

# Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

Volume 8

July 1, 2012



## **April 14 PCCA Meeting focused on Weeds and Drought Insurance**

By RD Morrison

The PCCA met on April 14th at the Farm Bureau Building. After the meal and announcements, PCCA President Johnnie Newton introduced the speakers.

Marina Rodriguez and Jimmy Kirby work for the FSA. They spoke of the drought insurance program available to cattlemen. The insurance covers hay and pastures. The cost is \$250 and covers one acre to thousands of acres for the

same \$250. The payout on this insurance is based on the drought monitor and visual inspection by a loss adjuster, but the entire county all receive the same payment per acre. They said that the signup cutoff date for 2013 is November 20, 2012.

Marina can be reached at 864-467-2755 ext. 100 and her office is in the County square building, Room 4700 in Greenville.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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The next speaker was Scott Goodwin with Dow Agrosiences. Scott highlighted the importance



of forages. Good forages increase profits and feeding forages is less costly than baling, and hauling hay. He stressed that herbicide is only a part of a successful plan. Some of the other parts are lime and fertilizer requirements, rotational grazing and grass recovery between grazings.

Weeds are thieves. They steal the water, nutrients and sunlight. Herbicides offer selective control of broadleaf weeds and a good cost to benefit ratio. Then, why do we not spray herbicide? One reason is the perceived cost. Another is that the herbicide will hurt the clovers. The facts are that by controlling

weeds, there will be more grass (if managed) so there will be more grazing and more forage utilization. Weed islands, patches of weeds in a pasture, force the cattle to graze around the weedy area, increasing spot grazing and decreasing the forage available and increasing weeds. Scott covered the three types of weed control: (1)



regular control, (2) not regular control and (3) highly neglected. The rates of herbicide (and therefore, the cost) is increased as weed control is neglected.

Scott answered many of the assembled members questions. One was concerning privette hedge. Privette hedge should not be sprayed the leaves as it will shed the

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leaves before the herbicide can translocate to the roots. Remedy® should be used with diesel fuel or crop oil and applied with a spot sprayer to the bark. Remedy works really well on woody type plants (blackberry, multiflora rose). Scott discussed the new product Grazon NEXT Hi Lo®. He pointed out that this product cannot be

used on hayfields if you are going to sell the hay. He stressed that the label information should be read and followed. He pointed out the Dow Agrosiences website at [www.rangeandpasture.com](http://www.rangeandpasture.com) as there is a lot of good info there. Scott can be reached at 336-312-9534 and by e-mail at [ssgoodwin@dow.com](mailto:ssgoodwin@dow.com).



## Field Day Held at Joe Davis Farm

By RD Morrison

PCCA member Joe Davis held a field day at his Westminster farm on April 28. Joe welcomed all of the Oconee and Pickens County cattlemen in attendance. He introduced the speakers to talk to the group. These were:

- Matt Burns - Clemson Extension Area Livestock agent
- Dr. Doug Ensley -

Boehringer Ingleheim

- Bob Rice - ABS Global
- Leslie Simmons - Southeast Animal Labs

He thanked Ben Thrasher Farms and the PCCA for providing the biscuits.

Matt Burns began with the advantages and disadvantages of the use of artificial insemination. The advantages include:

*(Continued on page 4)*

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- The use of genetically superior sires by multiple farms.
- A reduction in the number of bulls that the farm has to carry, thereby lowering maintenance costs.
- The use of frozen semen from bulls that are now dead.
- A more effective use of estrous synchronization allowing calves to be born closer to the same date.
- No worries of trichonosis getting introduced to the herd from the bull as the semen has been tested.

Disadvantages include:

- Semen and equipment costs.
- Management skills - planning in advance.
- Labor and facilities needed to insure the operation is performed in a timely manner.

Many of the disadvantages can be shown to be an advantage to the cattleman.

There is a couple types of AI. Estrous detection is when AI is per-

formed the afternoon after heat was detected in the morning, or the morning after heat was detected in the afternoon. Time AI is performed strictly on a time cycle. Joe outlined his sequence for AI. His herd (165 brood cows and heifers) was broken up in three groups with one group of heifers and two groups of cows. The heifers are vaccinated and wormed 30 days prior to breeding. The breeding of heifers is done 2 to 3 weeks prior to the cows to allow the first calf heifer a little extra time to recover from calving so that she will be on the same cycle as the cows next year. The heifers are on grass but supplemented with dried distiller grains. Two weeks prior to the AI date, the heifers have a CiDR inserted. It is removed two weeks later, the heifers are given Lutelyce, Aled, and given GnRH. 10 days later, a clean up bull is put in the pasture with them. The cows are, also, wormed and vaccinated 30 days prior to the date of AI. They have a

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CiDR inserted and are given GnRH. Seven days later the CiDR is removed and the cows are given prostaglandin. Seven days later, the cows are artificially inseminated within a six hour window. Matt Burns said that, although this is somewhat confusing, there is an EXCEL spreadsheet from the Iowa beef center that will provide a printout when everything needs to be done.

Joe stated that he has moved from spring to fall calving in order to negate the effects of toxic Ky31 fescue on his conception rate. The compounds in Ky31 that affect the conception rate are very high in really green and growing grass, but is less in stock-piled fescue. MaxQ fescue does not have the harmful endophytes.

Bob Rice discussed the equipment need for the AI operation. A dewar to hold the semen in liquid nitrogen is needed and a thaw unit to thaw the semen before use was discussed. He demonstrated

loading a semen straw into the gun and stressed that the warmed semen as well as the gun must be kept warm in order not to 'cold shock' the semen, thereby reducing its viability.

Matt Burns described the AI procedure and Mike Hall performed the artificial insemination. Matt explained that the semen used in the cow is placed through the cervix to the uterine horns, whereas, in natural service, the cervix serves as a filter to prevent weak sperm from getting to the uterine horns. The bull would deposit a lot more semen than the straw would hold, but the semen from one of the suppliers, such as ABS Global, has been tested.

If all goes according to plan, how do we tell if the cow is pregnant? Dr. Ensley described how to take a tailhead blood sample and Mike Hall demonstrated the procedure. On the centerline of the tail, the bones can be felt and a holder with a vacuum tube is used to pull the blood

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*(Continued from page 5)*

much the same as is used in a doctors office. Leslie Simmons explained the procedure to ship the collected blood sample to the lab. She stressed that the cow number must be on the tube using a Sharpie <sup>TM</sup> and the cow number and the tube number must be recorded in the sheet accompanying the samples. The samples should not be sent in bubble wrap envelopes as these often break the tubes, but can be placed in a zip lock bag, packed in an appropriate size box and shipped through the US Mail. The box must be marked "Animal Specimen" as the requirements for human specimens is much higher. The samples do not have to be shipped frozen. The sample should be pulled 28 or more days after breeding; if a cow cycled early, it should be more than 60 days since the calf was born as this will give a false positive. She stated that the test for persistently infected animals can be done using the same blood sample.

Dr. Ensley discussed PI. Persistently Infected cows (PI) have reproductive diseases, abortions, respiratory problems, and their calves may have birth defects and the calf will definitely be PI positive. This unique virus is so potent that if one cc of blood from a PI positive animal was dumped into an Olympic size swimming pool and one cc of water was withdrawn from the other side, it would have enough BVD virus in that one cc to infect 50% of the other animals. If a brood cow is exposed to a BVD animal between 40 and 125 days of gestation, the virus crosses into the calf and it is born with the virus in its genetic makeup. The BVD virus cannot live in the soil. A closed herd or quarantine of new animals will help prevent this problem. Dr. Ensley said that purchase of cows or bulls at the sale barn is a potential train wreck - those animals are there for a reason and usually not a good reason. PI is a real concern for stockers as a

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pen of calves will be 50 pounds lighter if exposed to a PI positive calf.

Matt Burns ended the meeting with the cost of 43 AI calves as \$78/calf. Thanks, Joe.

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## Website Up and Running

By RD Morrison

The PCCA website is now up and running. EDJE, Inc., designed and maintains the site for the association.

Site features include a calendar of events that will inform members of upcoming meetings, bull sales, Clemson field days and other items that the members would like to be informed about. Another feature is the Local Producer page. It will spotlight local cattlemen with pictures and an article by the producer about his/her operation. This will spotlight our purebred producers around the time of their sale and others throughout the year. Another feature is the Links page which will connect members directly to extension services and other information sources throughout the south for information. Yet another feature is the newsletter page.

The most recent newsletter and archived newsletters are posted on the website.

The renewal form can be printed out from the website and we have already had several new members that have found us online.

If you can read the newsletter online, this will save the cost of printing and stamps. If you can check the calendar page for upcoming meetings, etc., this will also save on printing and postage. The website is a WIN - WIN for the PCCA and the members.

If you would like to have your operation highlighted on the Local Producers page, just take some pictures, write a few paragraphs, get them to me via the Pickens Clemson Extension or via e-mail, and I will forward them to EDJE and in the next day or two, it

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

will be posted on the site. E at:  
 -mails can be sent using the www.pickenscountycattle.c  
 website and come directly om.  
 to my Inbox.

Check out the site

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**Agricultural Safety** - The PCCA wants our mem-  
 bers to be safe while working their operations.  
**Skin Cancer** [www.saftek.net/worksafe/farm\\_09.htm](http://www.saftek.net/worksafe/farm_09.htm)

.Rural workers have  
 a high risk of getting skin  
 cancers, as their work can  
 expose them to long peri-  
 ods of ultraviolet radiation.

Spot the hazard - To  
 help you spot skin cancer  
 hazards, consider:

- Lack of shade in out-  
door work areas.
- Reflective surfaces, (e.g.,  
water, cement, shiny  
metal or white painted  
sheds).
- What jobs are done in  
sunlight, and how long  
they take.
- What are the peak sun  
hours.
- The day's ultraviolet  
exposure forecast.
- What body surfaces are  
exposed to sunlight.
- Whether sun block is  
provided or used.
- Whether protective  
clothing is available and

worn.

Assess the risk - To  
 asses the risk of skin cancer  
 from identified hazards:

- Work out approximate-  
ly how long is spent  
working outdoors each  
day.
- Identify what jobs are  
normally done in peak  
sun - between 10am and  
4pm.
- Check whether shade is  
available for outdoor  
jobs.
- Check whether hats,  
protective clothing and  
sunscreens are ade-  
quate.
- Ensure sunscreen is re-  
applied during outdoor  
work.

Learn to identify  
 various types of skin cancer,  
 and check your skin for  
 sunspots and unusual pig-

(Continued on page 9)



*(Continued from page 8)*

mentation.

Basal cell carcinoma - starts as a small lump that flattens out as it grows. One of the two most common growths, it can be easily treated and cured.

Squamous cell carcinoma - the other most common growth, however it is more likely to spread to other parts of the body.

Malignant melanoma - the most dangerous type of skin cancer. Often starts as a dark mole. This type is responsible for thousands of deaths each year.

Sunspot (keratosis) - A small, scaly patch of skin occurring on the arms, face, nose and ears. They are not strictly a form of cancer, but indicate excessive exposure to solar UV radiation.

Short term injury risks:

- Reddened skin, blistering, swelling, and later, peeling of the skin.
- Photosensitization - acute skin reaction to UV with certain drugs, ointments, creams, and chemicals, resulting in

increased sunburn and skin damage.

- Sore, red, and gritty swollen eyes, with sensitivity to strong lights.

Long term effects

include:

- Premature aging - wrinkling, wasting skin tissues, excessive pigmentation, spots marked by clusters of tiny blood vessels.

- Cataracts of the eye.

Make the changes:

- Wear cool, protective clothing, i.e., a shady hat, shirt with collar and long sleeves, and long trousers.
- Use a sunscreen with a SPF 15 protection factor.
- Noses, lips, ears, bald heads, necks and backs of hands require extra protection.
- Reapply sunscreen regularly, especially if you are sweating.
- Make use of shade areas whenever possible in the high risk hours.
- Use a tractor with shade protection fitted.
- To safeguard against

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

cataracts, sunglasses that conform to applicable standards are recommended.

Early signs - check your skin for early signs of skin cancer:

- Any unusual skin conditions that don't heal in four weeks.
- Any sore, ulcer or scaly patch on the skin.
- A white patch on the

lips that doesn't heal.

- Any mole that seems to grow quickly.
- Any mole that changes shape or color.
- Any mole that bleeds or repeatedly itches.

If you find any of these

signs, contact your doctor.

Remember, over-exposure to the sun's rays increases the skin cancer risk both now and in the future.

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## Drought Induced Poisonings are Dangerous to Livestock

By Clay Wright

With permission of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Cattle producers should be on the watch for two types of poisoning during drought conditions.

The potential for nitrate and prussic acid poisoning of cattle grazing or eating hay is often associated with droughts.

Often, the first indication of a problem is one or more dead animals - poisoned animals suffocate at the cellular level. Prussic acid poisoning is often acute, with death occurring within minutes of ingesting toxic levels. Although ni-

trate poisoning also is often acute, other symptoms such as staggering, gasping, salivation, trembling and rapid pulse may be observed.

Nitrate poisoning inhibits the ability of blood to transport oxygen. Prussic acid inhibits the ability of cells to take oxygen from the blood.

Nitrate accumulation can occur in virtually any plant with the ability to grow rapidly and use soil nitrogen efficiently. The most infamous for nitrate

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)  
 and prussic acid problems are the sorghums - forage sorghum, sorghum-sudan hybrids, sudangrass and johnsongrass.  
 Drying or ensiling

forages tends to have a small effect on nitrate levels. Proper curing or ensiling forages having high prussic acid greatly reduces or eliminates the danger as free prussic acid volatilizes

Thoughts from the President -  
 Johnnie Newton



Summer has arrived with hot weather and humidity! With the rain in May and most of June, most grasses seem to be thriving. We are all looking for more rain the rest of the summer. Hopefully, the fall hay crop will be plentiful and cattle prices will continue to be good.

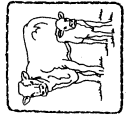
Thanks to David Hiott, we will be able to get

the final rules and regulations on DOT requirements at a July 17 meeting at the career center. Try to attend so we will all be informed. Rep. Hiott has really worked for us on this matter. If you see him, shake his hand and let him know we appreciate his hard work.

Try to stay cool and hydrated when working your operation.

Looking forward to seeing you at the DOT and upcoming meetings.

<b>Secretary / Treasurers</b>		SCCA Dues	\$1315.00
<b>Synopsis Report for</b>		Sponsor SCCA Annual	
<b>period as of Jun 28, 2012</b>		Meeting	\$150.00
PCCA Balance as of 1/3/12:		Postage	\$281.80
	\$11431.71	Printing	\$354.06
<b>INCOME:</b>		Meals	\$785.00
Directory Ads	\$1320.00	Website	\$600.00
Dues	\$1335.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3641.39</b>
Reimbursed	\$150.00	<b>NET INCOME YTD</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2805.00</b>		<b>-\$836.39</b>
		<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			<b>\$10595.32</b>



**Pickens County  
Cattlemen's Association**  
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