

# Cattle Newsletter

Ashe County Center

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# Pasture Management

## Why Pasture Management

- To increase soil fertility
- To increase forage nutrients
- To increase milk yield and weight gain

## Pasture Management Steps

- Take a soil sample
  - ✓ Bring soil pH up to 5.8-6.0 by adding lime
  - ✓ Do not put more than one ton of lime per acre at one time
  - ✓ Fertilize according to soil report
- Do not overgraze
  - ✓ 1 cow/calf pair to 2 acres
- Minimize weed competition
- Incorporate more legumes
  - ✓ Adds nitrogen to soil
  - ✓ Increase protein in diet

## Improve Hay Quality

- To increase body condition
- To increase milk yield
- To increase calf vigor at birth
- To increase weight gain



## Steps to Improve Hay Quality

- Soil Sample
  - ✓ Fertilize according to soil report
  - ✓ 3 tons/acre of hay produced removes 87 pounds of nitrogen, 29 pounds of phosphorus and 144 pounds of potassium
- Mow hay during plants boot stage, which is right before seed head emerges, to maximize plants nutrient content
- Once baled, keep hay dry by storing under cover and off the ground

If you can't fertilize all pastures at once, start with a section and bring it up to nutrient capacity as you can.

Sincerely,

Micah Orfield

Extension Agent, Agriculture

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**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**

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# Hauling Cattle



Recommended maximum number of cattle* for trailers of different lengths**								
Cattle Weight, Lbs								
Trailer Size	400	600	800	1000	1200	1400	1600	Total Weight***
Inside Dimension								
16 ft x 6 ft	18	12	9	7	6	5	5	<7400
18 ft x 6 ft	21	14	10	8	7	6	5	<8400
20 ft x 6 ft	23	15	12	9	8	7	6	<9300
24 ft x 6 ft	28	18	14	11	9	8	7	<11100
20 ft x 7 ft	27	18	13	11	9	8	7	<10800
24 ft x 7 ft	32	22	16	13	11	9	8	<13000
32 ft x 7 ft	43	29	22	17	14	12	11	<17300

\* This chart represents the maximum number of polled/dehorned cattle for trailers of different lengths; when hauling horned/tipped cattle reduce the number of cattle by 5%.  
 \*\* The number of cattle loaded during hot conditions should be reduced.  
 \*\*\* The maximum weight of cattle for each trailer size with these calculations. Do not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating for your truck and stock trailer.



# Calibrate Your Sprayer

## Why calibrate your sprayer

- To ensure correct amount of spray is being put out over field
  - ✓ This will keep you from over spraying and spending more money than necessary
  - ✓ This will keep you from spraying less than recommended which could lead to pesticide resistance in weeds or insects

## A Simple Method to Calibrate Sprayers

Gary Bates, Professor and Director, UT Beef and Forage Center

Neil Rhodes, Professor, Department of Plant Sciences

## BOOMLESS SPRAYER

1. Select a course length based on spray swath width (from chart below)

Spray Width (feet)	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
Course length (feet)	182	171	161	152	144	137	130	124

\* If your sprayer's spray width is not listed, divide 5,460 by your spray width to get travel distance.

2. Measure out course in field to be sprayed
3. Measure time to drive course. Use a comfortable gear and speed. Take the average of three trips. Note engine speed (*rpm*)
4. Park tractor with engine running at same rpm, put garbage bag around nozzle and catch the output from one nozzle for the time found in Step 3
5. Measure in pints. This measurement will equal sprayer output in gallons per acre
6. Determine acres that can be covered with one tank. This will be tank volume (gallons) divided by sprayer output (*Step 5*)
7. Multiply acres from Step 6 by desired herbicide rate. This result will give the amount of herbicide to add to the full tank