Weed Control Options
Eileen A. Coite, Wayne County

In our last issue of Fencelines, Emily told us about a new chemical that became available for forage weed control. Nicosulfuron was labeled and released in April under the brand name “Pastora”. The active ingredients in Pastora are 56% nicosulfuron and 15% metsulfuron methyl. The exciting thing about Pastora is that it will help control many grass-type weeds where minimal control options existed before. Other chemical options on the market for grass type weeds include Cimarron Plus (48% metsulfuron methyl and 15% chlorosulfuron), Panoramic (imazapic), Prowl (pendimethalin) and Journey (8% imazapic and 22% glyphosate). Most of these products are fairly new on the market, having become available over the past 2-5 years. Some other options that have been around longer are Roundup Ultra (glyphosate) and Direx (diuron). Each has its place and time in a successful weed control program, depending on the problem and type of grass weed you might be dealing with, and time of the year. Additionally, some are more harmful to bermudagrass than others, so it’s important to research each product and decide which fits your situation best. For example, products with metsulfuron methyl are recommended if your goal is controlling bahiagrass. If you are just sprigging a new field of bermudagrass, diuron might be the chemical of choice since it is recommended for newly sprigged fields. Late winter options (when the bermudagrass is still dormant) include the use of glyphosate and pendimethalin, but these should not be used once the bermudagrass starts to grow and spread.

It is exciting to have more options for weed control, since just a few years back the choices were extremely limited. Along with matching up each chemical to the situation, it’s important to remember that each one also has specific application directions, precautions and grazing restrictions. Don’t forget to read the label for this information, ideally before you purchase the product. Some require a spray adjuvant (surfactant) that will help the product make contact with the weed you are targeting to control, and the label will give these recommendations too. There are many, many
products also on the market for broadleaf weed control, and most of the above mentioned products will control various broadleaf weeds along with grasses. Minimizing weeds in pastures is a continuous challenge and its promising news when we hear about new and improved products to reach this goal. An assortment of chemical weed control products has been on the market for years to control broadleaf weeds. A few have had some impact on grass-type weeds as well, but options have been very limited up to now. With our predominant forage crop in Southeastern NC being bermudagrass that often competes for nutrients with other grasses, its exciting to find new ways to control these weeds, such as crabgrass, vaseygrass, bahiagrass, fall panicum, johnsongrass, and goosegrass. For a complete list of forage weed control products or for additional help with identifying a weed and selecting a chemical for weed control, be sure to call your local extension office for assistance.

Recommenations for the use of chemicals are included in this publication as a convenience to the reader. The use of brand names and any mention or listing of commercial products or services in this publication does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension nor discrimination against similar products or services not mentioned. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. Be sure to obtain current information about usage and examine a current product label before applying any chemical. For assistance, contact an agent of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension in your county.

Pasture Management to Control Parasites in Goats and Sheep

Eve H. Honeycutt - Lenoir and Greene Counties

Adapted from an article by: Goat Pasture Management eXtension, Parasite Control in Sheep and Goats Louisiana State University

Every year along with the heat and humidity summer time brings parasites such as the Barber-Pole Worm (Haemonchus contortus) that infect sheep and goat herds throughout the Southeast United states. To control this and other parasites farmers typically resort to using dewormers such as Ivermectin or Fenbendazole (Safeguard®) to control parasites in their herds. Such a high usage of dewormers results in parasite resistance. Without effective dewormers, alternative methods need to be used in order to control parasites in a herd.

Parasites are not the result of a dewormer problem, but a pasture problem. One of the best ways to control parasites is to control the number of parasites goats or sheep are exposed to, by managing pastures in such a way that reduces the parasitic load. There are several methods in pasture control that can reduce the parasitic load in a pasture. Rotating sheep and goats to browse lots, graze another species, and resting pastures will be discussed in this article.

It is recommended to place your sheep or goats into a browse pasture, such as a wood lot or an area with a high density of brush and shrubs during hot and humid months that produce the highest levels of parasites. Goats and sheep prefer browsing over grazing pastures and will not consume forages close to the ground where parasite larvae are located (5 in. from ground level). Incorporating plants containing high levels of tannins such as black locust have been shown to reduce fecal egg counts and gastrointestinal parasite larvae numbers

Grazing another species on a contaminated pasture can significantly reduce the parasitic load of that pasture. Parasites from sheep and goats cannot survive in the stomachs of cattle and horses. Mixed species grazing can decrease the gastrointestinal parasite load and slow the resistance to conventional dewormers. In pastures with a low contamination species should be grazed together, or animals with the highest nutritional need. Pastures with a high parasitic load should have cattle graze them first and then
Pasture Management to Control Parasites in Goats and Sheep Continued

sheep and goats.
Parasites are a pasture problem. Louisiana State University’s four Ps to parasitism are:
Permanent Pasture Perpetuates Parasitism. Goats and sheep need to be grazed on “safe” pastures. A safe pasture is one that has been used for forage crops, grazed by another species such as horses or cattle, or not grazed by sheep or goats for 3 to 6 months. Resting a pasture is an effective method for control of parasites although not always practical. It typically takes a year or an entire grazing season for parasite larvae to die off. Having an intense rotational schedule (2 to 3 months between pastures) and cutting hay in between rotations helps reduce parasite numbers when grazing another species or resting a pasture is not an economical decision.

Keeping parasites off the farm is critical to the survival of a herd. To overcome resistance to dewormers this parasite season practice good pasture management by rotating your herd, grazing other species, and incorporating brush and shrub plants into your grazing.

Southeast District Forage Management Series

Agricultural Agents in the Southeast are working to coordinate a series of forage workshops across several counties and months to meet your educational needs when it comes to forage management. The plan is to hold 1-2 workshops a month across the southeast on a variety of topics. We hope that many of the events will additionally be approved for animal waste credits and/or pesticide credit when applicable.
The following is a brief synopsis of the series. As dates, topics and locations become secured we will be sending additional information. If you have specific questions on these events, give us a call for more details.

This program is presented by the following Extension Agents:
Eileen Coite - Wayne County;
Melissa Evans - Onslow County,
Amanda Hatcher - Duplin County;
Emily Herring - Pender County;
Eve Honeycutt - Lenoir and Greene Counties

Lenoir County
July 15th, 9:00 to 11:00 am
Bill Hawkins Farm, Deep Run NC
- Forage Management in a lagoon/sprayfield situation
- Pesticide recordkeeping
- Herbicide Selection & Weed ID
  Call (252) 527-2191 to register

Wayne County
August 10th, 2010 - 9:00 to 11:00 am
 Norwood Head Farm, Grantham
Rain date August 12th
- Hay production and management
- Establishing sprigged Bermuda
- Weed management tips
  Call (919) 731-1520 to register

Pender County
September 2010
- Alternative Forage Management - switchgrass, dallisgrass, big bluestem, silvo pasture, endophyte free fescue
  Call (910) 259-1235 to register

Duplin County
November 3, 2010
- Pesticide selection
- Sprayer calibration demonstration
  Call (910) 296-2143 to register

For updates on the Forage Management Series go to www.wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/ and click on events.
Have you ever wondered where your beef checkoff dollars have gone to? Information about the national $1 beef checkoff can be found at www.MyBeefCheckoff.com. Producers now have the ability to subscribe to a monthly e-newsletter informing them of how their checkoff dollars are being spent. According to this website, Japanese families just like American families are cutting back during these tough times. They are cutting back by eating out less, but when they do decide to eat out they are looking for a great bargain. With the help of the checkoff, “Gusto”, a family restaurant chain held a highly successful steak promotion in more than 900 locations in Japan. This promotion featured U.S. chuck eye roll and called it “Sticking-out-Large Beef Steak.” Skylark Company, operators of Gusto did their homework before the promotion to ensure its success. They visited U.S. beef plants in the summer and fall of 2009 to do research on the product they were going to sell in its restaurants. The promotion was supposed to last from last December until March of this year but due to its popularity 1.1 million tons of chuck eye roll wasn’t enough meat to meet the demand and they had to suspend the promotion for 30 days.

Two other companies have begun to promote U.S. Beef on their menus, Denny’s and Red Lobster of Japan. Denny’s was running a 5-week spring promotion using U.S. sirloin steak at all 430 locations and anticipates using 106,000 pounds of sirloin in its promotion. Red Lobster held a trial promotion in February promoting 14 oz U.S. chuck eye steaks and reported the highest sales of any steak they have ever carried on its menu.

Thanks go to beef producers, their checkoff dollars, and the Market Access Program for the support of these restaurant promotions. As a result of the checkoff dollars U.S. exports to Japan increased 23% in 2009, which is almost 202 million pounds valued at $470 million. January 2010 showed great promise for the rest of the year in the beef industry with exports of U.S. beef surpassing their value from 2009 by 40%. For more regarding this article or more information beef checkoff please go to www.MyBeefCheckoff.com and be informed of where and how your money is being spent.

Forage Management Tips

July

- Stick to a four to six week schedule of nitrogen applications on summer grasses. Do not delay application because of dry weather unless it has not rained at all since the previous application.
- Maintain harvesting frequency for quality hay.
- Hot, dry weather can result in nitrate poisoning of animals grazing stunted, highly fertilized summer annuals.
- Sample soils and apply lime on fields to be planted in the fall, if not already done.
- Decide which fescue pastures will be stock-piled for winter grazing.

August

- Sample soils and apply lime to pastures with pH below 5.8 to be overseeded next month.
- Fertilize warm-season grasses.
- Fertilize fescue and keep cattle off of the pastures to be stockpiled for winter grazing.
Feral Swine Population in NC - a Growing Problem
Eve H. Honeycutt - Lenoir and Greene Counties

Feral swine are becoming a significant threat to agriculture and water quality throughout the state. These wild pigs have been reported in 86 of the 100 North Carolina counties. Other states, such as Texas, have an out of control problem where feral swine have been blamed for over $52 million dollars in urban, suburban, and agricultural damage every year.

How Did This Happen?
“Russian” bloodlines have been introduced in this country for sport over the past century. These bloodlines have crossed with a natural domestic wild hog to create a larger, harder breed of wild hog that is spreading rapidly to 40 of our 50 states.

Behavior of a Feral Swine Herd:
Feral swine live in families called “sounders”. These families reproduce rapidly, with 4-8 piglets in a litter and 2-3 litters per year. The most noticeable sign of feral hog activity is damage caused by rooting behavior as they look for food. Other signs of activity include wallows, rubs, tracks, tails, droppings, and beds. Hogs enjoy creating wallows in muddy areas in order to stay cool. They also rub on trees and telephone poles to keep their skin free of parasites. Their tracks are similar to the tracks of a whitetail deer, only more round in shape. Hogs are very mobile and will sometimes travel miles away from their bedding area in order to find food. They have a highly developed sense of smell and generally like to eat at night, going in search of food when the air temperature has dropped to a comfortable level. During the daylight hours, the will usually bed down in heavily forested areas, near any body of water- large or small. Because of the “wild” nature of this species, they will naturally avoid humans unless they feel threatened. Aggressive behavior may be seen in rare cases when an animal is cornered- as with hunting dogs- or getting between a sow and her piglets.

Damage caused by Feral Swine:
The most notable damage is to lawns, landscape, and agricultural lands including field crops and pastures. Hogs are omnivores- eating plants and animals- and can adjust their diet based on what is readily available. Some of their favorites include acorns, grubs, worms, corn, potatoes, produce, fruits, pecans, grapevines, grass, and soybeans. They will eat just about anything they can find. Hunters who prepare their property to feed deer are also attracting feral swine. The hogs enjoy many of the same favorites as the deer- such as shelled corn and clover. Because of their ability to root, they can cause extensive damage to pastures, hayfields, and cropland as their go in search of grubs and worms. Repairing pasture and hayfield damage caused by feral swine can cost an average of $261 per acre. Nationwide damage caused by feral swine has been estimate at $800 million to $1.5 billion annually.

Why Should this Concern NC Residents and Landowners?
Feral swine carry diseases that can be detrimental to the nations food supply. Swine Pseudorabies is a herpes virus that can be shed through the nose and mouth. The virus can also be spread to other livestock and dogs. If commercial swine contract the pseudorabies virus, they are not able to continue into the human food supply.

Another disease of concern is Brucellosis, which is caused by a bacterium. This bacterium can cause sows to abort and cause infertility in boars. It can easily be spread to domestic swine and cattle. Humans can also contract the disease if they come into contact with blood from an infected animal. Brucellosis is an incurable disease. Only the symptoms can be managed during the life of an infected animal or human.

In addition to diseases, feral swine can cause extensive property damage. Their wallowing habits can have a significant detrimental impact on waterways, as they directly pollute natural areas with fecal material.

How Can This Problem be Controlled?
Currently, in most NC counties, it is perfectly legal to shoot feral swine on your own property, at any time of the year. Experienced hunters should shoot hogs because placing the shot is critical to killing the animal. A 25 caliber bullet or larger is required to take down this species. Trapping is also effective, but hogs are very smart and easily adapt to new situations, so setting a trap requires special planning and baiting.

It is important to note that pasture raised swine are very common in North Carolina as a food animal. Pasture raised hogs are usually quite tame and should be fully enclosed in their pasture. Only wild animals that are not contained are legal to shoot.

Landowners should be on the lookout for evidence of feral swine activity. Working with your neighbors to control this species is critical to managing the growing problem.

Additional Information provided by -
Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Wildlife & Fisheries Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
Calendar of Events

- **July 6th at 6 pm - PQA Plus Producer Training**, Wayne Center to register please call Kim at (919) 731-1520
- **July 20th & 21st - Type A Animal Waste Certification Training**
  Mount Olive College to register please call Kim at (919) 731-1520

_For more information about any of these events, please call Kim Davis at 731-1520_

Forage Management Series

- **Date July 15th, 9:00 to 11:00 am - Lenoir County** - Bill Hawkins Farm, Deep Run - call (252) 527-2191 to register
- **August 10th, 9:00 to 11:00 am - Wayne County** - Norwood Head Farm, Grantham please call Kim at (919) 731-1520 to register.
- **September 2010 - Pender County** please call (910) 259-1235 to register.
- **November 3rd, - Duplin County** please call (910) 296-2143 to register.

For updates on the Forage Management Series go to [www.wayne.ces.ncsu.edu](http://www.wayne.ces.ncsu.edu/) and click on events.

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**Fencelines** is a bimonthly newsletter written by a team of Southeast District Agricultural Agents for livestock producers of Southeastern North Carolina. For more information on material and events presented in this newsletter, contact your local agent and Cooperative Extension office at:

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