

Livestock News

September/October 2013

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Greetings from the New Livestock Agent!!

Greetings!!

When I began this job no one could have told me how much fun I would have and all the great people in Moore County I would meet! I am from Climax, NC in Randolph County and it has been wonderful how the citizens here have made me feel as this is my home as well! I graduated from North Carolina State University in May 2012 with a Major in Agricultural and Environmental Technologies and a Minor in Animal Science. I had done several internships during the summer with extension in various areas of the organization ranging from tobacco to 4-H and it really allowed me to understand the importance and value of this position. I grew up on my families' farm in Randolph County where we have cattle, goats and pleasure horses. I showed Appaloosa horses for 12 years until I travelled away to college. I was also very involved in FFA throughout high school and the Animal Science Club while in college. I believe the more you can get involved in agriculture while you are young the greater the understanding and development you can achieve. I have really enjoyed my time spent here thus far and I am looking forward to meeting everyone, whether it be through a visit or just to stop by and chat!

Sincerely,

Kaitlyn M. Cranford

NC State University
A&T State University
**COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**

Empowering People · Providing Solutions



New Peak Season Soil Testing Fee

From the NCDA & CS Agronomic Division Fact Sheet
August 1, 2013

During the 2013 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly Senate Bill 402 was passed into law, Session Law 2013-360. Effective August 1, 2013 NCDA & CS Agronomic Division will now be charging a \$4.00 fee for all samples processed by the division during the busiest season: **December through March**. There will still be no fee from April through November.

Rationale for this:

- To improve lab efficiency by encouraging more growers to sample early, thereby fostering a more balanced sample load throughout the year.
- To enhance sustainability of the soil-testing program by generating receipts that will be earmarked for lab improvements, such as automated equipment, additional peak-season personnel and computer-programming enhancements.

Important Note: This year, December 1st falls on a Sunday and is preceded by the Thanksgiving holidays. Wednesday, November 27th, will be the last business day of the month for the soil testing lab. **Any soil samples arriving after 6 p.m. on November 27th** will be subject to the peak-season fee because they will not be logged in and processed until December 2nd.

Sample drop offs must take place during business hours (6a.m.– 6p.m., Mon-Fri). A locked gate will prevent access to the loading dock area after hours and on weekends. This change will help increase the security of samples and improve customer's access to Agronomic Division personnel.

Payment should not be placed inside the shippers. By late Fall 2013, clients will have the convenience of entering sample payment (credit card or escrow account) information online in the PALS website. Cash and checks will be accepted for peak season samples only if deposited in advance in an escrow account.

Facts:

- The Agronomic Division provides a quality soil-testing service that includes comprehensive soil analyses, site-specific lime and fertilizer recommendations and access to the consulting services of the NCDA&CS agronomists.
- It costs NCDA&CS approximately \$3.22 to analyze one sample, of which about \$1.00 is covered by receipts from the state fertilizer inspection fee and lime tonnage tax.
- For a typical 8-acre field in eastern North Carolina, we estimate that the peak-season fee will cost between \$4 and \$16, depending on the intensity of the sampling protocol.
- Of the approximately 350,000 samples typically received each year, nearly 60 percent are analyzed from December through March, with turnaround times of up to 9 weeks.
- The vast majority of soil samples analyzed during the winter months are from farms in preparation for spring planting. Most of these samples can be collected and submitted well before December 1st, thus avoiding the fee. Nearly all soil samples associated with home & garden and landscaping projects can be collected and submitted from April through November.
- Clients who desire expedited service during the peak season can purchase NCDA&CS expedited shippers to receive a guaranteed turnaround time of ten business days. A limited number of shippers are soul each year (usually in August or September). The anticipated 2013-14 price for a 36- sample shipper is \$200.

Utilizing Grain Sorghum Residues for Cattle Feed

By: Becky Spearman, Extension Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Bladen County

Grain sorghum acreage has dramatically increased in the past three years. In 2011, there were approximately 7,000 acres in production in NC and increased to 68,000 acres in 2012. With this new acreage, there is potential to use some of the sorghum residue for cattle forage. After combing, the stalks and leaves remain upright and retain their moisture for several weeks making them well suited to salvage. Yields are similar or greater than corn residue.

Research from several different states shows that sorghum stover has between 4.5-6% crude protein (CP) and around 50% total digestible nutrients (TDN). A dry cow needs 7.7% CP and 50% TDN, so some protein supplementation may be needed. A Nebraska study showed that grazing gestating cows during the fall indicated that both corn and sorghum residues performed equally well. However performance will decline as the season progresses because livestock typically graze the highest quality first and leave the lower quality until last. Watch the body condition score of the cows and supplement if needed. Lactating, first calf heifers and growing cattle will need supplementation.

Precautions:

There is a concern that the regrowth that occurs after grain harvest, may be high in prussic acid or nitrates especially after a frost. This is a similar concern in forage sorghum, sudangrass or mixes of the two. Both prussic acid and nitrates can kill cattle if eaten in significant quantities.

Tips:

- ◆ Immediately after a frost, remove animals from the pasture until the grass has dried out. Wait 6-7 days after a frost to graze cattle. If weather conditions for new growth are good after a killing frost, the new growth are likely to be high in prussic acid.
- ◆ Don't turn hungry cattle on a new field. Feed them hay so they are not starving.
- ◆ Limit graze cattle for the first day. Watch closely for signs of prussic acid poisoning.
- ◆ Do not begin grazing until the plant has reached 18- 24" or greater in height.
- ◆ If you suspect poisoning, call you veterinarian immediately and remove animals from the forage.
- ◆ Consider baling as hay and not grazing cattle. The prussic acid content can decrease by 75% while curing and is rarely a concern when fed as hay to livestock. However nitrates may be a concern in hay.

Symptoms of prussic acid poisoning include excessive salivation, rapid breathing, and muscle spasms within 15 minutes after consuming. The animals may stagger, collapse and die.

Sorghum residue can be a good forage for cattle, but management will be needed to make sure the cattle are getting enough nutrition and to minimize potential problems.

Hay Directories are below for people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay for sale.

1. North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/>. Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222. You can sign up to list your hay on-line.
2. The Southeastern NC Hay Directory is available at <http://onslow.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/67/HayDirectory.pdf>. Call your Extension Agent to learn how to include your farm on the list.

Forage Management Tips

From *Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina*

SEPTEMBER

- Fertilize and lime cool-season grasses.
- Keep pressure on summer grasses and completely use them before grazing cool-season forages.
- Watch for fall insects (armyworms, grasshoppers, crickets).
- Overseed or no-till winter annuals into summer perennial grass.

OCTOBER

- Finish using summer grasses before grazing the cool-season ones.
- Watch for prussic acid poisoning when grazing sudan and sorghum-sudans after the first frost.
- Overseed warm-season grasses with winter annuals.

Dewormer Resistance: A Never Ending Battle

By: Mandy Harris, Extension Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Cumberland County.
Adapted from Susan Schoenian's *Slowing Dewormer Resistance*

If you haven't already experienced it, at some point you probably will. Dewormer resistance is inevitable, but how fast it happens depends on you, the producer. Gastro-intestinal parasites have developed resistance to all currently available dewormers or anthelmintics. This means these products are not as effective, if effective at all, at killing worms and making your animals healthy again. Worm resistance is heritable which means the ability for worms to survive a certain dewormer is passed on to their offspring. Worms becoming resistant means production losses and/or animal deaths for the producer.

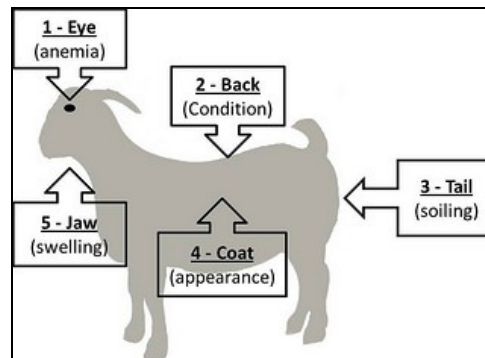
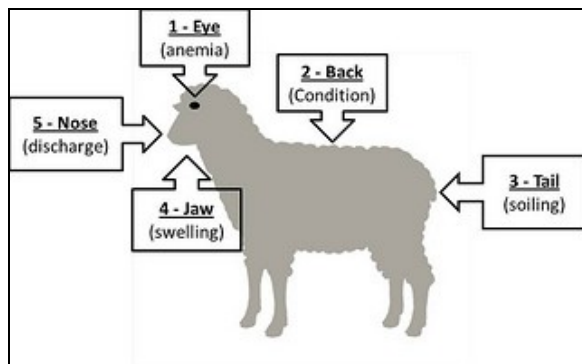
Although it can't be stopped, resistance to dewormers can be slowed down. The main reason we have such a problem with dewormer resistance today is because of frequent deworming, especially when the animal doesn't need it. Some producers use scheduled deworming, where they treat their animals every three months or so whether the animals need it or not. Using dewormers improperly has also resulted in drug-resistant worms. Underdosing causes the biggest problem because it works kind of like a vaccine; not enough of the "bad stuff" to kill you, but enough to make you stronger against it when the time comes. This effect is also seen when dewormers are used as pour-ons, injected into the muscle, or injected under the skin. Pour-ons are not suited for sheep and goat skin, hair or wool. Injectable dewormers leave a residual, which allows the worms to develop resistance.

So how do we slow the resistance? The first step is understanding the dewormers and knowing which ones work for you. Although there are a lot of drugs on the market, they all fall into three separate anthelmintic classes. Dewormers in the same class use a similar mode of action when killing the organisms.

The next step to slowing resistance is lowering the number of times dewormers are used. To do this, a targeted selective treatment (TST) plan should be implemented. This plan will help you determine which animals need treatment. Rarely the whole flock/herd will need treatment at the same time. The Five Point Check © is an extension of the FAMACHA © system. It helps you make deworming decisions for all parasites that usually affect small ruminants. It involves five check points on the animal; the eyes (FAMACHA © score), back, (body condition score), tail (dag score), jaw (bottle jaw), and the nose (nasal discharge). This system was developed for sheep, so when using it with goats, the nose check point should be replaced with coat condition since nasal bots are not as problematic in goats.

The Five Point Check© [5]

Checkpoint	Observation	Possibilities
1	Eye Anemia FAMACHA© score (1-5)	Blood-feeding worms Coccidia
2	Back Body condition score (1-5)	All worms
3	Tail Fecal soiling Dag score (0-5)	Scour worms Coccidia
4 Sheep 5 Goat	Jaw Bottle jaw (edema)	Blood-feeding worms
4 Goat	Coat Condition	All worms
5 Sheep	Nose Discharge	Nasal bots Lungworms



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Dewormer Resistance: A Never Ending Battle

Continued from page 5

Fecal tests are not recommended for diagnostic purposes, but can be used to monitor pasture contamination, test for drug resistance, and/or identify susceptible animals.

Another way to slow resistance is to use the dewormers properly and avoid underdosing. Animals should be weighed and given the proper dose. Goats usually require more dewormer because they metabolize it faster than sheep do, so its not unusual to give goats 1.5 to 2 times more dewormer. Sheep and goats should always be dewormed with drench formulations and should always be given using an oral dosing syringe with a long, metal nozzle.



Genetic selection is always a good tool to use when looking at resistant parasites. Different breeds all handle parasites differently. Hair sheep tend to be more resistant to parasites than wool sheep. There is less data available on goats, but the Kiko, Spanish and Myotonic breeds seem to show more resistance to parasites than other breeds. Within your flock or herd, you can also weed out your “problem” animals; those that tend to be persistently infected. These animals shed eggs for healthy animals to pick up, so without getting rid of them, you’re continuing to expose your healthy animals to worms.

There is a new anthelmintic called Zolvix ® (monepantel). It is the first one in a new class and currently is effective against worms that are resistant to other anthelmintic classes. But, like all other dewormers, resistance is unavoidable and may have already been detected in New Zealand. It is available in most countries, **but is still waiting on FDA approval in the United States.**

We all know worm resistance to dewormers is inevitable, but the rate at which that resistance develops can be slowed down tremendously by understanding, proper use, and targeted treatment.

Reducing the Risk of Hay Fires

Excerpts from Hay Fire Prevention and Control Publication from Virginia Cooperative Extension

Hay bale moisture levels above 20 %, cause mesophilic (warm temperature) bacteria to grow and release additional heat where interior bale temperatures can reach 130° to 140° F. If the hay does not cool after the first heating cycle, then thermophilic (heat loving) bacteria multiplies and can raise the interior bale temperature to 170°F. This material combines with oxygen at high temperatures and can self ignite in the presence of oxygen.

Recommendations are to bale round bales at 18% moisture or less. Weather conditions during hay curing have the greatest influence on achieving proper moisture concentration. Ideal hay-curing weather is slightly windy with a relative humidity of 50 percent or less. Hay should not be baled in the early morning.

The temperature of hay that has been baled at a high moisture concentration should be checked twice a day for six weeks after baling. Use a probe and thermometer to determine the temperature inside a stack of hay.

Temperature interpretations for hay stacks.	
Temperature (°F)	Interpretation
<130	Continue monitoring temperature twice a day.
130 - 140	Temperature may go up or down. Recheck in a few hours.
150	Temperature will most likely continue to climb. Move the hay to provide air circulation and cooling. Monitor temperature every two hours.
≥175	Fire is imminent or present. Call the fire department immediately. Continue probing and monitoring the temperature.

New Cattle Handling Equipment Available for Rent from Moore County Cooperative Extension!

The Moore County Cooperative Extension office is pleased to announce that the new cattle handling equipment is here and ready to be rented! There are two types of equipment that are available for rent; the first is a portable squeeze chute complete with a head gate, squeeze sides that have segments that will flip down to allow easier access, and a palpation cage on the back so you can have access from all sides. This unit is on a trailer that when on location can be dropped so the chute is sitting on the ground and will attach to the holding pen. The second piece of equipment is a trailer that holds cattle panels, currently the trailer has 4 panels with two gates that can be added to additional panels for current use. In the future we plan to acquire more panels so the pen can become bigger and bigger. Any Moore County resident is eligible to rent the equipment. The chute rents for \$35.00 per day and the panels rent for a minimum of two days for \$70.00 and \$35.00 for each day after that.



For more information about the squeeze chute/ trailer or set up a time to rent please give the Extension office a call! (910) 947-3188

★ Upcoming Dates! ★

- **September 14, 2013**
Moore County Junior Heifer and Meat Goat Show– Travis Farms West End, NC
- **September 17 @ 10:00 am**
Robbins Incubator Project Community Event– McSwain Street in Robbins
- **September 23 @ 6:00 pm**
Area Pastured Poultry Workshop– Mebane, NC
For more information or to register please contact Lauren Langley (336) 570-6740.
- **October 22 @ 7:00 pm**
Backyard Flock Management– Moore County Ag Center
For more information or to register please contact Kaitlyn Cranford (910) 947-3188.
- **February 2014– Regional Beef Conference**
–Greensboro, NC

Moore County Cattleman Association Meetings:

All meetings begin at 7pm and are held at the Moore County Ag Center.

- **September 5th** - New Method of Pregnancy Checking for Cattle.
Presenter Kaitlyn M Cranford
- **October 3rd** - Cattle Vaccinating/ Immunizing
Presenter: Walt Graham of Boehringer Ingelheim
- **November 7th** - Weeds in Pastures
Presenter: Sarah Milteer with Dow Agro
- **December 5th** - Annual Meeting with Dinner. You must **RSVP** by November 20, 2013 to (910) 947-3188.
~ Scheduled to announce new Directors for the Board!

Important DATE!

Mailing List Update/ Livestock Survey 2013

Your feedback is very valuable!

We are trying to update our mailing list! Please complete and return to the office, or if you prefer email you can send it that way too!! Address and email:

NC Cooperative Extension
Moore County Center
Attn: Kaitlyn Cranford
P.O. Box 1149
Carthage, NC 28327

Kaitlyn_cranford@ncsu.edu

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Please check here if you would like to receive the newsletter and program announcements via email instead of a hard copy.

1. What type (s) of animals do you own and how many? Cattle _____ Poultry _____
Swine _____ Horses _____ Donkeys _____ Goats _____ Sheep _____ Other _____

2. Please list some topics of interest for educational program meetings.

3. What issues do you think are facing the agriculture/livestock industry today?

4. When would you prefer to attend an educational program?

Weekdays (8-5pm) _____ Weeknights (after 5pm) _____ Weekend Days _____ Weekend Nights _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this!