**Catawba Valley Cattlemen’s Association**
(meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month)
**This month’s meeting is on Tuesday, Aug 13, 2019 at the Newton Extension office building.**

**Meeting Agenda**
6:00 pm - Supper is served.
6:45 pm - Business meeting – Mr. Andrew Rector, president
7:00 pm - Educational Program: Thinking outside the box – Silvopasture; Report on East NC Flood Effects & Hay Donations .
 Speaker: Mr. Buron Lanier, Owner of Piney Woods Farm along with his wife, Sara. Located in Burgaw, NC
8:00 pm - Meeting adjourned.

**Announcements**

* The Tri-State Beef Conference is Aug. 8 At the Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center Blountville, TN $25 registration fee at the door.Starting time is 9:20 am Travel time from Newton is 2hr40minutes. I am unable to go but will be glad to organize a group to ride together.
* If you are using the cattle equipment (scales and panels) Call Glenn to schedule its use and pay the use fee.
* Keep Saturday November 9th open for a day of learning marketing and judging skills used by judging teams and by livestock auctions. More info is comeing.

 Thinking outside the box - Silvopasture

Silvopastures is created by planting trees in pastures or by establishing forages under thinned trees. Each has unique demands and opportunities. It is not putting animals in the woods. It is not having one tree in the pasture. Silvopastures are an old pioneer practice which is being rediscovered. In the east, pines are used. In the mountains’ black locust has been the traditional favorite (which fix nitrogen). While all tree roots recycle nitrogen and phosphorus that pass below the grass root level.

In most silvopastures, trees are grown to provide longer-term economic returns to the farm, while livestock generate annual income. However, tree crops such as fruits, nuts, pods, pine needles and seasonal greenery can provide added farm income.

Managing trees, forages, and livestock on the same piece of ground presents both challenges and opportunities beyond those found in traditional forage-livestock or tree plantation systems. Even if there is a decline for each component, the overall output of the system can be greater than the systems managed as monocultures. The role of planning and management these systems cannot be overstated. Management is needed when trees and forages compete for system resources, especially light, water, and nutrients. In forest settings, timber stand improvement practices can be used to remove reservoirs of invasive tree and shrub species. Adding forages to the understory can heal eroded lands. Deciduous trees put leaves on late and/or that drop leaves early will provide more light for grasses. Planting trees in pastures can help reduce erosion, nutrient leaching, and runoff. Although Silvopasture grass is normally reduced about 20% DM because of trees, just the temperature reductions for cattle in tree shade gave similar results in cattle performance when compared with cattle without shade in the open range. Also, the greater comfort given to livestock can reduce their use and degradation of surface waters. It also is a management tool for sequestering atmospheric carbon. Silvospasture relies on many familiar strategies. “Rotational grazing is a big key to success, even more so than in traditional pasture operations. It prevents animals from camping in a few spots, avoid compacting soils, damaging trees, and over grazing the forage understory.

 “Silvopasture management is not for everyone,” says Rich Straight, technology transfer leader for the National Agroforestry Center. “It does require practical knowledge about a variety of management activities on pine trees, rotational grazing, livestock condition, and forage quality.” However, for beginning farmers and those trying to make a living on smaller land holdings, silvopastures can generate more income than more common management strategies.

For example, “Pine plantations can provide a good return on investment,” he continued. “The downside is one of cash flow because income is realized only every 10 to 15 years. On the other hand, commodity crops like corn and soybeans have a small profit margin, which requires quite a few acres to generate enough income to support a family. By combining an annual source of forage or livestock income with the longer term timber income, producers can generate more income per acre.” According to Dr. Alan Franzluebbers, (who manages the Goldsboro silvopasture research site), the Southeast USA, including the coastal plains, contains land which is too wet or too dry for optimal agricultural operations causing many landowners to see silvopastures as an ideal way to maximize land use.

The Catawba Valley Cattlemen are privileged to have Mr. Buron Lanier talk about his farm of mainly silvopasture and also how his family survived last year’s flooding in eastern N.C. which covered much of his farm. We will learn how some of the hay that you and others donated, helped him and other cattlemen survive destruction of most of their forages and hay.

Writing taken from Virginal Tech Publications and a Mike Beacom Blog

Presented by: Adreanna White, Catawba County Cooperative Extension Intern

and Glenn Detweiler , Area Livestock Agent