Livestock Newsletter
April 2011

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252-902-1703

Calendar of Events

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For more information on above events call 252-902-1703.

Pitt Greene Cattlemen’s Meeting

The Pitt Greene Cattlemen’s association will meet on May 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM at Country Square Ranch in Farmville. Josh McMillian from Dow AgroSciences will be presenting a program on pasture weed control. Please RSVP for dinner with Jerry Flanagan by calling 252-753-3756.

Eastern Carolina Small Ruminant Symposium

A symposium for sheep and goat producers in Eastern North Carolina will be held on May 14th at the Pitt County Ag Center. Expert speakers will cover a variety of topics important to profitable production. Presentations topics include forage management and utilization, parasite control, general flock health, out of season breeding, and marketing. I encourage all current producers and those wanting to raise sheep or goats to attend. The meeting starts at 9am and will include a sponsored lunch. Please call the Pitt County extension office at 252-902-1709 and let us know if you plan to attend.

Pitt County Hay Producers List

I have had several requests for phone numbers of local hay producers. The list I have is from several years ago and needs updating. If you produce hay, please call the extension office at 252-902-1709 and provide the following information: name, address, phone number, type and size of hay produced. Thank you in advance for your help in allowing us to keep our lists up to date as well as offering the most up to date information to our citizens.
Storm Debris Impact on Livestock

In light of the recent storms that moved across NC, I thought this article from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service had a lot of important facts about storm debris impacts on cattle.

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The aftermath of Oklahoma’s recent tornadoes has many cattle producers walking their pastures looking for insulation, building materials and other debris that may negatively affect animal health and time management costs.

Cattle will eat just about anything that looks interesting in the pasture, cautions Doug Maxey, Okmulgee County Extension director and agricultural educator.

“Producers are going to have to pick up as much debris from their pastures as possible,” Maxey said. “This can be a painstaking, labor-intensive process given the potential amount of small debris.”

Insulation can cause bloat, impaction and gastro-intestinal problems when consumed, including possible hemorrhaging of the rumen. Nails and other small pieces of metal can cause “hardware” disease, health problems associated with the consumption of metal.

Dr. Gene Parker, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service veterinarian and area food animal quality and health specialist, said a single piece of wire consumed by a bull, cow, heifer or calf can drop down into the reticulum, the first stomach, where it potentially can pierce the heart.

Other problems sometimes associated with “hardware” disease are the shutting down of the rumen, depression, acute pain and decreased milk production.

“Insulation debris is more problematic, because of the small size,” Parker said. “Producers are unlikely to rid their pastures of every bit of insulation. If animals exhibit symptoms of insulation-related problems, producers should contact their local veterinarians immediately.”

Treatment of cattle suffering from insulation problems is symptomatic.

“Your local veterinarian will treat on a case-by-case basis,” Parker said. “This might mean employing a treatment with laxatives, mineral oil, fluid therapy or, in appropriate cases, surgery.”

Nails and other sharp metal objects of various sizes also create a significant hazard to the feet and legs of animals. It is not uncommon for these objects to cause puncture wounds and cuts in the feet and legs of livestock.

“Often these metal objects have been carried by wind or washed into water holes, ponds or other areas accessible to livestock and a potential source of injury,” Maxey said. “It’s prudent for livestock owners to keep this in mind when they have animals showing lameness.”

If an animal is lame for more than one or two days and the lameness continues to worsen, Maxey and Parker recommend the animal be examined by a veterinarian.

The statewide Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service is part of Oklahoma State University’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, comprised of the college, Extension and a second state agency, the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station system.

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