You’re invited to attend the first meeting in 2008 of the Alleghany Cattlemen. Please mark your calendar for Thursday, January 17 and plan to join us for our meeting and meal. Following are some of the topics to be discussed at the meeting.

► “Recent Cattle Industry Trip”
  Rodney Shepherd, Wilkes County Cattleman
► Election of Officers
► 2007 Review
► Determining feed inventory and needs on your farm
► Examples of local situations and balancing rations
► Bob Webb from Southern States will discuss feed products and ration balancing.

Meal Cost:  $5.00 ~~ if you are a member     $7.00 ~~ if you are not a member

I hope you will make plans to join us for the meal and meeting. However, you are welcome to attend the meeting and not the meal if you prefer.
The Statesville Regional Beef Conference will be held *Thursday, January 3, 2008* at the Iredell County Agricultural Resource Center, 444 Bristol Drive, Statesville, NC. Following is the agenda of the conference:

3:30 p.m.  Registration

3:45  NC Cattlemen’s Association Activities / Events  
Bundy Plyler, Executive Director, NC Cattlemen’s Association

4:00  Pasture Management Recovery From Droughts  
Dr. Sue Ellen Johnson, Extension Forage Specialist, NC State University

4:30  Drought Management Strategies for Beef Operations  
Dr. Matt Poore, Extension Animal Science Specialist NC State University

5:15  Fly Control Strategies  
Dr. Wes Watson, Extension Entomology Specialist, NC State University

5:45  Update of Animal Health Products  
Matt Hannah, Schering-Plough Animal Health

6:00  Market Outlook for 2008  
Marcus Harward, Harward Brothers Livestock Market

6:15  Sponsored Meal

Please call the Alleghany Extension Office, 372-5597 by December 31st if you plan to attend. Also, if you would like to ride in the van, please let me know when you call. I can take the first 11 people to call in.

NC Cooperative Extension,  
Alleghany County Center  
will be closed  
December 24, 25, 26 for Christmas Holidays  
and will re-open on Thursday, December 27.
Mineral Order Deadline is January 4th

It is time for members of the Alleghany Cattle Association to order minerals for their beef herd.

The Carroll-Grayson Cattle Association has a special price on minerals that are designed for their soils, which are similar to ours. They let us put our order in with theirs. The last time, the minerals were delivered to Independence and members picked them up there.

At the printing of this newsletter, (December 20th) Carroll-Grayson Cattle Association was unable to confirm prices of the minerals. For this information, you may call them directly at 1-800-752-5117, ext. 126.

NOTICE: The mineral order is due to the Grayson County Extension Office in Independence, Virginia by Friday, January 4th.

How Do You Figure How Much A Cow Eats?

A mature lactating cow needs to eat about 2.3% of her body weight as dry matter.

Typical hay is about 90% dry matter. So, she will have to eat more than the 2.3% — more like 2.6% of her body weight on an “as fed basis.”

About 15% of the hay you give the cow she will waste, so you must feed her 3% of her body weight. Her calf will also need feed later in the winter, so we figure another 0.3% of body weight for that, giving a total need of 3.3% of body weight.

For a 1,200 lb. cow and a 150 day feeding period (November 1 to April 15) would be:

1,200 lbs. x 0.033 = 40 lbs. per day
40 lbs. per day x 150 days = 6,000 lbs. or 3 tons!

The typical round bale (4 x 5 size) will weigh about 750 lbs. so she will need about 8 round bales to get from November 1 to April 15.

She could be fed concentrate as part of that feed need, and you can substitute 1 lb. concentrate for 1.5 lbs. of hay.

Tips & Hints

- Minimize feed wastage
- Use adequate feeder space
- Don’t let cows get hungry
- Balance rations
- Monitor body condition
- Unrolling hay on pasture will result in good manure distribution and will allow limit feeding.
- Consider using alternative roughages ~ corn stover, soybean hay, peanut hay, cottonseed hulls, peanut hulls.
- Cost in drought may be as high as $150/ton if it is available at all.

Feeding Management

Cooperative Extension has a drought management information site at: www.ces.ncsu.edu/disaster/drought

The NC Department of Agriculture offers a Hay Alert web site and hotline at: www.ncagr.com/HayAlert or call toll free 1-866-506-6222
If I can be of service to you, please feel free to give me a call, 372-5597.

Sincerely,

George W. Stancil
County Extension Director

GWS/krm