



TRI-COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWSLETTER

Serving residents of Anson, Stanly and Union County

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Upcoming Events

Title: Stanly County Cattlemen's Association Meeting

Description: Educational program addressing 2023 antibiotic regulations. Dinner provided.

Date: 11/1/2022 6:30 PM

Title: Union County Cattlemen's Association Meeting

Description: Educational Topic TBD. Dinner is provided

Date: 10/13/22 6:30 PM

Title: Union County Performance Tested Bull Sale

Description: Held at the Simpson Event Center (307 Cultivation Circle Monroe, NC 28112).

Date: 12/3/22

For any meeting or program listed, persons with disabilities may request accommodations to participate by contacting the Extension Office where the meeting will be held by phone, email, or in person at least 7 days prior to the event.

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Calving Assistance Basics

by Rachel Owens

Calving season is a busy season that can be both exciting and stressful. Despite our best efforts, sometimes there is difficulty during the birthing process that leads to the question- do I pull the calf?

Start the timer once the water sac is visible. In a normal birth, you should expect to see a calf within 30 minutes for a mature cow and 60 minutes for a heifer.



There are a couple of reasons why you might consider intervening.

- If the cow stops pushing or trying and the water sac has been visible for over 2 hours
- If the cow takes breaks longer than 5-10 minutes. Pauses between contractions are normal but if they start to take too long, it could be an indication that something is not right
- If the cow or calf is too stressed or fatigued (swollen tongue in the calf, excessive rectal bleeding from the cow, etc)
- If there is an abnormal presentation of calf. Normal presentation will have the front feet coming out first followed by the nose.

If the calf is not presenting correctly, you can try a vaginal exam to determine where the calf is and level of dilation. Oftentimes you can correct certain abnormal presentations by yourself. If you don't feel comfortable with making the corrections you should call for assistance from your vet.

There are circumstances where you should not pull a calf. If the cow is not properly dilated, you want to avoid pulling. You can check dilation by gently inserting a clean, gloved, and lubricated hand into the reproductive tract. Feel for the cervix. If it is not dilated you will feel your hand passing through a stiff tubular or circle structure. If it is properly dilated you should not feel this ridge.

If the calf is too large to pass through the birth canal, avoid pulling as this will only cause damage to both calf and cow. The decision to perform a c-section should be made as early as possible. Forcing a birth before performing a c-section has been shown to decrease chances of survival for the calf. Evaluate the chances of success carefully.

Make sure you have your vet's number and supplies needed for calving on hand so that you are ready for when you encounter a difficult birth. Know what to expect for a normal birth and be aware of the signs where intervention may be necessary.

Getting Your Pastures Ready for Winter

by Katelyn Stegall

Fall is right around the corner, and that means it's time to think about pasture management for the coming winter. You want to consider a few different things in your fall pasture management plan.

Soil Testing: If you have not done a soil test in the last 3 years, now is the time to go ahead and get them done so you can plan fertilizer and lime applications. You can stop by your local Extension Office to pick up boxes and a sample form. The soil analysis is free from March to Thanksgiving, and \$4 December through February.



Lime/Fertilizer: Early fall is a great time to lime your pastures, as it takes about 4-6 months for lime to affect the pH of your soil and a fall lime application is a must for healthy spring pastures. In addition to lime, you should be thinking about a fertilizer application. Early fall is a great time to fertilize cool season grasses such as fescue. Your soil test results will have recommendations by lb/acre for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium which is great for determining what fertilizer to use, and at what rate you should apply.

Weed Control: While they may not grow in full bloom yet, winter weeds will start to germinate in late summer to early fall. Some winter weeds you may run into in this area are buttercup, curly dock, henbit, and chickweed. It is best to control these weeds before they mature, so fall is a great time to do so. Weeds are best controlled when you know exactly what it is you are controlling. If you are having trouble identifying a weed, reach out to your local Extension Agent! Once you know what weeds you are dealing with, refer to the Agricultural Chemical Manual for products and rates to control those weeds, and remember to pay close attention to the herbicide label!

Overseeding and Reseeding: You might consider overseeding winter annuals into some of your pastures. These need to be planted usually between late August and October, and can extend your grazing season by roughly two months. Some options for winter annuals that do well in this area include cereal rye, ryegrass, and oats. If your fescue pastures could use a refresh, they should also be reseeded in this time frame. You can reseed fescue by itself, or add in some clover for a little variety and give your nitrogen level a boost. Adding some variation to your fescue pastures can also dilute the fescue, which is great for those pastures with endophyte containing fescue. For more precise planting dates, contact your local Extension Office, or check out the NC Forage Planting Guide.

There's no doubt fall is a busy time for livestock producers, but a little management can go a long way when it comes to getting those pastures in good shape for the coming winter!

New Antibiotic Restrictions: What You Need to Know Before 2023

by Katelyn Stegall

Proper planning is vital to running a successful livestock operation, so we want to give you a heads up for what's coming soon!

In June of 2023, all medically important antibiotics used in livestock production will be leaving the farm and feed store shelves, and will fall under veterinary oversight.



What this means for you as a producer is that you will no longer be able to purchase affected drugs without a prescription from a veterinarian. Affected products will include: cephalixin, cephalixin benzathine, gentamicin, lincomycin, oxytetracycline, penicillin G procaine, penicillin G benzathine, sulfadimethoxine, sulfamethazine, tylosin. For clarity, this will include LA-200 and 300, Noromycin,

Vetramycin, Duramycin, Terramycin, Draxxin, Penicillin, Tylan, ToDay, TomMorrow, and many other commonly used livestock antibiotics. *These new guidelines will not include non medically important antimicrobials such as coccidiostats, ionophores, bacitracins, carbadox, flavomycins, and tiamulin.*

While this is a big change, there is no need to panic. There are steps you can take to help ease the transition!

First things first, you should NOT try to stock up on these antimicrobials for fear of not being able to get them in the future. These products are not coming off of the market completely, and will still be readily available when the right steps to obtain them are taken. Trying to stockpile these products will lead to shortages, and producers will not be able to get the treatments they need for their animals right now. These products will also expire, so any stockpile you try to build will be unusable in the future.

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What you need to focus on right now is establishing a veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR). A VCPR is “a formal relationship that you have with a veterinarian who serves as your primary contact for all veterinary services and is familiar with you, your livestock/animals, and your farm operation.” The State-defined VCPR must at least address the concepts that the veterinarian:

1. Engage with the client to assume responsibility for making clinical judgments about patient health
2. Have sufficient knowledge of the patient by virtue of patient examination and/or visits to the facility where patient is managed
3. Provide for any necessary follow-up evaluation or care

A VCPR form will be filed with your veterinarian's office.

This does not mean that you must have a veterinarian come out to diagnose and treat every animal that has an issue on your farm. It simply means that you will no longer be able to run to your nearest Tractor Supply and pick up a bottle of LA-200. These products will still be readily available, they will just have to be purchased through the veterinarian's office you have the established VCPR with, or with a prescription in hand (obtained through your veterinarian with the standing VCPR) at stores that still carry these products. These restrictions mean that the veterinarian is overseeing the use of antibiotics on your farm.

There are several advantages to these new regulations. As a livestock producer, you NEED to have a relationship with a veterinarian. These new restrictions will ensure that you do. Working with your veterinarian may help you to discover more effective antibiotic options for the condition that you are dealing with and veterinarians may be able to provide prevention options so that antibiotics are not even necessary. A relationship with your veterinarian will help them to be more familiar with your farm enterprise, so you can work together to come up with the best management, prevention, and treatment plans for your individual livestock operation.

It is important to keep in mind that this change is for the better. Getting some control over antibiotics will ensure that they stay useful, as the goal is to cut down on antibiotic resistance in both livestock and humans. Taking these steps helps to ensure that these products continue to do the job we need them to.

Start getting ready for this change now. Talk to your veterinarian, and establish that VCPR. If you need assistance finding a livestock veterinarian in your area, contact your local Extension Agent!