

IREDELL COUNTY CENTER

## Livestock News: September 2020

### The Clock is Ticking! Stockpile Your Tall Fescue Now!

Fall and early winter is the best time of year to take full advantage of the benefits of tall fescue while mitigating the palatability and toxicosis issues. The ability of tall fescue to accumulate and save fall growth is the key to our stockpiling success.

Winter feeding of hay is the largest expense for cow-calf producers, in some cases accounting for up to 60% of the total cow-calf budget. A proven method to lower those costs is stockpiling tall fescue, our most abundant pasture forage in the mid-south.

Traditionally, we as cattle producers feed hay in the winter. That has been the cornerstone of our cattle production and feeding mentality throughout the history of modern agriculture. However, if we shift our feeding model, make some small changes to our management systems, we can reduce our winter feed cost by up to 50% per cow per day.

#### Take a look at these tips for successful stockpile grazing of tall fescue:

1. Choose a strong fescue pasture, that is well drained. A healthy stand will maximize the yield potential from nitrogen applications. The well drained aspect, will help to ensure that the stockpile can be grazed with minimal hoof damage to the sod during wet winter months.
2. Clip or graze pastures that will be stockpiled to 3 to 4 inches prior to applying nitrogen. Removing the old growth will enhance the forage quality of the stockpiled grass.
3. Apply 60 to 80 pounds of nitrogen per acre, in mid to late summer ideally right before a rain event. Applying nitrogen too early can stimulate summer annual weed growth, while applying nitrogen too late lowers dry matter yield.
4. Allow growth to accumulate until mid-December before grazing. If limited grazing is available, feed hay during this accumulation period rather than the winter months.
5. Graze stockpiled pastures that contain legumes first. Legumes deteriorate at a faster rate than grass and should be utilized first to minimize losses.
6. Strip-graze tall fescue to maximize grazing days. Allocating only enough stockpiled grass for two to three days will improve grazing days per acre by 30%.
7. Frost seed legumes on grazed areas. A closely grazed stockpile provides an excellent opportunity to establish legumes in grass-dominated pastures. Broadcasting the seed as the pasture is being grazed can enhance seed to soil contact and increase overseeding success.

### Pasture Weed Spotlight: Stickweed

- Also called Yellow Crownbeard
- Perennial weed with erect growth around 3-4 feet



- Medium to large leaves
- Small yellow flowers
- Livestock will not usually eat stickweed
- Control is best achieved when herbicide is applied when plants are small and actively growing
- Be aware that multi-year herbicide application may be needed to eradicate stickweed!

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**Remember to always read and follow all label directions and precautions!**

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# Have You Herd?

## Livestock Meetings

*via Zoom platform*

7:00 -8:00 PM

### Topics:

September 15, 2020- **How to Utilize Winter Annual Forages in Your Beef Herd**

October 20, 2020- **Grazing Management**

November 17, 2020- **Beef Cattle Efficiency**

December 15, 2020- **Cattle Marketing**

January 7, 2021- **Area Beef Conference**

February 16, 2021- **BQA Chute Side Demo**

Register online: [go.ncsu.edu/haveyouherd](https://go.ncsu.edu/haveyouherd)

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[Click Here To Go To Registration](#)

**\*After completing your registration, you should receive an email confirmation. Please call or email **Laura Elmore** with any questions.**

## Iredell County is Live!

The Visit NC Farms App connects the dots in communities across North Carolina. Using cell phone technology, residents and visitors can find farms closest to them with products and activities that interest them. Visitors can use the app to explore farms, farmers markets and local restaurants that are off the beaten path and

unique to each community.



[Learn More](#)



### **The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 Has Been Approved by the USDA**

The USDA has determined that CFAP 1 and CFAP 2 are separate programs. CFAP 2 is designed to offset the market disruptions that has occurred since April 16, 2020. You may submit an application for CFAP 2 whether or not you participated in CFAP 1. Eligible beef cattle,

hogs and pigs, and lamb and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020. Click the link below for full list of eligible commodities and payment rates.

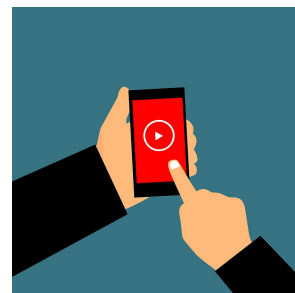
**Signup will begin September 21 and run through December 11, 2020, for this next round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program payments (CFAP 2). Contact the Statesville branch of the Farm Service Agency at (704) 872-5061. Applications may also be completed online.**

[Learn More about CFAP 2](#)

## **What would you like to see from us?**

Help us plan the future of the Iredell County Cooperative Extension Livestock Program by filling out this survey!

[Take The Survey](#)



## **Helpful Links**

[See Past Newsletters »](#)

[NCSU Extension Forage Resources Portal »](#)

[NCSU Extension Beef Cattle Resources Portal »](#)

# Stay Connected to Iredell County Cooperative Extension

[Visit Our Website](#)

NC State University and N.C. A&T State University work in tandem, along with federal, state and local governments, to form a strategic partnership called N.C. Cooperative Extension.

## **Iredell County Center**

PO Box 311  
Statesville, NC 28687  
(704) 873-0507

[Contact Us](#)

