

# Halifax Livestock News & Notes

Summer 2016

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## From the field . . .

Summer is a busy time for anyone involved in the agricultural community and there is lots going on in the Cooperative Extension Service for sure! Field days, trainings and production conferences are abundant and as well as being peak show season for our horse owners. Check out "Upcoming Events"!

So far, we have had enough rain to keep our pastures growing but fly control may be an issue for many (see below). Be sure summer vaccinations are current, particularly for EEE and West Nile in horses as the first case of EEE this year has been confirmed in the state. As always, feel free to let me know your thoughts, ideas and questions.

*Beth Burchell*



### *Fly Control in Livestock*

This past winter wasn't terribly cold and was extremely wet, as has been our spring and early summer . . . which means flies are an issue we are all facing this summer. Flies can spread disease, such as pink eye in cattle, and biting flies drain blood from animals which can decrease feed conversion efficiency, milk production and overall general health.

There are several useful chemical products available for control, whether they be applied through ear tags, feed minerals/additives pour-ons, and rubs or dusters. The important issue is to be sure you are selecting a chemical control that is safe for the animal you are treating (cattle vs. goat) and also be sure to rotate the *chemical*, not just the product, you use each year as the herd can often develop a resistance to a chemical if used year after year.

Additionally, drag your field often to spread out manure piles, wet grain, moist hay, etc., particularly around water troughs, feeders, shady areas and gates. Wet piles are prime breeding grounds for flies and removing that option will help break up the fly life cycle as it is difficult for them to develop in dry environments.



*Empowering People • Providing Solutions*

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## Disaster Planning for Horse Owners

As hurricane season approaches (and we all know what hurricane season in northeastern North Carolina may or may not be like) it's always a good idea for horse owners to be prepared for disaster situations. Horses aren't like our dogs and cats – they can't be tucked nice and dry in our homes or stuck in the car and driven easily to a safe place with us.

There are several steps we should take to be sure we are ready for the worst:

- Keep your horses' vaccinations and Coggins test up-to-date. Keep copies of these records along with identifying photographs and registration papers with other important papers that will go with you in case of an evacuation.
- Stockpile at least a three-day supply of feed and hay in water tight bins, and store clean water
- Have a "Go-Kit" packed – halter and lead rope for each horse with identification, feed tubs, water buckets, medications, veterinary supplies, and a first aid kit. Also, extra bedding, pitchforks, shovels, and a wheelbarrow are good to take as well.
- Be sure your trailer is in good, safe condition for hauling or have the phone numbers of several transporters that would be able to haul your horses for you. Also, be sure *that your horse is trained to load an unload prior to an emergency situation*. It never hurts to practice occasionally just to be sure!
- Identify your horse somewhere on the body if they do not have a permanent identification such as a tattoo, microchip or brand in case they lose their halter. You can tie or braid luggage tags in their mane or tail hairs (do not tie around their neck or tails) or be creative and write your phone number on them with auction crayon or use small clippers to clip it into the hair on their neck.
- Know where you can go before you have to. Have a map and list of phone numbers of emergency shelters, veterinarians, insurance companies, etc . . . .

If you and your horses are unable to evacuate, make sure you have made all the preparations to keep them (and yourself) safely on your property. Let someone know you will be staying on your property and that your horses are with you. It's not a bad idea to have a large piece of plywood and bright colored spray paint handy to be able to post an easily read message if communication lines are down.

It is always a smart idea to check our horses' environment before bringing them home after an evacuation. Trees and limbs may need to be cleaned up and fences may need repairing. Barns need a good inspection to be sure they are safe structurally and the roof doesn't have any wind damage. Also be sure to check the field and paddock for dangerous debris or wilted leaves that may be poisonous that may have been blown in by winds.

As horse owners, we are responsible for providing the best care possible for our horses, even in the most difficult of times. Being prepared ahead of time will lessen some the stress should a disaster situation occur – just remember to prepare for the worst and hope for the best! For additional resources or information, visit the N.C. Department of Agriculture at [www.ncagr.gov/markets/livestock/horse](http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/livestock/horse) or contact your county's Cooperative Extension office.



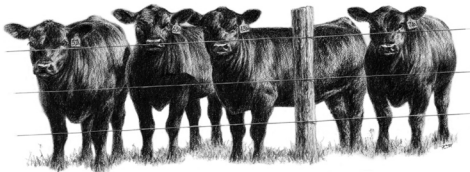
## Working towards a goal . . .

In May, local 4-H members created the Halifax County Livestock Club – the first one in our county in several years! 4-H youth members that have an interest in animals and have participated the past few years at the Eastern Meat Animal Show and Sale realized that an organized group would be of benefit to many of their common goals and interest. This group will look to increase their knowledge of the agricultural and livestock industry through classroom learning, hands-on experience, field days and farm tours. By participating in fundraising and service projects, they hope to be able to raise funds to develop a livestock facility with the necessary equipment that all, including youth that aren't able to keep their own animals, can utilize and enjoy. They have a great team of volunteers leading them and I am sure they will be a productive and fun club to work with. If you know of any youth between the ages of 5 and 18 that have a love for animals, please have them give me a call for more information!

Also, on August 20<sup>th</sup>, the Huckleberry Swamp 4-H Club will be hosting a Halifax County Junior Goat Show at the 4-H Horse and Livestock Complex. Youth between the ages of 5 and 18 are eligible to show up in market and showmanship classes. As part of the Carolina Meat Goat and Showmanship Circuit, youth earn points based on their placings in showmanship. The top six points are tallied for the awards held at the NC State Fair each year. Entry deadline is August 6<sup>th</sup> and forms are available on our website. Contact Jennifer Williams or the county extension office for more information. Even if you're not able to compete, join us to enjoy a fun day supporting our youth.



## Cattlemen's Corner



On June 15, 2016 the Halifax County Cattlemen's Association held their 28<sup>th</sup> annual Beef Roast at the Agricultural Center in Halifax. According to Association President, Scott West, over 2200 pounds of beef top round roasts were slow cooked overnight and 40 gallons of "secret" sauce was made to serve

with the beef. More than 600 roast beef sandwich plates and several dozen whole roasts were served to the community. Members of the local 4-H Livestock Club volunteered their time to help with set-up, serving plates, and clean-up. Proceeds from the beef roast will go to fund 4-H youth livestock programs, educational programs held in conjunction with the Cooperative Extension Service and beef cattle research programs.



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## Upcoming Events

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July 21<sup>st</sup> – Scouting School (2 hrs Pesticides Credits for N, O, D, & X)  
2pm, Halifax County Ag Center, Ferrell Lane, Halifax

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Roanoke Rapids High School JROTC Benefit Fun Horse Show  
5pm, Halifax County 4-H Horse & Livestock Complex

August 6<sup>th</sup> – NC NBHA (Districts 1 and 7) Barrel Show  
Halifax County Ag Center, Ferrell Lane, Halifax

August 8<sup>th</sup> – Cattlemen's Food & Forum  
6pm, Halifax County Ag Center, Ferrell Lane, Halifax

August 20<sup>th</sup> – Halifax County Junior Goat Show  
8am, Halifax County 4-H Horse & Livestock Complex

August 29<sup>th</sup> – Small Farm Livestock Production Conference  
Pitt County Extension Office, Greenville

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Enfield Lions Club Horse Show  
Halifax County 4-H Horse & Livestock Complex

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Dylan Moore Days  
Halifax County 4-H Horse & Livestock Complex

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Halifax County Harvest Days  
4-H Rural Life Center, Hwy 903, Halifax

**Please contact the Extension office for more area and event information!**



## N.C. Beef Cattle Field Day

Cherry Research Farm 201 Stevens Mill Road • Goldsboro, NC 27530

July 23, 2016 - 8:15 am

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Value-added beef production through management and marketing
- Facility considerations for reducing stress and improving safety for both cattle and farmers
- Weaning management
- Grazing opportunities
- Warm season forages
- Temporary fencing techniques
- Silvopasture
- Native warm season grasses
- Genetic advancements for heat tolerance
- Mineral programs
- Fly and pest control

\*\*\*LUNCH PROVIDED\*\*\*

**Registration is free and begins at 7:30 am. For more information call (919) 552-9111 or (919) 922-0930**



College of Agriculture  
and Life Sciences

