The most important insect pests in forage grasses are the armyworm (or “true” armyworm) and the fall armyworm. Damage from these pests can kill or severely stunt grass in pastures. True armyworms are more of a problem during spring and early July, after which time, natural controls keep the population below threshold levels.

Armyworms feed primarily at night and remain hidden in ground litter by day. By contrast, fall armyworms are usually a problem later in the season (July to August), after the moths have migrated northward from the Gulf Coast area. Also, the larvae are active day and night. Parasites and disease organisms will often keep fall armyworm populations in check. However, extremely hot and dry conditions (as we have been experiencing) reduce the activity of the fall armyworm’s fungal pathogen and promote larval activity. Although fall armyworms are somewhat more difficult to control than armyworms, both species have the same treatment for thresholds of five larvae per square foot. Be aware and pay close attention to preharvest and pregrazing intervals and to make certain that a chemical that is labeled specifically for the pest species and site is used. Fall armyworms can be controlled by applications of Lannate, Warrior, or Sevin. Consult your local Cooperative Extension Agent or your chemical dealer for details and restrictions.

The Duplin County Cattlemen’s Association will hold their monthly meeting at the Duplin Extension Auditorium on Thursday, August 4, 2005 at 7:30pm. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to learn about forage and pasture management. New members are always welcome.

The Duplin County Cattlemen’s Association will hold their annual bullride on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at the Double Duce Arena in Sevin Springs. Gates open at 6:00pm and tickets for persons age 6 and older are $5. Tickets will be available at the gate. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, contact Star Jackson at 910.296.2143.

We can never have too many reminders. Hurricane Dennis has come and gone with little impact to Southeast North Carolina. Do not wait until the last minute to go through your hurricane checklist. Take the necessary precautions and have supplies on hand. Now is the time to check generators, collect supplies, and review your Emergency Action Plan with employees and/or family members.
This program focuses on providing pork producers information about aspects of animal welfare and their operations by helping them evaluate and track good production practices. For more information contact your local Cooperative Extension Center or go to www.porkscience.org

The NC State Fair is scheduled for October 14-23, 2005. Please take the opportunity to stop by the livestock exhibits and give a word of encouragement to the youth showing livestock (especially the Duplin County participants). You can go online to the following website to learn more about this year’s events. http://www.ncstatefair.org

Have you applied for your new tax exemption identification number? It may take several weeks to receive a tax exemption number from the Department of Revenue, so if you have not applied, be sure to do so. All farmers, including livestock producers, should apply for a tax use exemption number from the Department of Revenue. Starting January 1, 2005, this new tax number became required in order to take advantage of sales tax exemptions or preferential rates that are available on certain agriculture supplies. This change is significantly different from the way farmers have worked with the exemption. In the past, farmers could claim the tax exemption by completing an “agriculture certificate” that the store would keep on file. No individual exemption number was required. If farmers do not obtain this new tax exemption number, they will have to pay the regular sales tax on exempt items. Under the exemption, farmers are taxed at a rate of only 1% for farm machinery and equipment, with a maximum of $80 per item. Some items such as feed, seed, and fertilizer are completely exempt. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Center or tax preparer for more details.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has implemented a cost sharing program to help sheep producers have their rams genotyped for scrapie susceptibility/resistance. Producers in North Carolina will be eligible for a cost share reimbursement to genotype up to 10 rams. The producer should contact their veterinarian for an appointment. A blood sample is submitted and sent to an APHIS approved lab along with a properly completed APHIS VS Form 5-29. The veterinarian may obtain this form and instructions from the North Carolina APHIS Veterinary Services office by calling 919.855.7707. The producer will send a carbon copy of Form 5-29 to ASI with a note requesting a cost share to ASI, 9785 S. Maroon Circle, Suite 360, Centennial, CO 80112. ASI will issue a check for $12 per ram tested. This program will run until September 15 or until funds are exhausted. For more information, contact your veterinarian or local cooperative extension center.

A 10-Hour Initial Animal Waste Certification Course will be offered at the Duplin County Extension Center from 9am – 3pm on October 18 and October 19, 2005. There will be a $25 fee and pre-registration is requested. Contact Star Jackson for more information at 910.296.2143

Star Jackson, Agent
Livestock and Forages