

Craig County Office
Eastern Divide Work Center
24838 Craig Creek Road
New Castle, Virginia 24127
540/864-5812, Fax: 540/864-6732
E-Mail – geallen@vt.edu

Agriculture Newsletter September 2010

Local Extension Offices -

Alleghany	540/862-0369	
Botetourt	540/473-8260	(Cassie Driskell)
Craig	540/864-5812	(Andy Allen)
Roanoke	540/772-7524	(Sheri Dorn)



Prepared by G. Andrew Allen, III
Extension Agent, ANR, Livestock

To receive notices of meetings and newsletter information you may e-mail geallen@vt.edu.
Please indicate if you are interested in receiving information on
livestock, horses, pasture, crops, farm business management or horticulture.

UPCOMING EVENTS -

- September 18** **Farm Safety Fair** -10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Blue Ridge Equipment, Buchanan
Sponsored by Botetourt County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and
Botetourt Regional Cattlemen's Association. This program is open to everyone.
- September 18** **Virginia Master Well Owner Volunteer Training Network,**
Pearisburg Community Center Cafeteria, 1320 Wenonah Ave.,
9:00 am to 4:00 pm, contact Erin Ling at 540-231-9058 or www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu
- September 21** **VFGC 2010 Regional Forage Field Day,**
4672 Valley Road, Saltville- Advanced Registration of \$10 per
person due by Sept. 14. Registration begins at 2:15 pm and
ends at 6:30 pm. Contact Jeanna Waddle at (276) 783-7280
- September 23** **Extending the Garden Harvest**
6 – 8 pm, Brambleton Center, Room 19 in Roanoke. Contact: Sheri Dorn 772-7524, please
register for this class by September 22, 2010.
- September 23
to October 3** **State Fair of Virginia at The Meadow**
The Meadow Event Park, I-95 exit 98 next to Kings Dominion, Doswell. For more information,
visit their website at: www.statefair.com
- September 30** **Southern Piedmont Forage Tour**
B.H Cooper Farm, 1268 Abram Penn Highway, Critz. Registration will be begin at 2:00 pm
and tours will start promptly at 2:30 pm. A sponsored meal will follow. For more
information, go to www.vaforage.org or contact Travis Bunn at tbunn@vt.edu. Please pre-
register by September 24 by calling the Patrick County Extension Office at 276-694-3341.

If you are a person with a disability and desire assistance or accommodation, please notify the contact person for the event you wish to attend at the telephone number provided for the event during business hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at least five business working days prior to the event.

October 7

High Tunnel Project Open House

4:00- 7:00 pm, Mike Beahm's Farm, 7679 Sanderson Drive Cloverdale VA
Contact: Sheri Dorn 540/772-7524 email: sherid@vt.edu

October 11-13

8th Mid-Atlantic Dairy Grazing Conference &

Organic Dairy Field Day – Wytheville Meeting Center, 333 Community Blvd., registration begins at 3:00 pm on Oct. 11, and the program ends at 2:15 pm on Oct. 13. Early registration by Sept 30 is \$100 and after that date it is \$150. For more information, contact Chase Scott at miscott1@vt.edu or 276-223-6040.

October 14

Cattle Marketing and Warm Season Grasses

7:00 pm, Fincastle Firehouse
A cattle buyer will tell producers what buyers look for when buying cattle. A local farmer will also tell about his experiences growing Switchgrass, Caucasian Bluestem and Eastern Gamma Grass. Contact: Carrie Crawford at 540/ 864-5516

October 15

Farming on a Few Acres,

9 am – 4 pm, Fincastle Firehouse, \$10 per person includes lunch. Contact: Cassie Driskill, 540/473-8260. **Topics to be covered: Bees, Small Berries, Vegetable Crops, Nursery Production, Intro to Small Ponds, Poultry, Sheep, and Goats**

Virginia Master Cattlemen's Programs -

Alphin-Stuart Arena, Virginia Tech Farm, Blacksburg. Time 6:30 pm, Cost \$50 for all seven sessions. Call your friends and car pool to these exciting events. Here is your chance to learn about beef cattle and farming at Virginia Tech.

Master Cattlemen's Dates and Topics -

Oct 11	Economics
Oct 25	Nutrition
Nov 8	Reproduction
Nov 15	Forages
Nov 22	Health
Dec 6	Genetics
Dec 13	Marketing

Contact 540-980-7761 (similar programs with different dates will be held in Wytheville and Abingdon, topics may not be in the same order). Fees are payable at the door. You may also register through your local Extension Office.

October 29

Hokie Harvest Sale – Virginia Tech

4:00 to 5:30 Swine Sale – Alphin-Stuart Arena
4:30 – 6:00 Complimentary Barbecue Dinner
6:30 - Cattle Sale – Livestock Judging Pavilion
Contact: Dan Eversole 540/231-4738, deversol@vt.edu

November 18

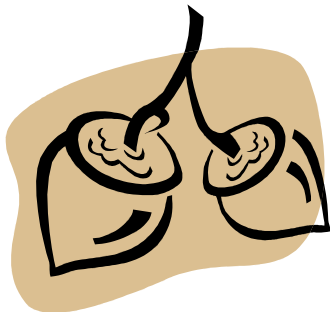
BQA – Beef Quality Assurance Training

7:00 pm, Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard
Learn about cattle vaccinations, and procedures to assure beef is safe for consumers. Producers can become BQA certified to meet the requirements for many special cattle marketing programs. Contact: Andy Allen, 540/864-5812, email geallen@vt.edu

ACORN POISONING

By Andy Allen

Farmers are reporting that oaks are loaded with acorns this year. This is great for wildlife, but can be fatal for cattle or other livestock. Dry weather and short pastures tend to make problems worse. Young fast growing calves are often the first to show symptoms or die. Early symptoms may include constipation followed by decreased appetite. Later black watery diarrhea may be noticed, which is often foul smelling and may contain blood. Blood may also be noticed draining from the nose. Later animals may suffer severe depression, straining to urinate and defecate. Death usually follows. Pregnant animals ingesting acorns may cause birth defects in their calves later.



Most cattle can eat a few acorns with no adverse effects, unfortunately a few animals seem to develop a taste for them and consume more, which can be fatal.

Removing cattle from areas with acorns, or fencing off areas with oak trees seems to be the most effective method for preventing problems.

There are several treatment options. Unfortunately, they are rarely very successful. These include good nursing care, fluid and electrolyte replacement, broad spectrum antibiotics (do not use drug metabolized through the kidneys), and drenching with single dose of mineral oil may provide a laxative effect.

COYOTE CONTROL



If you have problems with coyotes bothering livestock, you can call Chad Fox at 540/381-7387 In Alleghany County, call John Donaldson 804/543-7162) with USDA's Wildlife Trapping Service. They can assist with control methods and advise on reducing livestock losses.



TEST YOUR HAY

Due to weather conditions this spring, hay was harvested later than normal. Hay quality may be lower than normal. Test your hay to be sure it meets the nutritional needs of the livestock you plan to produce. Production can suffer when feed quality is low. Low quality hay has contributed to cow losses in the past.



