Howdy Rockingham County Cattlemen,

Included in this 3/6/2009 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 March Cattleman’s Program
2. Get Your Grazing Stick - Better Get One, If You Want One!
3. Articles of Interest
4. Weed Management – What’s Your Plan
5. Fertilizer & High Prices
6. Words of Caution
7. Hay Directory
8. Certified Animal Waste Applicators Training
9. Natural Raised Standards
10. NC lost more than Half a Million Acres of farmland from 2002-2007
11. Forage Management Reminders
12. Cattle Reminders
13. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted
14. Take A Load Off
15. Calendar of Events

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1. Rockingham County Cattleman’s Program - March 12th
The Rockingham County Cattlemen's meeting will take place on Thursday March 12th, beginning at 7pm at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center. At this meeting we will be hearing about some important State and Federal Conservation Programs and practices from our NRCS and Soil & Water Conservation folks. There are many opportunities for cattle producers to take part in these programs. This will be a very informative program about the opportunities & requirements of these programs.

Please plan on coming to this program at 7pm on March 12th here at the Rockingham County Agricultural Center. I am sure it will be a program you will not want to miss.

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2. Get Your Grazing Sticks –
Ok folks, I have mentioned these grazing sticks for about the past month, I am going to releasing these sticks I have so please if you want one to make arrangements to come and get one.

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 tool 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 or if you attended the Drought/Grazing Management Field Day back on September 4 at the Research Station, and you registered there, then I have a grazing stick here for you. Just give me a call so I will be here when you stop by the office to pick yours up.

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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3. The following are Articles that I have come across that I thought would be of interest.

Who Is Dating Your Cows?
http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=289182

Factors Affecting Beef Flavor –
http://beefmagazine.com/research/0304-factors-affecting-beef-flavor/

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4. Weed Management – What’s Your Plan?

Was your pasture a wave of yellow with all those flowers late last spring? It sure was pretty but was not much good for grazing though! That yellow flower is called the Corn Buttercup and when you see the flower, it is too late to spray. So, when should you spray? Late February & March, plan to take action! That’s right, if you have had problems with buttercup, late February & March is the time to start getting your sprayer ready. Because buttercup is a winter annual, late winter, early spring, is the time to spray, before you see the flower.

You will need a fairly warm day (above 50 degrees) to spray. So, do not go out and spray when it is 35 degrees outside, then complain about poor control. SPRAY ON A WARM DAY!!! You will need to spray 2-3 years to control the weed. There are several products on the market that can give good control of buttercup. Don't wait until May or June!

Forage crops, like all other crops, must compete with weeds. Weed control is essential to successful production. The aspects of forage quality (and, therefore, any weeds in forage) that affect animal performance are (1) digestibility and nutritive content, (2) consumption (amount and rate), and (3) toxic factors. Although some research indicates that many weeds are highly nutritious and digestible (50 to 75%), animals may not eat them voluntarily. However, strict rotational grazing with high stock density increases consumption of many weeds. Weeds may adversely affect forage quality because certain ones are toxic or poisonous to livestock; others are unpalatable and limit consumption; some cause an undesirable flavor in milk and meat, and others cause irritations that may contribute to pinkeye.

Certain weedy plants have sharp thorns, awns, or spines that cause internal injury or prick the mouth and eyes of grazing livestock, causing infections or irritations. Plants that cause these problems include horsenettle, mullen, multiflora rose, sandbur, Spanish needles, spiny amaranth, and thistles. Intestinal obstructions may occur if animals eat plant parts such as the mature seed heads of crimson clover.

Plants that produce a disagreeable taste or odor in the milk and meat of grazing animals include bitter sneezeweed, buttercup, chicory, dock, dogfennel, horsetails, mustards, ox-eye daisy, ragweeds, sorrel, spurge, St. John’s wort, wild garlic, and yarrow. Toxic weeds are described in “Plants Poisonous to Livestock and Pets in North Carolina.”

Weeds’ requirements for growth are somewhat similar to those of many forage crops. Depending on weather and soil conditions about one pound less forage is produced for each pound of weed growth.

Competition for soil moisture is often severe when shallow rooted forage plants are competing with weeds. Many summer annually weeds also have high water requirements and extensive root systems for extracting soil moisture. Others use water remarkably efficiently. Clovers, bluegrass, and lespedeza cannot effectively compete with most weeds if there is not enough moisture in the soil. Legumes use nearly three times as much water as efficient plants. For example, ragweed uses three times as much water as corn per pound of dry matter produced.

Weeds’ nutrients requirements for growth are also somewhat like those of many forage plants. They are strong competitors on infertile and acid soils and seem to be able to grow and reproduce much easier than forages on such soils. Lime and phosphate fertilizer doubled the ground coverage of desirable forage and reduced weed coverage by nearly 20% in mountain pasture tests. Weeds are heavy users of phosphate and potash compared to grass and red clover. For example, weeds contain more than twice the potash and 30% more phosphate than clover. Since grasses also take up lots of potash, legumes growing in mixtures are at a tremendous disadvantage when grown on soils low in potash.

Many weeds are highly digestible and contain high protein and energy values. A few examples are curly dock, crabgrass, lambsquarters, redroot pigweed, and tall morningglory. If animals will eat the weeds, control is not as critical as it is for weeds that animals will not eat.

Methods Of Weed Control

Mowing may control tall-growing annual broadleaf weeds and reduce seed production if completed just after the first flower appears. However, mowing will not control weeds that form rosettes or mats that grow close to the ground. In fact, mowing may help those weeds by reducing the competition from the desired forage plants. In most instances, weeds have done their damage (in terms of yield reduction) by the time they can be controlled with a mower. Mowing of perennial, hard-to-kill broadleaf weeds shortens them but rarely gives satisfactory control. Mowing to control crabgrass, foxtail, and similar annual grass weeds is essentially hopeless.

Cultural Grazing. Management practices that produce a vigorous, dense stand of forage combined with judicious grazing management are excellent for reducing pasture weeds. Methods of successfully competing with pasture weeds include (1) following soil tests’ guides for lime and fertilizer, (2) planting weed-free seeds of persistent varieties adapted to specific management systems and soil environments, (3) rotating crops when feasible to interrupt the life cycle of certain weeds and (4) using frequent rotations of high stock density to force grazing animals to eat or trample weeds. Mixing goats with cattle in the appropriate proportion has been effective in controlling certain weeds, such as blackberry, privet, honeysuckle, kudzu, multiflora rose, and a multitude of woody seedlings and saplings.

Herbicides. Chemical control of pasture weeds is effective and often economical. However, herbicides are only one aspect of a weed management program and should be used in combination with fertilization, liming, and grazing and harvesting management.

Weed Management With Herbicides
The success of using herbicides to control weeds in pasture and hay crops depends on plant growth factors, environmental conditions, and herbicide selection. All these factors can interact to affect the performance of foliar-applied herbicides.

Plant Growth Factors. Annual pasture weeds are easiest to kill when they are young and actively growing (3 to 8 inches tall) or in the rosette stage. Biennial plants require two years to complete their life cycle, and they are usually most easily controlled in the rosette stage, before stem elongation and flowering. Bulb, musk, and yellow thistles are biennial weeds. Perennial plants live for several years. They may reproduce by seed and/or rhizome, roots, bulbs, or tubers. Early spring growth depends largely on stored food reserves. Foliar-applied herbicides may be ineffective because the herbicide is not translocated into the roots and rhizomes in sufficient amounts to prevent regrowth. Once the plant has ceased to depend on stored food reserves and begins to transport food into storage organs, control can be achieved more readily since the herbicide is transported downward with the food.

Spraying at early growth gives best control of weeds and reduces the potential loss of forage. Herbicide rates may need to be increased when weeds approach the flowering stage. More difficult to control perennial weeds may require a second spraying when regrowth appears. Foliage sprays for woody plant control should be applied after full leaf development in the spring.

Environmental Conditions. Favorable soil moisture and mild temperatures contribute to actively growing weeds. Desirable forages are usually more tolerant to herbicide application under these conditions. Herbicides are less effective when stressful conditions such as drought are present, because herbicide absorption and translocation are reduced in stressed plants.

Temperature may inhibit or enhance the effectiveness of foliar-applied herbicides. Within the range of 40 to 85°F, foliar penetration usually increases with temperature. However, volatility also increases. At temperatures above 85°F, Banvel and low volatile ester forms of 2, 4-D and Crossbow may be lost to volatility. Such losses reduce weed control and may damage nearby crops and plants.

Rainfall received shortly after spraying may adversely affect the performance of the foliar-applied herbicide because the rain washes the herbicide off before it is absorbed. A rain-free period of 4 to 6 hours after application of postemergence herbicides is best for performance.

Herbicide Selection. Herbicide selection begins with properly identifying the weeds to be controlled, because various weeds respond differently to different herbicides.

**Always consult the North Carolina Agricultural Chemicals Manual** [http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html](http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html) for chemicals that can be used in North Carolina as well as crop with specifics want to be controlled, Herbicides and Formulations, amounts of Formulations per acre, ponds active ingredient per acre and precaution and remarks (know the withdrawal times or waiting period required before treated forage can be used). Herbicide labels provide specifics information on rates, grass tolerance, grazing restrictions and other pertinent safety details.

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### 5. Fertilizer & High Prices -

One of the most pressing issues for our crop producers recently has been the very volatile fertilizer market, and the unprecedented fertilizer prices we saw last fall. While it is impossible to know what will happen with fertilizer prices this spring and into the future, we should encourage growers to understand the fundamentals of pricing in the fertilizer industry, which will help them make decisions as we approach another growing season.

The Economic Research Service of the USDA very recently published a report regarding factors affecting fertilizer prices, which I thought I would share with you for your own information as well as to share with growers you may work with. The article can be found at: [http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AR33/AR33.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/AR33/AR33.pdf)

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### 6. Two Words Of CAUTION - For You to be Aware Of –

- **They Are At It Again - Please Be Aware!**

It happens time to time that there will be rash of calls here in the Extension office about Tele-marketers trying to sell chemicals. One product that we have gotten calls about is a weed product that is suppose to kill weeds for three years. We hear about these telemarketers from time to time and many times make outlandish claims regarding the efficacy of the product or make off-label recommendations. Many times the product contains the same active ingredients that can be purchased locally at a much lower price. So most of the time, if you get a call like this over the phone selling chemical products, it is probably a hoax.

If you have someone call selling any type product, DO NOT GIVE THEM YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER. Instead, You Get Their Numbers - Get phone number, product name and any other information (proper spelling) you can about them and the product, and tell them you will get back with them after you have a chance to do your research on the product. If they are legitimate they will not might you checking things out!

To be able to sell products in North Carolina, they must be registered in the state. Over the years it has been found that these people have not properly registered the products or are just running a scam. Don’t Fall for it!
- You need work done on Your farm?
There has been a circumstance with someone doing work on farms with “land clearing pasture or fence work” and they are not doing good work and in fact in one case got paid and did not finish the job. Please make sure you do your homework, ask for references and go look at previous work done by whomever you are getting ready to hire. Ask where their last job site was and when. This person was not following good land management practices either so make sure whatever work is going to be done is done in an environmentally sound manner (preventing soil erosion)

There are good people doing this type work around Rockingham & Guilford Counties, I hate that this throws doubt on any of these legitimate individuals. But I felt like I needed to let you know about this.

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7. 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.

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8. Certified Animal Waste Applicators Training To Be held in Randolph County

Below are up-coming classes that will each carry 2 hours of credit for Certified Animal Waste Applicators.

Weed Management in Pastures
March 16, 2009    1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
March 30, 2009    7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Pasture Management
March 17, 2009    7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
March 25, 2009    9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Also, the above classes as well as the classes below will carry 2 hours of pesticide credits for Categories N, O, D, and X

Fire Ant Control in Pastures and Around the Farm
March 19, 2009    7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
April 14, 2009    9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Again, the 2 Fire Ant meetings will NOT have Animal Waste Applicator credits.

All classes will be held at the Extension Office in Asheboro (we moved in March 2008); 112 West Walker Ave, Asheboro, NC 27203

Please call Wanda at (336)318-6000 to register for the classes you plan on attending.

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9. Natural Raised Standards
In January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a voluntary standard for naturally-raised livestock and meat marketing claims. USDA previously established voluntary standards for organic and grass-fed.

The naturally raised marketing claim standard states that livestock used for the production of meat and meat products have been raised entirely without growth promotants, antibiotics (except for ionophores used as coccidiostats for parasite control), and have never been fed animal by-products.

In establishing the naturally-raised marketing claim, USDA analyzed over 44,000 comments received from producers, processors, consumers, and other interested parties.

The naturally raised marketing claim standard was published in the January 21, 2009, Federal Register.

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10. North Carolina lost more than Half a Million Acres of farmland from 2002-2007
NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division

RALEIGH -- North Carolina lost more than 600,000 acres of farmland from 2002 to 2007, according to the latest U.S. Census of Agriculture.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts an agricultural census every five years, and the results of the 2007 survey were released earlier
this month. The new census reported 8.5 million acres of farmland in the state, compared with 9.1 million acres in 2002.

"When you lose that many acres, it means that not just small farms are losing land, the large farms are shedding land, too," Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said. "To put 600,000 acres in perspective, it's like taking Sampson County off the map."

The census doesn't contain details about what happened to the farmland, but Troxler suspects a lot of it was sold for development. "The state has added a million people since 2000, and they all need homes to live in, roads to drive on and places to shop," he said. "Farmland is the first place developers look."

Buncombe, Edgecombe, Hyde, Moore and Perquimans counties led the state in farmland loss, with each seeing decreases of greater than 20,000 acres. Urban counties such as Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg and Wake saw decreases of between 5,000 and 20,000 acres each.

The 2007 census was the first attempt to extensively count very small family farms, said Herb Vanderberry, state director of agricultural statistics. As a result, the census included small farms that had not been counted previously.

In 2007, North Carolina had 52,900 farms, compared with 53,900 in 2002, the census showed. "Even with the effort to turn up every farm possible, North Carolina still showed a net loss of farms over that five-year period," Troxler said.

Other census findings:
* The number of tobacco farms across the state dropped by almost 70 percent, from 8,000 in 2002 to 2,600 in 2007. The end of the federal price support system for tobacco in 2004 led to the retirement of many tobacco farmers, while others shifted from tobacco to other commodities, Troxler said. The result was consolidation in tobacco farming, with the remaining growers getting bigger. Despite the drop in their numbers, farmers harvested 174,000 acres of tobacco in 2008, the most since 1999.
* The number of cotton farms dropped nearly 40 percent, from 2,100 to 1,300. In 2007, North Carolina saw a jump in corn production and a corresponding drop in cotton production as growers took advantage of higher prices for grains, Troxler said. The census reflects this shift.
* The state has 34,000 farms with sales of $1,000 to $1 million, down 12 percent from the previous census. Sixty-five percent of N.C. farms fall into this category and account for 26 percent of total sales.
* The number of farms with sales of more than $1 million jumped 87 percent, to 2,800. These farms account for 74 percent of all sales, but only 5 percent of farms.
* The number of farms with sales of less than $1,000 increased 18 percent, to 15,900. These farms account for 30 percent of all N.C. farms, but less than 1 percent of total sales.
* The average age of a North Carolina farmer is 57, compared with 56 in 2002.
* Women now account for 13 percent of all farm operators, up 3 percent from 2002.
* Family farms account for 97 percent of all farms. About 85 percent are classified as small family farms.

11. Forage Management Reminders – Fertilize Cool Season Pastures & Hay Fields - If the pH is below 5.8, apply limestone to pastures as soon as possible (based on soil report). * 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.
12. Cattle Reminders - Keep heifers gaining 1/2 lb./day. Stop breeding cows by about 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 (High-Mag Mineral) on a free choice basis. - 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.

13. Swap Shop - For Sale/Wanted
- Hay For sale - Fescue and some orchardgrass mix, spring 2008 cutting, no weeds, no rain, horse quality square balrd $4.85 at barn round bales, same hay, $45.00 in barn Mike Cobb @336 698-0222 or 336 681-2297

- 1998 Silver Star Custom Horse Trailer - All Aluminum 3H Slant, Large Dressing room - 6ft short wall & 10ft long wall(doors on short wall), A/C-heat & 110w outlet in DR, stud partition in first stall w/escape door, collapsible rear tack, drop windows w/screens, 2 speed crank jack, 7000lb axles, 16in tires, insulated & rubber lined in horse area, $12,500.00 obo, Contact Tony or Terri Aprile at (336) 698-0207

- Bagged Pine Shavings for sale $4.25+tax per bag, heavy vacuum sealed bags. Contact Tony Aprile at (336) 698-0207.

- #256 New Holland hayrake for sale, always sheltered, excellent condition $1950.00 Mike Cobb 336 698-0222 or 336 681-2297

- Interested in buying several hundred pounds of free-range chicken meat. We can use up to 1,000 pounds. Please contact Kier Skipper, (336) 317-2003

- 375 bales of fescue/Johnson grass hay about 45 pounds that would be for cattle for sale for $4.00 a bale. Call 623-3470

- Looking For Hay - Don't forget that A Hay List is Maintained by The Extension Office - If you need hay or wish to be listed, Just Let Me Know!

14. Take A Load Off -
- A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

- A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found", the boy called out." What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear"

- A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."

- Two Reasons Why It's So Hard To Solve A Redneck Murder
  1. All the DNA is the same.
  2. There are no dental records.

- Of all things, I went shopping with my wife. While shopping for vacation clothes, we passed a display of bathing suits. It had been at least ten years and twenty pounds since she had even considered buying a bathing suit, so she sought my advice.

  "What do you think?" She asked.

  "Should I get a bikini or an all-in-one?"

  I told her She Better get a bikini, ".

  "You'd never get it all in one."
HeHeHe - She is gonna kill me!

If ya got a good clean one for use in Take A Load Off – Send To Me

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15. Calendar of Events
March 9th - Guilford Horse Management Series
March 12th - Rockingham County Cattleman 7pm
March 16th – Guilford Horse Management Series
March 17th - Guilford County Cattleman 7pm
April 9th - Rockingham County Cattleman 7pm
April 21st - Guilford County Cattleman 7pm

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.

Hope To See You All Monday Night,
Thanks & Have A Great SAFE Weekend!
BC

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