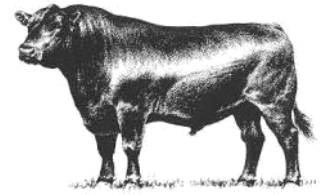




The Beef Bonanza

just shooting the bull



McDowell
county center

Spring 2018 Issue

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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McDowell Cattlemen's Association

Membership DUES & DRIVE

\$20 per year (payable in January each year)

New Members are always WELCOME!

Upcoming Events

- Backyard Chicken Workshop – March 6th
- Mountain Cattle Alliance Spring Program, Stockyard buyer selection – March 8th
- McDowell County 4-H Achievement Night – March 19th
- McDowell County Youth Horse Show – April 7th
- McDowell County Cattlemen 's Spring Meeting @ Glenwood Ruritan Club House– April 19th
- Marion Tailgate Market Start Date – May 1st
- WNC Small Ruminant Workshop– May 19th

NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION



Spring Pasture Management

Written by: Adam Lawing

If you haven't started already, it's time to start doing spring pasture management, putting out lime, fertilizer and herbicides. The earlier you can act the better off you will be in the long run. Don't put it off and get it out to late or your pastures and hay fields will show it.

If you took soil samples this past fall and sent them off, you are on the right track. Getting your soil tested is important in your operation to make sure that you are applying the right amount of nutrients and undercutting nutrients or putting out too much and wasting your money. We have soil sample boxes here at the office and I would be more than happy to come out and help you take your samples and look over your report when you get them back.

A good practice is fertilizing your pastures in the spring and in the fall. Since plants absorb nutrients at different rates, this helps to maximize production. The amount of nitrogen recommended can be split between spring and fall. Nitrogen is soluble and soaks in the plant pretty easy and it gives your pastures a good boost when it starts growing in the springtime. Phosphorus and potassium on the other hand, are absorbed slower by the root system. Applying those nutrients in the fall allows those nutrients to be absorbed over the course of fall and winter since it takes longer for those nutrients to work their way into the root system.

Remember when before buying your nitrogen, check its source. Ammonium nitrate is the most effective source of N, but since laws have become more restrictive, it is harder to find. I have not been able to find it in our area. So a lot of N sources are urea or a blend of ammonium sulfate and urea. Urea still works good as a N source, but it can volatilize fast if it is not soaked into the ground within a few days. Just remember, if you are using urea make sure there is going to be a good rain in the next day or two. Temperatures over 70 degrees can cause the nitrogen to volatilize at a faster rate as well.

Don't let undesirable weeds take over your fields. The earlier you can spray weeds the better. As those weeds grow taller, later on in the season, the harder they are to kill. If you have clover and other legumes be careful which herbicides you choose. Most of the time clover can handle 2,4-D at a lower rate. It will wilt down and might start to turn yellow, but then it should green back up. Making sure that you have good soil health and healthy pastures will help to out compete weeds. When applying herbicides, pay attention to the weather and environment to avoid drift and make sure you read the label on that chemical. Pay attention to wind speeds, crops, or gardens that are nearby and spray when temperatures are between 65 and 85 degrees to avoid drift. Know how much chemical you are putting out. It's important to make sure your sprayer is calibrated, just like your fertilize distributor, so you know what you are putting out.

Those lush green pastures that will be rolling in from now until the next few months really make producers excited about turning cattle out, but just keep grass tetany in the back of your mind. If you have been at the last couple Cattlemen's meetings this should sound familiar. Just to remind you what this is, grass tetany can mostly occur in the spring after a cool period (45-60 degrees F) when grass really starts to grow. When grass grows fast it is normally high in potassium but contains low levels of magnesium. Higher levels of ingested potassium can hinder magnesium absorption in livestock causing tetany. Lactating cows in the spring have a higher chance of having grass tetany due to the elevated magnesium requirements when producing milk. The worst part about this condition is that the first symptom is death a lot of times. Symptoms before death can be staggering and muscle contractions, convulsions and foaming from the mouth. Now after having all the scary stuff said, the good news is that grass tetany can be easy to prevent with management. The first obvious thing to do is provide an extra source of magnesium to their diet. Providing a loose mineral with a high magnesium concentration (high-mag mineral) at least 30 days before turn out is the easiest prevention you can do, and keep feeding those minerals through the lush grazing period. Avoiding pastures that could have a lower magnesium level is another smart move. Remember how earlier I suggested putting out nitrogen on fields and pastures in the early spring? Still do that, but realize what that nitrogen does to plants. It makes it green and it helps it grow rapid to give it a good start. Chances are it could have a lower level of magnesium, so be patient and let the growth of recent fertilized pastures plateau before you turn your livestock out on it.

Sometimes implementing extra practices and such may seem like a lot of work and expenses, but good management practices can give you a little extra money in your pocket at the end of the day. It is also just the responsible thing to do. Taking better care of your land and livestock is the ethical thing to do and will pay off in the end. As always, if you have any questions or need any help with anything, don't hesitate to give me a call or stop by my office. I will be more than glad to come out and take a look with you.

Adam



Cleveland County Agr & Lstk Exchange, Shelby, NC Feb 27, 2018

Cattle Receipts: 626 Last Week: 441 Last Year: 343

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 160-165 lbs (162) 170.00-195.00 (178.89); 210-245 lbs (230) 190.00-218.00 (202.49); 250-295 lbs (268) 180.00-215.00 (193.01); 300-345 lbs (323) 175.00-197.00 (183.94); 350-395 lbs (372) 175.00-189.00 (183.16); 410-435 lbs (422) 169.00-188.00 (177.71); 418-418 lbs fleshy (418) 153.00 (153.00); 457-485 lbs (470) 166.00-170.00 (167.89); 500-530 lbs (511) 158.00-167.00 (160.85); 550-595 lbs (577) 153.00-167.00 (160.29); 600-640 lbs (621) 149.00-157.00 (155.07); 651-651 lbs (651) 158.50 (158.50); 744-744 lbs (744) 142.00 (142.00). Small 1-2 285-290 lbs (288) 130.00-140.00 (135.04); 355-365 lbs (360) 110.00-135.00 (122.33). Medium 2 160-195 lbs (182) 142.50-160.00 (153.04); 255-275 lbs (266) 140.00-175.00 (153.57); 325-345 lbs (332) 140.00-172.50 (157.24); 355-395 lbs (376) 140.00-170.00 (159.23); 410-425 lbs (418) 140.00-167.50 (152.21); 508-528 lbs (515) 145.00-150.50 (148.65); 550-575 lbs (563) 139.00-150.00 (144.62); 635-642 lbs (640) 125.00-141.00 (131.48); 720-735 lbs (728) 126.00-131.00 (128.53). Medium and Large 3 300-340 lbs (317) 112.50-122.50 (119.08); 530-540 lbs (535) 110.00-120.00 (114.95).

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 210-245 lbs (230) 157.50-167.50 (163.61); 280-295 lbs (290) 153.00-162.00 (156.57); 315-345 lbs (330) 145.00-157.50 (151.95); 350-395 lbs (372) 145.00-158.00 (152.28); 400-445 lbs (425) 145.00-156.00 (150.74); 450-495 lbs (470) 142.00-150.00 (146.51); 450-485 lbs fleshy (457) 136.00-139.00 (138.36); 500-540 lbs (525) 141.00-153.00 (148.88); 550-580 lbs (564) 134.00-143.00 (137.43). Small 1-2 365-390 lbs (373) 112.00-125.00 (118.03); 510-510 lbs (510) 115.00-125.00 (120.00); 585-595 lbs (590) 110.00-120.00 (114.97); 675-695 lbs (685) 107.00-115.00 (111.06). Medium 2 250-255 lbs (253) 142.50 (142.50); 300-340 lbs (320) 130.00-140.00 (134.69); 355-390 lbs (373) 132.00-132.50 (132.24); 405-445 lbs (429) 130.00-143.00 (136.50); 450-495 lbs (478) 126.00-139.00 (133.74); 500-545 lbs (521) 128.00-144.00 (134.16); 555-585 lbs (575) 126.00-131.00 (129.30); 610-625 lbs (617) 120.00-128.00 (123.97); 715-720 lbs (718) 114.00-115.00 (114.50). Medium and Large 3 460-465 lbs (463) 111.00-119.00 (114.98); 500-545 lbs (523) 117.00-124.00 (120.65); 585-595 lbs (590) 119.00-124.00 (121.48).

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 400-445 lbs (421) 165.00-183.00 (175.26); 450-490 lbs (465) 165.00-175.00 (170.26); 455-465 lbs fleshy (458) 153.00-155.00 (153.38); 500-545 lbs (523) 152.50-164.00 (157.35); 605-625 lbs (612) 134.00-140.00 (137.19). Small 1-2 400-415 lbs (408) 125.00-133.00 (129.07). Medium 2 410-445 lbs (420) 146.00-160.00 (153.18); 450-495 lbs (484) 154.00-160.00 (156.53); 505-540 lbs (526) 137.00-151.00 (144.51); 565-590 lbs (580) 126.00-142.00 (134.00); 660-680 lbs (670) 124.00-130.00 (127.04).

Chesnee Livestock Market, Chesnee, SC Tuesday Feb 27, 2018

Cattle Receipts: 205 Last week: 180 Last year: 309

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 230-230 lbs (230) 190.00 (190.00); 290-295 lbs (293) 185.00-208.00 (196.40); 320-345 lbs (327) 185.00-197.50 (192.53); 355-385 lbs (368) 180.00-187.50 (182.42). Small 1-2 205-230 lbs longhorn x (218) 87.50-120.00 (104.68); 275-295 lbs (285) 125.00-132.50 (129.14); 335-335 lbs (335) 147.50 (147.50); 380-380 lbs (380) 135.00 (135.00); 425-425 lbs (425) 150.00 (150.00). Medium 2 265-265 lbs (265) 172.50 (172.50); 365-365 lbs (365) 170.00 (170.00); 425-425 lbs (425) 165.00-170.00 (167.50); 580-580 lbs (580) 135.00 (135.00); 640-640 lbs (640) 139.00 (139.00).

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 385-385 lbs (385) 160.00 (160.00); 400-440 lbs (420) 150.00-155.00 (151.78); 460-495 lbs (473) 143.00-147.00 (144.97); 505-535 lbs (523) 138.00-149.00 (142.62). Small 1-2 235-235 lbs (235) 125.00 (125.00); 215-215 lbs longhorn x (215) 107.50 (107.50); 305-345 lbs (321) 108.00-130.00 (114.10); 350-355 lbs longhorn x (353) 80.00-85.00 (82.52); 410-410 lbs (410) 120.00 (120.00); 490-490 lbs (490) 120.00 (120.00); 830-830 lbs (830) 70.00 (70.00). Medium 2 275-275 lbs (275) 145.00 (145.00); 315-345 lbs (333) 145.00-155.00 (150.15); 365-385 lbs (375) 135.00-147.50 (142.61); 495-495 lbs (495) 135.00 (135.00); 725-725 lbs (725) 103.00 (103.00). Medium and Large 3 250-255 lbs (253) 110.00-115.00 (112.48); 385-390 lbs (388) 112.50-115.00 (113.74); 535-535 lbs (535) 110.00 (110.00); 560-565 lbs (563) 95.00-100.00 (97.51).

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 405-445 lbs (426) 170.00-181.00 (175.01); 450-490 lbs (465) 160.00-170.00 (165.25); 505-535 lbs (512) 152.00-159.00 (156.21); 550-590 lbs (569) 142.00-152.00 (145.77); 600-615 lbs (610) 132.00-142.00 (136.97); 700-700 lbs (700) 128.00 (128.00). Small 1-2 455-495 lbs (475) 120.00-127.50 (123.59). Medium 2 420-440 lbs (431) 135.00-145.00 (140.68); 450-485 lbs (472) 144.00-155.00 (150.55); 535-535 lbs (535) 138.00 (138.00); 665-670 lbs (668) 115.00-120.00 (117.51); 850-850 lbs (850) 86.00 (86.00). Medium and Large 3 490-490 lbs (490) 112.50 (112.50).

WNC Regional Livestock Center, Canton, NC Feb 26, 2018

Cattle Receipts: 283 Last Week: 349 Last Year: 255

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 180-195 lbs (188) 182.50-185.00 (183.80); 220-220 lbs (220) 192.50 (192.50); 280-295 lbs (288) 185.00-192.50 (188.65); 315-340 lbs (331) 182.50-192.00 (185.93); 370-375 lbs (373) 190.00-195.00 (192.52); 405-430 lbs (418) 177.50-180.00 (178.71); 450-475 lbs (463) 170.00-178.00 (174.11); 515-515 lbs (515) 145.00 (145.00); 550-595 lbs (573) 149.00-153.00 (150.92); 615-645 lbs (630) 148.00-155.00 (151.42); 651-670 lbs (654) 147.00-154.00 (148.02); 707-707 lbs (707) 142.00 (142.00); 800-820 lbs (807) 125.00-133.00 (130.29); 880-880 lbs (880) 132.00 (132.00). Medium 2 275-295 lbs (287) 171.00-175.00 (173.38); 305-345 lbs (333) 175.00-180.00 (177.44); 370-395 lbs (386) 177.50-182.50 (179.54); 425-425 lbs (425) 167.50 (167.50); 455-455 lbs (455) 167.50 (167.50); 680-685 lbs (683) 137.50-140.00

(138.75); 715-730 lbs (723) 120.00-125.00 (122.47). Medium 3 290-290 lbs (290) 150.00 (150.00); 305-320 lbs (312) 160.00-165.00 (161.71); 370-395 lbs (383) 151.00-163.00 (157.20); 485-485 lbs (485) 152.00 (152.00). Small 3 370-370 lbs (370) 147.50 (147.50).

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 150-150 lbs (150) 150.00 (150.00); 260-275 lbs (270) 145.00-153.00 (149.32); 310-345 lbs (333) 155.00-163.00 (158.38); 350-380 lbs (368) 147.50-156.00 (150.39); 400-445 lbs (420) 150.00-160.00 (153.23); 455-475 lbs (463) 145.00-155.00 (149.13); 515-535 lbs (525) 149.00-157.00 (152.92); 565-592 lbs (579) 138.00-142.50 (140.79); 620-620 lbs (620) 151.00 (151.00); 660-690 lbs (673) 115.00-125.00 (120.25); 715-715 lbs (715) 117.00 (117.00); 755-785 lbs (770) 113.00-122.50 (117.84). Medium 2 300-325 lbs (308) 140.00-150.00 (144.49); 375-380 lbs (378) 139.00-144.00 (140.99); 420-445 lbs (432) 140.00-148.00 (144.31); 450-485 lbs (470) 135.00-142.00 (139.09); 502-545 lbs (524) 133.00-143.00 (137.54); 600-640 lbs (620) 120.00-125.00 (122.53). Medium 3 410-430 lbs (420) 130.00 (130.00). Small 3 260-260 lbs (260) 132.50 (132.50); 425-425 lbs (425) 120.00 (120.00); 405-405 lbs thin (405) 97.50 (97.50); 590-590 lbs (590) 100.00 (100.00); 620-620 lbs (620) 97.00 (97.00).

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2 410-445 lbs (426) 170.00-179.00 (172.27); 450-485 lbs (471) 152.50-163.00 (157.89); 505-545 lbs (532) 146.00-155.00 (150.92); 570-570 lbs (570) 140.00-142.00 (141.00); 625-625 lbs (625) 134.00 (134.00); 655-690 lbs (674) 120.00-127.50 (124.78); 750-750 lbs (750) 123.00-130.00 (126.50); 810-825 lbs (818) 107.00-110.00 (108.49); 945-945 lbs (945) 108.00 (108.00). Medium 2 430-445 lbs (438) 155.00-157.50 (156.23); 515-525 lbs (520) 133.00-141.00 (137.04). Medium 3 440-440 lbs (440) 143.00 (143.00). Small 3 440-440 lbs (440) 120.00 (120.00).



© MARK ANDERSON

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"Man! What I wouldn't do for some croutons!"

Compiled and edited by:

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Ag and Natural Resources

Administrative support provided by: Heather Peek

*For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact the McDowell County Center
at 828-652-8104, no later than 10 business days before the event.*