

IREDELL COUNTY CENTER

## Livestock News: April 2020

### What Are Your Summer Plans? Now is the time to start planning your summer annual options!



#### **Pearl Millet**

Leafier than sorghum-sudan hybrids  
Grows 3-8 feet tall with peak production in June, July, and August  
Excellent quality forage containing 14-18% crude protein  
Once allowed to head, millet is less palatable  
Dwarf varieties are easier to manage for grazing

#### **Sorghum-sudan hybrids**

Typically very high yields  
Hybrids grow 4 to 8 feet tall with peak production in June, July, and August  
Good forage quality containing about 15% crude protein



#### **Crabgrass**

New varieties are well adapted to most soils, fairly drought resistant, and responds to moisture quicker than most other summer annuals.  
Good growth from June to September  
Highly palatable with 7-18% crude protein depending on growth and nitrogen fertilization  
If natural reseeding is desired, the stand must be allowed to produce seed sometime during the summer

#### **Utilizing Your Summer Annuals**

Getting the most out of your summer annuals takes some planning and proper management. Most summer annuals need to be grazed from 14-24 inches tall down to 6-8 inches tall. Intensive grazing or haying will help keep these forages at the optimum heights. Mowing of the stalks may be needed after grazing. If cut for hay, plan to harvest those forages between 30 and 40 inches tall. All of these options are best utilized in a rotational grazing or haying system.



## Beef Quality Assurance Tips: Giving Injections

It is always a good time to refresh your knowledge of the Beef Quality Assurance guidelines! Watch North Carolina Cooperative Extension Agent, Lauren Langley, demonstrate proper injection techniques.

Want to Sell More Meat in Bulk?



List Your Farm Online for FREE

## Meat Suite

MeatSuite is an online marketing tool to help customers easily find locally produced meat in bulk. Whether you normally sell in whole/halves/quarters or by the retail cut, we hope that you will join MeatSuite by creating a farm profile and listing bulk meat products for sale. Please keep in mind, a large purchase may not be in the budget for some customers, so consider putting together a few options for bulk boxes at various price points. By offering some bulk boxes at various price points (i.e. \$50, \$100, \$200) you can include a variety of cuts that helps you move more than just the prime cuts.

[Learn more](#)



## Pasture Weed Spotlight: Dog Fennel

Dog fennel is a native perennial plant found across much of the southeastern United States. Most dog fennel growth occurs from rosettes that have overwintered low to the ground during the cool season. However, once the soil temperature reached a constant 65°F, seeds will sprout as well. Dog fennel tend to grow in a single shoot without any large branching up to eight feet in height. Dormancy typically occurs from January to March. Bolting of the plant occurs from April to June. Dog fennel can be controlled with herbicides when it is actively growing and under 20 inches tall.





ALAMANCE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# LIVESTOCK WEBINAR SERIES

April 16: Equine Pasture Management Tips  
April 23: Getting Started Selling Local Meats  
April 30: Caring For Your New Chicks

May 7: Small Ruminant Pasture Management Tips  
May 14: Managing Fire Ants in Pastures  
May 21: Parasite Control in Cattle

6:30 p.m. | Free | Registration Required:

<https://go.ncsu.edu/livestockseries20>

Questions? Contact: Lauren Langley at  
336.266.0702 or [lauren\\_langley@ncsu.edu](mailto:lauren_langley@ncsu.edu)



Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by April 9, 2020 to Lauren Langley, [lauren\\_langley@ncsu.edu](mailto:lauren_langley@ncsu.edu) or 336-570-6740. NC State University and N.C. A&T State University are collectively committed to positive action to secure equal opportunity and prohibit discrimination and harassment regardless of age, color, disability, family and marital status, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation and veteran status. NC State, N.C. A&T, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

[Click here to register!](#)

## Helpful Links

[NCSU Extension Forage Resources »](#)

[NCSU Extension Beef Cattle Resources »](#)

[North Carolina Cattlemen's Association »](#)

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