Budget Cuts Threaten Ag Review
Source: The Porkline, An online newsletter from the North Carolina Pork Council
May 21, 2009

A NC House Appropriations subcommittee has recommended abolishing the Ag Review in their latest round of recommended cuts.

The Agricultural Review newspaper has been in publication in its current form since 1926 and is an important tool for commerce between farmers. For example, in October 2008, which represents an average month for the newspaper, there was more than $17.6 million worth of items and services listed for sale.

You may visit NCPC's website at www.ncpork.org to see a list of the members on the House subcommittee that recommended this cut and ways to contact these members to voice your opinion on this matter.

N.C. General Statute 106-22 requires the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to publish a bulletin of agricultural information. The publication began in 1914 as the Extension Farm News, and became the Agricultural Review in 1926, when it also began publishing free classified advertisements for farm-related items.

The cost of publishing the Agricultural Review - including labor, printing and postage - is 32 cents per copy. In addition to editorial content, issues typically contain between 1,000 and 1,200 classified ads. The paper provides a no-cost forum for farmers to sell a variety of items.

Senate Could Limit Marketing Options
Source: Drovers News Source, May 27, 2009

Sens. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) are sponsoring a bill that would amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921. The bill has been labeled the Livestock Marketing Fairness Act. It comes just a few months after President Barack Obama made a commitment to “pass a packer ban.”

If it passes, the legislation would:
* Require that forward contracts for livestock (cattle, hogs and lambs) be traded in public markets where buyers and sellers can witness bids as well as make their own offers.
* Require marketing agreements to have a firm base price derived from an external source.
* Limit the number of hogs to 30 that can be sold under one contract.

As the National Pork Producers Council points out, the bill would exempt producer-owned cooperatives, packers with low volumes and packers who own only one processing plant. NPPC opposes efforts to "restrict pork producers’ marketing options."
The council will monitor the legislation as it moves through the Senate.

Storing Large Round Bales
Source: Dr. Clyde Lane, University of Tennessee Department of Animal Science. Hay Storage AS-BV14; Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist
University of Tennessee animal scientists conducted a trial to compare different methods of storing large round bales of grass hay. The hay was cut and baled in June in Moore County, Tennessee. The bales were weighed at the time of harvest and storage. Then they were weighed again the following January at the time of winter feeding. The following table lists the type of storage and the resulting percentage hay loss.

Table 1. Losses of Hay Stored using Six Methods of Storage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Storage</th>
<th>(%) Hay Loss</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On ground, no cover</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On tires, no cover</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On ground, covered</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>On tires, covered</strong></td>
<td><strong>8%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net wrap on ground</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In barn</strong></td>
<td><strong>6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Obviously, it would be ideal to store the hay inside, but that will not often be practical. The next best option is when the hay is stored on something that gets the hay off of the ground under a rain shedding cover.

**New Farm Foreclosure–Prevention Bill**

*Source: Drovers News Source, May 27, 2009*

Last week, President Barack Obama signed legislation designed to help more farmers and ranchers restructure their loans versus being forced into foreclosure. According to Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.), who introduced amendments to the “Helping Families Save Their Homes Act,” this new action will require government agencies to make sure that banks use their TARP funds to help farmers in need of financial assistance.