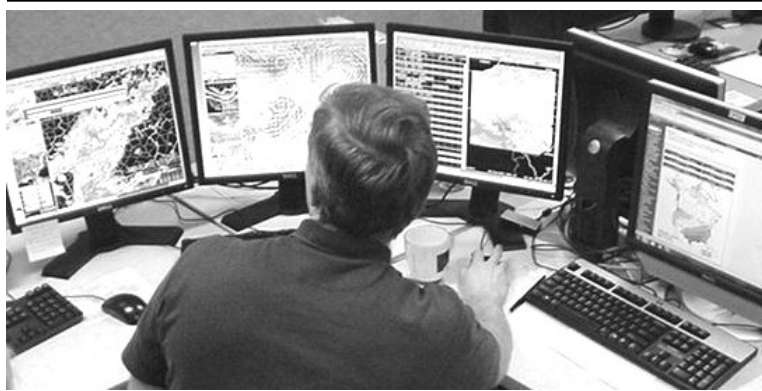


Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

Volume 8

April 1, 2012



PCCA Members Visit NWS at GSP Airport

By RD Morrison

Last fall, Patricia Tanner with the National Weather Service spoke to the PCCA at a meeting concerning the long range forecast for the area. During her talk, she invited us to visit the National Weather Service office located

near the GSP airport. In January, about 17 members did just that.

The National Weather Service personnel gave the assembled members the 'nickel' tour of the site and explained many as-

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pects of their job. The site is manned 24 / 7 because no one knows when the weather will turn bad and the weather alerts are issued from the site. The GSP site provides weather forecasts for Upstate South Carolina, Western North

bers were split into two



Carolina, and Northeast Georgia. - a very large area, indeed. They, also, provide the aeronautical forecasts for the pilots to use.

The PCCA mem-

groups so everyone would be able to see and hear the NWS personnel explain their jobs. As fate would have it, a strong storm came through while the members were at the NWS site, and we were on the front row for the event. The radar in the photo clearly shows the storm rolling in.

The PCCA would like to thank Patricia Tanner and the staff at the National Weather Service for their service and the informative tour of the facility.



If you have not renewed your membership in the PCCA, this will be the last Newsletter or meeting notice you will receive.

Please renew your Membership and keep us Growing !!!

Thank you for being a Member!!

Don't Waste your Vaccine Dollars

Dave Sparks, DVM
Oklahoma State University Extension - Dec 27, 2011
Submitted by Dr. Harold Hupp

If you purchase vaccine for a disease and inject it into your animals you can rest assured that you won't have to worry about that disease. Right? Wrong! To start with, no vaccine is 100% effective at providing immunity to all animals it is administered to. Further, your techniques for purchasing, storage and use of vaccines can diminish their effectiveness tremendously. Although you can't expect perfect protection, there are some common sense things you can do to get the greatest possible benefit from your investment in animal health products.

Proper vaccine management starts at the purchase. If you order vaccines online or via telephone, order them on Monday so they will not be held up over a weekend. Request extra cold packs. When the product arrives, check to see that it is still cold. If it is, store it correctly. If it has become

warm, notify the seller immediately. If you purchase vaccines locally, either take a cooler with you or request the retailer provide one. Take or request multiple cold packs or ice. Ask the retailer if there is a thermometer in his refrigerator that is checked regularly and if proper temperature is maintained. Is the vaccine routinely checked for temperature on arrival? If your retailer is not comfortable answering these questions, find a retailer who is. You are making a significant purchase and the retailer should be glad to make sure that you are getting what you are paying for. A recent Idaho study showed that only 1/3 of retailers refrigerators that were checked consistently maintained an acceptable temperature. All the precautions you can take in storing and handling vaccines will not help if it is deactivated before it comes

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 into your hands.

Most of us realize that vaccines should be kept in a cool, dark place, but research shows that many producers do a poor job of achieving this. Vaccines should be stored between 35 and 45 degrees F. The University of Idaho study utilized recording thermometers to show that only 1/3 of producers refrigerators used for storage of vaccines consistently maintained temperatures within this range. Another 1/3 of those tested never achieved temperature in the proper range. Too warm temperatures quickly deactivate the vaccine, but too cold is even worse. Freezing changes the structure of the adjuvant and thus inactivates the product. In bacteria that contain whole cells, such as clostridial (blackleg) vaccines, freezing ruptures the cells releasing high levels of endotoxins which can cause local reactions or toxic shock. A common practice for producers is to put the new, efficient refrigerator in the

house and the old one that was replaced in the barn for storing vaccines. Perhaps it would make more sense, in light of your vaccine investment, to put a modern, smaller and efficient apartment sized refrigerator in a convenient place for vaccine storage only. Always discard vaccines that have frozen, vaccines that are opened or partially used, and vaccines that have gotten too warm.

Proper use of biological products is important also. The first step is to read the label. Almost all vaccines will offer the statement that they are for use in healthy animals. Sick or debilitated animals cannot respond well immunologically to vaccines. The label will also tell you the approved uses, route of administration, and withdrawal time for the product. Always take vaccines to the chute in insulated coolers that will keep them within the proper temperature range. If you use an appropriate cooler you can take enough for the morning or

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the afternoon, but not both at once. In hot weather, use ice or cold packs and keep the cooler out of direct sunlight. In the case of products that require mixing or reconstitution, such as live virus vaccines, only reconstitute what you can use within one hour. More smaller packages are better than fewer bigger ones. Use a transfer needle to reconstitute product. Never use a needle that has been used to inject an animal to mix product or refill a syringe. Products that contain whole cells will settle during storage and need to be agitated before use. Over agitation can rupture cells and cause endotoxin release. If needed, you should gently rock vaccine products to stir them before use rather than shaking them. When you are finished for the day, discard any opened or partially used products and mark any unopened packages for use next time.

Most soaps, detergents, and disinfectants can leave residues that may de-

activate your biological products when you next use your syringes. After use, disassemble syringes, clean them thoroughly with hot water, and air dry the parts before putting them back together. Storing syringes in clean, dry Ziploc bags will help keep them clean without jeopardizing the effectiveness of the vaccines you will use with them.

I am routinely asked if it is acceptable to use vaccines that have recently gone past their expiration date, or how long past the expiration date it is acceptable to use expired vaccines. I often think of vaccines as similar to insurance. They won't guarantee that you never have a problem but can definitely minimize the impact of a problem. The expiration date is put on the product for a reason. You can choose to have confidence in the vaccine after the expiration date, just as you can choose to have confidence in your insurance after the expiration date of

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your policy, but be prepared to accept the conse-

quences if you need the protection but find that it is no longer there for you.

Randy Fordham Addresses PCCA At Feb. 27 Meeting

The PCCA held a meeting on February 27, 2012, at the Farm Bureau building. President Johnnie Newton welcomed the assembled members along with several new members. After the meal from Dave's of Berea, Dr. Jim Mullikin introduced Randy Fordham with Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.

Randy explained that Fort Dodge, a name many of the producers were familiar with, was purchased by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. The new company has expanded its facilities for not only production, but also research.



He covered the many vaccines that are offered by the new company. These include modified live and killed vaccines. He discussed safe handling techniques to prevent ruining the vaccine.

The meeting was videoed and will be available on DVD soon.

PCCA Website Will Be Up and Running Soon

By RD Morrison

The PCCA Officers and Board of Directors have taken a bold step—to venture into the world

wide web...the Internet. Several new members informed us that they looked

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for us all over the Internet to no avail.

After a study, it was decided to go with EDJE, the company that runs the SCCA and many other cattle websites. It will be formatted to our needs and will include a calendar, producer spotlight, slide shows, links to cattle and forage sites and a membership form.

This is a vital step in growing our membership and making available more information for our members. The twenty first century is upon us, like it or not, and the PCCA is jumping in feet first. The site

will be up soon. Check www.pickenscountycattle.com. A postcard will be sent notifying all of the debut. We would encourage our members to read the newsletter and meeting notices on the website so we can save money on printing and mailing, but don't worry, if you do not have Internet access, we will still mail one to you. If we cut out a few, that will save all of us some money. Also, we will try to sell advertising spaces on the site to defray the cost of the site.

TWENTY FIRST CENTURY, HERE WE COME - KICKING AND SCREAMING!!

Computer problems.

I have experienced a major meltdown on my computer. My hard drive died, but I thought I was clever to store my data on an external hard drive. Whatever took out my hard drive, also took out my external hard drive. After getting the computer repaired, I tried to print only to discover that my printer was dead. Not only

have I lost 10 years of cattle records, not to mention my tax records, but also the PCCA records. I am rebuilding the PCCA records, but you may slip through the crack. The mailing lists are gone. The Newsletters of the past are gone. The Directories of the past are gone. All the PCCA photos that I had on the computer are gone. Gone. GONE.

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Agricultural Safety - The PCCA wants our members to be safe while working their operations.

Safe use of Hydraulics Systems

The Ohio State University Extension

The objective of this article is to know the hazards that could occur from working with hydraulic equipment and how to prevent them. Many farm implements use a hydraulic system. Understanding the system reduces the chances of having an accident.

Hydraulic fluid is dangerous. Fluid can escape when adjusting or removing equipment. Fluid can be trapped in the hydraulic system even when the engine and hydraulic pump are stopped. Trapped fluid can be pressurized in excess of 2000 psi. Pressurized fluid can penetrate the skin, requiring prompt surgical removal. If not properly cared for, gangrene may result. Penetration injuries may not appear serious, but the injected body part is usually lost if medical attention is not promptly sought.

Tighten all connectors before applying pres-

sure. Keep hands and body away from pinholes and nozzles that eject fluid under high pressure. Use a piece cardboard or paper to search for leaks. Relieve pressure before disconnecting a hydraulic line.

Do not cross hydraulic lines. If the lines are not coupled correctly, the implement will not rise and drop as expected. Tape or color code lines to prevent an accident.

A disconnected implement, in the raised position, has trapped hydraulic fluid that might be pressurized. Heat causes thermal expansion of the fluid, increasing the pressure. Always relieve hydraulic pressure before loosening hydraulic fittings. Injury can result from the hot, high pressure spray of the hydraulic fluid.

**Before servicing
a hydraulic powered or**

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controlled equipment:

- Shut off hydraulic pump power.
 - Lower the implement to the ground.
 - Move the hydraulic control lever back and forth several times to relieve pressure.
 - Follow the instructions in the operator's manual. Specific procedures for servicing hydraulic systems provide safety guidelines.
 - Stay away from pinholes
- and nozzles which eject fluid under pressure.
 - Promptly seek medical attention if fluid is injected into the skin.

Editors note: It will soon be time to bale hay. Remember hydraulic safety when connecting / disconnecting haying equipment. Always install the lock when removing a clog from the throat of a baler.

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GONE!! I had to start completely from scratch. If you are a state member and do not get your Carolina Cattle Connection, please contact me and I will fix the crack. If you haven't seen a meeting notice or if you feel like you are being left out, please contact me at 868-4517 or by e-mail at rdm95573@bellsouth.net and I will fix the crack that you fell into. There is a computer saying that goes: There are two kinds of computer people: Those that have lost information,

and those that are going to. I have joined the first group.

As if all this was not bad enough, I was going to make the DVD of the meeting only to discover that my laptop video card was bad. When it rains, it pours.

This has been a major nightmarish inconvenience - and a costly one. Please be patient while the files are being rebuilt. Thank you for your understanding and patience. - RDM

Review Pasture, Corral Handling Basics

By Ryan Reuter

With permission of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Here are some tips to keep in mind when handling cattle in the pasture and corrals.

In the pasture:

- Remember flight zones. Use just enough pressure to move an animal without sending it over the fence.
- Point of balance. Cattle tend to move forward if you are 'behind' their shoulder and backward if you are 'in front of' their shoulder. If cattle won't move forward in an alleyway, try putting down the hotshot and walking by them from front to back.
- Take your time. It is faster to do it right the first time than to do it twice.
- Keep moving. People in motion are easy for cattle to see and relate to. When the motion stops, their instinct is to turn around and clearly see what stopped, because it may be something with big teeth ready to pounce on them. Move back and forth behind a set of cattle, don't follow straight behind them.
- Walk in straight lines, not in curves.
- Guide the front animals, not the middle of the herd. The majority of the herd will follow the leaders.
- Don't stop when you reach an open gate. When you stop to 'let them find the hole', they turn around and face you because you took the pressure off.
- Cull animals that are consistently wild or aggressive.

In the corral:

- Eliminate shadows, trash, chains, etc. These are distractions and cause cattle to balk.
- Don't yell.
- Remove protruding bolts, nails, etc., that can cut cattle and people.

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- Eliminate noisy chutes and headgates.
- Don't overfill the crowd tub or alleys.
- Don't put a back up gate at the entrance of the alley.
- Take you time. Discuss the plan with your helpers.

For more info, go to <http://grandin.com/behavior/principles/flight.zone.html> on the Web.

Thoughts from the President -
Johnnie Newton



Spring has sprung early. Maybe we won't have real cold weather later on. It's time to get ready for spraying our hayfields and pastures that are used for hay.

It looks like we may have a problem with rabies in our cattle. We need to check with our vets to see what should be done and

when.

Hay season will be here before we know it. Time to grease our equipment. Sharpen blades and replace any parts that do not work properly. We have had some showers and hope they continue so we can have a real good hay season. Be careful working around your equipment.

See you at the next meeting.

Secretary / Treasurers	SCCA Dues	\$960.00
Synopsis Report for	Sponsor SCCA Annual	
period as of Mar 18,	Meeting	\$150.00
2012	Postage	\$35.20
PCCA Balance as of 1/3/12:	Printing	\$25.53
\$11431.71	Meals	\$362.50
INCOME:	Tableware	\$8.00
Directory Ads	TOTAL	\$1587.74
Dues	NET INCOME YTD	
TOTAL		\$687.26
	ENDING BALANCE:	
EXPENSES:		\$12118.97



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