



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

Newsletter

Volume 13

July 1, 2017

Advertisers Appreciation Meeting Was REALLY Big!

by RD Morrison



PCCA President Amy Wilson awarding the STIHL MS170 chainsaw to PCCA member Chuck Sowell at the Advertisers appreciation dinner at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center. Thanks to all that bought a ticket to support the Pickens County 4-H and FFA.

The PCCA advertisers appreciation meeting was held on April 27 at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center in Liberty. A really good crowd (approximately 175) was in attendance to talk with advertisers and members. The Smokin' Pig catered the meal of brisket, beans and slaw and it was Delicious! No one left hungry, for sure.

Our advertisers had a good time talking to members and even held some raffles of their own to spotlight their businesses. The PCCA encourages our members to sup-



Left: New members, Charley and Gounana Hale, talking with PCCA President Amy Wilson
Below: Some of our advertisers



port the businesses that support the PCCA. There were tractors of all colors, round balers, disc mowers, ATV's, oil companies, insurance companies, tire businesses, real estate offices and banks to name a few. This was the best appreciation meeting that we have ever had.

Thanks to all of our advertisers who supported us by purchasing an ad and for their attendance.

Precautions reduce heat illness

By Ugochukwu Uzoeghelu, 2014 Lloyd Noble Scholar in Agriculture
With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Summer heat can be dangerous. Heat illness is a serious medical condition resulting from the body's inability to cope with a particular heat load. It is not a sign of weakness or frailty, and it can be a serious health risk even when the temperature is moderate. The most common heat-related illnesses are heatstroke, exhaustion, cramps and rash.

Any worker exposed to hot and humid conditions is at risk of heat illness. Some workers are at greater risk than others if they have not built up a tolerance to hot conditions. These can include new workers, temporary workers or those returning to work after a week or more off. The industries most affected by heat-related illnesses are agriculture, construction, transportation, utilities and landscaping services. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), crop workers are 20 times more likely to die of heatstroke than all other U.S. workers.

Common features of heat-related illnesses include fatigue, weakness, dizziness, faintness, nausea, headache, clammy skin and rapid pulse. Heatstroke may cause serious symptoms such as confusion, loss of consciousness, convulsions, coma and multiple organ damage.

Employers should establish a complete heat illness prevention program to mitigate heat illness. The program should include providing workers with water, rest and shade; and gradually increasing workloads and allowing more frequent breaks for new workers and workers who have been away for a week or more to allow them to build heat tolerance. Other preventative steps can include modifying work schedules, planning in advance for emergencies,

and training employees about the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and how to prevent them. In addition, workers should continuously be monitored for signs of illness.

Here are some steps to prevent heat-related illnesses and fatalities:

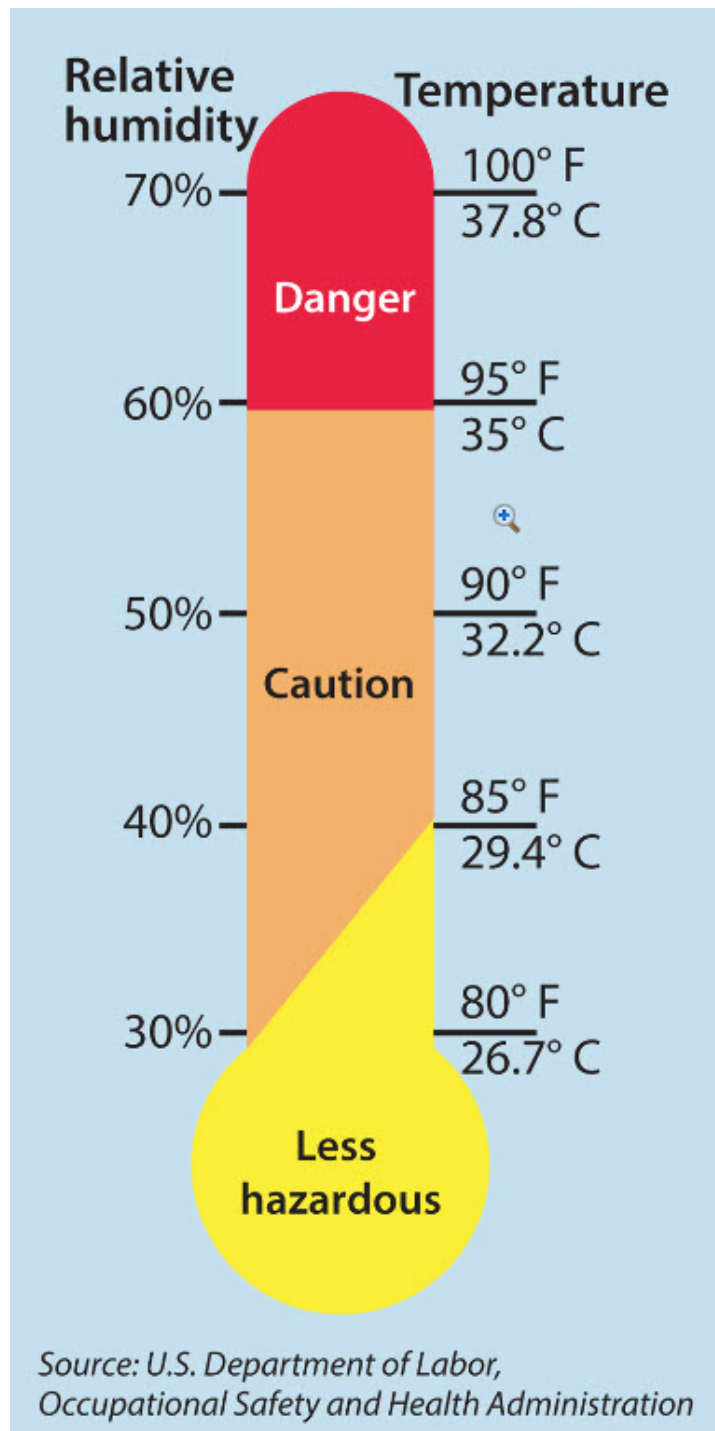
- Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty.
- Rest in the shade to cool down.
- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing.
- Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency.
- Keep an eye on fellow workers.
- Take it easy on your first days in the heat so your body can become acclimated.

Employees who are new to working in the heat or returning to work from an extended leave should have a work schedule that allows them to gradually get used to the heat. The same is true for all workers on the first hot day or during a heat wave.

Remember: water, rest and shade - taking these precautions can mean the difference between life and death.

The Heat Equation

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{High temperature} \\ + \text{High humidity} \\ \text{Physical work} \\ \hline \text{Heat Illness} \end{array}$$



Proper Livestock Stocking Rate Supports Operation, Wildlife

By Steven Smith

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

Proper stocking rate is the most important management decision a manager can make, regardless of goals. Stocking rate is defined as the number of animals on a specific area for a specific period of time. Livestock stocking rate impacts not only a livestock operation and operation economics, but impacts wildlife habitat as well.

Overstocked pastures lead to overgrazing, which is consistently the number one problem we see in many operations. Overgrazing is a significant cause of poor forage and livestock production, wildlife habitat loss, soil erosion, weed problems, and lower profitability on millions of acres across the country. A correctly stocked property can provide flexibility in operational management, which could be used to provide or improve wildlife habitat, implement prescribed fire, adapt to drought or other adverse weather conditions, or temporarily increase livestock numbers in years of better than average growing conditions.

Proper stocking rate varies throughout time due to changes in precipitation patterns, plant communities and other issues. However, a manager needs to determine a stocking rate then evaluate and adjust it through time.

Step 1: Determine how many grazeable acres are in a pasture. Grazeable acres can be determined by staff members of county, state, federal and nongovernmental organizations, or by using smartphone apps or websites such as daftlogic.com/projects-google-maps-area-calculator-tool.htm. For example, if a pasture is 100 acres and 20 acres are wooded and water, the grazeable area is 80 acres.

Step 2: Estimate how much forage a pasture typical-

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ly produces on the grazeable acres. The easiest way to start the process is reviewing forage production estimates on the soils. The [Web Soil Survey](#) provides estimates (in pounds per acre) for native rangeland and introduced pastures for average rainfall and drought years. Estimates can be checked by using exclosures and collecting samples in the field by clipping or using a grazing stick or by using records from past haying or grazing experiences.

Step 3: Do a few simple math equations. Let's assume the pasture has 80 grazeable acres and produces about 3,000 pounds of native grass forage per acre during an average rainfall year; 25 percent of standing forage will be used (accounts for at least 25 percent trampling and fouling and at least 50 percent left to provide adequate leaf and root mass to produce more forage, maintain plant health, protect the soil and provide wildlife habitat); and grazing livestock will be 1,000-pound cows with a calf (1 animal unit).

- How much forage is produced per year in this pasture?
80 acres x 3,000 pounds per acres = 240,000 pounds per year
- How much forage can be used? **240,000 pounds per year x 25 percent = 60,000 pounds per year**
- How many pounds of forage does an animal unit need per year? **780 pounds of forage consumed per animal unit per month x 12 months = 9,360 pounds of forage needed per year (larger cows require more forage)**
- How many 1,000-pound cows can graze on this 80 acres for one year? **60,000 pounds of forage produced per year ÷ 9,360 pounds of forage needed per year = 6.4 animal units per year (AUY)**
- How many acres are needed to provide enough forage

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for one AUY? **80 acres ÷ 6.4 AUY = 12.5 acres per cow for one year**

- This example is specific to this pasture, but the same principles can be applied to any property. Realistically, a manager probably should stock a somewhat lower number of livestock than this calculation to provide some additional flexibility against drought years.

Show your Cattleman Pride with a PCCA License Plate



The PCCA Board of Directors has authorized the purchase of these license plates to show our pride as cattlemen. They are aluminum, raised lettered and have our PCCA logo imprinted on them.

All members will get one for free. If you want additional tags or if non-members want a tag, they will be sold for \$10 for the first tag and any additional tags are \$5 each.



The board feels like this will promote the cattle industry, the PCCA and our members operation. A WIN - WIN for all of us.

The tags will be available at meetings. Please check the website, www.pickenscountycattle.com, for meeting notices.

Junior Meeting at 5 Acre Lots



The Junior meeting at the Simpson station was quite interesting for our Juniors, parents and grandparents. Gary Burns gave an overview of the station, acreages and, basically what is going on. Lindsey Craig provided a lot of details on the research activities and what it was



like to work there while she attended Clemson. She discussed the cattle handling facilities and this was quite informational to the juniors. She, also, gave a tour of the facility located at the intersection. The meal was provided by o6 Farm Services and was prepared by Jerry Moore. Thanks, Clemson, for your hospitality.



*Thoughts from the President -
Amy Finley Wilson*



This has been a pretty good month for communicating with members. I have heard from several on various issues. Buzzards, what to plant, who to plant it and most importantly that someone's cows were out.

I want you to know someone in the association to call if you have any questions or issues. We will start doing a few things to get to know you better and to start some conversations.

I appreciate your membership and the effort it takes to participate with your busy life. I want this group to be a source of knowledge and support for you.

Hope to see you at our next meeting in August.

PCCA Synopsis Report		Sam's Club	\$45.00
for period as of 6/30/17 -		Postage	\$164.00
		Printing	\$4205.82
INCOME:	\$11266.00	Advertising	\$1485.79
Ads	\$6780.00	Azalea Festival	\$35.00
Dues	\$1465.00	Meals	\$1373.27
Reimbursed	\$1600.00	Website	\$620.00
Raffle/ contributions		Raffle	\$224.27
	\$1421.00	Repairs	\$87.95
EXPENSES:	\$12771.19	Tax	\$35.27
SCCA dues	\$1145.00		
Donation	\$2590.25		



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