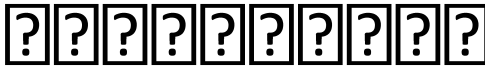


Pickens County Cattlemen's Association



Volume 8

October 1, 2012

New DOT Law Will Help Cattlemen

By RD Morrison

Last year, we were informed of a law, on the books since the 1980's, that would now be enforced. The PCCA wrote letters to the SCCA and contacted the lawmakers - several of which are members of the PCCA. Representative David Hiott (R- Pickens) took an active role in correcting this intrusive, long-standing (but unenforced) law.

Through his efforts, no health card or SCDOT number is needed until 26,001 pounds GVWR is exceeded. A commercial drivers license (CDL) is re-

quired over 26,001 pounds. Most cattle trailers that producers use, in combination with their trucks, will be under this weight limit. No weight restriction on Farm tagged vehicles applies as to where it can be driven (i.e., grocery store). Implementations of husbandry (balers, grain drills, etc.) may be pulled behind trucks without brakes, etc.

Rep. Hiott, a long time PCCA member, organized a meeting with the SC Transport Police (SCTP) to clear up the new law.

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They explained that the only ones that can issue a ticket for DOT related offenses is the SC Transport Police - not county or local police. They did say that all highway infractions (i.e., running stop signs, running red lights, reckless driving) could be enforced by any policeman and this new law would not alleviate the responsibility to operate safely on the highways. The SCTP stated that they would issue a set of guidelines so that farmers and cattlemen would know what the rules are. Most cattlemen at the meeting stated that they are basically law abiding citizens, but they wanted to know the rules.

All of the speakers at the meeting praised Rep. Hiott for his actions to fix this law. Rep. Hiott said that they went about as far as they could go in fixing the 1980's law, but next session, he would work on fixing a few more things that would benefit the agricultural community of South Carolina. He reiter-

ated that agriculture is the largest industry in the state and that he will work hard to help the ag community.

The PCCA urges all of it's members to check the plate, usually on the door on the drivers side, to obtain the GVWR rating of the truck and the tag on the trailer to make sure that you are under the 26,001 pound limit when the two numbers are added together. Check your lights and brakes to make sure that they are in good working order. Safety is the primary way to keep the SCTP off of your case. Remember, the folks on the highway today did not grow up on a farm and tend to tailgate your farm vehicle and trailer because they tend to be in a great hurry to get nowhere. Most of us do not have the time or money to fix the equipment being hauled on the trailer that was damaged due to being in a hurry, (you when securing it or the careless person that tailgated right into the back of your trailer), so make sure the lights,

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etc., are working. Make sure all lights on the trailer are working. This includes all running lights. Make sure the equipment is properly tied down on four points. Make sure the tires on the truck and the trailer are properly inflated and are in a safe condition concerning tread wear and cracks. Newer trailers have an emergency break away system and older trailers should have them installed. Safety chains should be used to keep the trailer connected to the truck.

The PCCA encour-

ages the SC Legislature to remove all weight limits that are on agricultural related vehicles within the state of South Carolina and to obtain reciprocal approval from neighboring states .

Thank you, Rep. David Hiott, for taking the lead on this legislation.

Thank you for working with the SCTP, trucking association and the Farm Bureau to get the best result possible. Thank you for your membership in the PCCA. Thank you for being a friend to agriculture.

Learn Livestock's Hierarchy of Nutrient Use

By Carl Wright

With permission of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

We get a lot of calls this time of year about winter cow nutrition and body condition. Cow body condition is a relative term used to describe the level of fatness or fleshiness. Some of the pieces of the puzzle vary with the class (size, age, body condition, stage of reproduction, etc.),

but the basics don't vary and the mystery is not very deep. In healthy cattle, it's usually a matter of nutrition.

Each class has specific nutritional needs and uses the total of the nutrients consumed each day in a certain order of priority.

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The hierarchy includes all the tasks we usually ask the beef cows to perform throughout the year. It's a simple way to understand and explain many of the problems with condition and nutrition. (Some other hierarchies have the order a little different, but not much.)

For example, take a pregnant cow in a body condition score of 4.5. She needs to gain weight before calving next month. Beginning with 'maintenance' on the bottom, she will use her daily intake of nutrients in this order: Maintenance includes staying warm, so it can take significant nutrition this time of year. Fetus development requires slightly more nutrients above maintenance. If she is to add condition, her diet must have excess nutrients above her maintenance and fetal development needs.

What are we going to ask of her after she calves? She is going to maintain herself first. Then, if there are any nutrients left, she'll use them for milk

production up to her genetic potential. Milk production requires a lot of nutrients. Then, at some point soon, we are going to ask her to breed back, but she likely won't unless she has nutrients above maintenance and milk production. If this cow were to add body condition, she'd need excess nutrients above maintenance, milk production and breeding back needs. Conditioning is always at the top of any animals hierarchy. It will take an excellent diet for this cow to gain weight.

It's not exactly that 'cut and dried', though. If a cow's daily intake does not supply adequate nutrition for her hierarchy of needs, she will supplement herself with her body stores. Take the previously mentioned lactating cow as an example. If her diet only meets her maintenance needs, she will mobilize nutrients stored in her body to try to meet her milk production requirements. Loss of body fat (body condition) is the most noticeable result. The

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same is true for a dry, pregnant cow whose diet does not meet her maintenance needs. Even worse, after body fat is depleted, a cow will use other tissue, like muscle and bone, to try to meet her nutritional needs.

If a cow is maintaining body condition, she's meeting all of the needs of her hierarchy from her diet. If she's losing (using) body condition, she's not getting what she needs from her diet. The formula is simple:

Nutritional requirements minus nutrients from daily diet equals nutrients needed from supplementation. As managers, it is our responsibility to understand what these needs are and see that they are met at all times for her to perform as expected.

NOTE: Internal and external parasites get their share of nutrients even before cow maintenance. A sound control program is vital.

Freezer Beef Association Considered

By PCCA Executive Committee

There are many ways to market the cattle that we raise. This includes taking calves to the sale barn at weaning, preconditioning and participating in a truckload sale, retaining ownership and shipping calves out west, purebred sales and direct marketing. The Oconee Cattlemen's Association has a program, the Oconee Beef Alliance, that markets entire truckloads of calves that were raised and weaned in a like manner. Several PCCA

members participate in this program with the Oconee Cattlemen. Many of our PCCA members sell freezer beef as a whole or half carcass.

There is a growing interest in locally grown food. We believe that Pickens County beef is as good as the beef that comes from Iowa, and market trends point to more folks wanting to know where their food comes from.

With these thoughts in mind, the PCCA officers

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and board of directors discussed the possibility of starting an alliance to sell natural freezer beef, whole or half carcasses, that were raised in a like fashion utilizing Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) guidelines. Basically, we would produce natural beef using no steroids (RALGRO™, etc.) or antibiotics (LA-200™, etc.)

Some thoughts on marketing the local beef include the SC Department of Agriculture program, SC Grown, that would apply to our product. The PCCA website could be used as a marketing tool. The website would help our members market their cattle as locally grown, natural freezer beef and get a good return for their efforts. The South Carolina Beef Council recently adopted a plank in their mission to include the promotion of locally grown beef by the sides or whole.

Marketing cattle in this way will increase the work and expense, but by eliminating the middlemen involved in the cattle busi-

ness (ie., sale barn fee, trucking fee, feedlot fee, etc.), the returns can be better than taking calves to the sale. Grass fed beef is also a growing interest to consumers and this will fit right into our discussions about PCCA locally grown beef. Marketing cattle in this manner would require some work and a sharp pencil in order to see if it will work for your operation.

If you are interested in participating in this producer alliance, please contact PCCA President Johnnie Newton at 878-9923 or send an e-mail to us at pcca@pickenscountycattle.com. We want to set up an organizational meeting very soon, so please consider this and contact us.

Thank you for your PCCA membership and interest. The PCCA Executive Committee is working to get the most for our producers.

Please contact one of the officers or directors with your thoughts on this.

PCCA Needs Members Help Managing Costs

By PCCA Executive Committee

The PCCA is in need of your help. One of the Executive Committee's main concerns in the operation of the PCCA is the cost of printing and mailing of the Newsletter and the meeting notices. In an effort to decrease the cost of printing, Staples ® is used for this purpose. The PCCA receives 'Staples ® Rewards' which are used to keep the price low. In fact, the last Newsletter was printed entirely at no charge due to the rewards system. However, vendor selection can only go so far.

At a recent Board of Directors meeting, a motion was made and passed to include a self addressed post card that the members complete. Information about Internet access, e-mail address, etc., is needed so a notice can be sent via e-mail to highlight a new meeting notice or Newsletter available on the PCCA website
(www.pickenscountycattle.c

om). The website was started not only to get the word out about the PCCA and to, hopefully, attract new members, but also to let our members read Newsletters and meeting notices online, thereby minimizing the cost of the site. This should decrease the number of copies required to be printed and mailed, thereby, saving the Association some money.

If you do not have Internet access, do not worry. Just mark the post card that you do not have Internet access and the notices and Newsletters will continue to be mailed to you - no problem. But, if you have Internet access and can help us keep these costs down, it would go a long way toward saving the Association some money - your money.

Please take a moment to complete the post card and put it in the mail (postage paid) so we can

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get an accurate list and minimize this expense.

Thank you for your membership and thank you

for your help in managing this expense.

The PCCA officers and directors thank you!

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

Chain Saw Safety

The Ohio State University Extension

.Objective: To know what safety precautions to take when working with a chain saw, and to practice proper maintenance of the chain saw.

Background

Operator’s manual:

Keep the operator’s manual with the chain saw. If the manual is missing, contact the manufacturer for a replacement. Periodically review the manual for safe operating procedures.

Personal protective equipment:

Use the personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job. Use the following as a guide:

- Clothing should fit well and be free of dangling or ragged edges which can become tangled in the saw. The use of

nylon mesh protective leg chaps and/or knee pads can provide increased protection for the legs.

- A hard hat protects the head from falling limbs or branches. A properly fitted hat is cool, comfortable, and provides protection from head injury.
- A full face shield or safety goggles/glasses that have side shields prevent injury from flying wood chips, twigs, and sawdust.
- Protect ears from the high level of noise produced by the saw.
- Safety boots or shoes with high tops protect ankles in the event of accidental contact with

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a moving saw blade.

Steel toed boots will help protect feet from falling limbs or logs.

- Lightweight leather gloves protect the hands from cuts, splinters and abrasion.

Preventive Maintenance

Keep the saw in good repair. Consult the operator's manual and check for needed maintenance before each use. The operator's manual can be the best source of information for this purpose.

Sharpen the saw if:

- The chain tends to 'walk' sideways while cutting.
- The cut shows fine powder instead of chips.
- It is necessary to press hard to cut.
- Smell burnt wood.

Good cutting action and a

long chain life increase with correct chain tension. If too loose, a chain will derail; if too tight, a chain will bind. Proper lubrication prolongs the life of the saw and increases safety.

Follow these precautions when fueling and starting the chain saw engine.

- Only fuel the engine when it is cool.
- Never smoke when working with a power saw.
- Start by putting one foot on the bracket at the rear of the saw.
- Grip the top handle of the saw firmly with one hand and use the other to pull the starting rope.
- Never 'drop start' the saw.

Chain saws are not toys, so keep them out of the reach of children.

Adding value to the calf crop

By Carl Wright

With permission of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

To many producers, adding value means implementing practices to maximize the price received for

their calves on sale day. Some practices simply avoid discounts: dehorning; castration; breeding in ade-

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quate frame and muscling; and managing away from extremes of body condition at sale time. Other practices open the door for the possibility of premiums on sale day: superior bull and cow genetics; a controlled breeding season; preconditioning; and a complete health program. Then there are what might be called one-time practices that can significantly impact your check: minimizing presale shrink and optimizing fill in the sale ring. Collectively and individually, these practices add to an animal's total value as it moves through the production chain.

In the few seconds your calves are in the ring, buyers visually appraise your offering, determine their value and place a bid. Mostly their bid is based on their perception of how your calves will perform in the next phase of production. To enhance the buyer's appraisal of the products value, it is becoming more common for producers to document their value

added management practices and to communicate this information to buyers at sale time.

Selling at or soon after weaning is a perfectly valid marketing endpoint; however, the value added attributes you've infused into your product continue to pay dividends all the way to the end product—quality beef for the consumer. A good example is preconditioning. Research shows that preconditioned calves entering the feedlot will have lower morbidity and mortality, gain faster with greater feed efficiency and finish with fewer days on feed and a lower cost of gain. One study showed a \$55 per head advantage for preconditioned calves by the end of the feeding period.

A buyer may share part of that future value with you in the form of a premium, but it will never equal the full value of the management and expertise represented in your calves. It follows that the longer you own your prod-

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uct, the more of the true value of your management you will realize. If your are producing a high quality,

value-added calf crop, it's worth the effort to evaluate ways to own your product longer.

Thoughts from the President -
Johnnie Newton



we will retain through the winter. Good luck with all your decisions you have to make—according to your situation.

It is October, and some of us are still baling hay. Our fall crop has been great. Maybe all of us will have plenty this year.

We have two members (that we know off) on the ailing list: Vice President Randy Crenshaw and Director David Elias. Both are recovering.

Cow prices are still holding steady. Corn prices will affect the price of feed and how many cattle

Here's wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!!

**Secretary / Treasurers
Synopsis Report for
period as of Sep 30,
2012**

PCCA Balance as of 1/3/12:
\$11431.71

INCOME:

Directory Ads \$1320.00
Dues \$1685.00
Reimbursed \$150.00
TOTAL \$3155.00

EXPENSES:

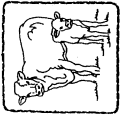
SCCA Dues \$1315.00
Sponsor - SCCA Annual Meeting \$150.00

Postage \$281.80
Printing \$354.06
Meals \$785.00
Website \$600.00
Technology \$118.97
Farm Safety Day \$150.00
TOTAL \$4016.34

NET INCOME YTD
-\$861.34

ENDING BALANCE:
\$10570.37

Please fill out the post card and mail it back to us to help save some of YOUR money on printing and postage. Thanks!!!!



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