



Pickens County  
Cattlemen's Association  
*Newsletter*

Volume 9

Quarterly

January 1, 2012

## **NWS Speaks at PCCA Meeting**

By RD Morrison

Pat Tanner, soil hydrologist with the National Weather Service, spoke at the October 27th meeting of the PCCA. She gave the definitions of La Nina and El Nino. La Nina is a result of the cooling of the waters in the equatorial Pacific waters which effects the weather. This results in warmer than normal and drier than normal conditions in the southeast. She stated that we have been in a La Nina mode for months now and the computer prediction models indicate that we will remain in the effects of La Nina through the winter. The drought that we are experiencing is expected to persist well into next year. El Nino is the warming of the Pacific waters and results in cooler and wetter conditions in the southeast. El Nino usually runs in 3 to

7 year cycles.

Although the effects of La Nina and El Nino are well known, the actions of the arctic oscillation are not so easily predicted. The arctic oscillation, in the negative phase, pushes cold air into the US from Canada. Two years ago, this oscillation went negative and brought much snow into the US. These negative phases usually last a couple of weeks and are hard to predict.

She reported that the Farmer's Almanac states that the temperature will be near or slightly above normal with below normal rainfall and near normal snowfall. The coldest and snowiest period should be early February. April and May will be cooler and wetter than normal,

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according to the Almanac.

She, also, talked about some of the folklore associated with weather forecasting. One well known example is the woolly bear caterpillar. If the caterpillar has more brown on it, expect a hard winter. This has proven to be true more often than not as the little guy seems to have an internal forecasting system, much to the dismay of scientists. Another is the thickness of corn husks. There is some credibility in this as weather tends to swing like a pendu-

lum, and a warm wet summer encourages plant growth ahead of a hard winter - the other swing of the pendulum.

The assembled members asked many questions of Ms. Tanner. Her talk was quite interesting and informative.

Matt Burns, area livestock agent, presented a short talk on winter grazing. Since the fall hay crop was so bad due to the drought, managing the grazing of winter annuals will help cattlemen get through the winter on less hay.

## **PCCA Holds Meeting on Dec 6**

By RD Morrison

The PCCA held its December meeting on the 6th. Vice President Randy Crenshaw welcomed the members and orchestrated the election of officers and directors. Johnnie Newton, President, Randy Crenshaw, Vice President, and RD Morrison, Secretary/Treasurer were elected to serve another term. He thanked the directors that

rotated off. They were: Frankie Mullikin, Dr. Carl Thompson, Tommy Boggs, and Jeff Gaston. He, also, thanked the directors going into their second year of their term. These include: Ben Roe, Danny Winchester, Herb Stancil, David Elias, and Terry McConnell. The following persons were elected to serve as directors: Harold McJunkin,

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George Bryant, Tommy Boggs, Scott Holder, and Newell Hester.

Vice President Crenshaw informed the members of a new incentive program in order to recover members that have dropped out over the years and to attract new members. This program will award a \$10 gift card from Lowe's, Home Depot or Tractor Supply, your choice, if you bring 5 new or dropped out members back to the PCCA. Just be sure to have the new member place your name on the "Referred by" space at the bottom of the membership form.



Dr. Harold Hupp was presented a plaque to show our appreciation for all of his activities with Clemson Extension and

Clemson University. His many years of service to the cattlemen of SC and Pickens County are greatly appreciated.

Vice President Crenshaw gave an overview of upcoming activities the PCCA is considering. First of all, we are planning a trip to the National Weather Service on Jan. 17. Secondly, the PCCA purchased a video camera and will start to video our speakers. The DVD will be available at the Extension office so, if you were baling hay and missed a meeting, you can still catch it in the comfort of your armchair. Thirdly, we are checking into an Internet site with links to websites of interest. This is still in the development stage, but hopefully, will contain our newsletters and meeting videos as well as PCCA produced educational videos. Lastly, the directory and newsletter committee will continue to work hard to bring our members information that they need—a benefit to joining the PCCA!

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## How Will Cold Fronts Affect Your Cowherd's Energy Requirements?

By Clay Wright

With permission of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

In this part of the world, there are usually three or four significant cold fronts during January. One of the most common questions we get during this time is whether or not to temporarily increase feed for the cowherd, and if so, by how much.

First of all, that's the right question to ask. In winter, keeping warm is the largest part of a cow's maintenance requirement, and she'll use available nutrients for maintenance before fulfilling any other needs. Cattle perform best in a fairly wide zone of temperatures. For a cow in adequate body condition with a normal, dry winter coat, the lower critical temperature (LCT) of her comfort zone is about 32 degrees F. Below that temperature, energy requirements begin to increase. If her coat is wet, maintenance requirements begin to increase below 60 de-

grees F.

How much more energy is needed in the face of a cold weather event depends mainly on wind chill and whether the front is wet or dry. According to Glenn Selk, OSU Extension animal reproduction specialist, a pretty good rule of thumb is this: for each degree the wind chill temperature is below the LCT, the energy needs of a cow with a dry winter coat increases one percent—two percent if her coat is wet. The following steps are recommended to determine how much additional energy is needed:

1. Determine wind chill levels from your local weather report.
2. Subtract the reported or calculated wind chill from the LCT. (32 F with a dry coat; 59 F if wet.)
3. Energy requirements will increase one per-

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cent for each degree below the LCT if the hair is dry; two percent if the hair is wet. For example, a cold front is bringing 25 degree F temperatures and 7 mph winds. The wind chill, then, is about 17 F, 15 degrees below the LCT of 32 F for a cow with a dry winter coat. If her ration is balanced for her normal comfort range, she'll need 15 percent more of it during the cold snap to hold her own. Now, what if that same front brings precipitation?

Instead of one percent increase in energy needs, cows with wet winter coats need a two percent increase. In the same scenario, the wind chill of 17 F is 42 degrees below the LCT of 59 F. She needs 84 percent more energy than she normally would need. In many instances, it is impractical, impossible or inadvisable to feed her that much additional energy.

Digestive disorders can occur if energy levels are increased suddenly and drastically.

Common sense and practical animal husbandry can go a long way in dealing with inclement weather. Windbreaks and shelter can change the calculation factors significantly for the better. Increasing energy intake before, during and after a cold front can help even out excessive deficiencies. Managing body condition to have some additional stored energy prior to the onset of winter can also provide a valuable "cushion" for times of increased energy needs. Also, some research supports the assumption that the lower critical temperature for a cow with a heavy winter coat is 19 F. This factor might fit many English and Continental breeds and crosses in our area in the coldest part of the winter and could change the energy deficiency calculations considerably.



**The PCCA hopes all had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas!!! Happy New Year!!!**

## Be Prepared When Unexpected Calving Problems Arise

From LR Sprott, Recognizing and Handling Calving Problems, AgriLIFE Extension, Texas A&M  
Submitted by Dr. James Mullikin, DVM

Calving is a natural part of a cow's life cycle. In fact, a lot of times the cow just has the calf, and you discover it after the fact. Due to a variety of causes, cows have difficulties in a small percentage of births. That's when knowledge and preparation is essential to reduce losses and unnecessary disease in cows and calves.

The first recommendation is to observe pregnant cows frequently. If the cow is experienced, is generally healthy, and has an acceptable body condition score (BCS), every three hours is adequate. However, first time heifers and cows with a BCS of two or more than 4 are at a higher risk for dystocia. These animals should be checked every hour, 24 hours a day. They may be checked from the side of the corral or with binoculars from a pickup rather than bringing

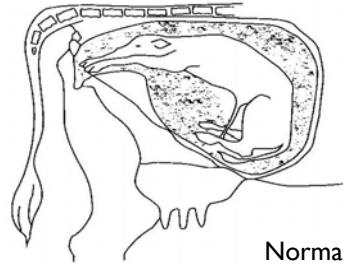
them in each time.

In stage one labor, the uterus begins contracting at about 15-minute intervals, and the cervix starts to dilate. Symptoms of early labor vary widely, with the most obvious symptoms more characteristic in heifers. The cow begins to get restless during the first stage of labor, and you may start to see the fetal membrane. This stage lasts 2-6 hours. If it goes longer than that, you need to examine the cow.

In preparing for the exam, make sure you have clean gloves and observe sterile techniques. Another important measure is applying lubricant liberally to protect the delicate tissues of the reproductive tract. This exam will reveal several things: (1) if the vaginal tract is intact, (2) if the cervix is dilated, (3) problems (i.e., twisted uterus or obstructions) and (4) if the calf

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is alive and in the proper position in the birth canal.



Normal

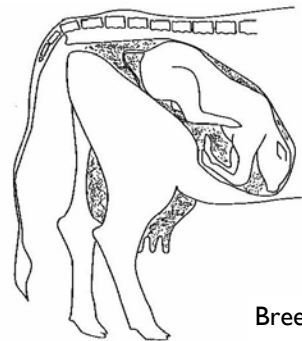
If there are problems with these, a veterinarian should be contacted. Using sterile techniques, you can determine if the calf is alive by putting a finger in its mouth or near the eye, which should make the calf move. Once you have determined that the calf is alive, check for position. The head and front feet should be in the birth canal, with the bottom of the hooves pointing toward the ground. If the bottom of the hooves are pointing toward the sky, those are usually the back legs.

If the calf is coming out backward with legs not coming first or tucked up under the animal (breech), the fetus must be repositioned before labor can

proceed. If reasonable effort to reposition the calf and correct the problem fails, contact your vet.

Stage two labor begins when the calf's feet and head appear. The nose should appear when the feet are out 6-8 inches. Once the calf's feet and head appear, if the cow strains for 1-2 hours with little progress, intervention may be required. Traction is a common technique in this situation, but should be done cautiously. If applying gentle traction and the shoulders do not progress through the pelvic canal, you need to stop before the calf gets locked. Large birth weight calves are prone to this problem.

When the calf presents with tail and hind legs in the birth canal, there is limited time, so interven-



Breech

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tion is usually advised. The cow may be able to deliver a calf with hind legs extended, it is a race between when the umbilical cord gets pinched or severed and when the calf's head is out into the air so that it can breathe. If the cord is pinched and the calf takes a breath, he takes in fluid, not air, and could suffocate. When the calf delivers head first, he can breathe air if the umbilical cord is pinched. When intervening in situations with the hind feet coming first. Hip lock can occur. The room in the pelvic canal can be maximized by gently rotating the calf's hips 90 degrees, to one side or the other.

Then apply gentle traction. You can even alternate from one side to the other. If progress is not made within 30 minutes, contact your veterinarian.

In closing, pay attention to your cows, but especial first-calf heifers and those with low BCS. When intervening during calving, slow down and think of the cow as a family member. We sometimes rush the process because of our own deadlines and problems. Then, we end up being too rough trying to get the calf out. The cow has only one reproductive tract and rushing can do damage to it thereby preventing the cow from being productive.

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*Thoughts  
from the  
President -  
Johnnie  
Newton*



Well, 2011 has come and gone. We have had good times and some sad times. The good times were the good meetings

and fellowship of all the members. The sad times were when we lost members and members family to illness and accidents. Do keep their families in your prayers.

Special thanks to the directors for all their help planning meetings, guiding in the best direction for events, and all business re-



lated to the organization during 2011. Also, thanks to all members for joining the association and attending our meetings.

In 2012, let us all come together and make the new year the best one ever.

Thanks to all and Happy New Year!

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**The PCCA Newsletter Committee** is always looking for good articles to share with the members. Our members are encouraged to write articles or bring an idea for an article to the committee. The committee consists of VP Randy Crenshaw, RD Morrison, Dr. Harold Hupp, and David Elias. Just contact one of them and we will get your article into the newsletter. The newsletter serves the members.

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**Birthdays** - I apologize if I missed yours.

**January -**

Doris Chappell - 1/2  
Diana Mullikin - 1/3  
Zachary Hood - 1/7  
Johnnie Newton - 1/9

Angie Winchester - 1/14  
Shana Stewart - 1/25  
Dr. George Skelley - 1/28  
Ann Miller - 1/30  
Connie Worth - 1/31

**February -**

James Robinson - 2/2  
Julia Langston - 2/10  
Julie Ann Elias - 2/14  
Gerald Holcombe - 2/14  
Kitty Thompson - 2/17  
Newell Hester - 2/19  
Don Worth - 2/20  
Melvin Sowell - 2/25  
Betty Lou Newton - 2/25

**March -**

Kathy Robinson - 3/2  
Randy Crenshaw - 3/2  
Kendall King - 3/9  
Judy Roe - 3/10  
Tyler Hood - 3/14  
Amy Crumpton - 3/17  
David Jones - 3/18  
Paula Lesslie - 3/20  
Ruth Rice - 3/24  
Scott Hunt - 3/25  
Buddy Sexton - 3/27  
Ted Shehan - 3/27  
Dr. Brian Callahan - 3/29  
Joyce Stephens - 3/30



**Happy  
Birthday to  
All and Many  
More to  
Come!!**

**Agricultural Safety** - the PCCA is concerned with the safety of our members.

**Tips to protect workers in cold environments - OSHA**

Prolonged exposure to freezing or cold temperatures may cause serious health problems such as trench foot, frostbite and hypothermia. In extreme cases, including cold water immersion, exposure can lead to death. Danger signs include uncontrolled shivering, slurred speech, clumsy movements, fatigue and confused behavior. If these signs are observed, call for emergency help.

OSHA's cold stress card provides a reference guide and recommendations to combat and prevent many illnesses and injuries. This fold up card is free to the public by going to OSHA's website, [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov), or by calling 1-800-321-OSHA.

Tips include:

- Recognize the environment and workplace conditions that may be dangerous.
- Learn the signs and symptoms of cold-
- induced illnesses and injuries and what to do to help workers.
- Train workers about cold-induced illnesses and injuries.
- Encourage workers to wear proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions, including layers that can be adjusted with changing weather conditions.
- Be sure workers in extreme conditions take a frequent short break in warm dry shelters to allow their bodies to warm up.
- Try to schedule work in the warmest part of the day.
- Avoid exhaustion or fatigue because energy is needed to keep muscles warm.
- Drink warm, sweet beverages (sugar water, sports drinks) and avoid drinks with caffeine.
- Eat warm, high calorie food such as pasta.

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Matt Burns, area livestock agent, spoke and presented slides on the 2011 visit to Argentina. This visit was funded through a grant to improve research, extension or outreach. Dr. John Andrae, Dr. Susan Duckett, and Kevin Campbell accompanied Matt to look at the grass fed beef operations in Argentina. Argentina has similar weather to the

**Secretary/Treasurers  
Synopsis Report for  
period as of Dec 16,  
2011**

PCCA Balance as of  
12/31/10: \$10,801.87

**INCOME:**

Directory ads	1330.00
PCCA/SCCA Dues	1700.00
Meals	471.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3502.81</b>

southeast US and are very much into rotational grazing and pasture management. Their fencing techniques are different, but accomplish the intended results of pasture management and rotational grazing. This was a very interesting presentation and many questions were asked by the members.

A short video was shown by RD Morrison to give the members an idea of the possibilities that the video camera recently purchased by the PCCA holds. Although this was merely a practice video, it put a light on the potential uses of the camera and movie software. It will be put to good use.

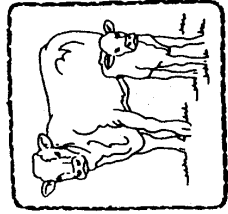
**EXPENSE:**

SCCA Dues	1235.00
Postage	679.60
Printing	877.11
Office Supplies	61.96
Meals	1017.98
Video Equip	400.98
Miscellaneous	24.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4398.89</b>

**NET INCOME YTD**  
-896.08

**ENDING BALANCE:**

**\$9905.79**



**Pickens County Cattlemen's Association**  
PO Box 995  
Pickens, SC 29671