

Pickens County
Cattlemen's
Association

Newsletter

Volume 9

July 1, 2013

PCCA a Big Hit at Pickens Azalea Festival

By RD Morrison



2013 Pickens Azalea Festival. The Pickens Chamber of Commerce has stated that over 30,000 people attended the festival and the PCCA saw this as an opportunity to meet

The Pickens County Cattlemen's Association, with the support of the South Carolina Beef Council (SCBC), had a booth at the



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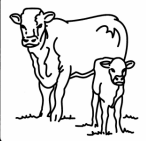
the attendees and promote the beef industry and the Pickens County producers.

Roy Copland, Executive director of the South Carolina Beef Council and the South Carolina Cattlemen's Association prepared the sirloin steaks with the help of PCCA directors Jerry Moore and Amy Finley Wilson on a George Foreman grill. It was proved that you do not necessarily need a fancy grill to enjoy the high protein taste of beef. The smell of the sirloins grilling wafted through the crowd and drew the passersby in like a magnet. The story of beef was well promoted on this beautiful Saturday.

The SCBC has included in its marketing strategy the promotion of locally grown beef sold as freezer beef directly from the farm to the consumer. Over 2000 samples of sirloin steak was given out during the festival. The

PCCA members talked with hundreds of people that were interested in the new freezer beef committee formed by the PCCA. The dedicated officers, directors and members of the PCCA handed out pens, refrigerator magnets and brochures all day long. Membership forms were given out to prospects that did not even know there was a cattlemen's association in Pickens County.

A special thanks to Roy Copland, Bill Ward, Thomas Ward, Elizabeth Ward, Jeff Pepper, Terry Lee Chapman, David Webb, Georgeann Webb, Amy Finley Wilson, Henry Wilson, Hannah Wilson, Weston Wilson, Meagan Looney, RD Morrison, Jerry Moore, Randy Crenshaw, Crenshaw, Ben Roe, and Judy Roe for their help during the day. All were dog tired by the end of the long day.



The PCCA is working to promote the beef industry and local producers!

Dr. Scharko Provides Chuteside BQA Training

By RD Morrison



Dr. Patty Scharko, Clemson Livestock Poultry Health, provided valuable Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training at the Clemson farm on April 18, 2013. Dr. Scharko stressed that the BQA training is to protect consumer confidence in beef safety and quality.

Before demonstrating injections on cattle, she spoke of mixing the live virus vaccines. A transfer needle is used and the reconstituted vaccine is rocked back and forth, not shaken. Syringes should be labeled so that one is used for live viruses and a different one is used for killed vaccines. In other words one syringe - one vaccine. All disinfectants must be kept away from the syringes

and needles as they will destroy the live vaccine. Subcutaneous injections are given using a 3/4 inch 16 gauge needle. If a needle is broken off while administering a vaccine, the broken portion of the needle must be removed. The maximum amount of a vaccine or antibiotic that should be given in one site is 10 cc/ml. Dr. Scharko said that off label use of a drug must be prescribed by a veterinarian and the producer must have a valid veterinarian/ client/ patient relationship. Extra label prescriptions cannot be written for production purposes such as weight gain, feed efficiency, etc. When extra label use is required, the withdrawal time will change.

Using cattle, she talked about safe handling of cattle. Cattle point of balance and flight zones were discussed. Also, the proper use of handling and restraining devices. She said that cattlemen should

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be able to diagnose common illnesses and provide proper care for their animals. She showed the members that the preferred location to give injections is the neck and subcutaneous (under the skin) is the preferred method. An animal that was injected with any product in the rump or hind leg will have an injection site blemish and toughened muscle tissue. This is unacceptable within the constraints of SC BQA. The needles should not be used in more than ten head; at that point, they should be replaced. It is best to replace a needle after each cow due to anaplasmosis in the blood of the cow which may be transferred to the next cow.

Dr. Scharko then talked about the downer or disabled cow. Downers should be humanely euthanized on the farm under the direction of a veterinarian. Producers should be concerned about chemicals used in feed production.

This was a very interesting meeting that was given using live cattle. In order to participate in the Oconee Beef Alliance truck load sales or the Pickens County Freezer Beef Committee, BQA certification is a requirement. This is not only a common sense requirement, but also a marketing tool for these operations.

Thank you, Dr. Scharko, for your time and effort to educate the cattle producers.

A Weed Wiper is Good for You, Bad for Weeds

By Jim Johnson

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Have you ever needed to spray your pasture, but it was too windy? Or have you ever needed to spray but you didn't

want to damage your clovers and other legumes? Do you want to save money, cut down on herbicide rates and help the environ-

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ment? Then consider a weed wiper as your herbicide application method. If you can graze desirable forages so that weeds are 6 inches taller than the forages, a weed wiper will work for you.

Many people are unfamiliar with wiper or wick applicators. However, they have been used for years to control volunteer corn in Midwestern soybean fields. The concept is simple. Herbicide solution, usually Roundup (glyphosate) is supplied to an absorbent surface. The herbicide soaked surface only contacts weeds taller than the crop. Chemical is transferred to the surface of the weeds as the applicator wipes over them. There are many variations,, but the principle is the same. Key elements include a surface that will hold solution without dripping, a way to prime the surface, a way to mount the unit so the height can be adjusted, and weeds that are taller than the desired plants.

In one version, a pipe with small holes in the bottom is covered with an absorbent canvas. The pipe is filled with an herbicide solution. It is mounted horizontally on a vehicle so that it is above the crop, but will contact the weeds. The covering wicks the herbicide solution through out of the pipe through the small holes. The chemical is then applied to the weeds as the unit wipes over them. In the most basic units, the pipe is used as a reservoir for the herbicide. Flow is regulated with a throttling valve that controls the amount and rate of air that gets inside the pipe, thus regulating the amount and rate of the solution that can leave the pipe. Other models connect the pipe to a tank with a pump. The pump is turned on and off as needed to prime the wiper. Better models mount a hooded spray boom above the wiping surface to wet as needed. Rather than canvas, some wick applicators

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use braided cotton rope plumbed into a pipe.

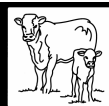
Many times, it is necessary to wipe weeds from the opposite directions to get thorough coverage. However, better models with hooded booms use a counter rotating drum, which improves coverage and eliminates the need for this. Some units are mounted on the front of a 4-wheeler and others are pulled behind like a cart with wheels on the ends. Mounting the unit to the front of a loader makes it easy to adjust the height on the go.

There are many benefits to wiper applicators. First is the use of Roundup (glyphosate) herbicide. This allows control of almost any weed in any crop, as long as the weed is taller than the crop. An excellent example is johnsongrass control in Bermuda hay. With the low cost of generic glyphosate, weed control can be done very

economically (less than \$1 per acre for medium weed density). Glyphosate is also more environmentally friendly than other herbicides.

With a properly adjusted wiper, herbicide is applied only to the weeds. This reduces the amount of herbicide used per acre and introduced into the environment and reduces or eliminates damage to non-targeted species. Wipers can be used regardless of wind speed - a big advantage. They can also be used with herbicides containing 2,4-D, pichloram, dicamba, and triclopyr. This can provide increased control of tougher perennials like horse nettle, briars and tree sprouts.

You can purchase wipers or wicks fully assembled, as kits you put together or build one completely from scratch. They can be small hand-held units or as large as 45 feet.



The PCCA wants all of our members to be careful with herbicides. **Read the label.**

Beware of Hazardous Materials in Barns

By RD Morrison

Many of our shops and barns contain hazardous material that we do not even notice. Things like used oil, pesticides, and grease are routinely stored and spilled in our barns and shops. If spilled on the road, a HAZMAT team would be called in to clean it up.

- Used motor oil - while not a controlled hazardous material, used oil contains heavy metals and is toxic to many plants and animals. Look for oil recycling programs where you can return your used oil and filters. The Pickens County Recycle Centers offer such a program, so don't store it in the barn.
- Antifreeze - Ethylene glycol is usually found in antifreeze and it is poisonous. Children and animals are attracted to its bright color and sweet smell. Store antifreeze in sealed containers in a cool, secure

place.. Never dump antifreeze in the septic system, storm drain or directly on the ground. Clean spills with kitty litter and dispose of it in a sealed bag in the trash.

- Pesticides - First and foremost, READ THE LABEL. Store pesticides according to label directions - usually in a locked, well ventilated room. Label the doors so that firefighters will know about the presence of pesticides.
- Other materials - What about grease, paint, hydraulic fluid, solvents or diesel fuel? Some are flammable, others toxic, while others are pretty much harmless. Know the hazards by looking up the MSDS (material safety data sheet) for these items.

It is a good idea to check with the local fire department to discuss the materials stored in your barn just in case there is a fire and you need their

Agricultural Safety - Bad Things Happen.

By RD Morrison

Most readers of the Newsletter know that we include a safety article to try to remind our members to stay safe while working cattle or doing farm chores with tractors and equipment. This issue is a little different as I have encountered a real life safety situation.

I reckon all of you have heard of my bad luck by now. Here are the facts:

On the Sunday before Memorial day, I had about ten acres of hay to square bale and was hurrying to get the rake and baler over to the field. While loading the rake on the trailer, I fell off the trailer onto the gravel driveway. I hit the ground hard and could not get up, so I called my wife in the house to help me. After she helped me up, I secured the rake and hauled it to the field and unloaded it. I came back to the house and unhooked from the trailer and

hooked to the baler. I went to the field and hooked to the tedder and tugged about 8 acres of hay that I had cut on Saturday. I had to run slow because the pain was excruciating. I hooked to the rake and started raking. I saw I was not going to get done because of running so slowly, so I called David Elias to ask for some help. He was baling hay, but brought a tractor over and Number 1 son, Scout, (who was sent over by my wife to keep an eye on me) picked up on the raking and I started baling. I baled 520 square bales WITH A BROKE HIP!

I went to the Emergency Room the next day and they confirmed that I had a broken hip. The options were to have a complete hip replacement or never to walk again. I chose option one. The surgery went fine, but the day after the surgery, I had some blood clots go through my heart and end up in my lungs. They were talking heart attack, but later admitted that I did not

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have a heart attack.

As most of you know, I am very careful around equipment. I use the seat belt and think about what I am fixing to do before I mess up. I do not know how I fell off the trailer. I have always thought I was Superman, but I had no idea that there was that much Kryptonite in the gravel.

I am healing nicely, but it will be a while (4 to 6 months) before I can get on a tractor - even longer before I can saddle up and go riding on my horse.

Since I can't get on a tractor for a while, many of the PCCA members have offered to help however they can. David Elias has baled several fields for me. My roping partner, Jeff Turner, has baled a lot of my hay. Dr. Poag Reid and

several of his friends hauled five trailer loads of my hay to my house and put it in the barn. David Elias delivered two more loads. The farm was a bees nest of activity.

I want to thank the members of the Pickens County Cattlemen's Association, Oconee County Cattlemen's Association, South Carolina Cattlemen's Association, and the South Carolina Beef Board for the cards, phone calls, and visits. It means a lot to me. I also want to thank the members that have helped and continue to help while I am incapacitated. Cattlemen helping Cattlemen. That is what it is all about. Thank you!!!

Be careful while working your farms - accidents can and do happen in a split second. I am living proof!

PCCA Freezer Beef to Appear on Website

By RD Morrison

With the success of the Pickens Azalea Festival, the PCCA Freezer Beef Committee has decided to make an appearance on the PCCA website,

www.pickenscountycattle.com. Very soon, the list of members that have agreed to our requirements will appear on the producer page of the web-

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site. They will be sorted into two groups; Grass fed and grain supplemented. The contact information will be listed so that interested parties may contact them directly. Since we have set a minimum price for whole or halves, we will not have to worry about undercutting another members

price.

Basically, PCCA freezer beef is locally grown with access to pasture. No steroids or growth stimulants, will be used. Antibiotics are discouraged, but, if administered, twice the withholding times will apply. All members are required to be BQA certified.

*Thoughts from
the President -
Georgianne
Webb*



Hope you are able to get your hay up with all the rain storms, but I guess we shouldn't complain because the pastures look wonderful for grazing.

I have a bit of news to share as the inspector for the Federal DOT called me this week. It looks like the fussing and complaining helped somewhat at the federal level for those of us who move cattle, hay, etc., more than 150 air miles. As of now, the only thing we need is the sign on the truck with the DOT number and update the UCR (unified carrier registration) yearly. We no longer need a health card, truck and

trailer inspections, log book or keep up with employment or driving records through the DMV. He said that if you are stopped out of state by transport police, the only thing you need to tell them is "Refer to May 21". This exempts farmers from all of those foolish laws that we were forced to adhere to. This will save a bunch of money as the DOT number does not cost anything but does have to be renewed every two years (and they do not notify you so you have to keep track and update yourself). The signs on the truck are a one-time expense. He feels like the UCR will go away in the next few months and will call me when it does so once you have the signs and

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the DOT number, that will be it. If you stay in state, you don't have to have anything but this saves a lot of money for those of us that do move cattle out of state as the health card and inspections were real expensive. These rules apply to under 26001. If you are not aware, the weight was to be increased to 35,000 pounds federally in the Farm Bill which failed to pass in Washington, DC. You need to write letters, e-mail and call your representatives in Washington to urge them to pass the Farm Bill.

The complaining worked in the past and can work in the future, but you

need to speak up when something affects your operation. Be sure to mention that farmers vote and we can be vocal when things affect our business. Washington needs to remember that the farmers of America feed America and that the food on their plates didn't just jump up there. Farmers across the nation, whether large farms and ranches or small family farmers, worked hard, jumping through hoops with federal requirements, to provide the food, clothing, medicine, cleaning products, etc., that they take for granted.

Secretary / Treasurers	SCCA dues	\$1460.00
Synopsis Report for	Sponsor/Awards	\$150.00
period as of Mar 31,	Postage	\$417.44
2013	Printing	\$1126.05
PCCA Balance as of 1/3/13:	Program	\$404.09
\$11431.71	Marketing	\$849.86
INCOME:	Meals	\$562.82
Web ads	Website	\$600.00
Directory ads	Office Supplies	\$149.23
Dues	NET INCOME YTD:	
Reimbursed		-\$163.75
SCBC		
EXPENSES:		
		\$5469.75



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