

Pickens County
Cattlemen's
Association

222 West Main St., Pickens, SC 29671

Newsletter

Volume 15

October 1, 2019

The PCCA Freezer Beef Committee Goes Hollywood

by RD Morrison

The PCCA started a freezer beef committee a few years ago. We have long enjoyed our own beef and saw an opportunity to open an alternative marketing system for our cattle into the locally grown market. The sale barn is a market where you get whatever you get. Shipping cattle to Iowa involves a lot of risk, but the returns are pretty good. Graded truckload sales are a good market, but few of us can fill a trailer with 48,000 pounds of beef. The purebred market has its own set of risks.

In comes the freezer beef market. The freezer beef page of the website, www.pickenscountycattle.com, offers our members an opportunity to enter the locally grown market. Freezer beef committee members must agree to operate under a set of rules that have been voted on.

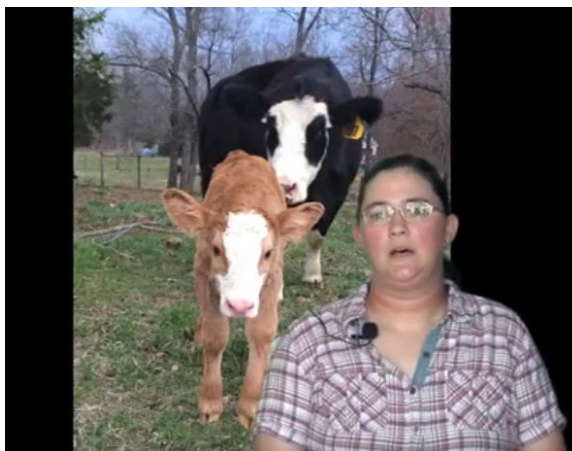
- All members must be BQA certified.
- No animal by-products can be fed.
- No steroids or growth hormones may be used.
- All cattle must have access to pasture.
- Members must adhere to a minimum pricing agreement

To promote our committee members, we have started to make videos of their operation and post them on the website. These 2 minute videos show pictures of

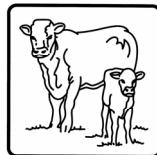
the cattle and the members talk about their operation. The video of the member is done in front of a greenscreen like the weather guessers use on television. The pictures of their farm appear behind them. The videos appear on the Freezer Beef page of our website, www.pickenscounty.com. We invite you to go to the site and check them out.

All in all, the videos came out pretty good with many positive comments. These videos are receiving more and more views from folks - which was the plan. Hopefully, these videos will increase our sales. Thanks to the members that have participated in this so far and to RD and Scout Morrison for their work in videoing and editing the videos.

Look out George Lucas!



Jennifer Ruth



Stay tuned for the advertisers appreciation / politicians appreciation meeting! We plan to hold this BIG meeting in November but we are waiting to see what the Coronavirus is going to do. Right NOW, we plan on having it.

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Jerry Moore



Dr. Poag Reid



Jeff Pepper



Safety for Senior Farmers

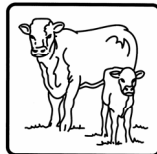
By David W. Smith
Texas A&M Extension Safety Program

Note from the Editor: In 2020, we are focusing on senior farmer safety. This is the fourth installment.

Safety Tips for Senior Farmers

Reducing farm hazards and risk of injury and death is generally no different for senior farmers than for any other age group of farmers. The most effective way to minimize farm hazards is to re-design the work environment, machinery, or methods to perform work tasks to lessen the exposure to injury and make safety a priority. It is much more difficult to change attitudes and behaviors, especially in senior farmers who have many years of experience where risky behavior has become acceptable and has had positive results. In light of the limited physical abilities that may be encountered, the following suggestions are especially important to the safety and health of senior farmers.

- Increase light levels in barns and other work environments
- Equip stairs and steps with handrails and non-slip surfaces
- Make sure all paths in barns and building remain clean and free from obstacles
- Ensure all corrals and animal confinement areas are structurally secure and equipped with escape routes
- Equip gates with easily accessible and workable latches and locks
- Use hearing protection while operating loud equipment and in noisy animal confinement areas



**Members are reminded to call the
Clemson Extension office
(864-878-1394 x 0) if you are
attending a meeting.**

- Limit particularly hazardous tasks to daylight hours where light is brightest
- Use powered lifts and mobile material carts to transport hay bales, feed, etc. around the farmstead
- Equip all tractors with rollover protection structures (ROPS) and seatbelts
- Limit tractor operation to daylight hours
- Refrain from operating machinery and tractors while under the influence of prescription drugs which have side effects that limit your reaction time, sense of balance, and that interfere with your ability to perform work safely.

Farmers are unique in that they often remain productive much later in years compared to men and women in other occupations. One reason for this is their innate ability to modify their worksites or restructure their work tasks to accommodate their diminished physical abilities. Contributions from farm family members also play an important part in helping older farmers continue to be a major part of the farm enterprise.

Farmers are typically good problem solvers, adept at modifying equipment, tools, and machinery to make farm tasks easier. This ability to adapt prolongs a farmer's productivity. Recognizing the need for assistive devices and the large market potential, numerous existing and start-up companies now offer a range of products that make historically difficult and labor-intensive tasks much easier to perform. Not only do these products allow senior farmers and farmers with disabilities to continue being productive on the farm, they can benefit farm workers of all ages.



Covid 19 is still a threat to our area. In addition, the **influenza season is fast approaching.** In addition to social distancing, hand washing, mask wearing when social distancing is impossible, please take necessary steps to **avoid the flu.**

Boost Spring Grazing with Fall Spraying

By Corteva Agriscience

This is the season for repair — at least when it comes to pastures, says Scott Flynn, field scientist with Corteva Agriscience™. “During the spring, we control weeds so they’re out of the way of grass production,” Flynn explains. “In the fall, especially in cool-season grasses, we’re looking to repair the stand.”

Cool-season grasses are growing new tillers and rebuilding root systems that will carry them through the next growing season. “Think of it as maintenance season for grasses. Remove the competition from those undesirable weeds, and we can go into the next season with some dense, highly competitive grass stands that will hold back weeds,” Flynn says.

Maintaining that competition is critical to long-term weed control, says Bruce Anderson, Extension forage specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He adds that fall is an excellent time to evaluate what worked and determine what you could improve in your grazing program. Adding in more rotational grazing is a good way to improve the health, vigor and density of rangeland and pasture grasses.

“As you rotate, leave more residue behind when moving livestock to new pastures,” Anderson says. “Healthy, competitive grass stands are essential to reduce weed populations. Weed control, along with carefully monitored grazing, will lessen the opportunity for weeds to take hold while helping to thicken grass stands.”

Target Susceptible Weeds

Fall is an excellent time for biennial and perennial weed management. Treating biennial weeds, such as musk and bull thistle and spotted knapweed, or perennials, including Russian knapweed, Canada thistle and leafy spurge,

can reduce suppression of forage grasses.

“While the benefits of fall weed control often aren’t noticeable in the fall, they stand out in the spring,” says Mark Renz, Ph.D., weed specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Removing these troublesome species allows the forage grass recovery in absence of competition. This often results in higher grass yields in pastures and rangeland.”

Fall timing helps herbicides that already translocate well — such as [DuraCor®](#), [Chaparral™](#), and [Graslan® L](#) herbicides — reach the root structure more efficiently, a critical element in successful control of perennial weeds.

“These later-season treatments can be just as successful — and equally as important — as spring or early summer herbicide applications,” Flynn says. “Fall applications perform well on many weed species because the herbicide moves from the foliage to the roots along with the plant’s winter food reserves.”

This is a good time to catch up on pasture weed control for other reasons, too:

- Most biennial and perennial weeds are active and susceptible; many desirable plants are dormant.
- Biennial weeds are easier to control in the rosette stage of growth.

Winter annuals are easy to control, too, helping to preserve moisture and nutrients.

To learn more about fall weed control and herbicide selection, visit your local Extension service office, ag chem dealer or applicator, or contact your local Corteva Agriscience Range & Pasture Specialist.

2020 Fall Cattle Market Outlook: Hopeful, but be Prepared

By Jason Bradley

Agriculture Economics Consultant

With permission of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation

I feel like I can safely say that the markets in 2020 have been a little off. It's like we've been on an insane roller coaster ride, with cattle prices going up and down, bouncing around all over the place, leaving us with no option but to hold tight while we ride the markets out. The October feeder cattle contract has traded as high as \$157 in January and as low as \$113 in April. That's a \$350 per head swing in the span of about 12 weeks. Definitely not what we're used to.

PRICES ARE LOOKING HOPEFUL

However, where does that leave us today? As of this writing, Aug. 12, 2020, that same October contract was traded at \$150, which shows some good news and optimism for fall marketing. So what's causing these higher prices?

SUPPLY

However, where does that leave us today? As of this writing, Aug. 12, 2020, that same October contract was traded at \$150, which shows some good news and optimism for fall marketing. So what's causing these higher prices?

DEMAND

As feeders moved through their inventory that came in this spring, the cattle that were held by producers have run the supply a little short, driving up demand

for feeder cattle in the yards.

WEATHER

The drought monitor is showing drier conditions for many parts of the Southwest as we continue through the year (you can find the latest outlooks for drought at <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/ConditionsOutlooks/Outlooks.aspx>). These drier conditions may become more influential as we head into winter.

FEED PRICES

Current estimates are pointing toward record yields for corn and soybeans. This will help in the feedyards as it will help pull feeding costs lower, allowing for better cattle prices. So there is hope. The markets have come up, the feed supply is looking strong, and there is potential for demand for cattle from the feedyard. But in a year where we've been a little off — I mean way off — it's hard to have any real certainty of what's to come. What are consumers going to be doing? What is the government going to put into effect? How is our ability to trade going to look? What does the coronavirus look like in the coming months?

BEST ADVICE FOR UNCERTAINTY

It is difficult to know what to expect for future markets, but you can still be prepared to make the most of your situation. The best advice I can give you right now is to:

- Know your breakevens.
- Know your cost of gain on your calves.
- Look at what the market is offering and when.

Consider some risk management.

*Thoughts from the President -
Drew Adams*



First let me say that these are some different, and somewhat difficult times we are in right now. COVID-19 has made an impact on, not only the Pickens County Cattlemen's Association meetings, but us as a whole. I understand the importance of precautionary measures, and am thankful that we have taken this seriously, and we haven't had to read in the local news "PCCA Meeting Turns Deadly", is this a little over the top, maybe, but perspective is typically reality with most.

That said, your elected Board of Directors received an email from RD during the last couple of weeks concerning meeting turnout. Just know this was solely directed to members that have been typically non-active, even prior to the COVID-19 situation. If you have been, and are active, please disregard, feel free to 'call in', we will figure a way, but your input is just as important during these times as any other.

During our last two meetings we were unable to get anything accomplished, as we were shy of a quorum. During these uncertain times, if you are able to dial in, we can update you on the Votes, and you can then Vote your way. (This will be looked at, as the economy, and government mandates, are adjusted and broadened, hopefully back to normal within the coming weeks).

We have the Directories at (106 Shady Grove Road, Pickens, SC 29671) Moore & Balliew Oil Company, and many of you are customers, simply ask one of us to grab you one, the next time you stop by. This is one of the issues we have been unable to resolve, due to low turnout. By the time you read this, we would have discussed non-active members of the Board, and how to get them re-engaged, or to ask them to resign, so that we can make a quorum.

Thank You.

Handy Farm Inventions

By RD Morrison

Many of us use equipment that connects to our tractor remote hydraulics. Round balers and no-till drills come to mind. I am set in my ways and like to push the remote lever forward for down and pull on the lever for up. I don't always guess correctly and have to get off the tractor to switch the hydraulic hoses. A red tie wrap on



the hose that goes in the right side remote eliminates this problem. Just remember the old sailors saying when returning to the port: "red, right, returning". This tip will save getting off and on the tractor.

Synopsis Treasurer's Report—9/21/20

Beginning Balance: \$7294.07
Ending Balance: \$8782.49

Income:	\$12187.00	Printing:	
Ads:	\$7395.00	Directory:	\$2993.07
Dues:	\$2940.00	General:	\$76.62
Reimbursed:	\$410.00	Newsletter:	\$110.98
Tags:	\$105.00	Website:	\$700.00
		Tax:	\$1.96
Expense:	\$8729.17	Travel & Entertainment:	
Donations:	\$772.00		\$965.25
Dues:	\$1590.00	Meals:	\$677.57
Miscellaneous:	\$132.99	Tableware:	\$287.68
Postage:	\$605.58		
General:	\$383.50		
Newsletter:	\$305.00		



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