## Upcoming Events

	2
March 10	MGCA Membership Meetin 7 PM Concord Café
March 12	SunSouth John Deere Open House Barnesville 10am – 2pm
March 15, 22, & 29	Forage School 7 pm Forage School 6:30 pm Upson Extension Office
March 30- April 2	GCA Convention and Beef Expo Perry
April 1	Pike County Health Fair Life Springs Church 7 - 11 am

April 23 Equipment Auction
Farmer Livestock Market

10 am

April 30 Special Heifer Sale

**Farmers Livestock Market** 

Thomaston 12:30 pm

May 7 Monroe County HERD Sale

12:30 pm

Sleepy Creek Farm, Forsyth

## **EQUIPMENT SALE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 AT 10:00 FARMERS LIVESTOCK MARKET 2626 YATESVILLE HWY, THOMASTON CONTACT BARRY ROBINSON (256-453-6123)

# Monroe County H.E.R.D. Sale May 7, 2016 • 12:30 p.m.

Selling Approximately 85 Bred Heifers Sleepy Creek Farm near Forsyth, GA

Data Available:

- A.I. Breeding & Sire EPDs
  - Pelvic Area
  - Frame Score
  - Disposition Score
- Weight per Day of Age
  - Average Daily Gain

All heifers will sell confirmed safe in calf to calving ease Angus Bulls.

All heifers will be bred A. I. at least once to Ten X, Lightning or Oahe Dam.

For more information or to receive a catalogue, call the Monroe County Extension at (478)994-7014.

Web info at http://www.ugaextension.com/monroe/

Email at uge2207@uga.edu

type HERD in the subject line

#### SPECIAL HEIFER SALE

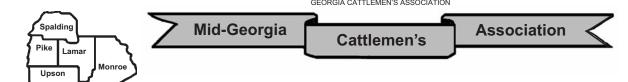
Honeywood Farm
Commercial Bred Heifer Sale
Saturday, April 30
at 12:30 pm
Approximately 150 Bred Heifers
Also 50 open heifers ready to breed
from Creekside Farm,
Bowden, GA

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of the

Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Association 5500 Barnesville Hwy., The Rock, GA 30285

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# BULL SHEET

Vol. LI MARCH - APRIL, 2016

No. 2

# MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING CONCORD CAFÉ at 7:00 PM



\$5.00 PER PERSON

The West Central Georgia Show Participants will be recognized and the Elsie Sell Buckle will be awards to our Mid-Georgia High Point Showman.

PROGRAM AND SPONSOR: Nationwide Agribusiness
Our speaker will be Bill Hembree with Nationwide Agribusiness.

"Today, Nationwide Agribusiness is the #1 farm insurer in the country thanks to the trust of our customers. Throughout our more than 100 years helping to protect agriculture, we've listened and learned and have developed best practices in identifying the unique hazards and risks faced by this industry, as well as creating ways to partner with farmers and ranchers to prevent losses.

We're proud of our heritage of protecting the nation's farmers and ranchers."

Please RSVP at mgcaonline.com.

This will help the Pike County Directors plan the meal for this meeting.

Thanks for your assistance!

## Charter Member, Harris Brantley, Honored

GCA and MGCA honored charter member Harris Brantley on his 97th birthday. Will Bentley presented him with a Proclamation and the CattleWomen gave him his 1978 winning recipe framed. Thanks Mr. Harris for your years of dedication to the cattle industry!



- see more photos page 7

PHOTO BY MATT SHARPE

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THE BULL SHEET

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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.

2016

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Rusty Lanier. Chm

Megan Alexander

Roger Greuel, Chm.

GCA Region VP . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Rodney Hilley

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## THE THE PARTY OF T **County Extension Agents:**

Lamar: Wes Smith, 770-358-5163

118 Academy Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204

Monroe: John Pope - 478-994-7014 E-mail: jpope@uga.edu

2012 - Chuck & Norma Sword

P. O. Box 70. Forsyth, GA 31029

Pike: 770-567-2020

P. O. Box 190, Zebulon, GA 30295

2006 - Harry Waller

2007 - Joel Edwards

2008 - Ben T. Smith, Sr.

2009 - Edward Trice, Sr.

2010 - Dr. James King

2014- Cynthia Douglas

2011 - Fred Greene

Spalding: Wade Hutcheson - 770-467-4225 E-mail:hutch@uga.edu

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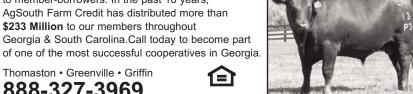
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GCA	Dues			
	State & Local Dues - 1 yr		\$	50.00
	Total	\$		
Georg	gia Cattlewomen's Dues			
	State Dues - 1 yr Total			15.00

Junior Cattlemen's Dues (Ages 21 and under)

☐ State Dues - 1 yr.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED .....





Chili Salsa Beef 1993 National Beef Cook-Off Finalist

#### **INGREDIENTS**

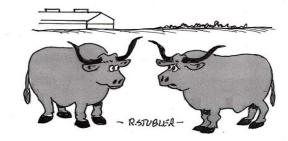
- 1 ½ lbs boneless beef chuck or shoulder roast
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup prepared chunky salsa or jar
- 2 Tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro (optional)
- 2 Tablespoons of lime juice
- 2 cups of cooked rice

#### **Directions:**

- 1. Trim fat from roast and cut into 1 1/4 inch pieces. In a Dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Add beef and brown evenly, stirring occasionally. Pour off drippings, if necessary.
- 2. Stir salsa, sugar, soy sauce, and garlic into beef. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low. Cover tightly and simmer 1 hour. Remove cover; continue cooking uncovered for an additional 30 minutes or until tender.
- 3. Remove from heat; stir in cilantro and lime juice. Spoon over rice.

#### Makes 4 servings

Note From Cynthia Douglas: You can cook with salsa and Rotel with Lime and cilantro. I do add more brown sugar. I served this at the February MGCA Board Meeting.



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#### What can I do?

- Know exactly what cattle are consuming. Do the math based on how much mineral you're putting out, how many cows, and how fast it is being consumed. Calculate the mineral on an oz/hd/d basis and determine whether or not their consumption meets requirements. Table 1 illustrates calculated consumption based on different feeding rates and herd sizes.
- Increase intake (if need be) by mixing with feed and/or salt. Again, do the math to ensure the correct intake. OVER COI SUMPTIOI WILL I OT FIX THE PROBLEM.
- Add salt. In addition to increasing the mineral intake, additional salt will ensure that the sodium requirement is being met and thus, help to maximize absorption of Mg. DO I OT DO THIS II PLACE OF HIGH MAG, rather in addition to. This can be as simple as putting out plain white salt blocks.

Grass tetany is preventable, but can cause tremendous economic repercussions when it happens. Following the guidelines above, will help prevent this issue in the herd. For more information and/or help implementing some of these strategies, contact your local Extension office (1-800-

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Table 1. Calculated weekly consumption amounts for different feeding rates and herd sizes.

	Feedi	ng rate (h	ıd/d)			
Herd Size	2 oz	3 oz	4 oz			
	lbs/week					
			•			
25	22	33	44			
50	44	66	88			
75	66	98	131			
100	88	131	175			

Follow this link for UGA publication on mineral supplements for beef.

http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?num ber=B895

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## PRESIDENT'S **REPORT**

TRACY BOYT MGCA PRESIDENT

Hello, I hope all of you are doing well. So far, we have been lucky to have had a very mild winter. Wet, but mild. Winter is not my favorite time of year. I am like a kid at Christmas waiting on springtime. It seems like the older I get, the colder it seems. I look forward to seeing the grass turning green, the flowers blooming, and, of course, the warm weather. I like to see the new calves on the ground as well.

We were blessed with a nice, warm day for the West Central Georgia Steer and Heifer Show. We had one of the best shows in years! Cynthia was showing pictures of past shows; the one that caught my eye was one of Jim Markham and myself cooking many years ago. Jim was a good friend and a great mentor. Jim taught me so much about the cattle industry. I'm sure all of us have had a great mentor at some time or another. We have the responsibility to be mentors for the next generation so that they can learn from our failures and successes.

We have several important events coming up in the next few months. We would love to have you come to our March membership meeting in Concord. We have great fellowship, food, and informative discussions. It takes all of us to grow the agricultural industry and ensure its success in the future.

Sincerely, Tracy Boyt

#### MID-GEORGIA CATLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION **MEMBERSHIP MEETING** January 14, 2016 **GRIFFIN, GEORGIA**

President Tracy Boyt called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He also thanked Freddy Butts for catering the meal.

Dr. Lew Hunnicutt, Assistant Provost and Campus Director of the UGA Griffin Campus, welcomed everyone to the campus.

Roger Greuel 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 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. This legislation was introduced last year and will hopefully be passed this year.
- 2. Continue support for the funding of outdated and failing equipment at the Veterinary Diagnostic Labs.
- 3. Veterinary Loan Repayment Program- This will assist in getting new veterinarians to practice large animal work in rural areas.

The GCA Convention will be held in Perry on March 30-April 2, 2016

YCC - Bo Huddleston stated that they will be working at the state steer and heifer show in Perry.

Cattlewomen'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.

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Cynthia stressed that we still need names of organizations such as food pantries, etc. to give funds to in each county.

This year the WCG Steer and Heifer show will be dedicated to Betty Joe Greene and the memory of Fred Greene.

Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's t-shirts are still available for \$10.00 each.

Cynthia discussed upcoming health fairs and ideas for the Bull Sheet. She also encouraged everyone to go to the Mid-Georgia website and check it out as well as offer any ideas on content for the site.

On February 11th, Mr. Harris Brantley will turn 97 years young and that day will be celebrated as Harris Brantley Day at the Farmers Livestock Market.

The Cattlewomen adjourned to another room for their meeting.

Extension Agent Reports - Wes Smith said that set up for the WCG Steer and Heifer show will be on Monday, January 26th, at 4:00 p.m. Any help is appreciated. The date for the show will be January 30th at the Upson Ag barn. The Hog show will be on Friday evening, January 29th.

Wes Smith announced that he is working on setting up a semen testing clinic. More information will be announced later.

The Forage School will be held on March 15th, 22rd and 29th at the Upson Extension office. Cost will be \$55.00 for one person or \$75.00 for a couple.

There will be a course on Long Term Care and Estate Planning on July 11th in Upson County.

Wade Hutcheson announced that scholarship applications will be available at the steer and heifer show on January 30th.

#### **New Business:**

Tracy Boyt mentioned that Omer McCants and Russ Walters will be attending the Emerging Leaders Conference, sponsored by GCA later this month.

The GCA Legislative Biscuit Breakfast will be held at a date to be determined and any member interested in going is welcome to do so.

The GCA Tour will be held on June 7-11, 2016 and will be going to Montana.

The GCA Summer Conference will be held at Callaway Gardens on July 29-30th.

**Program -** Wade Hutcheson introduced the sponsors for the meeting:

Mid Georgia Livestock Market in Jackson was represented by Brent Galloway and he discussed their program and thanked everyone for their business.

Line Creek Feed and Tack in Brooks was represented by Taylor Martin, who discussed their business and line of products. Rusty Drew of Purina presented a program on Purina minerals.

Tracy asked for any suggestions on how to make the association better and what the members would like to see.

The next Directors' meeting will be held on February 11th at a location to be determined.

The next Membership meeting will be in Pike County on March 10th. Information will be in the next Bull Sheet.

Minutes taken and submitted by: Rodney Hilley (Approved 2/11/16)

#### MID-GEORGIA CATLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION **BOARD MEETING** February 11, 2016 THOMASTON, GEORGIA

President Tracy Boyt called the meeting to order. R. M. Hice led the Invocation.

Minutes- Rodney Hilley - There was a motion to accept the

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Dr. Chanda Thompson, DVM

## Greener Grass

Wade Hutcheson. Spalding County Extension Coordinator hutch@uga.edu | ugaextension.com/spalding

It's rare that we have a 'typical' or average winter and this year is no different. With our weather pattern of late, wet and mostly warmer than average, it is possible that magnesium deficiency in pasture forages will be a more common occurrence this year. Be aware of what grass tetany is and symptoms as you evaluate your animals and your mineral program. Dr. Lawton Stewart has provided this update.

## I'm putting out High-Mag mineral, but cows are still going down?

Deidre Harmon, PhD Student, The University of Georgia. Lawton Stewart, Extension Beef Specialist, The University of Georgia.

#### What is grass tetany and why is magnesium important?

Grass tetany, also known as grass staggers, magnesium (Mg) tetany, hypomagnesemia, and wheat pasture poisoning, is a nutritional disorder caused by either 1) an inadequate amount of dietary Mg, or, 2) other mineral related factor that is preventing (antagonizing) dietary Mg from being properly absorbed or utilized. Magnesium is considered a macro mineral and is needed in beef cattle diets to insure proper growth, reproduction, and metabolic function. When dietary Mg is low or utilization is inhibited, neuromuscular function becomes impaired and

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leads to the clinical symptoms of staggering, muscle twitching, convulsions, and in severe cases, can lead to death. This disorder is most common during cool, cloudy, and rainy weather, and frequently occurs when cool weather is followed by a warm period.

#### Why is magnesium an issue during this time of year?

- · Mg is essential, especially during lactation. Spring calving cows are highly susceptible to grass tetany because they reach peak lactation (require increased amounts of Mg) during the same time as the spring green. This onset of abundant lush forage is associated with decreased amounts of forage Mg. Older cows are more susceptible because they cannot mobilize Mg from reserves in the bone as quickly as younger cows.
- High potassium (K) content is also associated with lush, growing forages. Although K is essential, in large amounts, it can work as an antagonist to reduce Mg uptake from the soil and Mg absorption in the rumen.

I'm putting out High-Mag mineral, but I am still losing cows?

- Not consuming enough. There may be a palatability issue, especially when Mg is increased in the mineral. However, cows typically do not voluntarily consume as much mineral this time of year.
- High-Mg mineral if fed year-round. Sometimes, the strategy is to put high-Mg mineral out all year as an "insurance policy". High-Mg mineral is only needed during the short period of time that grass tetany may occur. Feeding the miner year-round may condition cattle to not consume enough during the time they really need it.
- Not enough salt. Magnesium transport across the rumen wall can be reduced if 1) there is not enough salt in the diet, and, 2) if there is too much K in the diet. Collectively, too much K and too little salt can cause grass tetany, even if Mg intake is adequate.

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very site specific. The trough is never located in the emergency spillway and this works better on ponds that are somewhat centrally located on the farm. There needs to be at least 7 feet of elevation difference from the intake of the pipe in the pond and the trough to insure enough pressure to flow to the trough. One of the best things about these troughs are that they can be relatively low maintenance and they do not require electricity. This same concept can be used with springs. The biggest consideration with springs is the amount of flow to make sure it is sufficient in dry times and fencing to control the cattle loafing.

Now wells. Wells are the most reliable source of water. A well with a flow of 2 to 5 gallons per minute is sufficient for most cattle operations. While ideally the well should be in the "middle" of the farm, that rarely happens as electricity somewhat dictates the location. The cost of power has become one of the biggest limitations to wells particularly on farms that are large and long and narrow or with steep topography. So unfortunately, we lay a lot of pipe. The other components with a well are troughs and heavy use protection. There are all types of troughs on the market and that becomes personal preference on the size and type. Heavy use protection is the base the trough sits on. It is installed with a geotextile fabric (looks like heavy duty felt) which is puncture resistant. 6 inches of gravel are installed on top extending a minimum of 15 feet from the edges of the trough. The fabric is the key. It acts as a membrane to allow water to move through. For those of you without this under troughs, you know how muddy they get in a couple of months. Cows just seem to be sloppy. Because of this, I recommend a minimum of 3 different watering areas to allow time to rest 2.

In addition to these there are a variety of other systems that you see on the internet such as solar pumps, ram

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pumps and small pumps. Each has its pro's and con's. Solar pumps are still expensive and have to be compared to the cost of running electricity to justify. They also are not maintenance free and if you are not the type who likes to or can tinker, these are not for you. Ram pumps are low cost but are site specific. They depend on stream flow and have elevation requirements. They also have to have a system for the spillover. You will read that they are 40% efficient. This means there is a lot of splashing and once the ram is pumping, there is not a shutoff so the trough has to have an overflow outlet.

So to wrap up, look for 3 to 4 locations to install water. Keep in mind there is work with watering systems that recommend that cattle travel no more than 800 feet to water. Use stream crossings as a last resort. Have an emergency plan for drought. Have an emergency plan for floods, especially if using a stream. All watering points need stabilization to minimize mud and manure. The same holds true for water as the grass, keep the cows moving.

## Vet Talk

Dr. Chanda Moxon Thompson, DVM

I'm often asked to age cows and I must admit it can be challenging. A lot goes into consideration when the age is unknown, such as, the body condition, physical appearance, and changes to the teeth. The article below focuses on aging cattle based on the size, shape and angle of the teeth.

Check out this article at the following site and I hope it will help you with determining the age of your cattle.

METHODS OF DETERMINING AGE OF CATTLE https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/other/cl712.pdf

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## MONROE COUNTY H.E.R.D. SALE

MAY 7, 2016 SELLING APPROXIMATELY 85 BRED HEIFERS

12:30 p.m. Sleepy Creek Farm near Forsyth, GA

Data Available: • A.I. Breeding & Sire EPDs • Pelvic Area • Frame Score • Disposition Score • Weight per Day of Age • Average Daily Gain

All heifers will sell confirmed safe in calf to calving ease Angus Bulls. All heifers will be bred A. I. at least once to Ten X, Lightning or Oahe Dam. For more information or to receive a catalogue, call the Monroe County Extension at (478)994-7014. Web info at http://www.ugaextension.com/monroe/ Email at uge2207@uga.edu type HERD in the subject line.

January minutes as presented, motion was seconded and carried. Financial Report- Tom Freeman -The financial report was approved as presented.

GCA Report- Rodney Hilley discussed several legislative issues that GCA is working on this year, including; Livestock liability, which will cover farms and livestock events. This bill is currently going through the legislative process.

HB 800, which looks to address issues that exist in current Georgia law that establishes what is and what is not considered a valid veterinary client relationship.

The current Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) card continues to be discussed and possible changes could occur to this program.

HB 742 addresses changes to the current section 179 income tax exemptions. Legislation is being considered to bring the current state law in line with federal law (\$500,000 in exemptions).

HB 579 would allow the use of farm vehicles, including ATV's, golf carts, etc. on public roads if a slow moving vehicle sign is used.

Rodney also mentioned that our membership total for the previous month is down 11 members and we need to work on getting these members to re-join.

Cattlewomen's Report and Bull Sheet-Cynthia Douglas stated that organizations in every county have been chosen for the \$125.00 in beef bucks but Pike and a site is being considered there. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to give checks from the Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Association directly to these organizations.

Cynthia mentioned that a day of celebration for Mr. Harris Brantley was held on Thursday, February 11th at Farmers Livestock Market in honor of his 97th birthday and his many contributions to the cattle industry in his lifetime. Mr. Brantley represented Mid-Georgia in the very first GCA Beef Cook-off in 1978.

Cynthia stated that ad renewals will go out in April.

**James Ellington** 

Store Manager

**Chris Estes - Rusty Walters** 

Sales Team

The Georgia Cattlewomen will host a Brunch with Beef on April 1st at the upcoming GCA Convention and Beef Expo.

There are still Mid-Georgia t-shirts for sale if interested.

YCC-Bo Huddleston stated that they will be serving chili at the state steer and heifer show in Perry on February 17th.

**Old Business:** Chad Harless discussed the shotgun raffle. He has made arrangements to purchase a Remington 1187, 12 gauge with black synthetic stock for \$540.00 After discussion, it was decided to print 1500 tickets and sell them for \$5.00 per ticket or five tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will be held at the July membership meeting.

Josh Rabalais agreed to get the tickets printed and give them out and collect the money.

Omer McCants spoke about his attendance at the recent GCA Emerging Leaders Conference. He said he learned a lot and it was very much worthwhile. He encouraged anyone who can, to go in the future.

Cynthia said that Russ Walters had discussed with her the possibility of donating to area Boy Scout organizations for the purpose of buying meat, cooking classes, etc.

New Business: Cynthia asked all to attend the GCA Cattlemen's Ball at the convention as Mid-Georgia will be receiving awards and there will be a special presentation.

County Agent Reports: Josh Rabalais reported that the Steer and Heifer show went very well. There were 26 exhibitors with 36 head of cattle. This was the 71st show and is one of the oldest still operating in the state. There was also a very good crowd on hand to watch. Most of the ad money has been collected and the show fund is in good shape.

Cynthia stated that the show was dedicated to Betty Joe and Fred Greene for their support over the years.

Josh said that Mr. Blake Poole spoke at their recent FFA meeting and was well received.

Josh also said that he has created a Facebook page for the Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Association and encourage everyone to check it out.



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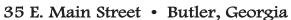
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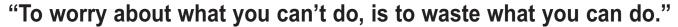
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Wade Hutcheson mentioned that scholarship applications are now available and are due to be turned in by March 11th. The application is also available on the Association's website.

Wade also complimented everyone on the recent steer and heifer show and said it was the best one he has been involved in.

There will be a Forage school to be held at the Upson Extension office on March 15, 22 and 29th. There is a fee of \$55.00 and \$75 per couple.

Farm Day will be held in Spalding County on May 3rd. The next Membership meeting will be held in Pike County on March 10, 2016.

The next Directors' meeting will be held on April 14, 2016 at Farmers Livestock Market in Upson County.

Minutes taken and submitted by: Rodney Hilley (Not Approved)

Georgia CattleWomen's Association Invites You...

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Brunch!

Date: April 1, 2016
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Fairview Room at the GA National Fair Agenda: Annual Meeting, Brunch & Guest Speaker

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## CattleWomen's Report

By Cynthia Douglas, MGCW President

We had a great turn out of ladies at the Spalding meeting. We discussed the Beef Bucks to be given out in each county. We voted to purchase a new table top exhibit. We voted to contribute to the show awards as needed and purchase the Elsie Sell Buckle.

Thanks everyone that donated or helped at the West Central Georgia Show. The exhibitors and families were very appreciative of the food and hospitality. The cattlewomen gave Betty Joe Greene a picture frame of several pictures of her and Fred at the 1999 GCA Convention. Betty Joe was president of the Mid-Georgia and Georgia Cattlewomen. She served as chairman and cochairman of the Georgia Beef Cook-Off and assisted with the contests for several years. Thanks Betty Joe for your years of leadership.

On February 11, we served a birthday cake at Harris Brantley 97th celebration at the sale barn. I presented Mr. Harris his original Georgia Beef Cook-Off Recipe and picture from 1978. The family was very appreciative for us honoring him and highlighting his life as a cattleman with a video.

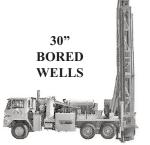
The GCA Convention and Beef Expo will be in Perry from March 30 to April 2. Ladies, the Georgia Cattlewomen will be having a "Beef is for Brunch" get together on April 1 at 9:30. We will install our new officers and Julie McPeake with Georgia Department of agriculture will speaking on communicating our story. Come enjoy the fellowship and meal. Ruth Hice is working on a quilt to sell ticket on so we can raise money for the GCA Summer Intern.

The Pike County Health Fair will be on April 1st. If you

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CHAMPION SIMMENTAL

KADE MITCHAM - PIEDMONT ACADEMY FFA

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#### **CONSERVATION CORNER**

By Carmen Westerfield, NRCS District Conservationist

## Conservation on Grazing Land Water

Over the years in working with grazing layouts and farm assessments, by far the biggest limitation to a good layout is water. Both in the quantity and the location. From my perspective the location and type of water affects the quantity. There are 2 types of water – well water and surface water. First let's talk about surface water. This is water in creeks and ponds. Typically creeks are used for water as a last resort and with some limitations. Watering ramps or stream crossings are designed and installed to stabilize the site and minimize the damage to the banks. This doesn't work unless the creek is fenced and cattle access CONTROLLED. (Notice I didn't say eliminated.) Some of the problems with creeks are the size and the topography. Size – the watershed of the creek can be too small –it dries up in the summer. And the watershed can be too large – which makes the crossing expensive to install and subject to wash out in rainy times. Another limitation is the quality of water. Stream crossings are more suited to smaller herds as the cows in the front get the better water!! As a rule of thumb I don't recommend a crossing for herds of more than 50. The same assessment goes for farm ponds. The pond is fenced and an access point, called a watering ramp is installed with geotextile fabric and gravel. If ponds are not fenced, over time the cattle severely damage the dam, to the point that there could be a breach of the dam. Another practice that is very site specific with ponds is a gravity flow trough installed with a pipe through the dam right below the water line. This is

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can help that morning with the beef exhibit, please let me know as several of us will be in Perry at meetings.

Our show participants will be recognized at the March meeting in Concord. We will be presenting the Elsie Sell Buckle to the high point Mid-Georgia showman. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Cynthia

## Mid-Georgia Scholarship

Attention graduating seniors! It is time to complete the Mid-Georgia Cattlemen's Scholarship application. It is due by March 15 to Wade Hutcheson. Our association will be giving a \$1000 scholarship to a Mid-Georgia Cattleman's graduating senior that is pursuing a degree in agriculture. If a member's child is not eligible, then it will be open to any senior in our Mid-Georgia counties that will be an agriculture major. For more information and forms, contact your local Extension Agent or visit our website at mgcaonline.com.

## SunSouth's Open House

SunSouth will be hosting our 5th Annual Open House on March 12, 2016 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. We will have antique tractors on display, discounts on parts, and a free lunch. Drawings for prize packages will be every 15 minutes beginning at 11 a.m. Come see us at 1024 Veterans Parkway in Barnesville. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Attend the GCA Convention and Beef Expo

Online registration is now open for the 55th Annual Georgia Cattlemen's Association Convention & Trade Show and the 19th Annual Georgia Beef Expo scheduled for March 30 - April 2, 2016 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. We are very excited to have a great group of speakers lined up for you! Check out the schedule in the GCA Magazine or at gabeef.org



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## 71st WEST CENTRAL GEORGIA SHOW

On January 30th, twenty-six show participants from 18 FFA Chapters or 4-H Clubs exhibited their steers and heifers at the Upson Lee Agricultural Center in Thomaston. There were a total of 36 steers and heifers. The show was organized by the Mid-Georgia Cattlemen and CattleWomen. The judge for the day was Matthew Darby, the FFA Advisor and AG teacher at South Effingham High School.

The show committee certainly appreciates all the assistance from the members, sponsors and advertisers. This show would not be possible without everyone's support and help. We commend all the showmen for exhibiting such high quality calves and their superior showmanship skills. Thanks parents, teachers, agents and other supporters for your guidance with these young cattle producers. Thanks everyone for making this show a success.

This year's show was dedicated to the memory of Fred Greene and in honor of Betty Joe Greene. This couple has been very supportive of the cattle industry and our youth for many years. They both served as Mid-Georgia Cattlemen and CattleWomen's Presidents and assisted with promotions on the local and state levels. Betty Joe served as a Georgia CattleWomen's President and assisted with many Georgia Beef Cook-Off's and exhibits throughout the state. Fred served on several GCA committees. The Greene's have given many scholarships to our local youth.

It is our honor to dedicate this show to their legacy and their support of the cattle industry.







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