

The Pasture Post

Tri-County Livestock Newsletter

Serving Anson, Stanly, and Union Counties

Winter 2024 Edition

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Upcoming Events:

NC Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting and Conference

Feb 21-22, 2025 Hickory, NC

Registration and Info: <https://www.nccattle.com/news-events/annual-conference>

NC Forage and Grassland Council Winter Conference

Feb 20, 2025 Hickory, NC

Registration Coming Soon

Union County Cattlemen's Meetings

Third Thursdays at 6:30 at the Simpson Event Center- 307 Cultivation Cir Monroe, NC 28112

RSVP with Rachel Owens

Stanly County Cattlemen's Annual Meeting

Jan 3, 2025 6:00 PM

Farm Bureau Livestock Arena- 26130 Newt Rd, Albemarle
RSVP to Katelyn by 12/30

Anson County Cattlemen's Meetings

Second Tuesday of even months at 7 at the Anson County Extension office- 501 McLaurin St. Wadesboro

RSVP with Katelyn Stegall



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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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Winter Weed ID

By: Rachel Owens

As the weather cools down, summer weeds die off and a new set of weeds emerge for the winter months. Being able to identify these weeds can aid your efforts in controlling them in your pastures and hayfields. Regardless of the weed species, several points remain true.

The smaller and younger the plant, the more effective control efforts will be. Waiting for weeds to get mature and go to flower or seed only results in reduced efficacy of herbicides. Therefore, it is important to be scouting pastures early in the season and look for the seedlings or young plants, which can look different from the mature plant. Encourage a thick stand of grass to shade out weeds and keep them from germinating. Bare spots are perfect places for weeds to get a foothold.

When applying any pesticide, always be sure to read and follow all label instructions. Contact your local Extension Agent if you need assistance in selecting an herbicide or in understanding label requirements.

How well do you know your winter weeds?



Henbit

A common winter annual weed. Produces purple flowers and leaves are whorled with no petiole (unlike purple deadnettle, a similar looking weed). It has a square stem.

Purple Deadnettle

Another common winter annual weed often confused with henbit. It has similar purple flower and square stem but the leaves have petioles and have a more pointed/heart shape.



Winter Weed ID

By: Rachel Owens

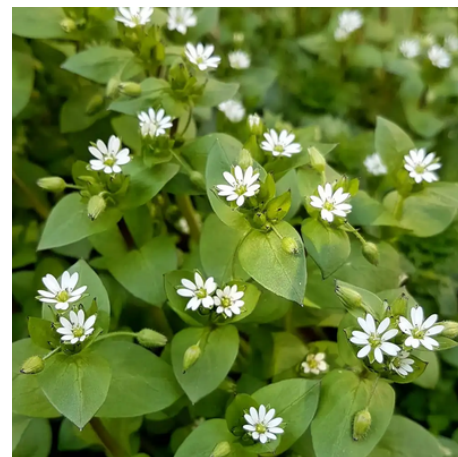


Buttercup

Winter annual weed that is known for its bright yellow five petal flower that shows up in the early spring. Leaves are three lobed with frilly edges. This weed thrives in thin or overgrazed pastures. A thick stand of grass is the best form of control. Chemical control is best achieved before blooms are present, either in the fall or early spring.

Chickweed

Winter annual weed that forms patchy mats. Opposite leaves, hairless, glossy and pointed at the tip. Has small white flowers with 5 petals that are notched.



Shepherds Purse

This winter annual grows from a rosette and has a tall stalk where the flowers grow. The leaves at the base are lance shaped with deep clefts or lobes. The flowers at the top of the stalk are small and white with four petals. The seed pods left behind after the flower dies are heart shaped.

Preparing for Lambing/Kidding

By: Katelyn Stegall

If you raise small ruminants, it shouldn't be too long before you have lambs and kids hitting the ground. It is important to make sure that you're prepared and have everything you might need ready to go so that you can give your lambs and kids the best possible start!

The list of things you could potentially need for lambing and kidding could go on for a while, so we are going to highlight some basics that you need for lambing/kidding, and for processing lambs and kids.

General Equipment

- Gloves and antimicrobial soap- should you have to assist a ewe/doe giving birth, you want to make sure that you are being as "clean" as possible. Dirt, manure, or any other substance can introduce bacteria to the ewe/doe, as well as the baby and you want to keep infection risks low
- A Halter- you need a way to restrain animals should you have to assist
- Dry towels/A hair dryer- in the livestock world, its not uncommon for babies to decide to come when it is COLD (and usually dark). It is helpful to have something available to help lambs and kids to dry off to help them stay a little warmer
- Heat Lamps- for extremely cold nights, it would be helpful to have heat lamps to keep new lambs/kids under

You want to make sure that your ewes/does and their new lambs/kids have access to shelter with clean, dry bedding and proper ventilation. It is also a good idea to pen ewe or does closer to a barn if possible should they need assistance lambing or kidding.

Shortly after they are born, lambs or kids will need to be "processed." This includes tagging for identification, dipping/spraying the navel, tail docking for sheep with longer tails, and castrating males if you plan to do so.

Equipment to have on hand includes:

- Ear tags
- Ear tagger
- Elastrator (for tail docking and castration)
- Elastrator bands
- Iodine



*Are you ready
for lambing and
kidding season?*

This is just a small piece of what you need to have on hand and ready to go for lambing and kidding. For a more comprehensive guide to lambing and kidding, visit this link: <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/lambing-and-kidding-cheat-sheet-for-beginning-small-ruminant-producers>. If you have any lambing or kidding questions, or questions about how to be prepared, contact your local livestock agent!

Timely Reminders

Cattle

Be sure to keep an eye on water troughs to make sure they don't freeze.

If feeding hay during wet/rainy periods, try to choose a sacrifice area for hay feeding, and stick to one "path" for the tractor to get there to reduce rut damage in your pastures.

Horses

Encourage water consumption to reduce the chance of an impaction colic.

Offer salt and electrolytes to your horses and know the warning signs of colic.

Small

Ruminants

Have a few small pens ("jugs") ready for lambing and kidding to confine mom and baby to encourage bonding and milk let down.

4-H Youth Livestock

Finish working on Project Record Books for the year. They are due early January- see your county office for the due date.

Winter Forage Checklist

Management

- If desiring regrowth of winter annuals, avoid grazing too short, especially while the weather is colder and forage growth has slowed.
 - Fescue that has been stockpiled can be utilized as an alternative to hay.
 - When pastures are wet, reduce traffic by keeping sacrifice areas or lanes for animals and equipment.
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Seeding

- Be prepared to place orders for seed to be planted in the spring.
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Weed Control

- Be prepared to spray to control weeds in the early spring before they get too large. Buttercup will need to be sprayed by late February before blooms appear in March for adequate control.
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Fertilizer

- Limit fertilizer applications to when grasses are actively growing.
- Lime can be applied over the winter to give the soil pH time to change before spring fertilization.