

Pickens County  
Cattlemen's  
Association

# Newsletter

Volume 10

January 1, 2014

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## PCCA Newsletter Celebrates 10th Year

By RD Morrison

The Pickens County Cattlemen's Association has been issuing a newsletter for ten years. The PCCA Board of Directors had the vision of providing information about meetings, events and safety items to the members that they serve in 2004. The Newsletter is mailed to all members, either by USPS mail or by e-mail with a link to the Internet ([www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://www.pickenscountycattle.com)) to those members with Internet access. The Internet access option saves the PCCA printing costs and mailing costs.

The Directory will also be celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. The sale of advertising in the back of the Directory make the Newsletter and the Directory possible. Members are encouraged to support the advertisers as their support make these items possible.

The Newsletter has covered many stories since it began. Included in this list of stories is the fact that the PCCA has won the SCCA Association of the Year award four times since 2004. Another big story covered was

*(Continued on page 2)*

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the shipment of hay to Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Hundreds of donated round bales of hay were trucked from Pickens County to the affected region. The South Carolina Cattle EXPO held at the Garrison arena was covered in this ten year run. All this in addition to the PCCA meetings that were covered so that members could get information about a meeting that they may have missed due to baling hay or emergency fence repairs. Every issue of the Newsletter has a safety article because we want all of our members to work safely. Also, some thoughts from the current PCCA President are included in the Newsletter.

No other county or multi-county cattlemen's association issues such an informative newsletter to it's members. The forward thinking of the PCCA Board of Directors has brought these valuable tools, the Newsletter and the Directory, to the forefront. The PCCA members owe a debt of gratitude to the Board members who donate their time and effort to making these things happen for the last ten years.

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## **Oil and Grease is Topic of December Meeting**

By RD Morrison

PCCA President Georgeann Webb welcomed the members to the Farm Bureau Building on Dec. 10th. Election of officers and directors was carried out. The results are:

President - Georgeann Webb, Vice President - David Elias, Secretary Treasurer - RD Morrison, Directors - Boyd Davis, George Hood, Jeff Pepper, Rex Rice, Donald Snow. Returning Directors are: Randy Crenshaw, Jerry Moore, Ben Roe, Dr. Carl Thompson, Amy Finley Wilson. President Webb thanked the Directors that completed their term - George Bryant, Newell Hester, Scott

*(Continued on page 3)*

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Holder, Harold McJunkin, and Jeff Pepper.

SCCA/SCBC Executive Director Roy Copelan spoke about the benefits of SCCA membership. He also informed the meeting about the proposed \$0.50 additional state assessment on cattle sales which has been approved by the SCCA and the Farm Bureau. Help is needed to promote beef as a dollar does not go nearly as far as it used to and cattle numbers are way off, so there are less dollars to be used in beef promotion. This is an investment in our industry, which benefits us all. Mr. Copelan then recognized RD Morrison with a South Carolina coin for his support of the beef industry. He, also, recognized Jerry Moore for his efforts at the Pickens Azalea Festival. SCCA Vice President Miller Foster addressed the meeting urging unity in the cattle business. The politicians listen to numbers and cattlemen should stand united. Dr. Harold Hupp talked about the SCCA license plates which support the SC Cattle Foundation. Two scholarships are funded through the SCCF. The youth are the future of the industry.

Next, Exxon Mobil representative "T" talked about oils and greases. Grease is really just oil with a thickener, such as a lithium complex, a poly urea, or molybdenum. Several questions should be considered when choosing a grease - (1) what is the viscosity of the base oil?, (2) what is the thickener?, and (3) what is the application? "T" said that multi weight oils help prevent engine damage at start up. 0W40 oil has a good cold flow viscosity and the viscosity changes as the engine warms up. Many cattlemen use Shell Rotella in their Diesel trucks and tractors and Mobil has an equivalent - DelVac™. Oil (class I, II, and III) is basically crude oil, refined and taken at different points on the distillation tower. Synthetic oil (class IV) is completely put together and is totally synthetic. Synthetic oils are better, but

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

more costly. However, oil changes can go from 3000 miles to 10 or 15,000 miles. This may save money and save your engine. Oil filters must be really good to go that far between oil changes.

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## **Improve Time Management on Your Cow - Calf Operation**

By Jeri Donnell

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

In tough economic times, many people become overwhelmed with things that they have little control over such as high prices for feed, fuel and fertilizer. Although those things are important, perhaps it is time to focus your attention on things you can influence, such as operational efficiency and time management. Applying these two principles can result in more productive management while minimizing the waste of valuable time.

Here are a few observations and suggestions to improve your time management:

**Proper livestock identification and record keeping.** There are many systems of livestock identification, but, regardless of the method, it is important that each animal be uniquely and legibly identified. It is costly when a crew cannot identify one animal from another due to duplicate tag numbers. Properly recorded production information is another key to efficient time management. Keep your records in good shape that if you look back months from now, you will be able to find exactly what you need and won't have to re-collect/track this information. Find a method that works for you, keep it simple, be consistent and stick to it.

**Check all equipment and supplies.** Many producers could eliminate unnecessary stress and improve time efficiency with some basic planning. Did you have everything on-site to accomplish the day's task the last time you worked cattle or did you have to shut down to go

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find the needed supplies?

Locate all items that may be needed and make sure they are in working condition prior to processing day. This includes proper quantities of vaccine and other veterinarian recommended items. You should also plan to have enough (or even extra) ear tags, needles, syringes and other miscellaneous items. Then, if something unexpected comes up, you won't have to run to town to obtain materials needed to finish the job.

Anticipate problems and plan accordingly. If you have previously had to make adjustments on gates, alleyways or pens, assume that you may have to again. It is beneficial to have tools and related items on-site: wrenches, pliers, WD40, rope, wire, chain, a hammer and a screwdriver. The toolbox also contains wasp spray, sunscreen, duct tape, a flash light and a first aid kit. After cattle working is over, be sure to clean up, make needed repairs, and store all tools and supplies so that they will be easy to find next time.

**Communication and safety.** Effective communication plays a vital role in increasing efficiency when working chute-side. All parties should know the responsibilities and be knowledgeable of the responsibilities of their coworkers. In addition, even information that may seem minor should be communicated to all parties. For instance, informing the entire crew that a specific calf needs an antibiotic will improve the chances that it is identified and processed properly. Communication will save valuable time if it keeps you from having to regroup/sort cattle.

Safety is also everyone's responsibility - not only the safety of the personnel, but also animal safety and maintaining low stress handling. Having the proper education, training and crew can help keep everyone out of the hospital and cattle moving smoothly.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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Many producers dismiss the costs associated with inefficient management practices. In today's economic environment, it is not sensible to spend time or money unnecessarily. Poor planning that idles labor in the middle of a workday is a cost that can be avoided.

*Editors Note:* These same points apply to all jobs on the farm. From baling hay to fixing fences - a little planning can save you a lot of time and money - not to mention, injuries.

## Calving 101

By RD Morrison

A meeting of the PCCA was held on November 26, 2013, at the Farm Bureau building. A good crowd was in attendance. PCCA President Georgeann Webb greeted the members and introduced long time PCCA member Dr. Lee Higdon.

Dr. Higdon gave a little background on himself. He came to SC from Texas in 1995. His dad had worked on ranches in Texas and Oklahoma. At 25, he was working with his dad (age 60) and his dad got bucked off his horse - Dr. Higdon thought his dad was dead, when his dad opened his eyes and said "Boy, you are looking at yourself 25 years from now." That is when he decided to go back to school. Dr. John Spitzer was looking for a PHD candidate and called and offered it to him at Clemson.

Dr. Higdon's experiences cowboying in Texas has given him insight into every position that the Good Lord can put a calf in the backend of a cow. He said that if you put your hand in the backend of a cow and it is beyond your scope of expertise, call the vet. He said that if a large calf gets hung in the pelvis of a first calf heifer, the head will swell because the heart is pumping blood, but it

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*(Continued from page 6)*

cannot return. How does this happen? It can be several reasons: (1) genetics, (2) did not use a calving ease bull, (3) fed too much in third trimester, (4) she carried the calf too long, (5) the heifers weight and frame size was too small, and (6) inadequate herd health program.

Dr. Higdon went through an example of a normal delivery with times and actions. At the first observed labor pains, the heifer was hiking her tail and looking for a place to lie down. Forty minutes later, she laid down and a few minutes later, she stopped chewing her cud. About 5 minutes later, she was up and chewing again. About 5 minutes later, she pushed for the first time and her first water bag broke. The heifer turned and sniffed the water—this is the first recognition of the calf. The calf is still in the amniotic fluid sack, which will break and lubricate the birth canal. There should be somewhere between 30 minutes to 4 hours between the first water sack and the birth in a normal delivery. Normally, the front feet and the head come first. If the afterbirth is over the calves head, this could suffocate the calf. If the calf is on the ground and is unresponsive, he said to take a piece of straw and stick it up his nose to get their attention. Sometimes, if the calf had been in a long time, it will take fluid into his lungs. The calf should be picked up by the back feet to get the fluid out. If a calf is slow to nurse, stroking the hair of his back in a forward direction will help them.

Dr. Higdon stressed to be prepared. A facility to safely take care of a problem is a must. Have a calving bag with tags, tagger, scales, chains - every thing you may need - so you do not have to hunt things in an emergency. PCCA Junior member Hannah Wilson assisted Dr. Higdon in demonstrating the proper method of putting the chains on the legs of the calf. He stressed that too much pressure applied will increase the chances of trauma.

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ma to the cow and, possibly, paralysis. If the calf is backward, roll the calf 90 degrees so that the calf will not 'hip lock' with the cow.

Dr. Higdon closed by stating that miracles happen everyday. We have the best life on the planet. We should teach someone about livestock.

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## **PCCA makes Holidays Brighter for Local Family**

By Amy Finley Wilson

The PCCA reached out to the Kiskers family this holiday season. The Kiskers have a seven year old daughter and are expecting their second child. The PCCA was able to raise \$500 to help make their holiday season brighter.

The PCCA promotes the development of the cattle industry by providing educational programs and field days to increase the knowledge and profitability of Pickens County cattlemen.

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## **Introduction to Agricultural Safety**

The Ohio State University

In work related fatality rates among U.S. industries, agriculture ranks first. It is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. A majority of agricultural accidents involve some type of machinery or equipment.

Accidents cost time, money, and involve intangible losses. Time will be lost while you are recovering, medical and rehabilitation bills will begin to add up, and, worst of all, you might not be able to function as you did before the accident. Safety is too expensive not to be taken seriously. Accident costs reduce the profit margin of your operation and, in worst cases, accidents cost people their lives.

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Safety is everyone's responsibility. It is up to everyone associated with the agricultural industry to use safe working practices. All family members and employees can contribute to each others' safety. Remember, operators of machinery aren't the only ones who get hurt in agricultural accidents.

General tips for a safe working environment:

- For an effective farm or ranch safety program, first perform a safety status assessment.
- Make safety everyone's concern including family, employees, visitors and yourself.
- Be aware of what you are doing and your surroundings. The highest percentage of injuries happen during routine chores.
- Ask for help if a task might be more than you can handle alone.
- Take short rest breaks to avoid overexertion.
- Eat a well balanced diet and get plenty of sleep. Stay away from equipment if you are angry. Wait until you cool down.
- Train new operators before letting them work on their own.
- Read the operator's manual for all equipment.
- Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for 'every day' chores and for specific jobs. Protective footwear, that also provides ankle support, and close fitting clothing are important for 'every day' work.

Remember, agriculture is the leading industry for work related accidents and safety is everyone's responsibility. Safety is too expensive to learn by accident. Accidents have many related costs.

## PCCA Website Status

By RD Morrison

The PCCA website, [www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://www.pickenscountycattle.com), is approaching its third year. We are now averaging about 55,000 hits annually. The cost of the website is offset by the sale of advertising on the site. PCCA Newsletters are posted on the site as well as a calendar page with meeting notices and events of interest (i.e., meetings, sale notices, Clemson Extension meetings, etc.). All members are encouraged

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*Thoughts from the President -  
Georganne Webb*



2014 is here and I hope this will be a healthy and prosperous year for all of us. We lost some great members last year and here's hoping that this year we will lose none.

I hope everyone will make a resolution to helping each other. I would like for this association to be known throughout the state as a group that pitches in and helps one another. If you're baling hay and some piece of equipment tears up (as it always does), call someone to help...if they can't help, they need to get the word out and we will find help. If your cows take a road trip, call someone in the association for help and if you get one of these calls but can't make it, call some other members.

We posted a sale at a ranch on our website calendar page and the folks are not members. They asked how much it costs and we told them nothing. Now those folks have joined our association. Paying it forward always comes back around.

If you are a purebred breeder and have a sale coming up, please contact me or RD and we will get it posted on the website calendar page. If you see a sale coming up by one of our members, make every effort to

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attend to show support. I have attended many a sale and not bought a thing but had a real good time and met lots of people. You never know, there may be some FI crosses or bulls that catch your eye and might be just what you were looking for. We are all in the same business and should not be at odds over cattle but supportive.

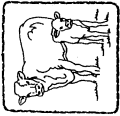
If you or someone in your family is having a hardship with illness or some other factor, swallow your pride, give someone a call and we can all pitch in. If a storm blows down your barn, we can all pitch in and build it back.

Also, we need to get in full swing to help the Pickens County FFA. Ashley is doing a great job and is considering having 4-5 students begin showing cattle. I told her they could come out to my place and work some heifers to learn how to show but they need some people to pitch in to show them how to clip and set up the cattle. Volunteers for this are needed and would be greatly appreciated.

We can set an example for the other associations in the state as to how to run a cattle association. I have been to some meetings across the state and you get a feeling of me, me, me and it should be us, us, us - working together for each other.

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<b>PCCA Synopsis Report</b>	<b>EXPENSES:</b>	\$5583.49
<b>for period as of Sep 30,</b>	SCCA dues	\$3370.00
<b>2013 - PCCA Balance as of</b>	Postage	\$625.79
<b>1/3/13: \$11431.71</b>	Printing	\$1203.35
<b>INCOME:</b>	Program	\$404.09
Web ads \$500.00	Meals	\$1788.23
Directory Ads \$2530.00	Website	\$600.00
Dues \$5270.00	Office Supplies	\$180.72
Reimbursed \$1588.00	<b>NET INCOME YTD:</b>	
SCBC \$250.00		\$843.55



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