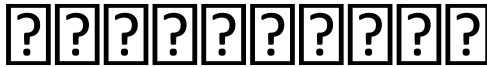


Pickens County Cattlemen's Association



Volume 9

January 1, 2013

FSA Informs Members About Programs

By RD Morrison

The Pickens County Cattlemen's Association met on October 30, 2012, at the Farm Bureau building in Pickens. The meal, catered by Dave's of Berea, was excellent. David Jones brought two guests, Donald and Colleen Snow, who are interested in getting into the cattle business. They were warmly welcomed.

Marina Rodriguez, with the Farm Service Agency in Greenville, explained that there are many programs available through the FSA, but the FSA is not very well known. She stat-

ed that the non insured crop assistance program has been very helpful to producers as five out of the last six years have not been good due to the effects of drought. This year, 2012, according to the National Weather Service, the area is about seven inches behind on rain. The program for hay fields is different than the program for pastures. In order to qualify as a pasture, the field must be completely fenced. An inspector out of the Greenville FSA office will come

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and inspect the hayfields and pastures in the program. The program will cover multiple fields but all the fields must be in the same county to be covered by a single fee.

Marina can be reached at 000-000-0000 and she encourages all members to call for an appointment to see if the FSA programs are right for you.

PCCA President Johnnie Newton then introduced Janine Sutter. Janine is the new full time 4-H agent for Pickens County. Up until June, Pickens County has had to share an agent with Anderson County. Janine spoke of the several 4-H clubs in the county and offered to work with the PCCA on youth programs.

Janine can be reached at the Pickens County Extension office.

The program was then turned over to Jeff Pepper and RD Morrison. They discussed the pro-

posed PCCA Freezer Beef Marketing Group. They explained that this would be an alternative to conventional marketing methods and was not for everyone. But, if it will work for your operation, the returns could be very lucrative. As a group, we would (1) try to negotiate with a slaughter house to get a better rate for processing our calves, (2) standardize care using Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) standards, (3) market our calves using the SC Grown program with the SC Department of Agriculture, (4) produce Natural Beef - no steroids or antibiotics, and (5) produce grain fed or grass fed beef. All members that participate in this program will be required to pay the \$1 beef checkoff fee required by law.

Several members expressed interest in this program and an organizational meeting will be held soon.



The PCCA is working for our members.

Boys will be Boys... And Cows will be Cows

By Matt Mattox

With permission of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

You've likely heard the old adage, "Boys will be boys". Every time I remember someone saying those words, it was to make an excuse for something a boy did. I have a boy of my own, and I've been getting regular payback for what I put my parents through. I know my son acts differently around his cousins and friends than he does around me - he will find the easiest way to do something and he has a natural "orneriness" about him. Since I don't have a degree in adolescent psychology, I won't go any further than to say there is a lot of truth to that old adage.

Generally, the same thing can be said about cattle. Just as their friends influence boys, cattle are influenced by their herd-mates. Cattle are also a lot like boys in that they will find the easiest way to do something or to satisfy their particular needs.

While a young boy's basic needs might be food water, more food, horseplay and rest (or time for mending), a cow's basic needs are water, regulation of body temperature, food, rest and rumination.

If a boy can find the first four items on the list in one place, the fifth normally just happens naturally. Also, if the first four items are available to a boy in one place, that particular place is usually not in the same condition it started out in. If this place is inside your home, someone will have to deal with the mess.

Likewise, if cattle can get all of their needs in one place, there will usually be another kind of mess to deal with, and the rancher is left to clean it up. The mess is usually in the form of overgrazed pasture, weeds, soil erosion, poor water quality, degraded wildlife habitat, etc. If a

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parents corrects a boy, hopefully his behavior will change - or you can make sure he stays outside until bedtime. If a rancher continually “cleans up” a mess instead of recognizing the cause and making a change, cows will continue to be cows and the problem will go on, if not get worse.

As stated earlier, a cow has five basic needs that must be satisfied on a regular basis. Obviously, water is very important. On a hot summer day, shade can also be important for regulating body temperature.

Therefore, water and shade can be a strong attractant to cattle. To top it off, if salt and mineral are provided in close proximity to water and shade, you have created an almost irresistible area for a cow. We see this situation all the time, and it contributes to overgrazed pasture, pond damage, soil erosion, poor water quality and weed encroachment, to name the obvious problems.

To minimize these

problems, place feed and mineral away from shade and water. Many times, there are areas of the pasture with desirable grasses that cows have not used much. Moving salt and mineral to these areas allows for better utilization of pastures and reduces problems around water sources. If you have a pond with trees around it, you can't move the pond but you can rotate the cattle, providing you have interior fences to minimize localized grazing distribution problems. Another option is to fence the water source.

The most important person in a young boy's life is often his mother. The early lessons a boy gets from his mother can affect how he reacts later in life. The same thing can be applied to cattle. The most important thing to a calf is his mother. It learns what to eat and what not to eat by watching its mother. It also learns how to react to people, and a calf will often learn bad habits from its mother. Rotating cattle to

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new pasture but allowing a cow to stay in the last pasture because she is too much trouble can cause future managerial problems if her calf picks up this behavior. Realizing this important relationship early can help you avoid behavioral problems that can adversely affect your operation if the calf is kept in the herd. Remember - cattle, as well as children, react to how they are treated.

Another similarity between boys and cows is that they are more comfortable if they have something important to them that they can see and touch. Just like a young boy is comforted by a favorite blanket or toy when he goes to bed, cattle also seem more at ease when something familiar is nearby. If the pasture is extremely large, this process can adversely affect grazing. A common water point between pastures often will reduce this orientation time, and cattle will begin grazing quicker. Another

very good approach that has been used for many years is the portable mineral/fly wipe device. This simple device is moved along with the cattle every time they are rotated to a new pasture. The approach facilitates pasture rotation and, if moved to an appropriate part of the pasture, can more evenly distribute livestock grazing within a pasture, thereby improving forage utilization.

Rotational grazing allows you to correct many behavioral problems inherent in cattle. Cattle that rarely have human interaction tend to be more “flighty” than cattle that have frequent human interaction. Cows that flee run off body condition provided by the grass that she was supposed to be eating. Rotational grazing can reduce the “flight zone” by putting you and your cattle into contact with one another on a more frequent basis. In most cases, cattle become comfortable enough for you to get within 25

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feet of them, or in some cases close enough to scratch their noses. This is a definite advantage, because it reduces stress on the animal as well as the person. Once the gate is closed, the cows can get back to grazing, and the rancher can tend to other business.

These are a few of the many ways that understanding cattle behavior, and making appropriate changes, can benefit your grazing operation. Try some of these suggestions if you recognize any of these situations on your operation, and “take a little of the boy out of your cows” in the process.

SCCA / SCBC Executive Director Addresses PCCA



(from left) Senator Larry Martin, PCCA President Georgeanne Webb, and Representative David Hiott visit after the Dec. 6th meeting.

The PCCA held a meeting at the Farm Bureau building south of Pickens on December 6, 2012. Vice President Randy Crenshaw welcomed the assembled members. After a very good meal catered by the Gatehouse Restaurant and dessert provided by the Bi-

Lo in Pickens, Roy Copelan was introduced. Roy is the Executive Director of the SC Cattleman’s Association and the SC Beef Council. He gave an overview of the activities of the SCCA and SCBC. The SCCA works with Clemson Extension to make the bulls test sales possible. He talked about the scholarships available through the SCCA Foundation and the Wax Company. He outlined the Beef Ambassador program. He explained that the \$1 beef checkoff provides a way to multiply the effectiveness of the program. Fifty cents of

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the dollar remains in South Carolina to provide promotions of beef and education for consumers and producers.

Next, Billie Abercrombie, a producer from Gray Court and current President of the SCCA, was introduced. Billie thanked the PCCA for the invitation and highlighted the SCCA activities for producers. These include a producer meeting prior to the bull test sales in Clemson and Blackville.

Next on the agenda was the presentation of a plaque to Representative David Hiott, a long time

PCCA member. Representative Hiott took the lead on removing some of the DOT restrictions on farmers while hauling equipment and livestock. He pointed out that Senator Larry Martin was his partner in the Senate and that the plaque was for him, too.

The election of Officers and Directors was next on the agenda. The results were:
President - Georgeanne Webb
Vice President - David Elias
Secretary/Treasurer - RD Morrison
Directors (returning) - George Bryant, Harold McJunkin, Jeff Pepper, Newell Hester and Scott Holder.

New Directors - Dr. Carl Thompson, Jerry Moore, Ben Roe, Amy Wilson, and Randy Crenshaw. The outgoing officers and directors were thanked for their service. Outgoing officers were Johnnie Newton and Randy Crenshaw and outgoing directors were David Elias, Herbert Stancil, Tommy Boggs, Terry



Dessert! Courtesy of Bi-Lo and Mary Brown.

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McConnell and Ben Roe.

Agricultural Safety - Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid Steer Loaders

Provided by NIOSH
(National Institute of Occu-
pational Safety and Health)

Skid steer loaders are versatile machines. They fit into small spaces, can turn within a tight radius, and are easy to operate. They are a hydraulic workhorse.

If you operate or work near skid steer loaders, take these steps to protect yourself.

1. Follow safe operating procedures:
 - Operate the loader from the operator's compartment - never from the outside.
 - Stay seated when operating the loader controls.
 - Work with the seat belt fastened and the restraint bar in place.
 - Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the cab while operating the
- loader.
- Load. Unload, and turn on level ground when possible.
- Travel and turn with the bucket in the lowest position possible.
- Operate on stable surfaces only.
- Do not travel across slopes. Travel straight up and down, with the heavy end of the equipment pointed uphill.
- Keep bystanders away from the work area.
- Never disable safety devices.
2. Enter and exit from the loader safely:
 - Enter the loader only when the bucket is flat on the ground - or when the lift arm supports are in place.
 - When entering the loader, face the seat and keep a three point contact with handholds and steps.
 - Never use foot or hand controls for steps or handholds.
 - Keep all walking and working surfaces clean and clear.

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- Before leaving the operator's seat, (1) lower the bucket flat to the ground, (2) set the parking brake, and (3) turn off the engine.
 - 3. Maintain the machine in safe operating condition:
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Keep the foot controls free of mud, ice, snow, and debris.
 - Regularly inspect and maintain the following: Interlocked controls, safety belts, restraint bar, side screens, rollover protective structures (ROPS).
 - NEVER modify or bypass safety devices.
 - If you must perform service under a raised bucket, use the lift arm supports.
-

PCCA Welcomes New Area Livestock Agent

By RD Morrison

With the promotion of Dr. Matt Burns to Extension State Livestock Specialist, Upstate counties have been without an area livestock agent. That void has been filled by Lindsey Craig. Lindsey is a 2012 graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science.

A native of Changewater, she grew up in an agricultural area of New Jersey with dairies and horse farms all around. Her years at Clemson broadened her horizons into a more well rounded

point of view. She worked at a Smithfield owned hog facility in Eastern North Carolina upon graduation. Her goals are to build relationships with the cattlemen, veterinarians, and suppliers of her multi county area. She looks forward to working with the area county cattlemen's association.

Lindsey can be reached at the Clemson Extension office in Pickens (864-878-1394). We look forward to working with her.

Farewell Notes
from PCCA Past
President - Johnnie
Newton



I would like to thank
The board of directors for
their many ideas and coop-
eration over these two
years. Their support of the

Newsletter and Directory
have made these services
possible. I have enjoyed
serving as President be-
cause of your support.

I hope all of you had
a Merry Christmas and
2013 is a great, profitable
year.

*Thoughts from
the President -
Georgianne
Webb*



We begin the New
Year with many unan-
swered questions from our
elected officials; however, in
the PCCA this should not
and will not be the case. I
encourage all cattlemen to
begin the New Year with a
pledge to try to find one
day a month to help and
assist another cattleman in
his operation. I know we
are all busy, but feel it is
time to put forth an effort
to pay it forward. There
are many different breeds
represented along with
commercial outfits in our
association and we should
not be at odds but helping
one another. "Fred the
Farmer" up the road should
feel free to make a call to

one of his fellow cattlemen
if his cattle decide to take a
'road trip'. We should all
pitch in and help one another.

If some of the com-
mercial guys need help get-
ting their calves up to take
to the barn, offer to help.
You may not realize how
the offer of assistance is
appreciated. If some of the
purebred guys have a sale in
the area, attend. These
guys appreciate your sup-
port at sales. These things
make the association
stronger with people work-
ing together and not against
each other. If someone has
a question about anything
from herd health, vaccina-
tions, fly control, etc., I
hope they will feel free to
contact me or some other
member who can assist

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them with an answer. My motto has always been, "If I don't know, I'll find out".

If there is some issue that you feel we should have a meeting about, contact one of the officers or directors, and we can sure find a speaker to clarify any questions. As quickly as regulations and laws change, we need to stay on top of things. I am not afraid to call Columbia or even Washington to dispel any rumors that arise and we all know how those things can creep up.

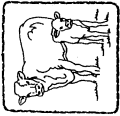
With cattle numbers diminishing in other parts of the country, we have a real advantage to move ahead whether truckloads to feed-

lots or selling purebred cattle to other parts of the country as their conditions improve. This could be a very good year for all cattlemen in our area and with a strong association, an even better year.

In closing, get involved. If you feel there is a problem, bring it up and we can calmly discuss it and mediate to work it out. Being a mother and with my female genetics, I can't stand fussing so we are not going to fuss but sit down and calmly work through any problems.

Here's hoping your fences stay up and your cattle stay in, all your cows settle and you have a 100% calving with no pulling and

Secretary / Treasurers	SCCA dues	\$1315.00
Synopsis Report for	Sponsor/Awards	\$332.26
period as of Dec 24,	Postage	\$629.94
2012	Printing	\$448.94
PCCA Balance as of 1/3/12:	Meals	\$1500.96
\$11431.71	Website	\$600.00
INCOME:	Technology	\$118.97
Directory ads	NET INCOME YTD:	
Dues		-\$1042.26
Reimbursed	ENDING BALANCE:	
		\$10389.45
EXPENSES:		
		\$5386.26



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