

2014 North Carolina Angus Association Beef Field Day

The morning of August 23rd will be a celebration of all things beef cattle at the Butner Beef Cattle Field Lab in Bahama. Plans are underway to showcase ongoing beef research by providing facility tours to allow participants to experience the wide range of topics being investigated by NCSU research scientists and cooperating institutions. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn of the plans that are transforming the beef research platform in North Carolina into one of the largest and most dynamic in the East. Cattle in North Carolina are produced in different production systems and with different goals and objectives. This event will reflect some of that diversity.

A partial list of topics on the program include forages and grazing practices, feeder calf evaluation and market steer development, feed efficiency evaluations, fescue toxicosis, developments in estrous synchronization, conversion of marginal land to pasture, fence layout and water development, pond ecology, utilization of drone technology for forage evaluation, the bull performance testing program, pasture renovation, youth involvement in animal agriculture, summer perennial forages, women in agriculture and others each provided by an expert in their particular field.

The field day will be presented like a buffet; as participants will be able to select and participate in the topics that are most relevant to their production interest. Three primary “loops”, each beginning at a specific time and lasting for 45 minutes with similar material will be offered multiple times during the event. Other topics will be offered as static displays. With this layout every attendee will have a customized experience, individually developed to fit their specific interest.

Another aspect of this event will be our trade show. Vendors, representing all aspects of cattle production, will be on hand to display their wares, answer questions and share information about new and improved items and programs to support beef cattle production. While these displays have a commercial aspect, the opportunity also exists for a producer to compare multiple systems or options at one place and to ask questions to further ones understanding.

After lunch and additional educational opportunities, administration from the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association, NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the NCDA & CS will share their vision for their future of beef cattle research in the region. These organizations are spearheading this event for cattle producers in North Carolina. All three aspects of the Land Grant Mission - Research, Teaching and the Cooperative Extension Service – will be involved in this event. Additionally every research station in the system that does beef cattle research will be participating.