

Extension Cattle Call

Stanly County Livestock Market - Norwood

September 2018

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NC Beef Cattle Field Day 2018

Aaron Ray Tompkins, Livestock Agent, Alleghany County

WHEN: October 6, 2018

WHERE: Upper Mountain Research Station
[8004 NC Highway 88 E](#)
Laurel Springs, NC 28644



On October 6, 2018 there will be a North Carolina Beef Cattle Field Day at the Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs. This event will include several tour options on the grounds of the Research Station that will focus on various methods of hay storage and feeding; hay loss, hay quality, and soil health; purchasing the right type of animal for stockering; and a nutritional program for stocker cattle to compare grazing and feed based programs. During lunch a brief BQA update on beef quality assurance at state and national levels will be given.

The agenda for the day is as follows:

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Graduate Student Poster Session

9:30 a.m. Stocker Cattle Producer Panel

10:15 a.m. Farm Tours:

Hay Storage and Feeding Management

Cattle Marketing

Nutritional Programs for Stocker Cattle

12:15 p.m. BQA Update

12:30 p.m. Lunch

You may register online at <https://www.nccattle.com/news-events/events> or by phone at (336) 982-2501 and (336) 456-3943

Fenceline Management

Nathan Kiger, Livestock Agent, Cabarrus County

Managing fence lines and keeping them well maintained and clean is an area that doesn't need to be overlooked. Two main areas of concern are weeds and damage. Weeds can distribute their seed rapidly and negatively impact your fields, so it is important to keep your weed pressures low along fence lines. Just as with the rest of your fields, prevention is a vital part. Mowing or using chemical controls to stop weeds before they reach their seed head is critical in order to prevent weeds from spreading. Most chemicals work best when weeds are young and actively growing, so timing is critical for the best control. When spraying, foliar applications provide a more rapid control of existing weeds, however, they are not going to provide as much residual control as soil applications. So if it is possible at your operation, it may be worth some time to look at spraying earlier rather than later. Some products that can be used are commonly found on farms already. A few ideas for products that can be used for broadleaf and woody plant control are 2,4,D Amine, GrazonNext HL (which contains 2,4,D), or Remedy Ultra. For grass control you could look towards Pastora or the common favorite Roundup. But of course there are other options. As always, be sure to read chemical labels thoroughly and check for application instructions/timing as some may work better at certain growth stages and with the addition of a surfactant.

In addition to weed control, it is also important to check your fence lines for damage. Fence lines that are damaged or broken by weather, livestock, equipment, etc. can leave openings where livestock can escape. For electric fences, it is important to check your voltage and current regularly. Fallen limbs/trees or a broken insulator can cause faults in the current running through the lines. Knowing what voltage and current your fence normally carries will help you determine if you are having a problem. If a problem does occur and you have ruled out a faulty power supply or main ground, you can search for a fault in the line with a fault finder. By using a fault finder, you can check the amperage reading and follow the flow of current until you get to the point where amperage drops off. At this point it could be an obvious fault (limb/tree) or you could have a subtle issue like a broken insulator or switch.

Weeds of the Month

Phil Rucker, Livestock Agent, Yadkin/ Davie County

Nodding Spurge is an Erect summer annual that can grow 10-30" tall. The leaves are oval with small teeth along margins. The plant has a caustic milky sap if stems or leaves are broken making this a toxic weed we need to eliminate from our pastures and hay fields. Nodding spurge is very similar to other spurges but Nodding spurge is erect, not prostrate and the leaves are much larger than its relatives. Control can be difficult as many common herbicides have little effect. A thick stand of grass goes a long way but an herbicide with Metsulfuron (Chaparral, Cimarron Plus) is the product of choice. Just remember metsulfuron can temporarily stunt and yellow fescue.



Prickly Sida (Teaweed) is a summer annual with yellow flowers and very small spines at the base of each leaf and branch. It is erect, branched and ranges from 8 to 20 inches in height. Stems are tough and the roots run deep making this weed tough to control. Prickly sida can steal large amounts of moisture and nutrients your forage needs to be productive. Mowing before the seeds are set can be beneficial in getting rid of Prickly sida. Postemergent herbicide treatments to control Prickly sida can be effective if treated before they get too large for adequate control. Some herbicide options are dicamba, 2,4-D (if applied when plants are less than 4 inches), GrazonNext and Cimarron Plus.

