

Cattle Call - Rockingham Co - for May 2012

Hello ROCKINGHAM County Cattle E-mailers,

Included in this May 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. Regional EXTENSION Hands-On Beef Cattle Field Day

2. Meat Handling & Cutting Workshop June 1

3. Improving Practices to Profits - Annual Small Farms Field Day June 21

4. Direct Sales to Local Grocery Stores and Restaurants

5. How Does Nutrition Influence Reproduction of the Cow?

6. Annual Forages

7. What are the differences between organic and nonorganic beef production?

8. Can whole soybeans be fed to bred females in the last quarter of gestation?

9. What are some clinical symptoms of grain overload?

10. What is Ergot Poisoning?

11. What is the cost per year to feed a cow?

12. Grazing Sticks Available –

13. See A Forester

14. Cattle Management Reminders

15. FORAGE TIPS

16. HAY DIRECTORY

17. Other Items of Interest

18. Take A Load Off

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1. Regional EXTENSION Hands-On Beef Cattle Workshop

Tuesday, May 29, 2012 1 PM - 4:30 PM

To be held in Guilford County, at the farm of Don York,

4627 Old Julian Road, Julian NC 27283

AGENDA:

- The NC Cattle Industry Assessment Program - What has been done and what has the impact been? Bryan Blinson, NC Cattlemen's Association Executive Director
- Low-Stress Animal Handling, Animal Welfare & Weaning Management – Minimizing stress and maximizing performance in your herd. Dr. Mark Alley, DVM, NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Improving Forage Quality and Utilization – Adding legumes to the pasture mix, dealing with fescue toxicity, improving pasture management and cow efficiency. Dr. Matt Poore, NC State University Animal Science Specialist
 - View Herbicide Treatment Demonstration – Scott Goodwin, Dow AgroScience
- Mineral Supplementation Management – Dr. Sharon Freeman (Livestock Nutrition)
- Update on Beef Cattle Marketing Programs in North Carolina - Neil Bowman, NCDA&CS Livestock Marketing Division

Refreshments will be provided by Scott Goodwin & Dow AgroSciences

The workshop is free, registration will take place upon arrival.

For More Information, Please CONTACT:

Ben Chase, Extension Livestock Agent, Rockingham & Guilford Counties 336-342-8235, 800-666-3625 or ben_chase@ncsu.edu

For more information go to:

<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/79/2012%20Cattle%20Hands-On%20Workshop%20May%2029%202012.pdf>

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2. Meat Handling & Cutting Workshop - June 1

Cooperative Extension In Rockingham County will be holding a Meat Workshop on June 1st 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 Common Calls

Meat Myths 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.

For more information go
to: <http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/79/Meat%20handling%20flier%20for%20June%201st.pdf>

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3. Improving Practices to Profits - 11th Annual Small Farms Field Day

Thursday, June 21, 2012

8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rain or shine

UNIVERSITY FARM at N.C. A&T State University

3136 McConnell Road • Greensboro, NC

**Advance registration suggested; contact Alexis Gaines
at [336.334.7956](tel:336.334.7956) or ajgaines@ncat.edu**

FARM TOUR SITES

- **Pastured poultry**
- **Alley cropping: pecan trees and watermelons**
- **Mixed grazing: meat goats and hair sheep**
- **Managing parasites in small ruminants**
- **Managing pests on collards**

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4. Direct Sales to Local Grocery Stores and Restaurants

An increasing number of farmers and ranchers are selling their products to nearby restaurants and grocery stores. Those businesses want to satisfy their customer's demand for meals made from products grown close to home.

Producers may have a greater degree of control over quality and price when they sell close to home, rather than to distant wholesalers. This came out of an issue of ATTRAnews that looks at the pros and cons of direct sales to local grocery stores and restaurants.

Selling Directly to Grocery Stores

Advantages

You may be able to sell larger volumes.

The store may buy a range of products once you have introduced your first product.

There is potential for a long-term relationship with the store, especially if you build a brand identity for your farm.

Considerations

The first sale may be difficult because grocery stores have a limited amount of shelf space, already have regular suppliers, and may prefer to buy from fewer suppliers.

Payment is not immediate but generally occurs on a predictable monthly cycle.

Standard packing and postharvest practices are required. Produce should be delivered clean and cold.

Grocery stores may require a PLU (product lookup number) or UPC code (Universal Product Code, represented by a barcode).

Tips for Direct Sales to Grocery Stores

Be professional, reliable, and on time when communicating and delivering products.

Visit or call the store and ask for an appointment with the produce buyer before the season begins. Provide the buyer with product samples, a product list for the full season, and a price list.

Always provide a bill or invoice when you deliver your products. Ask the receiving clerk to sign a copy that you keep for your records.

Build relationships with everyone who handles your product.

Ask about and follow the store's expectations for pack, size, grade, or post-harvest practices.

Communicate with buyers weekly during the growing season about your product availability.

Plan your plantings for continuous harvest and adequate volume to meet expected demand from the store.

Offer the store lots of opportunities to promote and profile your farm along with your products.

Offer to provide farm tours, pictures of your farm for display, and in-store demos of your products.

Key Questions to Ask Yourself

What products do local grocery stores want that I could supply, including specialty ethnic foods?

Does a particular chain have an interest in purchasing locally?

What is my plan to ensure a consistent supply of a few key products over a period of several weeks?

Do I have a Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) plan? Does this buyer require it?

Selling Directly to Restaurants

Some restaurants, especially locally owned ones, want to feature dishes and menus that use local produce. This presents a good marketing opportunity for farmers to sell to them directly.

Advantages

Chefs value fresh, high-quality products.

Considerations

Expect small order size and frequent delivery.

Chefs value top-quality produce.

It's important to provide the buyer with a weekly availability list.

Chefs may require a consistent supply of particular items.

Tips for Direct Sales to Restaurants

Be consistent. Chefs expect a product will be delivered if they put it on the menu.

Build a relationship with the entire staff. Chefs move frequently.

Chefs are on a tight schedule and generally require deliveries when they're not busy, such

as before 10 a.m. or between 2 and 5 p.m.

Introduce new products by dropping off free samples with your regular deliveries.

Fax or email a list of available products for the chef to order from.

Use the chefs as your best source of market information. They may know what the next big thing is before you do.

Know how the chef is using your product and be prepared to talk about other ways to use it.

In the autumn, ask the chefs what products they want you to grow next season.

Ask about each restaurant's needs: pack, size, variety, post-harvest preferences, new items, and how they would like to place orders (by fax, text message, phone, email).

Key Questions to Ask Yourself

How far in advance do the chefs need to see an accurate schedule of product availability in order to allow them to plan their menus?

What restaurants are the best fit for my product profile? Ethnic? High-end gourmet? Specialty bakeries?

What production, handling, storage, and delivery methods will I use to ensure the freshest and highest quality products to high-end chefs? Highlight these in outreach to chefs.

How frequently and quickly am I able to deliver to restaurants? What are the chef 's expectations about this?

How do the restaurants want to communicate with me? Cell phone, text message, email, fax?

Resources for Selling to Grocery Stores and Restaurants

Advertised prices of last week's produce nationwide and by region www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv

Chefs Collaborative network brings together chefs and the greater food community, including farmers, to celebrate local foods and foster a sustainable food supply. www.chefscollaborative.org

Guide for Farms Considering Selling in Grocery Stores, and Is Selling to Grocery Stores Profitable for Farms or Processors? are reports from the Local Fare project based in Southern Wisconsin. www.uwplatt.edu/cont_ed/LocalFare/links-resources.html

Product Lookup numbers (PLUs). A complete list is online at www.plucodes.com

Selling to Restaurants is an ATTRA publication that details how to successfully deal with chefs. attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=266

Selling Directly to Restaurants & Grocery Stores is a Small Farm Handbook from the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

<http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/DOCS/3-sellingDirectlyToRestaurantsAndGroceryStores.pdf>

Selling Produce to Restaurants: Marketing Guide for Small Acreage Growers by Diane Green, a farmer who has been selling herbs, flowers and produce to restaurants for over a decade. Book sales benefit Rural Roots, an Idaho nonprofit working to enhance local food networks. www.greentreenaturals.com

The following ATTRA publications include useful information for direct marketing to grocery stores and restaurants. The publications can be downloaded from ATTRA's website, www.attra.ncat.org. Or call 800-346-9140 for a printed copy. Publication prices vary. Many are free to view online or download.

Adding Value to Farm Products: IP141

Beef Marketing Alternatives: IP290

Evaluating a Farming Enterprise: IP041

Illustrated Guide to Growing Safe Produce on Your Farm; GAPs: IP382

Also available in Spanish: Guia Ilustrada para Producir Alimento Seguros en su Granja: SP382

Keys to Success in Value-Added Agriculture: IP172

New Markets for Your Crops: IP328

Also available in Spanish: Nuevos Mercados para Su Cosecha: SP309

Pork: Marketing Alternatives: IP153

Postharvest Handling of Fruits and Vegetables: IP116

Season Extension Techniques for Market Gardeners: IP035

Selling to Restaurants: IP255

Scheduling Vegetable Plantings for Continuous Harvest: IP323

Specialty Cut Flower Production and Marketing: IP025

Sustainable Season Extension: Considerations for Design: IP416

Tips - The articles in this issue are adapted from ATTRA's new series of Marketing Tip Sheets (available in both English and Spanish) for selling through the following channels:

• Farmers Markets • Grocery Stores • Restaurants

• Roadside Stands • Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The series includes tips for direct sales through agritourism, the Internet, livestock auctions, and to institutional customers. A second set of tip sheets will focus on wholesale markets.

To learn more about direct marketing, see these past issues of ATTRAnews, all free to download from the newsletter archives at www.attra.ncat.org/newsletter/archives.html.

• Community Supported Agriculture • Farmers Markets • Marketing Livestock Products

• Planning and Planting for Your Markets

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5. How Does Nutrition Influence Reproduction of the Range Cow?

Bearden and Fuquay (1992) summarized the effects of inadequate and excessive nutrients on reproductive efficiency. This summary shows that excessive protein and/or energy could have negative effects on reproduction. Often, there are questions by livestock producers who are concerned that excessive dietary nutrients during the last trimester of pregnancy may negatively influence calf birth weights and dystocia. Oklahoma workers summarized the effects of providing either adequate (not excessive) or inadequate amounts of dietary energy and protein on calving difficulty, reproductive performance and calf growth. The research was consistent in suggesting that reducing protein or energy pre-partum had little effect on dystocia rates, even though birth weights were altered in some experiments. Of the nine trials summarized, seven showed that increased energy intakes during the last trimester of gestation did not increase calving difficulty. Producers have commented that supplemental crude protein increases calf birth weight. Of the five studies reviewed, one study showed that excessive protein increased calving difficulty while four other studies did not show any effect on dystocia, birth weight, calf survivability or weaning weight.

Examples of Inadequate or Excessive Dietary Nutrient Intake on Reproduction in Beef Cattle (Bearden and Fuquay, 1992)

<u>Nutrient Consumption</u>	<u>Reproductive Consequence</u>
Excessive Energy Intake	Low conception, abortion, dystocia, retained placenta, reduced libido
Inadequate Energy Intake	Delayed puberty, suppressed estrus and ovulation, suppressed libido and spermatozoa production
Excessive protein intake	Low conception rate
Inadequate protein intake	Suppressed estrus, low conception, fetal resorption, Premature parturition, weak offspring
Vitamin A deficiency	Impaired spermatogenesis, anestrus, low conception, abortion, weak offspring, retained placentae
Phosphorus deficiency	Anestrus, irregular estrus
Selenium deficiency	Retained placenta
Copper deficiency	Depressed reproduction, impaired immune system, Impaired ovarian function
Zinc deficiency	Reduced spermatogenesis

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6. Annual Forages

Annual forages are a good way to fill in the gaps in forage production on perennial pastures. If you have acres,

annual forages can fit into your grazing plan. In times of drought, you can make use of these versatile forages to make up for lost production in your native or seeded pastures. Annual forages can be broken down into cool and warm season species. Depending on growing conditions, soil types, and objectives, either category of forage may be acceptable in your grazing or forage production program.

Crops that will do better in cool growing conditions include oats, barley, wheat, rye, triticale, and other small grains. They can be used for grazing or hay production. Almost all of these forages will accumulate nitrate under stress conditions, so caution should be exercised if you have drought stressed small grains.

Warm season annual forages include pearl and foxtail millets, sudan grass, sorghum sudan hybrids, and corn. Prussic acid poisoning can be a problem with sudan grass and some sorghum sudan hybrids. Some of these forages are better suited for mechanical harvesting (e.g. corn silage) as opposed to grazing.

Finding the ideal annual for your production system can complement existing forage resources, fill in the gaps in forage production, and improve productivity in your grazing operation.

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7. What are the differences between organic and nonorganic beef production?

Depending on how the livestock was raised there may be significant differences between organic and nonorganic meat production. To begin with, according to the USDA's National Organic Program (the agency that creates rules for organic production), there is an absolute ban on the feeding of mammalian and poultry slaughter by-products to organic mammals and poultry. This contrasts with nonorganic regulations that still allow the feeding of certain slaughter by-products to cattle and other livestock.

The FDA banned the feeding of cattle brain and spinal tissue to cattle in 1997 and has publicly stated that they will ban blood, poultry litter, and human food wastes, but still allow the following materials to be fed to non-organic cattle:

- Gelatin (rendered from the hooves of cattle and other species).
- Fats, oils, grease, and tallow (from cattle and other species).
- Poultry and poultry by-products.
- Rendered pork protein.
- Rendered horse protein.

None of the items listed above may be fed to certified organic cattle or other organic livestock.

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8. Can whole soybeans be fed to bred females in the last quarter of gestation?

Yes, whole soybeans can be fed to pregnant cows without adverse side effects. Soybeans contain about 19% fat. Feeding fat to beef cows is not new. Research 15 years ago indicated some possible benefits, especially for cows in poor body condition (BC Score 4). More recent work at

Miles City by Dr. Bob Bellows indicated some variable results on reproductive performance, but did see a response in calf survivability for calves who's dams were fed fat prior to calving. More recent experiments in Missouri have shown an increase in rebreeding performance in young cows fed raw soybeans prior to calving. In these experiments, they fed 2.5 to 3.0 pounds of beans per head per day and observed an increase in first service conception rates and an increase in overall pregnancy rates. Soybeans were fed beginning 30 to 45 days before calving. So the preliminary results would indicate including soy beans in the ration may be beneficial. I would suggest that you not over feed protein and that the fat content not be over 5% in the ration. I think that including whole soy beans at 3 lbs per head per day doesn't exceed a 5% ration. Also, whole beans and alfalfa ration is probable not a good combination because protein is being over fed.

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9. What are some clinical symptoms of grain overload?

Once an animal has gorged itself there is a variable lag period of 6 to 12 hours to about 1-3 days before they appear ill. Once this sets in the first signs are generally depression, stiffness with walking (founder) and diarrhea. Later on they may develop a distended abdomen and kick at it to try and ease their discomfort. Finally, affected cattle become severely dehydrated, weak recumbent and go into a coma. Consult with your veterinarian if your believe that you animals are suffering from this condition.

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10. What is Ergot Poisoning?

What is ergot poisoning? Ergot is toxic to animals. Animals consume ergot by eating the sclerotia present in contaminated feed. All domestic animals are susceptible, including birds. Cattle seem to be the most susceptible. Two well known forms of ergotism exist in animals, an acute form characterized by convulsions, and a chronic form characterized by gangrene. A third form of ergotism is characterized by hyperthermia (increased body temperature) in cattle, and a fourth form is characterized byagalactia (no milk) and lack of mammary gland development, prolonged gestations, and early foal deaths in mares fed heavily contaminated feed. Which form of ergotism is manifested depends on the type of ergot consumed and the ratio of major toxic alkaloids present in the ergot: ergotamine, ergotoxine, and ergometrine. Claviceps purpurea, the common cause of ergot in North Dakota, is usually associated with gangrenous ergotism. Claviceps paspali, an ergot of Paspalum spp. of plants, is most commonly associated with central nervous derangement. Paspalum is a water grass distributed in pastures in southern states, but is not commonly found in North Dakota. The responses of animals consuming ergot are usually quite

variable and are dependent on variations in alkaloid content, frequency of ingesting ergot, quantity of ergot ingested, climatic conditions under which ergot grew, the species of ergot involved, and the influence of other impurities in the feed such as histamine and acetylcholine.

Animal Clinical Symptoms- Symptoms of convulsive ergotism include hyperexcitability, belligerence, ataxia or staggering, lying down, convulsions and backward arching of the back. Symptoms of gangrenous ergotism involve the extremities of the animal including the nose, ears, tail, and limbs . Early signs usually start in the hind limbs (Figure 5). Lameness may appear from two to six weeks after first ingesting ergot. There may be pain, stamping of the feet, and coolness of the affected areas. If ergot consumption continues, sensation to pain is lost in the affected areas and an indented line appears between normal tissue and gangrenous tissue. This gangrenous tissue is called 'dry gangrene.' Eventually all tissue below this line will slough. Besides the limbs, other extremities involved can include the tail and ears. The tips and distal areas of the extremities will also slough.

Early signs of gangrenous ergotism usually start in the hind limbs.

Animals fed large amounts of ergot over time lose portions of their hooves, ears, tails, combs, and wattles. Spontaneous abortion and loss of milk has occurred in cows and sows fed even small amounts of ergot. Ergoty feed should not be fed to breeding females. Animals fed large amounts of ergot over time lose portions of their ears or other extremities.

Diagnosis of Ergot Poisoning - A diagnosis of ergot poisoning is based on finding the sclerotia in the feed or pasture and whether the animals are exhibiting symptoms of ergotism. Extraction and detection of ergot alkaloids also may be done if ground feed is suspect.

Treatment of Ergot Poisoning - The only treatment for ergotism is to remove the ergot-contaminated feed or remove the animals from the contaminated pasture. If nervous signs are present, call your veterinarian for medical advice and supplemental therapy such as pain control. If dry gangrene is present, the affected portion will be sloughed. There is nothing to reverse this process. If secondary infections or open wounds are present, call your veterinarian for appropriate therapy.

Prevention and Control of Ergot Poisoning

Prevention is based on feeding feed and forage that are free of ergot. For pastures, graze the infected fields before seed heads begin to flower. The ergot is contained in the ovary of the flower. Commercially prepared feeds will rarely contain ergot. Non-commercial grain (home grown) should be screened prior to feeding (and planting to prevent contamination of future crops). Special care should be taken in feeding screenings. If feeding ergoty grain is unavoidable, the amount of sclerotia should be reduced to an amount less than 0.1% (by weight) of the feed through mixing with 'clean' grain. Again, ergoty feed should not be fed to breeding females.

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11. What is the cost per year to feed a cow?

Try the website below and read the University of Nebraska publication *NebGuide* and download the spreadsheet. To make the spreadsheets work, you will need Microsoft Excel® on your computer. Go to one of the cow budgets that looks like the closest of what you want to do, then enter in your costs. There are default costs, but to make the information accurate for you, put your own information in. Nebraska Cattle Budgets, Instructions for Using the Nebraska Cattle Budgets Spreadsheet (PDF, 538 KB). www.ianrpubs.unl.edu

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**12. 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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13. See A Forester

Many of you are landowners who have stands of forest on your property. Some of these tree stands are being managed some are not. Those trees are an economic resource & many times in hard economic times landowners will look at harvesting or cutting this timber.

Most landowners have neither knowledge of forest management nor knowledge about how to sell timber. I would encourage you to do your homework so that you will get a fair market price for the timber and that harvesting & post harvest, is done in a planned and managed manner.

First ... See a Forester

More than 60 percent of North Carolina is forested, but much of this valuable resource is not actively managed. Properly managed forests can generate extra money from the sale of timber products; improve wildlife habitat, aesthetics, recreation, and water quality; and increase land value. By seeking the assistance of a professional forester, you can maximize the return on your forestlands.

Seeking Professional Advice ...

There are a number of factors to consider when seeking professional advice. Here are some questions to ask:

What are your qualifications?

- How many years of experience do you have, and what type of experience have you had?
- What is your educational background?

In North Carolina, registered foresters generally hold a bachelor of science or higher degree in forestry or have shown equivalent knowledge by passing the examination given by the N.C. Board of Registration for Foresters.

What are your fees, and what services do you provide?

Fees and services offered by professional foresters vary considerably. Fees may be based on an hourly, daily, or acreage rate or may be based on a percentage of gross revenues generated by a contracted activity such as a timber sale.

Are you associated with a sawmill or wood products firm?

Some forest industries employ foresters who can help landowners manage their private forestland, but many of these businesses also buy timber. To prevent a possible conflict of interest, avoid management advice from those who buy timber.

Can you provide references from previous clients?

Talk to the people who provide references to see if they were satisfied with the services they received. Ask these questions:

- Was the forester willing to discuss management goals and options on your property?
- Was the forester willing to manage for multiple species and products?

- Was the forester available throughout the project?

Ask to visit sites to see the results of their forestry work “on the ground.”

To verify if a forester is registered in North Carolina, contact the N.C. Board of Registration for Foresters at 919-847-5441 or online at <http://members.aol.com/ncbrf/>.

Once you select a qualified forester, you should sign a contract. Include a list of services to be performed and specify who will perform them, when they will be performed, and how the forester will be paid for those services.

Sources of help to North Carolina private forest owners can be found at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/pdf/ag/ag619.pdf>

A couple was recently offered an unsolicited bid of \$20,000 for their 20 acres of mature pine saw timber. Realizing the complexity of selling timber, the couple hired a consulting forester to watch out for their interest.

The consulting forester, who worked on a contract price for a percentage of the gross revenue, conducted a sealed-bid timber sale. Gross revenue from the sale was \$39,895—\$19,895 more than the original unsolicited bid.

This increase in income was significantly higher than the fee charged by the consulting forester.

North Carolina requires foresters to be registered.

Registered foresters must meet educational and experience requirements. A North Carolina registered forester can be identified by showing their Registered Forester Credentials from the State Board of Registration for Foresters.

For more information on Forestry go to Extension Forestry’s web site at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/>

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14. Cattle Management Reminders - All Cattle - *Check Cattle regularly * Provide (and check) clean fresh water & complete mineral mix *Maintain Body Condition of cows and heifers *Watch for bloat *Make marketing & culling decisions.*Keep good health and forage records. *CONTROL Flies *Clip pastures to prevent pinkeye Fall Calving -*Make initial heifer replacement selections. *Pregnancy check and cull open females.*Evaluate bulls based on calf performance. *For cows to be culled due to age/performance, wean calves and sell cows Spring Calving - *End breeding season for heifers in May and cows in June. *Sell stockers. * Vaccinate and deworm calves

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15. FORAGE TIPS: - May - June

***It is so important to get the maximum use of available grass, utilize cross fencing. This will stretch out your forage and decrease wastage. *Take soil samples for fall plantings. *Come by and pick up your free soil sample boxes and sheets.* *Fertilize cool season grasses if not already done so, don't apply nitrogen to fescue after mid May until August. *Finish grazing cool season grasses before grazing warm season. *WATCH FOR GRASS TETANY * Harvest fescue and orchardgrass as soon as seedheads begin to flower.*Fertilize warm season grasses when dormancy breaks* Apply nitrogen to warm-season grasses after each cutting (or 4 to 6 weeks) *Graze bermudagrass to a 2-4 inch stubble and harvest excess every 4-6 weeks. *Control weeds, spray while they are small for best control. *Be aware of potential of Nitrate & Prussic Acid poisoning from animals grazing stunted, highly fertilized summer annuals, *Keep good forage records.*Drag pastures to spread manure**

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

PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE HAY TO SELL.

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17. Other Items of Interest

- Hydraulic Fracturing

State Environmental Agency Issues Final Report on Hydraulic Fracturing: Hydraulic fracturing can be done safely in North Carolina only if the General Assembly adopts state-specific regulatory standards and invests sufficient resources in compliance and enforcement prior to issuance of any permits for the practice, according to a report issued last week by the N.C.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The report also notes the need for additional research on N.C.'s geology and hydrogeology to identify conditions under which hydraulic fracturing can be done without putting the state's water resources at risk. DENR's report can be found online at <http://www.ncdenr.gov>– and clicking on the “Shale Gas” tab.

- NCDA&CS to Treat Gypsy Moth Infestation:

NCDA&CS will soon treat a localized gypsy moth infestation in Caswell and Rockingham counties in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation Inc. Because of record-setting warm temperatures, the aerial treatment is anticipated to occur significantly ahead of schedule, between May 7 and May 30, depending on weather conditions and insect development. Nearly 1,600 acres will be treated in Caswell and Rockingham counties, about two miles east of Ruffin. NCDA&CS has also detected the moths in southern Wake County. Traps have been placed to determine if this is a reproducing infestation.

Gypsy Moth In North America - <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/morgantown/4557/gmoth/>

- Wildlife Commission Moves Toward Night Hunting of Coyotes and Feral Swine

May 03, 2012 03:03 PM • Views 5828

Media Contact: Carolyn Rickard 919-707-0124, carolyn.rickard@ncwildlife.org

RALEIGH, N.C. (May 3, 2012) — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission took a step toward implementing a rule Thursday that allows for the taking of coyotes and feral swine by hunting on private lands at night with a light. The rule would also allow the hunting of feral swine and coyotes on public lands from ½ hour after sunset to ½ before sunrise with a light by permit only. Night hunting is one means of controlling localized populations of coyotes and feral swine, both of which are non-native to North Carolina and destructive to the landscape.

The new regulations are year-round, seven days a week. Hunting on Sundays is allowed only on private lands with archery equipment.

The new regulations are scheduled to take effect August 1, 2012 pending final approval by the Rules Review Commission. Currently, there is no closed season on either species, but hunting them at night is not allowed except by permit for feral swine.

<http://www.ncwildlife.org/News/NewsArticle/tabid/416/IndexID/7905/Default.aspx>

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18. Take A Load Off –

I need your clean Jokes, so please send em to me! - [This is still one of my most favorites.....](#)

QUEEN Lizzie AND PRESIDENT BUSH

At Heathrow Airport, a 300-foot long red carpet stretches out to Air Force One and Mr. Bush strides to a warm but dignified hand shake from Queen Elizabeth II.

They ride in a silver 1934 Bentley limousine to the edge of central London where they then board an open 17th century coach pulled by six magnificent white matching horses. They ride toward Buckingham Palace, each looking sideways and waving to the thousands of cheering Britons.

So far everything is going well.

Suddenly the right rear horse lets fly with the most horrendous, earth-rending, eye-smarting blast of flatulence ever heard in the British Empire and so powerful that it shakes the coach.

Uncomfortable, but under control, the two Dignitaries of State do their best to ignore the incident, but, embarrassed, the Queen decides it's impossible to ignore it.

"Mr. President, please accept my regrets. I'm sure you understand

that there are some things not even a Queen can control."

**Ever the Texas gentleman, the President replies, "Your Majesty,
please don't give the matter another thought. You know, if you hadn't
said something, I would have thought it was one of the horses!"**

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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. PLEASE
REMEMBER THOSE WHO SACRIFICED ALL AS WE APPROACH MEMORAL
DAY!**

Thanks

Ben

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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University

Is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not
discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race,
color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disability.

Moreover, North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State
University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to promote
racial integration by recruiting and enrolling a larger number of black
students. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State
University regards discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to

be inconsistent with its goal of providing a welcoming environment in which all its students, faculty, and staff may learn and work up to their full potential. The Universities values the benefits of cultural diversity and pluralism in the academic community and welcomes all men and women of good will without regard to sexual orientation.

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