**Catawba Valley Cattlemen’s Association**   
 (meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month)  
 **This month’s meeting is on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at the Extension Office(Ag Resource Center).  
Agenda GPS address:1175 South Brady Ave. Newton, NC 28658**  
6:00 pm - Supper is served.  
6:45 pm --- Business meeting – Mr. Andrew Rector, president   
7:00 pm Informational meeting: Mr. Brian Bennett, Salesman for Bartlett Milling - Supplements for Grazing Cattle -   
 8:00 pm – Meeting adjourned

**Announcements**

* **October 12** Plan for the **Fall BBQ** on **Saturday**. Food is served from 5 pm to 8 pm. **Best in the State!**

1)Please put out all signs for the BBQ this weekend, Oct 5,6.

**2)Key item needed**: pre-sale of dinner tickets to allow a good estimate of the meat to prepare for the meal.

3)At the meeting Tuesday, be prepared to commit time to set-up, meal prep and meal clean up.

1. Setup will begin at 4 pm Friday afternoon, afterwards a meal will be served for volunteers.
2. Some volunteers are needed on Saturday at 2 to cook beans.
3. Some volunteers need to come at 3 - 3:30 on Saturday to get ready to serve and be assigned tasks.
4. All volunteers are ask to stay and clean up between 8 and 10:30 pm if your schedule permits.

* **November 9 Saturday, 8:30 to 1:30pm Local Beef & Meat Production for the Community - Field Day.** Make plans to attend and learn how to improve your abilities or teach your abilities in making judgements on hay quality, cattle growth, cattle sales, beef meat, & BBQ.
* We continue to have trouble with Newsletters reaching folks. Please inform Glenn of this. Also, if you would like to receive the news via email or want a text the day before a meeting, **look for the signup sheet.**
* **Oct. 19** Downtown Lincolnton Apple Festival –“4 month old calf” booth just west of the extension office. Feed a calf!!

**Factors Affecting Mineral Intake**

Controlling intake at the desired level is very challenging because mineral intake fluctuates. Monitor mineral intake for several weeks prior to implementing management practices to alter mineral intake. If mineral intake is too high or low, move the mineral feeder either closer to or farther away from the water source and loafing areas. When cattle are over-consuming mineral, salt is often added to reduce the amount of minerals cattle eat. Salt level has a significant impact on mineral intake and is easily changed to control intake; however, you must account for the additional salt when determining the correct intake. For example, if a mineral with a recommended feeding rate of 4 ounces per day is mixed in a 50:50 ratio with plain white salt, the cattle should consume 8 ounces per day. This would supply the cattle with the targeted amount of 4 ounces of mineral plus 4 ounces of added salt. When under- consumption is a problem, try adding dried molasses or change brands to a more palatable mineral. In addition, keep in mind that calves can consume significant amounts of mineral and this should be considered before decreasing the feeding level. If mineral intake is inadequate, try adding a palatable feedstuff to the mix. Feeds such as cottonseed meal, soybean meal, dry molasses and distillers grains can improve mineral intake. Moving the mineral feeder closer to the water source can improve intake. In addition, changing mineral brands will sometimes provide a mineral that is more palatable. Regularly monitor mineral consumption by keeping a record of animal numbers and feeding amounts to combat potential mineral intake problems. **Mineral Feeders** Mineral feeder placement is a very important part of supplying minerals to the cow herd. Be sure an adequate number of feeders are available for the stocking rate of the pasture. A rule of thumb is to provide one mineral feeding station for every 30 to 50 cows. The best areas to place mineral feeders are near water, in shaded loafing areas and near the best grazing areas. Check feeders at least once a week and keep a clean, fresh supply of minerals present at all times. A good feeder should keep minerals dry, be portable and hold up to abuse and corrosion. Open tubs are not adequate in the Southeast. Because minerals can be corrosive to metals, feeders made of wood, fiberglass or plastic usually last longer. Permanent mineral feeders made of concrete also work well, but portability is a problem. **Supplement Form** Feeding minerals free-choice in a loose mix form is most desirable for brood cows. For cattle on complete diets, minerals are most optimally supplied when mixed in a TMR. When supplementing in a block form, trace minerals must be higher than what is contained in a loose mineral mix, as the animal will usually consume only 1 to 2 ounces per day. In addition, some blocks contain only trace mineralized salt, which will not meet the animal’s requirements for macrominerals such as calcium and phosphorus. Carefully read the label on a block mineral supplement to make sure the product contains all needed minerals. Block minerals are sometimes used when supplementing cattle that have not had access to minerals for a long period of time. In this situation, cattle will greatly over-consume minerals in a loose mix form if given free-choice access. Blocks can be used for a short period of time to prevent mineral over-consumption. Do not supply plain white salt and mineral separately since intake of the mineral will likely be too low because cattle will crave only the salt. Commercial protein and energy supplements are sometimes fortified with minerals. Commercial supplements come in the form of dry pelleted feeds, liquid molasses supplements, hard molasses-based blocks, or hard-pressed grain-based blocks. It is not necessary to provide a free-choice mineral supplement along with the commercial protein/energy supplement. Feeding minerals in both the free-choice mineral and the protein/energy supplement should not negatively affect performance, but it is an expense that could be saved. It may be necessary to only offer plain white salt blocks when feeding the commercial protein/energy supplements. **Season** Mineral intake is usually higher when lush forage is available and lower during the fall or periods of drought. Mineral content and forage digestibility declines with increasing plant maturity. Mature forages are consumed in lower quantity, further reducing mineral intake. Rapidly growing, lush forages have a higher availability of minerals compared with mature forages. In addition, mineral content is higher in forages grown on soils with greater fertility. Spring grass is usually well fertilized and highly digestible, which leads to greater intake of mineral from forages and reduced consumption of supplemental mineral during that time of the year. **Feeding Method** Stocker calves are sometimes fed a complete grain- or silage-based ration mixed on the farm. Thoroughly mixing minerals in mixed rations is difficult; only a small quantity of mineral is required and it separates easily from the larger particle sizes of grain and forages. It may be wiser to use a mineral supplement that has a higher feeding rate or feed the mineral free-choice or as a top dress. If specific amounts of a particular mineral or feed additive are required per day, it would be desirable to top-dress or mix the mineral into the feed every day rather than allow free-choice consumption. When feeding minerals free-choice, closely monitor mineral consumption to make sure intake is adequate. This is of particular importance when feeding an additive such as an ionophore or antibiotic. We will offer, at the meeting, a 15 page through discussion of minerals and vitamins from the University of Georgia which was revised in 2017.