

## Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

# Newsletter

Volume 10

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### Pickens County Cattlemen's Association Hold Summer Meetings Just for Juniors by RD Morrison

The Pickens County Cattlemen's Association believes that the future of the cattle industry is the youth of our country. With this thought in mind, we held meetings during the summer just for the kids. We have found that this works pretty well as there is no homework or sports practice to interfere with their attendance. The youngsters sit in the front of the room and the parents/grandparents sit in the back. After all, the meeting was for the youth. When we were children, children should be seen and not heard (and sometimes not seen). We reached out to the FFA and 4-H leaders to let their members know about the meetings and, as a result, picked up several new members. The PCCA discovered that when there is a meeting just for the kids, questions that an adult would not ask come to the forefront because the kids do not think that the question is 'stupid' or 'embarrassing', they just want to know. We encourage all associations throughout North and South Carolina to consider holding Junior meetings.

The first meeting featured Dr. Harold Hupp, re-

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tired Clemson Extension State Livestock Specialist. He gave a very informative meeting on Animal Psychology. We often have our kids and grandkids help while working cattle, so it helps them to know how cows think, their flight zone, and pressure points to move them where they need to go. Because many people have no clue where their food comes from (maybe the elves bring it to the grocery store), the second meeting featured Mr. Ben Ashley of Anderson Frozen Foods, Inc. Anderson Frozen Foods is the beef processor that the PCCA Freezer Beef Committee uses and he was very happy to lend us a hand. Mr. Ashley talked about where different cuts of beef come from. Handouts were given to all the children and the questions flowed like water. It was very encouraging to see the interest in this subject.

The results of these meetings were quite evident – more knowledgeable youth that, one day, will take the controls of the ‘Beef Train’ from the aging cattlemen of today.

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## **Dr. Boyd Parr Informs PCCA Members on Animal ID**

By RD Morrison

The PCCA met on September 18 at the Farm Bureau. President Georgeann Webb welcomed the assembled members and all enjoyed a really good meal catered by PCCA supporter B&B Bar B Q in Six Mile.

Dr Boyd Parr, head of Clemson Livestock, Poultry Health, spoke on the animal ID rules that are now in place. The rule was published on January 8, 2013 and became effective March 11, 2013. In order to move cattle across state lines, ‘health papers’, or CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection), must accompany the animals and must include the animal ID. The CVI must be re-

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ceived at the state office from the vet completing the health papers within 7 days and the destination state must receive them within 7 days. At each of these location, the CVI must be maintained for 5 years. Official ear tags include RFI tags and state issued metal tags. It should be noted that some states are not required to honor federal exemptions, so be sure to contact the state that the cattle are going to so compliance is met. An exemption is granted for cattle going directly to slaughter or to an approved livestock facility which is also an approved tagging site (e.g., sale barn - be sure to check and see if the sale barn is an approved tagging site). A CVI is not required if the animal is moved from one state, through another and back into the originating state. Also, a CVI is not required when moving the animal for a veterinary medical exam and returned to the originating farm with no change of possession. Most, but not all tags, will have a US shield on them. AIN tags (982) are under an exemption as are prefix USA tags. Cattle tagged with these tags are valid if they are tagged before 3/11/15. South Carolina does not recognize brands or tattoos as valid identification. Official identification is not required for feeder/stocker cattle under 18 months and dairy steers born prior to 3/11/13. The official ID is not required on CVI papers on cattle moved directly to slaughter, steers and spayed heifers, and sexually intact beef cattle under 18 months of age. However, all sexually intact dairy cattle and rodeo stock must have the animal ID on the CVI health papers.

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## **Additional Assessment Referendum Now at Ag Commision**

By RD Morrison

The additional assessment was voted on by cattle producers of South Carolina from September 1 through September 12. The results have been passed on to the

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SC Agriculture Commission for resolution on November 18, 2014. At that time, a press release will be issued stating the outcome of the vote. If approved, the additional 50 cents per head will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

If approved, the additional monies will remain completely separate from the Beef Checkoff monies that remain in the state. The additional monies will be used for producer education, consumer education and marketing, youth activities and research. There will, also, be funds available to refund the additional assessment to producers that 'opt out' and request, in writing, a refund from the SC Beef Council. A bill of sale must accompany the request and it must be postmarked within 30 days of the date of the sale.

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## **PCCA Renewal Notices to be Mailed Soon**

By RD Morrison

The SCCA requires renewals to be in Columbia by January 1, so PCCA notices will be mailed soon. Please get them in, along with your check, as soon as possible. There will be forms at the November and December meetings. We appreciate your membership and urge you to contact neighbors and friends that aren't members to join.

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## **A Biosecurity Plan Can Reduce Losses from Diseases**

By Deke Alkire

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Infectious diseases cost cattle producers millions of dollars each year through decreased performance, treatment costs and death loss. While not all losses can

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be avoided, many can be prevented with a good biosecurity plan. Here are some things to consider when developing a biosecurity program for your operation.

### **Determine the Threat**

Each group of animals will have a different level of risk. For example, a virgin bull from a reputable breeder with a complete vaccination and treatment record would pose less threat to your herd than a freshly weaned stocker calf from the sale barn. In addition, a mostly closed herd that produces its own replacements could be at a higher risk than operations that frequently introduce purchased animals. Even healthy animals can be carriers of a disease that could affect naïve herds.

Consider the economic impact of various pathogens and be sure that animals are vaccinated prior to purchase, or be prepared to manage them accordingly to minimize the impact. In any case, gather as much information as possible about the health management and vaccination history before purchasing animals, semen or embryos from an outside source. If possible, have your veterinarian contact the seller's veterinarian prior to purchase.

### **Prevent Commingling**

Manage arrivals to prevent any fence line contact with existing animals for a minimum of 30 days. Do not use common feeding areas and water sources. Some groups may need to be separated longer, depending on the level of risk that the animals pose to your operation and the level of risk you are comfortable with. This could be after an observation period or after negative test results for various diseases.

Bulls and replacement females from a reputable breeder may be able to go into the herd quickly. However, replacement females with questionable back-

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grounds should be managed as a separate herd until confirmed pregnant with their next calf. For high-risk stocker calves, it is best to manage each group separately for at least 45 days.

### **Limit Exposure**

Pathogens can be transmitted in many ways, including vehicles, people, other livestock, pets and wildlife. Limit equipment use to prevent fecal contamination of feed and water sources. Also, plan your route to feed sick or quarantined animals last. Design facilities to minimize the exposure of healthy animals to sick ones, especially the sick pen, as well as the location of the loading and unloading area. Be aware of who you allow on your operation and where they have been, especially international visitors.

Always dispose of dead animals properly, as soon as possible. Dogs and wildlife are attracted to carcasses and can spread pathogens to healthy animals. Take precautions to prevent exposure to any bodily fluids from these animals. Thoroughly clean equipment and clothes after handling dead animals and avoid contact with other animals.

### **Sanitation**

Keep working facilities, processing equipment and trailers clean. Remove fecal material and bodily fluids after processing or hauling cattle. Dehorner, castration knives, oral tools and ear notchers should be disinfected and palpation gloves changed between animals. Needles should not be used on more than 10 animals and may need to be changed after each use, depending on the risk of transmission and the diseases you are managing against. Always wash your hands and clothes after processing and after exposure to sick or dead animals prior to contact with healthy livestock.

Also prevent or remove fecal contamination from feed bunks and water troughs. Drain and disinfect water

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troughs as needed or between animal groups.

### **Develop a Plan**

Work with your veterinarian to develop a list of pathogens that you should monitor, test for and/or prevent, both in your existing herd and purchased animals. Outline quarantine, processing and treatment protocols that address biosecurity specific to your operation, including a vaccination program for various groups of purchased animals. Learn to identify foreign animal diseases and have a plan to report them quickly. Also understand which pathogens affect humans and the risks associated.

Consider the costs, benefits and logistics of implementing your plan. It must fit your operation to be successful. Having a biosecurity plan in place will help prevent disease transmission, protect the animals and people

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## **Advertiser Appreciation Dinner Resounding Success**

By RD Morrison

The Directory Advertiser Appreciation Dinner was held in May and was a resounding success. Many of our advertisers were on hand to meet with the members.

The supporters of the PCCA were given an opportunity to speak a little about their business. PCCA Board members spoke for the advertisers that were not able to attend. All were very pleased to meet with us and stated their appreciation to the PCCA members that do business with them. A resounding chorus of appreciation was expressed by the advertisers to the PCCA for offering them a very good meal and the chance to meet and greet with our members. Many stated that they are approached for donations, etc., but they often do not even get a thank you, but the PCCA went above and beyond their expectations.

The PCCA would like to thank each one of them.

# Agricultural Safety - Chain Saw Safety

The Ohio State University Extension



Summer is winding down and soon, the smell of wood burning stoves will be in the air. Many of our members burn wood, so a refresher on chain saw safety is in order. - RDM

## **Personal Protective Equipment**

Use the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for the job. Use the following as a guide:

- Clothing should fit well and be free of dangling or ragged edges which can become tangled in the saw. The use of nylon mesh protective leg chaps and/or knee pads can provide increased protection for the legs
- A hard hat protects the head from falling limbs or branches. A properly fitted hat is cool, comfortable and provides protection from head injury.
- A full face shield or safety Goggles/Glasses that have side shields prevent injury from flying wood chips, twigs, and sawdust.
- Protect ears from the high level of noise produced by the saw.
- Safety Boots or shoes with high tops protect ankles in the event of accidental contact with a moving saw blade. Steel toed boots will help protect the feet from falling limbs or logs.
- Lightweight leather gloves protect hands from cuts,

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splinters, and abrasion.

### **Preventive Maintenance**

Keep saw in good repair. Consult the operator's manual and check for needed maintenance before each use. The operator's manual can be the best source of information for this procedure.

#### **Sharpen the saw if:**

- the chain tends to "walk" sideways while cutting
- the cut shows fine powder instead of chips
- it is necessary to press hard to cut
- smell burnt wood,

Good cutting action and a long chain life, increase with correct chain tension. If too loose, a chain will derail, if too tight a chain will bind.

Proper Lubrication prolongs the life of the saw and increases safety.

#### **Follow these precautions when fueling and starting the chain saw engine.**

- Only refuel the engine when it is cool.
- Never smoke when working with a power saw.
- Start by putting one foot on the bracket to the rear of the saw.
- Grip the top handle of the saw firmly with one hand and use the other to pull the starting rope.
- Never drop start the saw.

Transport a power chain saw in a chain guard or a carrying case. Do not carry the saw in the passenger area of a vehicle. Brace the saw so that it cannot tip.

When storing the saw, drain the fuel tank in a safe area, and run the engine at the idle until it stops. Remove the chain and store in oil. Disconnect the spark plug to reduce an accidental starting. Keep out of the reach of children.



**Attention Members -**  
Renewals must be made by January 1st!.

## PCCA Website Approaching Milestone

By RD Morrison

The PCCA website, [www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://www.pickenscountycattle.com), is approaching a major milestone - 100,000 hits annually. The site is being used more than the PCCA Board of Directors ever imagined. It is saving us money in printing and postage as many of our members get the newsletter and meeting notices over the Internet. The Facebook section allows members to put notes on the net about their cattle and activities.

Thanks to all the advertisers that support the site

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*Thoughts from the President -  
Georgeanne Webb*



Busy, busy, busy time of year with fall calving and trying to figure out when to cut the fall hay and dodge the showers. Hope all is going well for all of you.

I received a message from an employee of Farm Bureau in Columbia. He informed me that the State Transit Police have hired some HazMat troopers and naturally they are giving some farmers in the lower part of the state some trouble. Instead of worrying about people hauling questionable material they have stopped some farmers with fuel tanks on their trucks. Farm tag and fuel tank and they can't figure out that is used to fill up tractors in the field. He said if anyone in the upstate has a problem with being stopped, please notify the guys at Farm Bureau in Columbia (or you can call me and I will pass it on) and they will investigate it. I am all for stopping terrorists but leave the farmers alone! I know terrorists try to blend in but I guarantee you if you line up

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terrorists and farmers in a line, we could quickly pick out which are the farmers. Let me know if you have any problems.

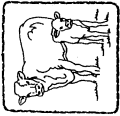
I saw on the news where people in Greenville in the city and suburbs are sooo upset because they have army worms eating their lawns. It is a disaster! That really bent a nerve in me because farmers fight those things and nothing is ever mentioned on the news. The people in town are upset because their lawns are not beautiful and it's embarrassing. Give me a break! Farmers can lose their entire pastures and fields to those things and lose their livelihood but the news never mentions it. I think we need to get after the news stations to start giving at least 15 minutes a day to Agriculture information. They are on for hours in the morning and hours in the evening and all they focus on is "city stuff".

In closing, I want to challenge all of you to do something nice and help out another cattleman. Make it a monthly focus and pitch in and help one another, even if it is just a phone call to help them with some information. Also, if you need help with something, don't hesitate to call another member for some help. Our working environment would be a lot safer if we all pitched in and helped one another.

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**PCCA / SCCA renewals due January 1, 2015.  
Please respond quickly to your renewal notice.**

<b>PCCA Synopsis Report</b>	SCCA dues	\$560.00
<b>for period as of 6/25/14 -</b>	Donation	\$200.00
<b>PCCA Balance as of 1/1/14:</b>	Sam's Club	\$45.00
	Postage	\$214.60
	Printing	\$1535.93
<b>INCOME:</b>	Program (SCCA)	\$150.00
Ads	Meals	\$1792.35
Dues	Website	\$600.00
Reimbursed	Office Supplies	\$123.95
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		



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