

Cattle Newsletter

Ashe County Center

March 2018



Inside This Issue

Pasture Management

Bull Health

Bull Breeding
Soundness Exam

Cow and Calf Health

Cow and Calf
Meeting



Contact Us

North Carolina Cooperative
Extension, Ashe County Center
134 Government Circle, Suite 202
Jefferson, NC 28640

Phone: (336) 846-5850
Fax: (336) 846-5882

<http://ashe.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Distributed in furtherance of the acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

Recommendations for the use of agricultural chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use agricultural chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact your county Cooperative Extension agent.

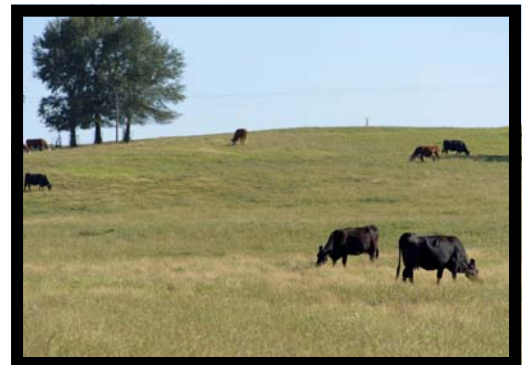
Pasture Management

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
 - ✓ Increases 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.

Bull Health

A 30 month old bull can service or breed up to 30 cows. That is if he is fertile. If the bull is infertile, then nine to eleven months after you turn him in with your cows, you will realize your calving season is done with no calves to sell. However, the situation may not be so bad, the bull could be subfertile, which means he bred some but not all of the cows. At least you will have some calves to sell.

Previous years' performance does not ensure the bull will be fertile this year. To help ensure bull fertility, have the bull tested about 60 days prior to turning him in with the cows. This will allow time to find a replacement should he be infertile. The Bull Breeding Soundness Exam is performed by a veterinarian and typically cost \$40 per bull. During this exam they will check the bull's body condition, reproductive organs, and sperm motility and morphology. While the bull is corralled, this is a good opportunity to deworm and vaccinate for diseases that can lead to miscarriages and reproductive performance in the herd. Vaccines should include Leptospirosis, IBR, BVD, Vibriosis and Trichomoniasis.

Bull Breeding Soundness Exam

March 24, 2018

9:00 a.m.

(By appointment only)



Ryan Huffman's Farm

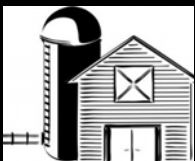
4087 US HWY 221 N

Jefferson, NC

(behind Welcome Home Baptist Church)

\$40 per bull

**A veterinarian from Twin Oaks
Veterinary Hospital will be on site
providing exams and vaccinations.**



Please call the North Carolina Cooperative Extension,
Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850 by March 19, 2018
to schedule an appointment.

Cow and Calf

- Cow Health

- **Turning out to pasture**
 - ✓ Go around all fences and make needed repairs
 - ✓ Turn cows out on grass that stands at least four inches tall
- **Feed a high magnesium mineral to help prevent grass tetany**
- **Vaccinating cow herd**
 - ✓ Vaccinate 4-6 weeks prior to breeding
 - ✓ Vaccinate with Viral Respiratory Vaccine (IBR, BVD, PI3, BRSV with Campylobacter) and five way Leptospirosis. (Use a killed viral vaccine if the cow is already bred)
- **Deworm**
- **Tag or retag, if needed**
- **Apply fly control**

- Calf Health

(1-3 months old)

- **Tag**
- **Vaccinate with seven way Clostridial (blackleg)**
- **Castrate**
- **Implant steers**
- **Vaccinate with a viral respiratory vaccine (use a killed viral vaccine)**

(Modified live vaccines given to nursing calves can cause the rebred cow to abort if she has not been vaccinated with a modified live vaccine in the past twelve months. Modified live vaccines are preferred in weaned calves)



Cow and Calf Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2018

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Speakers:

*Micah Orfield, Extension Agent,
Agriculture*

*Kevin Spurlin, Extension Agent,
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Animal Science*

Topics:

*Fetal Programming
Soil Fertility*



*Log House Restaurant
4013 Troutdale Hwy
Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363*

*Sponsored by:
Deal Rite, Inc.
and
Halsey Farm Supply
Mouth of Wilson, VA*

Please RSVP by March 19, 2018 by calling the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center at (336) 846-5850.

Sincerely,

Micah Orfield
Extension Agent, Agriculture