



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



2006 DeSoto County Grand
Champion Steer

February 2006 / Volume 28 Number 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

1-4	NCBA Annual Convention - Denver, CO
6	Strawberry Field Day, 1:30 - 4:00 PM, Gulf Coast Research Center, Balm, FL
8-20	Florida State Fair Livestock Shows, February (BEEF) 9 th , 10 th , 13 th , 14 th , 15 th , (DAIRY) 17 th , 19 th

March

4	Small Farms Livestock Production Conference II, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, Polk County Extension Office, Bartow, FL
18	Small Farms Livestock Production Conference II, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM, Hendry County Extension Office, LaBelle, FL
28-30	Reproductive Management School, Polk County Extension Office, Bartow, FL

MAGAZINE COVERAGE OF BEEF SOARS

In 2005, the number of beef recipes published in consumer magazines increased 14 percent from the previous year. The circulation of these consumer magazines is more than 30 million. The top three magazines featuring beef (130 plus million circulation combined) were First for Women (1.6 million circulation), Cooking Light (1.7 million circulation) and Woman's World (1.5 million circulation). One of the top priorities of the Beef Checkoff Program is spreading news about beef's nutritional message and ease of preparation. **Source---Beef Checkoff News, January 30, 2006.**

FLAT IRON STEAK TAKES CENTER STAGE

Recently, the Flat Iron steak was prominently featured in an "all about the Beef Cookoff" issue of Beef Insights, a checkoff e-newsletter sent to more than 500 influential food communicators. The Flat Iron steak was developed with beef checkoff dollars through a muscle profiling study designed to find greater value in underutilized beef cuts. Cut from the shoulder clod, the Flat Iron is a tender and lean steak that can be offered at a lower price than most premium steak cuts. **Source---Beef Checkoff News, January 30, 2006.**

MARKET INFORMATION

January 30, 2006

This Week Last Week Last Year

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	608,000	603,000	591,000
Live Weights	1282	1280	1259
Dressed Weights	778	777	761
Beef Production (mil lbs)	470.9	466.4	447.6

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE

Live Steer	94.63	96.02	88.21
Live Heifer	94.55	95.98	88.56
Dressed Steer	149.39	151.49	139.78
Dressed Heifer	149.48	151.50	139.60



Prime grade beef is the ultimate in tenderness, juiciness, and flavor. It has abundant marbling -- flecks of fat within the lean -- which enhances both flavor and juiciness. Prime roasts and steaks are unexcelled for dry-heat cooking (roasting and broiling).

Actual Slaughter Under Federal Inspection for Week Ending 01/14/2006

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Goats	Equine	Bison
	<u>Head</u>						
Monday	106,916	2,539	402,148	11,327	2,902	827	291
Tuesday	124,469	2,847	405,439	10,917	2,973	50	192
Wednesday	119,721	2,256	394,939	11,691	2,593	428	187
Thursday	123,728	1,774	399,818	10,064	1,975	470	138
Friday	113,936	2,574	383,087	8,459	1,898	244	168
Saturday	17,589	0	82,073	32	25	0	48
Total	606,359	11,990	2,067,504	52,490	12,366	2,019	1,024

The summary below reflects the week ended January 27, 2006 for Medium and Large 1 -- 500- to 550-lb., 600- to 650-lb., and 700- to 750-lb. heifers and steers. **Source: Beef Stocker Trends, January 30, 2006.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	23,600	\$130.18	\$118.99	\$112.18	\$120.59	\$109.35	\$104.94
AL	8,600	\$126-139	\$117-126	\$104-111	\$112-124	\$103-115	\$98-108
TN	10,600	\$128.15	\$111.63	\$104.41	\$112.35	\$100.08	\$93.60
FL	5,900	\$104-132	\$104-123	\$94-99	\$102-122	\$95-112	\$95-109
GA	7,100	\$109-136	\$102-112	\$95-109	\$104-125	\$93-109	\$94-101

CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 9 to 10 cents higher from 1.99-2.02 bushel. US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 12 cents higher at 1.97 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 11 to 14 cents higher from 1.90-1.94 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 12 to 14 cents higher from 2.01-2.13 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 13 to 14 cents higher from 1.97-1.99 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 14 cents higher at 1.84 per bushel.

Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday January 27, 2006

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

TAIWAN REOPENS ITS MARKET TO U.S. BEEF

Taiwan on Wednesday announced it will resume trade immediately in U.S. boneless beef from animals 30 months of age and younger. Taiwan closed its market to U.S. beef exports upon discovery of BSE in a U.S. dairy cow of Canadian origin in late December 2003, but lifted the ban in April 2005. Confirmation the following June of the first domestic case of BSE in the U.S. reinstated the ban until this week. Taiwan was previously the sixth-largest market in value for U.S. beef, importing \$76.5 million in product in 2003. **Source: — Joe Roybal, *Cow-Calf Weekly*, January 27, 2006.**

THE BSE SAGA CONTINUES -- IN JAPAN, U.S., CANADA

Whew! Just when it appeared things were headed back to a semblance of predictability where BSE and foreign trade are concerned, comes a weekend like Jan. 20-23.

- On Jan. 20, a Japanese inspection team at Tokyo's Narita Airport finds spinal column in a veal shipment from Brooklyn, NY-based Atlantic Veal and Lamb. Japan promptly shuts down U.S. exports to Japan pending an investigation and a U.S. explanation.
- On Jan. 23, Japan announces its 22nd case of domestic BSE after tests confirm a cow that died the previous week was infected with the fatal brain-wasting disease. The 64-month-old cow was born before Japan implemented its feed ban.
- That same day, Canada confirms its fourth domestic case of BSE, leading to calls by trade protectionists for the closure of the U.S. to Canadian beef imports.

The U.S. dodged one bullet on Monday when South Korea said the Japan situation wouldn't affect its decision to reopen its market to U.S. beef in late March. The agreement allows the importation of boneless beef 30 months of age and younger. Just what the short- and long-term results will be of the latest BSE happenings is anyone's guess. John Harrington, DTN livestock expert, listed three points on the matter:

- Japan's move to re-instate its ban on U.S. beef will probably delay the recovery of that market by at least 30-60 days. The challenge of regain consumer confidence in U.S. product will be even tougher than before.
- The discovery of a fourth case of BSE in Canada isn't statistically surprising and won't change current trading agreements with the U.S.
- On the other hand, the psychology impact of another Canadian problem with older animals will probably delay the current rule-making process to eventually allow the importation of over 30-month cattle and beef from Canada.

Source: — Joe Roybal, *Cow-Calf Weekly*, January 27, 2006.

55TH ANNUAL BEEF CATTLE SHORTCOURSE

Mark your calendar for the 55th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course at the University of Florida will be held on May 3-5, 2006, at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida. Next months newsletter will have all the details.

NEW UF SURVEY SHOWS FLORIDA FARMLAND VALUES INCREASED BY 50 PERCENT TO 88 PERCENT DURING PAST YEAR

Demand for land by developers, investors and speculators pushed the value of agricultural land to record levels in all regions of the state during the past year, according to a new University of Florida survey. Prices of agricultural land increased by 50 percent to 88 percent across the state, and most of the farmland is not being purchased for agricultural purposes, said John Reynolds, a professor with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, who conducts the annual Florida Agricultural Land Value Survey.

He said the survey indicates that the average value of agricultural land ranges from about \$2,700 per acre for unimproved pasture and farm woods in Northwest Florida to almost \$10,000 per acre for orange groves in Central and South Florida. The value of pastureland increased about 81 percent in the south region and 78 percent to 82 percent in the central region. The value of improved pasture increased 85 percent to 87 percent in the northern regions. The value of unimproved pasture increased 76 percent in the northeast and 82 percent in the northwest.

OVERVIEW OF THE NAID PREMISES REGISTRATION PROCESS

To register, the livestock owner or authorized agent may:

Complete a Premises ID Application form and mail or fax it to the FDACS

Call or email FDACS and provide the information

FDACS processes the application FDACS notifies the livestock owner of the new Premises ID

BODY CONDITION SCORING SYSTEM



- BCS 4:** Borderline - Foreribs not noticeable; 12th and 13th ribs still noticeable to the eye, particularly in cattle with a big spring of rib and ribs wide apart. The transverse spinous processes can be identified only by palpation (with slight pressure) to feel rounded rather than sharp. Full but straightness of muscling in the hindquarters.
- BCS 5:** 12th and 13th ribs not visible to the eye unless animal has been shrunk. The transverse spinous processes can only be felt with firm pressure to feel rounded - not noticeable to the eye. Spaces between the processes not visible and only distinguishable with firm pressure. Areas on each side of the tail head are fairly well filled but not mounded.
- BCS 6:** Ribs fully covered, not noticeable to the eye. Hindquarters plump and full. Noticeable sponginess to covering of foreribs and on each side of the tail head. Firm pressure now required to feel transverse processes.

20th ANNUAL 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. Please see page 6 of this newsletter for more details.

Beef Management Calendar

February/March

Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.

Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth and get fertilizer incorporated in grass roots while there is still good soil moisture.

Check mineral feeder.

Check for lice and treat if necessary.

Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.). Be sure to work late calves.

Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.

Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.

Survey pastures for poisonous plants.

Top dress winter forages, if needed.

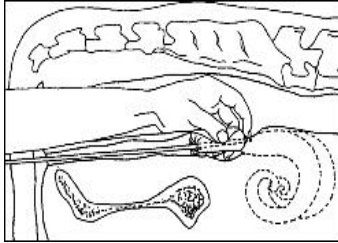
Observe bulls for condition, rotate and rest if needed.

Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.

Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.

Hispanic Market Success

The Beef Checkoff Program recently produced and distributed a Spanish audio news release (ANR), highlighting beef grilling and a beef culinary expert. A total of 121 radio stations across the country representing an audience of 13.4 million aired the ANR. The Beef Checkoff Program continues to fund programs targeted to the Hispanic population, one of the fastest growing segments in the United States. **Source---**Beef Checkoff News, January 30, 2006.



20th Annual
Reproductive Management School
March 28-30, 2006
Polk County Ag Center
1702 Hwy 17 South

Sponsored by:

South Florida Beef/Forage Program



Tuesday – March 28, 2006

- 8:00 Introductions-Jim Selph
- 8:30 Pregnancy Testing-Dr. Joel Yelich, Animal Science Dept., UF/IFAS, Gainesville
- 10:00 Break
- 10:10 Quiet Handling of Beef Cattle
Dr. Joel Yelich
- 11:00 Pregnancy Testing Video
- 11:30 Lunch (provided)
- 12:15 Intact Tracts Lab - Dr. Al Warnick, Professor Emeritus, Animal Science Dept., UF/IFAS
- 1:00 Lab-Hands on Pregnancy Testing
- 3:30 Heifer Development and Management of Young Cows- Jim Selph, DeSoto County Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS, Arcadia, FL
- 4:15 Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation
- 5:30 Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation-Live Animal Demo

Wednesday – March 29, 2006

- 8:00 Genetic Management for Efficient Reproduction-Dr. Al Warnick
- 8:30 Coping with Calving Problems
- 9:15 Breeding Season Management-Lockie Gary, Hardee County Cooperative Extension Service, UF/IFAS
- 9:45 Break

- 10:00 Health Management-Vaccination Program for Reproduction-Dr. Max Irsik, UF/IFAS Extension Beef Veterinarian
- 10:30 Nutrition for Reproduction - Economics of Supplementation – Dr. Mat Hersom, UF/IFAS Extension Beef Specialist
- 11:15 Reproductive Implications of Body Condition and Nutritional Management – Dr. Mat Hersom
- 12:00 Lunch (provided)
- 12:30 Laboratory: Hands on Pregnancy Testing-Staff
- 3:30 Utilizing Performance Records
- 4:30 Body Conditions Scoring Problem

Thursday, March 30, 2006

- 8:00 The Role of Artificial Insemination in Beef Cattle -Dr. Joel Yelich
- 8:30 Herd Bull Selection
- 9:00 Estrus Synchronization and Heat Detection
- 9:30 Break
- 9:45 Nutrition for Reproduction – Forage Quality-Dr. John Arthington, Range Cattle REC, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL
- 10:15 The Role of Ultrasound in a Beef Cattle Herd
- 10:45 Program Summary and Evaluation-Staff
- 11:00 Hands-on Laboratory – End of Reproductive Management School

The South Florida Beef Program will conduct this year's Reproductive Management School in Bartow at the Polk County Ag-Center. The purpose of this school has been to strengthen managerial capabilities of owners and operators of beef cattle ranches. The school utilizes technical seminars and laboratories dealing with reproductive management of the cow herd. Although the topic of pregnancy diagnosis is given extensive treatment, the school does not intend to make participants proficient in this skill. The goal is an improved understanding of the broad subject of breeding herd management and for those enrolled to be better equipped to work with their veterinarians in accomplishing breeding program objectives.

Cost: \$350.00

Please RSVP to our office if you plan to attend: 863-993-4846, e-mail: jselph@ifas.ufl.edu

Participants Requiring Special Accommodations Should Contact Brantley Ivey (863-529-8677) 48 Hours Before The Event.

**** 2006 - REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE ****

This course is sponsored by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and is conducted with the assistance of area large animal Veterinary practitioners. It is part of a continuing multi-county effort to help South Florida beef producers market more pounds of beef per cow profitably.

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. Rather it is hoped that an improved understanding of the broad subject of breeding herd management will be achieved and that individuals enrolled in the course will be better equipped to work with their veterinarians in accomplishing breeding program objectives.

REGISTRATION FORM

This is to confirm my intent to attend the Comprehensive Reproductive Management School to be sponsored by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and South Florida Beef-Forage Program.

I understand that the school will be held at the Hardee County Agri-Civic Center (Bartow) March 28-30, 2006.

I further understand that my deposit of \$100.00 is non-refundable and that an additional fee of \$250.00 will be payable by March 28, 2006. I also understand acceptance in the school is dependent upon the \$100 deposit and receipt of this registration form by the school's registrar before the class is filled.

The \$350.00 fee is intended to cover the cost of conducting the school and does not include meals and lodging.

\$ 100.00 deposit (non-refundable)
\$ 250.00 due March 15, 2006

\$350.00 Total

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

COUNTY _____ EXTENSION AGENT _____

SIGNED: _____ (Participant) _____ (Date) _____

SIGNED: _____ (Extension Agent) _____ (Date) _____

Make Checks Payable to: South Florida Beef-Forage Program
PO Box 310
Arcadia, Fl 34265



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Small Farms Livestock Conference II

Polk County Extension Office
Bartow, FL
March 4, 2006



Hendry County Extension Office
LaBelle, FL
March 18, 2006



8:30 AM	Registration	11:30 AM	National Animal ID and Record Keeping -
9:00 AM	Welcome & Introductions- Pat Hogue	Pat Hogue	
9:15 AM	Pasture Weed Control - Dr. Brent Sellers	12:15 PM	Lunch
10:00 AM	Break into Cattle, Horse or Goat Sessions	12:45 PM	Body Condition Scoring of Horses – Joel Mcquagge
<u>Cattle Session</u>		1:30 PM	Adjourn to Afternoon Demonstrations
10:05 AM	Selection of foundation Animals – Jim Selph	1:45 PM	Pasture Weed Identification Combined Session-Dr. Brent Sellers & Gary Mikulecky
10:45 AM	Body Condition Scoring of Cattle - Dr. John Arthington	2:15 PM	Production Practices Demonstration – Steffany Dragon & Shelly Humphries
11:30 AM	National Animal ID and Record Keeping - Brantley Ivey	2:45 PM	Selection and Body Condition Scoring of Horses - Joel Mcquagge
12:15 PM	Lunch	<u>Goat Session</u>	
12:45 PM	Production Practices On Your Own - Lockie Gary	10:05 AM	Production Practices on Your Own - Lockie Gary, Dr. Ike Ezenwa
1:30 PM	Adjourn to Afternoon Demonstrations	10:45 AM	National Animal ID and Record Keeping - Pat Hogue
1:45 PM	Pasture Weed Identification Combined Session - Dr. Brent Sellers & Gary Mikulecky	11:30 AM	Selection of Foundation Animals - Dr. Ike Ezenwa
2:15 PM	Cattle Selection - Jim Selph	12:15 PM	Lunch
2:45 PM	Cattle Body Condition Scoring – Dr. John Arthington	12:45 PM	Body Condition Scoring of Goats - Dr. Ike Ezenwa
3:15 PM	Production Practices Demonstrations - Lockie Gary & Christa Carlson	1:30 PM	Adjourn to Afternoon Demonstrations
<u>Horse Session</u>		1:45 PM	Pasture Weed Identification Combined Session - Dr. Brent Sellers & Gary Mikulecky
10:05 AM	Selection of Foundation Animals – Joel Mcquagge	2:15 PM	Goat Selection - Dr. Ike Ezenwa
10:45 AM	Production Practices on Your Own - Steffany Dragon	2:45 PM	Production Practices Demonstrations - Lockie Gary & Sonja Crawford
		3:15 PM	Body Condition Scoring of Goats - Dr. Ike Ezenwa

Cost of the conference will be \$ 20 per person pre-paid non-refundable registration to include lunch and any program materials. Individuals planning to attend should contact Jim Selph (863-993-4846 or e-mail: jselph@ifas.ufl.edu) at the DeSoto County Extension Office.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

Program location you plan to attend, check one of the following: Bartow LaBelle
Program Session or area of interest (check one of the following): Cattle Horse Goat

BRACHIARIA'S FOR DESOTO COUNTY

Brachiaria Insurgente and Abundance are excellent yielding and very leafy bunch grasses with little or no winter production. They have good CP concentration and excellent digestibility. In fact digestibility will run 6 to 8 percentage units above Florona stargrass. The problem with Brachiarias at Ona was cold tolerance. The temperature during the fall of 2000 and spring of 2001 dropped below 32oF 11 times with a one time extreme low of 19oF. This temperature regime killed 100% of the Brachiaria study. One commercial producer west of Okeechobee has been growing two Bracharia cultivars for at least 3 yr with no persistence problems. It appears that Bracharia may be a viable alternative for warmer areas of south Florida. **Source—Range Cattle REC Newsletter, March 2003, Volume 6, Number 1**

FERTILIZE PASTURES EARLY

For ranchers who intend to fertilize pastures this year now is the time to start planning. What should you fertilize, and when and how much should be applied? In deciding what to fertilize, priority should be given to fertilizing the better quality forages such as hemarthria, pangolagrass, and stargrass. Priority should be given to fertilizing pastures that will be grazed by younger cattle, especially firstcalf heifers. Of course, bahiagrass is the major pasture forage in Florida. The South Florida Beef/Forage Extension Agents conducted an excellent field study on 9 ranches in south Florida to measure the benefits of different fertilizer applications. They found that bahiagrass showed a good response to nitrogen fertilization, but little response to phosphorus and potassium. The most economical fertilizer application was to spread 60 pounds of nitrogen per acre in March. When nitrogen was applied in March there was a very good response in bahiagrass yield in April and May, and this response continued through the summer months. Nitrogen application also significantly increased the crude protein content of bahiagrass in the April and May period. **Source—Range Cattle REC Newsletter, March 2003, Volume 6, Number 1**

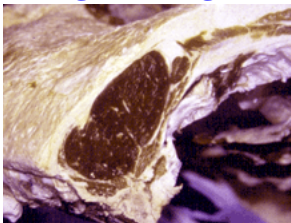
EU SUPPORTS 'HUMANE' FARMING LABEL

The European Union has moved closer to implementing an "animal welfare" label on food. The EU's policy-making arm suggests a special label for poultry, beef, pork and fish produced by so-called humane farming methods to encourage consumers to buy the products. The proposal is part of a five-year EU plan to promote animal welfare. The EU also plans to reduce the use of animals in medical and product-safety tests and to develop more-scientific methods for gauging animals' well-being.

The EU maintains a ban on U.S. beef raised with growth-promoting hormones. In 1998, the World Trade Organization issued a judgment against the ban permitting the U.S. and Canada to collect penalties of more than \$100 million per year in extra duties on European exports. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, January 26, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 4**

DARK CUTTERS: WHAT ARE THEY?

Dark cutting beef refers to muscle tissue that fails to turn the typical cherry red when exposed to air. With dark cutter the muscle remains dark (ranging from dark red to almost black) when the carcass is ribbed. A depletion of glycogen stores in the muscle results in dark cutting beef. The pH level is also higher than normal in dark cutting beef. Consumers associate dark beef as both tough and poor flavor. Additionally, dark cutting beef has poor storage properties and shortened shelf life. According to the 1995 National Beef Quality Audit 2.7% of the audited carcasses (\$6.08 per head) were classified as dark cutters. Dark cutting carcasses are discounted within the USDA beef quality grades. Packers routinely lower the price of dark carcasses 20% to 40% and market them to alternative outlets. Dark cutting beef is most often associated with preslaughter stress. Environment factors such as extreme cold, rain or heat along with weather fluctuations can lead to temporary glycogen depletions. Cattle which become excitable during sorting, hauling, penning and overcrowding can be candidates for dark cutting. Holding cattle off feed for one to two days can also lead to dark cutting beef. Overaggressive or misuse of growth promotant implants has also been implicated with dark cutters.



James F. Selph
James F. Selph

DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock