



Pickens County
Cattlemen's
Association

222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

Newsletter

Volume 14

October 1, 2018

Twenty Three Kids Attend Meeting at o6 Farm

by RD Morrison

The PCCA Junior meeting was held at o6 Farm, owned by R.D. and Lee Morrison on July 17. A crowd of 52 parents and Juniors were in attendance. A video (available for checkout at Moore Balliew Oil Company on Shady Grove Rd, Pickens) was shown to the juniors to point out some of the hazards associated with farms, tractors and equipment. The Juniors were impressed with all the potential hazards around the farm and understand that the farm is not a playground.

After a hamburger and beef hotdog supper, sponsored by o6 Farm Services and Century 21 Hometown Realtors, the juniors 10 and under went on a hunt for potential safety hazards on the equipment parked at the farm. A prize was awarded to Paden Davis and Anabel Morrison who found the most hazards. Pink ribbons were placed on the hazards and the grounds were covered with pink streamers. The assembled crowd was instructed to look at all the potential safety hazards and they were amazed at all the ribbons hanging on equipment.

A special thanks goes out to the PCCA Board members that helped at this meeting. Jerry Moore and Ben Roe, with help from Drew Adams, did the grilling and Lindsey

Craig helped with setting up the video, which was made by RD Morrison and Ross Morrison of the Education Committee. Many others helped and thanks to all of them.

Junior meetings are a great way to keep Ag going and growing. Our rules are simple - Kids in front, paying attention and asking questions - parents/grandparents in the back and staying quiet.

Raising vs. Buying Replacement Heifers

By Jason Bradley

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

When it comes to getting replacement females for your cattle herd, multiple options are available. One would be to use your own cow herd and keep the heifers you need. Or you could outsource and purchase virgin heifers from a different operation and breed them to the bull(s) of your choice. Another option is to buy heifers bred to a bull that would roll straight into your program. Which one is the best? Like so many things in agriculture, the method that works for one operation may not be the best option for another. That's why it's so important to know what the costs are for a particular method while understanding what benefits you'll get in return.

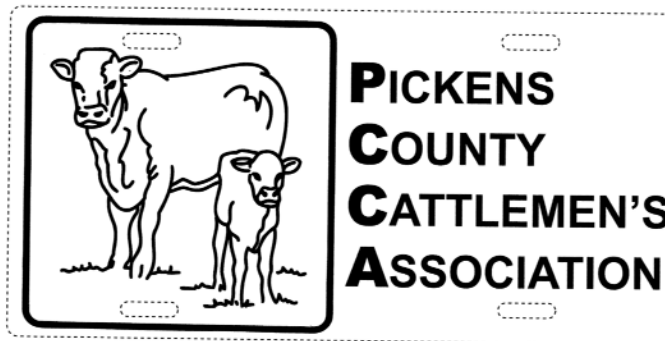
Pros and Cons

The pros and cons of any method should be considered before making a decision. With home-raised replacements, you should know exactly what you're getting. You'll also be able to sell any extra bred heifers at a higher price than feeder heifers that are not bred. The downside is it requires a much higher level of management in order to have a well-functioning breeding program, which means you need to take into account the costs and timelines for general management of your operation. It also means you're going to have an animal that's utilizing the available forage while not producing a calf, and you'll need

a plan to prevent inbreeding. On the other hand, if you purchase your replacements, there will not be any missed animal production because those heifers will be calving that year. This option also allows for new genetics to be brought into the herd. However, there's not always a guarantee of what kind of calf you will get if you purchase bred heifers. Unfortunately, with this option you cannot guarantee the genetics of the calf that will come from the purchased bred heifer. In order to purchase replacements that increase your chances of getting what you want, you will face a higher purchase price.

What's Feasible

Before making your decision, take a step back and decide what is feasible from your operational standpoint and management abilities. Are you able to spend more time developing the replacement type you want or would your time be better spent managing purchased replacements that don't require that commitment or resources? The options outlined here are just some of the many ways to obtain replacement heifers for your herd.



Have you received your PCCA license plate yet? If not, please let a board member or officer know. We will try to have them at meetings. One is free to members and extras can be purchased (\$10 for the first extra one, \$5 for all additional ones).

Round Bale Storage Tips

By Tharran Gaines
From Myfarmlife.com

Ever since round balers were introduced in the early 1970s, one of the selling points—besides the low labor demand—has always been that round bales can be stored outdoors. And that is true to a greater extent than it is with square bales of any size. However, like everything else, there are a lot of variables to consider when determining how best to store round bales. Is the crop a legume or grass? What kind of weather conditions are the bales subjected to? Where is the storage site located?

Depending on the size of the bale, anywhere from one-third to almost one-half of the hay is located in the outside six inches of the bale—the portion most susceptible to weather damage. Hence, to protect the hay from substantial loss, water infiltration from the top, sides and bottom must be prevented.

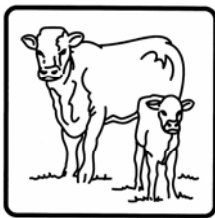
With that in mind, Dr. Don Ball, professor and Extension Forage Crops Agronomist at Auburn University and Raymond L. Huhnke, Extension agricultural engineer at Oklahoma State University, offer a number of tips for bale quality preservation.

- Inside storage is always best, regardless of the type of hay package. Legume hays, such as alfalfa, are also more susceptible to damage than most grass hays. Plus, alfalfa is much more valuable and can justify the cost of covered storage much quicker. Dry matter losses in round bales stored up to nine months in an enclosed barn should be less than 2%.
- When baling, try to make round bales as tight as possible for maximum water shedding. Consider, too, that large-stemmed crops, such as pearl millet, sorghum-Sudan and

(Continued from page 4)

crop residue do not form a tight bale, and are easily penetrated by rain.

- If you are storing hay outside, select a site that is located in an open, well-drained, sunny area convenient to feeding areas. If placed on a hill, rows of bales should run up and down the slope.
- Eliminate contact between the bale and the ground. Otherwise, as much as 12 inches of the bottom of a bale can be lost through moisture absorption resulting from the wicking action. To best protect bales, place them on old tires, railroad ties, crushed rock or a concrete pad.
- In most areas, bales should be stored in rows, butted end-to-end, and oriented in a north/south direction. It's also important to leave a space of 18 to 36 inches between rows to permit sunlight penetration and airflow, which will allow the area to dry faster after a rain.
- Don't stack bales on top of each other unless the entire stack is to be covered with a tarp.
- If possible, cover bales to protect the top and sides. In this case, it's better to stack bales. A single bale can require as much as 63 square feet to cover its top. If bales 5-feet in diameter by 5-feet long are stacked three high, the size of the covering can be as low as 13 square-feet per bale. In university studies, round bales that were both covered and elevated suffered about the same amount of dry matter loss as bales stored "under roof."



The PCCA needs photos of all of our members. Drew Adams has graciously 'volunteered' to be our photographer. Please see him at a meeting and get your picture taken for the directory.

Lindsey Craig Presents Program on Multi-Species Grazing

by RD Morrison

The PCCA held a meeting on September 4th at the Pickens County Career & Technology Center. A sparse crowd was in attendance as many were trying to get hay in before the next rain.

Grazing a pasture with more than one species of animal offers several advantages. These include a mix of dietary preferences and grazing behavior, therefore, greater plant utilization, heavier stocking rates, increased production from a unit of land, a better balance among plant species and reduced weed control cost. There are, basically, three pasture plant species. There is grass, forbs (broadleaved plants, wildflowers, etc) and browse (brush, shrubs, woody stemmed plants). The different species graze differently. Cattle prefer grass and are less selective than other species—they go for quantity over quality. Sheep prefer forbs, then grass and goats prefer browse, then forbs, then grass. The addition of goats to cattle pastures has been shown to reduce brushy and broadleaved weeds. NC State did a 4 year study where adding sheep or goats to a cattle operation showed an improvement in grass and clover cover from 16% to 63% in a pasture dominated by vines, multiflora rose, blackberry and hardwood sprouts. A study in West Virginia compared brush control by several methods - grazing goats, sheep or both; mowing or herbicide application; or a combination. The goat herd cleared pasture brush from 45% to 15% in just one year whereas, sheep took 3 years to accomplish this. Cutting and herbicide application increased animal effectiveness, but cost more. All treatment methods reduced brush to a 2% cover by the end of a 5 year period, but goats were the cheapest. One goat per cow can be added without reduction in cattle performance. Goats control weeds such as blackberry, maples, locust, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle. Sheep

Three Year Variable Costs

| Control Method | Cost |
|----------------|----------|
| Goats | \$33/ha |
| Sheep | \$262/ha |
| Mowing | \$133/ha |
| Herbicide | \$593/ha |

1 ha = ~ 2.5 ac

(Continued from page 6)

have been observed to graze close to cattle manure piles, where cows will not graze. Parasites that affect sheep/goats cannot survive in a cows stomach and vice versa.

Additional benefits include diversification of income source and reduced predation of goats/sheep herds. The goat market is one of the fastest growing segments of US agriculture and half of the goat meat consumed in the US is imported.

There are some potential issues. The producer may have to deal with bullies - often rams and bucks will bully larger animals and these bullies should be culled. There are differences in trace minerals requirements. Sheep are highly sensitive to copper. To avoid this, the animals can be rotated through paddocks separately. Another issue is the added labor demands. Fencing to control goats is another issue. It is often said, to build a fence to hold goats, it must be 12 foot high and hold water - then it MIGHT hold goats. Goats can be trained to hotwire with 4500volt minimum and at least 5 strands on new fence. Coyotes see goats and sheep as an easy meal, so guard animals and electric fencing are options to consider. If your pasture are a perfect monoculture, multispecies grazing may not pay dividends.

In conclusion, this method requires thought, management and facility investment, but can have BIG payoffs. Know your goals before you buy. Investigate your market. Weigh benefits with additional fencing costs.

Injury Prevention—Safety During Fall Harvest

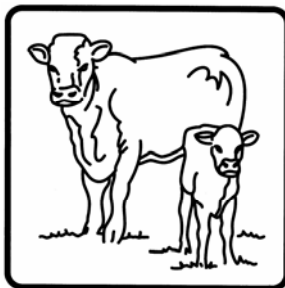
by Kent McGuire
The Ohio State University

This harvest season, safety should be a priority within the farm operation. Consider that it is a time that involves long hours and the need for multiple pieces of farm equipment working simultaneously to complete a crop harvest. The continuous activity, diminished daylight and stresses that can be associated with harvest can often lead to agricultural related injuries. Common injuries during fall harvest include slips, trips and falls; blunt trauma incidents; sprains / strains; and injuries due to fatigue.

Some simple ways to reduce the risk of an injury during harvest include:

- To reduce fatigue, try to get enough sleep. This is your body's time to rest.
- Set a pace for yourself, and plan out your day's activities.
- Take short breaks throughout the day. Get out of the combine or truck for a few minutes, and do something to get away from the equipment and revitalize.
- Follow the procedures in the operator's manual of equipment for safe operation, maintenance, and trouble shooting
- Keep equipment properly maintained and check all guards are in position and correctly fitted before starting work.
- Ensure equipment has adequate lighting for working in the dark. Increase caution when working in early morning or late evening when daylight is diminished.
- Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- (1 hand and 2 feet) or (2 hands and 1 foot)

- Ensure that hand holds or railings are in safe operating condition.
- Exercise caution when steps or walking surfaces are wet or dirty.
- Avoid jumping off of the last step and anticipate changes in ground elevation or rough terrain when dismounting from the last step.
- Be alert to you surroundings. Know where equipment is being positioned and be observant to individuals who may be walking around equipment.
- When working with others around equipment, maintain eye contact and communicate your intentions with the other person.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment when appropriate (ear plugs, safety glasses, gloves, etc..).
- Utilize respiratory protection such as an N95 respirator in dusty environments.
- Utilize safe travel routes between fields, and take into account potential problems with automobile traffic and narrow roadways. Use escort vehicles when needed.



Are you interested in serving on the PCCA Board of Directors? If you are, please contact President Eddie Evans or Vice President George Hood at an upcoming meeting and let them know. The PCCA Board meets every second Monday of each month, usually at the Clemson Extension office (downstairs), to discuss the association's business. They help set up the meetings and, generally, are a valuable asset to our association. They help put the newsletter together, getting it ready for mailing. They help in many other ways. Thanks to everyone serving or that have served. We are always looking for new members to the board.

PCCA Website would like your help. The PCCA website, www.pickenscountycattle.com, would like for some of our members to take some pictures around their farm (i.e., cattle, tractors, pastures, etc.) and put together a little article about their operation for use on the website. The article does not have to be fancy or very long. Please let us showcase your operation. Contact RD Morrison at pcca@pickenscountycattle.com.

*Thoughts from the President -
Eddie Evans*

Some of you may ask, “What does the Association do with our money?” As your President, I wanted to briefly elaborate on some of the events and charities our Association participates with and contribute towards.

Since youth development is high on our list of priorities, the Board of Directors discuss various ways to help the next generation of cattle farmers. We donate funds towards 4-H and FFA scholarships that young people in our community have opportunities to apply for. And recently, we have been in the works of developing our own scholarship for Pickens county student residents to assist in higher education costs while pursuing an agriculture related degree. The annual Junior Beef Round-Up is another youth activity we support directly, sponsoring various aspects of the youth show.

Another way we support our community is through our annual contribution to Country Santa, allowing the children of Pickens County to have a brighter, merrier Christmas.

Lastly, portions of our fundraising and dues help pay for the Association’s Advertiser’s Appreciation dinner, and also sponsor an end-of-year dinner to give members an opportunity to socialize with each other, and interact with a few of our elected officials.

Page 11

When there is a charge for the meal, it is mostly to recoup our cost, so as not to continuously whittle down our funds, thereby taking away from other areas we support. By operating in this manner, we are able to keep annual dues low.

Sincerely,
Eddie Evans, President

Renewal time is fast approaching. The South Carolina Cattlemen's Association requires that all state memberships (new or renewals) be in Columbia by January 1, so the PCCA (and all other local associations) must get our memberships in order prior to this. As it takes time to gather the renewal payment, record all the members, check their addresses on the mailing labels, put their info on an EXCEL spreadsheet (as required by the SCCA), verify their e-mail addresses, record their payments, record payment to the SCCA, and put them in the directory. Like I said, this takes time. So, membership renewals will be going out very soon and the officers and directors ask that you fill out the form and get them back in as soon as possible. Contact your neighbors and friends that are not members and ask them to join. The informative meetings, newsletters and DVD's will be of interest to them if they have cattle or just enjoy a good steak.

Please help us in this trying time.

Treasurer's Report—Expenditures (Al Williams)

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Donations | \$1168.49 |
| Printing (Staples) | \$2546.97 |
| Postage | \$251.76 |
| SCCA dues | \$2010.00 |
| Meals | \$5803.99 |



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