Do you have the right driver’s license?
Eileen A. Coite, Wayne County

Having the right type of driver’s license and tags on your vehicles sounds simple enough, but is it? I often find that things are not always as easy as it would seem, and sometimes just as we think we know the laws, there is a change. I originally wrote this article a couple of years ago, but a few things have changed and I have heard that the state highway patrol have been more frequently stopping drivers hauling livestock and other agricultural commodities, so it might be a good time to review our driving rules for pulling livestock and horse trailers.

The bottom line on licenses to pull trailers is to know the weight of your trailer. Every trailer (and vehicle) has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVRW) listed on the body of the vehicle. Look for a small metal plate on the front end or side of your trailer which lists all specifications, including the GVRW. For regular passenger vehicles, a class C regular license will suffice. According to the DMV, a class C license allows you to “operate any combination of noncommercial motor vehicles that have a GVRW of more than 10,000 pounds and less than 26,001 pounds, as long as the driver is 18 years of age or older”. Furthermore, according to the DMV “most drivers need only a Regular C license to operate personal automobiles and small trucks.” So, if your horse or livestock trailer is rated with a GVRW which is less than 10,000 pounds, you are fine with a class C license. Most small livestock and horse trailers fall into this category, such as a two horse tag-a-long or even some aluminum goosenecks. If it’s over this weight, read on.

There are two other classes of “regular” licenses. These are a Class A and Class B. The only real difference between the two of these is that the Class A is for any vehicle towing a vehicle of 10,000 pounds or more and the Class B is for a vehicle that weighs 26,001 pounds or more. Most truck/trailer combinations with a trailer over 10,000 pounds would require a Class A license, since small or passenger trucks weigh less than 26,001 pounds. If you have a
large or long bodied horse or livestock trailer, you most likely will need a Class A license to haul. Occasionally, horse or livestock owners have been stopped and asked to see their license, and some have had to find drivers to get their rig back home! Don’t let this happen to you. Check your trailer now and make sure you are in compliance.

Another thing to consider is vehicle tags. In addition to having the correct license, most vehicles must have a weighted tag if hauling a trailer or carrying weight that goes over 7000 pounds. So, if you are hauling a livestock or horse trailer, you will need weighted tags, or possibly farm tags, and should weigh your loaded trailer to know how much weight you are pulling and how much to have registered for your tags. Farm tags are only offered if you can...
North Carolina State University has released an updated version of “Calibration and Uniformity Assessment for Animal Wastewater Application Equipment” to give updated information on hard hose travelers and solid set systems. Irrigation systems wear and develop buildup, therefore affecting their performance, both from an irrigation standpoint and from an economic standpoint. Calibrations are required once every two years for swine facilities in North Carolina with a state general permit and required once a year for swine facilities with an NPDES permit.

Here’s a summary of things to keep in mind before starting a calibration:

- A manufacturer’s chart for your system’s sprinkler and nozzle combination is needed for your irrigation design or wetted acreage determination.
- Perform calibrations during periods of no to very light wind (less than 5 mph).
- Check wetted diameter and flow pressure under periods of normal pressure.
- Equipment needed to complete a calibration:
  1. Pressure gauge, either a mounted gauge or a handheld with pitot tube. (Which will cost roughly $38.00 offline.)
  2. Flow meter with in-line adapters IF field-measured nozzle pressure and manufacturer’s charts will not be used to obtain flow rate.
  3. Measuring tape, 200-300 feet or wheel. (A measuring tape will cost roughly $25 offline.)
  4. Flags for checking wetted diameter. (Roughly $5 for a set of flags.)
  5. Caliper for measuring nozzle size. (Roughly costs $10.)
  6. Calibration forms for recording measurements. These can be found at your local Extension Office.

For hard-hose travelers and stationary systems (solid sets), the following steps are needed:

1. Measure the nozzle size of traveler guns.
2. Measure pressure at the nozzle or sprinkler.
3. Measure the wetted diameter of the nozzle or sprinkler.
4. Measure the flow rate.
5. Compare the measured pressure, wetted diameter, and flow rate against the manufacturer’s chart, irrigation design documents, and/or the wetted acreage determination.

Although the rain gauge method that was once needed every three years is not required now to determine uniformity, sprinkler spacing (or lane spacing for travelers) must be within design specifications and pressure must be within the ranges provided by manufacturer (Liu, 2009; 9th SB 1217 Guidance Document, North Carolina 1217 Interagency Group, 2009). To check for uniformity:

1. Compare field-measured wetted diameter and pressure to manufacturer’s charts.
2. Calculate the sprinkle or lane spacing as a percentage of field-measured wetted diameter to determine if spacing falls in the recommended range.

Field data sheets at the end of the publication help calibrations to go more smoothly. If you would like to receive a copy of this publication contact or if you have any questions about calibrations, contact your County Extension Agent. For a total estimated onetime cost of the equipment needed to do a calibration at the most roughly being $78 it would be a good way to save money on the farm versus paying a company to do it.

Publication courtesy of NCSU, AG-553-09 and thanks to Amanda Hatcher, Duplin County Livestock Agent
As I write this, it is too early to tell if the recent rain will do enough to improve the effects of the recent dry, hot weather on our forage crops. With any luck, there will be more rain in the near future to increase soil moisture and forage yield. But just in case, I thought some good information about drought affected pastures would benefit those of you with grazing animals.

Cattle producers generally have two main options for meeting the nutrient requirements of cattle on drought affected pastures and ranges. The first is to provide supplemental feed to ensure the cow herd has adequate energy, protein, vitamins, and minerals. The second is to reduce the nutrient requirements of the cow to a point where they can be met with available forage.

Drought-affected pastures generally do not produce adequate forage to maintain "normal" stocking rates, so producers must provide supplemental energy to meet the needs of the cow herd. Pastures that are dormant due to drought conditions may be low in vitamin A, phosphorus, and protein. Meeting the need for these nutrients is important if cow herd productivity is to be maintained. Reductions in stocking rate will benefit plants by reducing stress and will also provide more forage for the remaining cattle. When stocking rates are reduced in accordance with production, only small effects on weaning weight may be noted.

**Providing Supplemental Feeds During a Drought**

**Minerals** Provide the same salt and mineral mixture during drought as you would during normal conditions. However, during drought phosphorus supplementation is critical. A mixture of 50 percent trace mineralized salt and 50 percent dicalcium phosphate supplied free choice to the cow herd will meet the phosphorus requirement. The salt mixture should be placed close to stock watering locations.

**Vitamin A** Lack of vitamin A may be a problem during fall and winter for cows that grazed drought-affected pastures during summer. Vitamin A is lacking in forages during drought and hay produced from drought-affected forages. Cows should receive vitamin A and D booster shots approximately 30 days prior to calving and their calves should receive vitamin A and D at birth.

**Protein** Pastures dormant due to drought conditions may be deficient in protein. If these conditions occur during the breeding season, reductions in pregnancy rate can occur. Provide dry cows with approximately 0.5 to 0.75 pounds of supplemental crude protein and lactating cows with 0.9 to 1.2 pounds of supplemental crude protein per day. This can be fed as approximately 1 to 1.5 pounds of soybean meal for dry cows and 2 to 2.5 pounds of soybean meal for lactating cows. Protein supplementation may be necessary for optimum breeding rates during drought conditions. Alfalfa hay, sunflower meal, safflower meal, as well as other protein meals may also be used as protein supplements.

**Energy** Since forage production is generally limited during a drought, energy may be the most limiting nutrient for grazing cattle. Several options are available for supplying energy to cattle on drought-stressed pasture. Hay, grain, and crop processing byproducts can all be used to supply energy to grazing cattle.

Grain processing coproducts, such as wheat midds, soyhulls, barley malt sprouts, beet pulp, and corn gluten feed, which contain highly digestible fiber provide energy while alleviating much of the negative impact that grain supplementation has on fiber digestibility. In addition, these byproducts provide protein which may also be limiting in drought-stressed forages.

**Drylot Feeding** If pasture conditions are extremely poor, producers may consider feeding cows in drylot. This may be more cost effective than supplementation if large amounts of supplement must be transported and fed to cows daily. In addition, it may allow pastures a much needed rest period to begin recovering from the drought.

*Adapted from an article by Greg Lardy, Extension Beef Specialist, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, North Dakota State University*
Calendar of Events

- **Goat & Sheep Roundup** - July 21st & 22nd  
  Kinston - website - online registration at http://franklin.ces.ncsu.edu

- **New Animal Waste Certification Class** - July 26th & 27th  
  Sampson County to register call Lynn Stillwell at (910) 592-7161

- **Animal Waste Operator Continuing Education** - Aug. 19th  
  10 am to noon & 1 pm to 3 pm - “Operation and Maintenance of Irrigation Equipment”  
  4 hours of CE offered. Location: Rainman Irrigation, Mount Olive. Please pre-register by calling Kim at (919) 731-1520.

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.

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