

Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

Newsletter

Volume 14

April 1, 2018

Pre-emergent Herbicides Topic of January Meeting

by RD Morrison

The PCCA meeting was held on January 23, 2018 at the PCC&TC. After a Smokin' Pig meal of brisket and fix-in's, Oconee County Agent Morris Warner spoke on pre-emerge herbicides.

Morris informed the assembled members of an upcoming pesticide training course and the sprayer calibration card (available in the Directory). Weeds have an impact on the yields of fields. They compete for moisture, nutrients, space and sunlight. Some weeds are unpalatable and toxic to wildlife. Weeds are opportunistic and often colonize bare areas as a result of drought, insect/disease damage, improper soil fertility or pH, or overgrazing. A good stand of forage will help defeat weed problems. Sunlight penetration down to the soil surface will stimulate the weed seeds to germinate, therefore creating your own problem. It is optimal to leave a 4 inch stubble to prevent sun penetration. When cutting fescue for hay, it is important to cut it at a three inch height as fescue stores energy, which allows it to come back, in the bottom 1 - 2 inches.

The difference between preemergent herbicides and soil residual herbicides is the preemerge herbicides affect newly emerging plants to inhibit some needed growth activity and the soil residual herbicides remain in the soil and con-

tinue to provide control of susceptible plants. Pre-emerge herbicides do not kill weed seeds, they kill emerging plants.

There are two pre-emerge herbicides: Prowl H₂O and Direx 4L. Prowl H₂O is a residual product for warm / cool season forages. For warm season, it can be applied anytime except during greenup. For cool season grasses, it can be applied at any time. There is no haying or grazing restrictions and must be applied prior to weed emergence. It is microencapsulated so a rain is necessary within 2 weeks, not the two days the 'old' Prowl formula required. It inhibits root and shoot growth by preventing cell division and elongation and has little effect on emerged plants. It controls many grasses and broadleaves. Direx 4 L is only labeled for newly sprigged Bermuda grass. The sprigged Bermuda grass must be planted at a 2 inch depth as they could be damaged if not planted this deep. Direx 4L works by inhibiting photosynthesis and does have postemergent activity.

Mr. Warner went on to discuss various types of weed and grasses that need to be controlled. These included: vaseygrass, Johnson grass, foxtail, sedge, dallis grass, prickly pear, maypop, sida, trumpetcreeper, horsenettle, poke, dogfennel, brambles, buttercups, and privet. Each were discussed at some length.

He stressed the need to identify weed problems, select the right product, calibrate the sprayer, apply at the proper time, improve field productivity by liming, fertilizing and mowing. Applicators should always read and follow label instructions and should be mindful of weather (wind, rain).

The video of this meeting is now available for check out by members at Moore & Balliew Oil Company on Shady Grove Rd, Pickens, and should be viewed for a more detail incite into preemerge herbicides and weed control.

EPD's Simplified

By RD Morrison

The PCCA Meeting for February was on EPD'S and was excellent. Mark Wilburn, area rep for ABS Global spoke on Bull selection.

He stressed three main parts of his presentation:

1. Understanding EPD's
2. Phenotypic presentation of a bull
3. How to care for and prepare a bull for breeding season

EPD's provide estimates of the genetic value of an animal as a parent. EPD's can compare two animals of the same breed in terms of their genetic traits and is actually controlled by many factors such as management, environment and genetics. When comparing two animals, their epd differences indicate the differences one would expect to see in their calves, due to genetics. EPD's cannot compare animals of different breeds without conversion factors. They cannot predict exact outcomes, (i.e., a 40 weaning weight EPD does not mean that an additional 40 lbs. will be added to the weaning weight of your calves each and every year). They are not constant. As more information is gathered on an animal, the EPD may change. The Angus Association updates EPD's weekly, whereas Gelbvieh EPD's are updated semiannually. EPD's do not make up for poor management. Calving Ease (CE) reflects the percentage of unassisted births in heifers only with the higher the number equaling the greater calving ease in first calf heifers. This EPD should be used instead of the Birth Weight (BW) to designate calving ease bulls. Birth Weight (BW) EPD's with lower numbers indicate lighter calves, but does not ensure an easy calving calf. BW, in general, has a direct correlation with Wean Weight (WW) and Yearling Weight (YW).

Weaning Weight (WW) is the genetic potential to grow to 205 days. 205 is used to standardize, or make more consistent this data. This EPD is important if selling feeders of seedstock to producers. Yearling weight (YW) is the genetic ability to gain to 365 days and is important for retained ownership and seedstock production. It is positively correlated to mature weight and height. The Milk EPD is expressed as pounds of weaning weight (WW) that can be attributed to the amount of milk or quality of milk produced by the daughters of a particular sire. It is important to remember that milk production is directly correlated to efficiency. Carcass EPD's include Carcass Weight (CW) which equals the hot carcass weight, Marbling (Marb) which is the percentage of intramuscular fat, Ribeye Area (RE) which is the size of the ribeye in square inches, Fat Thickness (Fat) which is the backfat measured at the 12 –13 rib, and Yield Grade (YG) which is the yield grade score. These EPD's are important if our market is the retail customer. Our competitors, pork and chicken, are consistent every time. \$Indexes vary from breed to breed and are important economic indicators as they display which animals excel for a given combination of traits / EPD's. They are used to streamline genetic decisions for commercial cattlemen. It is important to note that EPD's are accompanied by a level of accuracy, regardless of breed. The accuracy is updated as more data on the offspring come in and is extremely important when choosing a calving easy bull. It is a decimal number and the higher the number, the more likely the EPD's are pretty close if other factors are good.

The phenotypical presentation of a bull is very important. Good legs, not too straight and not sickle hocked, not bow legged or cow hocked, but nice and wide legged is the proper choice. Bulls with bad legs will not stand up to

the service they need to do. Their feet need to be correct also, with 45 degree angles and with no splayed claws or crossed toes.



Correct



Too straight



Sickle-hocked



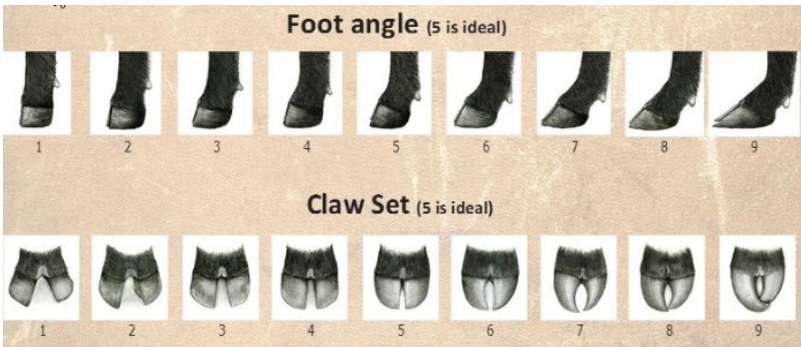
Correct



Bow-legged



Cow-hocked



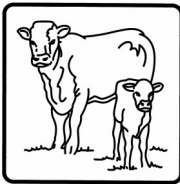
Body condition scores are important. If BCS 2 or 3, these cattle need groceries badly. BCS 9 or 8 need to go on a diet. Ideally, we should shoot for a BCS score of 7 as we are asking a growing bull to work hard for a short period of time and may be a BCS 5 when his work is over. We should shoot for a 45 day calving period, not a 365 day calv-

ing season. The true benefit of artificial insemination is a 45 day calving season.

Bull care and preparation includes having the bull semen checked and insuring that he is carrying adequate flesh (BCS 7 or minimum BCS 6) to perform his duties. Bulls get bored in the off season and will fight. Do not put a yearling bull in with a mature, dominate bull. On completion of the breeding season, the bulls should be a BCS 6 with a score no lower than BCS 5. If lower than BCS 5, the bulls were overworked or there was poor preparation. A bull should only be asked to cover the number of cows equal or less than his months of age, not to exceed 30, according to the American Society of Veterinarians.

He stressed that the cattleman should know his market and select a bull or semen accordingly. The weekly market is not the best choice and he advocated truckload sales, stocker sales, and alliances. Retained ownership was also an option.

David Landreth's contact info (mid Atlantic cattle representative for ABS) is: 864-444-8214, e-mail: landrethcattleandfarm@gmail.com.



Did you miss a meeting and would like to watch it at home?

The PCCA provides DVD's of our meetings available at Moore Balliew Oil Company on Shady Grove Road in Pickens. It's easy to do. Just pay \$6 and check one out and get \$5 back when you return it. The other \$1 goes toward blank DVD's for future meetings. Another benefit from the PCCA. The PCCA wants to keep our members informed on the meetings not only through the newsletter, but also through the DVD's

Does your Farm have the Proper Insurance?

By RD Morrison

The March PCCA meeting covered Farm and Ranch insurance, hosted by Lee Anne Kitchen with Nationwide Insurance. She pointed out that regular homeowners insurance does not cover cows getting out, etc. , without an agribusiness policy. Without proper liability insurance, in the case of an accident, the farm could be lost. She stressed the importance of having your barns and equipment insured for replacement cost, not original cost. A barn that was built in 1980 would cost a lot more to rebuild in 2018. A tractor that costed \$20,000 in 1990 may cost \$38,000 today. This shows the importance of replacement cost versus cash value.

If a family member (son / daughter) builds a home on a few acres that were cut out of your fam, Nationwide can bundle all of it together. Your farm workers can also be covered by Nationwide. Nationwide can cover anywhere from \$100,000 to \$5 million—or even higher. Your livestock (cows and horses) can be covered. Nationwide has a deductible on the policy to help keep the premium more reasonable. She stressed the importance of an umbrella policy which, after the liability insurance has been used up by a catastrophic event, kicks in to help with the remainder of the cost. Your automobile insurance does not have to be at the same company as the farm general liability company. If land is leased, it is important that the landowner is listed on the general liability policy.

Nationwide offers agritourism insurance if anyone or group comes to the farm to tour in case there is an injury.

Members asked many questions and the meeting was well received.

Lee Anne can be reached at Renea Rowland Agency, 207 Travis Ave., Saluda, SC, 29138. Her telephone number is 864-445-8189. Her e-mail is kitch12@nationwide.com.

Venomous Snakes

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Venomous snakes found in the United States include rattlesnakes, copperheads, cottonmouths/water moccasins, and coral snakes. They can be dangerous to outdoor workers including farmers, foresters, landscapers, groundskeepers, gardeners, painters, roofers, pavers, construction workers, laborers, mechanics, and any other workers who spend time outside. Although rare, some workers with a severe allergy to snake venom may be at risk of death if bitten. It has been estimated that 7,000–8,000 people per year receive venomous bites in the United States, and about 5 of those people die. The number of deaths would be much higher if people did not seek medical care. It is important for employers to train their workers about their risk of exposure to venomous snakes, how they can prevent and protect themselves from snake bites, and what they should do if they are bitten.



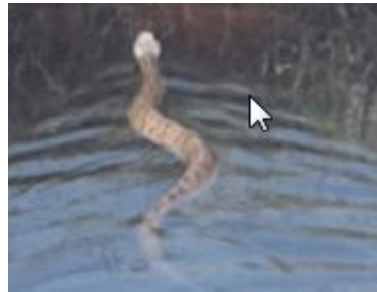
Copperheads vary in color from reddish to golden tan. The colored bands on their body are typically hourglass-shaped. Most adults are 18–36 inches long. They are not usually aggressive, but will

often freeze when frightened. Workers are more likely to be bitten when they unknowingly step on or near a copperhead. Copperheads are often found in forests, rocky areas, swamps, or near sources of water like rivers



There are many species of rattlesnakes in the United States. Rattlesnakes are the largest of the venomous snakes in the United States. They can accurately strike at up to one-third their body length. Rattlesnakes use their

rattles or tails as a warning when they feel threatened. Rattlesnakes may be found sunning themselves near logs, boulders, or open areas. These snakes may be found in most work habitats including the mountains, prairies, deserts, and beaches.



Cottonmouth snakes average 50–55 inches long. The adult snake's skin is dark tan, brown, or nearly black, with vague black or dark brown crossbands. Juveniles have a bold crossbanded pattern of brown or orange with a yellow tail. Cottonmouths are frequently found in or around water. They do not scare easily and will defend themselves when threatened.



These snakes are often confused with nonvenomous king snakes, which have similar colored bands although in a different arrangement.

However, if the red bands are touching the yellow bands, then it is a venomous coral snake. Coral snakes tend to hide in leaf piles or burrow into the ground.

Symptoms:

Signs or symptoms associated with a snake bite may vary depending on the type of snake, but may include:

- A pair of puncture marks at the wound
 - Redness and swelling around the bite
 - Severe pain at the site of the bite
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Labored breathing (in extreme cases, breathing may stop altogether)
 - Disturbed vision
 - Increased salivation and sweating
- Numbness or tingling around your face and/or limbs

First Aid:

Workers should take the following steps if they are bitten by a snake:

- Seek medical attention as soon as possible (dial 911 or call local Emergency Medical Services.)
- Try to remember the color and shape of the snake, which can help with treatment of the snake bite.
- Keep still and calm. This can slow down the spread of venom.
- Inform your supervisor.
- Apply first aid if you cannot get to the hospital right away.
- Lay or sit down with the bite below the level of the

heart.

- Wash the bite with soap and water.
- Cover the bite with a clean, dry dressing.

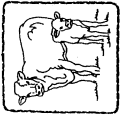
Do **NOT** do any of the following:

- Do not pick up the snake or try to trap it.
- Do not wait for symptoms to appear if bitten, seek immediate medical attention.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Do not slash the wound with a knife.
- Do not suck out the venom.
- Do not apply ice or immerse the wound in water.
- Do not drink alcohol as a painkiller.
- Do not drink caffeinated beverages.

NOTE from the EDITOR: With the weather warming up, snakes are coming out. Watch for them and be careful.

*Thoughts from the President -
Eddie Evans*

Hello everyone. With spring fast coming, everyone is getting ready for hay and so forth. Please be safe ! I would like to remind everyone of a slight change in the year ending procedure on renewing your membership. We have moved the deadline to the end of November from December to allow enough time to process before state deadline of January 1. Of course, we will always take memberships; this deadline is to insure no info is missed out on thru S.C.C.A. Remember safety first and have a great spring !



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