



# The Bull's Eye

hitting the target



McDowell County Center

January 2014

## Inside This Issue

- Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting 1
- Annual Membership Dues and Drive 1
- Rain....Reduced Hay Quality 2-3
- Newborn Calves.... 3
- Anaplasmosis 4-5
- Bull Selection 5
- Hay Alert website 6
- Radon Test Kit 6
- Extension Master Gardener training 6
- Recipe 6
- Livestock Market Report 7
- Upcoming Events 8

## Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the McDowell Cattlemen's Association will be held

**Thursday, January**

**30<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm at the Bethel Baptist Church, 205 Bethel Church Road, off Mudcut Road, Marion.** The program will be presented by **Mr. Ronald Hawkins, NC Farm Bureau Representative.**

**Farm Bureau McDowell** has sponsored our annual meeting for many, many years and will once again sponsor our dinner.

We will have election of new officers and directors, as well as presenting the award for the **2013 Beef Producer of the Year.**

Please call 652-7874 or email Cheryl or Greg by **Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** 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 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Contact Us

McDowell County Extension  
60 E Court Street  
Marion NC 28752

(828) 652-7874 Phone  
(828) 652-8104 Fax

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

[Greg\\_Anderson@ncsu.edu](mailto:Greg_Anderson@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.

## 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 our meeting on January 30. 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



**NC** State University  
A&T State University  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

---

---

## Rain During Spring and Summer Has Reduced Hay Quality



The frequency and amount of rain experienced this past spring and summer have resulted in a large amount of forage growth. That is the good news. The bad news is that the precipitation has likely interfered with hay harvest. There were very few three-to-four-day windows during which hay could have been harvested without being damaged by rain. As a result, several hundred acres across the county were not harvested at the appropriate stage of maturity. The grasses continued to grow to the stage of maturity that resulted in increased fiber content, reduced digestibility and nutrition availability. Cow-calf producers need to be aware of the effects of feeding reduced-quality hay to their cattle.

Feeding low-quality hay during the winter can have negative effects on both the brood cows and their calf crop. The cows' nutritional needs must be met to produce strong, vigorous calves at birth as well as adequate colostrum. Calves need adequate colostrum within two hours following birth, preferably within 15 minutes. In addition, adequate nutrients are required for the brood cow to return to heat and breed back on time. Cows can be undernourished if fed low-quality hay, even when they consume all the hay they possibly can.

Winters are generally cold, wet and muddy, which creates a chill factor that both the dam and her calf must endure. Cold and mud have a greater effect on energy expended or energy lost by the cows and calves than if the ground is frozen. Mud also can serve as a reservoir for disease-causing organisms. The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts that temperatures during the winter of 2014 will be below normal and precipitation will be above normal. Regardless, winters are hard on cattle that are underfed.

On the other hand, cattle exposed to dry, cold weather will increase their intake of hay by up to 30 percent. But with low-quality hay, the consumption goes down due to the reduced digestibility. In addition, precipitation and muddy conditions at any temperature may depress hay intake by up to 30 percent. The reduced consumption can be overcome only by feeding grain or other appropriate concentrates.

Providing shelter or windbreak can reduce the effect of wind and rain. Hays with inadequate protein content will be even less digestible and a poor source of energy. When temperatures are between 20-25 F, a baby calf's maintenance requirements increase about 50 percent compared to those in less cold weather. Baby calves need more than a gallon of milk just for maintenance. A cow in poor condition that is fed low-quality hay will produce very little milk.

**Cows can be undernourished if fed low-quality hay, even when they consume all the hay they possibly can.**

continued on page 3

---

---

## Rain During Spring and Summer Has Reduced Hay Quality

continued from page 2

Thus, the fate of a young calf that receives only a quart to half-gallon of milk per day is easy to predict.

Following are some suggestions for feeding low-quality hay in the winter and managing beef cows and their calves:

1. Forage test the hays prior to feeding. Testing is essential to developing an effective winter feeding program regardless of the quality of the hay.
2. Following the results of the forage test, feed the lower-quality hay to the dry, pregnant, mature cows. Supplement if recommended.
3. When feeding low-quality hay, be sure that adequate protein is available. This determination can be made based on the forage test results. Inadequate protein will cause the cattle to consume less feed than desired.
4. Feed cows on sod or otherwise out of the mud. Feed hay over as large an area as possible.
5. Ensure that adequate space is available for the cattle to eat from the feeding rings. Generally, the younger, stronger cows will choose the better feed, and the older cows and those that have physical problems will receive what is left over.

The leftovers are usually the poorer-quality feed, which causes weight and condition loss. Performance of the brood cows will be reduced and the performance and survival of their calves will be reduced if the effects of the low-quality feed are not compensated.

---

---

## NEWBORN CALVES RESPOND TO GOOD MANAGEMENT

Producers who have watched a calf for its first few hours of life know that bovine babies have an almost miraculous determination to survive. Most calves will make it, even in tough weather if born to healthy dams, but good management can result in saving more calves. Following are some tips for saving calves:

- ◆ Calve in a clean place. Clean sod is excellent; so is a cedar or pine thicket. Mud is tough on calves in and more calves will survive if cows can deliver in areas protected from direct blasts of cold wind.
- ◆ Observe frequently. Watch for isolation behavior and other signs of calving. If possible, check the herd every three hours.
- ◆ Be prepared. Have a clean bucket with the following items: disinfectant, lubricant, towel, flashlight and obstetrical chain. Additional equipment, such as a calf puller, is useful if producers are confident in correct usage.
- ◆ Know when to assist by knowing the stages of labor and when to intervene. In general, cows should be given about two hours to deliver the calf and heifers may be given a little longer.
- ◆ Know when to call the veterinarian. Even experienced cattlemen may face situations where a veterinarian is necessary. Waiting too long to call the vet often yields disappointing results.
- ◆ Watch the baby. Make sure the calf is breathing, the cow accepts and cleans it, it stands, finds the teat and successfully nurses. This sounds like a lot, but it often happens in less than an hour. If any of these do not happen on schedule, be prepared to assist.



---

---

# Anaplasmosis

**We have a confirmed case of Anaplasmosis in McDowell County and also one in Burke County. Below is some information about the disease and what we should be looking for in our cattle.**

**What is Anaplasmosis?** Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease of cattle, sheep and goats. The disease can be acute or chronic in nature. Most commonly, animals with anaplasmosis show signs such as fever, anemia (pale gums), and jaundice (yellowing of the linings of the mouth and nose and yellowing of the whites of the eyes). Infection is more common in beef cattle than it is in dairy cattle. Anaplasmosis does not infect humans.

**What causes Anaplasmosis in cattle?** Anaplasmosis is caused by the organism "Anaplasma marginale." This organism is a member of the Rickettsia family of disease-causing agents. Anaplasmosis is spread by the bite of the common horsefly, other biting insects, or any instrument which can transmit blood.

**I have never had a problem with Anaplasmosis, will I have one in the future?** Although it is difficult to estimate the probability of an anaplasmosis problem in a particular herd or area, the incidence of clinical cases appears to be increasing in North Carolina. Experience in other parts of the country suggests that the occurrence of anaplasmosis in an area is cyclical and peaks every 5-7 years.

**What do I do if I suspect Anaplasmosis in my cattle?** A practicing veterinarian with experience in cattle diseases and production should be consulted immediately. The state offers technical support for herds with this problem.

**How do I prevent Anaplasmosis?** As with many cattle diseases, prevention is the key to disease control. Minimizing horsefly and tick populations, cleaning surgical instruments, and professional advice are the key to prevention of this disease.

**Can I vaccinate against this disease?** There is a commonly available vaccine. This vaccine does have some severe side effects and is not routinely recommended for use by cattlemen. Currently, a state permit is required prior to its use in North Carolina.

**Definition** Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease of cattle that affects the red blood cells. Affected red blood cells are removed from circulation causing fever and severe anemia. Other signs such as jaundice (yellowish discoloration of linings of mouth and nose and the whites of the eyes) will follow the signs of anemia. Animals affected with this disease may exhibit severe signs or more subtle signs such as sudden onset of weight loss and failure to perform over a longer period of time. Anaplasmosis has been present in the United States for a number of years and appears to be on the increase in North Carolina. Cattle owners should be aware of this disease because of the potential of economic and production losses.



## ***Signs of Affected Animal***

***\* Depression, lethargy and loss of appetite***

***\*Fever, muscle tremors and weakness***

***\*Pale gums, dry muzzle and labored breathing***

---

---

# Anaplasmosis

*continued from page 4*

**Transmission** Anaplasmosis is spread in the blood of infected animals. The disease is not spread directly between animals but can be transmitted via blood from an infected animal to a susceptible animal. It can be transmitted directly by ticks, horseflies, mosquitoes, and probably other biting insects. It may also be spread by mechanical means such as needles, surgical instruments, and dehorning equipment. Blood stained instruments subsequently used on non-infected, susceptible animals, will spread the disease. Clinical disease is more commonly seen during the height of the horsefly and tick season. However, some cases may be observed year round due to milder temperatures or mechanical spread.

**Clinical Signs and Symptoms** While anaplasmosis can affect any age or breed of cattle, the severity of signs varies according to the age when infected and the infective dose of organism. Adult cattle are the most severely affected and show the following signs:

- Depression, lethargy and loss of appetite
- Fever, muscle tremors and weakness
- Pale gums, dry muzzle and labored breathing

The urine will not look blood-colored. This finding can be used to separate anaplasmosis from other diseases with similar clinical signs. Due to the severe anemia associated with this condition, any stress, such as moving or handling, can cause some animals to get very restless, over-excited and possibly die. In these animals, abnormal aggressiveness and other furious behavior may occur. Death in affected adults ranges from 20-50%.

---

---

## Bull Selection

All bulls are not created equal. Make sure you look at body type, frame size and muscling of the bull. Most importantly look at the feet and leg structure to make sure the bull is sound. Select a bull that meets the needs of your cow herd. Don't single trait select, try to find a bull that balances the major traits you are looking to improve in the cow herd. Make sure you look at the bulls EPD's and only compare them within breed. You cannot compare EDP's from different breeds against each other. Use them to compare bulls of the same breed and compare that to the breed averages listed below.

### 2013 Breed Average EPDs

	<b>BW</b>	<b>WW</b>	<b>YW</b>	<b>Milk</b>
<b>Angus</b>	1.7	47	84	23
<b>Charolais</b>	0.6	26	46	7
<b>Hereford</b>	3.5	48	78	20
<b>Gelbvieh</b>	1.3	66	91	29
<b>Red Angus</b>	-1.5	54	85	18
<b>Simmental</b>	2.2	64	93	23

Cost is always a factor, but a cheap bull is usually cheap for a reason and will probably cost you in the long run with poor performance of the calf crop.

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/](http://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.

## **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 a free test kit call our office at 652-7874.

Would you or someone you know like to learn more about the aspects of gardening and landscaping and then use that knowledge to help others? If the answer is yes, the **Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program** is for you.

Applicants for the program should have some experience with gardening, a willingness to learn, and a desire to share their knowledge with others.



The Master Gardener Training will include thirteen 3-hour sessions that will begin on **Thursday, February 20, 2014**. The class will be from **1:00 pm until 4:00 pm**. The cost for the **Master Gardener Program will be \$100.00 plus 40 hours of volunteer time**.

For more information or an application, please call the Cooperative Extension Service at 652-8104.

## **Touchdown Tortilla Pizza**

*Preparation and cooking time: 30 minutes \* 4 servings*

- 1 lb 95% lean ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- 4 four tortillas or 4 English muffins, halved
- 1 medium tomato, seeded and chopped
- 1 Tbsp thinly sliced fresh basil leaves or 1 tsp dried basil
- 3/4 cup shredded reduced-fat mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese



Heat oven to 400° F. Brown ground beef and onion in skillet over medium heat 8 to 10 minutes until beef is fully cooked. Pour off drippings and blot with paper towel. Lightly brush tortillas with oil. Bake tortillas on 2 large baking sheets in oven for 3 minutes. Spoon beef mixture evenly over top of each tortilla. Top with an equal amount of tomato. Sprinkle with basil and cheeses. Return to oven and bake 12 to 14 minutes or until tortillas are lightly browned.

**BUBBA  
APPROVED**

## Livestock Market Report

WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton

Weighted Avg for Monday Dec 16, 2013

<b>Feeder Steers</b>		Medium and Large 1 - 2			
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	280-290	285	180.00-190.00	184.91	
1	270-270	270	222.50	222.50	Fancy
3	305-345	322	187.50-200.00	192.46	
7	355-390	369	177.00-190.00	185.08	
2	365-390	378	196.00-197.50	196.73	Fancy
2	430-435	433	181.00-190.00	185.47	
2	415-420	418	202.50-205.00	203.74	Fancy
1	450-450	450	181.00	181.00	
4	515-545	526	164.00-173.00	169.43	
3	550-575	558	156.00-160.00	158.63	
2	610-615	613	154.00	154.00	
1	700-700	700	139.00	139.00	
2	775-780	778	125.00-133.00	129.01	
<b>Feeder Heifers</b>		Medium and Large 1 - 2			
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	250-295	273	150.00	150.00	
4	360-375	369	162.50-170.00	165.58	
5	400-445	429	142.50-152.00	147.46	
1	420-420	420	164.00	164.00	Fancy
13	455-495	476	138.00-147.00	143.68	
16	505-541	526	135.00-143.00	139.11	
14	550-595	566	130.00-138.00	135.75	
6	605-645	623	133.00-139.00	136.38	
2	715-745	730	108.00-122.00	115.14	
2	805-810	808	92.00-96.00	94.01	
<b>Feeder Bulls</b>		Medium and Large 1 - 2			
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
3	400-420	407	180.00-192.00	187.41	
5	460-485	472	150.00-165.00	159.21	
1	485-485	485	175.00	175.00	Fancy
5	500-540	516	143.00-157.00	149.14	
4	560-575	568	140.00-148.00	144.05	
3	610-635	623	139.00-142.00	140.33	
2	660-660	660	138.00-149.00	143.50	
2	705-720	713	116.00-120.00	117.98	
3	755-770	762	111.00-118.00	113.81	
2	875-890	883	96.00-98.00	96.99	
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>		Breaker 70-80% Lean			
Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price	
2	1253-1320	1287	72.00-74.00	72.97	
1	1395-1395	1395	86.00	86.00	High Dressing
4	1415-1800	1554	71.00-75.00	72.43	
6	1525-1850	1658	80.50-86.50	84.18	High Dressing
		Bonar 80-85% Lean			
2	805-890	848	63.00-68.00	65.37	Low Dressing
11	960-1350	1148	71.50-79.00	75.40	
7	920-1230	1129	80.00-88.00	83.49	High Dressing
9	900-1150	1051	60.00-69.00	64.31	Low Dressing
3	1420-1490	1450	78.00	78.00	



For up-to-date event schedule  
 check our Events page at:  
<http://mcdowell.ces.ncsu.edu>

**Mark Your  
 Calendar!**

<b>PLACES TO BE</b>	
January 8	Shelby Area Beef Conference, Shelby, NC
January 24	RSVP for McDowell County Cattlemen's Meeting
January 30	McDowell Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting
January 30	NC Forage and Grassland Winter Conference, Canton
February 8, 15, 22	McDowell Honeybee's Bee School, Marion NC
February 14-15	NC Cattlemen's Conference, Hickory NC
February 20	Extension Master Gardener Training begins

Compiled and edited by:

*Greg Anderson*

Greg Anderson  
 Extension Agent  
 Ag & Natural Resources

Secretarial support by: Cheryl Mitchell

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