

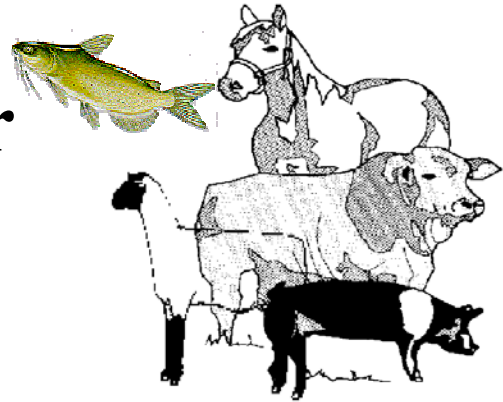
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Animal and Dairy Science Department
Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science

Livestock Newsletter

January/February 2004

<http://www.ces.uga.edu/Agriculture/asdsm/beef-home.html>



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Please give credit to the author if you use an article in a non-Extension publication and please send a copy of the article to the author. Thank you!

Robert L. Stewart
Extension Coordinator
Animal and Dairy Science Department

LIVESTOCK NEWSLETTER

January-February 2004

AS-1

Applying Aquatic Herbicides in Winter and Early Spring

Gary J. Burtle
Extension Aquaculture Specialist

Cool water in the winter and early spring makes aquatic herbicides less effective. In some cases, water temperatures above 60° F must be present before application. In all cases, the weed should be actively growing for good results from herbicide application. Glyphosate, a systemic herbicide used on emergent weeds, has better activity during discrete life stages of specific plants and the label should be consulted for that specific information.

Cool water aquatic weed control should take the form of biological control, mechanical control, or physical control. Grass carp (sterile triploids in Georgia) should be stocked to begin control of aquatic weeds during cool weather then followed by herbicide treatment, if necessary, in the spring. Early infestations of aquatic weeds, such as cattails, can be mechanically removed during the winter and early spring with good effectiveness. A physical method of control involves the lowering of water level during the winter to expose the areas of weed growth (winter drawdown). After a month or two of drying, the pond is allowed to refill. Winter drawdown is usually an economical method of weed control and can reduce or eliminate the need to use herbicides in the spring.

Herbicides containing copper can only be used effectively when the alkalinity of pond water is near or above 50 parts per million (ppm). The copper that is toxic to plants and parasites in pond water is also toxic to catfish when the water is very soft. Copper actually causes the gills of fish to lose oxygen uptake efficiency when pond water alkalinity is below 50 ppm. A high percentage of the fish in ponds with soft water may be killed when copper is used as a pond water treatment. Some forms of copper are more dangerous than others. Copper sulfate for example is more likely to cause fish toxicity than chelated copper compounds such as copper citrate. It is very important to read the label of copper containing herbicides before using them in fish ponds. By liming and causing the hardness and alkalinity to increase, copper can be used with a greater degree of safety in catfish ponds.

Traditionally, the soil pH is used as a measure of lime requirement in order to assure adequate alkalinity in pond water. A sample of dry soil is sent to the chemistry lab for testing and a lime requirement value is returned. If the pond is already filled, check the alkalinity of the pond water directly. Lime if the alkalinity is less than 20 ppm if you have a recreational pond or if the alkalinity is less than 50 ppm if you have a commercial catfish pond. Alternatively, the hardness of pond water can be measured and used as an estimate of soil acidity. Research at Auburn University showed a very good correlation ($r = .87$) of pond mud pH to the hardness of pond water.

When the lime requirement is determined, a chemist should relate the measured values to the

amount of lime actually needed.

Lime should be applied by boat in an even application across the pond area for rapid results or if liming in late winter.. However, lime can be added to discrete locations in the pond if several months will pass before lime must be dissolved. The best time to apply agricultural lime to ponds is between the months of November and February. After the initial lime requirement is met by application of calcium carbonate, the alkalinity of pond water will change over time. Rainfall and water from soft water wells or streams will dilute the hardness and alkalinity of pond water. It may be necessary to add a source of calcium such as hydrated lime in those cases. Add hydrated lime at weekly intervals at the rate of 50 pounds per surface acre until the desired alkalinity is reached.j

A properly limed pond can allow the effective utilization of pond fertilization. As fertilizer is added, the phytoplankton (microscopic algae) grows to shade the pond bottom and reduce rooted plant growth in the pond. Fertilization should not be attempted if the alkalinity of the pond water is less than 10 ppm. Once a fertilization program is started it should be carefully continued. Fertilizer is added until the phytoplankton bloom is established to reduce visibility into the water to a depth of 12 inches. Fertilizer is again added when the visibility exceeds 18 inches. Fertilizing once per month may not be necessary, but in some ponds, fertilizing every two weeks may be needed to achieve the first bloom of the year. Remember, a pond with water flowing through it, from springs or runoff, will not retain lime or fertilizer and probably will not develop a phytoplankton bloom. Careful management of aquatic weeds is needed in such ponds, usually with the help of grass carp stocked at the rate of 10 or more per acre.

State Show Entries for the Past Ten Years

Ronnie Silcox
Extension Beef Scientist

Show	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Beef Heifer	695	785	788	739	728	723	761	803	923	902
Dairy Heifer			82	167	261	289	336	359	319	280
Br'ding Sheep	58	47	69	57	56	82	109	91	113	95
Hog	2518	2384	2281	2297	2070	1850	1887	1885	1919	1951
Lamb	727	609	553	516	548	523	521	530	528	
Steer	419	470	459	478	421	401	396	383	383	386

Poultry Litter Among Feedstuffs Banned by FDA

Johnny Rossi
Extension Animal Scientist

The FDA has announced new public health measures to strengthen the existing firewalls that protect Americans from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Firewalls to protect Americans from exposure to the BSE agent have been in place in the U.S. for many years. Imports of ruminant meat and bone meal have been banned since 1989. Feeding of most mammalian protein to ruminant animals has been banned since 1997. A surveillance of the U.S. cattle herd for BSE has also been in place for several years. Recently, the USDA announced new guidelines that will prohibit any bovine tissues that carry a high risk for carrying the BSE agent from entering the human food chain.

One of the new safeguards announced by the FDA was to ban the use of poultry litter as a feed for ruminant animals. Poultry litter contains bedding, spilled feed, feathers, and fecal matter. Poultry litter may legally contain protein that is prohibited in ruminant feed such as meat and bone meal. The poultry feed can spill in the chicken house and then be collected as part of the poultry litter and fed to livestock.

Plate waste is another feed ingredient that will be banned from use in ruminant diets. Plate waste is uneaten meat and other meat scraps that are collected from restaurant operations and rendered into meat and bone meal for animal feed. The new rules will also prohibit the use of mammalian blood meal and blood products as a protein source for ruminant animals.

Measures to further reduce the possibility of cross-contamination of ruminant and non-ruminant animal feed will be implemented. Equipment, facilities, and production lines must be dedicated to non-ruminant animal feeds if they use protein that is prohibited in ruminant feeds. Feed manufacturers can no longer make both ruminant and non-ruminant feed that contains prohibited materials at the same facility. The FDA will increase the inspections of feed mills and renderers.

The new safeguards will become effective immediately upon publication. The ban on feeding poultry litter will affect some producers in Georgia. There are many by-products and other feedstuffs that can be used to replace the poultry litter portion of the diet. Contact your local extension agent if you need help in identifying potential feeds.

Calf Removal and Reproduction

Timothy W. Wilson
Extension Animal Scientist – Beef Cattle

Many beef producers strive to market cattle in groups that are similar in color, size, weight and sex.

There are many avenues that can be explored when trying to realize these market parameters. If a producer wants to raise uniformed calves using the best genetics available they must first define their breeding season. An ideal breeding season length for some producers may be as long as 6 months or as short as 5 days depending on management and goals. Ideally, calves that are similar in age will be similar in weight.

Most beef producers prefer to use a natural service breeding season. A beginning and ending date must be chosen for the breeding season in order to ensure that calves are born during a uniformed time frame.

Some beef producers use artificial insemination (AI) coupled with estrous synchronization when implementing a short breeding season. Working with a veterinarian, producers can implement an estrous synchronization protocol that is customized to their operation. The synchrony success of some of these protocols can range from 40 to 100% with 70 to 90% being optimal.

The duration between calving and the first post-partum estrus, sometimes referred to as anestrous, can be as short as 30 days or as long as 180 days, and will often cause havoc for a breeding plan, regardless of which type of breeding season is used. Body condition, calving difficulty and reduced energy intake are usually the reason for extended anestrous. Several management practices producers might consider to shorten this period of time include, short-term calf removal, once-a-day suckling and even early weaning.

Short-term calf removal is often referred to as "48-hour" calf removal can be achieved by sorting calves away from their dams while using an estrous synchronization protocol when they are at least 45 days of age. Calves should have access to free choice hay and water. Research has demonstrated that this period of separation improves the number of females cycling and does not have a significant effect on the weaning weights or yearling weights of the calves.

Once-daily suckling involves separating all calves, at least 30 days of age, from their dams and allowing them to nurse once daily. Research from Randel (1981) reported that this method can substantially reduced the post-partum interval in Brahman X Hereford crossed heifers (suckling = 168.2 ± 13.8 days vs. once-daily suckling = 68.9 ± 6.2 days; $P < .005$). Although this method of management can reduce the post-partum interval, it is very labor intensive and overall cost should be considered.

Early weaning is another method that can be used to help stimulate estrus in post-partum cattle. Once calves are at least 60 days old and capable of grazing, they can be weaned from their dams. Weaned calves should have access to free-choice hay, water and creep feed. This method, along with the previous two methods, reduces stress on the dam and allows her body to focus on reproductive function. Early weaning may be useful during times of reduced forage production or

drought.

Regardless of management practice described here, calves will bawl during separation from their dam; therefore, considerations should be made as to the location for each method to prevent discomfort during the evening hours. Calves that are born during a similar time frame are typically similar in weight. Using this method of management along with proper sire selection can help beef producers develop calves that will meet their market goals.

If you have any questions related to calf removal to improve reproductive performance, feel free to contact you local veterinarian, county extension agent or me at (912) 681-5639.

Dates to Remember

February 19-20, 2004	Horse Reproduction Short Course - Stallion Management and Reproduction
February 20-22, 2004	National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium, Irving, TX
February 25-29, 2004	Georgia National Jr. Livestock Show, Perry, GA
April 21, 2004	2004 Mountain Beef Cattle Field Day, Blairsville, GA

Georgia Aquaculture Association Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2004

Gary J. Burtle
Extension Aquaculture Specialist

The annual meeting of the Georgia Aquaculture Association will be held February 19 in Hawkinsville. The program will begin at 10:00 AM at the Steakhouse Restaurant on Highway 341 north. Several speakers are invited to provide an educational program for the event. Annual elections of board members will also be held. A registration fee will be charged for lunch.

Agenda

9:30-10:00 AM	Registration
10:00 AM	Welcome - Brian Simmons, President Georgia Aquaculture Association
10:05 AM	Aquaculture Update Gary Burtle
10:15 AM	Prawn Production Gary Burtle
10:30 AM	Catfish Production & Processing Al Cromer
10:45 AM	Ga. Sweetwater Catfish Johnny Huddleston
11:00 AM	Tilapia Farming Donnie Warren, Scott Crow
11:30 AM	UGA School Forest Resources Overview & Projects Doug Peterson
11:45 AM	Department of Natural Resources Overview Mike Spencer
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Business Meeting

United States Animal Identification Plan

Charles A. McPeake
Extension Animal Scientist

The United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) defines the standards and framework for implementing a phased-in national animal identification system.

Goal

To achieve a traceback system that can identify all animals and premises potentially exposed to an animal with a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) within 48 hours after discovery.

Achieving this goal will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of current animal* health regulatory programs.

**This Plan currently includes all domestic cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, cervids (deer and elk), equine, poultry, game birds, aquaculture, camelids (llamas, alpacas, etc.), ratites (ostriches, emus, etc.).*

The Need for Animal Identification

Maintaining the health and economic viability of US animal agriculture is critical to the industry and to the safety of the U.S. food supply, and therefore, is the focus of the National Identification Plan. Establishing the requirements for animal identification that provide the necessary infrastructure to monitor animal diseases, to support their control or eradication, and to establish an adequate emergency management response system provides the foundation of the “system” for the national program.

Maintaining the health of the U.S. animal herd is the most urgent issue for the industry and is the focus of the plan. The benefits of a national animal identification system include:

- Enhanced disease control and eradication capabilities for rapid containment of foreign animal disease outbreaks and enhanced ability to respond to biosecurity threats.
- Enables the industry to meet the demands of domestic and international consumers for source-verified products. This ability enables producers to maintain and build market access.
- Mitigation of threats to biosecurity of the food supply, either intentional and unintentional.

You will find at the following web locations:

A complete “A Work in Progress” Version 4.1, 78 pages, December 23, 2003.

- www.usaip.info

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

- www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/issues/bse/USAIP_FAQ_12-05-2003.pdf

**AMERICAN YOUTH HORSE COUNCIL'S 27TH ANNUAL
NATIONAL YOUTH HORSE LEADERS SYMPOSIUM**

February 20-22, 2004 Irving TX

Leaders Building Leaders:

Looking ahead to a Bright Future for the Youth Horse Industry. The American Youth Horse Council's 27th National Youth Horse Leader's Symposium is hosted by the American Paint Horse Association and the American Quarter Horse Association.

This event brings together leaders from all horse oriented youth groups and riding disciplines to share their collective voices and help shape the future equine industry. Adults interested in becoming volunteer youth leaders, veteran adult leaders, college and teen leaders and horse industry professionals from across the country will gather February 20-22, 2004 in Irving TX. Join leaders from breed associations, equine sport organizations, Extension Service, universities and the crucially important "hands-on" youth leaders from such groups as 4-H, U.S. Pony Club, National High School Rodeo, Future Farmers of America Association and many more. This weekend is a must-attend event for those who wish to have access to the latest news and training information in the youth horse industry.

The fun begins Friday with a pre-conference tour of great area horse ranches. Formal symposium activities open with a welcome reception on Friday evening. Then hold on to your hat beginning Saturday morning with live demonstrations at the Cow Town Coliseum, featuring Julie Goodnight with *Making the Most of your Mounted Meetings* and Doug Householder *Horse Training Principles applied to Trailer Loading Techniques*. Grab lunch in historic Cow Town and then meet us back at the Harvey Hotel for an afternoon of presentations and workshops focused on developing leadership skills for the horse industry. The evening banquet and awards program will introduce the National Youth Horse Leader of the Year Award Winner and several newsworthy surprises. Sunday we'll treat you to breakfast and the Teen Leaders will share a special program of their own design with you. Then sit tight in your saddle as an expert panel tackles the question of *What are the core competencies for youth horse leaders and how can we achieve that standard in the industry?* You'll also find over two dozen break-out sessions to choose from specialized to three audiences - the teen (peer) leader, adult volunteer leader and industry professional. Topics include:

- Technology Tips for Running the Show*
- Heading the Herd: 4 Laws of Leadership*
- Equine Insurance, What Youth Horse Leaders Need to Know*
- Fitness For the Rider: Improving Athletes Performance on the Horse*
- A New Approach to Horsemanship Skills*
- Collecting & Showing Model Horses For Horse Lovers Without Horses*
- Taking Your Horse to College*

*Introducing a Special Extension Service "Mini-Track" on Distance Learning and Technology in Extension Administration

Several industry groups will recognize participation in this conference for continuing education credit. Visit the website for details; www.ayhc.com Trade show Exhibits and Onsite registration begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20th. Conference ends Sunday, February 22nd at 3:30 p.m.

* AMERICAN YOUTH HORSE COUNCIL *
800-TRY-AYHC ** www.ayhc.com

Registration Information

Complete this form and return to:

The American Youth Horse Council
577 N. Boyero Ave - Pueblo West, Co 81007
Toll free: 800.879.2942 - Direct: 719.547.7677
Fax: 775-256-0382 Email: ayhc@mindspring.com

Name _____
Organization _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____
Fax (____) _____
E-mail _____

	Early Bird By 1/20/04	Full Rate After 1/20/04
____ Non AYHC Members	\$95	\$115.00
____ 2004 AYHC Members*	\$75	\$95.00
____ Teen Leader (Ages 14 to 19 only)	\$59.	\$79.00

2004 AYHC Member rates do not include 2004 dues. Membership fees now run 12 months from date of receipt of payment.

2004 AYHC Membership Dues:

- ____ \$150 Corporation
- ____ \$100 Association or Education Institution
- ____ \$ 40 Local Horse Club
- ____ \$ 40 Family
- ____ \$ 25 Adult Leader
- ____ \$ 15 Student Leader
- ____ **Total Amount**

Method of Payment:

____ Check made payable to AYHC
____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____
Credit Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____

Authorized Signature _____

Make checks payable to the American Youth Horse Council. Registrations must be postmarked before January 20, 2004 to receive early bird discount.

SYMPOSIUM LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The Harvey Hotel - DFW Airport,
4545 West John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX 75063
To reserve your room please call (972)929-4500
Please reference the American Youth Horse Council Special conference room rates of \$75.00 (1 to 4 people) plus tax.

Dallas/Fort Worth is the nearest major airport. The Harvey Hotel offers airport shuttle service for conference participants. Please call the hotel by Jan. 29, 2004 to schedule your shuttle.

2004 Mountain Beef Cattle Field Day

**Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center
Blairsville, Georgia**

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

**Morning session
Presiding - Mr. Billy Skaggs**

- 9:00 A.M. Registration and Refreshments**
9:25 A.M. Welcome - Mr. Joe Garner
- 9:30 A.M. Grass Tetany - Dr. Thomas W. Swerczek**
10:00 A.M. Heifer Development - Dr. Doug Ensley
- 10:30 A.M. Break**
- 10:45 A.M. Beef Alliances - Mr. Dan Dorn**
11:15 A.M. U. S. Animal Identification Plan: Panel Discussion
Dr. Charles McPeake, Moderator
- Mr. Dan Dorn**
Dr. Carter Black
Mr. Eddie Bradley
Mr. Jim Collins
- 12:10 P.M. Lunch - Mr. Mickey Cummings**

**Afternoon Session
Presiding - Mr. Ted Dyer**

- 1:30 P.M. Stocker Research Project - Dr. Johnny Rossi**
2:00 P.M. Forage Updates & Results - Dr. John Andrae
2:30 P.M. Applications of Ultrasound-Live Demonstration - Dr. Dean Pringle
- 3:00 P.M. Adjourn**



Market New Branch
 P O Box 86
 Thomasville, GA 31799
 Tel 912-226-1641

Market News

GEORGIA LIVESTOCK



Agricultural Building
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

WEEK ENDING: The Cooperative Extension Service would like to thank Terry Harris for submitting this information.

GEORGIA CATTLE: RECEIPTS: 12,200 LAST WK 11,400 YEAR AGO 12,800

<u>FEEDERS</u>	<u>STEERS</u>	<u>MED & LARGE 1</u>	<u>HEIFERS</u>
	116.00-132.00	300/350 LBS	105.00-116.00
	112.00-127.00	350/400	100.00-112.00
	108.00-121.00	400/450	95.00-107.00
	103.00-115.00	450/500	91.00-102.00
	96.00-108.00	500/550	87.00-98.00
	90.00-100.00	550/600	82.00-92.00
	85.00-95.00	600/650	80.00-90.00
	82.00-90.00	650/700	80.00-88.00
<u>SLAUGHTER COWS</u> % LEAN	75-80% 850-1200 LBS		47.00-50.00
	80-85% 850-1200 LBS		45.00-55.00
	80-86% OVER 1200 LBS		48.00-57.00
	85-90% 800-1200 LBS		42.00-53.00

5 Area Daily Wtd Average - Texas/Oklahoma; Kansas; Nebraska; Colorado; and Iowa/So Minnesota Feedlots:

Steers...Select/Choice 65-80% Weighted Average Price Range 87.00-88.50
 Heifers..Select/Choice 65-80% Weighted Average Price Range 86.00-89.50
 By-Product Drop Value (Steer)...Hide and Offal Value 8.62 /cwt.
 Box Beef Cut-Out Value Choice 1-3 550/750 LBS. 145.86
 Select 1-3 550/700 LBS. 138.87

Georgia Hogs: GA-FL-AL Direct Area Receipts 3600 Trends 4.00 higher

US 1-2 220/260 LBS. 38.00-40.00 Sows 300/500 LBS. 500-UP

FEEDER PIGS	Tennessee			Georgia	
	GEORGIA	TENNESSEE		GEORGIA	TENNESSEE
US 1-2 35/40 LBS.			55-60		
40/45			60/65		
45/50			65/70		
50/55			70/80		

IOWA-SOUTHERN MINNESOTA DIRECT HOGS: RECEIPTS TRENDS 1.92 higher
BARROWS & GILTS 49-51% LEAN 185 LB CARCASSES RANGE 45.00-57.25 WTD AVG. 55.29