



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

December 2005 / Volume 27 Number 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

7	Citrus Nutrient BMP Program, 9:00 AM- Noon, DeSoto County Extension Office
8	Cucurbit Production Workshop, 1:30-4:30 PM, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Balm, Florida
13	Equipment & Tractor Driver Operator Safety Training, 7:30-9:00 AM, Turner Center Exhibit Hall

January

19	23 rd Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show, Osceola Heritage Park, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Highway 192 East, Kissimmee, 8:00 AM-3:30 PM
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BOVIGEN DEBUTS THIRD TENDERNESS MARKER

Bovigen, LLC announces the addition of a new marker, recently validated by the third-party National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium, to its GeneSTAR(R) Tenderness test panel. President and CEO Victor Castellon says Bovigen expects to release a fourth tenderness marker by the end of the year and several new markers for new traits early next year. The company's products include GeneSTAR Tenderness, GeneSTAR Quality Grade, SireTRACE, SureTRAK and GeneSTAR Black. Over the last 18 months, Bovigen says it's reduced the cost of testing by almost 60% and added new tests to both its Quality Grade and Tenderness panels, while championing the need for independent validation of this new technology. **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, November 4, 2005.**

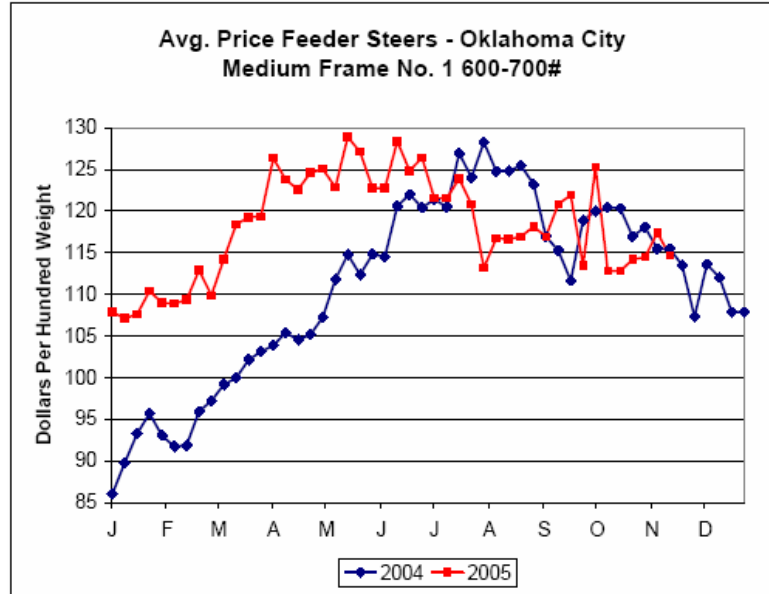
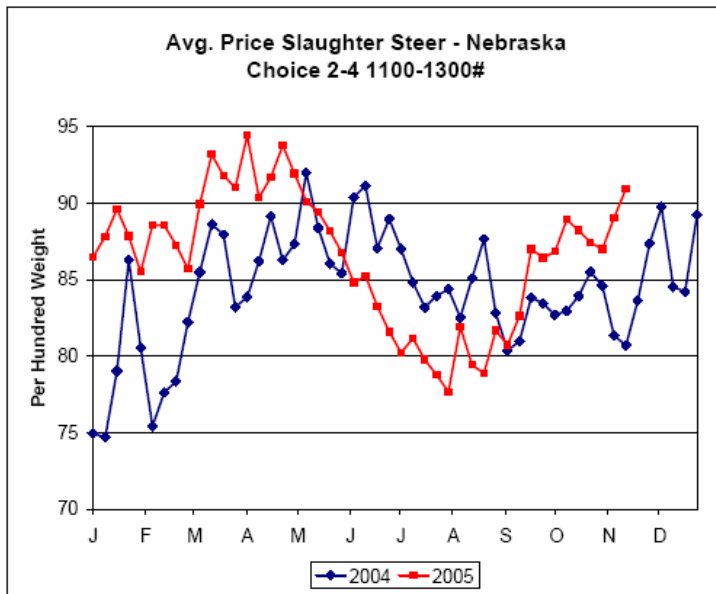
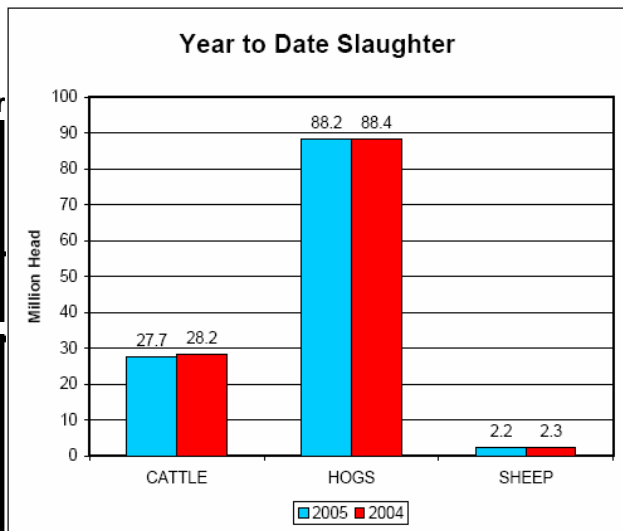
ACTIVIST GETS TWO YEARS FOR DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Peter Young, Mercer Island, WA, was sentenced this week to two years in federal prison on domestic terrorism charges for freeing thousands of mink from Midwest fur farms eight years ago. Young was also ordered to pay nearly \$255,000 in restitution to the farmers, reports the *Associated Press*. Young and an accomplice, Justin Samuel, freed more than 7,000 mink from cages at five farms in Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin in 1997. Samuel, arrested in 1999, cooperated with authorities in exchange for a two-year prison sentence, while Young was on the run until March when he was arrested for shoplifting CDs from a San Jose, CA, Starbucks. **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, November 11, 2005, Joe Roybal.**

Market Information

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt			
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	589,000	592,000	603,000
Live Weights	1285	1285	1276
Dressed Weights	783	783	773
Beef Production (mil lbs)	458.6	461.2	463.4

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt			
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	89.95	91.24	84.62
Live Heifer	90.01	91.39	84.62
Dressed Steer	141.58	142.64	131.50
Dressed Heifer	141.91	143.32	132.17



The summary below reflects the week ended November 18, 2005 for Medium and Large 1 -- 500- to 550-lb., 600- to 650-lb., and 700- to 750-lb. heifers and steers. **Source: USDA-SJ: National Feeder & Stocker Cattle Summary**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
Calf Weight							
TX	32,800	\$122.39	\$123.64	\$118.63	\$109.86	\$101.70	\$101.90
AL	13,200	\$117-125	\$110-117	\$103-109	\$110-118	\$99-111	\$90-100
TN	11,600	\$117.82	\$107.61	\$104.39	\$104.49	\$99.12	\$94.23
FL	12,900	\$111.10	\$106.16	NR	\$99.22	\$93.85	NR
GA	9,700	\$105-120	\$97-113.50	\$94-100	\$99-118	\$90-111	NR

CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was steady at 1.52-1.53 bushel. US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 1 cent lower to 2 cents higher from 1.61-1.64 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 5 cents higher from 1.71-1.72 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 3/4 cent lower to 4 1/4 cents higher from 1.79 3/4-1.94 3/4 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 5 1/2 cents higher from 1.68 3/4-1.76 3/4 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 5 1/2 cents higher at 1.75 3/4 per bushel.

Source: USDA Grain and Feed Weekly, Volume 53, Number 48, Friday November 25, 2005:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMNpubs/pdf_weekly/dc_grain.pdf

THE 23RD ANNUAL FLORIDA CATTLEMEN'S AND ALLIED TRADE SHOW— JANUARY 19, 2006

The 23rd Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show will occur again this year in Kissimmee at Osceola Heritage Park. If you plan to attend, please call our office in order to RSVP at 993-4846. This year's theme is "Basics for the Future". If you need a room, call the Best Western Heritage Park Hotel at 407-846-4646 to make a reservation. Please mention the group code of: Florida Cattlemen's Institute. [See the attached flyer for more information on this years Institute.](#)

PLANTING RYEGRASS IN PERENNIAL PASTURES

A question that I am often asked is: what is the best way to plant ryegrass into perennial grass pastures such as Bahia? At the Ona AREC, Dr. Mislevy recommends a clean till seed bed for planting ryegrass. However, for many of our ranchers, this is not a practical method if there are not stands of Bahia that are in need of re-establishment. The following pictures I feel describe a method that works well for some of our producers.



Burn off bahiagrass pastures and cultivate with Pasture Aerator.



Ryegrass seed can be planted behind the Aerator with fertilizer. 300# of 16-4-8 with ryegrass



Finish the planting operation with a rolling packer.

The above pictures were taken about the 1st of November. The picture to the right was taken on the 7th of December. At this stage, we will begin applications of Nitrogen type fertilizers. This field has just had the 1st application of Nitrogen. It will be ready for grazing within the next two weeks.



STRIPED GRASS LOOPER IN LIMPOGRASS

Last month I put in pictures of the striped grass looper in Limpograss. At that time I collected several cocoons (pupal stage) and they hatched out in the office into the adult moth stage of the insect. To the right is a couple of pictures of the adult moth. The picture to the left is immediately after the insect has pupated. The right hand picture will be more like what you may see in the pasture.



Poisonous Plant ID



Johnson grass
Sorghum halepense
D. H. S. A. 11, 1992



Ragweed



Coral Berry/Ardisia crenata



Milk Weed

1. **Johnson Grass**—Ruminants are more susceptible to cyanide poisoning. Cyanide accumulates after a frost or a drought.
2. **Ragweed**— Ruminants are more susceptible to Nitrate poisoning. The 1st clinical sign on nitrate poisoning is usually the sudden death of one or more animals.
3. **Coral Berry**—Has not been listed as a poisonous plant by most references. In 2001 several brangus bulls died after ingesting.
4. **Milkweed**—Poisonous to sheep, goats, cattle, horses and fowl.

Reproductive Management School

The next Reproductive Management School will be held in Bartow on March 28-30, 2006. The cost for this year's school is \$350.00. The purpose of the course is to strengthen managerial capabilities of owners and operators of beef cattle ranches. This is an intense course in reproductive management of the cow herd. Although the topic of pregnancy diagnosis is given extensive treatment in the program, participants should not expect this training to make them proficient in that skill.

Beef Management Calendar

January

Calve in well-drained pastures.	Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
Check mineral feeder.	Check for lice and treat if necessary.
Begin grazing winter rye is 12-18 inches high.	Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
Put bulls out for October calving season.	Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
Make up breeding herd lists if using single sire herds.	Watch for calf scours.
Discuss herd health with you veterinarian and outline a program for the year.	Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings and other data.
Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.	Get taxes filed.





UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

23rd Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute

And Allied Trade Show

January 19, 2006

Osceola Heritage Park

1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Highway 192 East

Sponsored by:

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE FLORIDA ALLIED INDUSTRIES

“BASICS FOR THE FUTURE”

8:00 AM	Trade Show Opens Moderator: Joe Walter, Chairman 2006 FCIATS, UF/IFAS, Brevard	11:30 AM	“The State of the State”—Charli Bronson, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture
8:45 AM	“Welcome”: Dr. Jimmy Cheek, UF/IFAS—Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources	12:00 PM	<u>AWARDS</u>
	“Welcome”: Joe Marlin Hilliard III, Florida Cattlemen's Association, President	12:15 PM	LUNCH
9:00 AM	“Basics of Pasture Fertilization”—Dr. Jerry Sartain, UF/IFAS—Soil and Water Science	1:00 PM	“Ranch Horse Safety”—Joel McQuagge, UF/IFAS, Animal Sciences Department
10:00 AM	Trade Show Break	1:45 PM	“BQA Update”—Dr. Todd Thrift, UF/IFAS, Animal Sciences Department
10:30 AM	“Recent Developments in Cattle Marketing”—Mark Harmon, Joplin Regional Stock Yard, Joplin, MO	2:00 PM	Trade Show Break
		2:30 PM	“State and Federal Regulations— Changing the Way You Do Business”
			<u>Panel Discussion—Wade Grigsby, Moderator</u>
			Mike Milicevic, Dr. Tom Holt, Don Robertson, Mark Harmond and Mark Donaway
		3:30 PM	Return Evaluations and Drawings for Fence Building Kit

Please RSVP to our office if you plan to attend:
863-993-4846, e-mail: jselph@ifas.ufl.edu
Hotel Information: Best Western Heritage Park,
2145 E. Irlo Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, Fl,

Telephone: 407-846-4646, Room Rate: \$45.95/
Night (Ask for Florida Cattlemen's Institute
Rate)

Participants Requiring Special Accommodations Should Contact Randy Bateman (321-697-3000) 48 Hours Before The Event.

BEEF EXPORTS TO JAPAN MAY RESUME MONDAY

Japan is reported to be ready to lift its two-year ban on U.S. and Canadian beef imports Monday. United Press International and the *Asahi Shimbun* reported that Japanese officials will finalize the decision Monday and importers will be allowed to start buying U.S. and Canadian beef. The Japanese Cabinet Office's Food Safety Commission will submit a final report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to permit the resumption of beef imports, saying the risk of BSE in U.S. and Canadian beef imports is "extremely low." Japan will only allow beef from cattle 20 months old or younger, as long as safety measures, including the removal of high-risk parts, are observed. In 2003, Japan received a little more than a third of all U.S. beef exported – about \$1.4 billion worth of product. Once Japan begins accepting U.S. beef, Korea and other countries are expected to follow. Economists believe exports once accounted for \$15 per hundredweight of the price of a fed steer, and the Japanese market equals about one-third of that value. But don't expect the lifting of the ban to spur an immediate jump in prices. The Meat Export Federation says it may take four years to fully recover the Japanese market. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 47.**

USDA CHANGES NASS WEB SITE

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service launched its newly redesigned Web site (<http://www.nass.usda.gov/>) that makes agricultural data easily accessible. Visitors to the site will find a new Google-powered search engine, an SVG interactive mapping application, an RSS news feed and XML technology. USDA reports will continue to be available online within minutes after release. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 47.**

FOOD PRICE INDEX INCREASES

Food prices have seen moderate increases through this year, according to the government's Consumer Price Index. On average, food and beverage prices increased by 0.3 percent during October, as did the index for food consumed at home. The index for meats, poultry, seafood and eggs decreased by 0.2 percent, led by poultry and eggs, as beef, pork and seafood prices increased somewhat. Overall, the report indicates that food prices will finish the year between 2 and 3 percent higher than last year. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 46.**

TARIFFS HURTING U.S. BEEF, STOKES SAYS

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Chief Executive Officer Terry Stokes says high tariffs are hurting U.S. beef exports. Tariff reduction is a priority for the NCBA as World Trade Organization negotiations approach in Hong Kong. The U.S. proposes that tariffs on U.S. beef be reduced to 7.5 to 12 percent, significantly lower than the current 30 to 57 percent. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 47.**

REMOVE THE BALE WRAP?

Ideally, net wrap should be removed from bales, but there's no definitive research indicating that not doing so leads to intestinal problems. That's what Greg Lardy, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, gleaned from conversations with manufacturers of net-wrapping balers. He was tracking down the answer for a North Dakota producer who wondered whether he should worry about taking off the wrap. "According to company representatives, there have been no conclusive studies on the topic to date. However, they were unaware of any reports of intestinal or stomach damage in cattle due to ingesting the small pieces of plastic resulting from net-wrapped bales being tub-ground or shredded with the wrap on," Lardy reports. **Source: —Beef Stocker Trends, November 27, 2005. I find this interesting that there have not been studies done on leaving the wrap on. I would be interested in what the majority of our producers do in regard to both wrap and string. E-mail me at jselph@ifas.ufl.edu if you will.** *Jim*



FAWN SITE UP AND RUNNING AS WE APPROACH WINTER

The Arcadia FAWN Site is available on the internet at: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>. We are working on getting the toll free number up and running. When that task is accomplished you should be able to dial 888-754-5732 and get current weather for DeSoto County. The 3 digit ID for Arcadia is: 490



Jim Selph
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