



# The Bull's Eye

hitting the target



McDowell County Center

April 2015

### Inside This Issue

- Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting 1
- Recipe 1
- Controlled Grazing..... 2
- Fly Control.....3
- Blackleg in Cattle.....3
- Preventing Grass Tetany 4
- Livestock Market Report 5
- Upcoming Events 6

## Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting



The Spring Meeting of the McDowell Cattlemen's Association will be held **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm at Ken Davidson's farm. The farm is located at the drive past his home address of 66 Plemmons Place, Marion.** The program will be on Fly Control.

The meal will be sponsored by the McDowell Cattlemen's Association. Please call 652-7874 or email Cheryl or Greg by Friday, April 17, so we will know how many meals to prepare. See you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## FUNDRAISER AUCTION

There will be an auction at our meeting to raise money for our scholarship.



**Scholarship**



Bring an item, and money to buy items!

### 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)

### Chuckwagon Beef & Pasta Skillet

- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 1 small green bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 can ready-to-serve beef broth
- 1 1/2 cups uncooked wagon wheel pasta
- 1 cup prepared hickory-flavored barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup finely shredded Cheddar or Colby cheese

**BUBBA APPROVED**



Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Add beef, pepper and onion, cook 8-10 minutes. Pour off drippings. Stir in broth, pasta, barbecue sauce and 1/4 cup water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 10-15 minutes. Uncover; cook 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with cheese.

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.

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

Empowering People • Providing Solutions

---

---

## Controlled or Rotational Grazing

Controlled grazing or rotational grazing is an excellent way to improve the utilization of grass of a beef operation.

Research and observations reveal that cattle tend to graze in a particular area, leave it for a period of time and then come back and graze again. They do not uniformly graze over an entire pasture.

Every producer needs to make an effort to force animals to utilize as much of the available grass as possible. The cost of the grass not utilized is the same as that used by animals. The bottom line is that it is not economical to under utilize most of the grass.



The best utilization of grass is accomplished by placing a large number of animals in a small area until the grass is utilized and then move them to another area. It is not necessary to make the stocking rate extremely heavy so animals must be moved every day. It is best to move the cows in seven days or less depending on the grass available. Animals need to be moved before they come back and graze the short grass without allowing time to recover.

To implement a rotational grazing program, additional fencing will probably be required. Temporary fencing is usually the first choice. This way the fencing can be easily moved if necessary and the initial cost is less than a permanent fence.



As animals are moved from one pasture to another, don't forget to provide a way for animals to obtain water. This may be a water source in each field or an alley that will allow animals to walk to water.

Controlled grazing can increase the amount of grass being used. This is extremely important when the weather is dry or the number of animals to be grazed is large.

---

---

## Flies Must be Controlled in the Beef Herd

Beef producers must control flies on their beef cattle. Flies can spread pinkeye, annoy animals and reduce gains.



Flies can be controlled if recommended insecticides are applied to the animals. Insecticides used to control flies on beef cattle are from two chemical families, organic phosphates and pyrethroids. Entomologists recommend using organic phosphates for two years, switching to pyrethroids the next year and then starting the rotation over again to reduce the possibility of developing a resistance to the chemicals.

Control can be achieved by using one or more application techniques. The most popular method is insecticide impregnated ear tags. These tags work quite well, however, they will last only four to five months. Some other method of fly control must be used prior to this time or tags must be applied a second time during the fly season.

To get the best fly control, producers should select some other method for early season fly control and then apply the insecticide impregnated ear tags about May 15. Select a chemical different from the one in the tag for early season fly control.

Besides the ear tags, back rubbers, back rubbers with flips, oilers, dusters, and sprays can be used to control flies. Oral larvicide can also be fed to break the live cycle of the fly. Forced usage of the device is the key to good control. Placing the back rubber or other device between the water source and the pasture would be ideal. Keep the devices

---

---

## Blackleg in Beef Cattle

Each year beef cattle producers lose cattle from blackleg. These losses can be cut to almost zero with the proper vaccination program.

Blackleg is a bacterial disease that affects cattle less than two years of age. Most cases are seen in calves before weaning.

Outbreaks of the disease are sporadic since the bacteria can persist in the soil for extended periods of time. The organism, *Clostridium Chauvoei*, will persist in the soil until certain conditions are present and animals pick up the disease. The exact conditions needed for the organism to infect animals are not known.

Prevention is the only way to deal with Blackleg since treatment is not effective. Usually the first sign of the disease being present is finding a dead calf. Producers should follow the label on available vaccines to the exact vaccination procedure. Some vaccines require a booster within a few weeks after the initial vaccination while others require the booster at weaning. Generally the first dose of the vaccine is given at three to four months of age.

Losses from blackleg can be prevented through vaccination.

---

---

## Preventing Grass Tetany

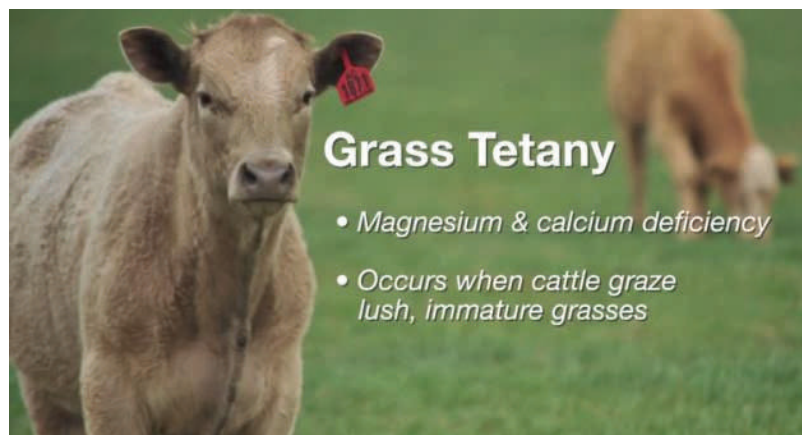
Grass tetany is also known as magnesium tetany or grass staggers. It usually occurs in cows during early lactation, especially during cool weather in spring or fall when cool season forages come out of dormancy and grow rapidly. Although the highest risk is in spring, grass tetany can occur in the middle of winter or summer when unusual weather results in rapid growth on farms where fertility (especially nitrogen and potassium) is high.



Grass tetany usually results from a low level of magnesium in rapidly growing forages, but has also been associated with nutrients that interfere with the absorption of magnesium. Often the first sign will be a dead cow that was apparently healthy the last time she was checked. During the early stages of the disease, the cow will appear nervous, with a stiff gate and possible muscle tremors.

The cow will then become dull in appearance, and finally will go down and may thrash violently before death occurs. Grass tetany can also afflict stocker cattle, especially when grazed on small grains.

Prevention has been accomplished by feeding cattle supplemental hay or grain, fertilizing pastures with magnesium (by applying dolomitic limestone) or providing a mineral mix or supplement containing magnesium oxide. Supplementing with magnesium oxide during moderate or high risk periods is the most practical, and 1 oz/day will generally completely prevent or greatly reduce incidence of the disease. The magnesium oxide may be in a commercial high-mag mineral (10-14% Mg) or when an outbreak occurs, it should be mixed at 6% of a grain mix and fed at 1-2 lb/head/day.



Producers with normal fertility pastures should start feeding a high-mag mineral one month before the cows start to calve, and should continue through the end of the lush grass season in early summer. Producers with high fertility pastures (especially when poultry litter is used as fertilizer) should feed a high-mag mineral year-round.

# Livestock Market Report

WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton

Weighted Avg for Tuesday, March 24, 2015

## Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Weight	Price Range	Avg Price
5	315-335	326	325.-345.	332.06
9	360-395	383	305.-320.	312.14
4	410-435	420	297.50-312.50	304.29
13	450-495	473	265.-280.	275.18
10	500-545	521	245.-260.	254.72
13	550-575	562	245.-260.	252.83
7	605-635	619	225.-231.	227.64
10	650-665	657	228.-239.	236.80
3	760-795	772	190.-205.	194.92
2	940-940	940	157.50-165.00	161.25

## Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1 - 2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Weight	Price Range	Avg Price
9	355-395	378	265.-280.	272.41
9	405-430	419	260.-275.	267.62
2	455-465	460	275.-280.	277.47
5	500-520	508	240.-249.	243.75
4	550-585	565	215.-230.	220.65
6	600-625	617	197.50-210.	203.81
3	650-650	650	202.-215.	206.33
3	750-770	760	170.-181.	175.38

## Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Weight	Price Range	Avg. Price
6	400-440	418	295.-310.	302.27
4	455-475	464	277.50-290.	284.37
9	512-540	527	240.-255.	245.81
5	550-585	564	225.-240.	231.43
4	600-640	620	215.-227.50	220.78
6	650-665	657	202.50-217.50	210.92

## Slaughter Cows Breaker 70-80% Lean

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
3	1150-1290	1235	100.-115.	109.44
9	1400-1770	1619	100.-112.	104.27
		Boner	80-85%	Lean
22	945-1315	1086	100.-115.	106.56
3	945-1115	1043	118.-130.	122.31
7	1040-1305	1181	85.-99.	92.11
2	835-890	863	100.-108.	103.87

## Slaughter Bulls Yield Grade 1-2

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
5	1630-2270	1871	127.-132.	129.74
2	1750-2125	1938	139.-151.	145.58



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

### PLACES TO BE

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| April 11  | McDowell Junior Horse Show, Showgrounds, Marion       |
| April 17  | RSVP for McDowell County Cattlemen's Meeting          |
| April 18  | WNC Junior Beef Spring Fling, WNC Ag Center, Fletcher |
| April 23  | McDowell Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting       |
| May 29-30 | NC Junior Beef Round-Up, NCSU Fairgrounds, Raleigh    |



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.