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2015 GEORGIA BEEF CHALLENGE

The 2015-16 Georgia Beef Challenge has begun. Please email or call us with your shipment plans, as the lists for the fall shipments have been started.

In an effort to keep you informed of activities concerning the Georgia Beef Challenge, the September 3rd annual meeting notes are included in this newsletter.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Dr. Ronnie Silcox (706/542-9102 - rsilcox@uga.edu) or Grace Nyhuis (229/386-3683- gracen@uga.edu).

For your convenience, the 2015-16 Georgia Beef Challenge Rules and Forms are posted at www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/animals/beef/index.html. Feel free to view any of the other information that is posted there as well.

GEORGIA BEEF CHALLENGE ANNUAL MEETING

September 3, 2015 – Athens, GA - Notes

20 people were in attendance.

Dr. Ronnie Silcox presided. He welcomed everyone and then highlighted the planned activities for the afternoon.

Dr. Brent Credille from the College of Veterinary Science gave a presentation on pre-conditioning calves to perform to their best ability when weaning. He spoke on weaning cattle the right way, as it pertains to deworming, boosters of calf-hood vaccines, and time of weaning, in turn, cutting down the risk for BRD.

Dr. Silcox presented to motion from the Steering Committee to increase the Risk Management fee from \$25 to \$50 for the 2015-16 year. Bill Nutt made motion to accept, Bob Smalley second, motion passed.

Dr. Silcox then introduced Darrell Busby, Manager of Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity via internet conference.

Busby discussed and gave updates on closure of Denison plant back on August 14th. He gave updates on TCSCF Board's plans and decisions to move all cattle into the Dakota City plant, which is about 60 miles further away, but still the closest Tyson Plant. Full loads of Hereford Cattle will still be sent to the Greater Omaha Plant for CHB Purposes. Cattle began going to the Dakota City Plant on August 20th. Busby explained that there is also a new grid system at this plant and owners are getting additional premiums for Choice and Prime carcasses of \$7-\$15. Busby answered the question of how identity will be maintained in the cattle? "We will go to one visual tag and one EID tag. The plant will have an employee with a handheld reader to scan the cattle as they enter the plant." he stated that this is going to work out great. In the future, Busby urged participates to leave their home tags in the cattle and add the GBC tag. The feedyards will remove one of those tags upon arrival to insure identity.

Busby expressed appreciation to all involved with the Georgia Beef Challenge. In addition, he responded to various questions from those in attendance.

Dr. John McKissick was introduced, along with Jim Collins, as members of the Risk Management Committee. Dr. Silcox noted that there was only one change recommended in the risk management strategies at the Steering Committee meeting this morning. The modification was to change the option to spend up to \$50 instead of \$25 in risk management. The strategies are as follows:

- 1. Use the best tools available to insure the best protection for the cattle in a pen. Do not work towards a specific profit figure; use futures, options, or LRP insurance to protect as much of the value of the calves as possible. The Risk Management Committee has the flexibility to use the best tools in each situation.**
- 2. If an option is used, the Risk Management Committee has permission to spend up to \$50 on an option rather than buying an option for the breakeven value of the feeders.**
- 3. Corn situation:**
 - a. Cattle that are shipped on or before September 30 will receive old crop corn. That corn will be purchased on an as-needed basis.**
 - b. Cattle that are shipped on or after October 1 will be fed new crop corn. Plans are to purchase one-half of the corn needs at the time of delivery and the remainder on an as-needed basis.**
 - c. When the 2015 corn crop is in and information is available about corn prices, then the Risk Management Committee will revisit the corn situation and make the best decision pertaining to pre-purchasing corn and/or other feeds.**
- 4. If a producer has a contract worth of cattle in a pen, then he/she can opt to do his/her own risk management. The Risk Management Form must be completed and signed by producers before the cattle leave Georgia. A producer can use his/her own broker, or he/she can consult with John**

McKissick and/or Jim Collins. In addition, a group of producers with enough cattle in the same pen may work through John McKissick to do their own risk management.

Dr. Jacob Segers, Assistant Professor of Ruminant Nutrition and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Tifton gave an update on the 2015-2016 Tifton Bull Test and HERD Programs.

Jason Duggin, Extension Beef Specialist located in Calhoun, presented a program on the Bull Test and HERD Program stations in Calhoun and Irwinville (Tifton). He also gave updates on current Calhoun Bull Test that is in progress.

A number of handouts were available for those in attendance, including Dr. Silcox's Summary of the 2014-15 Georgia Beef Challenge. A total of 856 calves (619 steers and 237 heifers) were shipped during 2014-15.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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