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Cattlemen’s Association Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the McDowell Cattlemen’s Association will be held Monday January 30, 2012 at 6:00 at the Glenwood Ruritan Building behind Glenwood Fire Department. The program will be presented by Mr. Bryan Blinson, Executive Director of the NC Cattlemen’s Association. Bryan will give us an update on the many activities of the NC Cattlemen’s Association.

Farm Bureau has sponsored our annual meeting for many years and will once again be sponsoring our dinner. We will have election of new officers and directors, as well as presenting the award for the 2011 Beef Producer of the Year.

Please call 652-7874 or email Cheryl or Greg by Wednesday, January 25th so Wanda will know how many meals to prepare. In case of inclement weather, contact the extension office or tune into WBRM AM1250 for the meeting cancellation notice. Looking forward to seeing you on the 30th.

Annual MEMBERSHIP DUES and DRIVE

McDowell Cattlemen’s Association dues are $20 and are due in January. You will be able to pay your dues at the next meeting. Be sure to bring a friend to the meeting and tell them the benefits of membership, such as:

- Meal sponsorships at meetings
- County sponsored activities and promotions
- Beef Producer of the Year award
Email Addresses Needed

Activities and events come to my attention between our scheduled meetings and this newsletter that you need to know about. It is not always possible to send out a notice, or start the phone chain. I will not be sending you junk emails or emailing you that often. I can only think of 4 things I would have liked to have sent you this past year. If you want to be on our beef email list simply email Cheryl and let her know at Cheryl_Mitchell@ncsu.edu

Beef Quality Assurance Certification Training

I will be holding a Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification training on Tuesday, February 28 2012 at the McDowell County Extension Center. It will start at 6:00 pm, and we should finish up around 8:15 pm. The purpose of this training is to certify beef producers in best management practices that deal with producing high-quality cattle. As an educational program, BQA helps producers identify management processes that can be improved. BQA also reflects a positive public image and instills consumer confidence in the beef industry. BQA is a program of the NC Cattlemen’s Association. They provide the educational materials and perform the required clerical work to record all BQA certified producers. For this reason, there is a $15 fee for NC Cattlemen’s Association members and a $40 fee for non-members.

The difference is the membership fee to the NC Cattlemen’s Association. We ask that if you plan on attending this training, please call the McDowell County Extension Center at 828-652-7874 by Friday, February 17. This will allow us to have enough materials on hand for each producer to have his/her own copy.
"But They Will Shrink and Lose Weight"

A large number of cow-calf producers are not too eager to wean and condition their calf crop prior to weaning due to the weight loss the calves experience. The calves will shrink, but the loss can be reduced through improved management and weaning and conditioning. But, the amount of the shrink will not be as great if the calves are weaned, started on feed, and have had a recommended health program. Their “shrink” will be substantially reduced, around 50% reduction. This will also improve the value of the feeder calves. Most of the calf crop in the southeast is weaned and marketed the same day. This is referred to as the “Peterbilt” or “I-40” method. They are rounded up, hauled to the local auction market and then co-mingled with other calves, sold and then loaded on a semi and transported several hundreds of miles to another part of the country for stockering and/or feed- ing. This process results in a large amount of weight lost and costs the producer a fairly good sum of money and the buyer ends up with a bunch of “sick calves.” The “shrink” is even greater if the calves are hauled to the auction market the day before the sale and let stand several hours prior to the sale.

Following are some shrink losses, reported by Dr. Darrell Rankin, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, of Auburn University that could occur under various conditions.

1. Working calves in a pen or corral for 30 minutes = 0.5 %;
2. 2.0 % more for a truck ride compared to equal time of standing in a dry lot;
3. During transport, 1% per hour for the first 3 hours then 0.25% for the next 8 to 10 hours.

Average values for shrink under various conditions include: 8 hours in dry lot—3.3%; 16 hours in dry lot—6.2%; 24 hours in dry lot—6.6%; 8 hours in truck—5.5%; 16 hours in truck—7.9%.

In addition, weaning and transporting calves during hot weather and overcrowding also increases shrink. What does the loss of weight due to shrink cost the typical producer? Let’s assume a 25 head cow herd with 20 calves to sell. Calves weigh an average of 500 pounds when removed from their mamas. They are rounded up and separated from their dams which takes two hours. This produces a 2 % loss. They are hauled to the auction market during an hour for a 1.0% loss and will stand overnight and into the next day for 16 hours before they are auctioned, an additional 6.0% loss. Under these assumptions and the values offered by Dr. Rankin, around 9% or 43 pounds of weight or “shrink” could occur. Various studies have reported feeder calf shrink to range between 10-15% during the marketing of unweaned calves. With 500 pound feeder calves, this could total 50-75 pounds per calf. Producers probably do not think about this loss but, in the above example, the shrink would result in more than 40 pounds loss per calf.

With 20 calves, that would add up to 800 pounds or a loss equal to 1.6 calves or at $1.25 per pound a $1,000. This would be a large negative impact on the income from the cow-calf operation.

Preconditioned feeder calves would also experience some shrink but, not as great as those not weaned prior to marketing. They would experience shrink due to loading and transporting which would produce about 5% to 10 % shrink for unweaned calves.

The “take home message” is that weaned and conditioned calves are going to get to market with more weight and be of greater value than “Peterbilt” weaned calves.
The North Carolina Forage and Grassland Council will again be hosting a series of Winter Conferences in January 2012. This will be an outstanding opportunity to learn more about forage management, so mark your calendars now. This year’s featured speaker is Ray Archuleta, Conservation Agronomist for NRCS. In addition to Ray, there will be local producers speaking on managing forages to lower production cost. This producer panel is always an audience favorite. The cost is $15 for NC Forage and Grassland Council members and $25 for non-members. I will take the Extension van to the Morganton meeting so call the office if you want to ride the van.

Growing Shiitake Mushrooms

Come learn about shiitake mushroom cultivation on January 28th from 1:00-3:30 at the McDowell Ag. Center. You will learn about drilling, inoculating and waxing logs and we will have spawn for you to take home and get started growing mushrooms. This workshop has a $15 registration fee and is limited to 15 people so call by January 10th to reserve your space.

Foothills Pilot Plant

Foothills Pilot Plant is now able to accept scheduling for processing of chickens and turkeys under USDA inspection, for delivery after January 15, 2012. The facility is already authorized to process rabbits under FDA inspection.

To learn more or to schedule processing, please contact our general manager Dr. Pal Manhiani at 828-803-2717, or by email at foothills pilotplant@gmail.com. For a list of processing rates, please visit the FAQ section of the website at www.foothillspilotplant.com.

FREE Radon Test Kits

Our extension office is offering FREE test kits for testing your home for radon. Radon poses a serious threat to our community’s health, but there is a straightforward solution. For more information on radon contact Kristin Mart our FCS agent at 652-7874.
Get the most money for your cull cows

Cull cows represent a significant portion of the net return in a cow-calf operation. Two primary things influence the value of cull cows - grade and time/season of marketing. Market prices were over $7 cwt. higher for cows that graded as “Breakers” compared to those graded as “Lean.” This difference is primarily body condition, with Breaker cows being flesher and Lean cows being somewhat thin. Regarding season, cull cow prices are typically lowest during the winter (December-January) and highest May-July (~$7 cwt. spread). Given these price differences, with proper management and timely management over $100 in cull cow value can be attained. Sell that older cow this year while she is still in good flesh instead of giving her 1 more year and losing body condition. What if that old cow gets sick or injured, if you can get her to market you will get pennies on the dollar compared to selling her in average condition. Make cull cow marketing a planned event.

Are you using a hay feeder?

Studies have indicated up to a 28 percent loss of hay by not protecting it with a hay feeder. The chart below lists some of the different designs and the amount of loss that can be encountered in feeding hay. Clearly, there are some advantages of different types of hay feeders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of feeder</th>
<th>Hay waste %</th>
<th>Cost of feeders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cone</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ring</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cradle</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wagon</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$2,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Let’s look at the savings we can expect from using a feeder. For every 100 rolls of hay you feed on the ground with no feeder you will waste 28 rolls of hay. At $30 per roll you are wasting $840 for every 100 rolls you feed without using a hay feeder. If you use a cone type hay feeder you will only waste 4 rolls per 100 rolls fed. At $30 per roll that’s $120. So by using a cone feeder versus no feeder you will save 24 rolls or $720 for every 100 rolls you feed. A cone feeder cost $500-$600 and a ring feeder $175-$300. Can you really afford NOT to use a hay feeder?

If you are in need of hay or want to sell hay the NC Dept of Ag Hay Alert website may be beneficial to you.

www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/

Producers can also call the Hay Alert Line at 866-506-6222

Be sure to let me know also, I often get calls from people looking for hay to buy.
# Livestock Market Report

## Harward Brothers Livestock Market, Turnersburg, NC


Cattle Receipts: 670  Last week: 1302  Last year: 703

### Feeder Bulls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Wt Range</th>
<th>Avg Wt</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Avg Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>405-445</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>127.00-148.00</td>
<td>134.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>465-495</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>121.00-147.00</td>
<td>134.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>510-535</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>120.00-137.00</td>
<td>126.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>555-590</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>120.00-130.00</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>605-625</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>119.00-125.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>655-680</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>115.00-125.00</td>
<td>120.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>700-720</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>105.00-115.00</td>
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### Slaughter Bulls

Yield Grade 1-2

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<th>Avg Wt</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Avg Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1020-1470</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>72.00-88.50</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1040-1115</td>
<td>1067</td>
<td>63.00-72.00</td>
<td>68.41 Low Dressing</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>1841</td>
<td>75.00-89.50</td>
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### Feeder Steers

Medium and Large 1 - 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head</th>
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<th>Avg Wt</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Avg Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>305-340</td>
<td>325</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>127.00-141.00</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>415-435</td>
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<td>130.00-144.00</td>
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<td>455-490</td>
<td>475</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>530-545</td>
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<td>131.00-141.00</td>
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<td>570-590</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>600-635</td>
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<td>660-685</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>780-785</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>120.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>800-820</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>114.00-120.00</td>
<td>117.04</td>
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### Feeder Heifers

Medium and Large 1 - 2

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<tr>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Wt Range</th>
<th>Avg Wt</th>
<th>Price Range</th>
<th>Avg Price</th>
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<td>332</td>
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<tr>
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<td>120.00-134.00</td>
<td>127.08</td>
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<tr>
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<td>400-445</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>122.00-135.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>450-490</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>117.00-130.00</td>
<td>123.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>500-540</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>118.00-125.00</td>
<td>122.56</td>
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<tr>
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<td>585-595</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>115.00-127.00</td>
<td>119.77</td>
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<td>605-645</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>107.00-116.00</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>660-675</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>109.00-118.00</td>
<td>113.45</td>
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Compiled and edited by:

Greg Anderson
Extension Agent
Ag & Natural Resources

Source: NC Dept of Ag-USDA Market News Service, Raleigh, NC
919-733-7252 www.ams.usda.gov/lsmnpubsRA_LS148.txt

Secretarial support by: Cheryl Mitchell
Sloppy Joe Bake

This recipe is an excellent source of protein, niacin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, iron, selenium and zinc; and a good source of fiber.

1-1/2 pounds ground beef (80% to 85% lean)  
1 large yellow onion, chopped (1-1/2 to 2 cups)  
2 cans (14-1/2 to 16 ounces each) Sloppy Joe sauce  
3 cups uncooked rotini  
1/2 cup water  
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese  
Sliced green onions (optional)

Heat oven to 350°F. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add ground beef and yellow onion; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking into 3/4-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally. Pour off drippings. Stir in Sloppy Joe sauce, rotini and water.

Spray 13 x 9-inch glass baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Spoon beef mixture into dish; cover with aluminum foil. Bake in 350°F oven 35 to 40 minutes or until pasta is tender. Uncover; sprinkle with cheese. Continue baking, uncovered, 5 minutes or until cheese is melted.

Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Garnish with green onions, if desired.

Nutrition information per serving: 542 calories; 22 g fat (1 g saturated fat; 9 g monounsaturated fat); 95 mg cholesterol; 1014 mg sodium; 47 g carbohydrate; 3.5 g fiber; 35 g protein; 7.7 mg niacin; 0.5 mg vitamin B₆; 2.7 mcg vitamin B₁₂; 16.9 mg iron; 47.6 mcg selenium; 6.4 mg zinc.
For up-to-date event schedule check our Events page at:
http://mcdowell.ces.ncsu.edu

PLACES TO BE

January 25  RSVP for McDowell County Cattlemen’s Meeting
January 26  NC Forage and Grassland Winter Conference, Morganton NC
January 28  Growing Shiitake Mushrooms, Marion NC
January 30  McDowell Cattlemen’s Association Annual Meeting
February 1-3 Southern Farm Show, Raleigh NC
February 1-4  NCBA Convention, Nashville TN
February 11, 18, 25 McDowell Honeybee’s Bee School, Marion NC
February 17  RSVP for BQA Class
February 17-18 NC Cattlemen’s Conference, Hickory NC
February 28  Beef Quality Assurance Class, Marion NC
March 9-10  Tennessee Beef Agribition, Lebanon TN
March 17  Maternal Edge Sale, Clinton NC

For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the McDowell County Center at 828-652-7874, no later than five business days before the event.