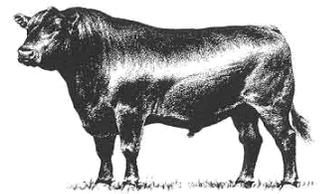




The Beef Bonanza

just shooting the bull



McDowell
county center

Summer 2018 Issue

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Upcoming Events

- McDowell Cattlemen 's Meeting- August 21st
- Mtn. State Fair Beef Cattle Show – September 7th-12th
- NC Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum – October 4th

Contact Us

NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
McDowell Center

County Administration
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60 East Court Street
Marion, NC 28752

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There will be a Cattlemen 's meeting on August 21st, 6:00 pm at Fairview Freewill Baptist Church located off Stacy Hill Road in Nebo. An Auction will be held at the meeting to help raise money for the scholarship fund. Please bring any items you wish to donate for the auction.

McDowell Cattlemen's Association

Membership DUES & DRIVE

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

New Members are always WELCOME!

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 COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION



Managing Pinkeye

Written by: Adam Lawing

When we think about pinkeye we don't always think of the actual cost it has in our overall cattle production. According to a Virginia Tech article, there is an estimated cost of 150 million dollars a year loss in the cattle industry due to pinkeye. All that is not just the treatment cost, but includes decreased weight gain and milk production, which shows up at weigh in at the sale. In a 20 year study, calves that were infected with pinkeye weighed 19.6 pounds lighter than healthy calves. Another study found that loss to be 38 pounds. Either way, that is less poundage that runs across the scales on sale day.

So what exactly is pinkeye? Its technical name is, infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (infectious=caused by an infecting organism; kerato=referring to the cornea of the eye; conjunctiv = referring to the pink tissues of the eyelids and the other soft red tissues of the eyeball; and "itis" = inflammation). Basically, it is a bacteria in the eye. Hereford cattle are more susceptible to pinkeye due to their white face pigmentation. The breed has had a lot of success by working to breed brown pigmentation around their eyes. So what can producers do to lower the risks of pinkeye?

There are vaccines out there to use, but I am not a immunologist so I won't go into the scientific details. With pinkeye, the bacteria that causes it is, *Moraxella bovis* and *there are over 20 strains and it continues to mutate. The vaccines do contain the most common strains of M. bovis, but they don't contain them all, so it could be a hit or miss. It could still be a good preventative, so don't rule it out.*

Fly control is going to be the best management preventative you can do. The most common flies related to pinkeye are face flies and horn flies. As the eye gets irritated, the face flies become more attracted to the tearing, picking up the causative agent and transferring it to other animals. Horn flies do not spend a lot of time on each animal. They travel to many animals in a day which can spread pinkeye to many animals in your herd. With flies like this, it is important to get a handle on pinkeye control as soon as you see signs.

There are many options out there when it comes to fly tags. It all boils down to your management practice and how serious you are about getting a handle on your fly population. Larvicides or IGR (insect growth regulators) work well and is most commonly used through feeding minerals. Rabon is a widely used IGR. With these products, you want to start feeding them 30 days before flies emerge and continue it to 30 days after a hard frost. These products work by killing the larva. Flies lay their eggs in manure. After the eggs hatch into maggots they will continue to grow and in this final growth stage, the IGR interrupts the phase and the adult fly never comes out of the pupal stage.

Fly tags are a good resource when used in the spring, when flies start to emerge. You should always refer to the label for proper use. Applying too early will lower efficacy and tags should be taken out according to the label. Leaving them in longer than the recommended time (3-5 months) will release lower levels of insecticide which can lead to resistance issues.



Spraying with an insecticide is also a good way to control flies. Although this method may be challenging depending on your management style. Cattle that are a little wild or spook easily, may be hard to get up close enough to spray. Also, the spray does not last as long as other products, so it should be used fairly regularly. Another drawback is it can also be time consuming.

A lot of insecticides are available as pour-ons and are found in products used to kill internal parasites. Use these products in the spring and switch to products later in the year that only treat flies and lice. Using products that provide internal parasite control on a regular basis can increase resistance issues. When using sprays, tags and pour-ons, it is important to make sure you switch up the chemical every year to avoid resistance build up. Make sure you switch the chemical and not the brand. Many companies sell the same chemical, just with a different name, so check the active ingredients on the package.

There are some pasture management practices that can be done to help prevent pinkeye. Stalky/stemmy/seed head grasses can irritate eyes when grazing, making them more susceptible to getting pinkeye. Moving hay feeders around the pasture can help as well. Keeping hay feeding areas in one place keeps the ground wet, providing a hotel for fly larvae and the thicker the mud is over the winter, the harder it is to freeze out unborn flies.



Flies are a nuisance and pinkeye can lead to lower production of your calves and cows, which directly impacts your profit at the end of the year. Use as many methods as you want, but just make sure that you are using some way to manage flies on your operation. As most things are, it is easier to prevent than to cure.

NC Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum Vote

The North Carolina Cattlemen's Association has announced that the N.C. Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum vote will take place on October 4, 2018. The North Carolina Cattlemen's Association will conduct a referendum to continue the N. C. Cattle Industry Assessment. Arrangements have been made with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service to facilitate the voting. The Extension offices in each county will be the polling places. All cattle owners who are at least 18 years of age as of October 4, 2018, will be eligible to vote. Voting will take place at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension offices. All eligible voters must vote in their county. Absentee ballots may be obtained by contacting the North Carolina Cooperative Extension office. The North Carolina Cattlemen's Association can assist with directing you to your local office. For additional details on voting procedures or funding information, please contact your local county office of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, or the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association.



Stockpiling Tall-Fescue is a Good Way to Cut Down Hay Costs

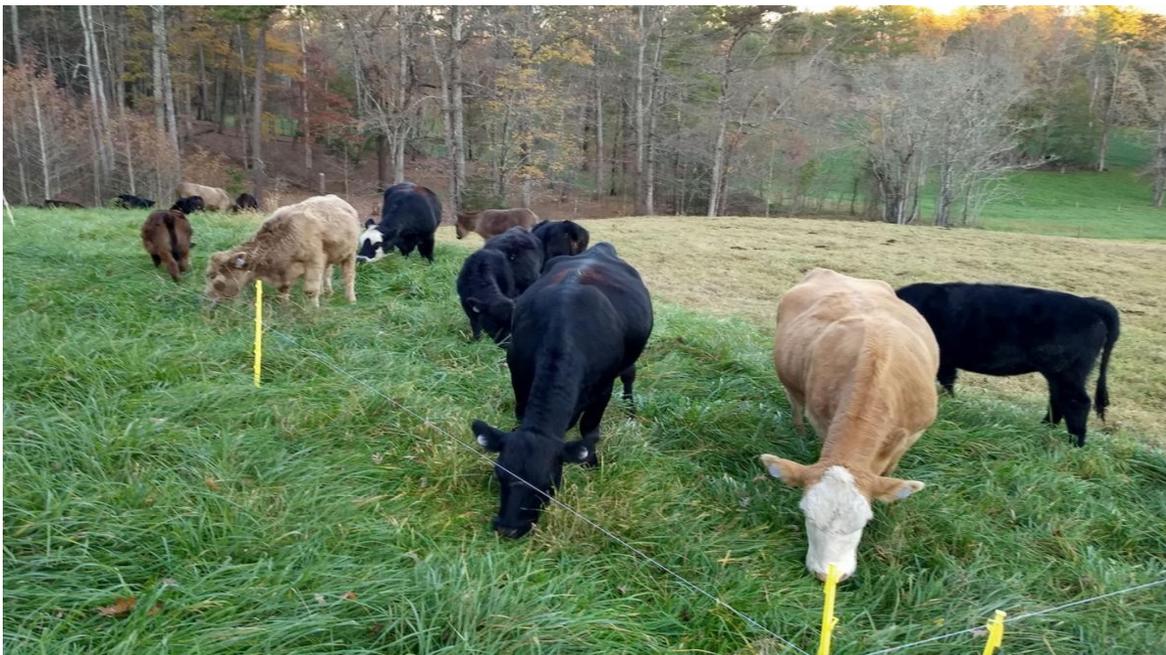
Written By: Adam Lawing

If you want to feed less hay this winter, now is the time to start preparing your pastures. Stockpiling fescue is when the grass is allowed to grow and is not mowed for hay and is not grazed this fall in order to have pasture to graze during the winter months.

The pasture needs to be grazed or clipped then fertilizer applied and livestock left off until late fall/winter.

Fescue is not going to grow or produce as much forage unless you get some nitrogen on it. For our area the textbook recommendation is to apply nitrogen between August 15th-September 15th on fescue pastures. Apply 50-75 lbs of nitrogen per acre and apply the recommended amount of phosphate and potash from a soil test as well. Once this is done, keep your livestock off of the pastures until December.

Just remember when your putting out your nitrogen make sure you put it out before a good rain to avoid nitrogen volatilization. The more grass you have, the less hay you have to feed in the winter!



72nd Annual McDowell County Jr. Livestock Show

The 72nd Annual, McDowell County Junior Livestock Show was held on August 3rd and 4th of this year. The event was hosted by the McDowell Agricultural Youth Foundation and the NC Cooperative Extension-McDowell County Center.

This year the McDowell County Junior Livestock Show had a total of 74 youth showing in 252 different classes. There were 34 sheep entered, 51 goats, 11 hogs, 50 cattle, 24 chickens, 2 ducks and 4 rabbits. Alex Cassavaugh from Caldwell County won Supreme Overall Heifer and received \$50's from the McDowell County Cattlemen's Association.

Hard Work and Dedication Pays Off!

Hard work and dedication has certainly paid off for the McDowell County 4-H Livestock Judging team. Since June, the team has traveled over 4,000 miles to destinations such as Oklahoma State University for a judging camp, which included several stops along the way. Some of these stops included Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina where the team visited farms and had the opportunity to sharpen their judging skills. They also competed at the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest in Raleigh on July 27th.

At the State 4-H Contest, the team judged cattle, sheep, swine, goats and gave oral reasons to explain their reasoning behind the placement.

In the end the Senior McDowell County 4-H Livestock Judging Team had the highest combined points and was awarded the High Overall Senior Livestock Judging Team in the State, with Hannah Ellis being high overall individual.

Additional results are as follows:

The junior team: Molly Anderson, Jay English, Logan Crisp and Ethan Laws.

Results:

Overall Individual- Molly Anderson 5th Sheep-Molly Anderson 2nd, Logan Crisp 7th Cattle- Molly Anderson 8th Reasons- Molly Anderson 4th The team was 3rd in sheep and 3rd in reasons.

The senior team: Hannah Ellis, Alyson Biddix, Colton Cox and Haylee Laws.

Results:

Overall individual- Hannah Ellis 1st, Colton Cox 9th and Alyson Biddix 13th Goats- Colton Cox 7th, Alyson Biddix 8th Sheep- Hannah Ellis 8th, Alyson Biddix 10th Cattle- Hannah Ellis 1st, Colton Cox 10th Swine- Hannah Ellis 6th Reasons- Hannah Ellis 1st, Colton Cox 3rd The senior team placed 4th in goats, 4th in sheep, 2nd in cattle, 5th in swine and 2nd in reasons.



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Administrative support provided by: Heather Peek



THEY WERE ALL OUT OF SALT BLOCKS
AT THE FEED STORE

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