



Pickens County
Cattlemen's
Association

Newsletter

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Insurance is Topic of Feb. 4th Meeting

by RD Morrison

The PCCA meeting, rescheduled due to snow, was held at the Farm Bureau Building on Feb. 4th. PCCA President Georgeanne Webb welcomed a good crowd. She introduced PCCA members Steve and Cheree Mercier who spoke on insurance.

The Merciers started off by saying 'Don't shoot the messenger'. The healthcare law is a 2200 page document with 33,000 pages of rules. The individual mandate states that all must have health insurance by March 31 or pay a penalty. The penalty increases each year. By the way, the IRS is the enforcer set up by this law and will keep the penalty out of your refund. A question was asked 'what if there is no refund? How will the IRS get the penalty?' The answer is not known.

Many employers will probably drop their insurance for employees so they will have to go to the exchanges. The new law states that age does not matter. A 62 year old and a 21 year old will pay the same, but the subsidy for the 62 year old is greater than for the 21 year old (which is 0). The subsidy is based on the adjust-

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ed gross income off of the 1040. The deductible varies, but the maximum out of pocket cost is \$6350. The lower the adjusted gross income, the lower the out of pocket costs. Doctors, drugs, and hospital all count toward out of pocket. Also, no preexisting condition questions can be asked.

There are four levels of coverage: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The Bronze has the most subsidy, but the benefits are not as good. If the premium is \$500, but you qualify for \$300 in subsidy, you would send \$200 to the insurance company and the government would send the \$300.

There are no significant changes to Medicare, but reimbursements to Medicare are decreased.

There were many questions and opinions on this new law. Steve and Cheree can be reached at (toll free) 866-269-9700 or by e-mail at cheree@americancarolina.com or steve@americancarolina.com.

The PCCA would like to thank two of our mem-

Dr. Andrae and Danny Guess Speak on Pasture Maintenance

By RD Morrison

PCCA President Georgeanne Webb welcomed the assembled PCCA members on Feb. 18th to the Farm Bureau building. She introduced Dr. John Andrae.

Dr. Andrae discussed potash problems in Bermuda grass. Because of the high amount of rain we have been getting and the fact that potash is mobile, leaf spot has been prevalent making for low quality hay. Leaf spot is not as common in Tifton hybrid bermuda as it is resistant if good K is maintained. In hayfields, a lot of potash (K) is removed by cutting and baling so adding potash

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may be necessary. In pastures, nutrients are not removed as much and are redeposited.

There have been bermudagrass stand failures where entire hay fields have died. Some caused by lack of fertility (K), but a common factor is the presence of sugar cane beetle larvae. This was first noticed in Georgia, but now is in SC. 19 fields were lost in Lancaster County. The fescue fields are fine but the bermuda fields are gone. If you have this problem, contact the Extension agent.

Another problem is the bermudagrass stem maggot. This maggot lives in the stem of the bermuda grass and is easy to spot. The top two leaves look frosted - dead - but the damage doesn't go below the joint. The maggot turns into a fly which lays eggs. This is not an issue in pastures as the cattle eat the grass with no problems. The real problem is in hayfields which can have a 40% decrease in yields. Control is difficult as the insecticide cannot get into the plant where the maggot lives. Therefore, the fly must be killed before it can lay eggs. In other words, you must treat the problem before it is a problem. Use a foliar labeled pyrethroid 1-2 days after cutting and 5-7 days later.

Dr. Andrae spoke about what Clemson is doing. One project has been about tall fescue toxicosis. Research has shown the affects on the female side but evidence has shown the affects on the bull side of the equation. Blood flow to the testicles is decreased by 40%, which decreases semen quality. This results in an 18% decrease in fertility due to the bull. Spring is the time when the fescue is most toxic and toxins are measured in the urine. Other research projects include: Hi sugar annual ryegrass, novel endophyte fescue, bull fertility, cow/calf tall fescue research, fescue impact on the fetus and an NCBA feedlot research project of putting glycerol in

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the drinking water. Glycerol is a biofuel by-product and increases the energy in feedlot steers before slaughter.

Danny Guess, manager at the Southern States in Anderson, was introduced. He gave an overview of his background. He addressed the K problem and price. Canada and Russia supply the K used in fertilizer. The Canadians have lowered the price because the demand went down (due to high prices). Danny is a Certified Crop Advisor and will help with your fertilizer needs. With CPS (Royster Clark) gone, SSC will be very busy. They have added equipment to cover the needs. They will work with you for a quality product at the cheapest cost. He stressed taking soil samples so that a custom blend can be made to meet the needs of the field. The cheapest way to feed a cow is on grass. If you need lime, it is too late. Lime applications can be done in 3 - 4 months as fertilizer is taking precedence.

Thanks to Dr. Andrea and PCCA member Danny Guess for their informative talk.

Are Flies Bugging Your Cattle?

By Robert Wells

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Every spring, our thoughts turn from calving season to breeding season, green grass, rainy days and warmer temperatures. But with the growing pastures and pleasant temperatures come some disadvantages as well - fly season is upon us.

Flies will be upon us soon. If you have not already started a fly control program for this year, you are probably already behind the curve. With the early spring rains, this year promises to be favorable for insects.

Flies are a nuisance for humans, but even a greater nuisance for livestock. Additionally, flies can spread disease, from anaplasmosis to pink eye. They are re-

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sponsible for a tremendous amount of lost production in the form of decreased weight gain and lower milk yields. Rather than eating, cattle will spend time stomping and tail-swishing, lying down, standing in groups or in the middle of a stock pond.

It doesn't take a large number of flies to have an impact on your cattle's production. As few as 100 to 200 flies per side is enough to impact stocker gains by 50 pounds during the summer. This is greater than or comparable to the weight gain achieved through a growth implant program. If you can see more than a hand-sized patch of flies on each side, typically behind the shoulders, of your cattle, there is enough to be a problem.

There are many methods of fly control. Some of the more common methods are: pour-on, sprays, rubs or dusters, ear tags, feed-through additives and biological control. Some methods work better than others and each has its place. Using a combination of methods will afford you the most effective control. Also, remember to change the class or family of chemical you use periodically to reduce resistance.

The following is a few thoughts on the various control methods:

- **Pour-ons and sprays** provide a good initial kill with two to six weeks' residual. Rainfall or cattle lingering in stock tanks reduces the duration of protection.
- **Rubs and dusters** are an effective method of control once the cattle associate the use of the applicator apparatus to a reduced insect load. It is best to place the applicator next to the mineral feeders, water sources or an area that will force the cattle to rub up against it. Additionally, the chemical will need to be recharged once every one-two weeks

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or after a rain.

- **Ear tags** are a very effective season-long treatment, but remember to cut the tags out at the end of the season. Leaving the tags in builds resistance to the chemical. Change the ingredient from year to year. If you use a synthetic pyrethroid this year, change to an organophosphate or organochlorine next year.
- **Feed additives** are effective in stopping the fly life cycle. But one of the biggest obstacles is ensuring consistent and adequate intake of the product to have effective control.
- **Biological control** in the form of fly wasps, sometimes called fly predators, is also effective. Some feedlots have started using this method as the fly wasps are considered a natural, nonchemical method of control. Since they are weak flyers, the wasps must be placed in areas of high manure concentration, i.e., feedlots or horse stables. They do not reproduce so they have to be replenished monthly during the fly season.

Remember to follow label directions and applicable withdrawal times prior to slaughter. Getting in control of your fly problem will make your cattle more comfortable and your wallet happier.

NRCS Programs Topic of March 18 Meeting

By RD Morrison

PCCA President Georgeanne Webb welcomed the members to the Farm Bureau Building. She encouraged members to sign up to help at the Pickens Azalea Festival on April 19. She also reported that the FDA is in the process of relabelling many antibiotics that are also used to treat humans to prescription use, not over the

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counter. She introduced Marina Rodriguez with the FSA who spoke briefly about the programs available through the FSA. Georgeanne then introduced Bob Parris, Farm Loan Manager with the FSA. He gave an overview of the types of loans available through the FSA. Interested parties should contact the FSA in Greenville. Ross Stewart and Josh Boatwright were then introduced.

Ross stated that the NRCS was established in the 1930's during the Dust Bowl. One of their big programs is EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program. This program has three parts - pastures, crops, woods. Applications will be ranked by these uses for the watershed of Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, McCormick and Abbeville counties and the high score will be funded, then the next, etc., until the money is gone. In order to apply for NRCS help, a farm number and tract number are needed and can be obtained by bringing a tax map or deed to the FSA office. The amount of help is based on the adjusted gross income of the applicant. If you are leasing a farm that the NRCS can help with, a rental agreement must be current that lists you as the farm operator as improvements (ie., well, new fences) will be made. Payments will be made as each item is completed. When the well is finished, payment will be made. When the waterers are finished, payment will be made. Deep wells (greater than 600 ft) are paid at a higher rate. Water tanks can be concrete, Richey, Rubbermaid, or Mirafount. A pad that will hold the livestock as they drink is required with geotextile fabric and crusher run as this is a high use area. The NRCS can also help with stream bank erosion. Rip rap can be placed along the banks to hold them securely, thereby preventing erosion. There are specifications for this type of work. They, also, have specifications for fencing that must be followed. An example of this is the double H bracing at the ends of a fence. Members

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should check with the NRCS to obtain the best management practices before starting a project. The NRCS wants to help

The NRCS office is located in Pickens at 144 McDaniel Avenue, right down from the Pickens County Building. Their phone number is 878-6155.

PCCA President Georgeanne Webb presented Ross Stewart with a plaque on the occasion of his retirement from the NRCS, thanking him for his years of service to the cattlemen of Pickens County. Godspeed!

The website, www.pickenscountycattle.com, is becoming more and more popular - setting new records on the number of hits each month. A couple of new features have been added. These include a FACEBOOK page and a What's New section. The What's New section has postings of articles of interest that do not appear in the Newsletter. Add our site to your 'Favorites' list and please check it regularly for upcoming meetings, sales and items of interest.. Be sure to check out our web advertisers while on the site. They make the site possible. This site is just another way the PCCA is working for our members.

Agricultural Safety - First Aid Kits

The Ohio State University

The object of this safety article is to gain familiarity with a first aid kit. Knowing how and what types of first aid to use can prevent a more serious injury. Keep a Red Cross First Aid Manual with the First Aid kit.

The Red Cross suggests that the kit include:

- Poison first aid kit with syrup of Ipecac and charcoal
- Sterile first aid dressings in sealed envelope
- Tongue blades

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- Tweezers
- Bandage scissors
- Eye wash solution
- Thermometer
- Safety pins
- Ace bandage
- “Band aids”
- Roller bandage to hold dressings in place
- Adhesive tape
- Triangular bandage for a sling or as a covering over a large dressing
- Cotton balls for cleaning or applying medication
- Splints
- 70 percent isopropyl alcohol and tincture green soap in a covered container for cleaning
- Ice packs
- Several pairs of disposable gloves
- Waterless hand soap

There are many types of first aid kits available. Keep and maintain an appropriate kit on each major piece of farm equipment, truck and in the barn, shop and home. The Red Cross suggests that workers be certified in emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the method used to restore the heartbeat and breathing. The administration of CPR may save the life of someone who had been injured or suffers a serious illness. A non-trained individual who gives CPR or first aid may cause harm.

Having an emergency plan in place saves time during an accident. Plan for every farm location, including the home, machinery sheds, barns and fields. Know and practice what to do in case of an emergency. If a serious accident occurs:

- Stay calm and try to calm the victim
- Shout for help and tell a specific person to call 911

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- Evaluate the victim's condition and administer first aid or CPR as needed
- Do not move the victim except to protect him from further harm.
- Remain with the victim
- Conduct a quick rescue without risking personal safety

When calling 911, give the dispatcher the following information and remain on the phone until the information is confirmed and the dispatcher says to hang up.

- Location and directions to the emergency
- Type of emergency
- Number of victims and treatment given
- Location phone number

Note from the Editor: The PCCA sincerely hopes that none of our members ever has an accident, but hopes all will be prepared just in case. First aid kits are cheap insurance and can make a difference. They are available at local drug stores and home improvement centers at a reasonable cost.

*Thoughts from the President -
Georgianne Webb*



I hope everyone is doing well during the "Sprinter" of 2014 (it is supposed to be spring but winter just won't leave). I know many folks are running out of hay so keep in touch so we can help each other find hay until warm weather gets here, if it ever does.

Have you been attending the PCCA meetings? If not, you have missed some very informative meetings on subjects from diseases and pests attacking Bermuda grass in this area to programs you can sign up for with NRCS.

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Our speakers have been outstanding and very informative so plan to attend the meetings on a regular basis. We will be having Dr. Parr speak about the animal traceability laws and **YOU NEED TO BE THERE**. This will impact all of us and especially purebred operators. I have been informed that the barn has started tagging anything over 18 months that is not going to slaughter so you need to get the information and the tags (which are FREE). Don't miss the meeting and then holler that you didn't know anything about this because the opportunity will be there for you to stay on top of USDA laws which as we all know change with the wind. I will bring paperwork with me that you can fill out and request your tags and tagger (which are FREE). The only thing you will need is a premises ID number which you should have had for years.

Each of our meetings have been designed to keep you informed on issues from cattle to pasture management so plan to attend. I strongly desire that our association have the most informed members in the state concerning agricultural issues but that can't happen if you don't show up.

Also with the many sales lined up for spring, be sure to check the calendar on the web site and try to show up to show your support for our members.

PCCA Synopsis Report	Donation	\$50.00
for period as of 3/20/14 -	Sam's Club	\$45.00
PCCA Balance as of 1/1/14:	Postage	\$118.00
\$10894.19	Printing	\$112.41
INCOME:	Program (SCCA)	\$150.00
\$5273.00	Meals	\$1052.42
Ads	Website	\$600.00
\$3400.00	Office Supplies	\$64.97
Dues		
\$1025.00		
Reimbursed		
\$848.00		
EXPENSES:	NET INCOME YTD:	
\$2725.58		
SCCA dues		
\$510.00		\$2547.42



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