First of all, thank you for your consignments to the 2007 Norwood Area Feeder Cattle Sales. For the first time in several years, the numbers were close enough to the survey numbers to make it possible to accurately determine potential cattle buyers what kind of numbers they could prepare for and make prior arrangements for trucking. This kind of communication is essential for all types of industry and with continued efforts from cow-calf producers it can only help improve our sales in the future. Consignments are open and can be made at any time to the Stanly County Extension Office at (704) 983-3987, or they can be emailed to steve_lemons@ncsu.edu.

The feeder cattle sales have historically shown that more management and effort can increase those extra dollars as well. Somebody is going to background those calves and the area producers who did it for themselves in 2007 saw an average premium of $75.00 per calf, not to mention heavier calves and cows that maintained body condition during the worst drought in recent history.

Jason K. Ahola for the “American Cowman” newsletter states, “The days of profitably selling conventional “weaned calves” may be coming to an end. Stockering or backgrounding calves (adding weight via low-cost grass pasture or forages) is becoming more common, particularly by cow/calf operations after weaning.”

**2007 Norwood Area Feeder Calf Sale Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sale Date</th>
<th>5 Wt Steers</th>
<th>6 Wt Steers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$/cwt</td>
<td>$/head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>115.75</td>
<td>638.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26 - BQA</td>
<td>126.00</td>
<td>716.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>112.40</td>
<td>620.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>117.50</td>
<td>645.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13 - BQA</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>715.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>107.91</td>
<td>584.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>107.75</td>
<td>594.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Livestock Compensation Program** - Call your local Farm Service Agency for specific information about the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) benefits available due to the drought of 2007. LCP provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters. To contact Farm Service Agency in Stanly County call (704.982.5114 Ext. 2).
Grass tetany, sometimes called grass staggers, wheat-pasture poisoning, lactation tetany or hypomagnesemia, is a metabolic disorder of livestock. It occurs mostly in ruminants; lactating cows being the most susceptible. Older cows are more susceptible than those with their first or second calves. Cows that are worked may be more susceptible to tetany.

Even though the exact mechanism of poisoning is not well understood, serum magnesium deficiencies are generally associated with tetany, and can to a lesser degree be from a decrease in serum calcium. Most times, there are no signs observed, and the only evidence is a dead cow. In mild cases, milk yield is decreased and the animal is nervous. Animals affected by acute grass tetany may suddenly stop grazing, appear discomfited and show unusual alertness. Also, they may stagger, have twitching skin, and lie down and get up frequently. Eventually, a staggering gait develops and is followed by collapse, stiffening of muscles and violent jerking convulsions with the head pulled back. Between convulsions, the animal may appear relaxed. During this period, a noise or touching the animal, as when administering treatment, may result in violent reactions. Animals usually die during or after a convulsion unless treatment is given. You will need to work with your veterinarian to treat the affected cattle with an intravenous injection of a commercial preparation of magnesium and calcium in a dextrose base. It’s a good idea to have the medication on hand before turning cattle out to graze since treatment would need to be given within 2 hours to be most effective.

Subacute and chronic grass tetanies are generally slower to develop and muscular affection may be limited to twitching, a clumsy walk or exaggerated motions. Both are characterized by loss of appetite, suppressed milk flow and dullness. Symptoms of milk fever in lactating cows are similar to grass tetany, except animals become paralyzed rather than show violent muscular response. Calcium deficiency may cause sluggishness in animals, instead of the nervousness they have with magnesium deficiency. Nitrate toxicity and grass tetany may occur at the same time on some pastures. In cases of nitrate toxicity, the blood usually is a chocolate brown color. Also, there is a grayish to brownish discoloration of white areas on the skin and on nonpigmented mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, eyes and vulva.

Grass tetany usually occurs when animals are grazing lush pastures in the spring, but it can occur in the fall and winter. Grass tetany is common during cool, cloudy and rainy weather and often occurs when cool weather is followed by a warm period. Animals get grass tetany most often while grazing cool-season grasses or small-grain pastures in spring or fall. Rapidly growing, lush grasses are the most dangerous.

Grass tetany has occurred on:
- Orchardgrass
- Perennial ryegrass
- Timothy
- Crested Wheatgrass
- Bromegrass
- Winter annuals
- Small grain pastures
While spring is still a few weeks away, we can start thinking about weed control for our fescue and even bermudagrass pastures and hay fields. The most dominant weeds this time of year, the winter annuals, can decrease yields and quality of both cool and warm season forages.

Winter annuals such as henbit, red sorrel, buttercup and little barley all use moisture and nutrients that our forage crops use to produce yields and break dormancy. In fescue stands henbit and buttercup can be a serious competitor for available moisture and fertilizer. That is especially true this year with these stands being open due to poor fall growth and potential over-grazing due to forage shortages. Newly seeded stands of fescue can be “overtopped” by these weeds due to their aggressive annual growth patterns. That will severely limit the ability of those stands to become established prior to summer dormancy. There are some excellent herbicides available to help deal with those particular weeds.

Winter annuals also severely limit the development of our warm season forages by competing for moisture and nutrients as these forages break their winter dormancy and begin to grow. Also, most of these weeds have a growth cycle that allows them to have mature seed ready for deposit as our warm season forages become ready for their first harvest. That means we do a pretty good job of spreading next season’s weed crop at that harvest. Control of winter annuals in bermudagrass pastures and hay fields also helps generate a crop earlier and of higher volume due to minimal competition. Also, if warm season forage quality is an issue, we can increase it tremendously by killing winter annuals prior to the end of warm season forage winter dormancy.

There are some very good herbicides available today that can control emerged forage weeds and some that even give some residual weed control. We need to look through the options and see which ones will work by controlling the weeds that need to be controlled. With the cost of fuel and fertilizer today, trips across fields need to be limited and we need to insure that our forages not weeds are taking-up the fertilizer applied.

Below is a table with relative rankings of an herbicide’s effectiveness against the listed weeds. The rankings were developed by using published data from the University of Arkansas, the University of Georgia, Mississippi State University and the University of Tennessee. They are relative and may have some variance due to species difference here in North Carolina. However, at present this is the best comparative information available for our area. The rankings are: E = Excellent, G = Good, F = Fair and P = Poor. Any blank space indicates that no information was available related to that weed and herbicide. Any use of these herbicides should be based on following their label directions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed</th>
<th>2,4-D Ester</th>
<th>2,4-D Amine</th>
<th>Grazon P+D</th>
<th>Banvel</th>
<th>Cimarron Max</th>
<th>Cimarron R &amp; P</th>
<th>Remedy</th>
<th>paraquat</th>
<th>glysopate</th>
<th>Milesotone</th>
<th>Forefront</th>
<th>Crossbow</th>
<th>Pastureguard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bitter Sneezeweed</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttercup</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E-</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G-</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickweed</td>
<td>F-G</td>
<td>F-G</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F-G</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henbit</td>
<td>P-F</td>
<td>P-F</td>
<td>P-G-E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>G-E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F-G-P-E</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Barley</td>
<td>P-F</td>
<td>P-F</td>
<td>P-P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P-E</td>
<td>G-E</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantains</td>
<td>G-E</td>
<td>G-E</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F-P-E</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P-G-E</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sorrel</td>
<td>P-F-P-P-F</td>
<td>E-P-E</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E-P-P-G</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F-G-F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistles</td>
<td>E-G-E</td>
<td>E-G-F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>G-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1
Weed Response to Herbicides

Recommendations for the use of chemicals is included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University, North Carolina A & T State University or North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage regulations and examine a current product label before applying any chemical.
Sale Requirements

- Producers must have a current BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) certification.
- Farm must have a premise identification number.
- Calves will be source and age verified according to USDA specifications. Contact Bruce Shankle, NCDA&CS at 919-733-7912, ext. 251 or 704-826-8848 for information and procedures.
- Calves must be weaned and bunk broke at least 45 days before sale.
- Final vaccinations (2nd set of shots) must be given at least 3 weeks before the sale and no more than 6 weeks before the sale.
- 1st set of shots should be given 2 to 4 weeks before Final Vaccinations.
- Vaccination records, dates and products must be maintained and provided to the market operator.
- Cattle will be graded, weighed and penned according to grade, weight, breed and sex. Over filled cattle will not be graded. Cattle will be graded and sold in truckload lots whenever possible.
- Sire ID recommended, but not required.

Health Requirements

The 2008 health protocol requires that all BQA Sale cattle follow a vac45 program with the following options listed below:

- WeanVac® - Pfizer Animal Health (required protocol from last year)
- SureHealth® - Merial®
- Prime Protection™ - Fort Dodge Animal Health
- Intervet Beef Calf Health Management Protocol

For more information on the specific requirements of these programs contact your local livestock extension agent.
2008 Norwood Area Feeder Calf Sale Schedule

March 20 - Spring Stocker Cattle Sale
    July 17
July 24 - BQA Sale
    August 21
September 4
September 11 - BQA Sale
    September 25
October 23

Remember that consignments are required and can be made by calling 704.983.3987.

Pasture Renovations at a Glance
Steve Lemons, Extension Agent, Agriculture, Stanly County Center

- Renovation does not always mean reseeding. Pastures that have large spaces between plants (> 6") may require reseeding to thicken stands.
- Simply resting pastures and improving management can significantly improve pasture stands.
- Control broadleaf weeds.
- Test soil and adjust fertility. Without proper soil fertility, pasture renovation will not be successful.
- Suppress existing sod and decrease surface residue.
- Ensure good soil-seed contact.
- Seed at the recommended rate and on the proper date.
- Use certified or proprietary seed of a species adapted to our area.
- Inoculate legume seed.
- Never drill small-seeded forages deeper than ½ inch.
- Control post-seeding competition from weeds and established sod.
- Do not apply nitrogen fertilizer just prior or just after seeding. Nitrogen will encourage the growth of established sods resulting in increased competition for light, water, and nutrients that will, in many cases, kill developing seedlings.

- If you sold cows because of the drought, be cautious about buying replacements at the first sign of spring grass coming. Consider cross fencing and possibly harvesting pasture grass for hay in order to rebuild winter feed inventories.
Regional Beef Notes - Spring 2008

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Beware of Grass Tetany ................................................................................................. page 2
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Norwood Area Feeder Calf Sale Schedule ................................................................ page 5
Pasture Renovation at a Glance...................................................................................... Page 5

Calendar of Events

March 18, 2008, 7 pm—Year Round Forage System at Stanly County Agri-Civic Center
April 12, 2008, 9 am—1 pm—Household Hazardous Waste Disposal & Electronics Waste Recycling Event