

## Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

# Newsletter

Volume 10

July 1, 2014

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## **PCCA Booth at Azalea Festival A Big Hit**

by RD Morrison

The Pickens County Cattlemen's Association booth at the April 19, 2014 Pickens Azalea Festival was a resounding success. Organized by PCCA Director Amy Finley Wilson and manned by PCCA volunteers Jeff Pepper, Jerry Moore, Hannah Wilson, Donald Snow, Colleen Snow, Georgeanne Webb, David Webb, Rep. David Hiott, Dr. Carl Thompson, and RD Morrison and supported by the SCBC and SCCA Executive Director Roy Copelan and former Beef Ambassador Caroline Hutton, the crew endured misty rain and howling winds to greet festival goers with the news of beef. The PCCA Freezer Beef committee donated steaks and beef burger to be prepared on a George Foreman grill. Jeff Pepper, Dr. Harold Hupp, Jerry Moore and RD Morrison donated beef to the cause.

The festival goers were amazed at how the beef samples tasted after being prepared on the small, inexpensive grill. They discovered that a big Bar B Q grill is not needed to get the wonderful flavor of the home grown, local, Pickens County Beef. Hundreds of beef

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pamphlets were handed out and there was considerable interest in purchasing a side or a whole beef. Surprisingly, many of the folks that I spoke to did not realize that there was a Cattlemen's Association in Pickens County or that locally produced beef was available.

The PCCA would like to thank all of our members that worked to make this a success.

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## **SC Cattlemen to Determine Additional Assessment**

By RD Morrison

The South Carolina Cattlemen's Association, with the support of the South Carolina Farm Bureau, has requested the South Carolina Agriculture Commission to hold a referendum with beef producers to increase the current assessment of \$1.00 (the Beef Checkoff dollar required by law for every head of cattle sold) to \$1.50. The National Checkoff program has been around since 1986 and \$0.50 goes to National to promote beef (i.e. BEEF – It's what's for dinner!), research (increased carcass value due to new cuts such as Flatiron steaks and Denver steaks), consumer education (i.e. recipes, nutrient information) and producer education (i.e. BQA training). The remaining \$0.50 stays in South Carolina and is used to promote youth activities, consumer promotions at grocery stores, restaurants and festivals, producer education and many other activities. SC Beef Council Executive Director Roy Copelan travels the state spreading the word on the goodness of beef in a well-structured diet.

This all sounds fine – so, why do we need to support increasing the assessment by 50 cents? The fact of the matter is that cow numbers are down – approximately 1950 inventory rates. The recent drought caused

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many cattle to be culled due to little grass and now, with cattle prices at record levels, good cows are being culled to take advantage of the prices. The portion of the Beef Checkoff dollar that remains in SC is about one half of what it used to be. Also, in 1986, the price of gasoline was \$0.93 (or \$1.85 in today's money). In short, there are fewer dollars and they don't go as far. This is not just a South Carolina problem; several states in the Southeast have experienced the same problem. Georgia, North Carolina, and Alabama all have an additional \$1.00 assessment and Louisiana has an additional \$0.50 assessment.

Some details for SC cattle producers to ponder prior to this upcoming referendum.

- The additional assessment will remain entirely in South Carolina to the benefit of ALL South Carolina cattle producers.
- The monies collected from this additional assessment will remain completely separate from the regularly collected National Beef Checkoff funds, which remain in the state.
- The additional \$0.50 assessment may be used in activities not supported by the National Beef Checkoff.
- The additional assessment may be used for Youth activities, Consumer education, Marketing programs, Producer education and Research programs – all of which benefit South Carolina cattle producers.
- This is an investment in our industry – our livelihood.
- HOWEVER, if a \$0.50 per head investment in our industry is going to put a hardship on your operation, there is an “opt out” clause permitting the

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cattle producer to request, in writing (and including a copy of the sales receipt) within 30 days of the transaction, a refund of the additional \$0.50 per head assessment. This must be mailed to the SC Beef Council.

- Three Legal Notices were placed in newspapers across the state and three information meetings will be held.
- The SC Department of Agriculture will mail ballots to the producers that the Department has addresses for. Ballots will be available at every Clemson Extension Office, but must be mailed to Columbia. The ballot requires your name and address plus the number of cattle owned. The voting will probably take place in September.
- In order to pass this referendum, 51% of the producers representing 66% of the cattle numbers OR 66% of the producers representing 51% of the cattle must approve the measure.

In closing, the South Carolina Beef Council is the steward of the monies collected via the Beef Checkoff. They take their job very seriously and have taken steps to cut costs. Several promotions were not supported due to lack of funds. This is a good program – one already in place in other Southeastern states – and will benefit all cattle producers in South Carolina. Please support this measure.

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## Technology Meeting Shines Light on Cattle Producers

By RD Morrison

The PCCA held a very informative meeting at the Farm Bureau building on May 13, 2014. PCCA President Georgeann Webb introduced RD Morrison to speak about the upcoming referendum on an additional access-

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ment when cattle are sold. Please see his article in this newsletter. Dr. Thompson spoke about the South Carolina Cattlemen's Foundation and urged the members to support it through their gifts and memorials. President Webb thanked PCCA Director Amy Wilson for the work of coordinating the PCCA booth at the Azalea Festival. Then, she introduced Lindsey Craig, Clemson Extension Area Livestock Agent.

Lindsey spoke of the technology available to farmers and cattle producers including computers, phones and tablets. The goal of this technology is to make records easy, accurate and natural. Applications, or apps as they are called, are user friendly programs for livestock, hay, row crops and equipment and hundreds are available. Livestock apps include:

- BCS - photos for comparing body condition
- iHerd - for keeping track of which cows are in which pasture.
- iCattleManager and iLivestockManager - for keeping track of when the bull is in and out, birth dates, wean time, etc.
- AI Cowculator - a free Univ. of Florida app used in synchronization programs.
- RationBalancer - a free Clemson program for making feed similar to the Oklahoma State program.

She addressed general apps such as:

- AgDNA - for planning, records, boundary mapping. This program is used at Edisto.
- FarmLog - for tracking rainfall and grain prices.
- AgriPlot - for calculating acreage.
- Calibrate my Sprayer and Mix my Sprayer - for calculating how much spray per acre and how to mix the herbicide for the desired results.
- Raindar - current radar images.
- HandyMan - for estimating jobs (fences, barns, etc.).

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- ID Weed - for identifying weeds.

She covered advances in equipment. RFID use in cattle has been around for several years, but is now starting to be used in tracking hay. Soil and crop sensors measure water and fertilizer needs of crops. Solar power has been used for several years to pump water and charge fences. Pedometer Plus is a pedometer that is used on dairy cattle to detect abnormal behavior patterns. This info may detect sickness or injury.

Miscellaneous new technology includes herbicide resistance or tolerance in weeds that resist Roundup. This competition may bring the price down on herbicides. Research on drought resistance traits may help farmers when drought comes to the state. The Angus breeders have been doing genetic testing on different traits such as palatability, but other breed organizations are beginning to do this testing now.

The meeting was full of valuable information and, although many cattle producers are reluctant to use new technology, it is the way of the future. She stressed that something as simple as taking a picture with a cell phone to remind you to check a cows hoof is a valuable tool.

## Junior Meetings to be Held This Summer

By RD Morrion

The PCCA will hold several meetings this summer geared to our Junior members. These meetings will be structured so that the Juniors will be up front and the adults (parents, grandparents) are in the back. We are reaching out to the 4-H and the FFA and encouraging them to attend and join the PCCA.

Please check the PCCA website, [www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://www.pickenscountycattle.com), for details and dates of the meetings. We realize that the young people are the future of our industry and we want to take a leading role

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in preparing them for the job of providing beef to the world in the future.

Please check the website and bring your neighborhood youngsters to a meeting.

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## **Advertiser Appreciation Dinner Resounding Success**

By RD Morrison

The PCCA held the first of what surely will be the first of many Advertiser Appreciation Dinners at the Farm Bureau Building in Pickens. A meal of smoked brisket and all the trimmings was prepared by PCCA Vice President David Elias. To say that this meal was very good would be an understatement.

PCCA President Georgeanne Webb thanked each advertiser and called on them to say a little something about their business. Many advertisers were on hand and the few that were absent were represented by the PCCA Board member that got the ad for the directory. The new directory was handed out to the advertisers and the members on hand. The advertisers were impressed with the new format of the directory and expressed thanks to the PCCA for inviting them to such a great gathering and meal. Even the advertisers that could not attend appreciated the effort to include them. This dinner gave the members and the advertisers an opportunity to “meet and greet”. The advertisers dinner will become a standard yearly event if this year’s meeting is any indication of things to come.

If you have not received your 2014 Directory, contact RD Morrison via the website ([www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://www.pickenscountycattle.com)) or by calling the Extension office. Because of the new format, the directory is much more expensive to mail. If we can arrange to drop yours off or get you to pick it up, it will save the PCCA a good bit of money. Thanks!!

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## **Agricultural Safety - NIOSH Fast Facts: Protecting Yourself from Heat Stress**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Heat stress, from exertion or hot environments, places workers at risk for illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, or heat cramps.

**Heat stroke** - a condition that occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature, and can cause death or permanent disability.

Symptoms:

- High body Temperature.
- Confusion.
- Loss of coordination.
- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating.
- Throbbing headache.
- Seizures, coma.

First Aid:

- Request immediate medical assistance.
- Move worker to a cool, shaded area.
- Remove excess clothing and apply cool water to their body.

**Heat Exhaustion** - The body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually through sweating.

Symptoms:

- Rapid heart beat.
- Heavy sweating.
- Extreme weakness or fatigue.
- Dizziness.
- Nausea, vomiting.
- Irritability.
- Fast, shallow breathing.
- Slightly elevated body temperature.

First Aid:

- Rest in a cool area.
- Drink plenty of water or other cool beverages.

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- Take a cool shower, bath or sponge bath.

**Heat Cramps** - Affect workers who sweat a lot during strenuous activity. Sweating depletes the body's salt and moisture levels.

Symptoms:

- Muscle cramps, pain, or spasms in the abdomen, arms and legs.

First Aid:

- Stop all activity, and sit in a cool place.
- Drink clear juice or a sports beverage, or drink water with food.
- Avoid salt tablets.
- Do not return to strenuous work for a few hours after the cramps subside.
- Seek medical attention if you have the following: Heart problems, are on a low-sodium diet, or if the cramps do not subside within one hour.

**Protect Yourself** - Avoid heavy exertion, extreme heat, sun exposure, and high humidity when possible.

When these cannot be avoided, take the following preventative steps:

- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers for signs or symptoms of heat illnesses.
- Wear light-colored, loose fitting, breathable clothing such as cotton.
- Avoid non-breathable synthetic clothing.
- Gradually build up to heavy work.
- Schedule heavy work during the coolest parts of the day.
- Take more breaks when doing heavier work, and in high heat and humidity.
- Take breaks in the shade or cool area.
- Drink water frequently. Drink enough water that you never become thirsty.
- Be aware that protective clothing or personal protec-

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tive equipment may increase the risk of heat related illnesses.

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**Please support our Directory and website  
advertisers!**

**They support the PCCA and we should all  
support them when the opportunity  
presents itself!**

**Please click on our web advertisers when  
you go to the website,  
[WWW.pickenscountycattle.com](http://WWW.pickenscountycattle.com)!  
**THANKS to all our advertisers!****

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*Thoughts from the President -  
Georgianne Webb*



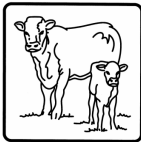
Hope everyone is having a great summer getting up hay with no problems, accidents or breakdowns, which would be a miracle with no breakdowns. The cattle market is outstanding and amazes me every week. The one thing I would like to emphasize in this article is your local Farmers Market. Have you visited one yet? If not, you are missing a great time with great local produce and wonderful fellowship with the local farmers. I have been to Oconee and had a great time visiting with those folks. Their Farmers Market is in Seneca (if you go as far as Westminster you have passed it) on 123 near the Hwy 11 bridge. They are open on Saturday morning, 8-12. Next, I went to downtown Easley which is also on

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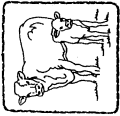
Saturday morning from 8-12 and they have just recently added a Tuesday evening sale. Then to my favorite, Clemson Farmers Market which is located on the Is-saqueena Trail at Patrick Square. The Clemson Farmers Market is open on Fridays from 3-6 PM. This works well for me because in this heat I am usually working cows early in the morning and by late afternoon it is too hot to do much with the cattle. Visit one of these Farmers Market soon. The vendors at each are great people and it will give you an opportunity to visit with some of the crop farmers in the area. If you go be sure and tell them that the lady with the big hat pulling the red wagon sent you. They will know exactly who you are talking about.

Keep some shade available for you herd and check the water source often. Of course my young heifers and bulls are spoiled because I keep a fan on them. The darn things come to the gate when they get hot and nod their heads at me while I am in the kitchen to come out and cut on the fans. They have me trained pretty well because out the door I go and plug in the fans. I don't train my cattle, they train me!



Check the website for meeting info - [www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://www.pickenscountycattle.com). 85,000+ hits prove the site is valuable to the PCCA and our members. CHECK IT OUT!

<b>PCCA Synopsis Report</b>	SCCA dues	\$560.00
<b>for period as of 6/25/14 -</b>	Donation	\$200.00
PCCA Balance as of 1/1/14:	Sam's Club	\$45.00
\$10894.19	Postage	\$214.60
<b>INCOME:</b>	Printing	\$1535.93
Ads	Program (SCCA)	\$150.00
Dues	Meals	\$1792.35
Reimbursed	Website	\$600.00
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	Office Supplies	\$123.95
\$5236.23		



**Pickens County  
Cattlemen's Association**  
PO Box 995  
Pickens, SC 29671