UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

June 19  Eastern NC Hay Day  Pitt County
July 2   Wool Pool              Williamston
July 30  Initial 10 Hr. Waste Mgt. Training  Clinton

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA HAY DAY

Pamphlet enclosed giving details/directions for this event on June 19. Credits for operators of livestock waste management systems available as well as credit for certified crop advisors. Plan to join us.

DROUGHT PROGRAMS

Two programs have been available to assist livestock producers related to losses due to the drought. USDA’s Farm Service Agency Livestock Compensation Program provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered losses or incurred additional feed cost directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2007.

The NC Agricultural Drought Recovery Program is being administered statewide through Soil and Water Conservation District offices. The cost share program can cover up to 75% of the cost of restoring drought-damaged pastureland and providing additional water supply for livestock and crops for those that qualify. Both offices can be reached by calling 752-6112.
WOOL POOL

The 2008 Wool Pool will be held on July 2 from 8 am to 12 noon in Williamston at Rogers Tobacco Warehouse on Business 64. (This location is the same as the last few years). I have information from the Mid-States Wool Cooperative that provides details regarding contamination of wool for those that need it. Contamination of wool with twine, manure, hair sheep, black wool (keep separated from white wool) are easy problems to solve and can result in easier marketing of the wool and a higher price. Contact the FSA office for details about the USDA price support program for wool (only $0.15/lb. for the LDP payment on un-graded wool). Details at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA

SWINE WASTE REMINDERS

*All farms must perform a sludge survey each calendar year (unless an extension has been granted by DWQ).

*All farms must perform an irrigation calibration every OTHER year.

Call me at 902-1703 if I can assist you with these requirements.

FORAGE TIPS

June
- Take soil samples from fields to be planted or overseeded in the fall.
- Apply lime as far in advance as possible.
- Summer annuals can be planted, but yields reduced compared to May plantings.
- Clip over-mature cool season grasses.
- Use high mowing or grazing to reduce weedy grass competition in bermudagrass; do not reduce bermudagrass to less than 3 inches.
- Use herbicides, mowing, or grazing pressure to control summer weeds.
- Do not overgraze as it will weaken stands and reduce yields
- During drought conditions, be aware of the potential for nitrate poisoning.
- Do not overgraze during drought conditions, plants that are overgrazed will not respond well after the drought.

July
- Take soil samples and lime all fields that will be planted in the fall.
- Purchase seed for fall planting.
- Apply N to summer annuals.
- Maintain harvesting frequency of all crops; quality decreases with 4 to 5 weeks of regrowth.
- Follow the same tips as in June regarding drought conditions.