



# The Quarterly Beef News

Winter Edition Newsletter



McDowell County Center

January 2024

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## January Cattlemen's Meeting

I hope everyone is looking forward to the next cattlemen's meeting. It will be held, **January 18th at 6 PM at the Senior Center**. The speaker at the meeting will be Melissa Simmons from Farm Bureau and she will be talking about Livestock Risk Protection Policies for cattle.

I wanted to start out by saying 'Happy New Year' I hope everyone is looking forward to the upcoming year. Some people like to make plans for the new year do you? I am not talking about travel plans, I am talking about farm plans. If you want to keep your plan the same from the previous year that is completely fine. If you want to change your plan up and try different things that are new to you then go ahead and don't be afraid to! I wrote an article titled 'New Year, New Plans' it talks a little more about the topic. Also, I have included an article written by Pennsylvania State University titled "Winter Planning Recommendations". This article talks about things we can do in the winter months that we often forget about that will help us get ahead come spring.

Please **RSVP** for the cattlemen's meeting by **January 16th**, you can call the office at (828) 652-8104. We plan to have an auction at this annual meeting. Please feel free to bring in items to be auctioned off.

Contact Us!

NC COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION

McDowell Center  
County Administration  
Building, Room 226  
60 East Court Street  
Marion, NC 28752

Phone: 828-652-8104

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

[skyler\\_murray@ncsu.edu](mailto:skyler_murray@ncsu.edu)

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## **New Year, New Plans**

With the start of the new year and winter weather upon us it is time to start thinking/making plans for the upcoming year. Many of you have had cattle for several years, so you already know what you want to do and when. But let me ask you something, if you could change something in your operation what would it be? Cutting the cost of production, making your grass go further, making your cattle healthier and more profitable, etc.? All of these are important to think about when making plans for the upcoming year. Some of you may want to stick with the same plan that has worked for you for many years that's completely fine.

Although, there is no harm in changing it up some and trying new things. While change can be challenging, it can also be very rewarding and produce great outcomes.

When the question is asked "If you could change something in your operation what would it be?" Most of you would probably answer by wanting your cattle to be more profitable while cutting the cost of the operation. Some ways you can have healthy cattle is through good vaccination programs and making sure the cattle have the nutrients available that they may need. Ways to cut the cost of your operation is by making your grass go further. This can be done by rotational grazing, overseeding, fertilizing, etc. these are just to name a few. If you are wanting to think of more ways to make your operation more profitable, I am more than happy to sit down with you and come up with plans to get you towards your goal.

I have included an article written by Penn State that talks about winter planning recommendations.

I hope everyone has a happy new year and I look forward to seeing you at the annual cattlemen's meeting. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

# Winter Planning Recommendations

*Nathan G. Briggs  
Pennsylvania State University*

Grass is wilting for the year and field work has come to an end. Daily activities on a beef operation are slowing down. Utilize the cold off-season to catch up on repairs, maintenance, and renovations. The following are some reminders of areas that might need attention.

## **Catch up on any postponed repairs or maintenance.**

Throughout the growing season machinery and cattle equipment break. Equipment hardly ever needs repaired when time is available for proper fixes, so temporary repair is done quickly to continue working in the fields. This time of the year is a good time to pull that piece of equipment out of storage to properly make the repairs needed. Be ready for the next busy season. If gates or fencing has been damaged, this off-season would be a good time to replace the damaged fence or gate. Springtime will consist of racing between storms to get feedstuffs sowed or harvested. Make sure your operation is ready for you to be in the field.

## **Maintain regularly used equipment.**

An important way to reduce wear and tear or depreciation of equipment is to maintain equipment regularly. How frequently maintenance is needed varies from operation to operation based on how much the equipment is used on the operation. An example of regularly used machinery would be a TMR mixer or grinder. Over the winter months, take a moment to look over the equipment in addition to regular greasing. If preemptive repair needs to be done, then try to get the repair done before a future breakdown.

## **Preemptive Repair.**

If equipment is taken to a dealer to get looked over before the season, now would be a good time to get scheduled in their calendar to ensure the equipment is back when it's needed. If maintenance is done in-house, look over equipment in case a bearing or other major part needs replaced before the next season. Preemptive repair allows for fixes to be completed when time allows and can increase the longevity of the machinery or equipment.

## **Check/change fluids in tractors.**

Tractors make planting, spreading, and harvest season possible. Some tractors are used less during the off-season, so take the time to look over the equipment or schedule a date at the dealer for regular maintenance. Complete maintenance while time permits, so regular fluid changing is not forgotten or procrastinated.

### **Make sure equipment is stored properly.**

If a pesticide sprayer or an inoculant applicator was used, make sure that equipment is properly winterized to prevent over-wintering damage due to freezing. Also, make sure equipment is stored under a roof to ensure its longevity. If a lack of building space is an issue, prioritize equipment that depreciates the most and is used the most to be stored inside of buildings.

### **Check barns, pens, gates, feed troughs, waterers for proper function.**

Review livestock facilities for needed maintenance. Buildings can get expensive quickly, so do regular maintenance to make ensure building longevity. Make any necessary changes that will allow for easier feeding or moving of cattle. These changes could be as easy as adjusting/lubricating gates to move easier. Make sure waterers are not leaking. Leaky waterers waste money and energy and can produce a slick, dangerous environment for cattle. By putting time in now, you can save time in the future.

### **Make operational goals.**

Lastly, future planning is extremely important for sustainable operations. Take the winter off-season to put time into developing goals for your operations. Think of changes that would allow the business to grow and sustain. Use the five SMART criteria when developing goals. The acronym stands for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely. An example goal would be to sell 100 head of fat cattle in the upcoming year. The goal is specific about selling fat cattle and measured by the number of head sold. Under the assumptions that the producer has the amount of space for 100 head of cattle in one rotation (or 50 head through two rotations) and the facilities are already set up for beef cattle, then the goal is attainable and relevant. Lastly, the goal timeline is throughout the upcoming year. Some goals can be more specific to time. For instance, a goal could be to catch up on all machinery repair by the end of February. To make this goal more specific, identify all outstanding repairs. Good long-term goals can contain multiple short-term goals that are needed to achieve the long-term goal.

In conclusion, utilize the time from the off-season to prepare for the upcoming growing season. Trying to stay ahead of repairs can help alleviate some stress during the growing season. Ultimately, not all repairs can be forecasted, so there will be bumps along the road. Improved cattle feeding and moving efficiency can help alleviate more time to be allocated to the growing season. Prepare for the future by making some goals for the direction you want your business to move towards. Businesses that are sustainable are looking forward to a few steps to be prepared for production issues, growth, and/or diversification.



## Herb-Crusted Beef Tenderloin Roast

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Tenderloin Roast, Center Cut (2 pounds)
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 teaspoon coarsely grind black pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 12 ounces fingerling potatoes, cut lengthwise in half
- 12 ounces new potatoes, cut in half
- 4 large shallots, peeled, cut lengthwise into quarters
- Coarse salt, as needed

### COOKING:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Combine basil, thyme, parsley and pepper; stir in 1 tablespoon oil. Press evenly onto all surfaces of beef roast.
2. Place roast on a roasting rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert ovenproof meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of beef. Do not add water or cover.
3. Toss potatoes and shallots with remaining 2 tablespoons oil on rimmed baking sheet; season with salt and ground black pepper, as desired. Turn vegetables cut-side down. Roast beef in 425°F oven 35 to 45 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness; roast vegetables 55 to 60 minutes or until potatoes are almost tender.
4. Remove roast when meat thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 150°F for medium. Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 10 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium.) Meanwhile, stir vegetables and continue roasting 8 to 10 minutes or until potatoes are tender and browned.
5. Carve roast into slices, season with coarse salt, as desired. Serve with roasted vegetables.

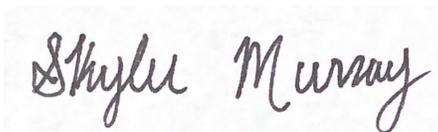
### Cow Herd Management Calendar

#### January/February/March:

- Make sure bull is in good breeding condition. Trim the hooves, conduct breeding soundness exams.
- As the weather starts to get cooler, may need to treat cattle for lice.
- Make sure you have minerals and order more as needed.
- Start checking your heifers and cows, if they are due to come in.
- Make sure the cattle maintain a body condition score of 5 to 6, provide additional feed if necessary.
- Check your calving supplies to ensure you have the proper equipment on hand if the need arises.

**McDowell County Center  
60 E. Court Street  
Marion, North Carolina  
28752**

Compiled and edited by:



Skyler Murray  
Extension Agent  
Ag & Natural Resources

Sectorial support by: Heather Peek

**Upcoming Events:**



- **Annual Cattlemen's Meeting-** January 18
- **NC Forage & Grasslands Council Winter Conference,**  
**Hickory NC-** February 22
- **72nd Annual NC Cattle Conference, Hickory, NC-** February  
23-24
- **Saluda County Cattlemen's Association 32nd Annual**  
**Replacement Heifer Sale, Saluda, NC-** February 24
- **Knoll Crest Farm Spring Bull & Female Sale, Red House,**  
**Va.-** April 13