



Mountain Farms Update

Mitchell County Center

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TRACTOR Grand Opening



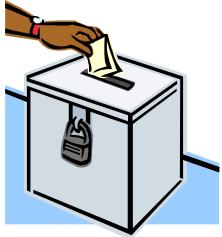
The TRACTOR (Toe River Aggregation Training Organization Region, Inc.) facility is nearing completion and will soon be ready for produce. A Growers' meeting will be held at the **TRACTOR** facility on Thursday, August 30th, at 5:30 pm. ASAP Representative, Bridget Kennedy, will be on hand to share about the Ag Options Program, and someone from the Health Department will be there to tell about a GAP cost share program.

A light meal will be served sponsored by Carolina Farm Credit. All growers interested in participating in the TRACTOR facility are encouraged to attend this very important and informative meeting. Please call the Extension Office by Tuesday, August 28th, to let us know if you will be able to attend.

For those that have not heard TRACTOR is an aggregation center that will serve farm-based producers to increase economic success in production agriculture for local markets in the Southern Appalachian region. The Center will train and educate new and existing farmers on best production methods to increase local sales of farm based outputs including fresh vegetables, meats, value-added foods, and other products with consumer demand in the region. The center will increase economic opportunity for farm-based producers through aggregating assets including postharvest handling facilities, unified grading and packaging services, and coordinated marketing to retail establishments, wholesalers, and consumers.



Cattle Industry Referendum



The North Carolina Cattlemen's Association (NCCA) has announced that the N. C. Cattle Industry

Assessment Referendum vote will take place on October 4, 2012.

The North Carolina Cattlemen's Association requested permission from the N. C. Board of Agriculture to conduct a referendum to continue the N. C. Cattle Industry Assessment. Permission was granted by the Board of Agriculture and arrangements have been made with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service to facilitate the voting. The Extension offices in each county will be the polling places.

The referendum would continue the original state assessment program, which was first established in 1957. The national beef check-off assessment of one dollar per head will still be collected and will be used according to the guidelines set forth in federal law. According to Mr. Cameron, "The national beef checkoff does a tremendous job of promoting beef and the beef industry, returning \$5.50 per dollar invested; however, these funds cannot be used for many of the production and regulatory-oriented issues facing the industry today. The N. C. Cattle Industry Assessment Referendum would allow producers to continue to provide

funds that would be controlled totally by the North Carolina beef and dairy producers to promote our product, our youth, our industry, and to provide research and advocacy to protect their way of life." Since the assessment was reinstated on January 1, 2010, research and education projects have been funded to deal with production issues facing North Carolina cattlemen in the areas of management, forage production, feed efficiency, and general input reductions.

WNC Bull Test



The Waynesville Bull Test is taking place on N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Mountain Research Station, in

Waynesville. The bulls were delivered on July 25 to the test station. There are a total of 49 bulls on test this year. Thirty-six are Angus, seven Simmental, five Gelbvieh and one Angus x Simmental cross. The next weigh day will be October 2. If you would like to visit or take one or more producers you can contact Danny Hyatt ([828-456-3943](tel:828-456-3943) or William.Hyatt@ncagr.gov) and set up a time to visit. If you have any questions you can contact Gary Gregory at [919-515-4027](tel:919-515-4027) or gary_gregory@ncsu.edu You can also contact your local extension agent for the on-test report of each bull in the test.

Deer Diseases

Many of you have probably seen media reports about the epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) that is going through some deer herds in WNC. There is also a similar disease called Blue Tongue that can affect deer. These diseases have not affected cattle in the past even though they are a disease that could attack cattle. Below is a brief summary of each of the diseases from the USDA APHIS and Michigan Department of Natural Resources websites.

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is an acute, infectious, often fatal viral disease of some wild ruminants. This malady, characterized by extensive hemorrhages, has been responsible for significant epizootics in deer in the northern United States and southern Canada. The mode of transmission of EHD in nature is via a *Culicoides* biting fly or midge. *Culicoides variipennis* is the most commonly incriminated vector in North America. White-tailed deer develop signs of illness about 7 days after exposure. A constant characteristic of the disease is its sudden onset. Deer initially lose their appetite and fear of man, grow progressively weaker, often salivate excessively, develop a rapid pulse and respiration rate, and fever (affected animals frequent bodies of water to lie in to reduce their body temperature) and finally become unconscious. Hemorrhage and lack of oxygen in the blood results in a blue appearance

(Deer Diseases continued)

of the oral mucosa, hence the name 'bluetongue'. Eight to 36 hours following the onset of observable signs, deer pass into a shock-like state, become prostrate and die

Bluetongue is an insect-borne, viral disease primarily of sheep, occasionally goats and deer and, very rarely, cattle. The disease is non-contagious and is only transmitted by insect vectors. The disease is caused by a virus belonging to the family Reoviridae.

The disease is characterized by fever, widespread hemorrhages of the oral and nasal tissue, excessive salivation, and nasal discharge. In acute cases the lips and tongue become swollen and this swelling may extend below the lower jaw. Lameness, due to swelling of the cuticle above the hoofs and emaciation, due to reduced feed consumption because of painful inflamed mouths, may also be symptoms of this disease. The blue tongue that gives the disease its name occurs only in a small number of cases.

The virus cannot be transmitted between susceptible animals without the presence of insect carriers. The incidence and geographical distribution of bluetongue depends on seasonal conditions, the presence of insect vectors, and the availability of the susceptible species of animals. The insect carriers, biting midges, prefer warm, moist conditions and are in their greatest numbers and most active after it rains.

Cover Cropping



Winter annual cover crops have been used in rotation with summer crops for many years in North Carolina. Early experiments date from the 1940s and show several important benefits, chief among them being erosion control, addition of nitrogen (N) to the soil for use by a subsequent crop, removal of N from the soil to prevent nutrient loading, buildup of soil organic matter, and buildup of residue that acts as a water-conservation or -retention mulch.

Generally, winter cover crops are planted in early fall and allowed to grow over the winter until early spring, when their growth is terminated by plowing, crimping, or herbicide treatment. In conservation tillage systems, the residue from the cover crop is not plowed under after the herbicide treatment and remains on the surface as mulch.

Winter annual cover crops can be either legumes or cereals. Legumes that are best adapted to North Carolina soil and climatic conditions are crimson clover, hairy vetch, Austrian winter pea. Cereals or small grains that are best for North Carolina are rye, wheat, barley, and triticale.

Legume cover crops contribute N to a subsequent crop, relieving the farmer of some of the cost of buy-

ing fertilizer. Legumes can supply much of the N required for many summer crops, from row crops like corn or grain sorghum to vegetables such as sweet corn, cabbage, squash, and pumpkins.

Grass or small grains help control erosion. Cover crops in a conservation tillage planting system provide erosion control during the winter while the plant is growing and mulch for the soil surface during the summer in the form of crop residue. This surface mulch enhances rainfall infiltration from summer rains, reduces soil water evaporation, and provides weed control by early shading.

It is possible to combine two or more cover crop species in a single planting and realize the benefits of each. In general, a grass species is combined with one or more legume species. For example, when cereal rye and hairy vetch are planted together, the rapid germination and early fall growth of cereal rye helps to stabilize the soil surface and permit the more fragile hairy vetch seedlings to thrive. The following spring, the cereal rye plants provide physical support for the climbing hairy vetch stems.

Preferred planting dates for winter annual legumes in the mountains are from August 10 – September 15. For small grains, the preferred planting window is from August 15 – September 30. To obtain a copy of the complete publication on winter annual cover crops, drop by the Extension office or visit <http://www.soil.ncsu.edu/publications/extension.htm>.

Fall Twig Aphid

As growers are getting into fall they may realize that they have some extra time for making pesticide applications. So, which pest are you controlling if a treatment is made during September or October? Twig aphid is going to be one of the main pests controlled. By doing a fall treatment, your twig aphid for spring 2013 are the ones you are controlling. It is still recommended to scout next spring to make sure that all twig aphids have been controlled. If they haven't, a spring application would need to be made.

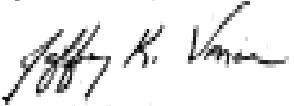
Another pest that could be controlled is the Elongated Hemlock Scale. This treatment needs to be com-

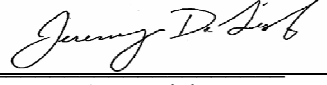
pleted in September. Any of the applications should control Cinarra Aphids, Spruce Spider Mites and give some control of Balsam Woolly Adelgid if you have them.

The key is using the right materials. To get all pests at once you will need to use a high-pressure spray and a combination of Talstar or Sniper (bifenthrin), Asana XL (esfenvalerate) and Dimethoate.

For assistance in scouting or making a decision about what needs to be controlled and when, please feel free to call the extension office at 688-4811.

The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services does not imply endorsement by the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

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