



Pickens County  
Cattlemen's  
Association  
222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

# Newsletter

Volume 12

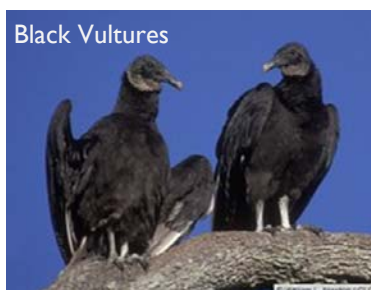
October 1, 2016

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## Black Vultures Are Becoming A Problem to Cattlemen

by RD Morrison

Several PCCA members have lost newborn calves to the Black Vulture. Unlike the turkey vulture, which eats mostly carrion, the Black vulture will kill calves, lambs, piglets and other weak animals. As many as 10 to 12 calves and at least one cow have fell prey to the Black Vulture. These animals are protected by a federal law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, State laws and regulations. Therefore, it is illegal to just shoot them. Producers must have a Migratory Bird Depredation permit.



There are two kinds of vultures in North America—the Black vulture and the Turkey vulture. The Turkey vulture ranges over most of North America whereas the Black vulture is mainly in the Southeast. Both have sharp beaks, sharp nails, and highly acidic stomach fluids and urine. The

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Black vulture weighs less than 4 pounds and has a wingspan of less than 5 feet. The turkey vulture weighs 4 pounds and has a wingspan of 6 feet. It also has a distinctive red head. Turkey vultures are scavengers by rule and have a highly developed sense of smell. They can detect dead animals deep in the forest canopy without seeing them. Black vultures do not have as good of a sense of smell, but will follow turkey vultures to carrion and run them off. Therefore, turkey vultures tend to eat small food items that they can eat quickly before the black vultures show up. The Black vultures mate for life and often use the same nesting site for many years. The communal roost, for instance the towers of a high voltage power line, is important to their social life.

What can be done to protect our livestock? As mentioned previously, these animals are federally protected—you can not just shoot them. You must call the US APHIS Wildlife Services at 866-487-3297 and explain your problem. A Form 37 must be requested and they will recommend how many vultures you may kill. They will send via e-mail or USPS the form and a US Fish and Wildlife form 3-200-13 for you to fill out. Once completed, both forms must be mailed, along with a check for \$50, to the US Fish and Wildlife service at:

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Southeast Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office  
PO Box 49208  
Atlanta, GA 30359

The USFWS may approve or disapprove the permit. If approved, they will e-mail your permit and mail a hard copy. If disapproved, they do not return your fee. The forms must be completely and correctly filled out or the USFWS will mail, via the US Postal Service, the forms back to you for completion. This will slow an already slow process.

The permit, when issued, does not allow the permit holder to kill an unlimited number of vultures. It is intended

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to augment other management strategies (i.e., hanging dead vultures from a tree limb, scarecrows, noise makers, etc.) to encourage the vultures to leave.

Special thanks goes out to:

- SC Representative David Hiott
- Ms. Claudia Bentley - US Senator Tim Scott's Office
- Noel Myers - USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
- Ms. Carmen Simonton - US Fish and Wildlife Services
- SC Farm Bureau
- SC Cattlemen's Association
- PCCA Officers and Board of Directors

They have all worked really hard to answer the many questions about this problem.

There is a PCCA Video on buzzards available for check out at the Moore & Balliew Oil Company on Shady Grove Road in Pickens.

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## **Animal Manures and Biosolids on Forages**

**By Jagadeesh Mosali**

With permission from The Noble Foundation

Considering the high cost of commercial fertilizers, applying animal manures, poultry litter and bio solids in pastures may be a valuable alternative for forage production. These waste products not only provide essential nutrients, but can also add organic matter to improve structure, aeration and water holding capacity of soils. Research in Oklahoma has shown that poultry litter is comparable to commercial fertilizers in increasing Bermuda grass forage yields and crude protein.

Before considering these products, we need to understand some basic management issues. The following guidelines need to be followed for application and development of a proper nutrient management plan for animal waste products in pasture production.

- Nitrogen (N) is mostly in its organic form in litter and manures. The rate is mineralizes into inorganic form

depends on the prevailing environmental conditions.

We normally estimate about 50 percent, 15 percent and 6 percent in manure is available during the first, second and third years, respectively. When applying manure to the same field year after year, credit for nitrogen should be given for the previous year's application. About 90 percent of the phosphorous (P) and potassium (K) are available during the first year of application. Excess application can result in phosphorous buildup in the soils and may contaminate water through leaching and runoff.

- Representative soil and waste product samples are needed for accurate nutrient analysis. These soil and waste product analyses along with realistic yield goals are necessary to calculate required rate of application for the waste product. Moisture content of manure or litter should be taken into consideration when calculating the application rate since the analysis is usually on a dry matter basis.
- Nutrient application should be based on soil P test recommendations. Even though litter or manure N:P ratio is almost 1:1, Bermuda grass uses N and P in an approximate 4:1 ratio. Supplementation with commercial N fertilizers is a safe and effective method for supplying the required amount of Nitrogen to meet yield goals without over applying phosphorous.
- Application should coincide with the growing season for the target forage crop. Typically, for warm season forages, it is best to apply in spring or summer as mineralization of the nitrogen will take place more readily if temperatures are above 50 degrees F.
- Better results can be expected from soil incorporation of waste products immediately after application. Unless it is incorporated or washed into the soil through irrigation or rain within a few days, approximately 25 percent of the total N applied can be lost through volatilization, or evaporation, into the atmosphere.
- Nutrient content of waste products varies with type of

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material, how and how long it is stored, and this should be reflected in price. Proper storage is essential to maintain fertilizer value, minimize health hazards and prevent pollution of surface and ground water.

- Transportation costs associated with procurement and applying waste products can be prohibitive if the forages are located far from the source. Compare the cost of waste products as delivered and spread against commercial fertilizers supplying the same quantity of nutrients.
- Calibrate the application equipment to obtain the correct rate and distribution of the product.
- Avoid application of manure or litter to slopes greater than 15 percent and before heavy rain to avoid runoff.
- Be courteous to neighbors who might be disturbed by a manure or litter application. Inform them that the odor is not harmful and should not last long.
- Utilize grass buffer strips between the application sites and water sources. Do not apply manures or litter within 150 feet of water wells, streams, rivers or lakes.

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## **Renewal Forms Arriving Soon**

By RD Morrison

All members should expect the PCCA renewal form within the next week or so. We are trying to get a head start on the membership rolls as they are due in the State office by December 31. **Please fill out the form COMPLETELY, including what you want to say in the 2017 PCCA Directory.** I will not carry over the same as last year. If there is nothing there, it will be left blank. Also, take a minute to mark the items on the back of the renewal form so our program committee can line up some really good meetings based on the needs of our members. We need your input to make our association even better.

Please get these in quickly so I can get the info to the SCCA before the end of the year.

It's now fall and many of us burn wood. Let's rethink chain-saw safety.

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

# Safe Operation of Chain Saws

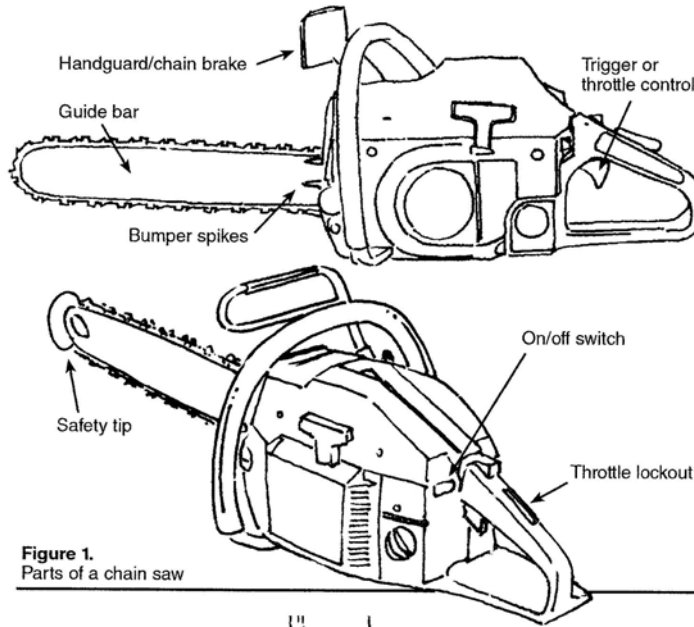


Figure 1. Parts of a chain saw



Figure 2. Personal protective equipment

A picture is worth a thousand words—wear the proper protective clothing when working with a chainsaw

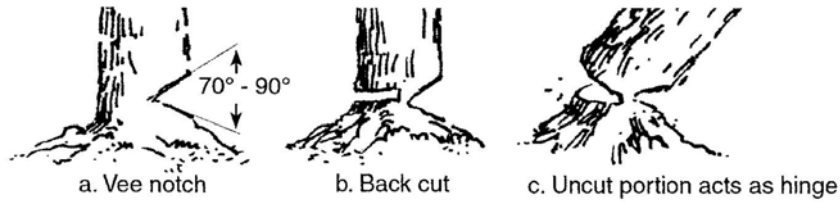


Figure 5. Notching a tree

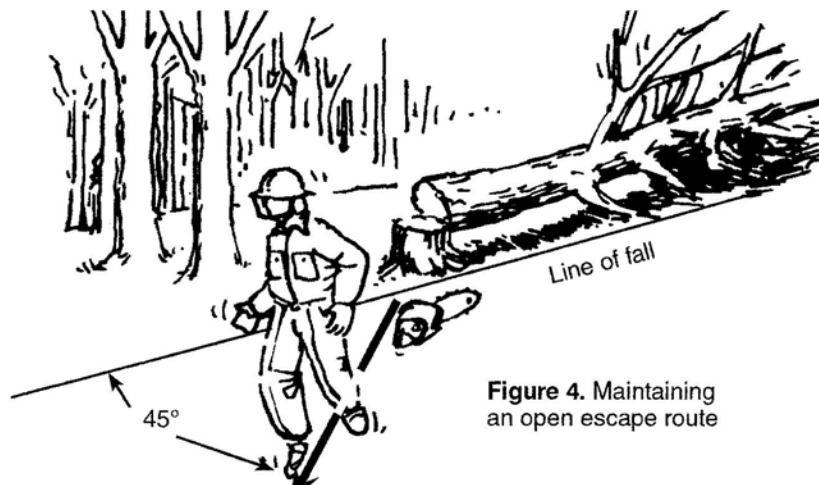


Figure 4. Maintaining an open escape route

Make a safe work area by clearing underbrush and limbs from the base of the tree. Be sure the intended direction of fall has enough clearance for the tree to fall completely to the ground. A lodged tree can be very dangerous. Cut through trees less than 6 inches in diameter in one cut. Larger trees need to have an open face notch on the fall side. Cut the back cut leaving an uncut portion to act as a hinge.

Fuel outdoors only. Make sure the fuel mixture is correct. Allow the saw to cool. After fueling, move at least ten feet from fueling spot before starting the engine.

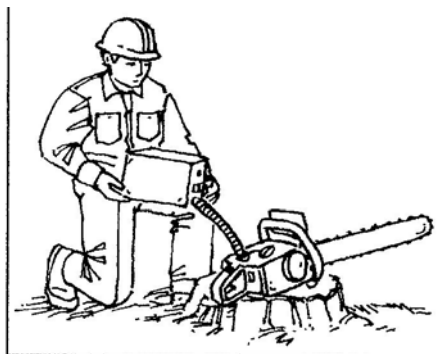


Figure 3. Fueling a saw

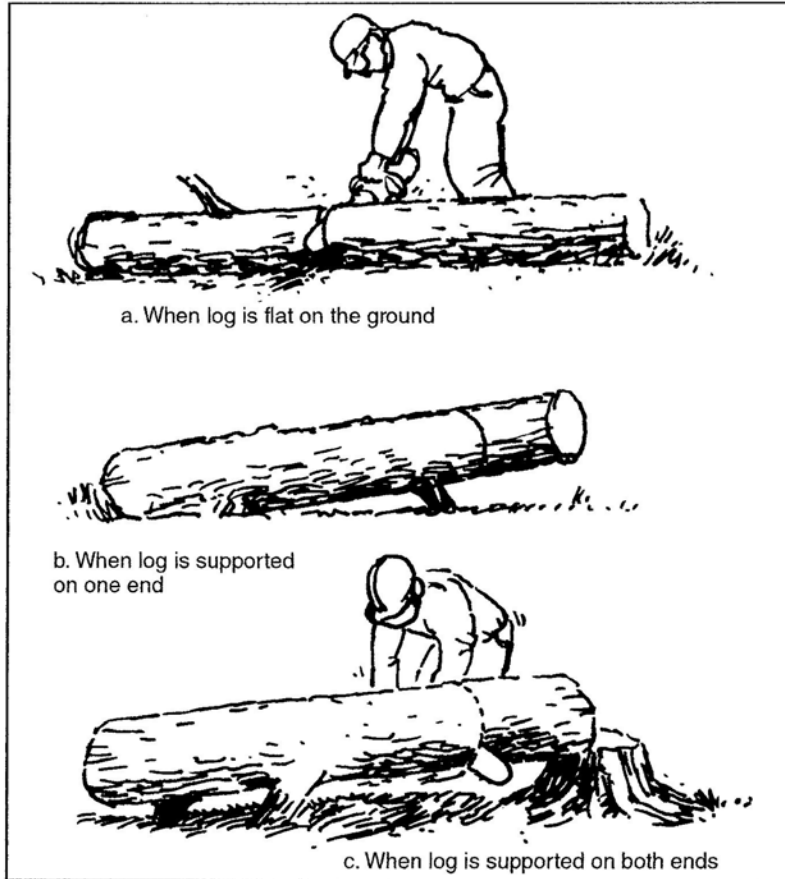


Figure 7. Bucking a tree

Be sure of your footing. Work on the uphill side of the log since a log will roll downhill. Avoid sawing into the ground.

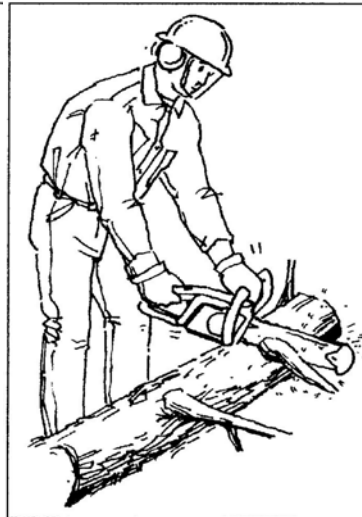


Figure 6. Cutting limbs on top first



## **PCCA DVD 's Available at MBOC**

By RD Morrison

The PCCA Board of Directors authorized the purchase of a video camera several years ago so that our members can see the meeting even if they did not make it because they were baling hay or fixing fences. They are available at the Moore & Balliew Oil Company on Shady Grove Rd. Here is the list of topics.

Herd health - Dr. Mullikin

BVD-PI Tesstin - IDEXX

BVD-PI understanding - IDEXX

Boehringer Ingelheim vaccine - Randy Fordham

Calving 101 - Dr. Higdon

Joe Davis Farm Field day - Various speakers

Weed Management - Dow Agriscience

Pasture Management - Dr. Andrae

Oil & Grease - MOBIL

Technology - Lindsey Craig

OBAMACare - Steve Mercier

Estate Planning - Wall Street Capital

FSA Programs - FSA

SCCA/SCBC updates - Roy Copelan

PC Sheriff Dept update on theft - PCSD

DOT rules - SCDOT

As you can see, we have a lot of information available to members to watch in the comfort of their recliner. We are adding new DVD's all the time. This is one of the benefits of PCCA membership and we encourage members to take advantage of this program.

## 2016 Directories Now Available

By RD Morrison

The 2016 PCCA Directories are now available. Many were handed out to the members that attended the PCCA Advertisers Appreciation Dinner in May. If you were not in attendance, you probably didn't get one. No worries. Contact RD Morrison at 864-907-6837 or by e-mail at [rdm95573@bellsouth.net](mailto:rdm95573@bellsouth.net). Or, you can tell the Clemson Extension folks and they will relay the info to me. We will work something out on how to get your Directory to you.

This years Directory is bigger and better than ever. We have added color ads to the Directory and they were well received by our advertisers. As usual, there is a section for notes, calf birth data, nice to know information addition, and politician contact information in addition to the membership information.

The officers and directors of the PCCA encourages all of our members to support our advertisers.

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*Thoughts from the President -  
Amy Finley Wilson*

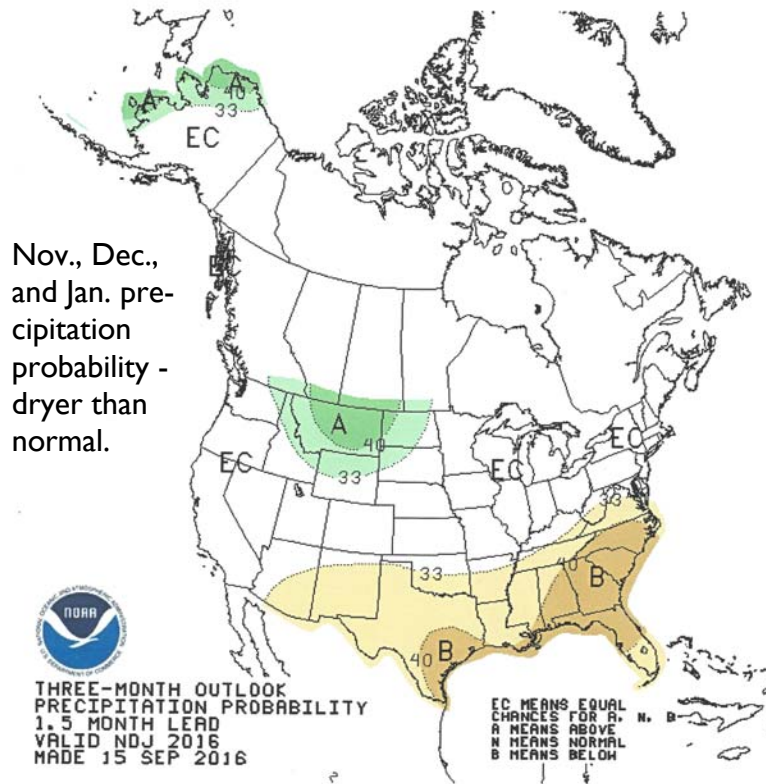


Two words: Rain Dance!

And since that hasn't worked for us yet, please take advantage of our local Farm Service Agency. Contact Glenn Thomas or Marina Rodriguez at 864-467-2798. They will explain their programs that could potentially help you through this bad weather year.

If and when we do start getting enough rain to re-plant our pastures, consider using a no - till drill. 'o6 Farm Services (864-868-4517 - barn, or 864-907-6837 - cell) can plant for you, giving association members a good price.

Pickens County Soil and Water, 864-878-6155, rents no-till drills if you prefer to plant yourself. RD Morrison has written a powerpoint on adjusting and calibrating a no-till drill if you have never used one or need a refresher course.



<b>PCCA Synopsis Report</b>		Sam's Club	\$45.00
<b>for period as of 9/25/16 -</b>		Postage	\$138.00
<b>INCOME:</b>	\$8905.00	Printing	\$2263.51
Ads	\$5320.00	Azalea Festival	\$55.00
Dues	\$1320.00	Meals	\$2518.03
Reimbursed	\$840.00	Website	\$945.00
Raffle	\$1300.00	Raffle	\$224.27
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	\$8766.92	Repairs	\$87.95
SCCA dues	\$475.00		
Donation	\$1442.35		



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