



# Regional Beef Notes Spring 2016

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## Veterinary Feed Directive: Changes to Come 2016 Jessica Morgan, Agriculture Agent, Anson County

### What is VFD (Veterinary Feed Directive)?

- The FDA has taken steps toward changing how medically important antibiotics can be legally used in feed or water for food-producing animals.
- They are moving to eliminate the use of such drugs for production purposes (growth promotion and feed efficiency) and bring remaining therapeutic uses in feed and water under the supervision of licensed veterinarians.

### What's that mean?

- A veterinarian must issue all orders for inclusion of antibiotics in feed or water for livestock food-producing animals.
- All VFD orders for VFD drugs must be issued within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR). A valid VCPR is the basis of veterinary supervision and is a legal agreement between veterinarian and livestock producer.
- Think of it like a prescription. Certain drugs are restricted and now must be regulated by a veterinarian. But, that veterinarian can't be anyone, it must be some one that has a relationship with you and your herd and understands your operation and agrees with the reasoning behind your antibiotic use.

### How does this effect me?

- All antibiotics except ionophores (Rumensin, Bovatec, Catalyst) in feed are included under the VFD.
- The most popular usage in beef cattle is chlortetracycline (CTC) in mineral supplements. Typically used for anaplasmosis prevention given at low levels.

### When does this start?

- December 31, 2016 is when this rule should be taking effect. However, changes are occurring frequently from the federal level.
- Expect more information as the year progresses, especially as states are responsible for veterinary oversight of the rules.

## Anson County Cattlemen's Scholarship Deadline to apply is May 13, 2016.

Scholarship Amount \$1,000. Applications available on line at [anson.ces.ncsu.edu](http://anson.ces.ncsu.edu). Any Anson Co. High School Senior majoring in an agriculture field is eligible to apply. Also, any direct family member of an Anson County Cattlemen's Association member who is a senior of any school district and majoring in agriculture is eligible.

For more information contact Jessica Morgan, at 704.694.2415 or [jessica\\_morgan@ncsu.edu](mailto:jessica_morgan@ncsu.edu).

# Changes to the Feeder Cattle Sale Program

#1. Barn will stop taking cattle at **3pm** on sale dates. Sales will now begin at **6pm**.

#2. The Value-Added BQA will keep the Merck Animal Health pre-wean protocol, same as last year. 2 doses of Vista Once SQ and 2 doses of Vision 7 somnus, which will provide protection from respiratory disease clostridial/blackleg, h. somnus, and pasteurilla. The sample record keeping form is below with further information and if you have any questions please let me know.

#3. Graders will have the discretion to reject calves that show high stress levels as they enter the barn, whether that be from heat, hair, or attitude. As with all rejects, the

seller has the option to sell at the end of the sale, or take the calf home.

As always we'd like to encourage consignments which assist us in knowing cattle numbers and potential truckload numbers. This enables better communication and allows buyers to organize trucking and cattle placements which can help increase feeder cattle prices. **Consignments can be made by calling the NC Cooperative Extension, Anson County at (704) 694.2415 or Jessica or Marcus directly.**

**Reminder to contact Jessica, Bruce, or Marcus to get BQA calves tagged.**

### Norwood Area Value Added BQA Sale Record Keeping Form

This document meets animal health record keeping requirements for (BQA) Beef Quality Assurance standards.

**Health Protocol—PrimeVAC 45**

Pre-wean protocol highlighted

Health Protocol	Date / Serial #
Projected Sale Date	
Cattle Weaned (Minimum of 45 days before the sale date)	
1st dose— <b>Vista Once SQ - Pre-wean</b> - Vista 5 SQ	
1st dose— <b>Vision 7 Somnus - Pre-wean</b> - Vision 7 Somnus	
Parasite Control— <b>Safe-Guard or Panacur</b> (This deworming can be done pre-weaning or post weaning.)	
Booster — <b>Vista Once SQ - Pre-wean</b> - Vista Once SQ	
Booster — <b>Vision 7 Somnus - Pre-wean</b> - Vision 7 Somnus	
Administer "Value-Added BQA Tags"	
Heifers Guaranteed Open	
Implant (optional) - Ralgro	

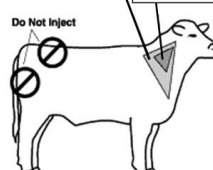
Producer Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm/Operation Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*The pre-wean protocol is an option that allows for younger calves to be vaccinated but the calves must be a **minimum of 3 months of age** to ensure proper efficacy of the vaccine.

\*Booster vaccinations (2nd doses) must be administered within **4 months of the sale date**. But also a minimum of **21 days before the sale date**.

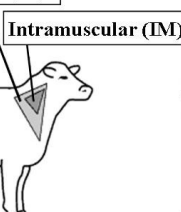
Sale Date	July 21	September 8
Booster Dose	March 21– June 30	May 8– August 18

Subcutaneous (SC)



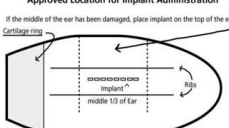
Do Not Inject



Intramuscular (IM)



Approved Location for Implant Administration

If the middle of the ear has been damaged, place implant on the top of the ear.



## 2016 Norwood Area Feeder Cattle Sales Schedule

**May 19**  
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale  
**July 14**  
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale  
**July 21**  
Value Added BQA Feeder Cattle Sale  
(Prime VAC 45)

**August 11**  
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale  
**September 8**  
Value Added BQA Feeder Cattle Sale  
(Prime VAC 45)  
**September 15**  
Regular Feeder Cattle Sale

## Proactive Weed Management

Samantha Foster, Extension Agent, Agriculture, Stanly County Center

Soon, Spring will be sprung here in the Piedmont. The hum of pollinators will fill the air and spring grasses will start poking their heads up from the soil. Unfortunately for many of us, that can mean a fresh crop of weeds as well. The good news is that there is a lot you can do when it comes to controlling pasture weeds and that being proactive about pasture maintenance will save you labor and heartache later on. So, what can you do to prevent an all-out war with weeds?

- 1) Submit soil samples for testing. Soils that need some tender loving care are ideal habitats for weeds. Weeds typically have a competitive edge over desirable species when challenged with soils having lower fertility, including soils with an “off” pH. A soil test can serve as a bar when figuring out if you need to apply lime or some kind of fertilizer. Being able to bring your soil health up to snuff will also make desirable species stronger and better able to compete with weeds. When taking soil samples, remember to take samples from different places in the pasture to get results that best represent it as a whole. If sampling a very large or diverse area, it is advisable to divide up the area and submit more than one sample. Additionally, avoid taking samples from around feeding areas. If you have any questions about taking a good soil sample or need other assistance, contact your local extension agent.
- 2) Be familiar with your pastures. This means setting aside time to walk through and check out what’s growing. Be able to identify beneficial types of forages that you want to promote, as well as what unwanted weeds look like in their vegetative state. Also, mind that not all weeds are poisonous or have poor nutritive qualities. There are numerous publications available that are great references for this task and literature is available through extension services. Additionally, most land-grant universities have a wealth of information on this subject online. There are even weed id apps available for smart phones. If you come across a plant that you just can’t identify, bring it in to your local extension office. Also, be aware of potential problem areas such as patches of bare ground, areas where hay containing weed seeds has been fed, and areas that have been over grazed or mowed very short.
- 3) Research what methods of control work best in your situation and use them at the proper time. Utilizing rotational grazing can help the growth of desirable plants by giving them a rest period, allowing them to grow before being grazed again and thus preventing overgrazed, weed-susceptible areas. When using seasonal grasses, be sure to fill in any gaps in growth with other varieties to prevent weeds from taking hold when they become unproductive. Mowing or using a species of livestock that will consume undesirable plants may be a good choice in sensitive areas, such as near bodies of water or residential areas. If you are dealing with a smaller population of weeds, pulling them up by hand or with a weed-remover may be effective as long as they are discarded appropriately. Herbicides are an option to control weeds that are young and actively growing. Select an appropriate herbicide and be sure to follow label directions and to apply during the correct stage of growth. In some situations, a controlled burn might be a valuable tool. However, make sure to obtain a burn permit from the NC Forest Service or another appropriate agency. Don’t forget to seed areas where desirable forage is sparse and to use the correct amount of seed during the appropriate time-frame.

No pasture will ever be 100% “pure,” but by taking the right steps you can have some control over that percentage. When promoting desirable forages, always be sure to buy certified seed that isn’t contaminated with weed seed and to sow seed at the appropriate time so that it has the best chance to be successful. Try to avoid contaminating a field that you have invested in by avoiding hay with weed seed in it and washing off equipment that may be carrying weeds seed from another field. Use appropriate management tools for your situation. Consider the value that different management strategies actually have in regards to the pasture you’re managing. If the amount of weeds in your pasture is minimal and they aren’t toxic, spraying the whole pasture with herbicide and buying a herd of goats is unlikely to be cost-effective, especially when you consider that some herbicides will damage beneficial legumes. If you do decide to use herbicides or controlled burns, be open in communication with neighbors who may be impacted and adhere to established regulations. If you are serious about managing your pastures, keep records. Well-kept records can help you notice trends and remind you of things that you may have otherwise forgot about.

Creating a strong pasture management program may seem like a lot of work or even be a little intimidating at first, but a healthy pasture will be a profitable pasture. If you get stuck or just want a second opinion, remember to contact your local extension agent, as they would be happy to lend a hand.

## Upcoming Events

<i>Union Co. Cattlemen's Meeting</i> .....	<b>March 24</b>
<i>7pm Union Ag Center</i>	
<i>Anson Co. Cattlemen's Meeting</i> .....	<b>April 12</b>
<i>7pm Anson Co Extension Center</i>	
<i>Union Co. Cattlemen's Association Replacement Heifer and Quality Female Sale</i>	
<i>12pm, Union County Livestock Market</i> .....	<b>April 23</b>
<i>Tentative BQA Certification</i> .....	<b>May 13</b>
<i>Contact Samantha or Jessica for more information</i>	
<i>Regular Feeder Calf Sale</i> .....	<b>May 19</b>

Persons with disability or persons with limited English proficiency can request accommodations by contacting Jessica Morgan, Extension Agent, 704.694.2415, Fax 704.694.2248, or e-mail [jessica\\_morgan@ncsu.edu](mailto:jessica_morgan@ncsu.edu) at least five days prior to any event listed in this newsletter.

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