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Increased Incidence of Fescue Foot Associated With Cold December

A crippling disease know as fescue foot or fescue toxicity, usually not a big problem in North Carolina in the winter, has recently become more common, due in part to the cold temperatures. Associated with the same fungus which affects performance in the heat of the summer, the toxin is a vaso constrictor, reducing blood flow particularly in the lower legs and tail. Symptoms include sloughing of the ends of the tail, lameness, weakening of the hide tissues in the lower legs and feet, and may, in severe cases, include sloughing of the feet. No medication is effective for cattle with this problem. Cattle will normally recover completely if removed from the fescue pasture or fescue hay and are given other feed or pasture when the disease first appears.

Producers who have cattle grazing stockpiled fescue or consuming a high percentage fescue hay should watch closely for signs of fescue foot until warmer weather arrives.

Meeting Announcement on Mandatory Price Reporting

Weldon Hall, Assistant Branch Chief with USDA Livestock and Grain Market News will host a meeting in the Tryon Room of the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center on Jan. 10, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is

to explain the changes that will take place after the introduction of the new reports, scheduled to begin on January 30, 2001. Most likely, the way contracts are written for Top Hogs will be affected.

The meeting will immediately follow the North Carolina Pork Producers Conference in New Bern.

Beef Cattle Budget Access

The link to access the Beef Cattle Budgets from The Agricultural and Resource Economics Department website has changed. The beef budgets can be accessed through the departmental web page with the following steps:

1. Go to the ARE-NCSU web page at <http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/>
2. Click on "Extension" <http://www.ag-econ.ncsu.edu/extension.htm>
3. Click on "Publications/Presentations/ Online Materials" (under the picture). You will see a list of items under the heading Agribusiness Management. There is a subheading for Budgets, and a subsubheading for Dairy/Beef.
4. Click on "Beef Budgets" This will pull up a page listing the four beef budgets. Select the budget(s) you need by clicking on it. The budgets are PDF files that can be printed but not modified by the user. Alternatively, you can go directly to the following UTL: <http://www2.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/g/gabenson/BeefBudgets/BeefBudgets.htm>

by: Dale C Miller

“Year Letter” Designation

by: Roger McCraw

You may wish to file the following “Year Letter” designations. Most breed associations now require calves that are to be registered to have a tattoo that includes a letter to designate the year of birth. Year letter designations are:

1995 = E	2000 = K
1996 = F	2001 = L
1997 = G	2002 = M
1998 = H	2003 = N
1999 = J	2004 = P
	2005 = R

NOTE: Letters I, O, Q, and V are not used.