

# Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

## Newsletter

Volume 14

July 1, 2018

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### **Dr. Hupp, Lindsey Craig Discuss Cow Psychology and Dystocia with PCCA Junior Members**

by RD Morrison

After a hamburger supper, provided by Moore Ballieu Oil Company and cooked by PCCA members Jerry Moore and Drew Adams, Dr. Harold Hupp discussed cow pressure points, cattle vision and safe handling. The powerpoint presentation was well received by the assembled members. Although many juniors were on vacation, since school is out, the juniors in attendance were quite interested.

Upon completion of Dr. Hupp's powerpoint presentation, the juniors (and parents/adults) went outside to the calving simulator. Clemson Extension Area Livestock Agent Lindsey Craig discussed the process of calving and all were quite engaged. All the Juniors took part in the 'pulling' of a calf. Upon the satisfactory 'birth' of the calf, facilitated by Anabel Morrison and Olivia Knightner, the heavens opened up and the rain poured down. The PCCA directors and members scrambled to get the 'cow' inside before the storm really got going.

Thanks to Moore Ballieu Oil Company for sponsoring the meal (and cooking it), to Dr. Harold Hupp for the talk on cow psychology, to Lindsey Craig for the calving

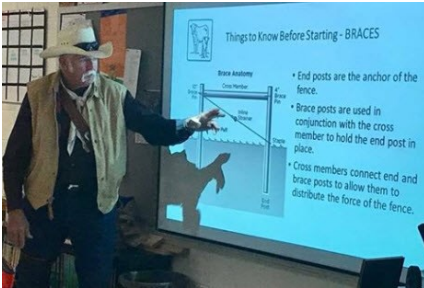
demonstration and to the Clemson Livestock and Forages Team for the use of the calving simulator.

The PCCA is proud to hold these meetings in the summer, while school is out, which are geared for the kids. The rules for the Junior meetings are simple: Kids in front, paying attention and asking questions - parents/grandparents in the back and staying quiet.

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## PCCA Helps PCC&TC FFA Build Fence

By RD Morrison



The PCCA helped the FFA in constructing a fence. The PCCA donated a roll of 1348-3, Stay-tuff fencing and Stay-Tuff donated a roll of 1348-3 fence, and o6 Farm Services donated all the 10 foot H-braces for the job.

RD Morrison held a class, complete with power-point presentation, to inform the FFA members on the details in building the fence - the whys and wherefores of fence building. Then, using his tractor and auger, the hands on portion began. The students took to the task quite nicely, putting in the sweat necessary and observing the intricacies of building a Stay-Tuff fence. They mentioned that they now notice fences while driving down the road. While trying to complete the job prior to hay harvest, PCCA members Jerry Moore, Drew Adams, Adam Pepper, Collin Morrison and RD Morrison worked a Saturday morning to complete a short piece of fence.

Thanks to Stay-Tuff, o6 Farm Services and the PCCA (and the PCCA members that helped) for making this a successful addition to the FFA's Livestock program.

## Prevent a Tree Stand Accident

Successful Farming at Agriculture.com

By Lisa Parker

When you think about hunting accidents, firearm injuries probably come to mind. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, however, tree stand accidents are actually the leading cause of injury to hunters every season.

Here are some tips for avoiding a tree stand accident:

- Always use a full body safety harness when hunting from a tree stand, as well as when climbing.
- A safety strap should be attached to the tree to prevent falling more than 12 inches.
- Inspect the safety harness for signs of wear and tear or damage before each use.
- Make sure a helper is present when installing a hanging or ladder tree stand.
- Always inspect trees to make sure they are healthy with no dead branches or trunks before climbing or installing stands.
- Use three point method of contact. Two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot should always be in contact with steps.
- Remember that rain, frost, ice or snow can cause steps to become slippery.
- Always use a haul line to raise or lower gear and to unload firearms or bows to your stand. Do not carry items when climbing.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The PCCA wants all our members to work safely. Many hunt and this article is intended to reduce hunting accidents. Hunting season is on the way.

# Top 10 Traits of a Successful Grazing Land Manager

By Jeff Goodwin

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

A survey was recently conducted of 14 resource professionals who have spent their entire working careers assisting these land stewards through the good and tough times. These professionals are from respected institutions such as the Noble Research Institute, Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program, the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and several private consultants. Together, these professionals total more than 469 years of experience. Based on their responses, we organized the top 10 traits of successful grazing land managers below.

## **10 Cautious risk taker**

A cautious risk taker is someone with an open mind and willing to consider more effective and efficient methods of doing things. They often carefully consider new technologies and might implement a test on a small portion of their operation. Many times, they are willing to try new ideas and concepts. They take risks based on knowledge, experience, and sometimes hunches, but on a limited basis. They rarely risk everything and always operate within a safety margin.

## **9 Willingness to share knowledge**

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples, then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas." Most producers who are successful often get great ideas from their peers. They talk and learn from each other, many times gaining more satisfaction from seeing others succeed than themselves.

## **8 Have clear, measurable and attainable objectives**

*(Continued from page 4)*

Successful outcomes are very often a result of carefully planned objectives. Clearly stated objectives keep sideboards on expectations. In order to achieve success, you must also know when you get there. It is often stated, "You can't manage what you don't measure." From available forage to production costs, it's hard to take advantage of an opportunity if you don't know you had an opportunity in the first place. Monitoring and keeping good records is a common practice among successful ranchers. A recent study conducted by Texas A&M indicated that less than 15 to 20 percent of producers monitored their forage, indicating 80 to 85 percent may not know how much forage they have or need. Most successful producers, at a minimum, consistently monitor rainfall, available forage, body condition score relative to class of livestock and reproductive stage, and market tendencies. Then, they act on monitoring triggers.

### **7 Have a conservation ethic**

In 1949, Aldo Leopold stated, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Successful managers want to leave their properties for the next generation better than when they received it. This requires an inner conviction to be a responsible caretaker of the land and all its parts.

### **6 Big picture thinker**

Big picture thinkers don't get caught up in the weeds. Meaning, they focus on big picture outcomes and don't get derailed by minor setbacks. Where others tend to find problems, they try to find opportunities and structure their business to decrease risk and be positioned to capitalize on opportunities inherent in turbulent conditions. They understand how all the pieces of their operation are interrelated and find leverage to change the system for the better of the entire operation.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## **5 Lifelong learner**

Successful managers often stay up-to-date of new techniques and technologies, and they are not afraid to cautiously try them. Often, they keep updated by staying active in professional development and associations. However, being involved is not enough. They have the ability to not just hear but listen. They understand that they can learn something from anyone, often learning the most valuable lessons from the most unlikely situations.

## **4 Have an inquisitive and passionate mind**

Inevitably, if you ranch long enough somebody's going to say, "You're doing it wrong." Inquisitive and passionate ranchers often are the innovators in the crowd, asking questions and continually evaluating everything. Most are quick to disregard practices that do not work and search for new solutions. This requires a creative and innovative mind that is always thinking. They often reject the "that won't work here" or "this is how we've always done it" paradigm. They are keen observers, and many come from a nontraditional ranch background.

## **3 Understand ecological principles**

Most successful managers have the ability to observe climate, animal and plant interactions, and they make management decisions that capitalize on those conditions. They understand the real purpose of roots versus leaves and where the plant makes its food. They may not know the name of the plant, but they understand plant selectivity and production differences. Most certainly, they understand soils are the building blocks. They know that soils are teeming with life and that biology drives most systems such as nutrient cycles, water cycle, etc.

## **2 Manage the ranch as a business**

These are managers who make decisions based on the physiological needs of the vegetation, the nutritional and habitat requirements of the animals, and the financial reali-

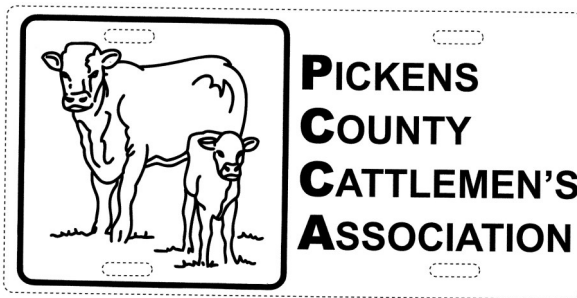
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ties of the ranching business enterprise. They scrutinize every dollar spent, limiting unnecessary and nonprofitable inputs. They completely understand that profitability will often come down to how he or she controls costs.

### **I Flexible and adaptive**

Most successful managers are continually updating plans based on new knowledge. Many times the reason for their success is they are not rigidly managing. Stocking rates are the most critical decision a producer has to make, and this decision should be flexible with weather and markets. Many of the biggest ranch failures, ecologically and economically, have come from having rigid stocking rates despite changing forage conditions. Successful grazing land managers understand there are no easy answers, no simple solutions, no cookbook recipes for success, no magic wonder grass, no magic breed, and no magic herbicide. They succeed because they are flexible and adapt..

Concentrating on developing any single trait on this list is a move in the right direction. However, the best grazing land managers will possess some aspect of all of these traits.



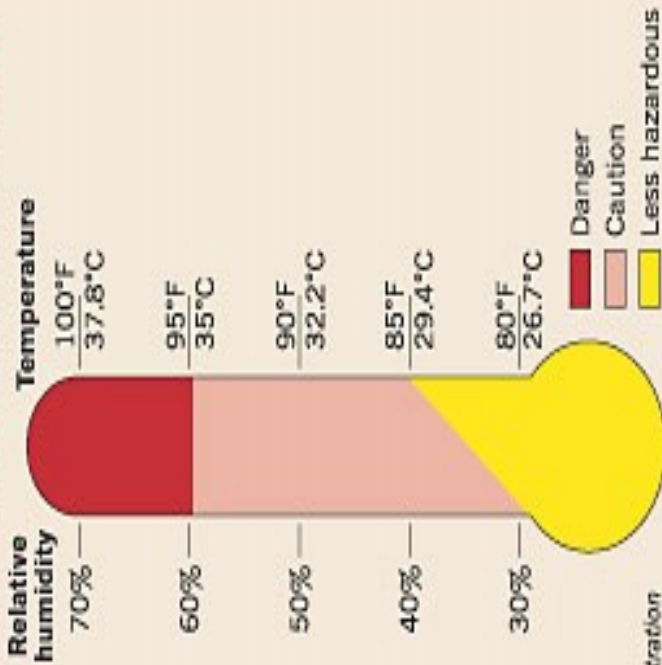
Have you gotten your PCCA car tag yet? If not, contact PCCA Secretary Jennifer Ruth or any of the officers or directors.

## The Heat Equation

**High Temperature + High Humidity + Physical Work = Heat Illness**

When the body is unable to cool itself through sweating, **serious** heat illnesses may occur.

The most severe heat-induced illnesses are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If left untreated, **heat exhaustion** could progress to **heat stroke** and possible **death**.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor,  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

The weather has turned HOT! Be sure to stay hydrated - drink water or Gatorade™, not Cola's because they have caffeine in them. Cool off every now and then in the shade or air conditioning.



Page 9  
PCCA Advertisers  
Appreciation Supper-May 2018



**PCCA Website would like your help.** The PCCA website, [www.pickenscountycattle.com](http://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](mailto:pcca@pickenscountycattle.com).

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## SCCA Annual Meeting a Success

By RD Morrison



PCCA Members Joe Davis and Mike Hall talking with Dr. Temple Grandin at the SCCA Annual Meeting on April 4th at the Garrison arena. Joe provided the cattle for the cattle handling demonstration.



Over 325 people attended The SCCA Annual Meeting held at the T. Ed Garrison Arena along with 49 exhibitors, 19 sponsors and 59 students.

Dr. Temple Grandin gave a talk on cattle handling and had a live demonstration. In addition to Dr. Grandin, Drs. Don Ball and Garry Lacefield gave talks on forage use, forage types and hay.

PCCA President Eddie Evans was elected to the 2nd Vice President position in the SCCA. He is also the Legislative Committee chairman.

The SCCA Annual Meeting was a big success. Good information, good vendors and **NO CHICKEN SERVED** (unlike last year). If you missed it, you missed a good one.

*Thoughts from the President -  
Eddie Evans*

Hello everyone. Hope all is well!

I would like to take this time to tell everyone a little about me. I grew up mostly at the Arial Mill Hill. In my younger years, I spent a lot of weekends with my aunts, uncles and cousins that had farms with cows, horses, chickens and pigs and so forth. When I wasn't doing that, it was hunting or fishing. When I turned 15 years of age, I went to work at Singer in Pickens for about 2 years. At age 17, I had a chance to go to work at the Elljean plant of Alice Mfg. Co. and still work for Alice today! Elljean is also where I met my wife Karren. I worked my way to a winder fixer then to maintenance for about 25 years. Now, I'm at 30 years plus and running the Alice Mfg. Co. farm - And happily married to my wife for 26 plus yrs.

Eddie Evans

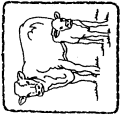
Alice Farm Manager

S. C. Cattleman Association 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.

S. C. Beef Council B.O.D.

Pickens Co. Cattleman Association President

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