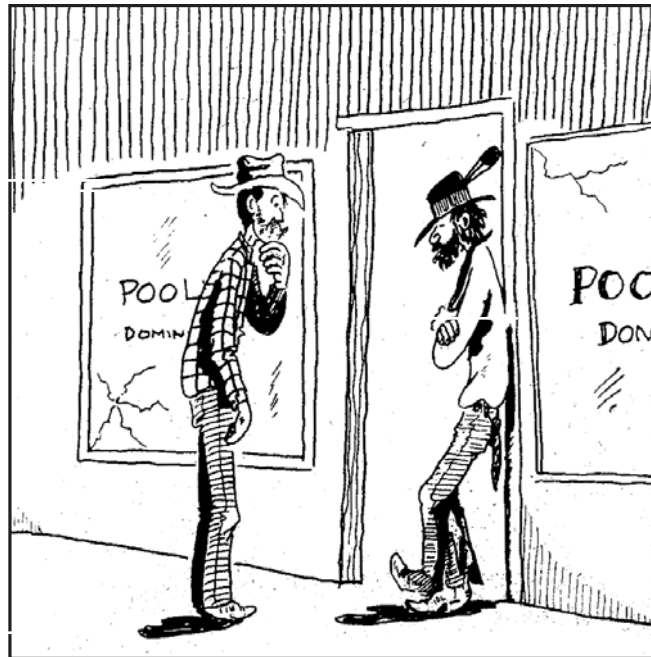


Upcoming Events

MARCH 10	GCA LEGISLATIVE DAY GEORGIA CAPITOL
MARCH 12	MGCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING CONCORD CAFÉ 7 PM
MARCH 14	EQUIPMENT SALE - 10 AM FARMERS LIVESTOCK MARKET
MARCH 15	MID-GA SCHOLARSHIP DUE SPALDING EXTENSION OFFICE
March 16, 23 & 30	BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE UPSON COUNTY
MARCH 17	ALFALFA IN THE SOUTH ATHENS
MARCH 20	PIKE HEALTH FAIR- 7-11AM LIFE SPRINGS CHURCH
APRIL 1-4	GCA CONVENTION & BEEF EXPO PERRY
APRIL 9	MGCA DIRECTORS' MEETING PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED
APRIL 30	FARMERS LIVESTOCK MARKET SPECIAL SALE - NOON
MAY 2	MONROE CO. H.E.R.D. SALE HAM FARM, SMARR 12:30

COW POKES

by Ace Reid



"Shore, I'm a cowboy ... saw Willie Nelson one time!"

News From Farmers Livestock Market, LLC

Spring Equipment Sale

Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 10:00 am.

Bred Heifer Sale

April 30, 2015 at 12 noon

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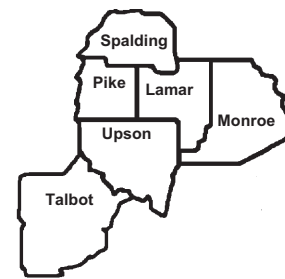
For More Details: Call Barry Robinson, 256-453-6123

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BULL SHEET

VOL. L

MARCH - APRIL, 2015

No. 2

MGCA MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join us at the
Concord Café in Concord, GA on
Thursday, March 12th at 7 PM
for a delicious buffet dinner and educational program.

The Steer and Heifer Show participants will be recognized and
the Elsie Sell Buckle will be presented by the cattlemen.

Our sponsors for the evening are
B & B Feed and Seed of Thomaston and Southern Livestock Supply.

The program will consist of Royal-Grow's representative
discussing their liquid fertilizer and AgriLab will demonstrate
their Vet Gun for insecticide application.

HELP US OUT and RSVP

We are trying to get an estimate of how many people will be attending
the meeting. This will help ensure we have adequate food. Please take
the time (if you have internet) and go to our website mgcaonline.com
and click on the link- Meeting RSVP. You don't have to make
reservations, but it would certainly help.

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Membership meetings are held the 2nd Thursdays in
alternate months starting in January.

Directors' meetings are held the 2nd Thursdays in months
alternating with membership meetings.

Editor: Cynthia Douglas

5500 Barnesville Hwy., The Rock, Georgia 30285
douglasfarm@windstream.net - 706-647-9414

Annual membership dues is for subscription to Bull Sheet.
2015

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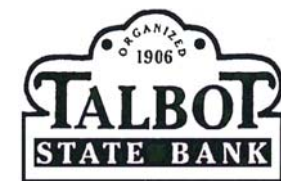
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TOTAL ENCLOSED _____



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RECIPE CORNER



ITALIAN SWISS STEAK

INGREDIENTS

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 pounds boneless beef top round steak,
cut into serving-size pieces
1/4 cup butter, cubed
1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon dried basil
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/2 cup chopped green pepper
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Directions:

1. Place flour in a large resealable plastic bag. Add beef, a few pieces at a time, and shake to coat. Remove meat from bag; pound to flatten.
2. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, brown steak on both sides in butter. Add the tomatoes, salt, basil and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1 hour or until meat is tender.

3. Add green pepper and onion. Cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Sprinkle with cheese; cook 2 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Yield: 6-8 servings.



Nutritional Facts

1 serving (1 each) equals 254 calories, 12 g fat (6 g saturated fat), 87 mg cholesterol, 664 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 30 g protein.

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Congratulations to Caroline Waldrep & Jessica White for all their accomplishments showing cattle! We wish you luck with your future plans after graduation.

THANK YOU

to all the 2015 Show sponsors, volunteers
and donors for your dedication.

-- Show Committee

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- #10 They have about 20 miles before they overheat, breakdown or run out of gas.
- #9 Only the owner knows how to operate the door to get in or out.
- #8 It is difficult to drive fast with all the fence tools, grease rags, ropes, chains, syringes, buckets, boots and loose papers in the cab.
- #7 It takes too long to start, and the smoke coming up through the rusted-out floorboard clouds your vision.
- #6 The Border Collie on the toolbox looks mean.
- #5 They're too easy to spot. The description might go something like this: The driver's side door is red, the passenger side door is green, the right front fender is yellow, etc.
- #4 The large round bale in the back makes it hard to see if you're being chased. You could use the mirrors if they weren't cracked and covered with duct tape.
- #3 Top speed is approximately 45 mph.
- #2 Who wants to steal a truck that needs a year's worth of maintenance, u- joints, \$3,000 in body work, tail-lights and windshield?
- #1 It is hard to commit a crime with everyone waving at you.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DANNY BENTLEY
MGCA PRESIDENT

Greetings,

First, I would like to congratulate all of you who have worked so hard, again this year, to make MGCA one of the top chapters in Georgia. We have received notice from GCA, that we will receive \$100.00 for net membership increase of 5 or more new members over the previous year. We will also receive a cash award of \$500.00 for placing 2nd in the largest GCA net increase and a plaque for the Largest Multi-County Chapter in 2014. These awards will be presented at the GCA Convention's Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 2, 2014 at 7:00p.m.

We had a great crowd last year for the Awards Banquet and also for the Cattleman's Ball on Friday night at the convention. You can go to the last issues of GCA Magazine and use the registration form posted in it to register.

On the business side, there is a lot of talk about the economics of herd expansion. I try to read every publication I can, put it all together and come to my own conclusion. It appears to me we, in the cattle business, should see at least five more years of good prices. Even though bred cows are high at this point, so are their calves. I have bought some cows for \$1400.00 to \$1600.00 that are bred and should calve in six months or so. If the price for calves stays the same, I should, on

average, have an \$1100.00 calf in a year or so. That looks pretty good to me, as far as expansion. Now, there are people who do not agree with my assessment, and that's ok. Growing is not for everybody. Buying land is too expensive and good fenced property to lease is almost impossible to find and there are all those other expenses, hay, fertilizer, minerals, equipment, vet fees and others that factor in. Bottom line to me, do what you can afford to do. We still need to have more coming in than going out. Good luck with your choice on which way to go!

In closing, look to our Bull Sheet for upcoming local events and I hope to see you all in Concord for our March Membership meeting and don't forget to sign up a neighbor.

Sincerely,
Danny

**MID-GEORGIA CATTLEMAN'S ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 8, 2015
GRIFFIN, GEORGIA**

President Danny Bentley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He also thanked Freddie Butts for catering the meal. Each new Director was asked to stand and be recognized.

Danny led the Invocation.

Minutes - The minutes as published in the Bull Sheet were approved.

Financial Report - Tom Freeman presented the financial report. It was approved as presented.

GCA Report - Rodney Hilley announced that GCA has

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a new Director of Association Services, Blake Poole, who began work the first of January.

He also reported on the GCA legislative priorities for this year;

1. Passage of legislation that will reduce liability for cattle owners at various cattle events, such as a sale, field day, show.

2. Continue support for the funding of outdated and failing equipment at the Veterinary Diagnostic Labs.

Old Business - Danny discussed the membership growth and the fact that we exceeded our goals for the past year.

Cattlemen's Report - Cynthia Douglas stated that they will once again have the concession stand at the upcoming steer and heifer show and that any help would be greatly appreciated.

She also reminded everyone about the GCA Convention in Perry.

Cynthia discussed the Georgia Beef Board activities and encouraged everyone to use the Board's website.

300 copies of the Bullshead were mailed and included the new Vet Talk article.

Steer and Heifer Show-Wes Smith said that set up for the shows will be on Monday, January 26th. Any help is appreciated. The dates for the shows are January 30th and 31st at the Upson Ag barn. This will be the 70th annual West Central Georgia show, making it the 2nd longest continually running show in the state!

Extension Agent Reports - Wes Smith announced that there will be a semen testing clinic available at Farmers Livestock Market on January 20th at 2:30 p.m.

The Beef Cattle Shortcourse will be held on March 16th, 23rd and 30th at the Upson Extension office. Cost will be \$55.00.

New Business: - Ray Brumbeloe discussed the

association's website (mgcaonline.com) and asked for any information that needed to be included.

Danny discussed the "Pay it Forward" program and encouraged others to do the same.

Danny mentioned that Tracy Boyt will be attending the Emerging Leaders Conference, sponsored by GCA later this month.

The GCA Legislative Biscuit Breakfast will be held around the first of February and any member interested in going is welcome to do so.

The GCA Convention will be held in Perry on April 1-4, 2015.

The GCA Tour will be held on April 22-25th and is going to Florida.

The GCA Summer Conference will be held at St. Simons Island on July 22-25th.

Tom Freeman announced that the Greene Scholarship money had been paid out.

Program - Wade Hutcheson introduced the sponsors for the meeting:

Mid Georgia Livestock Auction was represented by Seth Harvey and he discussed their program and thanked everyone for their business.

Country Financial was represented by Lou Wiggins and Tim Page. They discussed the programs their company has to offer.

The next Directors' meeting will be held on February 12th in Barnesville and the next membership meeting will be in Pike County on March 12th. Information will be in the next Bull Sheet.

Minutes taken and submitted by:
Rodney Hilley
Approved 2/7/15



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Gayla Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H

Trophy - Mid-Georgia Cattlemen
Cash Awards: Douglas Farm; Boyt's Hay Service;
Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



WEST CENTRAL GA
BEST HOMEGROWN REGISTERED HEIFER
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Trophy: Greuel Family Brangus
Cash Awards: Danfowin Farm; Farmers Livestock
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WEST CENTRAL GA
BEST MID-GA GROWN COMMERCIAL HEIFER
Anna Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H

Trophy - Timberlane Farms
Cash Awards: Thomaston Animal Hospital; Johnston
Plumbing & Irrigation; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



WEST CENTRAL GA
L-R SHOWMANSHIP WINNERS

Rookie Class - Jozie White
Junior Class - Anna Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H
Senior Class - Tom Morgan, Crawford FFA
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**WEST CENTRAL GA
GRAND CHAMPION STEER**
Jessica White, Mary Persons FFA

Trophy – Upson County Farm Bureau
Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



**WEST CENTRAL GA
RESERVE CHAMPION STEER**
Haley McDaniel, Veterans High FFA

Trophy – United Bank
Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Thomaston Animal Hospital; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



**WEST CENTRAL GA
GRAND CHAMPION HEIFER**
Tom Morgan, Crawford FFA

Trophy - AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA
Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Monroe County Farm Bureau; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



**WEST CENTRAL GA
RESERVED CHAMPION HEIFER**
Cal Pope, Coweta County 4-H

Trophy –SouthCrest Bank
Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Lemmon Cattle Enterprises; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC

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MID-GEORGIA CATLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS' MEETING February 12, 2015 BARNESVILLE, GEORGIA

President Danny Bentley called the meeting to order.
Tom Freeman led the Invocation.

Danny gave an update on Norma Sword and Danny McLeod and asked that everyone keep them and their families in their prayers.

The minutes from the January meeting were passed out.
Motion made and seconded to approve as printed. Motion passed.

Tom Freeman gave the Financial Report. Motion was made to approve and passed.

GCA Report- Rodney Hilley

Rodney mentioned HB 239, a bill to cover livestock owners for liability was in a House Subcommittee and would hopefully be passed this session.

Cattlemen's Report- Cynthia Douglas

Cynthia thanked everyone for their help at the recent Steer and Heifer Show. The show was a success, as this was the 70th Anniversary of the West Central Georgia Show. A good crowd was in attendance. Danny Bentley presented a talk on the history of the show and commemorative t-shirts were given out to all showmen and sold to interested individuals.

It was decided to keep Hamburger Day in June, on the weekend of Father's Day, even though Beef Month will be celebrated in May.

Cynthia mentioned that the Cattlemen will help with the Spalding Fair this year, if we have a booth there.

She mentioned that our Queen, Laranda Wainwright, helped at the shows and is available to help whenever needed at other Mid-GA events.

Farm Day will be held May 5th in Upson County and April 30th in Spalding County.

The Pike Health Fair will be held on March 20th from 7-11 a.m.

County Agent Reports

Wade Hutcheson stated that the scholarship name will be changed to Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Scholarship, and we will need to find ways to fund it after this year. Applications are being accepted for this year's scholarship.

Spalding Co. Extension will have several opportunities to obtain certification hours for your pesticide license.

A Beef Cattle shortcourse will be held in Upson County on March 16, 23 and 30th.

On Tuesday, March 17th, there will be an Alfalfa Shortcourse held in Athens.

Josh Rabalais, Upson High FFA Advisor discussed the recent Hog Show, which had over 30 hogs and was up over 30% over last year.

He encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Beef Cattle shortcourse to be held in Tifton in conjunction with the Tifton Bull Sale.

He also stated that they were in need for some scrap pipe, in order to use in their welding class, if anyone has any to donate, please contact him.

Tracy Boyt discussed his recent attendance at the GCA Emerging Leaders Conference in Macon.

Danny mentioned that the GCA Legislative Breakfast will be held on March 10th, from 7-9 a.m. at the Capitol. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

The GCA Convention and Beef Expo will be held April 1-4 in Perry.

Danny discussed the three awards that Mid-Georgia will receive at the convention. Among them is \$500 for 2nd place in the highest net increase in membership. Tracy Boyt made a motion that this \$500 should be placed in the scholarship fund. Motion was seconded and passed.

Danny discussed the upcoming Mid-Georgia Farm Tour. Possible locations in Monroe and Lamar counties were mentioned as possibilities.



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"To worry about what you can't do, is to waste what you can do."

The GCA Tour will be going to Florida this year on April 22-25th.

The GCA Summer Conference will be held at St. Simons Island on July 23-25, 2015.

Danny handed out the delinquent members list and asked that the Directors contact the ones in their county about re-joining.

Tom Freeman pointed out that we were due to give our annual payment of \$500 to the Mid-Georgia Cattlewomen. Motion was made, seconded and passed.

Young Cattlemen's Council- Bo Huddleston

Bo discussed the semen tank raffle. A semen tank, with a lot of Angus semen has been donated to the YCC for a fundraiser. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$100 each.

The YCC has formed an Educational Committee that will plan education programs to be held around the state.

The next Membership meeting will be March 12th in Pike County.

The next Directors' meeting will be held on April 9th. Location to be determined.

Minutes taken and submitted by:
Rodney Hilley

Vet Talk

Dr. Chanda Moxon Thompson, DVM

As we are approaching spring time, I wanted to discuss the causes and signs of cattle being affected by Hypomagnesemic tetany or what is commonly referred to as "grass tetany". Hypomagnesemic tetany is a metabolic disease dealing with magnesium, calcium, and potassium. This metabolic disease typically affects lactating cows and nursing calves. It is rare in nonlactating cattle but has occurred when undernourished cattle were introduced to green cereal crops. Often the cow/calf is found dead with no signs or explanation as to why.

So, in our cattle herds, our main concern is "how do our cows develop this and how is it treated/avoided.

Grass tetany is characterized by low levels of magnesium in the body, but when calcium levels fall below average this process becomes deathly; and, why we primarily see lactating cows on green lush pastures mostly effected.

Low levels of magnesium occur when animals are grazed on lush grass pastures or green cereal crops especially during spring and fall when potassium and nitrogen intakes are high do to either our soils being naturally high in potassium or, have high potassium levels due to fertilizer such as potash and nitrogen. High potassium ingestion results in decreased absorption of magnesium in the GI tract.

What are the signs of grass tetany? In the most acute form, affected cows, may appear to be grazing normally, but suddenly throw up their heads, bellow, gallop in a blind frenzy, fall, and exhibit severe paddling convulsions. These convulsive episodes may be repeated at short intervals, and death usually occurs within a few hours. In many instances, animals at pasture are found dead without observed illness, but an indication that the animal had convulsions before death may be seen from marks on the ground. In less severe cases, the cow walks stiffly, is hypersensitive to touch and sound, urinates frequently, and may progress to the acute convulsive stage after a period as long as 2-3 days.

Treatment for grass tetany has to be immediate in order to give them a chance for survival. Your veterinarian should be contacted and he/she will begin to correct the low magnesium and calcium levels with intravenous and oral medications. The cow can relapse within a 36 hours if proper supplements are not given daily.

If your cows are at risk of grazing a pasture with high potassium soil levels then prevention of grass tetany can be initiated by giving magnesium supplements daily to your lactating moma cows.

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Elsa Sell and Bill Farr wish to thank the Mid-Georgia Cattleman's Association for the 2014 Cattleman of the Year Award. We no longer sell Angus beef directly to the public, but will continue to have Angus genetics calves available.

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MIDDLE GA GRAND CHAMPION HEIFER

Anna Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H

Trophy – United Bank

Belt Buckle – Forsyth Feed and Seed

Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Akins Feed and Seed Co. INC; Spalding County Farm Bureau; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



MIDDLE GA BEST HOMEGROWN HEIFER

Gayla Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H

Trophy– Powder Creek Simmentals

Cash Awards – Brantley Farms; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



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MIDDLE GA RESERVE CHAMPION HEIFER

Gayla Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H

Trophy – Mid-Georgia Grain

Belt Buckle – Forsyth Feed and Seed

Cash Award: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Pike County Farm Bureau; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



MIDDLE GEORGIA SHOWMANSHIP WINNERS (L-R)

Novice – Jozie White, Monroe County 4-H

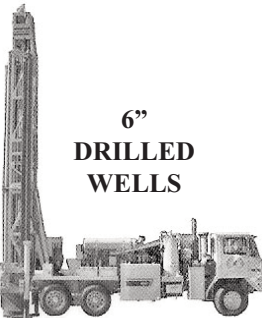
Junior –Anna Sizemore, Lamar County 4-H

Senior – Caroline Waldrep, Mary Persons FFA

SPONSORS: Novice Sponsor – Douglas Farm;

Junior and Senior Sponsor – Monroe County Cattlemen;

Cash Awards -Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



Middle GA Water Systems, Inc.

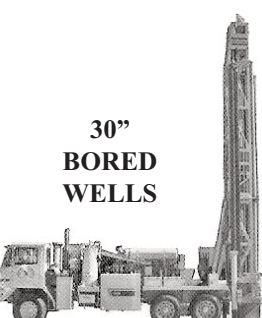
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2015 Steer and Heifer Shows

The 16th Middle Georgia Show was held on January 30 at the Upson-Lee AG Center. There were nine showmen participating in the show that was judged by Matthew Darby of Calhoun. The Grand Champion Steer was shown by Jessica White of Forsyth and Reserve Champion Steer was won by Karsyn Nauss of Forsyth. Anna Sizemore of Barnesville won Grand Champion Heifer and Gayla Sizemore of Barnesville won Reserve Champion Heifer. The Best Homegrown Heifer in the Middle GA Show went to Gayla Sizemore.

Fourteen 4-H and FFA members representing seven counties participated in the 70th West Central GA show on January 31st. The show was judged by Retired Extension Agent, Jack Wall. There were six steers and ten heifers shown. Jessica White of Forsyth captured Grand Champion Steer and Hayley McDaniel of Katheleen won Reserve Champion Steer. The Grand Champion Heifer belonged to Tom Morgan of Roberta and Reserve Champion Heifer went to Cal Pope of Hogansville.

There were six heifers in the Best Homegrown Registered Heifer Class with Tom Morgan taking top honors. The Best Mid-Georgia Registered Heifer award went to Gayla Sizemore and the breeder was Gayla Sizemore. The Best Mid-Georgia Commercial Heifer award was presented to Anna Sizemore and the breeder was Chad Thompson.



MIDDLE GA GRAND CHAMPION STEER

Jessica White, Mary Persons FFA

Trophy – SouthCrest Bank

Belt Buckle – Forsyth Feed and Seed

Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Akins Feed and Seed Co. INC; Carroll's Sausage & Meat, INC; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC



MIDDLE GA RESERVE CHAMPION STEER

Karsyn Nauss, Monroe County 4-H

Trophy – AgSouth Farm Credit, ACA

Belt Buckle - Forsyth Feed and Seed

Cash Awards: Mid-Georgia Cattlemen; Mid-Georgia Grain; Farmers Livestock Market, LLC

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CattleWomen's Report

By Cynthia Douglas, MGCW President

Thank you to all that assisted with the shows in January! We had a good turnout for the 70th Anniversary and it was great to see participants from past shows. I certainly learned a lot about the history of the West Central GA Show and it was interesting to see names of winners and individuals and businesses that have helped with the shows. Our show has a rich history of dedicated cattlemen and cattlegirls.

The Pike County Health Fair will be held on March 20th at the Life Springs Church located on the corner of Hwy 109 and Hwy 19. It will start at 7 am until 11 am. This is a great opportunity to have health screenings done and gather health information. We need volunteers to help man our association's booth, so contact me at 770-550-1070 if you want to help.

May is Beef Month and we need to start making plans to celebrate. Plans to have articles and features in local newspapers. Brochures and recipes will be available for you to distribute to local groups and at grocery stores and businesses. One idea for May Beef Month is to team up with local Blood Drives and provide beef certificates or assist in some way. Bring ideas to the next meeting in Concord.

Spalding County will have their Farm Day on April 30th and the Upson County Farm Day will be May 5th. Helpers will be needed to promote beef at these events.

I encourage you to check out the list of upcoming events and attend as many as possible to learn more about our industry. We will be helping with several other events that the cattlemen will have, so email me your email address so I can keep you updated. (douglasfarm@windstream.net)

Hope to see you in Concord where we will present the Elsie Sell Buckle to the high point showman from Mid-GA.

Cynthia

GCA NEWS

The 54th Annual Georgia Cattlemen's Association Convention & Trade Show and the 18th Annual Georgia Beef Expo is scheduled for April 1-4, 2015 in Perry, GA. We are very excited to have a great group of speakers lined up for you! Including Kevin Oschner from Cattlemen to Cattlemen will be speaking on "It's Your Bid", Dr. Nevil Speer will be doing a Livestock Marketing update and Matthew and Gary Burns will be doing a calving demonstration - just to name a few! Schedule of events & registration is located online & in the GCA Magazine.

Greener Grass

Wade Hutcheson,

Winter is not done with us yet and I hope it hasn't impacted you or your operations. Keep in mind that for every degree below 32F, a cow's nutritional requirement for maintenance increases 1%...if you've been holding onto higher quality hay, now's the time to feed it.

As we continue having cold snaps, keep the quality of your hay in mind and consider whether or not it is meeting the animal's nutritional requirements. There are several events coming up that you might be interested in attending. I suggest that you check out these sites for forage information and upcoming events.

www.georgiaforages.com

- * Article - Forage Quality & Cold Weather Alert
- * Southeastern Hay contest Makes Major Changes
- * Alfalfa in the South – March 17th in Athens – Check out the agenda and registration at this site
- * Forage Conference at the Cattlemen's Convention –April 1, 2015

Wade Hutcheson, Spalding County Extension Coordinator
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On February 26, 1946, the first Fat Cattle Show was held under the parking lot shed on the West side of Martha Mills. The show was sponsored by the Agricultural Committee of the Thomaston Kiwanis Club and the Upson County Beef Cattle Association. Harry Colquitt won Grand Champion Steer and Joe Hendricks won Reserve Champion Steer. There was a 4-H Judging Contest using show cattle from Fra-Mar Farm and Downs Farm of The

Rock. Winners in the older category were Roscoe Boyt and Edgar Legg and the 10-12 category went to Billy Morgan and Franklin Young. The judge for the events was Dr. Milton P. Jarnagin, Head of the Animal Husbandry at UGA. Following the award presentation, W. W. Dewey, Assistant to the Head of Animal Husbandry at the GA Experiment Station presented a "Type Demonstration". Other prize herd cattle were on exhibit by James Reeves, Ben Butts,



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and Bill Johnston. Prize money totaled \$150.

Frank Binford commented in the 1946 Thomaston Times newspaper, "The success of Tuesday's exhibition, in his opinion, will pave the way to make Thomaston the center of cattle shows for possibly fifteen counties in the future." The vision of this first group of cattlemen and Kiwanis members has been alive for 70 years thanks to the support of local businesses, organizations, donors, 4-H Agents, FFA Advisors, Extension Service, parents and the Mid-GA Cattlemen and Cattlewomen.

In 1947, there were 25 calves in the show. The showmen took their calves to the upcoming Macon Show and Upson merchants traveled to Macon to purchase all Upson County calves for minimum price of \$.25 per pound for good calves and \$.30 per pound for choice cattle.

Nearly 5,000 people attended the third show which included 31 calves. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution attended the show. The Grand Champion was shown by Hugh Hendricks. In the 1954 paper, Hugh stated that he was saving his money from showing cattle to go to college and he had saved \$1500. He went to college and became known to this area as Dr. Hugh, an excellent Veterinarian. Upson County Farm Bureau and Lions Club joined the sponsors.

In 1949, there were 41 entries that totaled \$10,000 when sold. Then in 1950, contestants showed their cattle at the Tabernacle and held their sale at the Georgia Farm Products Sale Barn. The Judge stated, "There is no other place in Georgia where the businessmen show more interest in developing the livestock program than in Upson County." Throughout

the years, this statement has remained true. The West Central Georgia Shows have always been backed by local merchants and cattlemen.

In 1955, the show was moved to the Georgia Farm Products Sale Barn. The next year the show increased to eight counties and 42 entries. The Hog Show was added in 1958 and the cattle and hog shows were held together until the early 1970's.

In 1963, the Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Association joined other groups in sponsoring the show. In 1974, there were 78 steers shown. Then in 1977, the Mid-Georgia Cattlemen became the main sponsor and local businesses and cattlemen continued sponsoring prize money while also adding the heifer show that included 11 heifers. The short, white wooden fence that had been used through the years was replaced by a 6 foot fence for safety according to the 1977 Bull Sheet.

A cow/calf class was started in 1987 and in 1988 the steer sale was discontinued. The Middle Georgia Show was added in 2000 and the shows were moved in 2007 to the Upson-Lee Agriculture Center.



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