

Northampton 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 in the state has been confirmed. 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 decreases feed conversion efficiency 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 you use each year as the herd can often develop a resistance to a product 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.



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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.

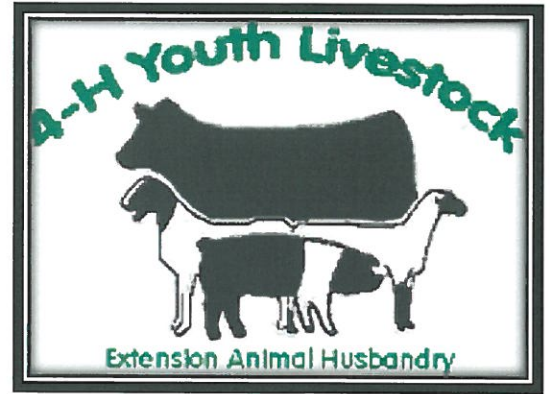
It is always a smart idea to check our horses' environment before bringing them home after an evacuation. Trees and limbs may need to be cleaned up and fences may need repairing. Barns need a good inspection to be sure they are safe structurally and the roof doesn't have any wind damage. Also be sure 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 or contact your county's Cooperative Extension office.



Hard Work Pays Off!

On June 8th our 4-H Livestock youth members participated in a successful and enjoyable 34th annual Hertford-Northampton Livestock Show and Sale at the Livestock Arena in Murfreesboro. Families, friends and supporters worked well together to make sure the participants had an enjoyable day.



Participants in this program must practice responsibility, dedication and sportsmanship, and work hard to present their animals to the best of their ability on show day. Congratulations to the participants and a big thank you to all the parents and volunteers as well as the buyers at the auction! I am looking forward to continuing to work with this group and hope to increase interest and participation in this event, along with other youth livestock activities, in the future. So spread the word!



| 2014 GRAND CHAMPION BUYERS | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Species | Handled by |
| Cow | Bryson Dean |
| Pig | Michael Wheeler |
| Sheep | Jacobi Barnes |
| Goat | Brittany Kuchta |
| Chicken | Travis Harris |

Handled by: **Ray Satterwhite**
 Sponsored by: **Northampton Co. Farm Bureau**
 Sponsored by: **Producers Oil**

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SMOKE FREE BUILDING

Upcoming Events



July 21st – Scouting School (2 hrs Pesticides Credits for N, O, D, & X)
10am, J.W. Faison Center Auditorium, Jackson

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

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

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

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

August 29th – Small Farms Livestock Production Conference
9:30am-3pm, Pitt County Extension Office, Greenville

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

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

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

Please contact the Extension office for more 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

**NC STATE
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College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences

