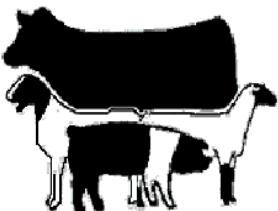


LIVESTOCK NEWS

Hoke County Center

November 2013



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Important Information

Cattle 101 - There will be a Beef Cattle 101 class held in Robeson County this fall. The class is for any new cattle producers or anyone interested in starting a cattle farm. Classes will cover topics including terminology, nutritional requirements, forages, fencing, rotational grazing, reproduction, and health management topics. The classes will be held on November 14, 21, and December 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Robeson Extension Center. There will be farm visits on Saturday, December 14. The cost is \$25 for all the classes. Call your Extension Agent to register for the class.

Eastern Carolina Cattlemen's Conference - The conference will be held on Tuesday, December 3, at the Sampson County Agri-Exposition Center (414 Warsaw Rd., Clinton). Registration begins at 8 a.m. Preregistration is \$20 and on site is \$25. (see enclosed registration form).

9:00 a.m. Managing Forages & Grazing Behavior, Dr. Rocky Lemus, Mississippi State
10:30 a.m. What Feed Yards Really Want, Dan Dorn, Decatur County Feed Yard
1:00 p.m. Managing Financial & Market Risk, Dr. Curt Lacy, University of Georgia
2:30 p.m. Heifer Development and Research Update, Dr. Daniel Poole, NCSU

Cape Fear Regional Cattle Conference - The fifth annual conference will be held on January 21 at the Southeastern N.C. Agricultural Events Center in Lumberton. The conference starts at 4:30 p.m. and costs \$5. Topics include Avoiding Drug Residues in Beef Cattle and Important Diseases for the Cow-Calf Producer in North Carolina by Dr. Geoff Smith, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Weed Control in Forages by Leon Warren, NCSU Weed Science. The program includes a meal and time to visit the vendors.

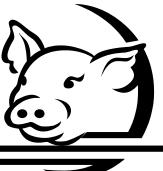
Peak-season Soil Testing Fee - \$4 - NCDA will be charging a \$4 fee for all soil samples processed by the lab during December through March. There will be no fee from April through November. Payment should not be placed inside shippers. Clients can enter sample and payment information online. Cash and checks will be accepted only if deposited in advance in an escrow account. See page 3 for more details.

Change in Waste Sampling Fees - NCDA has proposed and held a public hearing on increasing the waste analysis fees to \$8. If the rule is approved, the fee is likely to go into effect on December 3. Watch future newsletters and letters for more information.

Disclaimer - The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by North Carolina State University nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned.

If you are interested in learning more about any information in this newsletter, contact me at the Extension Center at 875-3461, by E-mail at Michelle_Shooter@ncsu.edu, or visit our website at hoke.ces.ncsu.edu. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, contact me no later than five business days before the event.

Michelle M. Shooter
Extension Area Agent
Agriculture – Livestock



Animal Waste Management

By: Becky Spearman, Livestock Agent, N.C. Cooperative Extension, Bladen County Center

Continuing Education Classes			
Date	Location	Time	Contact
November 19	Bladen County	9 a.m. (6hrs)	910-862-4591
December 5	Duplin County	9 a.m. (6hrs)	910-296-2143
December 11	Robeson County	9 a.m. (6hrs)	910-671-3276

Initial Animal Waste Certification Training

A 10 hour training class for type A license will be on January 29 & 30, 2014 at the Bladen County Extension Office from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. both days. Call 910-862-4591 to sign up.

Check your Continuing Education Hours! all your Agent or go to <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/tacu-renewal>.

Reminder - Animal Waste Operators must send in their \$10 renewal fee for their license to DWQ by December 31.

Change in Waste Sampling Fees - There is a proposal to increase the waste analysis fees to \$8. If approved, the

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to remind agricultural producers that the 2014 Fiscal year has begun and with it brings a new program year. The general EQIP program offers technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation practices such as: grassed waterways, cover crops, conservation crop rotation, and tillage. EQIP funds are available to assist producers in addressing such concerns as soil and water quality, grazing land conservation, animal waste/mortality management, forest stand improvement, and wildlife management. Any producer engaged in livestock, crop, or forest production on eligible land may apply for EQIP. NRCS accepts applications on a continuous basis.

Producers interested in the EQIP Program should visit their local USDA Service Center to complete an application and begin the conservation planning process. For additional program information visit the North Carolina NRCS website at www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov or in Hoke County call 910-875-8111 ext. 3.

increase will likely start December 3.

Public Hearing for new State General Permits

The State General Permits for Animal Feeding Operations expire September 30, 2014. The Division of Water Resources will hold two public meetings to receive public comments regarding the draft permits. All comments received by December 6 will be taken into consideration in finalizing the permits. At the meetings, DWR will explain the proposed changes and then have a time for public comments, statements, etc. There will be a hearing on November 14 at 7 p.m. at James Sprunt Community College in Kenansville. Copies of the draft permits and fact sheets are available at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/aps/afo>.

Change in Soil Sampling Frequency for Swine Farms

There was a change in legislation this year on soil sampling on swine farms. The soil testing frequency stated in G.S.143-215.10C(e)(6) has been changed from annually to every three years. So farms that did a soil test in 2012 will be good until 2015. If you did a soil test in 2013, then you will be good until 2016.



Hay Directories

North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hay Alert is at <http://www.agr.state.nc.us/hayalert/>. Producers can call the Hay Alert at 1-866-506-6222. It lists people selling hay or looking for hay to buy. It is free to list your hay for sale on-line.

Forage Management Tips

from Production and Utilization of Pastures and Forages in North Carolina

November

- Do not graze cool season perennial pastures until growth reaches 6 to 8 inches.
- Separate lactating and dry cows and give the lactating cows the best quality pastures and hay.
- Winter annual pastures planted in September may be

responsive to a nitrogen application (30 - 50 lbs/acre).

- Test forages before winter feeding begins.

December

- Limit the grazing of winter pastures by feeding hay or restricting acres available to animals.
- Feed hay stored outside before hay that is stored inside.

Plan Now For Next Year's Hay Season

By: Dan Wells, Livestock Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Johnston County

On most farms, it's very common to see tractors and implements pulled into the shop for maintenance during the winter. It's wise to take advantage of this break from the rush of growing season to catch up on maintenance, perform repairs or renovate equipment. But this season is also a good time to evaluate where your farm is in terms of forage production, and to make plans for what you can do next year to head off problems and optimize yields. This article will briefly outline some items you may want to consider over the course of this winter.

Soil Fertility

Forage production starts with the soil. Nothing can give you a better snapshot of soil fertility than a soil test. Forage fields can generally be sampled any time of year, and this year there is an added consideration to getting soil samples collected early; cost! For a long time in North Carolina, routine soil samples submitted to the NCDA&CS Agronomic lab have been tested free of charge. But, due to high submission volume during the winter months, a \$4 per sample fee is being instituted this winter, for samples received December through the end of March. With the Thanksgiving holiday falling at the end of November this year, the last day to submit samples to the lab and avoid the fee is November 27. If you plan to deliver samples to your Extension office, you need to allow at least a couple of extra days for your sample to get to the lab. You may want to check with your local office to see how they are handling samples submitted through their office. Samples submitted April through November of next year will not incur a fee.

It's wise to get those samples in early, however, especially if you may need lime. Lime takes several months to fully activate in the soil, and lime can be applied to forage fields any time of the year. So getting samples in early this winter will allow you to have that lime applied at a time of year when suppliers are not as busy, and also allow time for the lime to begin working in the soil before green-up next spring.

Having an accurate soil test will also tell you your levels of major nutrients Phosphorous and Potassium, and minor nutrients like Magnesium, Manganese, etc. With bermudagrass in particular, 2013 exhibited several consequences of low Potash levels. Potash is critical for winter survivability and disease resistance. The cool, wet winter, followed by a late spring, caused significant stand loss in some fields that were low in Potash. The wet and humid conditions of this past summer were conducive to fungal diseases like leaf spot. Potash is considerably more

prone to leaching in sandy soils, and the heavy rains of 2013 could have lowered soil Potash levels more than you might think. So a soil test now can help you determine how to fertilize fields next spring.

Weed Control

It's so much easier to control weeds when they are small, particularly grassy weeds like sandbur and crabgrass. Think back over the weeds that were present this past growing season, and make plans to get a head start on them next year. In bermudagrass fields with infestations of annual grasses like those mentioned above, a pre-emergent herbicide applied late in the dormant period can offer significant control of these and other annual weeds. If that is not an option, remember to be watching for these weeds early next spring, as most can only be selectively controlled when just a few inches tall. Timing is also critical with some perennial weeds like bahiagrass and vaseygrass, as well. Bahiagrass can be controlled with Cimarron or Pastora before the first seedheads are formed. Vaseygrass can be controlled with Pastora after full green-up in spring, or immediately after the first hay cutting.

Be ready for those buttercups, too! Those yellow flowers may be pretty, but they are taking up nutrients and water that your forage crop isn't getting. Again, early control of this species is critical. There are several herbicides that can control this pest, but they should be applied after temperatures have been above 55 degrees for a few days. If you had buttercups last year, you'll likely have them this year.

Sedges such as annual sedge, purple or yellow nutsedge can be a big problem in bermudagrass also. Outrider is the recommended herbicide for nutsedge control. Most other broadleaf or grass herbicides do not offer satisfactory control of these species. May to early June will be the best time to apply Outrider for control of purple or yellow nutsedge, and may require a follow-up treatment after 40 days. Local retailers reported trouble procuring this chemical in 2013, so if you have a problem with these species, you may want to place your order early.

It may seem odd to think about forage production at this time of year, but investing some time into planning for next season can increase your odds of success. Consider attending some of several meetings in the region during the winter that deal with forage management, talk with your Extension agent about the problems you've seen this year, and be ready to strike when the iron is hot in 2014.

Castrating Calves

By: Michelle Shooter, Extension Area Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Hoke and Robeson Counties

Management that keeps bulls intact until weaning for weight gain purposes is actually doing more harm than good. Research proves that implanted steers gain just as well as bulls, and bulls castrated before weaning outperform bulls stressed from a late castration. If you are not castrating on your farm, your bulls are being castrated down the line (causing undue stress). This is why bulls are discounted over steer counterparts at sales. Below are some facts about castrating calves.

- ♦ Calves castrated after weaning have increased gain up until the time of castration. But when compared to calves castrated at less than three months of age, those castrated late in life weigh 20 pounds less at slaughter. The stress of castration at this later age sets the calf back, and he never catches up.
- ♦ In nearly every case, studies that compare implanted steers to intact bulls at weaning show no difference in weaning weight. Low-dose implants given at 2-4 months of age are one of the most underutilized technologies in the beef industry. This suckling implant will add about 20 lbs. to calf weaning weight.
- ♦ There seems to be no difference in using a rubber band or a knife to castrate calves less than three days of age. Of course your local extension agent recommends cutting over banding but if you are only going to castrate by banding make sure you “count to two” before securing the band. Cutting is recommended for many reasons including there is less chance of having a stag (which is greatly deducted from at market). Stags can occur because of many different errors including, if you don’t “count to two” or if you use old bands that break after being put on the bull. If you are determined to band, always buy new bands right before you work calves.

- ♦ Calves castrated before three months of age show no differences in performance, health and carcass traits to calves castrated soon after birth.
- ♦ A bull calf has a relatively modest increase in testosterone production up until about seven months of age, so the “testosterone advantage” is minimal up to that point. The negatives of castrating late nearly always outweigh this minor benefit.
- ♦ In an ideal world, a calf would be castrated after a full belly of colostrum is ingested, but it is hard to catch them at 24 hours of age.
- ♦ Calves castrated before three months of age show no differences in performance, health, and carcass traits to calves castrated soon after birth.
- ♦ Bulls castrated over 500 pounds tend to have less marbling than bulls cut earlier. Beef tenderness ratings also decrease the heavier bulls are at time of castration. This becomes quite pronounced for bulls weighing more than 900 lbs. at time of castration.
- ♦ Bull calves are and should be discounted at feeder auctions. A 500-pound bull will sell at a \$5 - \$7/cwt. Discount to his 500-pound steer mate. As bulls get heavier, the discount increases even more.

Castration of bull calves soon after birth is ideal in terms of lower stress. It also results in improved animal welfare, improved health and gain in the feedlot, and enhanced marbling and tenderness compared to castration at or after weaning. Castration at less than three months of age is a reasonable alternative to castration soon after birth.

The End of an Era - Closing of Martin's Meats

By: *Michelle Shooter*

With the announcement of the closing of Martin's Abattoir and Wholesale Meats, Inc. many producers and agents were not only shocked but also saddened. According to the news release “The Martin family is saddened to announce they have suspended production at their Sampson County, N.C. beef processing plant, Martin's Abattoir & Wholesale Meats, Inc., effective immediately. In operation since 1955, the family owned and operated facility serves as one of only seven major cattle processing facilities east of the Mississippi River. The current economic climate of the packing industry has become increasingly difficult in the last 18 months, which has led to this decision. Martin's closed on September 16 after 58 years of service.”

Martin's was a key player in the buying of cull cattle for many years. In addition, Martin's was one of the primary locations where producers sold lame or injured cattle to avoid the live-sale barn. The loss of Martin's eliminated one of the best humane disposal alternatives available to cattle producers who still had a quality meat product but didn't want to add additional stress to the animals. With such a large buyer of cull cattle in Southeastern North Carolina no longer in operation, the impact of this closing will undoubtedly be felt for years to come.

Vaccinations for Goats and Sheep

By: Becky Spearman, from the publication *Vaccinating Goats Against Enterotoxemia and Tetanus: Is it Necessary?*

It is usually recommended that all goats and sheep be vaccinated for overeating disease and tetanus. These diseases are caused by clostridial bacteria that are present in animals and the environment. The vaccines provide protection for both diseases and are very cost effective. Prevention is the best way to protect against these diseases because they are less expensive and usually more effective.

Overeating Disease (enterotoxemia)

Overeating disease is also known as enterotoxemia. It can be a fatal disease that affects goats and sheep of all ages. Normally the disease is seen in younger animals that are the heaviest and fast growing. It is caused by the bacteria Clostridium perfringens types C and D. These bacteria are found in the soil and can be present in the intestines of healthy goats and sheep.

The disease is caused by the absorption of a large amount of toxins from the intestines. Under certain conditions, the bacteria rapidly reproduce, producing large quantities of toxins in the animal. The toxins cause an inflammation of the intestine and become absorbed in the blood. The toxins circulate in the bloodstream, which causes swelling in the lungs and kidneys. Conditions that can cause goats or sheep to produce too much bacteria in the gut can include kids or lambs eating high quantities of grain; animals on a diet rich in grains and low in dry matter; animals recovering from illness or distress where their immune system is down; and from infestations of parasites (worms or coccidia).

There are several symptoms associated with this disease. Symptoms in young animals include sudden death that occurs 12 hours after the first signs of the disease. Signs include excitement, convulsions, loss of appetite, and abdominal discomfort seen by the animal kicking the belly or arching the back. There can be diarrhea including bloody diarrhea.

Tetanus

Tetanus is a neurological disease caused by a toxin produced by the bacterium Clostridium tetani. The organism is commonly found in the soil and in the manure of animals. Bacterial spores enter the body through wounds following castration, ear tagging, disbudding, kidding or from other wounds. Signs of the disease are seen 4 - 21 days later. The toxin affects the central nervous system.

Signs of tetanus include stiff muscles, spasms, flared nostrils, erect/stiff ears and elevated tail. Animals often have difficulty opening their mouths which is why "lockjaw" is another name of the disease. Affected animals can go down and then die.

Vaccines and Timing

There are several vaccines labeled for clostridial diseases. It is recommended to use vaccines labeled for goats and sheep. Directions may differ between manufacturers, so always read and follow all directions. Discuss which vaccine to use with your veterinarian and follow any advice they give you.

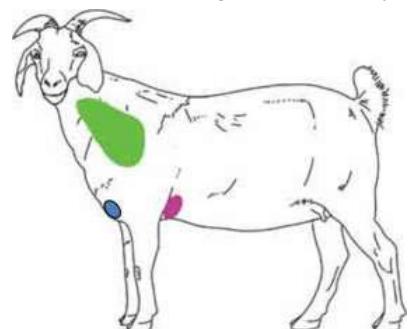
There are two types of clostridial vaccines available. A 3-way vaccine that includes Clostridial perfringens Types C and D plus tetanus (C,D & T) or a 7-way or 8-way vaccine that is a multivalent clostridial vaccine. The 7 or 8-way may not be needed for goats and sheep. Consult your veterinarian on what is needed for your farm.

General Recommendations:

- ♦ Bucks and Rams: vaccinate once per year
- ♦ Breeding females: vaccinate 4 to 6 weeks before kidding or lambing. Vaccinating in late pregnancy will pass some immunity to the kids and lambs through the colostrum.
- ♦ Kids and Lambs: follow label directions for timing and when to booster.
- ♦ If breeding females were vaccinated before kidding or lambing, vaccinate kids at weaning followed by a booster (refer to label for times).
- ♦ If females were not vaccinated before kidding or lambing and you experience problems, contact your vet for advice.

Other Considerations

Give vaccinations in the triangle of the neck by subcutaneous (sub q) or intramuscular (im) injection. Some people may vaccinate behind or in front of the front legs, consult the label and your vet to give in these areas. Sub q is recommended if the label states it can be given that way. Check the label for withdrawal times before slaughtering goats or sheep. Make sure to keep good records of when vaccinations are given every year. Check label for product use and storage requirements.



Equine Etiquette for Riders on North Carolina Trails

By: Tyrone Fisher, County Extension Director and Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Harnett County
Article compliments of Rutgers Cooperative Extension

When trail riding in North Carolina, everyone needs to be aware of not only safety concerns for the rider and the horse, but also courtesy for other trail users. All safety precautions and tips on riding should be practiced. However, additional practices apply specifically to trail riding; be it individual or group, short or long distance, for fun, or for competition. Trail Safety is a major concern as more riders hit the trail and hunting season opens!

It is best not to ride alone. If you do, tell someone where you are going, and what time you expect to be back. Consider carrying a whistle or cell phone to use in case of an emergency. It takes less effort to blow a whistle than to yell for help. Consider attaching an ID tag to your horse when trail riding. The tag should include the horse's name, your name, and your cell phone number. Should you become separated from your horse and you are some distance from home, a cell phone number will aid anyone who has caught your horse in reuniting it with you. Carry a current map of the area and have an idea where you are going. Study the area around you, noting landmarks. Occasionally look behind you to help recognize the trail for your return. Use fluorescent clothespins to clip to branches along the trail to help mark your return. Remember to remove the markers on the return trip. Some riders find a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit to be helpful in keeping track of where they have ridden. Stay on designated-marked trails. Do not ride horses at a pace greater than a walk on muddy trails. You should cross rivers, creeks, or wetland only in designated areas to guard against adverse impact on the environment and for the safety of you and your horse. Good riding etiquette prevents land abuse and destruction. If you ride on federal

or state lands, ask the park officials for their advice on the best trails to take or if there are any map changes. Ride only on lands offered for public or private use where you have permission to ride.

If you stop for lunch, make sure your horse is resting in a safe place both for the horse and for other trail users. Stay with your horse and be considerate of other trail users. If it is permissible to have the horses rest off the trail, do not tie your horse directly to a tree. Use two lightweight 8-foot lines with panic snaps and secure your horse between two trees. This will prevent the horse from chewing the bark and damaging the root system. Leave what you find and carry out what you packed. If you do stop for a rest on a long ride, remember to loosen the girth or cinch and tighten it before remounting. Water should be offered to a horse at any available point on the trail if the trail permits horse access. If there is no access, do not attempt to enter the water. Entering rivers or streams in undesignated areas can cause damage to the environment, be unsafe for the horse, and possibly result in the trail being closed to horses.



Horse Blog

Don't forget we have an Extension Horse Blog that is written by agents from across the state. There are weekly articles on management, nutrition and forages, health care and diseases, reproduction/breeding/foaling, and other topics. There is also a links page with resources. The blog can be found at <http://nchorse.blogspot.com/>.

October blogs:

- Winter Feeding
- Botulism in Horses
- Equine Dentistry
- The Growth and Feeding of a Weanling Horse
- Caring for the Older Horse: Common Problems and Solutions

4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Winners

By: Tiffanee Conrad, Extension Livestock Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension in Richmond County

Results for The 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit will be announced at the banquet in Hoke County. These youth accumulated points for their placings in showmanship at a series of shows in the South Central District in North Carolina this fall. If you know any of these young people, please congratulate them for all their hard work and accomplishments. If you have a child, grandchild, or neighbor who may be interested in competing in our Circuit, please call your local Livestock or 4-H Agent for help.

The 4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit is for youth showing lambs, heifers, and goats. There are three divisions for all species. First place in each division will win a belt buckle and a banner ribbon, second place will win a banner ribbon, and third place through fifth place will win a tri-fold ribbon. Cape Fear Farm Credit and Carolina Farm Credit proudly sponsor the Circuit, providing the funding to operate it. Each youth participant received a Circuit tee shirt. Final point rankings for the Circuit are below:

Lamb Showmanship Winners

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
No entries	1. Fiona Walsh	1. Benjamin Herndon *
		2. Brittany Truesdale *
		3. Emerald Layton
		4. Tanner Riegal
		5. Hanna Carter



Heifer Showmanship Winners

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
1. Luke White	1. Cara Smith	1. LeeAnn Harward
2. Hunter Batchelor	2. Thomas Smith	2. Morgan Rockwell
	3. Marcie Harward	3. Wesley Dobbins
	4. Mattie Harward	4. Catherine Harward
	5. Katelyn Batchelor *	5. Austin Cameron



Meat Goat Showmanship Winners

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
1. Taylor Chappell	1. Coleman Berry *	1. Madelyn Chappell
2. Noah Beeson	2. Savannah Chappell	2. Jordan Carroll
3. Payton Smith	3 Brianna Hamilton	3. Kayla Butler
4. Eli Maske	4. McKensie Beeson	4. Morgan Rockwell
5. Kane Butler	5 Abigail Hamilton .	5. Sarah Maske



*Also won the Most Improved Award Ribbon for their species.
Senior Showmanship Winners are pictured above.

Reduce Energy Usage to Reduce Cost

By: Richard Goforth, Area Poultry Extension Agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension

For most poultry producers, energy costs have become one of, if not the biggest cost of growing poultry. There are a lot of tools out there to help farmers reduce energy consumption as well as ways to help reduce the cost of making the required upgrades. One of the easiest things growers can do is make the switch to energy efficient lighting. Compact Fluorescent Lamps and Light Emitting Diodes are available at prices that make them a cost effective substitute for standard incandescent bulbs and with rebates or cost share money from many of the electric utilities they pay for themselves even quicker. I encourage anyone that is still using incandescent bulbs to check with their electric provider to see if they have a lighting program. Do so quickly because several are close to meeting their required energy efficiency percentages and will be stopping or reducing these programs at the end of the year. Incandescent bulbs are being phased out and the common sizes used in poultry houses will be unavailable or may increase in price as stockpiles dwindle. Be aware that the biggest concerns with using CFLs and LEDs often occur with dimming. Switching dimmers or placing an incandescent bulb in each line will usually handle these issues.

Of course there are many other projects that can save energy and reduce costs, such as sealing up side walls, upgrading insulation, adding attic vents, and installing energy efficient fans and brooders. Any of these projects can qualify for the Rural Energy for America Program (R.E.A.P.). R.E.A.P. provides grants and loans offered by USDA Rural Development to help farmers and rural businesses to reduce energy usage or produce renewable energy. The Natural Resource Conservation Service also has a new cost share program that pays up to 75% of the usual cost of such projects. Both programs require a detailed energy audit be performed. This will show how much energy is expected to be saved by making the project changes; which is essential, since projects are ranked for consideration based on the savings they can produce relative to their cost. So if you need to make upgrades to your houses, you may want to contact your local office and check out these programs.

If you have already made these energy saving improvements on your farm or have new construction that utilized energy efficient equipment and design, there are

plenty of maintenance related items that will help make sure everything runs as efficiently as possible and preserves the life of the equipment as well. Removing dust and debris build up from fans and shutters to make sure they open freely reducing backpressure and maintaining air speed. Dust build up on light fixtures increases heat build up and reduces the lumen output often causing growers to increase the dimming level to get the same light level to the birds. Fan belts should be replaced whenever they start to wear and slip deep into the pulley, even if they are not cracked or slipping, this causes a reduction in RPMs reducing the fans efficiency. Insulation should be checked regularly for signs of settling and movement. This can occur easily in attic spaces and is more likely with sloped ceilings, blown insulation products, and in houses with attic vents. Often after a few years, insulation settles and slides as moisture, gravity, insects and rodents take their toll. In drop ceiling houses, this can leave large areas where only the plastic film is providing a barrier for heat escaping into or from the attic. This will also increase the likelihood of sweating causing wet spots on the floor and structural damage to the house. Just another good reason to make sure attic spaces are checked and rodent and insect control programs are in place and followed.



Example of insulation settling along ridgeline in the attic of a poultry house