

Pickens County
Cattlemen's
Association

Newsletter

Volume 9

October 1, 2013

Pickens County Sheriff's Dept. Addresses PCCA Concerns

By RD Morrison

With the rash of stealing infecting Pickens County, the Pickens County Cattlemen's Association invited Pickens County Sheriff Rick Clark to come talk to the members on May 14, 2013. Because of a double homicide in Dacusville which kept the sheriff tied up, he sent a community relations officer, Officer Carmen Lehmann, to speak with us.

Officer Lehmann extended the sheriff's regrets, but duty calls. She

stated that he would like to attend another meeting. She applauded the PCCA for inviting the Sheriff's Department to the meeting. She said that she grew up in the Six Mile area.

She stated that a lot of the things being stolen were small and easily sold at the scrap yard or to others. This included scrap metal, copper wire, small tools and power equipment such as chain saws and weed eaters. She also said

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that the items stolen are not limited to the small items, but extended to large items such as hay balers which can be hooked up to a truck and pulled away. PCCA President Georgeanne Webb gave an example of this happening to an acquaintance of hers. Officer Lehmann said that all of us should take pictures and record the make model and serial number of all of our equipment to aid the officers should something be stolen. With the price of new equipment being so high, this sounds like an easy thing to do to help that old baler that runs just fine keep on baling rather than end up at a scrap yard.

PCCA President Georgeann Webb reminded us about the cattle thieves which struck Upstate Livestock and Chesnee Livestock barns. With cattle prices at really good levels, a calf is a quick \$600 to \$700 to the thief and \$600 to \$700 out of your pocket. This number could be higher. She reminded everyone of the metal ear tags for

cattle id. Officer Lehmann said that any eartags, brands or markings should be recorded to help the sheriff's department track down your cattle. She said that a lot of calls to 911 are for cattle that are out and that information of where your pastures are, how many cows are there, and the colors of the cows would be helpful in calling the right person to get them up and fix the fence. The PCCA Board of Directors will address this with members and will forward this info to the Sheriff's Department. Although many members had thoughts of shooting the culprits, Officer Lehmann said that we should not put ourselves in danger and to let the Sheriff handle it. However, we do have the right to protect our property and our lives.

This was a very informative meeting. The meal, catered by B&B bar-B-Q in Six Mile, was excellent. Due to an operator error (on my part), there is no video of this meeting.

Y'all be careful out there now, ya hear.

SC Cattlemen's Association Update

Roy Copelan, SCCA Executive Director, sent this info to share with all the county associations.

The SCCA continues to grow and expand membership benefits. The latest is an increase in accidental death benefit from \$2500 to \$3000.

At a recent meeting of the SCCA Board of Directors (8/22/2013), the following actions were adopted that will affect your members:

- Effective January 1, 2014, the yearly SCCA dues will increase to \$30 per person per year (first increase in 9 yrs).
- State membership dues are to be in the SCCA office by January 1, 2014, from county cattle associations or individuals.
- A membership drive is underway for the new year. Recruit one new member and receive a SCCA pocket knife or coffee mug. Recruit three new members and receive a SCCA cap or

livestock working stick.

Recruit five new members and receive a

SCCA shirt. Recruit

ten new members and

receive a complimentary

registration at the next

SCCA Annual Meeting.

- The SCCA Board of Directors will reduce from 28 members to 15 members over the next few years.

- The following SCCA officers are available to attend your meetings and assist your group:

District 1 - Billy

Abercrombie 864-871-1152

Miller Foster 864-

494-5598

Please call on these individuals at any time.

Additional information will be forwarded regarding the SCCA Annual Meeting (3/1/2014), the SCCF and Wax Company Youth Scholarships, Cattlemen awards and other information.

Now is a great time to be a cattle producer in our state!

PCCA Holds Freezer Beef Promotion

By RD Morrison

The PCCA Freezer Beef Committee held a freezer beef promotion at the Little Cane Creek Farm Corn Maze on Highway 11 in Walhalla on Saturday, September 28, 2013. Little Cane Creek Farm and corn maze is owned by PCCA member Pat Williams. Roy Copelan, Executive Director of the South Carolina Beef Council, came up from Columbia and joined PCCA Freezer Beef Committee members Jeff Pepper, Jerry Moore and RD Morrison.

Pickens County Freezer Beef members Jerry

Moore, David Elias, and RD Morrison, donated beef from their own calves and the response from the partakers was very positive. The George Foreman grill provided a great smell wafting across the corn as the beef was cooked.

If you are interested in participating in the PCCA Freezer Beef Committee, please contact Jeff Pepper, committee chairman. Remember, BQA certification, access to pasture and no growth stimulants are requirements for our locally grown beef.

AI Calving Distribution

By Ryan Reuter and Jessica Robinette

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Most cattle producers know the textbook gestation length of beef cattle is 283 days. Most also realize that biology is variable, and predicting the exact day of natural birth in most mammalian species is very difficult to do. However, some producers seem to

forget these biological laws when using new technology in their breeding programs. Many producers associate artificial insemination (AI) with the cow herd behaving in very regimented and predictable ways.

We often recommend that Noble Founda-

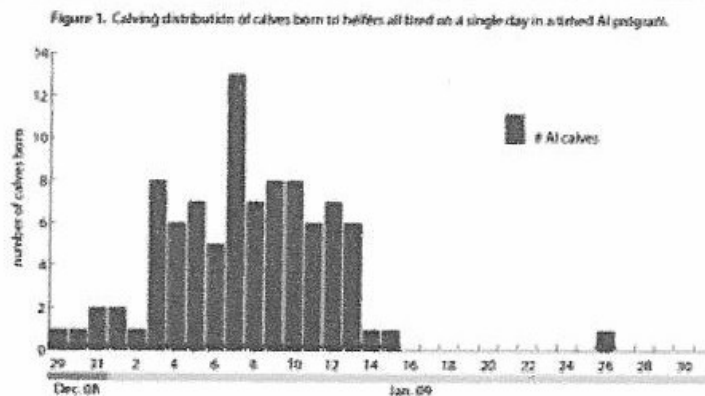
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tion consultation clients implement a timed AI program in which a large group of heifers is synchronized and inseminated on a single day. Some producers hesitate to implement such a system because they envision the resulting calf crop being born on a single day and creating a problem if the heifers require calving assistance. Fortunately, biological variability takes care of this potential problem.

Figure 1 illustrates the calving distribution from a herd in which all heifers received AI on April 3. The bars represent the number of AI-sired calves that were born

on each day. Even though the AI-sired calves were all conceived on the same day, they were born across a span of 28 days, from Dec. 29 to Jan 26. This equates to an observed gestation length from 270 to 298 days, with a weighted average gestation length of 279 days. The majority (85 percent) of the AI-sired calves were born within 10 days of each other, from Jan 3 to Jan 13. The most active calving day was Jan 7 (day 279) on which 14% of the AI-sired calves were born.

If this producer had assumed the gestation length of each heifer would be 283 days, he would have expected these heif-



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ers to calve on Jan 11. However, 73% of the calves were born prior to that date. The AI bull these heifers were bred to was selected because of his proven calving ease, which could be a result of short gestation length. This data illustrates the need for producers to plan for variability in gestation length when implementing an AI program. Producers should have all of their pre-calving preparations completed and be ready for calves 14 days prior to the “expected” calving date.

Artificial Insemination in a commercial beef production system has advantages and disadvantages. Implementation of AI helps a producer better manage the calving season. AI bulls typically have superior, more predictable genetic value compared to herd bulls and sire better performing calves. Individual bulls can be selected for specific matings to improve desired traits in part of the cow herd, or a single bull can be chosen to sire the

entire calf crop. This would tend to increase uniformity, thereby increasing overall value of the calf crop. AI can be beneficial to smaller producers where the up-keep and management costs of a herd bull are not economically feasible. Some disadvantages may include the cost of semen or labor. A considerable amount of handling of the cattle is necessary and adequate working facilities are required for artificially inseminating cattle. Finally, if the cows aren’t synchronized, the producer must spend considerable time each day detecting cows that are coming into heat and are ready to be bred.

AI might not be the right choice for everyone, but more producers should consider the benefits for their replacement heifers. A timed AI program has much lower labor requirements than a traditional AI, and it doesn’t result in all the calves being born on the same day.



The PCCA hopes all members have a bountiful calf crop!

New approach toward BVD surveillance

Drovers CattleNetwork, John Maday. Submitted by Lindsey Craig

During the recent AABP conference in Milwaukee, Kay Riddell, DVM, MS, from Auburn University, summarized some recent research on BVD surveillance. Herd level surveillance can help determine whether persistently infected (PI) animals are present, indicating a need for individual testing.

Noting that polymerase reaction tests can detect the virus in nasal or oral secretions, Riddell and her team evaluated methods for ‘consumption surface sampling’ for BVD. They experimented with collecting and evaluating samples from feeders, water troughs, water, and mineral blocks, and determined that feed bunks offered the most promise as a sampling location.

The team conducted a trial in which they co-mingled PI calves in pens with healthy animals and collected samples from feedbunks at various time intervals after the animals

came to feed. They also compared different types of pads or swabs for collecting samples and lengths of refrigerated storage of the samples prior to analysis. They found the test could reliably detect the presence of a PI animal if samples were collected within six hours after feeding and refrigerated for less than 10 hours prior to analysis. Fibrous cloth pads worked best for sample collection from various types of surfaces.

The team also used the test in a commercial dairy herd, collecting feedbunk samples from groups of calves, springing heifers and yearling bulls. The testing method found PI animals in several groups, and the results were verified through ear notch testing.

When herd level or pen level surveillance indicates the presence of PI, individual testing becomes necessary to identify and remove the animal. This method appears to offer a

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relatively simple and inex-

pensive method for BVD monitoring.

Agricultural Safety - Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS)

The Ohio State University

Tractor rollovers account for 50% of tractor related fatalities in the United States. Distracted operators, speed and rough or uneven ground are leading causes of tractor rollover. Rollover protective structures (ROPS) became available in the mid 1960's and were not available for all new tractors until the mid - 70's. However, they were not standard equipment on new tractors until 1985. Many tractors built before that time are still in use and they contribute to the tractor fatality rate because they are not ROPS and seat belt equipped. Use of ROPS and seatbelt are 99.9% effective in preventing deaths due to tractor overturns.

OSHA requires ROPS and seatbelts to be installed on all trac-

tors operated by employees.

For tractors that are not equipped with ROPS, check with the manufacturer or dealer for the availability of ROPS retrofit kits. If available, the tractor should be retrofitted. Install and use seatbelts on tractors with ROPS. Seatbelts ensure that the operator stays within the "zone of protection" offered by the ROPS during a tractor mishap. Seatbelts should not be used on tractors without ROPS. ROPS do not prevent rollovers, but are 99.9% effective in preventing death or serious injury. Distracted operators, speed, slopes, and uneven ground are leading causes of tractor rollover.

Rollover protective frames are either 2 or 4 post frames which are securely mounted to the main body of the tractor. Use the seatbelt to keep the operator within the protected area.

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Rollover protective enclosures utilize the protective frame, but totally enclose the frame with metal and glass. Seatbelts are provided and must be used to contain the operator within the protected area. In addition, this cab enclosure gives protection from weather, dust, noise and vibration.

Reducing the risk of a side rollover:

- Set wheels as far apart as possible.
- Lock brake pedals together before high speed road travel.
- Match speed to operating conditions and loads. Do not let the front wheels bounce.
- Slow down before turning.
- Use engine braking when going downhill.
- Avoid crossing steep

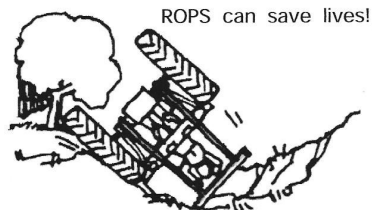
slopes. Watch for depressions on the downhill side and bumps on the uphill side.

- Stay at least as far from ditches and rivers as banks are deep.
- Keep front end loader buckets as low as possible when moving.
- If right front tire goes off the road into the ditch - turn downward rather than attempting to turn back onto the roadway.

Reducing the risk for rear overturn:

- Always hitch loads at the drawbar.
- Use front weights to increase tractor stability.
- Start forward motion slowly and change speed gradually.
- If possible, avoid backing downhill.
- Drive around ditches.
 - Back out or be towed out of ditches and mud.

REMEMBER - Most rollovers involve tractor speed, operator error, or unsafe driving condi-



NOTICE - Due to the membership dues increase at the SCCA, the PCCA state dues will go up. Also, the SCCA Board voted to

abolish the lifetime membership. **ALL DUES MUST BE IN THE STATE OFFICE BY JANUARY 1, 2014.** A letter will be sent soon.

*Thoughts from
the President -
Georgeanne
Webb*



Watch out for each other, even if you don't live near one of your fellow cattlemen. If you drive by their place, notice if there is anything unusual going on. Keep a copy of the PCCA Directory in your truck so you can inquire with them if anything looks suspicious.

Because of the alertness of one of my neighbors, I caught me a thief last week! The neighbor called and told me a white Ford pickup was at my shop, which we cannot see from our house. I grabbed my .38 and jumped in the car, almost breaking the sound barrier to get there, but I did and just in time. I pulled in the driveway to the shop just as he was trying to pull out, blocking him and almost getting hit, but I

didn't care. Mad immediately took over and I jumped out of the car with my gun not even taking time to shut the car door. I pointed the gun at him and demanded to know "who he was and what was he doing on my property". (Of course, I also used a few choice adjectives which I will leave out.) I immediately called 911 and told the dispatcher to send an officer and they might want to hurry in order to get there while he was still breathing! I have NEVER been so mad in all my life! I had him and his wife arrested and DSS was notified to take their 6-8 week old baby that they brought to teach him the trade, I guess.

At the meeting with the Sheriff's Dept., I guess many of you thought I was just blowing of steam, but I assure you that I was not.

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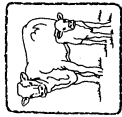
If you see something suspicious, call the farm owner...if you can't reach them, call 911. It is better to get the deputies out there and it is nothing than ignore it and somebody gets robbed blind. We found out that these criminals had been to our shop two other times and, luckily, we caught them this time before they completely cleaned us out. Above all, be fearless! Hold them at gunpoint like I did and mean business!

I would like to notify you that we will have a PCCA meeting at the county courthouse on the day of their trial / sentencing. Wear your work clothes

and I plan to alert the news media. The SC Farm Bureau is also pushing to convict all of these thieves in the state. If the judges and prosecutors see that we mean business, they might start handing down harsher sentences. The cattle thief that stole the cattle at Upstate Livestock was caught. Though they don't have proof, they know who he is. He took the calves to Brown Packing so there is no evidence, but he was caught red handed stealing some more cattle in Cherokee County. If I find out when he goes to trial, I plan to be there also.

Keep locked and loaded and stay alert!

Secretary / Treasurers	SCCA dues	\$1460.00
Synopsis Report for period as of Sep 30, 2013	Sponsor/Awards	\$150.00
	Postage	\$483.79
	Printing	\$1130.47
PCCA Balance as of 1/3/13:	Program	\$404.09
\$11431.71	Marketing	\$849.86
INCOME:	Meals	\$921.36
Web ads	Website	\$600.00
Directory ads	Office Supplies	\$149.23
Dues	Chute Repair	\$40.00
Reimbursed	NET INCOME YTD:	
SCBC		-\$277.49
EXPENSES:		
		\$5583.49



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PO Box 995
Pickens, SC 29671