



Pickens County Cattlemen's Association

222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

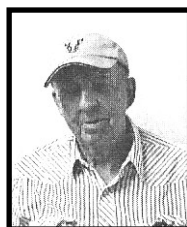
Newsletter

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Pickens County Cattleman of the Year - Johnnie Newton

by RD Morrison



Johnnie Newton was born on January 9, 1935. Johnnie and Betty Lou were married in 1964. The farm that they live on was founded in 1924. The farm raised cotton and always had cows, but Johnnie got into the hog business in 1978. A complete hog farm with farrowing barn to a finishing barn, they had about 100 hogs. He got out of the hog business in 1989.

He was a founding member of the Pickens County Livestock Association (that's what they called it then) in 1966 along with Jim Ponder, President, Frank Fleming, Secretary (who worked for the Clemson Extension), Frank Chastain, Treasurer, and JR Wood. The story goes that Jim Ponder had a fertilizer store and asked Johnnie if he was interested in helping to organize a livestock association. The first meetings were held in the Bowen Agricultural Building on Pendleton Street between the courthouse and the Pickens County Health Department in Pickens. Many meetings were held at farms throughout the county. Frank Chastain would arrive with a truck loaded with chairs and tables and benches. The meetings were always very informative with Clemson Extension taking the lead to bring information to the cattlemen. It was decided that the Asso-

ciation needed a portable squeeze chute. Bill Clayton got the Farm Bureau to agree to pay for half of the cost of the chute. One was found at the livestock expo in Louisville, Kentucky, and Johnnie and Howard Hiller met the salesman in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1995 and pulled it home behind Johnnie's truck. The Soil and Water Conservation Committee purchased a no-till drill and Johnnie and Haggood Watson made the trip to bring it home.

Johnnie was very active in the Young Farmers program and still is an avid supporter of the FFA. He has served as the President of the Pickens County Cattlemen's Association twice and has served as a Director many times. He was very instrumental in organizing the South Carolina Cattle Expo (2005, 2006) along with Dr. Harold Hupp and RD Morrison.

Johnnie still has cattle and bales his own hay. He attends the PCCA meetings and still contributes time and ideas to the association. He has given a lifetime of service to the PCCA, even when he was not serving as an officer or director. He may have slowed a little, but Johnnie Newton is a very worthy 2017 PCCA Cattleman of the Year.



Resolve to 'AGCERCISE'

Successful Farming at Agriculture.com
By Lisa Parker

Getting fit is one of the top New Year's resolutions people make every year. Often, this means an expensive gym membership that ends up going unused after a couple of months. It's hard enough to get motivated to go to the gym when it's a few blocks away, but when you have to drive to town to work out, the chances are even greater that the resolution will fall by the wayside. That's where a home gym comes in - or rather, a farm gym. Why just exercise when you can "agcercise" at home?

Sure, you can buy exercise equipment and set up a gym in your basement or a corner of the farm shop, but chances are, you already have everything you need to get a complete workout. Of course, before you begin any exercise routine, see your physician for approval and recommendations.

Take some time to establish an on-farm routine. Go for a walk around the farm (also great exercise) and look for opportunities to work out. Then, write down a plan and get your family involved. Following are a few ideas:

- Every farm has a few old tires lying around. Take a page from the football coach's handbook and flip a tractor tire several times, or place smaller tires in a zigzag pattern on the ground and run down the line.
- Get your shoulders into shape with old-fashioned pull-ups. Grab the top of the kids' swing set or install a pipe across the top of a doorway in the barn or shop. If you don't already have a rope hanging from the hay mow, tie one from a rafter in the barn and climb it. Add a few knots to get yourself started. You can also use hanging

ropes for suspended push-ups. Or, place two heavy ropes on the ground, grab the ends, lift them, and slam them down for a battle ropes workout.

- Use any long handled tool to tone your obliques or side muscles. Place the handle behind your head, rest it across your shoulders, and steady it with your hands. Twist to the left and right several times. Just make sure you don't hit anything.
- Grab a yoga mat or a horse blanket, find a peaceful spot by the pond, on the porch, or even on top of a hay bale, and practice yoga, tai chi, or meditation. Never mind the curious looks you will no doubt get from the livestock.

While personal trainers offer all kinds of great advice, many of their workouts are actually inspired by agriculture. The farmer's walk is a popular exercise in gyms, and the idea comes from farmers carrying buckets of water or feed. To do the farmer's walk, pick up (carefully so you don't hurt your back; wear a weight belt if needed) something heavy in each hand. You can use dumbbells, of course, but buckets of feed or water works just as well and let you do some chores at the same time. Let the weights hang at your side and take small steps, moving as fast and far as possible without losing control. Work on increasing your distance and the amount of weight you can carry. This exercise is popular in strongman competitions, where lifters will often carry up to 1 1/2 times their body weight in each hand.

Nathan Eason of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension says doing chores the old-fashioned way every now and then can help replace some of the physical activity in farming that has been reduced by technology. Eason suggests walking to check property and livestock once in a

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while instead of always taking the four wheeler. “You will be more in tune with the needs of your property, and you will burn calories and get fit,” he says. Likewise, use a shovel and wheelbarrow sometimes instead of automatically hopping on the tractor or skid steer to clean the barn.

Keep track of the time you spend doing these chores and add them to your exercise tracker. Even though it’s part of your job, the exercise still counts!

Determine Land Area and Distance With Your Smartphone

By Austin Miles, Cattle and Technology Research Associate.
With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

How big is that pasture? How long is this fence line? How far is it to the nearest water point? All of these questions and more can be answered using the GeoMeasure application, a free download for both [iOS](#) and [Android](#) smartphones.

Knowing the area of a pasture or field is very useful information, especially when calculating application rates of a sprayer or determining stocking rate. GeoMeasure allows you to assess area in a multitude of units including square feet and acres. Users have two options to retrieve the area of a determined space: manual measurement, which entails dropping markers on your device's screen, or measurement by GPS, which simply means the device tracks your movement as you walk the perimeter of the given area. I have found the second option to be more precise because I cannot achieve the same level of accuracy dropping markers with my finger on the phone's screen. Much like [Google Maps](#) or the built-in map function on your phone, users can also choose from four map layouts: normal, satellite, hybrid or terrain.

The app also measures distance with remarkable accuracy. Once again, users can choose from a variety of units

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including feet, meters and miles. As with area calculations, users can choose from either a manual or GPS measurement. After you are done dropping markers on the map or walking the distance in question, the application totals the distance and displays the final reading at the bottom of the screen. From there, you can clear the measurements and start over; save the measurements as a photo on your phone; or share them via email, text message or through social media. This information can be quite handy to have when estimating the cost to build a fence or road, lay a waterline, or simply calculate how far livestock have to travel to water. GeoMeasure also tracks and provides elevation change along a given route or in a certain area.

I really like the functionality and overall design of the app, as well as the built-in tutorial and ability to offer suggestions to the developer for future features and updates.

One interface I have not used is the ability to import a [Keyhole Markup Language](#) (KML) file, a format used to display geographic data in an Earth browser such as [Google Earth](#).

While there is no charge to download or use the application, users will notice an abundance of advertisements around the border of their screen as well as the occasional pop-up ad. There is an option to remove ads for \$2.99. While nominal, I choose to look past the ads and continue to use the free version.

The next time you need to measure something, leave the tape measure in the toolbox and use your phone.



Did you renew your membership in the PCCA? If not, it is now past due. Don't miss a meeting notice, newsletter or meeting due to 'I forgot to renew'. You can go to www.pickenscountycattle.com to access a membership form. Fill it out, print it, then press submit. Mail the printed copy with your check to:

PCCA, 222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671.

Liquid Feed May Supplement Nutritional Needs of Cattle

By RD Morrison

Oakway Farm and Garden sponsored the November meeting about Westway Liquid Feed to supplement cattle. Dr. Robby Bondurant spoke on the benefits of this type of supplement.

Why do we supplement? Supplements provide protein, energy, minerals, vitamins when extra help is needed to help the available forages. It helps to digest forage. This liquid supplement provides a concentrated source of crude protein in a form that is effectively used by the microbes. It also contains sugars from molasses and critical minerals and vitamins. The liquid feed is fed via lick tanks or open trough. This allows every animal to take their turn and the intake (pH is the driver for intake) will match their need providing a more constant rumen environment.

Westway works with producers by having local support, area representation, and accessible technical support. They offer targeted nutrition, a wide selection of consistent, cost-effective products and are a reliable resource to cattlemen.

Dr. Bondurant gave examples of the cost of tubs compared to the cost of liquid feed. The 200 lb. tubs for a season cost \$589 per ton. The cost of the liquid feed was \$405 per ton DELIVERED plus the cost of the lick tank (\$250) equals \$488.33 per ton. A big advantage is that the liquid feed is delivered. The cost of the lick tank is only applied on that first season. Comparing the protein that is in a tub (24%) versus the protein in the liquid feed (32%) is a good way to compare apples to apples in your supplement.

For more information on Westway Liquid feed, please contact Oakway Farm and Garden at 864-672-8900.

Thank you, Kenneth Redmond and Dr. Robby Bondurant, for sponsoring a great meeting.

2017 Year in Review



Pickens Azalea Festival



SC Rep. David Hiott working the Azalea Festival booth.



Spanish Oaks Farm Field Day

PCCA members awarding the PCC&TC FFA \$500.



Black Vultures were a major topic in 2017.



Junior meeting on Drones.



Junior meeting at 5 Acre lots



PCCA member Chuck Sowell wins Stihl Chain-saw at advertiser appreciation meeting.



Moore & Balliew Oil Company Booth at advertisers appreciation meeting

Education Committee makes video on sweatless soil sampler posted on PCCA Facebook page



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.



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*Thoughts from the Past President -
Amy Wilson*

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as president this past year. It has been a huge eye opener for me to see the good that our cattle association does in our community and beyond. I encourage each of you to volunteer at our events and serve on our board so you can directly contribute to the positive benefits of the cattle association.

*Thoughts from the President -
Eddie Evans*

I would like to thank Amy Wilson for her commitment and dedication to the PICKENS COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION as she served as president. As we were recently informed, there are several issues coming up in legislation we need to keep an eye on and be vocal about. I urge everyone to get involved and voice your opinion with our legislators, senators and county council.

Thanks.

REMINDER

PCCA and SCCA Dues were due in December. SCCA dues were due in Columbia by December 31. IF you have not yet paid, please do so immediately. The PCCA is a great organization with great people—we do not want to lose anyone.

If you have already paid your dues—Thank you. If not, please renew. Invite a neighbor to come to a meeting. Invite them to check out our website, www.pickenscountycattle.com.

Have a Happy 2018!!



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