LIVESTOCK NEWSLETTER

Prior Planning Pays

Ethan Henderson, Haywood County Livestock Agent
Damon Pollard, Burke County Livestock Agent

I know you all are eagerly awaiting the warm weather and green grass that is just around the corner. The weather this winter has been very unpredictable and has made cattle management difficult to say the least. Instead of singing the wintertime blues, your time can be better spent preparing for the upcoming season. Now is an excellent time to make decisions that can impact your bottom dollar as you prepare your taxes. My tax practitioner will tell you that I never get my taxes to her until the very last minute. For some reason, I always dread trying to round up crinkled receipts that get shoved in coat pockets and in the dash of the farm truck. Organization is not my most defining trait and my wife struggles to get me to put the farm receipts in one central place. When I do finally get everything rounded up, I enjoy adding up my expenses and calculating my income (if any) from the farm. As you go through this process, begin identifying areas where you can start cutting costs. There are essentially 2 basic ways for a livestock producer to increase profitability. The first way is to increase production on the farm, and the second is to reduce the cost of production. For many of us, cutting cost is the only option, because our ability to increase the size of our operation is limited by the availability of pasture and crop land. I recently attended a seminar taught by a dairy business consultant titled "Managing Margins During Difficult Times". The consultant compared numerous dairy operations and identified the operations that were more profitable and why. I think many of the recommendations can be applied to any livestock operation.

Record Keeping

Record keeping is perhaps one of the most important things you can do on your operation. There are numerous software programs that you can use to help you keep records, but often a simple notebook is the most practical. Some of the most

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successful livestock producers end their day by writing down everything they completed that day. At the very least, financial records should include feed, hay, labor, equipment, repairs, fuel, fertilizer, and seed. Production records should include dates when bulls are turned in, calving dates, animal health, cow productivity, and beginning/ending date when hay and other supplements were fed. Without this very basic information it is nearly impossible to know what areas can be improved upon.

Feed Costs

Feed cost is almost always the highest production cost for livestock operations. According to a cow-calf budget produced by the University of Georgia, pasture, hay, and feed costs account for nearly 70 percent of the total production cost. For small scale producers like many of us in western North Carolina, the cost of producing hay is so large that it is nearly impossible for us to make a profit. Budgets from NC State indicate that it costs approximately $85 to harvest a 1,000 pound roll of hay. This doesn't include any production costs leading up to harvesting the hay or the cost of storage. These costs will vary from farm to farm, and are influenced by the number of cows you are feeding. Basically, if you only have 35 brood cows and have a lot of new hay equipment sitting around, it is highly unlikely that your operation is profitable. In the dairy farm comparison, farms that did their own cropping were not as profitable when compared to farms that either purchased their feed or hired someone to custom harvest their crops. I realize that in our area it can be difficult to find someone who is willing to custom harvest your hay at the correct stage of maturity and when the weather forecast is ideal. However, many of us have neighboring farms that also have a lot of new equipment sitting around the barnyard. Begin thinking outside of the box about ways that you can work with your neighbors to harvest hay and purchase equipment. A baler is a good example of an expensive piece of equipment that you might be able to share with your neighbor.

Herd Health Program

Farms that have an excellent herd health program tend to be more profitable. When many producers think about herd health the first thing that comes to mind is vaccinations, but herd health also includes biosecurity practices. How often do you purchase a bull or replacement females and turn them directly in with your cow herd without knowing much about the history of the animal? It is a good practice to isolate new animals for at least 3 weeks and monitor them closely for any symptoms of illness. If you are not confident that the incoming animal has been vaccinated it is a good idea to vaccinate the animal to match the vaccination protocol for the rest of your herd. Work with your local vet, vaccine supplier, or extension agent to develop a vaccination protocol that is appropriate for your situation and your herd. Remember that a good vaccination protocol doesn't guarantee that you will never lose an animal to a disease, but it does enhance disease resistance.

Culling Strategies

Profitable operations have a very rigid culling program. I think this is one of the hardest things for producers to implement in our area because most of us have at least one or two cows in the herd that we have named. It seems like every time my wife names her favorite cow the cow's productivity comes to a screeching halt. It is not an easy conversation to tell your wife that we have to sell "Reba" because she has only had 2 calves in the last 4 years. When I was trying to

justify my decision to sell Reba I explained that it costs approximately $200 - $500 dollars per year to maintain a cow and if she doesn't raise a calf we are losing money. My wife said, "So, it's like having a renter that isn't paying rent?" Exactly! I encourage you to not only cull cows that don't breed back, but also cull cows that are not paying rent on time. Every cattle producer's goal should be to have a 95 percent calf crop during a 60 day calving window with an average weaning weight of 500 pounds. In order to achieve that goal you might have to increase your level of management. If your calving percentage is only 75 percent or less there may be some management issues that are preventing your cows from getting bred. You should do your part as the landlord to ensure that your tenants are happy and hopefully they will pay their rent.

Most cattle producers in our area are price takers and not price setters, so there is very little we can do to influence the price of our cattle. One thing we can directly control is our cost of production. As you began compiling your taxes for 2017 I encourage you to identify areas where you had the highest cost and see what you can do in 2018 to reduce that cost. If you would like additional information about any of the topics in this article, contact your local Livestock Extension Agent.

2017 Beef Market Overview and Outlook for the Southern Region

Chris Prevatt, Ag Economist, University of Florida

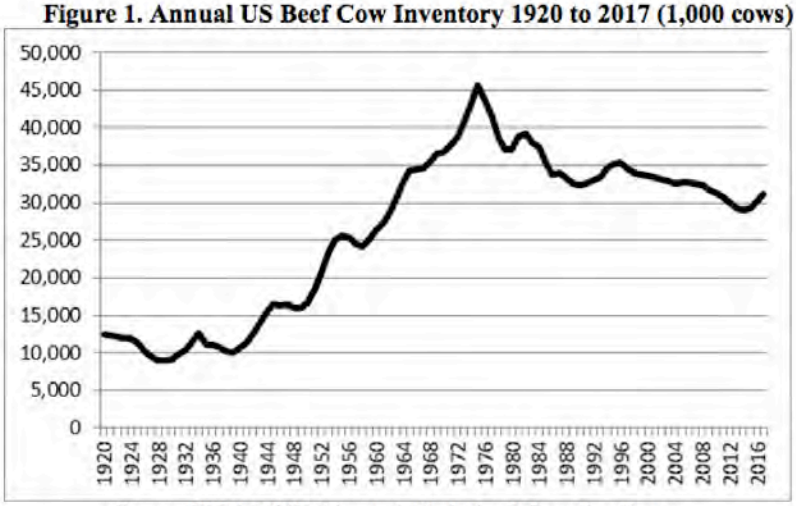
By many measures, the 2017 beef cattle market looks very similar to what was seen in 2016. Both fed cattle and feeder cattle prices posted annual averages very close to year-ago levels. However, comparing prices year-over-year seldom tells the full story and this year is a classic case of why that is so. A combination of decreasing slaughter weights, stronger export levels, and cheaper grain prices has the left the current feel of the cattle markets far more optimistic than what was felt in fall 2016.

While most cattle producers in the southeast are active in calf and feeder cattle markets, there are a large numbers of feedlots in the western part of the region. Further, fed cattle markets are one of the primarily drivers of feeder cattle values and a logical place to start as we begin breaking down the current market. While the average annual price for 2017 may be very similar to that of 2016, the 5 Area weekly weighted average price is currently nearly $19 per cwt higher than what was seen this time last year.

Larger cattle slaughter has been somewhat tempered by lower slaughter weights and strong export levels. Beef exports for 2017 are likely to end the year around 10% higher than 2016 levels. In addition to stronger fed cattle prices, the feeder cattle market has also been supported

by cheaper feed and good fall grazing conditions. While flooding from major hurricanes created challenges for many in the region, exceptional fall moisture and temperatures led to opportunities for others. Good forage conditions have generally delayed calf runs that are often seen as fall sets in. At the same time, another large corn crop has resulted in a continued decrease in feed prices that has improved margins and raised feeder cattle bids for both feedyards and winter backgrounders.

Figure 1. Annual US Beef Cow Inventory 1920 to 2017 (1,000 cows)



Source: USDA-NASS, Livestock Marketing Information Center

Beef cow inventory going back to 1920 as well as multiple cattle cycles can be seen in figure 1. For example, note the cattle cycle that began in 1990 and ended in 2004 in comparison to our most recent full cycle that began in 2004 and ended in 2014. This most recent cattle cycle seemed to be plagued with outside forces from the start. Weather challenges, high grain prices, and eventually recession likely cut the expansion phase of this last cattle cycle short by a couple years as we really only saw two years of beef cow herd expansion.

The contraction phase of this cycle was also impacted by outside forces. Severe drought in the southern plains from 2011 through 2013 led to sizeable reductions beef cow numbers. At the same time, grain prices following the 2012 drought were so high that a lot of pasture ground was converted into row crops in response to the high profit levels in grain production. The end result was that the contraction phase of that last cattle cycle probably lasted longer than it would have otherwise. So, the beef cow herd size was reduced beyond what would have been expected under normal weather conditions.

Table 1 captures some of this dynamic reasonably well for the region as it compares January 2017 beef cow inventory to January 2006 for some key states in the south. The year 2006 is chosen because that was the peak of U.S. beef cow inventory from our last cattle cycle and may provide some indication of capacity by state. With the exception of Oklahoma, all states listed have fewer beef cows now than they did in 2006. And with the exception of Florida, those states that are down in beef cow inventory are down significantly. Texas, Tennessee, and Georgia jump off the page in terms of percentage change and the decrease of nearly 900,000 cows in Texas is very telling. I think this provides some evidence of where we are likely to see beef cow herd growth occur in the region over the next few years, with the caveat that much of the loss in beef cow inventory that occurred to due to loss of pasture acres to row crop is not likely to return to pasture any time soon.

Table 1. Beef Cow Inventory in Key Southern States

	2006 Beef Cows	2017 Beef Cows	% Change from 2006
Texas	5,350	4,460	-17%
Oklahoma	2,045	2,095	+2%
Florida	916	908	-1%
Georgia	592	497	-16%
Tennessee	1,080	1,023	-16%
Kentucky	1,118	1,023	-9%
United States	32,702	31,210	-6%

Source: USDA-NASS, Livestock Marketing Information Center, author calculations

As difficult as it may be, it is likely best to put the roller coaster ride of the last several years behind us and focus on where we are now and where we are heading. First, it is important that we

recognize that the beef herd is still expanding. U.S. beef cow inventory reached a 52 year low in 2014 causing cow calf operators to see unprecedented profit levels. As of January 1, 2017, US beef cow inventory had increased over 7% from 2014. It would be shocking if January 1, 2018 numbers didn't suggest that 2017 was our fourth year of expansion in this cattle cycle. It is possible that the pace of expansion may slow somewhat from the 3.5% increase seen during 2016, but it is very likely that this cow herd is still increasing in size.

A growing cow herd means larger calf crops and the fact that calf crops have been growing for a few years now means that beef production is going to continue to increase. This alone will put downward pressure on boxed beef prices, which will impact fed cattle prices and eventually negatively affect feeder cattle prices. However, it is important to realize that the production levels of competing meats also impact cattle prices and production increases are currently being forecast for both pork and poultry. Expected increases in production for the three major meats are shown in Table 2 for both 2017 and 2018. While there is a chance for exports to help offset some of this, it is very likely that per capita consumption of meat is going to rise next year, which will tend to put downward pressure on prices.

Table 2. ERS Forecast Production Increase from Previous Year

	2017 vs. 2016	2018 vs. 2017
Beef	+3.6%	+2.1%
Pork	+0.6%	+2.1%
Broilers	+0.9%	+1.0%

Source: ERS Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook. October 2017.

Since cow herd expansion is ongoing, and production of all three major meats is on the rise, is it very difficult to paint a picture of higher prices for 2018. Producers at the cow-calf level should plan for lower prices year-over-year and margin operators (stockers, feedlots, etc.) should plan for a general downtrend in the market prices. There likely is still some room for growth in the cow herd, especially in some areas where beef cow numbers are still well below long term trends. Weather permitting, herd expansion will continue until profitability is such that the incentive to expand is no longer there.

Cattle producers in this type of environment should look for opportunities to increase profits where possible. A good first step is to realistically access the costs of their cow-calf operation in order to understand how profitable they are in the current market. Some producers may determine that they are profitable and can handle lower prices ahead. Others may determine that they need to make some changes now in order to remain profitable in the future.

A common strategy in challenging markets is to cull deep and run fewer cow in order to stretch the grazing season and decrease winter feeding days. This strategy essentially attempts to increase profitability per head on a smaller number of cows. Others may want to consider preconditioning and or backgrounding as a way to add value to the calves they produce. Larger calf crops typically allow feedlots to be a bit more selective and market separation does appear to exist between weaned calves and green calves in the marketplace. Still, others may see the impending lower prices as an opportunity and start holding heifers in order to expand and have a larger cow herd when prices begin to trend up in the future. Regardless, producers need to understand the profitability of their current operation before they can make long term decisions that will impact the financial success of their operation.

Grass Tetany Season: It's Just Around The Corner

Dr. Deidre Harmon, Livestock Specialist, NC State University
Dr. Lawton Stewart, Beef Specialist, University of Georgia

What is grass tetany and why is magnesium important?

Grass tetany, also known as grass staggers, magnesium (Mg) tetany, hypomagnesemia, and wheat pasture poisoning, is a nutritional disorder caused by either 1) an inadequate amount of dietary Mg, or, 2) other mineral related factors that prevent (antagonize) dietary Mg from being properly absorbed or utilized. Magnesium is considered a macro-mineral and is needed in beef cattle diets to ensure proper growth, reproduction, and metabolic function. When dietary Mg is limiting or utilization is inhibited, neuromuscular function becomes impaired and may cause the clinical symptoms of staggering, muscle twitching, convulsions, and in severe cases, can lead to death.

Early detection of magnesium deficiency is difficult and producers often do not know they have a problem until animal performance suffers or clinical symptoms appear. Prevention is the best way to control grass tetany. This can be accomplished by providing cattle with a high-Mg mineral during periods of cool, cloudy, and rainy weather, especially when cool weather is followed by a warm period. This weather scenario most often occurs during the spring months but can occasionally happen in the fall as well.

Why is magnesium an issue during this time of year?

Mg is essential, especially during lactation. Spring calving cows are highly susceptible to grass tetany because they reach peak lactation (which requires large amounts of Mg) during the same time as the spring green up. This onset of abundant, lush forage is associated with decreased amounts of forage Mg. The elevated Mg requirement in lactating cows, coupled with the decreased Mg in rapidly growing forages creates a negative balance situation where the lactating cow's needs are greater than her intake and thus reducing circulating blood Mg levels. Older cows are even more susceptible to this condition because they cannot mobilize Mg from reserves in the bone as quickly and efficiently as younger cows.

High potassium (K) can be a problem. High K content is also associated with lush, growing forages. Although K is an essential nutrient for both plants and animals, in large amounts it works as an antagonist to reduce Mg uptake from the soil and Mg absorption in the rumen. See Table 1 for mineral nutrient requirements in beef cattle.

I'm putting out High-Mag mineral, but I am still losing cows?

Not consuming enough. With the exception of salt, minerals tend to be naturally unpalatable to cattle. Increasing the Mg content of a mineral mix may cause a palatability issue and result in decreased consumption. It is also important to keep in mind that cows typically do not voluntarily consume as much mineral this time of year. Additionally, poor mineral feeder placement and availability can also contribute to low mineral consumption. Consider putting the mineral feeders in a high-traffic or gathering area and provide at least one feeder for every twenty head of cattle.

High-Mg mineral if fed year-round. Some producers put out high-Mg mineral all year long as an "insurance policy". However, feeding the high-Mg mineral year-round may condition cattle to not consume enough during the short period of time that grass tetany may occur. From an economics standpoint, feeding a high-Mg mineral year round is also a wasteful and costly investment.

Not enough salt. Magnesium transport across the rumen wall can be reduced if 1) there is not enough salt in the diet, and, 2) there is too

much K in the diet. Collectively, too much K and too little salt can cause grass tetany, even if Mg intake is adequate.

What can I do?

Know exactly what cattle are consuming. Do the math based on how much mineral you're putting out, how many cows are in the herd, and how fast it is being consumed. Calculate the oz/hd/d mineral requirements of your herd to determine whether or not their requirements are being met. Example consumption requirements based on different feeding rates and herd sizes are illustrated in Table 2.

Increase the intake. If your herd is not consuming enough of the high-Mg mineral, try thoroughly mixing it with feed and/or salt. Again, do the math to ensure the correct intake.

Table 1. Mineral requirements and maximum tolerable levels for beef cattle.

Mineral	Unit	Requirement			Maximum Tolerable Concentration
		Growing and Finishing Cattle	Gestating Cows	Early Lactation Cows	
Calcium*	%	-	-	-	-
Chlorine±	%	-	-	-	-
Chromium±	ppm	-	-	-	1000.00
Cobalt	ppm	0.10	0.10	0.10	10.00
Copper	ppm	10.00	10.00	10.00	100.00
Iodine	ppm	0.50	0.50	0.50	50.00
Iron	ppm	50.00	50.00	50.00	1000.00
Magnesium	%	0.10	0.12	0.20	0.40
Manganese	ppm	20.00	40.00	40.00	1000.00
Molybdenum±	ppm	-	-	-	5.00
Nickel±	ppm	-	-	-	50.00
Phosphorus*	%	-	-	-	-
Potassium	%	0.60	0.60	0.70	3.00
Selenium	ppm	0.10	0.10	0.10	2.00
Sodium	%	0.06-0.08	0.06-0.08	0.10	-
Sulfur	%	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.40
Zinc	ppm	30.00	30.00	30.00	500.00

Adapted from Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, 7th Revised Edition: Update 2000.

*Calcium and phosphorus requirements greatly depend on level of animal performance.

±Requirements have not been well defined or established.

Add salt. Providing additional salt will increase the palatability of the high-Mg mineral and ensures the requirement of salt is being met. Salt will help to maximize Mg absorption in the rumen. **DO NOT DO THIS IN PLACE OF PROVIDING A HIGH-MG SUPPLEMENT**, rather, in addition to. This can be done simply by putting out plain white salt blocks.

Take a soil test. Soils that are low in available phosphorus (P) and high in nitrogen (N) and K can increase the likelihood of a grass tetany problem. Together, these soil conditions can reduce forage uptake of Mg from the soil. If your soil test results show pastures that are deficient in Mg, apply dolomitic lime to increase Mg, raise soil pH, and make P more available.

If you find cattle that have succumbed to grass tetany, call your veterinarian immediately. In most situations, downer cattle can be treated with an intravenous infusion of calcium gluconate. This will get downer cattle back on their feet, but the underlying issue causing grass tetany must still be addressed. Grass tetany is preventable, but can have tremendous economic repercussions when it occurs. Following the guidelines above will help prevent this issue in your herd. For more information and/or help implementing some of these strategies, contact your local Extension office.

Table 2. Calculated weekly consumption amounts for different mineral feeding rates and herd sizes.

Herd Size	Requirement		
	2 oz	3 oz	4 oz
	Mineral Required (lbs/week)		
10	9	13	18
25	22	33	44
50	44	66	88
75	66	98	131
100	88	131	175

2017 Area Beef Conference Roundup

Noah Henson, Livestock Agent, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk Counties

This year the Area Beef Conference was held in conjunction with the annual North Carolina BCIP Waynesville Bull Test Sale. Despite the unexpected snow and bad weather, there was still a great turnout for this event. We wanted to take a minute and highlight some of the topics covered at this event.

Dr. Deidre Harmon, the new Mountain Livestock Specialist, kicked off the day with a presentation on EPD's of bulls and what to be selecting and breeding for. The information was thorough, and certainly relevant to the buyers who were looking for breeding bulls later on in the day.

We were fortunate enough to have Dr. Matt Poore, Extension Beef Specialist from NC State, with us to explain the maintenance and feeding that needs to take place with a breeding bull. This was extremely helpful in understanding how to increase the longevity of a bull and certainly make sure he is able to reach his full genetic potential, while still covering your cows and tightening your calving interval.

In addition, we also had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Mark Alley, DVM present on the importance of maintaining a yearly Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE)mon your bulls. The expertise and advancement in knowledge of reproduction was certainly well taken by the crowd. Applying what was taught in this presentation could save producers thousands of dollars, by simply making sure your bull is in sound shape to breed your cows.

Our local extension team also played a very large role in insuring this event went over as well as it possibly could. Steve Duckett, Director of Extension in Buncombe County, and Damon Pollard, Burke County Livestock Agent, gave a great presentation on "Matching the Bull to Your Cow Herd." Structural correctness, along with selecting a bull that is "balanced" against your cow were certainly great thoughts presented to help producers have calves that would not only be more efficient in terms of labor, but would also bring a higher premium when marketed as well.

Joe Deal, Macon County Livestock Agent, brought us some great research on the importance of hay sampling, along with ideas of how to correct a deficiency that you may have in your winter forage. Seeing how a nutrient deficiency can affect your animal performance, it is certainly important to have a proper forage analysis done.

Jeff Bradley, Rutherford County Extension Director, and Ethan Henderson, Livestock Agent in Haywood County, presented some very intriguing facts on round bale maintenance and feeding. The presentation focused on understanding the impacts of proper storage and hay feeding and how management of those can help you turn more of a profit at the end of the year. Many comparisons of dollar amounts were made on the amount of hay that can be wasted if it is not stored and fed properly. In addition, many different options and ideas were given on ways to store and feed hay throughout the year.

Lastly, Adam Lawing, McDowell County Livestock Agent, and Noah Henson, Buncombe, Henderson, and Polk County Livestock Agent, took everyone outside and presented scenarios on the live bulls to have a better understanding of how to match actual data to different types of cow herds

throughout the Southeast. Different traits need to be picked for different herds, but its always important to make sure the live bull matches his numbers on paper before any selection is made.

We certainly hope this event was useful to all who attended and that everyone was able to learn something new. With hope of better weather, we plan to make this an annual event prior to the North Carolina BCIP Waynesville Bull Test Sale. We look forward to having you at our 2018 Western North Carolina Area Beef Conference.

Student Spotlight: Cattle Working Facilities

Adam Johnson, Justin Teeter, and Robert Evans
Undergraduate Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
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Cattle working facilities are the center point of any beef cattle operation, therefore, when deciding what to/or not to buy it is important to keep in mind what you need. Handling facilities can be very expensive so you need to be mindful in your purchase. There are several different types of working facilities but there is not one specific type that is best for every operation. Every operation is different and has its own specific needs. So we can give a few key points to focus on while making the big decision of designing and purchasing your working facility. Getting the equipment for your operation is very important because it will be the center point of the operation for many years.

Some things to look at when purchasing a new handling facility is the material that it is made of. Higher quality materials, such as stainless steel or aluminum, will be more costly to start with but may pay off years down the road when cheaper steel and iron has rusted. Rust or sharp edges can cause serious problems such as lacerations on animals as well as weakening of the entire handling facility. A broken facility does nothing good for the operation and could hinder its performance. A good working facility is one that will last and be safe for both humans and animals. The materials used do not always have to be the most expensive, since depending on the set up of the facility it may not have to be 100% rust resistant. Facilities located inside the barn would not be exposed to the elements as much as a facility located outside would be. In this case, the facility outside would need higher quality materials to prolong the life of the facility.

The next thing to consider when making a purchase is 1) how many cattle the operation will be working and 2) how much help will be available when working cattle. If working a large number of cattle, you will need to be able to accommodate the cattle in the facility. If the operation has a small number of cattle, a producer can get away with a smaller working facility. Along with knowing how many cattle the producer will have, there should be a general idea of how much labor will be available to help work the cattle. If the producer knows that he will have help working his cattle, then purchasing an all-manual working facility rather

than a hydraulic set up would not inhibit productivity. A manual working facility requires someone to work the different parts of the facility while running cattle through. On the other hand, if labor is limited when working cattle through a facility, then a hydraulic setup may be advantageous. This would allow the producer to run cattle through the working facility without needing additional help.

Table 1. Corral and working facility dimensions for various sizes of cattle.

Corral and Working Facility Dimensions			
	To 600 lb	600-1,200	<1,200 and Cow-Calf
Pen Space (sq ft/head)	14	17	20
Crowding Tub (sq ft/head)	6	10	12
Working Chute-vertical sides			
Width (inches)	18	20-24	26-30
Minimum Length (feet)	20	20	20
Working Chute-sloping sides			
Width at Bottom (inches)	13	15	16
Width at Top (inches)	20	24	28
Minimum Length (feet)	20	20	20
Working Chute Fence			
Height—minimum	45	50	60
Depth of Posts—minimum	30	30	30
Corral Fence			
Height	60	60	60
Depth of Posts—minimum	30	30	30
Loading Chute			
Width (inches)	26	26	26-30
Length (minimum, feet)	12	12	12
Rise, in/ft	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2

Dimensions from *Corral and Working Facilities for Beef Cattle*. GPE-5002

Another avenue to explore for producers is building a handling facility, or part of a handling facility, for themselves. While this will take more time, effort, and skill than just purchasing an entire facility from a supplier, it may be a more economical option. However, there are several factors to consider when designing such a facility. A good setup includes a holding/sorting pen, an alleyway that is correctly sized, and a strong head catch/ squeeze chute. First we start with the pen, which will be the main area for both holding and sorting activities. The pen should have between 14-20 sq. ft. per head, as well as being circular if possible. Cattle tend to gather in corners, which can make them hard to work and sort. Secondly, an alley that feeds out of the working pen will be needed. A crowd gate in the sorting pen can be a helpful tool to get cattle to flow from the sorting pen into the alley. The alley, like the sorting pen, will work best if certain criteria are met. This criterion can be found in Table 1 and includes specific lengths, heights and widths. Last but not least, a critical piece of the working system is the head catch/squeeze chute. Head catch/squeeze chutes are very variable in their design so matching needs with design is crucial.

Buying the right working facility can make processing safe for both the cattle and the processor. However, before purchasing or building a facility, it is important to evaluate the operation as a whole and find the best option to meet your needs.

Up Coming Events

Novel Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop
Date: March 14, 2018 (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
Location: NC State Fairgrounds-Martin Building

Bull Breeding Soundness Exam
Date: March 24, 2018 (8:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
Location: WNC Livestock Center

Small Ruminant Workshop
Date: May 18, 2018 (Time: TBA)
Location: WNC Livestock Center

NCBA Stockmanship and Stewardship Event
Date: August 24 and 25, 2018
Location: Clemson University's Ed Garrison Arena
Multi-State Collaborative Event
NCSU, UGA and Clemson Extension

NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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