Happy Holidays!

Season’s greetings everyone! I hope you are taking time to enjoy the true spirit of the holidays! With the hustle and bustle of all the holiday parties and events we can often forget the true meaning of the holidays. Take time to enjoy the company of loved ones and appreciate the little things in life.

The busy Fall is behind us! So many shows and activities were going on I don’t know where the time went! We have big plans for 2015 and beyond so make sure to stay tuned and keep a lookout for new information as it gets posted on the website or on the Facebook page! And as always if you have events, stories, or pictures you want to see in the newsletter or on the website send them my way!

If you want to be added to the Youth Livestock Program email list just email a request and I’ll get you added.

December looks like a quiet month this year, but we’ll get going again in January with the Meat Goat Project Awards Banquet and then registration applications will be made available for all the projects so things will start getting very busy then! I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Robin Long

Thank You!

Livestock programs, events, and activities take many, many hours donated by many, many people to be successful. Many times you see the same individuals at almost every event. These volunteers are the heartbeat of the Youth Livestock Program. This past year has been full of changes and growth and challenges and new friends and through it all, these volunteers were there. They want be a part of a program that enriches the lives of South Carolina’s youth. More often than not, we do not thank our volunteers enough. And while I cannot name everyone individually in this newsletter, I hope all of you know how much you truly are appreciated and that I can’t thank you enough for all the time, effort, and passion you have put in to this program!
### Dairy Program

**State Fair Recap:** A total of 22 heifers were sold in the Dairy Heifer Project-Bred Heifer Sale. They brought an average of $2,359! That’s the 2nd highest average since the program started 40 years ago! After caring for their heifers for 18 months it was well worth all the hard work each project member put in!

**Dairy Heifer Project:** Applications for the 2015-2016 project will be available soon! I have created a new Heifer Project website where all this information will be posted. Stop by and check it out!

**Dairy Judging:** The state winning 4-H Dairy Judging Team went to the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Wisconsin in September. The Saluda County team had an exciting time touring the National Dairy Hall of Fame and learned a lot to help them prepare for future contests! Thank you ladies for representing South Carolina with professionalism at this prestigious event!

### Swine Program

**State Fair Recap:** Congratulations to everyone who competed in the State Fair Barrow Show! It was a great looking group of barrows this year! There were 35 youth showing 52 barrows from various parts of the state this year. Each pig was ranked by on hoof, carcass data, and average daily gain. Exhibitors also competed in showmanship with the Grand Champion Showman being Sarah-Grace Scott from Sumter County. Combining a variety of scores the Grand Champion Overall was Brady Harrell from Beaufort County and Reserve Grand Champion Overall was Dawson Stokes from Bamberg County. Congratulations!

**Barrow Project:** Changes are on the horizon for this project so be on the lookout in January!

### Beef Program

**State Fair Recap:** A total of 8 steers were sold in the Market Steer Project Sale. They brought an average of $2,562 per head. Feeding and raising steers is a lot of work and a lot of feed! Great job everyone! The Grand Champion 4-H Project Market Steer was exhibited by Shana Byerly and Reserve Grand went to Joseph Stevens.

**Beef Program:** Changes are coming so be on the lookout!
Meat Goat Project

The Meat Goat Project wrapped up its season with the Final Show on November 8th. It was a great day of friendly competition and spending times with new friends made! Congratulations to everyone for all their successes throughout the show season!

The Project held a silent auction that raised over $2,200! This project is only successful because of the tremendous support from generous people, and of course, the hard work of all the youth involved!

The project Awards Banquet is coming up on January 17th. Over $2,500 will be awarded to project members for their season long hard work!

Registration applications for the 2015 project year will be available in January. If you are interested in this project please contact Robin Long (rlong2@clemson.edu).

Rabbit Program

The SC 4-H/FFA Rabbit Project curriculum has been created and is available on the website for use. If you are participating in a rabbit project, give this new curriculum a try and then let us know how it worked so we can continue to improve upon the project.

The new curriculum is based on an advancement level model to allow for ample customization.

There are instructions on the website and in the project books but if you have questions don’t hesitate to call me (864) 656-0496.

Rabbit projects are growing in popularity and I am seeking any input to help build a great project for the state.

Jr. Beef Round-Up

I know you’re thinking “but Round-Up is so far away.” Round-Up will be here before we know it! This event takes a lot of planning and a lot of help to organize and put together. As we go into the holiday season and into a new year I just wanted to remind everyone that it takes approximately $25,000 to host Round-Up. We have to raise that much every year! So if you love Round-Up as much as I do, talk about it! Tell your local Cattlemen’s group that you want to support this event, see if local businesses you frequent want to get involved, spread the word to anyone and everyone! Remember we also have a silent auction and need lots of random items for the Cattlemen’s Contest, these are great for businesses to donate! These are things that can be collected all year! The more we work together the better this event can be! All donations that are documented to the coordinator will be acknowledged on the website and in the handbook. See the website for more info.
A Little About Livestock

When you hear the word "dehydration" the first thing you probably think of is the summer time and the heat it brings along. Dehydration occurs when an animal loses too much water from its body and does not replenish it. Many animal owners do not think of dehydration as something that can affect their animals year-round, especially in winter. Clemson Cooperative Extension has highlighted that dehydration is the second most probable life-threatening condition for animals in cold weather, next to hypothermia.

Signs of dehydration:
- Irritability
- Lack of energy
- Decreased lactation
- Dry mucous membranes (mouth, tongue, nostrils, and eyes)
- Sunken in eyes

You can do a “pinch test” – grab the animal’s skin between your thumb and index finger, and then release. If the skin stays pinched for a couple seconds this shows a lack of moisture and the animal is likely dehydrated.

The Livestock Conservancy compiled some suggestions for preventing your troughs from freezing in the winter.

- Install a water heater (make sure it has an automatic shutoff feature).
- Place a basketball or soccer ball in a trough with no electricity and does not freeze as often. Ball will move around breaking up any ice.
- Wrap all exposed pipes to prevent freezing or use frost free hydrants.
- If your pipes do freeze: begin unthawing them at the faucet with the faucet turned on, then work towards the ground. Starting in the middle or the end could build up pressure that could burst the pipe.

Always make sure your livestock have free access to fresh, clean, UNFROZEN water during the winter. There is no substitute for diligent management. Make sure to check your animals regularly, making sure they are drinking adequate amounts of water and that their water sources are unfrozen and provide clean, fresh water.

It's up to you to make sure your livestock stay happy and hydrated this winter!

South Carolina 4-H/FFA Livestock Show Tips

1. Do your own work.
2. Be kind to others.
3. Say thank you.
4. Learn from successful people.
5. Enjoy family time together.
6. Inspire someone else.
7. Learn the business side of things.
8. Make friends.
9. Apply for (and earn) scholarships.
10. Learn that it’s okay to fail.

Go to website for full article. Well worth reading!