



Livestock Update

Beef - Horse - Poultry - Sheep - Swine

November / December 2013

This LIVESTOCK UPDATE contains timely subject matter on beef cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, swine, and related junior work. Use this material as you see fit for local newspapers, radio programs, newsletters, and for the formulation of recommendations.

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**Scott P. Greiner, Extension Project Leader
Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences**

Invent the Future



Dates to Remember

BEEF

DECEMBER

14 56th Annual Virginia BCIA Culpeper Senior Bull Sale. 12:00 Noon. Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises. Culpeper. **Contact:** Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159 or email: sgreiner@vt.edu

SHEEP

DECEMBER

7 Virginia Sheep Producer's Association Fall Bred Ewe & Doe Sale. 1:00 p.m. Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Harrisonburg. **Contact:** Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159 or email: sgreiner@vt.edu

JANUARY

10-11 Sheep Management 101 Workshop and Shepherd's Symposium. Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena. Blacksburg. **Contact:** Scott Greiner, (540) 231-9159 or email: sgreiner@vt.edu

November Herd Management Advisor

Scott P. Greiner & Mark A. McCann
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech

By November most areas have received their first frost and forage growth has slowed. Most spring-born calves have been weaned and marketed. Depending on accumulated forage inventory, hay feeding season is on the horizon. Economic analyses of cow-calf operations indicate that minimizing days of hay feeding is an important ingredient in profitability. Grazing crop residue and efficient utilization of stockpiled forages can delay hay feeding in many situations until after New Year's. Most farms in the region found 2013 to be a challenge in regard to making quality hay. Forage testing is a valuable tool to assess the impact of harvest issues we faced this year. The most common problems were the amount of overly mature hay harvested, rain damaged hay and hay baled too wet. Visual estimation of hay nutrient content is always a guess but these additional issues make visual ranking of hay quality even more problematic. **“Don't guess, Forage test”**.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Implement marketing plan for calf crop, synchronize post-weaning grazing and feeding program as well as vaccination program with marketing plan. Calculate break-evens on various winter and spring marketing options and consider risk management strategies.
- Schedule and conduct pregnancy diagnosis with veterinarian. Plan a marketing strategy for open cows which takes advantage of seasonality in cull cow price.
- Finalize winter feed and forage supplies and options. Conduct forage tests to determine nutritional content of hays.

Nutrition and Forages

- Body Condition Score cows at weaning and separate thin cows
- Use palatable feeds and high quality hay to background calves
- Continue stockpiling tall fescue and begin strip grazing accumulated growth if needed
- Continue to manage first-calf heifers separately; give them the best forage. Thin mature cows could be added to this group.
- Continue to feed high Se trace mineral salt. A forage analysis can reveal what other minerals should be supplemented.
- As warm season grasses go dormant, manage grazing to utilize dormant residue before too much weathering occurs.
- Begin to shop and compare winter supplement options

Herd Health

- In consultation with your veterinarian, finalize vaccination and preconditioning protocol for calf crop.

Reproduction

- Conduct pregnancy check of cow herd with veterinarian
- Cull open, old and thin cows and cows with problem udders, eyes and soundness issues

Genetics

- Collect weaning weights on calf crop at appropriate time (AHIR age range 120-280 days), along with cow weights, hip heights and body condition scores (cow mature size data taken within 45 days of calf weaning measure).
- Identify replacement heifers using objective measures including genetic background, dam performance, individual performance, along with phenotype. Keep only heifers born in defined calving season.

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Calving season is winding down for most. Continue to observe cows frequently. Address calving difficulties early.
- Tag, tattoo, record birth weight, calving ease score, teat/udder score and mothering ability of dam. Keep accurate records at birth.
- Monitor young calves for scours. Prevent scours by keeping calving area clean and well drained. Moving 2-3 day old pairs out of calving area to separate pasture (reduce commingling of newborn calves with older calves) help reduce exposure to scours.
- Finalize winter feed and forage supplies and options. Conduct forage tests to determine nutritional content of hays.
- Finalize plans and schedule for breeding season

Nutrition and Forages

- Evaluate growth of yearling heifers with goal of reaching 60-65% of mature weight by breeding. Depending on forage quality, supplementation may be needed to meet weight gain target.
- Offer high magnesium mineral. Generally, fall calving cows are not as predisposed to grass tetany.
- Reserve high quality hay and stockpiled pasture areas for cows post-calving. Use strip grazing as a tool to increase the efficiency of utilization of cool season pastures by cows post-calving.
- If available, utilize crop aftermath
- Use grazing management to utilize the residue of dormant warm season pastures.

Herd Health

- Ensure colostrum intake first few hours of life in newborn calves. Supplement if necessary. Newborn calves need 10% of body weight in colostrum first 24 hours of life.
- Provide selenium and vitamin A & D injections to newborn calves
- Castrate commercial calves at birth
- Monitor calves closely for scours and pneumonia, have treatment supplies on hand.
- Finalize and conduct pre-breeding vaccination schedule for cow herd and yearling heifers. Plan early to allow 30-day vaccination window prior to breeding season.

Reproduction

- Reproductive tract score and measure pelvic area on yearling replacement heifers.
- Finalize plans and protocols for breeding season. Establish calendar to map timing of synchronization program to be used during breeding season. Confirm schedule with AI technician, have supplies and semen are on hand.

- Breed heifers 2-4 weeks ahead of mature cows to allow longer post-partum interval prior to second breeding season.
- Conduct breeding soundness exams on herd sires, including annual vaccinations. Do so prior to fall/early winter bull sales to allow time to secure replacements as necessary.
- Breed heifers 2-4 weeks ahead of mature cows to allow longer post-partum interval prior to second breeding season.
- Manage newly acquired herd sires properly to prepare them for the breeding season. Yearling bulls often lose 100+ pounds during their first breeding season. Adjust them to the feed and environment of their new home, and commingle bulls of same age/weight for a period of time prior to turnout. Ample exercise, in combination with a proper nutritional program, is essential to make them physically fit for the breeding season.

Genetics

- Collect yearling performance data (weight, height, scrotal, ultrasound) in seedstock herds.
- Make plans for spring bull-buying season. Evaluate potential sources for bull purchase. Using herd genetic goals, establish benchmarks and selection criteria for bulls to be purchased. Secure new natural service sires in ample time to acclimate to your management and environment prior to breeding season.

December Herd Management Advisor

Scott P. Greiner & Mark A. McCann
Extension Beef Specialists, Virginia Tech

The rapidly shortening days means that December is here. The shortest day or winter solstice will occur on December 21st. Beyond the challenge of accomplishing cattle chores, short days bring an opportunity. As the year comes to a close, it is always an excellent time to reflect on the year you experienced with your cattle enterprise. As you review receipts and bills it is important to keep the big picture in focus as you assess the details. The key to making significant changes is identifying the weaknesses in important areas which have a major impact on your bottom line and addressing the ones which will have the largest impact. Production and economic records are the necessary tools to begin the identification of the variables where the smallest change will have the greatest impact on your profitability. As you take advantage of the short days and work on your enterprise records, what pieces are you missing? The 2014 record year starts in less than a month.

Spring Calving Herds (January-March)

General

- Begin preparation for calving season by checking inventory and securing necessary supplies (ob equipment, tube feeder, colostrum supplement, ear tags, animal health products, calving book, etc.)
- Evaluate marketing options for calves not yet sold.
- Evaluate cull cow marketing strategy, take advantage of seasonality in cull cow price.
- Conduct forage tests to determine nutritional content of hays.

Nutrition and Forages

- Evaluate body score cows that you identified as thin and gauge if your management is making adequate progress.
- Continue strip grazing accumulated fescue growth as needed.
- Continue to manage first-calf heifers separately; give them the best forage. Thin mature cows could be added to this group.
- Feed lower-quality hay to dry cows, saving the best hay for calving season
- Continue to feed high Se trace mineral salt. A forage/hay analysis can reveal what other minerals should be supplemented.
- Harvest impacts on feed costs have taken affect. Work to contract or lock-in winter feed needs at the most economical price.

Herd Health

- In consultation with your veterinarian, finalize vaccination and preconditioning protocol for calf crop.

Reproduction

- Cull open, old and thin cows and cows with problem udders, eyes and soundness issues.

Genetics

- Make plans for winter and spring bull-buying season. Evaluate potential sources for bull purchase. Using herd genetic goals, establish benchmarks and selection criteria for

bulls to be purchased. Secure new natural service sires in ample time to acclimate to your management and environment prior to breeding season.

- Identify replacement heifers using objective measures including genetic background, dam performance, and individual performance, along with phenotype. Keep only heifers born in defined calving season.

Fall Calving Herds (September-November)

General

- Calving season is completed for most. Continue to observe late calving cows frequently.
- Calving records should be complete and up to date.
- Monitor calves for scours.
- Begin breeding season.
- Conduct forage tests to determine nutritional content of hays.
- Initiate breeding season.

Nutrition and Forages

- As the breeding season begins, remember that maintaining or gaining weight have a major impact on pregnancy rate. As available forage becomes scarcer and of lower quality, be prepared to supplement as needed.
- Offer high magnesium mineral. Generally, fall calving cows are not as predisposed to grass tetany. As cows transition from grazing to hay or silage, hi-mag minerals can be discontinued.
- Use strip grazing as a tool to increase the efficiency of utilization of cool season pastures by cows post-calving.

Herd Health

- Consult with your veterinarian concerning pre-breeding vaccination schedule for cow herd, yearling heifers, and bulls. Plan early to allow 30-day vaccination window prior to breeding season.
- Begin planning vaccination and preconditioning protocol to be used for calf crop at weaning
- Castrate commercial calves if not done at birth, consider castrating bottom end of male calves in seedstock herds.
- Monitor calf crop for health, have treatment options on hand.

Reproduction

- Reproductive tract score and measure pelvic area on yearling replacement heifers.
- Implement plans and protocols for breeding season following pre-planned calendar and synchronization program. Confirm schedule with AI technician, have supplies and semen on hand. Take time to be precise with protocols for synchronization, estrus detection, and semen handling.
- Breed heifers 2-4 weeks ahead of mature cows to allow longer post-partum interval prior to second breeding season
- Use 48 hour calf removal for thin cows and first-calf heifers at beginning of breeding season
- Schedule and conduct breeding soundness exams on herd sires, including annual vaccinations prior to turn-out.

- Manage bulls properly during the breeding season. Observe frequently to confirm breeding activity and soundness, and monitor cows for repeat estrus. Avoid commingling mature and young bulls, as older bulls will be dominant. As rule of thumb, yearling bulls should be exposed to number of cows equal to their age in months (ie. 18 month old bull with ~18 cows).

Genetics

- Finish collecting yearling performance data (weight, height, scrotal, ultrasound) in seedstock herds.

Should I Sell or Background My Feeder Cattle

Peter Callan (peter.callan@vt.edu), Extension Agent, Farm Business Management, Northern District and Kelly Liddington (klidding@vt.edu), Extension Agent, Animal Science, Richmond County

The recent decline in corn prices has some Virginia cattle producers feeding 600 pound weaned calves to higher weights. Furthermore, this management decision has been supported by the strengthening of cattle prices in September with premiums on cattle futures in deferred months. Calculation of the cost of feed for an animal to gain one pound of weight is key to determining the profitability of retaining ownership of these cattle. This article discusses the profitability of keeping 600 pound feeder calves by feeding them simple and complex rations as compared to just taking the calves of the cows and selling at the sale barn.

The Virginia Feeder Cattle Summary stated, that during September 2013 the weighted average price for a 6-7 weight medium and large #1 muscle feeder steers was~ \$149/cwt. (\$894/head gross value) and 8-9 weight steer in the same category was ~\$137/cwt. (\$1096 gross value). Jason Carter, Executive Secretary of the Virginia Cattlemen's Association, indicated that preconditioned cattle which are vaccinated, weaned, bunk and water trough broken have historically added value to the cattle. Preconditioned programs have generated an average \$8/cwt. premium and are preferred by buyers over animals that had not been preconditioned.

Producers should note that the \$8/cwt. premium is received only when the animals are sold in a preconditioned sale. The premium may increase even more when preconditioned animals are sold in trailer load lots (48,000 – 50,000 lbs.) and cattle originate from one farm or were co-mingled for more than 60 days.

Feeder calves can be fed a variety of diets for backgrounding that range from 1) simple rations of commodity pellets and pasture or 2) complex and or complete ration (Table 1). In the first scenario, a producer feeds on average five pounds of a 14% protein pellet costing ~\$.68/day based on September 2013 prices for 167 days. Therefore during the fall and winter of 2013 – 2014, the remaining nutritional needs of the cattle are met from 2.5 acres of fall pastures^[1] and stockpiled fescue.¹ Thus the animals will be ready for sale in the spring of 2014.

A 725 lb. animal will eat ~22 lb. DM that is composed of 5 lb pellets (4.5 lb. DM) and 17.5 lb.^[2] DM from pasture with an estimated rate of gain of 1.5 lb per day.² Each animal will require 2.5 acres of pasture at rental costs of \$25/acre for an annual charge of \$62.50. Adverse environmental conditions can reduce gain on pastures. Vaccinations and fly control/lice are estimated to be \$15/head. The breakeven price for this type of backgrounding program is \$131.91/cwt (Table 1) when feed costs, pasture rental, vaccinations, fly control/lice, hauling, marketing and interest on investment costs are included in the calculations.

The second complex ration is composed of corn silage, barley silage, dry distillers grain, ground barley, 48% soybean meal, wheat midds plus minerals will cost \$1.63 per day based on September 2013 prices. This ration is estimated to produce an average daily gain of 2.5 lbs over the 100 days on feed. These animals will also receive vaccinations and fly control/lice at a cost of \$15/head. The breakeven prices for feeding a more complex ration are \$129.77/cwt (Table 1) when feed, vaccinations, fly control/lice, hauling, marketing and interest on investment costs are included in the calculations.

Table 1 provides a side-by-side summary of the assumptions spelled out above and includes the base scenario of selling calves at weaning.

Table 1: Assumption for analysis

Assumptions	Calves sold off the cow at sale barn	Calves fed simple ration (1)	Calves fed complex ration (2)
Sale price \$ / cwt.	\$149.00	\$145.00	\$145.00
Sale weight	600 Lbs.	850 Lbs.	850 Lbs.
Gross sale price	\$894.00	\$1,233.00	\$1,233.00
Days on feed		167 days	100 days
Averaged daily gain – lb./day		1.5	2.5
Purchased feed costs		\$111.47	\$166.15
Pasture costs (3)		\$62.50	0
Vaccination & fly control/lice		\$15.00	\$15.00
Hauling costs. (4)	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$8.00
Marketing costs (5)	\$21.38	\$28.16	\$28.16
Subtotal costs	\$27.38	\$225.13	\$217.31
Interest on investment (6)		\$29.96	\$19.59
Total cost to market	\$27.38	\$255.09	\$236.90
Net value of calf	\$866.12	\$866.12	\$866.12
Total costs		\$1121.21	\$1103.02
Net returns	\$866.12	\$111.80	\$129.98
Breakeven costs / cwt (7)		\$131.91	\$129.77
(1) Average 5 lbs. 14% CP commodity pellets per day + pasture (2) Corn silage, barley silage, dry distillers grain, ground barley, soybean meal, wheat midds plus minerals (3) 2.5 acres/head (hd) at \$25/acre (4) 600 lb animal/\$6(hd), 850 lb animal/\$8/(hd) (5) \$3.50 hd + 2% gross sale price (6) 6% interest rate X (6 cwt. X 149/cwt calf marketing cost + subtotal costs) X (Days on Feed/365) (7) (total costs / 8.5 cwt).			

The market outlook for fat cattle will play an important role in determining whether a producer should sell calves that have not been weaned at the local sale barn or background them. In late September 2013, the futures market offered a premium for fat cattle marketed in February and April 2014. The September 1, 2013 USDA Cattle on Feed report showed that the number of cattle in feedlots was down 7 percent from 2012. Furthermore, the August placement of cattle in feedlots was 11 percent lower than one year ago. Therefore, it appears that the record feeder cattle prices will continue in the future. However, if demand for beef softens and/or the economy weakens; consumers will substitute lower priced chicken or pork for beef. Consequently, declining prices for fat cattle will cause feeder calf prices to decline.

Every farm is different. By using their financial and production records, a producer should be able to estimate labor, fence repairs and equipment costs (loader tractor, mixer wagon, etc) and mortality rates that will be included in the calculation of breakeven costs to determine the profitability of retaining ownership of cattle. Clearly labor and equipment costs will be higher feeding a total mixed ration (TMR) than pasturing animals and feeding commodity pellets which will impact breakeven costs. Producers may reduce the risk of potential declines in feeder cattle prices by enrolling in the Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) Program. The LRP Program is a risk management tool that insures profits. When producers purchase LRP insurance, they are buying a policy that renders an indemnity (payment) if the Chicago Mercantile Feeder Cattle Cash Index falls below the insured coverage price.

Coverage levels will depend on the amount of risk that the producer wishes to take. Remember, the longer the length of the policy, the risk of adverse price movements increases. Consequently,

premiums will increase. It is recommended that producers work with their crop insurance agents to develop a LRP program that meets their net profit objectives.

Management is the key to profitability. Producers that are able to optimize forage quality should be able to consistently have daily rates of gain 1.5 – 2.0 lb. / day using a preconditioning program feeding minimal levels of commodity pellets and good pasture. Likewise, producers that feed complex rations should be able to have daily rates of gain of 2.5+ lb. /day. Do not forget that weather conditions with excess heat, cold and precipitation can have a major impact on daily rates of gain and forage quality. With the potential for volatility in the grain markets during the fall of 2013, forward contracting purchased feed ingredients is an excellent way to lock in feed costs. Likewise, the LRP program is an excellent way for producers to lock in profits in the volatile cattle markets. On the other hand, producers that are unable to grow animals at the previously mentioned rates of gain would be better off selling the unweaned calves. Otherwise they may not generate a profit. Consequently, they will end up with cheap exercise for their hard work!

[1] The pasture has moderate fertility, did not receive nitrogen to increase yields and produces 1,700 pounds of dry matter (DM) per acre and has a rental rate of \$25/acre. With 70% grazing efficiency, there are 1,190 lb. of DM available per acre of pasture. Dry matter intake will be three percent of body weight (BW). The DM intake is calculated as follows: $21.75 \text{ lb. (DM)} = 725 \text{ lb. average weight } (600 + 850 \text{ lb. } /2) \times .03\% \text{ (BW)}$. The five pounds of 14% protein pelleted feed contains 4.5 lb DM = 5 lb. (90% DM).

[2] Total pounds of DM from pasture are calculated as follows: $167 \text{ days} \times 17.5 \text{ lb. DM/day} = 2922 \text{ lb.}$
 $2922 \text{ lb. DM} / 1190 \text{ lb. DM/acre} = \sim 2.5 \text{ acres}$ needed for pasture and stockpiled fescue.

2013 Culpeper Senior Bull Sale

Dr. Scott P. Greiner
Extension Animal Scientist, Virginia Tech

The 56th annual sale of the Virginia BCIA Culpeper Senior bulls will feature approximately 55 fall-born yearling bulls on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 12:00 noon at the Culpeper Agricultural Enterprises located on Route 29 just south of Culpeper, Virginia. These 55 fall-born bulls represent the top end of the 87 bulls developed. Currently, 50 Angus and 5 Simmental Hybrid bulls are available for sale on December 14th.

The majority of the bulls selling are sired by trait-leading, highly proven AI bulls of each breed. All bulls selling meet minimum genetic requirements (EPDs) to sire calves for the VQA Purple Tag Feeder Calf Program. Bulls have been screened for reproductive and structural soundness and sell with the BCIA enhanced guarantee for soundness and fertility. Complete performance information will be available on all bulls, including growth, maternal, and carcass EPDs, detailed test performance information, and ultrasound data.

Again this year, we will feature video clips of each of the bulls available for sale. These video clips provide buyers a good opportunity to preview the bulls prior to sale day and can be found on the BCIA website <http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu>.

In addition to the bulls, BCIA will feature a select group of 32 bred heifers immediately following the bulls. Glenmary Farm is proud to offer a high quality set of commercial bred heifers. As the 2012 Virginia Commercial Producer of the Year, Glenmary Farms prescribes to the performance and genetic principles of BCIA. All heifers are certified as Virginia Premium Assured Heifers.

Virginia BCIA would like to thank Southern States and Mike Shanahan of Shanahan Cattle Promotions for their support of the video feature.

For video clips as well as catalogs and detailed information on the bulls and heifers visit the website <http://www.bcia.apsc.vt.edu>, or phone Virginia BCIA at 540-231-9159 or Glenmary Farm at 540-672-7396.

Strong Support at the 2013 Hokie Harvest Sale

Dr. Dan Eversole

Animal and Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

The 2013 Livestock Merchandising Class at Virginia Tech entertained a standing-room-only crowd of over 500 supporters, alumni, and friends in the Livestock Judging Pavilion at the 19th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 25th. As many of you know, the Hokie Harvest Sale has developed a significant reputation for selling high quality, university-owned livestock. Since 1995, which was the inaugural year of the Hokie Harvest Sale, there have been 1354 students enrolled in this merchandising class and a grand total of 362 horses, 46 pigs, and 833 head of beef cattle have been offered at public auction, totaling \$2,145,693 in gross revenue.

This year's sale grossed \$120,200 and featured 48 lots of purebred and commercial beef cattle that were offered to 153 registered buyers from Ohio, Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, West Virginia, South Carolina, and Virginia. Mr. Aaron Ray Tompkins, Cowbuyer LLC of Mt. Airy, NC broadcasted the entire sale live over the internet. Mr. Chris Terembes, Executive Sires, Inc. of Charlottesville, VA stopped by and interviewed Dr. Dan Eversole and several of his students for live sale day coverage on LivestockWorld.TV. The beef cattle sale featured 29 head of commercial bred females and 29 cattle representing three different purebred breeds – Angus, Hereford, and Simmental.

There were 7 spring-calving pairs in the cow/calf division, which averaged \$4,388. Lot 2 was the sale topper at \$4,900. This four-year-old Angus cow is a daughter of GAR New Design 5050 and is a natural calf of the \$10,000 valued VT donor, HHF Alli Rita 704 317. She ranks in the top 10% among current dams for CED, MARB, and \$B at \$81.83 as well as the top 4% on her Milk EPD. Both she and her phenomenal February heifer calf sired by SS Incentive 9J17 sold to Dave Beachy of New Matamoras, OH.

In the Hereford cow/calf division, Lot 8 commanded the highest bid at \$2,700. This three-year-old female, sired by KCF Bennett 774 R413, ranks in the upper 5% for BMI\$, top 10% for CEZ\$, and top 15% on her MILK and M&G EPDs. She and her August baby heifer calf, sired by UPS Domino 3027, sold to Matthew Taylor of Sandyville, WV.

Lot 10 was the top-selling lot in the Simmental breed. Estes Farm from Eden, NC purchased the purebred cow by SAS T101 Sweet Meat at \$2,800 and her homozygous black January bull calf sired by Dikemans Sure Bet sold to Jessie Williams of Pembroke, VA for \$1,800. Her herd sire prospect ranks in the elite 2% on his MARB EPD and the top 10% on API and TI.

The breeding-age bull division of 8 yearling bulls was topped by Lot 13 at \$3,500. This Angus yearling bull is sired by GAR Prophet and out of a daughter of GAR Predestined and our featured donor cow, HHF Alli Rita 704 317. He blended a flawless phenotype with muscle and volume and will certainly add pounds, growth, and pedigree value to any cow/calf operation. This popular herd-sire prospect ranks in the elite 1% of non-parent sires for \$QG and MARB, the top 2% on WW EPD, and upper 3% on \$B, \$F, and YW EPD. Arvid Mykleburst of New Castle, VA is the new owner.

The 29 head of commercial bred heifers and cows, mostly Angus or SimAngus breeding, drew considerable interest among cattlemen and averaged \$1,990. Bidding was lively and numerous buyers swept the ring on female groupings. Glen Shipway of Kiawah Island, SC and Carl Crookshanks of Covington, VA were the volume buyers on these productive bred females.

This was the largest class of merchandising students in the 19-year history of the Hokie Harvest Sale. The 103 students which comprised nine committees did a superb job of preparing for the sale and all gained 'hands-on' experience in sale management, budgeting, cataloging, advertising, livestock photography, clerking, and health requirements. Special thanks are extended to Col. Ken Brubaker of Brubaker Sales and Marketing, Harrisonburg, VA for guest lecturing and serving as the sale consultant and auctioneer. In addition to Aaron Ray Tompkins and Chris Terembes, a huge 'thank you' is extended to our guest speakers Tom Burke, American Angus Hall of Fame, Smithville, MO, Julie and Martin Macqueen, High Road Livestock Photography of Covington, VA, and Dr. Terry Swecker of the VT College of Veterinary Medicine for sharing their expertise and time to support this year's class and Hokie Harvest Sale. Students Kurtis Devore, Mulberry Grove, IL; Abby Houchin, Raleigh, NC; and Stiles Milton, Shawsville, VA served as bid-takers for the sale while Keagan Clevenger, Stephenson, VA and Mason Thomas, Madison Heights, VA worked the ring. Logan Miller, Glen Allen, VA served as the student clerk in the block.

The Food and Beverage Committee, with assistance from the Block and Bridle Club in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, served a complimentary BBQ dinner to nearly 550 guests. Their support and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Interest in the Hokie Harvest Sale continues to be overwhelming in favor of hosting future student-run livestock sales. However, as many of you know who host annual production sales, purebred and commercial animal inventory numbers need to remain strong to continually offer quality livestock at public auction. We are hopeful to host the 20th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale on Friday, October 31, 2014. Mark your calendars now and we hope that you can 'Come and Experience the Harvest'!



Ringman Stiles Milton from Shawsville, VA taking bids on the high selling lot.



Pre-sale comments by Dr. Dan Eversole and Mr. Ken Brubaker (auctioneer) along with Logan Miller from Glen Allen, VA (student clerk) and Mason Thomas from Madison Heights (in sale ring)

Virginia Shepherds' Symposium

January 10-11, 2014

Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Dr. Scott P. Greiner

Extension Animal Scientist, Virginia Tech

Program Overview:

Friday, January 10

9:00 am- 5:00 pm **Sheep Management 101 Workshop**

*All day workshop for beginning shepherds covering topics related to basic sheep production and lambing management. Workshop will include hands-on activities with sheep.
(*additional registration fee, limited to first 20 participants registered)*

4:00 pm **Virginia Sheep Industry Board Meeting (open to public)**

Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena

6:00 **Virginia Sheep Producers Association Board Meeting (open to public)**

Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena

Saturday, January 11 - all activities at Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena

8:15 am **Registration & Commercial Exhibits**

9:00 **"Key Components to Successful Flock Health"**

Dr. Hollie Schramm, DVM, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

9:45 **"Lamb Market Situation and Outlook"**

Dr. David Anderson, Texas A&M University

10:45 **"The Hale Report- American Lamb Industry Roadmap Project"**

Mr. Bob Leer, ASI Executive Board- Region II Director, Indiana

"American Lamb Board & Your Checkoff Dollars"

Mr. Leo Tammi, Director- American Lamb Board, Mt. Sidney, VA

11:45 **Roy Meek Outstanding Sheep Producer Award Presentation Virginia Sheep Producers Association Annual Business Meeting**

12:15 pm **Lamb Lunch**

1:00 pm **"Coping With Predators: What have we learned?"**

Mr. Chad Fox, USDA-APHIS, Christiansburg, VA

1:45 **"Minerals and Vitamins for the Flock"**

Dr. Mark McCann, Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

2:30 **"Progress Reports on Sheep Research at Virginia Tech"**

Dr. Scott Greiner, Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

Dr. Mark McCann, Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech

Mr. Lee Wright, Southwest AREC, Virginia Tech

Dr. Anne Zajac, DVM, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

3:30 **"Producer Panel: Capturing Marketing Opportunities to Add Value"**

Early Registration Deadline: January 5, 2014 (registrations also taken on-site day of program)

For registration information visit <http://www.vtsheep.apsc.vt.edu> or contact Dr. Scott Greiner, Department of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech, phone (540) 231-9159, email sgreiner@vt.edu