notice on Gypsy Moth - Thursday, February 16th**
- 4. Production Goals**
- 5. 10 Keys To A Profitable Forage Program**

6. How Big Is Too Big?
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11. 2012 Extension Horse Management Short Courses
12. 2012 National Environmental Summit for High School Students
13. Cattle Management Reminders
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15. HAY DIRECTORY
16. Take A Load Off

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1. Rockingham County Cattlemen's Christmas February Program – February 14th

The Field Day on February 14th will serve as the Rockingham County Cattleman's Program for February. **(There will not be a program on February 9th)**

2012 Winter Feeding Management Workshop

**February 14th – Bernie and Cheryl Pryor's
Farm, Rockingham Co. (1:00-3:00pm)**

Ben Chase at Ben_Chase@ncsu.edu 336-342-8235

Workshop will include:

- **Winter Feeding Management**
- **Grazing Stockpiled Fescue and other Winter Grazing Options**
- **Winter Feed Supply Planning**
- **Improving Hay Management**
- **Hands On: How to set up and keep a high charge on temporary fences**
- **How to Body Condition Score Your Cattle**
- **YES, THIS IS GEARED FOR CATTLE PRODUCERS BUT THE GRAZING CONCEPTS ARE THE SAME! ALL LIVESTOCK & HORSE OWNERS ARE WELCOME!**

Directions: From Highway 87 South of Reidsville (adjacent to Highway 29 – By Reidsville Golf ball on a Tee shaped water tower) take Holiday Loop Road. Turn onto Grooms Road, go ~3miles & turn right onto Massey Road. Go to end on Massey & turn right onto Scott Road Look for Extension Signs.

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2. Attention – VERY IMPORTANT:

Fertilizer Applicators/Users in the Jordan Lake Watershed

Attend FREE REQUIRED nutrient management training:

In Rockingham County - Thursday - February 16 1-3pm

Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Center

525 Highway 65

Reidsville NC 27320

For more information call 342-8230

Nutrient Management Rules in Jordan Lake Watershed Program

In 2009, The NC Environmental Management Commission adopted a set of nutrient control rules aimed at restoring the water quality in B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, which is degraded by excess levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. These rules are administered by the NC Division of Water Quality. One of the rules, the Fertilizer Management Rule, requires most fertilizer applicators in the Jordan watershed (excluding homeowners) to either take a fertilizer training class or apply fertilizer pursuant to an approved plan by August 11, 2012.

If you apply fertilizer or organic materials to:

- Commercial cropland, including pastureland, regardless of acreage – your farming activities are conducted primarily for financial profit.**
- Commercial ornamental, floriculture, or greenhouse operations, regardless of acreage – your green industry activities are conducted primarily for financial profit.**
- Golf courses, public recreational lands, road or utility rights-of-way, or other commercial or institutional lands that total at least five acres.**
- Or you are a hired applicator who applies fertilizer to a combined total of at least five acres per year.**
- Horse owners that own or board horses for commercial purposes and apply fertilizer/manure to the grazing pastureland are required to either take the fertilizer training or apply the fertilizer/manure via an approved nutrient management plan (regardless of the acreage).**
- Horse owners that own horses as pets (not for commercial purposes) are not required to take the training or to apply via an approved plan.**

To verify that you are within the Lake Jordan Watershed, go to <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/jordanlake/map> and put in your address in (make sure you look at all the places you do business). The training must occur by August 26, 2012.

You can attend a nutrient management class offered by NC Cooperative Extension. To verify that you are within the Lake Jordan Watershed, go to <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/jordanlake/map> and put in your address (make sure you look at all the places you do business). The training must occur by August 26, 2012.

- The rule requires that application of nutrients is to be done by an applicator who has either taken the course, or pursuant to an approved nutrient plan. The rule also requires persons who hire applicators (with the exception of homeowners) to ensure that the applicator they hire has either attended the class and received a certification, or applies pursuant to an approved plan.

The rule states that person who fail to comply with the Rule are “subject to enforcement measures authorized in G.S. 143-215.6A (civil penalties), G.S. 143-215.6B (criminal penalties), and G.S. 143-215.6C (injunctive relief).”

(Animal waste application in compliance with a permitted waste utilization plan is deemed compliant with the requirements, and those applicators wouldn't need to take the class. DWQ has confirmed this, Certified Waste Applicators DO NOT NEED to take the nutrient training, even if they're applying commercial fertilizer that's not included in their animal waste permit due to their previous 10 hour Certification training.)

You can attend FREE nutrient management training:

In Rockingham County - Thursday - February 16 1-3pm

Rockingham County Cooperative Extension Center

525 Highway 65

Reidsville NC 27320

For more information call 342-8230.

If you choose to take the training offered by the NC Cooperative Extension Service, These classes are free OR you may take training on-line at your convenience, at <http://go.ncsu.edu/JordanLakeTraining> at a cost of \$10.

To view a map of the Jordan watershed and determine whether you are subject to the requirements of the Fertilizer Management Rule, or to learn more about the Rule go to: www.JordanLake.org You may also contact Water Quality staff at [919-807-6439](tel:919-807-6439) or your local Cooperative Extension office for more information: Rockingham County - [\(336\) 342-8230](tel:336-342-8230), Guilford County - [\(336\) 375-5876](tel:336-375-5876), Alamance County - [\(336\) 570-6740](tel:336-570-6740), Caswell

County - [\(336\) 694-4158](tel:3366944158), Orange County - [\(919\) 245-2050](tel:9192452050), Chatham County - [\(919\) 542-8202](tel:9195428202), Durham County - [\(919\) 560-0525](tel:9195600525), Wake County - [\(919\) 250-1100](tel:9192501100).

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3. PUBLIC INPUT NOTICE ON GYPSY MOTH - Thursday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m

WHO: Residents of Caswell and Rockingham Counties

WHAT: Public Input Meeting to Discuss an Infestation of Gypsy Moth in the Area

WHEN: Thursday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Ruffin Fire Department, Ruffin, NC

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (NCDA&CS) Plant Industry Division has scheduled a public meeting on Thursday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m. at the Ruffin Fire Department, Ruffin, NC. The purpose of the meeting is to permit NCDA&CS staff to provide information on a gypsy moth infestation that has been detected in your area, review treatment alternatives for these infestations, and to receive input from residents in the area. The meeting format will provide adequate time for questions and public comments.

No decision will be made on the treatment alternative for this gypsy moth infestation until residents of the area have an opportunity to express their comments through this public meeting. Residents of the area are encouraged to attend, hear the information presented, and express their comments. Individuals wishing to speak at the public meeting will be able to sign up at the Ruffin Fire Department when they arrive for the meeting.

If you are not able to attend the meeting and you need additional information on this gypsy moth infestation, please contact the NCDA&CS, Plant Industry Division at [1-800-206-9333](tel:18002069333) or [919-733-6930](tel:9197336930). Resources are also on line at NCDA&CS's web page found at:

<http://www.neagr.com/givpsymoth>

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4. Production Goals

It makes good business sense to have goals for your cattle farming operation. Here are a few goals that one may have. It is proven that those that write down goals they

wish to achieve are far more likely to achieve those goals than someone who does not write them down.

- Breeding Season Length

Cows 63 days

Heifers 42 days

Cows calving first 21 days of calving season 65%

Heifers calving first 21 days of calving season 70%

- Conception Rates

Cows > 95%

Replacement Heifers > 85%

Abortions < 3%

Dystocia Rates (Difficult Births)

Cows < 5%

Replacement Heifers < 15%

Stillbirth Rates < 2%

Birth to Weaning Losses < 5%

- Calf Crop

Average daily gain > 2.5 lbs.

205 day adjusted weaning weights: calf should weigh

50% of dam's weight (minimum of 45%)

- Cow Mortality < 1%

Steps in identify the factors limiting production and profit on beef cattle operations.

- * Establish goals for Production and Profit for Farm, (goals should be written down. Goals can not be met if never set!) List a timetable for reaching goals. Short-Term and Long-Term Goals

- * Establish a data base for herd (this can be done using previous records and begin using records. Based on facts!!) Weighing calves will be a must and good book keeping a necessity

- * ID areas of production & financial deficiency

- * ID areas for improvement (production, nutritional, reductions of expenses)

- * With all goals or plans EVALUATE at end of year or at a set time.

Other Resources:

NCSU Enterprise Budgets & Economic Info

<http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/faculty/benson/PubsBenson.htm>

Beef Herd Records: What Should You Know About Your Herd?

http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/animal/news/augsep95/as953art.html

Setting Economic Goals For Graziers - http://ohioline.osu.edu/gsg/gsg_2.html

Practices to Improve Beef Cattle Efficiency

http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/fsa-3060.pdf

Economics of Beef Production

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/extension/pubpdfs/kybeefbook11.pdf>

AgriProfit\$ Beef Economics

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/econ12883](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/econ12883)

Production Records for Commercial Beef Producers

<http://msuextension.org/publications/AgandNaturalResources/MT199309AG.pdf>

Record Keeping

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/id/id108/11.pdf>

Keeping Production Records for the Beef Herd

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/asc150.pdf>

What Can I Do with My Small Farm?

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1529.pdf>

Managing for Profit: How One Farm Family Succeeds

<http://www.ag-risk.org/NCISPUBS/LAIPPUB/Artic20.htm>

Pricing for Profit

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/pdf/c1-55.pdf>

http://www.agmrc.org/business_development/operating_a_business/direct_marketing/articles/pricing_for_profit.cfm

Introduction Personal Assessment and Farm Goals

<http://extension.umd.edu/publications/pdfs/fs651.pdf>

Evaluating Marketing Outlets Using Whole-Farm Records

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/wholefarm/html/c5-32.html>

MATCHING GENETICS TO PRODUCTION GOALS

<http://www.angusbeefbulletin.com/extra/2009/apr09/articles/0409parrett.pdf>

Economic outlook for beef - mostly sunny

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/e-newsletters/drovers-daily/Economic-outlook-for-beef--mostly-sunny--138864699.html>

What is efficient beef production?

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/cattle-resources/cattle-breeds/angus/What-is-efficient-beef-production-134247858.html>

You cannot starve a profit into a cow

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/e-newsletters/drovers-daily/You-cannot-starve-a-profit-into-a-cow-138872019.html>

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5. 10 Keys To A Profitable Forage Program

With forage typically accounting for more than half the production costs – and most of the nutrition – of forage-consuming animals, it thus has a major impact on both expenses and income. Writing in the Ohio Beef Cattle Letter, Auburn's Don Ball, Georgia's Carl Hoveland, and Kentucky's Garry Lacefield offer these 10 keys to a profitable forage program.

- Know forage options and animal nutritional needs.** Forages vary as to adaptation, growth, distribution, quality, yield, persistence and potential uses. Also, various types and classes of animals have different nutritional needs. Good planting decisions require knowing forage options for the land resources and nutritional needs of the animals.

- Establishment is critical.** Good forage production requires an adequate stand of plants. Mistakes during establishment often have long-term consequences. Use of high-quality seed of proven varieties, timely planting and attention to detail lead to establishment success.

- Soil test, then lime and fertilize as needed.** This practice, more than any other, affects the level and economic efficiency of forage production. Fertilizing and liming as needed help ensure good yields, improve forage quality, lengthen stand life and reduce weed problems.

- Use legumes when feasible.** Legumes offer important advantages including improved forage quality and biological nitrogen fixation, whether grown alone or with grasses. Every producer should regularly consider on a field-by-field basis whether the introduction or enhancement of legumes would be beneficial and feasible. Once legumes have been established, proper management optimizes benefits.

- Emphasize forage quality.** High animal gains, milk production, and reproductive efficiency require adequate nutrition. Producing high-quality forage requires

knowing the factors that affect forage quality and managing accordingly. Matching forage quality to animal nutritional needs greatly increases efficiency.

- Prevent or minimize pests and plant-related disorders. Diseases, insects, nematodes and weeds lower yields, reduce forage quality and stand persistence, and/or steal water, nutrients, light and space from forage plants. Variety selection, cultural practices, scouting, use of pesticides and other management techniques can minimize pest problems. Knowledge of potential animal disorders caused by plants can reduce or avoid losses.

- Strive to improve pasture utilization. The quantity and quality of pasture growth vary over time. Periodic adjustments in stocking rate or use of cross fencing to vary the type or amount of available forage can greatly affect animal performance and pasture species composition.

- Minimize stored feed requirements. Stored feed is one of animal production's biggest expenses, so lowering requirements reduces costs. Extending the grazing season with use of both cool-season and-warm season forages, stockpiling forage and grazing crop residues can reduce stored-feed needs.

- Reduce storage and feeding losses. Wasting hay, silage or other stored feed is costly. On many farms the average storage loss for round bales of hay stored outside exceeds 30%, and feeding losses can easily be as high or higher. Minimizing waste with good management, forage testing and ration formulation enhances feeding efficiency, animal performance and profits.

- Results require investments. Results are usually highly correlated with investments in terms of planning, effort and dollars. In particular, the best and most profitable forage programs have had the most thought put into them. Top producers strive to continue to improve their operations.

Source: 10 Keys To A Profitable Forage Program

<http://beefmagazine.com/cowcalfweekly/1204-10-keys-profitable-forage-program/>

– Ohio Beef Cattle Letter

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6. How Big Is Too Big?
Brett Barham, University Of Arkansas Ag Extension

Are your mature cows too big? What is the mature size of your cows? What is your average calf weaning weight? If you have never asked yourself these questions, it may be time to.

Why are cow size and calf weaning weight important? They relate directly to your ability to efficiently produce a pound of weaned calf. If you do not know the answer to these questions, you have no idea of your operational efficiency. Average cow weights have crept up over the years, mainly with the thought that weaning weights will increase. However, we may be past the optimal point of cow size and efficiency. A general goal that extension specialists have for a cow is to wean 50% of their mature body weight each year.

Look at these figures. A 1,000-lb cow would need to wean a 500-lb calf; a 1,200-lb cow will need to wean a 600-lb calf; a 1,400-lb cow needs to wean a 700-lb calf. So what is the average cow size and calf weaning weight in Arkansas? Cow Herd Performance records from the last several years show that the average cow size is 1,315 lbs. and the average calf weaning weight is 539 lbs. This makes the efficiency 41%, which is 9% below the recommended average. What is the temptation for selecting for a larger cow? The possibility for a larger calf is what most producers will answer. One important consideration in cow size is that as cow size increases, the cow's ability to produce the recommended 50% is reduced. Most cows will not wean a 700-lb calf at weaning without some form of creep feeding.

Additionally, larger cows have higher feed requirements.

In recent years, with limited forage availability, having a herd of smaller cows that require less feed inputs would be a definite benefit. With the outlook of expensive corn for the future, having a herd of cows with a lower feed requirement will help maintain profits in times of increasing feed input costs.

Some producers might argue that post weaning performance from larger-framed cows is higher than calves from smaller framed cows. This may be true; calves from larger cows have the genetic potential to grow to a larger size and may have higher average daily gains. They will also need to be fed to a heavier weight to be considered finished. However, most producers in Arkansas do not retain ownership past weaning, so the important consideration for most producers is how to produce a pound of weaned calf as efficiently as possible. This is where a planned crossbreeding program can pay off. It is possible to design a crossbreeding system that allows for the use of moderately-sized cows (1,050- to 1,150-lb cows) to be bred to high growth bulls. This type of system will optimize efficiency by using smaller-sized cows while producing calves with good growth potential.

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7. Hay Feeding Tips

- ◆ **Hay is expensive. Be aware that the total cost of hay is much higher than most realize.**
 - 0 **Buy hay instead of making it. Often you can buy hay cheaper than you can make it. If you buy hay demand a test report and get bale weights.**
 - 0 **Graze if you can. Grazed forage costs about half as much as hay so graze if at all possible.**
 - + **Store hay properly. Round bales stored outside result in 20-40% loss due to spoilage. In the short run elevating on tires or pallets and covering with plastic will pay, but in the long run a shed makes more sense.**
 - ◆ **Test your hay. It is difficult to evaluate hay visually so a test should be conducted. This will allow you to feed the best hay to the cattle with the highest nutritional needs. Our state offers an excellent testing program that is underutilized by beef producers.**
 - ◆ **Know what your hay weighs. The average lactating cow needs 25 lbs of hay dry matter. It is very difficult to estimate bale weights, but weight is needed to adequately estimate how many bales your herd needs. Bale weights are almost always overestimated.**
- Reduce waste during feeding. Feeding losses can be high so use a round bale feeder, a hay wagon, or roll out hay. Never feed round bales without some kind of feeder or rolling out.**

◆ **Avoid "round bale syndrome". If you feed round bales daily, the timid cows will never get a fair shot at the feed, and may slowly starve, while the most aggressive cows will eat more than they need. Feed at least two days hay at a time.**

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8. Water use by beef cattle

Water use will differ dramatically by type of animal and environmental temperature, but for planning purposes here are the figures the maximum amount of water an animal (and the herd) would use in a given day assuming a 90 degree high temperature. This information is adapted from the National Research Council's publication Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle.

Lactating cow: 25 gallons/day , Dry cow: 14 gallons/day , 600 lb stocker: 13 gallons/day

1000 lb finisher: 21 gallons/day , Mature bull: 21 gallons/day

Using those numbers, a 100 cow herd (including 3 bulls) with spring calving would use a maximum of 2563 gallons per day. A 100 cow herd with fall calving and marketing of the calves before the heat of summer would use a maximum of 1363 gallons per day during the summer, but during peak lactation (November) with high temperatures in the 60s they would need 1833 gallons per day (11 gallons for bulls and 18 gallons for cows). The same fall calving herd that keeps all their calves over the summer would need to plan for 2763 gallons per day with peak use during the heat of the summer.

Make sure you keep an eye on your water sources during the upcoming freezing cold weather.

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9. Interesting Articles

Outlook, inventory and COOL

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/e-newsletters/drovers-daily/Outlook-inventory-and-COOL-138890684.html>

Repro technology: Past present and future

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/e-newsletters/drovers-daily/Repro-technology-Past-present-and-future-135052808.html>

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10. Be Aware of A Possible Scam – They Are At It Again!

Cooperative Extension wanted to alert you to a possible scam. We have learned that some farmers have recently received phone calls from a person claiming to sell a product to control for pigweed. The product was being sold for \$100 per gallon with a 5 gallon minimum purchase required. The would-be seller says they can only accept credit card information over the phone to make the purchase. Of additional concern, in at least one call the would-be seller claimed to be "associated with Cooperative Extension."

This scam happens from time to time, NEVER GIVE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION, FINANCIAL INFORMATION OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO AN UNKNOWN SOURCE. Make sure you verify these sources and claims before you give out this information.

Please let us know if you get such a call. If you do, get their contact information, that you need to get your credit card information so you can call them back before you let them know you are on to them. We would like to be able to give this contact information to pass on to the investigators.

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11. 2012 Extension Horse Management Short Courses

Guilford County Agricultural Center, 3309 Burlington Road Greensboro, NC 27405

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Monday, February 13 Horse Tack & Equipment – The How's & Why's - Robin Lynn, NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry

Monday, February 20 Mules & Donkeys – Encourage & Educate Horse Management participants about the mule and donkey industry - Shannon Hoffman, The Carolina Mule Association

Monday, February 27 Land Use & Present Use, Building Codes & Laws, Annexation/ETJ's, Water Regulations & Watershed Rules & other New Laws which is pertinent to NC Horse Owners. NC Farm Bureau, NC Horse Council

Monday, March 5 Endurance Riding – American Endurance Ride Conference, Education Committee

Monday, March 12 Horse Judging – Western & Hunt-seat - Dr. Mike Yoder, NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry Specialist

Monday, March 19 SWAP SHOP – Bring items to Sell/Trade or come to buy!

- Registration Fee: \$30 for entire series or \$5.00 per session.

- Registration Fee will be waived for 4-H members presenting an official current 4-H Program Membership ID Card.

For additional information, call Ben Chase, Rockingham & Guilford County Extension Livestock Agent, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625), 342-8235
Email- ben_chase@ncsu.edu.

In case of inclement weather, please call [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or 342-8235 for a recorded message.

Directions to The Guilford County Agricultural Center, Located at 3309 Burlington Road 375-5876 and can be found at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/guilford/directions.shtml>

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12. 2012 National Environmental Summit for High School Students

Center for the Environment at Catawba College

Salisbury, North Carolina

NEWS RELEASE

18 January 2012

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Center for Environment at Catawba Accepting Applications for National Environmental Summit

SALISBURY – The Center for the Environment at Catawba College is now accepting applications for its 2012 National Environmental Summit for High School Students.

The event, “Redesigning Our Future,” is an intensive experience which is open to high school students who will be juniors and seniors in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Sustainability designers, scientists and engineers from the prestigious Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) of Colorado will collaborate with the Center and Catawba professors to provide the leadership and instruction for the summit.

Scheduled for July 9-14 with follow-up activities through May 2013, the summit will emphasize whole systems thinking, helping students become collaborative leaders and effective communicators. Summit leaders will provide knowledge and help the students hone analytical skills that will help them return to their schools and communities empowered to have a tangible impact.

A hallmark of the summit is its involvement of multiple disciplines. Students will explore the concept of environmental leadership through the perspective of their own skills and interest in the arts, humanities, education, history, business, science and technology. They will learn how essential elements of these varied disciplines – creativity, expression, innovation, observation, experimentation and teamwork – are critical to their effectiveness as leaders.

The summit will take place on the Catawba College campus. Many sessions will be held in the Center for the Environment facility –one of the first green facilities on a college campus in the nation – and on its 189-acre ecological preserve. Participants will stay in gender specific, LEED-certified residence halls.

The cost is \$300, which includes all meals, lodging and interactive instruction. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available.

The Center for the Environment has been conducting community outreach on multiple environmental topics since 1996. RMI is an international leader in research on sustainable designs, practices and policies.

The Center for the Environment at Catawba College was founded in 1996 to provide education and outreach centered on prevalent environmental challenges and to foster community-oriented sustainable solutions that can serve as a model for programs throughout the country. For more information, visit www.centerfortheenvironment.org or www.campaignforcleanair.org.

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13. Cattle Management Reminders - February: Fall Calving - End breeding season for heifers by February 20. - Keep heifers gaining weight. - Rotate & rest bulls every 7-14 days if possible. - Creep feed or creep graze calves. Spring Calving - Mature cows start calving. - Heifers finish calving. - Creep feed or creep graze calves from heifers. - Sell heifers not nursing calves. - Keep heifers gaining ½ lb/day, Separate cows as they calve from dry cows if possible. Graze cows with calves on cover crop if available. - Continue conditioning bulls. - ID replacement heifers. - Keep stockers gaining 1 ½ lbs/day. **March:** *Fall Calving* - Keep heifers gaining 1/2 lb./day. Stop breeding cows by March 20. Remove bulls to bull pasture and check condition. *Creep feed or creep graze calves until spring grass is available. *If supplemental or stored feed has been used, continue, as spring grass is available. *Vaccinate all calves against blackleg, malignant edema. Deworm all cows and calves. *Spring Calving* - *Mature cows start calving. *Creep feed or creep graze calves from heifers. *Ear tag & dehorn all calves at birth; castrate at birth in commercial herds. *Sell heifers not nursing calves. *Keep heifers gaining 1/2 lb./day. *Separate cows as they calve from dry cows. Graze cows with calves on cover crop if available. *Continue conditioning bulls and do Breeding Soundness Exams. -Brand or ID replacement heifers ALL CATTLE - Consult herd health plan and implement herd health practices suggested for the month. - Check cattle regularly. Check for health disorders including pink eye, cancer eye, foot rot, etc. Treat at the first sign of these disorders - Body condition score all cattle. - Provide a high quality mineral on a free choice basis. Consider using a high magnesium mineral year round.

Provide clean fresh non-frozen water at all times. - Check forage availability, if limiting consider feeding hay in a confined area. - Purchase quality bulls (utilize performance tested or from a reputable breeder that can supply performance data) & Isolate for 30 days. - Check fences & facilities.

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14. Forage Management Tips - February: *Take soil samples as soon as possible, if not already done so! If the pH is below 5.8,

apply limestone to pastures as soon as possible (based on soil report). Come by and pick up your free soil sample boxes and sheets. *Apply nitrogen to cool-season grasses to stimulate early spring growth. *Overseed legumes (ladino, red alfalfa) into well-grazed (2 inches or less), well limed grass pastures.*Remember to inoculate legume seeds before planting. *Weed management * Do NOT allow livestock to graze pasture grasses before they reach a height of 3-6 inches. Yes, this is difficult to do with short forage supply. However, grazing pastures (during late February/early March) actually delays spring growth. During the late fall and winter, cool-season forages make carbohydrates and store them in the stem-base and/or roots. These reserves are then used to initiate spring growth. If cattle remain on pasture, they consume these reserves and consequently delay spring growth and reduce spring yields. Finish your winter feeding in a sacrifice pasture and let the rest of the pastures recover from the drought and winter. * Scout pastures & determine if they need to be renovated or if they are acceptable and determine if weed control is necessary. * One good method to renovate pastures is to simply add clover. Adding clover reduces the nitrogen requirement and it improves animal performance. Clover can be planted through March. * Drag pastures to break up and scatter manure piles. This adds fertility back to the soil and increases the effective grazing area. * Controlled Graze. * Keep the stocking rate low.

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15. HAY DIRECTORY – Hay is on the short side, especially QUALITY Hay. Please let me know if you have hay to sell so I can make sure you are on this Hay Listing.

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.*

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16. Take A Load Off - An elderly widow and widower were dating for about five years. The man finally decided to ask her to marry. She immediately said yes. The next morning when he awoke, he couldn't remember what her answer was! Was she happy? I think so, wait, no, she looked at me funny... After about an hour of trying to remember to no avail, he got on the telephone and gave her a call. Embarrassed, he admitted that he didn't remember her answer to the marriage proposal. Oh, she said, I'm so glad you called. I remembered saying yes to someone, but I couldn't remember who it was. 😊

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

I NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR FUTURE CATTLE CALLS!

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.

Thanks

Ben

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