Youth Livestock Opportunities

Clemson University Cooperative Extension is excited to announce:

2016 SC Cattleman’s Boot Camp
March 23-24

Topics and Speakers will focus on:
- Marketing
- Leadership Opportunities in Livestock
- Developing a business plan
- General producer topics
- Youth Livestock Judging Clinic

Registration will be released soon.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Meghan Wood
mlmcpha@clemson.edu

Starting a new Livestock Club?

Review the requirements for starting or renewing your county livestock club. The SC State 4-H Calendar can be found online at http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/calendar.html. Please, check with your local agent to ensure compliance in starting a club.
Dr. Ashley Burns

Ashley joined the South Carolina 4-H staff in July 2015 and serves as Assistant Director of 4-H Operations. Her responsibilities include coordinating volunteers, youth natural resource and science programs, and fund development. Ashley was an active 4-H member and previously served as a county 4-H Extension agent in Georgia.

She received her doctorate from Clemson University in Animal Science with an emphasis on ruminant nutrition. She has a Master’s degree from Kansas State University and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia. Ashley also served as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Clemson and Furman Universities since earning her doctorate in 2011.

Outside of work, Ashley enjoys spending quality time with her husband, Matthew and daughter Eleanor. She is also an avid college football fan and loves working with their animals. Ashley will be a great asset for Extension and 4-H. She can be reached at taberp@clemson.edu.

Low Country 4-H Livestock Team heads to Nationals

While many of us are enjoying time spent with family and friends, watching our favorite football teams and the crisp fall air on Saturdays, Hampton County 4-H Agent, Karissa Ulmer is busy preparing and testing four youth team members for the National Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY. The national contest is held in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition November 16-18, 2015.

Hampton County 4-H’ers took first place at the SC 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held in April at Clemson University. Youth were asked to judge eight classes of livestock including sheep, beef cattle, swine ready for market and for breeding. Upon completion of judging each and ranking the animals, members prepared a set of oral reasons in order to defend why they placed each class accordingly.

Team members are pictured left to right: Wes Ulmer, Hanna Rentz and Geneffer Sweatman. (Team member Ralph Rentz is missing from pic). The high scoring individual 4-H senior member was Geneffer Sweatman.

Good luck in Louisville!

New 4-H State Staff Highlight
Avian Influenza Update

From the SC State Veterinarian’s Office

What does this mean for my poultry project?

Because of the outbreak of avian influenza in the United States, the South Carolina State Veterinarians Office has made recommendations for show and exhibition organizers. Standard biosecurity practices and steps to prevent disease are important for SC’s poultry industry. It is recommended that poultry owners and event organizers increase their current level of disease prevention practices.

Avian influenza has become significantly important for small poultry producers because of the potential spillover from wild waterfowl (ducks and geese).

All poultry shows/exhibitions schedules are tentative to being cancelled by the appropriate authorities while they monitor the progress of the disease.

To report an illness or further questions, please contact the Clemson Livestock Poultry Health at (803) 788-2260.

Steps to take BEFORE the Shows/Exhibition

1. Implement biosecurity and health practices at home.
2. Minimize your birds’ contact with wild birds and wild waterfowl.
   a. House poultry should be indoors or screened area.
   b. Remove food/water sources that attract wild birds.
3. Minimize the number of people who have contact with your birds, specifically with those who own other birds.
4. Avoid personal contact with birds other than your own.
5. Avoid personal contact with wildlife, especially wild birds and waterfowl.
6. Keep tools and equipment clean.
   a. Clean cages and food/water containers daily.
7. Wash hands with soap and water and wear clean boots before and after working with your birds.
   a. Consider having dedicated boots and clothing for working with your birds.
8. Become familiar with the clinical signs of highly pathogenic avian influenza in birds:
   a. Sudden death
   b. Wheezing, coughing, nasal discharge
   c. Decreased energy
   d. Decreased food intake
   e. Drop in egg production/egg quality
   f. Tremors, circling, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck.
9. Seek veterinarian assistance if a bird becomes sick.
10. Refrain from attending another event with your birds for at least two weeks to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

Steps to take AFTER the Show/Exposition

1. Isolate/observe birds for illness after returning home and before contact with other animals for no less than 14 days.
2. Clean and disinfect equipment, clothing, shoes, vehicles/trailers that were used. Allow all materials to dry completely before re-use or re-stocking.

Information Credit: State Veterinarian, Dr. Boyd Parr: Recommended practices to minimize avian influenza transmission at SC poultry shows and exhibitions.
The Importance of Animal Identification
Hands-On Activity: Designing your own Cattle Brand

Objective: Students will be able to explain the importance of branding in the cattle industry and design their own brand as if they were a cattle farmer/rancher.

Vocabulary:

**Brand** - a permanent identification mark usually burned into the hide of an animal to show ownership.

**Maverick** - Unbranded animal. Ownership may be questioned when they are found separated from the herd.

**Rustler** - Someone who steals cattle or other livestock. Rustlers may brand unmarked cattle with their brand or alter any existing brand.

**Herd** - a group of animals kept together.

Lesson Material:

History of Branding:

- Brands are a burned mark on an animal's skin. Ranchers and farmers use brands to distinguish ownership of cattle. Rustlers could steal mavericks if ranchers did not brand their herds. Branding can be traced back 4,000 years ago to Egyptian paintings in tombs depicting cattle branding at round-ups. The practice of branding came to the New World with the Spaniards, who brought the first cattle to New Spain (Mexico). Brands are placed on the hindquarters, hip, shoulder or side.

- The process of branding takes several cowboys working together to brand each calf. Branding irons, which are long metal rods with identification figures on the end, are heated in a fire and used to burn through the hair to permanently mark the hide of the animal.

- Brand registration did not begin until the 1870’s or 1880’s. During this time, millions of cattle were moved on cattle drives from Texas through Oklahoma to Kansas to be shipped by rail to provide food for those living in the Eastern United States. Cattle were driven to Kansas because railroads did not come through Texas or Oklahoma during this time period. The land was not fenced so it was not uncommon for cattle to wander away from the herd and become lost, making stealing cattle easy for cattle rustlers.
Continued- AgTivity Lesson

**New 4-H State Staff Highlight**

**Dr. Meghan M. Wood**

Meghan joined the SC 4-H team in July 2015 and serves as the Assistant Director of Agriculture/Natural Resources and the SC Livestock Coordinator. Her responsibilities are focused on coordinating youth livestock projects as well as the development of a new agent mentoring and training program. She also serves as the Advisor to the Clemson Collegiate 4-H Club and coordinates the SC 4-H Ambassador program. Meghan comes from a background in agriculture. Raised on her family farm located in Seneca, SC, Meghan grew up showing cattle and horses, which led to her career in Agricultural Education. She served as the agriculture teacher at Aiken High School for six years where she led her students and FFA Chapter to many state and national awards.

Meghan received her B.S. and Master's Degrees in Agricultural Education in 2006/2007. She earned her Doctorate in Agricultural and Extension Education from North Carolina State University in 2014.

Meghan serves on the Executive Board as Past-President of the South Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education (SCACTE) where she provides statewide leadership to the career and technical education community throughout South Carolina.

Outside of work, Meghan enjoys spending time with her husband, Austin, on their farm in Anderson, SC as well as time with her family on the farm in Seneca, SC.

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**Reading a Brand**

**Rules:**
1. Left to Right  
2. Top to Bottom  
3. Outside to Inside

- **R**  
- **Quarter Circle R**  
- **Circle R**  
- **Tumbling R**  
- **Half Diamond R**  
- **Diamond R**  
- **Lazy R**  
- **Rafter R**  
- **Box R**  
- **Reverse R**  
- **Bar R**

**Name the Brand?**

1. **H**
2. **K**
3. **E**
4. **T**
5. **S**

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**Designing a Cattle Brand Activity:**

After discussing the types of brand designs used in the cattle industry, have students draw a design on paper and explain why they designed their brand accordingly.

Each child can get 2-4 pipe cleaners depending on how complex their brand design is. Dispense a nickel/quarter size amount of paint onto a paper plate for each group/individual. After students design their brand out of the given pipe cleaners, they can dip their “Brand” into the paint and then brand their cow worksheet on the hip, shoulder or hindquarters.

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**Wrap-Up Questions/Evaluation:**

Why do cowboys and ranchers brand cattle?
What should a rancher consider when designing a cattle brand?
County Livestock Spot Light

Congratulations to Saluda County 4-H Agent, Connie Lake and Livestock Agent, Travis Mitchell on a job well done planning, preparing and hosting the Saluda County Livestock Show held September 15-17.

The Pullet Chain sale was a great success. A total of 28 flocks with 5 chickens/flock were auctioned off and raised over $3,100 to fund 4-H youth activities.

GREAT JOB

Clemson Collegiate 4-H Club

Continue your 4-H involvement after high school with the CC4-H Club.

Leadership and service opportunities provided each semester with enrollment in the following schools:

- Tri-County Tech Bridge Program
- Clemson University
- Benedict College

COLLEGIATE 4-H

For more information, contact:
Dr. Meghan Wood
mlmcpha@clemson.edu

4-H Day at the South Carolina State Fair

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Bring your 4-H Membership Card & Wear a 4-H T-shirt to get in the fair free.

- Roll Call- noon outside the Ellison Building
- Healthy Lifestyles- Moore Building
- Junior Beef Cattle- Nutt Cattle Arena