Weekly Pile for Week of February 5th 2012

Hey Trail Blazers,
Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the Week of February 5, 2012, Extension's Equine related educational information &announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. To have something included in the Weekly Pile, please follow these simple guidelines.
- Information included needs to be educational in nature&/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.
- 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 alike.
- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.
If I forgot to include anything in this email it was probably an oversight on my part, but please let me know!
If you have a question or ideas that you would like covered in the Weekly Pile, please let me know and I will try to include. As Always – I would like to hear your comments about the Weekly Pile or the Extension Horse Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

Included in This Weeks Pile:

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1. We have gotten the 2012 Extension Horse Management Courses off to a good start with 2 Great programs. Many of you missed these 2 excellent

programs that the Veterinarians from Mid-State Equine Hospital & Carolina Equine Hospital presented. I hope that many of you will come to the remaining programs.
It is difficult to find many equine educational programs like this Horse Management Series anywhere, (especially in North Carolina) with the quality speakers that come each year.
I hope that you will come and support these programs so we can continue to get these quality speakers and so these programs will continue each year!

2012 Extension Horse Management

MONDAY NIGHT

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 & Huntseat - Dr. Mike Yoder, NCSU Extension Horse Husbandry Specialist

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

Horse Management Committee – Randy Boles, David Dick, Sara Jo Durham, Steva Allgood, Rita Nott, & Georgianne Sims

- Registration Fee: $30 for entire series or $5.00 per session. (Just come Monday Night to Register)
- 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 at 1-800-666-3625, or 342-8235 Email- ben_chase@ncsu.edu.

In case of inclement weather, please call 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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2. 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**
- ***THIS WORKSHOP 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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3. Attention – VERY IMPORTANT:

Fertilizer Applicators/Users in the Jordan Lake Watershed

The first training that was held in Guilford County this past week had over 200 people, this next training on February 16th is the last training that is scheduled in Rockingham or Guilford Counties. I would suggest getting here early, we are expecting a crowd.

Attend REQUIRED but FREE Nutrient Management Training:

In Rockingham County - 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.

• 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 this FREE REQUIRED nutrient management training offered by NC Cooperative Extension:

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 this free training offered by the NC Cooperative Extension Service, 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 or your local Cooperative Extension office for more information: Rockingham County - (336) 342-8230, Guilford County - (336) 375-5876, Alamance County - (336) 570-6740, Caswell County - (336) 694-4158, Orange County - (919) 245-2050, Chatham County - (919) 542-8202, Durham County - (919) 560-0525, Wake County - (919) 250-1100.

For a list of FREE training dates at N.C. Cooperative Extension Centers in other Counties, go to: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/jordanlake/fertilizer-management

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4. You Asked: How important is it for all horses that share a pasture to be on the same deworming schedule? What about horses in the same barn? Is there a recommend deworming schedule/rotation?
Ideally, a horse herd (pastured or stabled together) should be on the same deworming program/schedule. Young growing horses may need to be dewormed more frequently, as they have less resistance to internal parasites than the older horses.

Rotating your pasture with other livestock species, removing manure piles in small paddocks, busting up (dragging – when running over pasture with any equipment hook drag behind) manure piles in large pastures, and ensuring that the pasture is not over grazed (always at least 3-4 inches of forage stand) will all help in keeping your pasture parasite load low.

The latest recommendation is that horse owners have a fecal egg count test performed to determine the horse's parasite load. If a fecal test shows that the horses have few parasites, then skipping a deworming is recommended. This not only helps with decreasing the chemicals entering your horse's body, but it also can help decrease the chances of resistance build-up that we are beginning to see with some dewormers.

Talk to your veterinarian, we are fortunate to have some good ones in our area, they will be happy to discuss the deworming program for your horses. Some regions of the country deworm about every two months; others deworm every three to four months - it all depends factors such as climate and exposure. It is suggested to weigh each horse (typically we use a horse weight tape that you can often find at a feed store) prior to deworming. Many people just give a tube of dewormer and never realize that they are not giving enough to cover the horse's weight. (many/most weight tapes are about 10% off). Most of these dewormers have a large safety margin. The best thing you can do is include your veterinarian in your management/deworming program.

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5. Management and Control of Internal Parasites in Horses

Craig Wood, University of Kentucky

Signs of Parasite Infestation

Contrary to popular belief, many horses that have dangerous parasite levels appear to be perfectly healthy. From the outside they may be fat, sleek, and shiny, while on the inside worms are doing irreparable damage. But in other horses, especially young ones, parasites can take a visible toll.

Signs of infestation might include:

- **dull, rough hair coat**
- **lethargy or decreased stamina**
- **weight loss, coughing and/or nasal discharge**
- **tail rubbing and hair loss**
- **resistance to the bit due to mouth lesions**
- **Colic**
- **summer sores**
- **Depression**

- **loss of appetite**
- **unthriftiness or loss of condition**
- **diarrhea**

Fecal Examinations

One of the most underutilized tools in an effective parasite control program is the fecal examination, which merely involves taking two to three fresh fecal balls to your veterinarian for laboratory analysis. This simple process can identify the specific parasites infecting a horse. Rarely are the worms themselves visible in the manure. But by counting the types and numbers of parasite eggs present in the fecal sample, your veterinarian can recommend the right deworming agents to do the job. Counts of fecal eggs per gram counts also tell an owner about the degree of parasite infestation on a farm or within a herd. The fecal exam is a cost-effective follow-up to deworming to determine whether the dewormer has worked. It is good practice to do a fecal EPG count within two weeks after deworming.

Management

Management programs that interrupt the life cycle of the parasite before infestation occurs are the keys to successful control. Clean and sanitary stall areas are essential. Manure should be removed and placed in a compost pile or spread on cropland or pastures not being grazed by horses. The larvae in composted manure will be destroyed if sufficient heat is built up. Spreading manure by dragging pastures will decrease incidence of infective larvae if the climate allows for drying of manure.

Alternative grazing with ruminants (cattle or sheep) and pasture rotation schemes will aid in disrupting the parasite life cycle. Grazing ruminants in rotation with horses will reduce parasite infestation, because most internal parasites are host specific. Pasture rotation may also help by decreasing incidence of overgrazing, thus decreasing ingestion of parasites.

Vacuuming or collecting fecal material in pasture is expensive, but it can be very effective. Grouping horses in pastures according to age will help minimize young horses coming in contact with heavy larval infestations. For example, pasture mares and foals away from other horses less than 2 years of age. Yearling horses often need a different control program than a broodmare. It can be more difficult to control parasites in a herd if all ages and classes of horses are in a pasture together. Be sure to isolate and deworm all new arrivals to the farm. When feeding horses, always provide hay mangers and feed bunks. Feeding horses on the ground and not out of containers increases the risk of parasite infestation. All feeders, buckets, and water troughs should be routinely cleaned to help prevent fecal contamination of feed or water.

Control

Various types of chemicals called anthelmintics, or antiparasitics, have been developed to eliminate parasites. These chemicals work in a number of ways. Some paralyze the parasite, thus allowing the host to expel them. Other chemicals prevent nutrient utilization or limit reproductive capabilities in the parasites, thus killing them or stopping the life cycle. A large number of commercial antiparasitic compounds are currently on the market to remove internal parasites from horses. These antiparasitics are separated into six major classes. The more common classes are avermictins/milbimycins, benzimidazoles, and pyrimides. These anthelmintics are available in different physical forms (paste, feed additives, gel, drench) and are sold under several trade names. Antiparasitics are effective by all routes given, provided an appropriate dose is administered based on the horse's weight and the entire dose gets into the horse.

Knowledge of antiparasitics is important because these chemicals vary in their ability to remove specific parasites. For example, a compound may be effective at controlling strongyles and ascarids, but not bots or tapeworms, whereas another chemical is effective in controlling ascarids, strongyles, and tapeworms, but not bots. In addition, some anthelmintics are not safe for certain classes or ages of horses.

A rotational treatment protocol, which is alternating between classes of anthelmintics, is often utilized to avoid resistance to an anthelmintic class. There are several deworming strategies used in equine parasite control and all have advantages and disadvantages. Some of the common strategies are:

- Interval rotational treatment (rotating drugs four to six times a year)

- Annual rotation (using a different drug each year)

- Daily (continuous) treatment (also administering a botacide at least twice a year)

- No rotation (using the same drug four to six times a year and the same one every year)

- Targeted treatment (targeting specific parasites)

- Strategic treatments (administering drugs at specific times of the year)

Factors such as climate, humidity, season, rainfall, stocking rate, age of the horse, and financial resources of the owner all affect which strategy is chosen. It is critical to consult a veterinarian in establishing an effective parasite control program.

In most circumstances, a horse will need to be dewormed four to six times a year starting at about 4 to 8 weeks of age. Some anthelmintics are toxic to young foals, and the labels and package inserts should be read carefully. Typically, parasite control programs are most effective if treatments are administered at the times when environmental conditions are favorable for hatching of eggs or development of larvae, which is the time when transmission of infection is likely to occur. An essential component to an effective parasite control program is checking the efficacy of that program by evaluating fecal samples for parasite eggs on an annual basis.

Management Practices

1. **Deworm all foals at 4 to 8 weeks of age. Repeat every 30 to 60 days, depending on the circumstances of the environment.**

2. **Regularly rotate pastures.**

3. **Small pastures from one to 10 acres can be divided into smaller areas so horses can be rotated. This will help lower the worm burden as well as give forage a chance to recover.**

4. **If possible, pasture cattle, sheep, or goats behind the horse(s). These species consume the infective larvae of the horses' parasites, and the larvae will be inactivated.**

5. Clean stalls on a regular basis and compost manure or spread thinly over pasture not being grazed by horses. Stalled horses become reinfested from larvae crawling up the walls and being licked off by the horses.

6. Mowing and harrowing pastures to break up fecal piles during the hottest and driest season of the year will decrease numbers of infective larvae.

7. Feed horses grain and hay from some type of rack or trough. This includes pastured horses.

8. A yearly fecal examination by a veterinarian will help you evaluate how well the program is working.

9. Avoid overstocking a pasture, as this will increase the risk of exposure to infective larvae or eggs.

10. Remove bot eggs quickly and regularly from the horse's hair coat to

prevent ingestion.

11. Alternate anthelmintic classes to decrease possible parasite resistance to

an anthelmintics class and administer anthelmintic to all horses at the same time when they are kept together.

Always read and follow the label instructions of an anthelmintic when administering.

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6. Learning Ability of Horses

Ashley Griffin, University of Kentucky

All current equine learning research is based on the assumption that horses learn through Stimulus - Response - Reinforcement - Training (S - R - R - T).
How S - R - R - T Works
The horse perceives a stimulus, or cue, such as the rider's leg or body weight (seat).
The horse then makes a random response to the stimulus.
If the response is correct, the horse receives positive reinforcement (reward).
If the incorrect response is given, the trainer either ignores the response and/or repeats the stimulus or applies negative reinforcement until the horse makes the correct response.

Now, let's examine the different parts of S - R - R - T.
Stimulus

Two Categories:

1. **Conditioned Stimulus - A stimulus that has been learned through practice is called conditioned. For example, a horse may be conditioned to back up when a rider picks up on the reins, makes light contact with the horse's mouth, and gently squeezes the horse with his or her legs.**

2. **Unconditioned Stimulus - If a stimulus naturally causes a response with no prior practice, it is said to be unconditioned. For example, when a fly lands on a horse's back, the horse may twitch the affected muscle. This happens naturally with no practice required.**

<u>Types of Stimuli</u>

- **Legs**
- **Hands**
- **Body weight (seat)**
- **Voice**
- **Visual**

Research has shown that horses learn as well with a single stimulus as as they do with a combination of visual, auditory, and tactile stimuli.

Horses are very adept at discriminating between the slightest stimulus in their environment and one that occurs as part of asking them to perform. Therefore, trainers must be specific and consistent with their presentation of stimuli, otherwise known as cues. If the specific cue and timing of each cue is not similar, the horse will begin to generalize in response to stimuli and won't respond appropriately. If inconsistency persists, then a stronger, more obvious stimulus will be required to generate the proper response and achieve the initial or new level of responsiveness.

A good example would be the riding lesson horse. Riding lesson horses become so habituated to accidental stimuli from beginning riders that they become dull and unresponsive (hard-sided) to subtle stimuli. These horses learn to ignore the cues of the riders and instead walk, trot, and canter based on voice commands of the riding instructor.
It is important that stimuli be given consistently and at the proper time for the horse to respond with the proper maneuver. If the horse's body is not in the right position, there is no way it can give the proper response. For example, the only time a horse can move its front left leg laterally is when that leg is in the air. Therefore, the best time to present the stimulus for moving the leg laterally is when it is moving forward and off the ground.

The correct timing of a stimulus is where the art of good horsemanship joins the science of learning.

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7. Hoof Care - Checklists

Care of the hoof is an important area of horse care and is most often neglected. Neglecting the hooves will definitely lead to further problems such as lameness. Horse owners should rely on a Hoof Care Professional to do trimming, shoeing, or corrective shoeing. Here is a check list that you could make use of when working with your hoof care professional.

Hoof Care Professionals Evaluation of the Owner

- Are horses ready to be shoed or trimmed. (Are horses caught or up ready to be trimmed or shoed?)

- Are the correct number of horses there to be shoed or trimmed?

- Are high-strung horses restrained or treated properly to be kept under control?

- Is the Hoof Care Professional made aware of the problem horse?

- Is Hoof Care Professional paid on time??

Evaluation of the Hoof Care Professional

- Did Hoof Care Professional observe the horse walking?

- Are frogs and bars cleaned and trimmed?

- Are shoes made to fit hoof?

- Are hoof and shoe level?

- Was it a pleasant experience for the horse (not mistreated), and the owner?

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8. Twinning in Mares

Twinning in mares is very undesirable because of low survival rates, usually very weak foals, and numerous conformational problems. Of all twin pregnancies, 60% will birth a live single foal, 31% will abort both foals, and 9% will carry both twins to term. Of the 9% carried to term, 64.5% will birth two stillborn foals, 21% will birth one live foal and one stillborn foal and 14.5% will birth two live foals.

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9. DON'T BREED BELOW AVERAGE MARES

Dr. Frederick Harper, Extension Horse Specialist, Animal Science Department, University of Tennessee

Quality is an important commercial commodity. Just look at all the ads touting quality cars, computers and shampoos. It even carries over into the horse industry. Attend any horse sale, and what are the highest-priced horses? The high-quality ones.

Lately mare owners are searching for potential stallions in breed magazines and stallion farm brochures. They may even be surfing the Internet or watching videos of potential stallions. But, wait just a minute. Before immersing yourself in this process, answer a critical question.

Is your mare worth breeding? This may be a shocking revelation to many mare owners. But, let's not be shortsighted.

Not too long ago, overproduction of below-average horses glutted the market, sending prices spiraling downward in the 1980's. Yes, a poor economy was also a factor. But, "Economics 101" tells us that supply can exceed demand, especially when low-quality items contribute to oversupply. It is unlikely that

below-average mares will produce above-average or profitable foals. Now, there are lots of reason to raise a foal. But, there is not any good reason to raise a bad one.

Mare owners, who aspire to be breeders, must critically evaluate their mares, using the three "P" and one "R" test.

The “Ps” and “R” are: performance, progeny, pedigree and reproduction.

Does your mare have an above-average performance record? If you are interested in

showing, was she above average in the show ring? If not, she has another chance.

Are her foals above-average show horses? If not, she is <u>not</u> a good candidate for

breeding. If the answer is “yes” to either of the above questions, consider her conformation.

Does she have above-average conformation? If yes, she is a good candidate. If not, do not breed her unless she has produced two to three above-average performance and conformation foals.

If you answered "yes" to either of the first two questions and her conformation is above average, there is still another genetic factor. Does she have an above-average pedigree?

If not, you will not likely get a very good price for her foal. Most buyers carefully

scrutinize pedigrees. If her pedigree passes, you still need to consider her reproductive ability. Older mares, 16 years and above, have reduced reproductive ability. It may not be economical to mate older mares, especially if they have not had a foal annually for the past two years.

Why, are we so concerned about being above average? The nature of genetics always

drifts toward the average of the population. So, if your mare is not above average in the three "P's," it is highly questionable that she is worth breeding.

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10. Dressage, Naturally and Parelli Natural Horsemanship Clinics at EagleBear Farm!
EagleBear Farm has a great line up of clinics for all levels this year, including the incredible opportunity to participate in a Karen Rohlf, FEI

Silver Medalist, Dressage, Naturally Clinic. Please check out the web site for more details and schedule. If you do not get a response back within 24hrs to your questions or requests from a link on the site, please call directly. www.eaglebearfarm.com ncparelliclinics@bellsouth.net (919) 452-3023

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

Quality Hay is in short supply, this Extension hay list was compiled in the fall and much of the hay is now gone. If you are running short on hay, DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE to try to line some up.

Please go ahead & get your hay source lined up.
I get many calls from folks saying that "We are Out Of Hay and need some like Now"
When you wait until your hay is gone, you do not allow time for your horses digestive system to get acclimated to the "new" hay which can cause problems.

If you have hay to sell – Please let know!

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12. Take A Load Off – Job applications

A 17-year-old girl came home with five job applications. She carefully filled them out, and later asked her mother to look them over.

All the answers were clear and concise and she noticed that on all five applications, under "Previous Employment", she had listed "Baby-sitting".

But then she read, under "Reason for Leaving" her daughter had answered, "Parents came home."

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I always want to know what you think of the Weekly Pile, good or bad,
Especially if it has had ANY IMPACT on you. Let me hear from you!
*****I NEED YOUR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES In FUTURE Newsletters!*****
I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Please remember our Troops who are serving our Country (and there

families) those who have come home with wounds and the families that paid the ultimate sacrifice. We owe everything to those who are and have served!

Thank You!
I hope that you all have a Great Safe Weekend!
Ben

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Ben Chase

Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent

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