

# Southern Women in Ag: Advanced Cattle Workshop

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## INTRODUCTION

The USDA accounts \$536 million worth of economic impact in Georgia to women farmers. Of the 17,779 women that identified as farming operators in Georgia in the U.S. Census for Agriculture, 53% were the spouse of the principle operator. Only 36% of those women identified as the principle farming operator. It is not from lack of skill that women are not more prevalent in the industry – but perhaps lack of confidence. Increasing the confidence of women in agricultural settings by encouraging them to experience basic agricultural techniques/skills in a stress-free, all female environment, will result in their increased involvement in agriculture. According to studies, women tend to learn more effectively with hands-on activities. Therefore, catering to women’s unique learning styles will enhance their experience. These women, like all farmers, need technical advice to help their farming operations be successful. Therefore, the Southern Women in Agriculture (SWAG) Advanced Cattle Workshop was developed to provide women involved in or interested in cattle production, a comfortable learning environment to gain hands-on experience and network with other women involved in the industry.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Southern Women in Ag Advanced Cattle Workshop would not have been possible without the support of the Georgia Beef Commodity Commission and UGA Tifton.



## OBJECTIVES

(1) to provide an opportunity for women involved in or interested in agriculture to receive (2) advanced training through a two-day hands-on experiential learning workshop while also providing (3) extension agent training and (4) certification in Beef Quality Assurance.

## PROGRAMMATIC METHODS

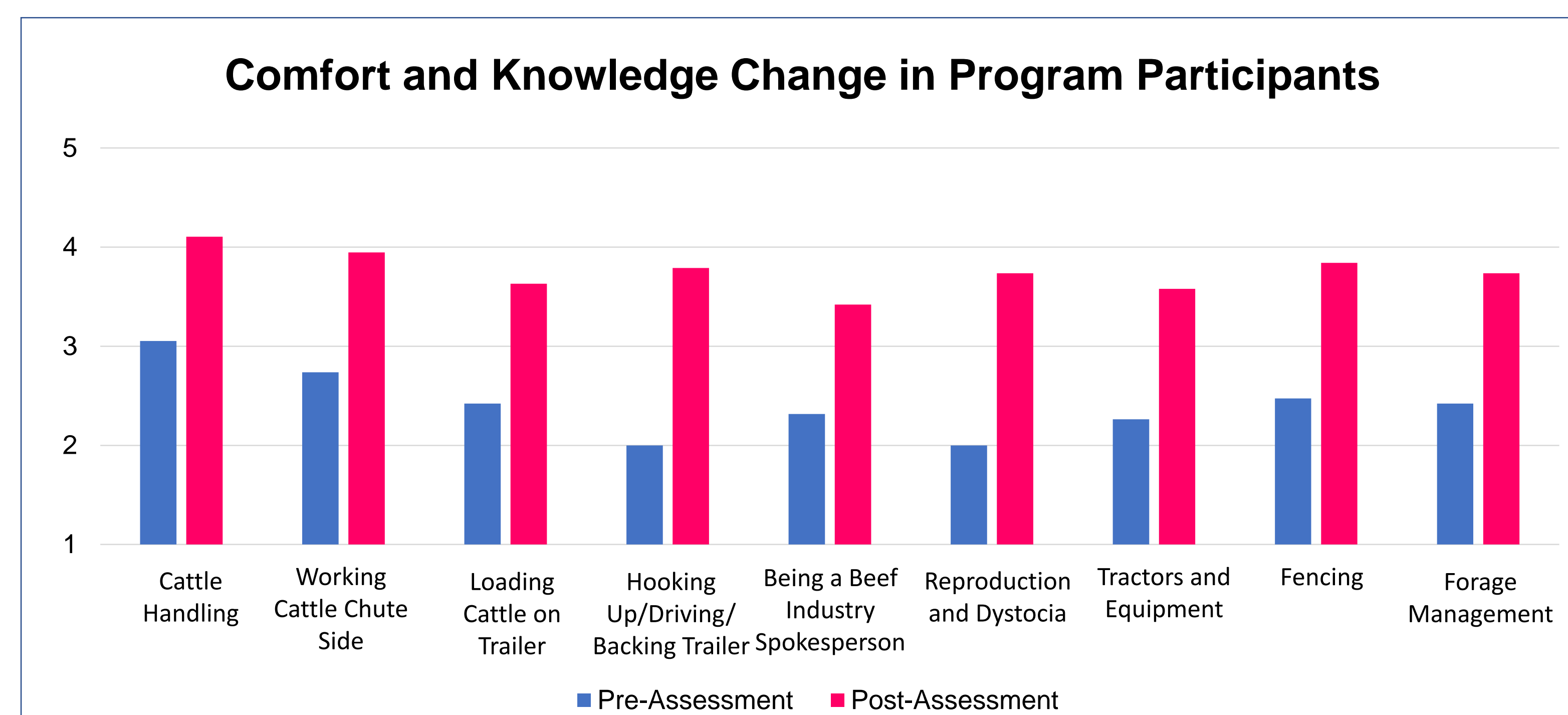
A two-day hands-on training was held April 29-30, 2019 on the UGA-Tifton Campus, Tifton, GA. Each day consisted of three two-hour breakout sessions which allowed all attendees ample time to engage and participate in each of the hands-on activities provided. Six female Agriculture and Natural Resources Agents and one Specialist with UGA Extension organized and taught each station of the workshop.

Sessions included:

- **Cattle Handling / BQA Chute Side** – principles of cattle behavior and low-stress handling, sorting and moving animals through a working facility and head chute
- **Truck and Trailer Driving** – how to drive a truck with stock trailer, both bumper-pull and gooseneck, practiced hooking up, backing, loading and unloading animals
- **Tractor and Equipment** – tractor safety, operation, basic maintenance, and implements; sprayer calibration; practiced moving hay with spear and placing hay in rings to simulate common hay feeding practices
- **Media Training** – how to develop and share their ag story with others, especially those unfamiliar with ag
- **Bovine Reproduction** – basics of bovine reproduction system including standard A.I. techniques utilizing harvested repro-tracts, hands-on calving dystocia scenarios using calving simulator
- **Forages and Fencing** – basics of soil sampling, hay sampling and interpreting soil and forage analysis reports, “pasture walk” discussing pasture management, plant and weed identification, fencing materials and use

## RESULTS

- Each participant earned Beef Quality Assurance Certification
- Each participant received a one-year membership to the Georgia Cattlewomen Association
- Likert-type pre and post assessments were given to determine participants self-evaluation of knowledge and comfort in each topic area.



## IMPACT

- 100% of respondents said the workshop met their expectations and they would recommend to others
- 80% would be interested in future trainings geared towards women involved in ag
- Notable quotes: “I had a great time – very informative and hands-on! Freedom to ask questions and explore.” “I love the hands-on experience, it helps me to understand and get over the fears I have!”

Program Participation Impact	
Parameter	Program Impact
Number of Program Participants	21 (18 attendees, 3 county agents)
Acres of Pasture Impacted	5,882 acres
Number of Cattle Impacted	1,222 head