

Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

June/July 2013

This LIVESTOCK UPDATE contains timely subject matter on beef cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and related junior work. Use this material as you see fit for local newspapers, radio programs, newsletters, and for the formulation of recommendations.

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Scott P. Greiner, Extension Project Leader
Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences

Dates to Remember

BEEF

OCTOBER

25 19th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale, VT Beef Cattle Center, Blacksburg.
Contact: Dr. Dan Eversole, (540) 231-4738, email: deversol@vt.edu

HORSE

JULY

29 thru 8/3 Southern Regional 4H Horse Championships. West Monroe, LA.
Contact: Celeste Crisman, (540) 231-9162; email: ccrisman@vt.edu

SEPTEMBER

12-15 State 4-H Championship Horse & Pony Show. Virginia Horse Center. Lexington, VA.
Contacts: Celeste Crisman, (540) 231-9162; email: ccrisman@vt.edu or Jessica Tussing, (540) 231-6345; email: jessit07@vt.edu

SHEEP

AUGUST

24 Virginia Performance Test Ram Lamb Sale. Shenandoah Valley AREC. Steeles Tavern.
Contact: Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159; email: sgreiner@vt.edu
31 14th Annual Virginia Tech Sheep Center Production Sale. Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. Blacksburg. **Contact:** Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159; email: sgreiner@vt.edu

June Herd Management Advisor

Scott P. Greiner & Mark A. McCann
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech

Although the official start of summer isn't until the 21st of the month, summer conditions have already made an appearance. Cattle comfort should be monitored ensuring adequate shade and availability of clean water. Hot weather also signals the onset of fly season. Delay application of tags until a threshold of about 100 flies per side. The delay of tag application in early summer extends protection into the warm days of early fall. Cool season grasses are now mature; if weather conditions are dry delay pasture clipping until there is adequate soil moisture for forage regrowth. Pasture rotation during the summer months will guarantee a rest period for forages yielding a more productive, diverse pasture.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Focus on forage management, cow nutrition and young calf health
- Manage first-calf heifers separately; give them best forage and supplement

Nutrition and Forages

- Continue feeding high magnesium minerals to prevent grass tetany; may be able to switch to high Se mineral as grass matures.
- Complete harvest of first cutting hay early in month
- Start grazing warm season grasses
- Implement rotational grazing management system which will provide a rest period for pastures.
- Make plans to store your high quality hay in the dry
- Collect and submit forage samples for nutrient analysis

Herd Health

- Implement parasite and fly control program for herd
- Administer mid-summer deworming and implant calves late in month or early next month
- Plan vaccination and preconditioning protocol for calf crop
- Castrate commercial calves if not done at birth, consider castrating bottom end of male calves in seedstock herds

Reproduction

- Finish AI; turn out clean-up bulls
- Remove bulls from replacement heifers after 45 day breeding season
- Make plans to pregnancy check heifers as soon as possible after bull removal. This will allow options in marketing open heifers.
- Use 48 hour calf removal for thin cows and first-calf heifers at beginning of breeding season
- Monitor bulls closely during the breeding season. Observe frequently to confirm breeding performance and soundness, and monitor cows for repeat estrus. Avoid overworking young bulls (a rule of thumb- yearling bulls should be exposed to number of cows equal to their age in months).

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Plan a marketing strategy for open cows. Cull cow prices typically peak mid-spring through mid-summer, and prices generally stronger for cows in good body condition vs. thin cows (evaluate forage availability and potential feed and management costs to increase BCS of cull cows if warranted).
- Finalize marketing plans for calf crop. Time weaning, vaccination program, and weaning management to meet operational goals. Calculate break-evens on various marketing options and consider risk management strategies.
- Reimplant commercial calves.

Nutrition and Forages

- Switch to high selenium trace mineral salt
- Body condition score cows. Plan nutrition and grazing program based on BCS. This is the most efficient period to put weight and condition on thin cows.
- As calves are weaned move cows to poorer quality pastures
- Use palatable feeds during the weaning period to bunk train calves and minimize weight loss.
- Reserve high quality hay and a pasture area for calves post-weaning
- Start grazing warm season grasses

Herd Health

- Administer mid-summer deworming on replacement heifers and pregnant heifers
- Implement parasite and fly control program for herd
- Consult with veterinarian on vaccination protocol for calf crop. Design vaccination and weaning program around marketing goals and objectives. Vaccinate, wean, and certify calves to be marketed in late summer.

Genetics

- Identify replacement heifers. Utilize available tools including genetics, dam performance, individual performance, and phenotype. Restrict replacement heifer pool to those born in defined calving season.
- Finalize plans for post-weaning development and marketing of bulls in seedstock herds.

July Herd Management Advisor

Scott P. Greiner & Mark A. McCann
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech

July heat makes beef cows look for shade and cattlemen's minds drift to cooler days. Those cooler days are the preamble to the winter feeding of the inevitable cold weather. July is also the time to make plans to reduce next winter's feeding days through forage management and stockpiling tall fescue. Other than reducing cow numbers, there is no better strategy to reduce the quantity and quality of winter feeding than stockpiling tall fescue. Remember three important keys to stockpiling success:

- 1) Remove accumulated growth through grazing or clipping.
- 2) Nitrogen fertilization of 40-60lb N/acre
- 3) Allow forage to accumulate and strip graze to increase the efficiency of utilization

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Focus on breeding season, forage management, and calf health.
- Manage first-calf heifers separately; give them best forage and supplement

Nutrition and Forages

- Switch from high-mag minerals to high Se mineral as grass matures.
- Manage growth of warm season grass pastures by rotational grazing
- Implement rotational grazing management system which will provide a beneficial rest period for pastures. July can be a challenging forage management month. Depending on moisture, cattlemen are either trying to extend the utilization of mature early forage growth or if moisture is abundant, manage the growth of warm season forages
- Store your high quality hay in the dry.
- Collect and submit forage samples for nutrient analysis.

Herd Health

- Implement parasite and fly control program for herd.
- Administer mid-summer deworming and implant
- Consult with your veterinarian for a pinkeye control and treatment program
- Plan vaccination and preconditioning protocol for calf crop.
- Castrate commercial calves (if not done at birth), consider castrating bottom end of male calves in seedstock herds.

Reproduction

- Remove bulls from replacement heifers after 45 day breeding season
- Make plans to pregnancy check heifers as soon as possible after bull removal. This will allow options in marketing open heifers.
- Monitor bulls closely during the breeding season to confirm breeding performance and soundness, and monitor cows for repeat estrus. Avoid overworking young bulls (a rule of thumb- yearling bulls should be exposed to number of cows equal to their age in months).
- Remove bulls after 60 days for controlled calving season

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Wean calves to allow ample opportunity for cows to replenish BCS prior to calving.
- Finalize marketing plans for calf crop. Time weaning, vaccination program, and weaning management in concert with marketing plans. Calculate break-evens on various marketing options and consider risk management strategies.
- Market open cows. Cull cow prices typically peak mid-spring through mid-summer, and prices generally stronger for cows in good body condition vs. thin cows (evaluate forage availability and potential feed and management costs to increase BCS of cull cows if warranted).

Nutrition and Forages

- Switch to high selenium trace mineral salt
- Body condition score bred females. Plan nutrition and grazing program based on BCS. This is the most efficient period to put weight and condition on thin cows
- Reserve high quality hay and a pasture area for calves post-weaning.
- Manage growth of warm season grass pastures by rotational grazing
- Implement rotational grazing management system which will provide a beneficial rest period for pastures. July can be a challenging forage management month. Depending on moisture, cattlemen are either trying to extend the utilization of mature early forage growth or if moisture is abundant, manage the growth of warm season forages
- Store your high quality hay in the dry.
- Collect and submit forage samples for nutrient analysis.

Herd Health

- Administer mid-summer deworming on replacement heifers and pregnant heifers
- Implement parasite and fly control program for herd.
- Consult with your veterinarian for a pinkeye control and treatment program
- Implement vaccination protocol for calf crop. Design vaccination and weaning program around marketing goals and objectives. Vaccinate, wean, and certify calves to be marketed in late summer
- Reimplant commercial calves.

Genetics

- Identify replacement heifers. Utilize available tools including genetics, dam performance, individual performance, and phenotype. Restrict replacement heifer pool to those born in defined calving season.
- Finalize plans for post-weaning development and marketing of bulls in seedstock herds.

Tri-State Beef Conference to be Held in Abingdon, Virginia August 8-9

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Virginia Tech

The sixth Tri-State Beef Conference will be held August 8th and 9th at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Abingdon, VA. The conference will begin on the afternoon of August 8th with a virtual tour of beef operations in both Tennessee and Virginia followed by a question and answer session with the producers themselves. The tour will be followed by educational sessions on heifer development for both the cow/calf producer and stocker operator and pasture weed control. We will end the evening with a meal and speaker, Dr. John Anderson with the American Farm Bureau Federation. On Friday the 9th, there will be several speakers covering market outlook and planning, risk management, health and behavior impact on performance, and much more. A steak lunch will be provided followed by a look at the “big picture” by Tom Brink with JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeders. A trade show will accompany the conference, and include representatives from agribusiness firms supporting the beef business including animal health and equipment companies, feed suppliers, marketing agencies, lending institutions and related businesses. The meeting is being sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, University of Tennessee Extension, and North Carolina Cooperative Extension. Registration information and complete details will be available through your county Extension Office after July 1. Registration for the conference is \$20 before August 1 and \$25 after August 1. Additional information can be obtained from Dr. Scott Greiner, Extension Beef Specialist, Virginia Tech, phone 540-231-9159, email sgreiner@vt.edu, or on the web at <http://www.apsc.vt.edu/extension/beef/index.html> or through your local Extension office.

Tri-State Beef Conference

August 8-9, 2013
Washington County Fairgrounds
Abingdon, VA

A conference for both cow-calf producers
and stocker operators



Co-sponsored by

BEEF

Registration Form

Payment Information:

Enclose a check payable to:
Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association

Registration Fee

\$20 — Before August 1
\$25 — After August 1

Mail to:

Tri-State Beef Conference
c/o Phil Blevins
Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association
234 W. Valley Street, Suite B
Abingdon, VA 24210

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County: _____

Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

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Programs in agriculture and related sciences, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resources development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
All Tennessee residents equal opportunities in programs and employment.

This year's conference will address topics of interest to both stocker and cow-calf producers. Participants will hear from speakers on topics such as market outlook and planning, weed control, heifer development, risk management, and much more. We will be taking virtual tours of Tennessee and Virginia cow-calf and stocker operations on both days. We will then have a time of questions and answers with the producers themselves. This year's conference will be one that should add dollars to your bottom line whether you run a stocker or a cow-calf operation.

Thursday, August 8

Registration begins at 1:15 p.m.

The program will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Topics and Speakers

Virtual Tours of Tennessee & Virginia Beef Operations and Panel Discussion

Heifer Development for Both the Cow/Calf Producer and Stocker Operator

Dr. Justin Rhinehart
Assistant Professor
& Extension Beef Specialist
University of Tennessee

Scott County Premium Assured Heifer Program

Dr. Bill Fuller, DVM

Weed Control & Pasture Based Beef Operations

Dr. Scott Hagood
Professor Emeritus
Virginia Tech

We will conclude the evening with a meal followed by Dr. John Anderson, Deputy Chief Economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation speaking to us about issues facing the beef industry and how producers can respond.

Friday, August 9

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m.

The program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

A steak lunch will be provided for all participants.

Topics and Speakers

Beef Cattle Outlook and Market Planning

Jim Robb
Senior Agricultural Economist & Director
Livestock Marketing Information Center

Managing Price Risk in Beef Operations

Dr. Andrew Griffith
Assistant Professor
& Livestock Marketing Specialist
University of Tennessee

By-product Feeds and Feed Additives

Dr. Matt Poore
Professor & Extension Ruminant Specialist
North Carolina State University

Virtual Tours of Tennessee & Virginia Beef Operations and Panel Discussion

Health & Behavior and Their Impact on Performance in Stocker Operations & the Feedlot

Dr. Brad White
Associate Professor
Kansas State University
College of Veterinary Medicine

The Big Picture — Start to Finish

Tom Brink
Senior Vice President & Chief Risk Officer
JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding

Wrap-up

Wes Ishmael
Editor, BEEF Magazine

Directions to Fairgrounds



Take Exit 14 off I-81 to US 11

Turn left on US 11 at light

Go approximately 1/4 mile

Fairground Road is to the right

Conference Hotel

Comfort Suites

1093 Ole Berry Drive off I-81 exit 14

Abingdon, VA 24210

(276) 698-3040

Rate: \$88 single or \$99 double/night

Deadline for group rate: July 13

Group name: Tri-State Beef Conference

A trade show will be open during the afternoon on Thursday and on Friday, with many of the animal health, feed, and marketing organizations involved in the region's beef industry there for you to meet and learn more about their products and services.

The conference is presented by the University of Tennessee Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension and North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

UT Extension

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Empowering People • Providing Solutions

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Major Meeting on Beef Cattle Reproduction to be Held in Virginia October 15-16

Dr. Dee Whittier
Extension Veterinarian, Beef Cattle, Virginia Tech

Cattle producers, veterinarians and other industry personnel from across the country will have the opportunity to participate in an educational event called “Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle” to be held at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, VA on October 15 and 16, 2013. Virginians will have a front row seat.

The concept of “Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle” began over 10 years ago when leaders in the area of beef cattle reproduction recognized the need for in-depth education to increase reproductive performance in beef cattle and to encourage the use of newly discovered technologies. In particular, new techniques for estrus synchronization had recently been developed which held promise for making AI in beef cattle much easier and more profitable.

In the intervening years, educational events have been held across the country in at least fourteen locations. Motivated Virginians have had the opportunity to attend several of these, especially when they were held in Kentucky in 2005 and Tennessee in 2010. This will be the first time, however, that an event will be held in an eastern seaboard state and will give Virginians real convenience to attend.

The Stonewall Jackson Hotel is a somewhat new setting for a beef cattle meeting in Virginia. This is a lovely hotel with lots of history, but newly renovated to give it lots of comfort. It is in downtown Staunton, also newly restored to showcase its history.

The Virginia program of speakers is being finalized. Speakers at many former ARSBC events have included such recognized experts as David Patterson, Cliff Lamb, Sandy Johnson, John Hall, Michael Smith, George Perry, Sandy Johnson, Rick Funston, George Seidell, Matt Lucy and our own Dick Saacke.

Objectives of Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle include:

- Improve the understanding of the physiological processes of the estrous cycle, the procedures available to synchronize estrus and ovulation and the proper application of these systems.
- Improve the understanding of methods to assess male fertility and how it affects the success of AI programs.

Put these dates on your calendar now. More details will be forthcoming along with registration information.

Sheep Update
Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Virginia Tech

2013 Virginia-North Carolina Wool Pool

Producers in Virginia and North Carolina interested in marketing their wool through local wool pools will have the opportunity to do so through Mid-States Wool Growers Cooperative Association based in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Producers are encouraged to package, handle and store their wool in an appropriate manner in order to maximize the value of their wool clip. Wool should be packaged by type and grade (ewe vs. lamb wool, long staple vs. short wools, fine vs. medium wools) in plastic bags, and be clean, dry, and have foreign material (straw, mud, manure) removed prior to packaging. Following is a list of local pool delivery dates and locations where wool will be picked up:

July 3	Clarke Co., VA
July 10	Williamston & Albemarle, NC
July 11	Asheville & Sparta, NC
July 11	Russell Co., VA
July 12	Tazewell Co., VA
July 18	Rice, VA
July 19	Orange, VA
July 19	Augusta Co., VA
July 23	Christiansburg, VA
July 23	Wytheville, VA

To confirm the above dates and for more information regarding specific times and locations, contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office.

Proper Wool Handling

Proper harvesting, packaging, and storage of the wool is important to realize the full value of the wool clip. Since wool sales represent a very small portion of the gross returns for most sheep enterprise, wholesale changes to the genetics of the flock to improve fiber diameter and fleece weight are likely not justified for most Mid-Atlantic producers. However, there are several important steps that should be considered to maximize the value of the wool clip:

A. Minimize Contamination:

1. Keep shearing area clean and free of straw/hay and other potential sources of contamination.
2. Avoid use of plastic baler twine in sheep operation that may contaminate fleeces (this contamination occurs throughout the year, not just at shearing time).

B. Use Proper Packaging Material:

1. Do not use plastic feed sacks to store or package wool.
2. Plastic film bags are available and preferred. Points to consider with plastic film bags:
 - a. Sheep need to be dry when sheared. Plastic bags will not breathe as well as jute bags (more possibility for wool to mold and rot).
 - b. Plastic film bags will tear easier when handled.
 - c. Tie plastic film bags shut in similar manner to jute bags.
3. Store wool in dry place, avoid cement or dirt floors to prevent moisture uptake.

C. Sort Wool at Shearing Time

1. Shear white-face sheep first, blackface sheep last to avoid contamination of white-faced wool with black fibers.
2. Package lamb and ewe wool separate.
3. Remove tags at shearing and discard.
4. Sort belly wool and bag separately. Also sort wool caps and leg wool out if justified.
5. Off-type fleeces (black, high vegetable matter, etc.) as well as belly wool should be packaged first in a small plastic garbage bag or paper sack. The small bag may then be added to the large polyethylene film bag. The small bag serves to keep these wools separate and prevents them from contaminating other fleeces already packaged, and results in a more uniform lot of wool.
6. Do not tie wool with paper twine.

Sheep Field Day, Performance Tested Ram Lamb Sale and Replacement Ewe Lamb Sale is August 24 at Shenandoah Valley AREC

A full day of sheep activities are planned for Saturday, August 24 at the Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station near Steeles Tavern, Virginia. At 10:30 a.m. a Sheep Field Day with educational programs will be held. The 38th Annual Performance Tested Ram Lamb Sale will begin at 1:00 p.m. The top end of the eighty Suffolk, Dorset, Hampshire, Katahdin, White Dorper, and North Country Cheviot rams being evaluated on the 63-day test will be sold. All rams sold will be evaluated for structural and reproductive soundness, and will be sold as guaranteed breeders. Complete performance information will be available, including ultrasound measurements for carcass traits. Following the ram sale, the Virginia Sheep Producers Replacement Ewe Lamb Sale will be held. A select group of ewe lambs ready to breed will be offered. The Virginia Sheep Evaluation Station is located at the Virginia Tech Shenandoah Valley Agriculture Research and Extension Center, 0.5 mile east of I-81 at Exit 205 (just south of Staunton, VA). For sale information and a catalog, contact Scott Greiner, Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 24061, phone (540)231-9159 or email sgreiner@vt.edu. Current information is also available on the Virginia Tech Sheep Extension and Education website at <http://www.vtsheep.apsc.vt.edu/>.

Virginia Tech Sheep Center to Host 14th Annual Production Sale August 31

The 14th Annual Virginia Tech Sheep Center Production Sale will be held Saturday, August 31 at the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena on the campus of Virginia Tech. The sale offering will include Suffolk and Dorset ram lambs, along with Suffolk and Dorset ewe lambs. Complete performance data including EPDs and carcass ultrasound records are available. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the sheep teaching, extension, and research missions of the Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences. Sale details and catalog are available on the web at http://www.apsc.vt.edu/centers/sheepcenter/index_sheep.htm For additional information contact Dr. Scott Greiner, phone 540-231-9159 or email sgreiner@vt.edu.