

**DeSoto County  
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

April 2007 / Volume 29 Number 4



**Young Fawn**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April**

19	Farm Credit of South West Florida Annual Meeting, Hardee Agri-civic Center, Wauchula, 6:00 PM
26	DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting, Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 7:00 PM

**May**

2-4	56 <sup>th</sup> Annual Beef Cattle Shortcourse, Hilton UF Conference Center, Gainesville, FL
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**GROUPS BEGIN TO SPEAK OUT OVER ETHANOL**

As potential impacts of the growing corn-ethanol industry become better known, diverse groups of livestock producers, environmentalists and others have begun to voice their opposition, according to an article posted on [businessweek.com](http://businessweek.com). NCBA president-elect and Texas Cattle Feeders Association past chairman Paul Hitch has spoken out on the subject saying, "This ethanol binge is insane," and adding that it will come at a severe cost to another part of the economy. Hitch says NCBA is reaching out to other groups to coordinate lobbying and other activities, and recently participated in a conference call with other livestock groups. Participants agreed to work together in arguing for elimination of domestic ethanol subsidies and tariffs on Brazil's sugar-based ethanol. Groups with various interests are beginning to speak out about the subsidies Washington provides to ethanol refineries. And many are asking why similar subsidies are not offered to other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. The looming farm bill debate promises to be lengthy and heated. — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor Source—*Drovers Alert*, Thursday, March 29, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 13.

**ON-FEED NUMBERS DOWN, PLACEMENTS UP**

U.S. feedyard inventories, as of March 1, totaled 11.6 million head, a 4 percent decline from the same date last year, according to last Friday's Cattle on Feed report. Placements into feedyards, however, picked up during February after several slow months. About 60 percent of February's placements weighed more than 700 pounds. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.7 million head, an increase of 7 percent over February 2006. Smaller inventories, coupled with more aggressive marketings, should be positive for fed-cattle prices as we move into a period of seasonally higher demand.—*Drovers Alert*, Thursday, March 29, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 13.

**THREATS INCREASE AGAINST IOWA LIVESTOCK**

Since August, there have been at least seven significant acts of violence and threats against farms in Iowa, according to the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers. Incidents have included the shooting of a dozen cows and a fire that destroyed a 370-head hog nursery, which may have been intentionally set. Primary targets of threats and violence have been hog producers expanding their operations. No arrests have been made. —*Drovers Alert*, Thursday, March 29, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 13.

# MARKET INFORMATION

April 7, 2007

	4/7/07	Last Week	Last Year
<b>5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE</b>			
Live Steer	99.97	95.86	82.48
Live Heifer	99.95	95.71	82.66
Dressed Steer	159.75	154.67	129.17
Dressed Heifer	159.68	154.35	129.39

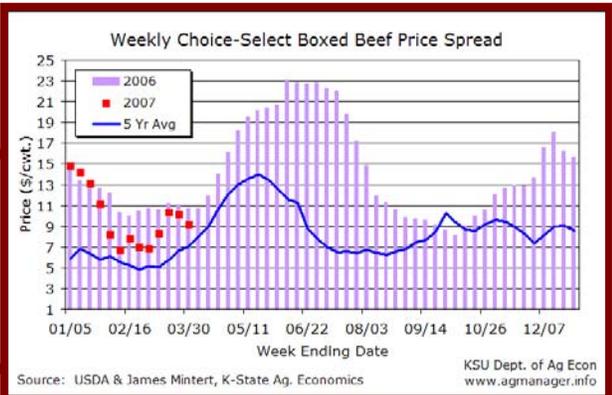
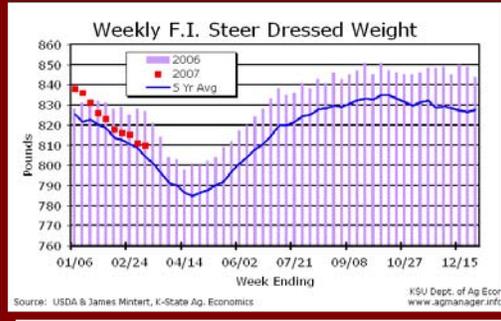
[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm\\_ct150.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt)

	4/7/07	Last Week	Last Year
<b>BEEF PRODUCTION</b>	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	606,000	620,000	636,000
Live Weights	1263	1266	1253
Dressed Weights	764	764	764
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	461.2	471.6	483.5

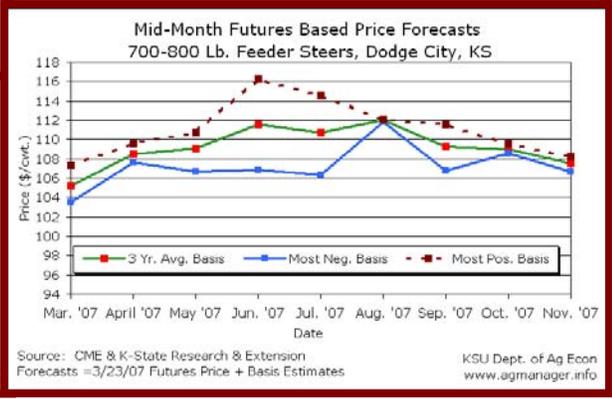
[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ\\_LS712.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt)

	3/23/07	Last Week	Last Year
<b>National Grading Percent</b>			
Prime	2.39%	2.53%	2.68%
Choice	52.89%	53.40%	52.08%
Select	35.03%	35.29%	35.29%

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW\\_LS196.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt)



**Choice/Select Spread**  
**03/29/07**  
**\$9.25/cwt**  
[http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L\\_M\\_XB403.TXT](http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT)



The summary below reflects the week ending March 16, 2007 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, March 20, 2007.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	21,500	\$118.68	\$112.24	\$106.38	\$111.14	\$103.48	\$99.14
AL	11,100	\$115-125	\$104-112	\$97-100	\$104-111	\$93-100	\$86-91
TN	11,800	\$115.95	\$104.54	\$94.16	\$100.04	\$91.67	\$85.32
FL	5,200	\$93-116	\$88-101	\$81-85	\$81-101	\$80.50-91	
GA	9,600	\$100-124	\$90-113.50	\$78-101	\$91-109	\$82-101	\$74-93



## CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 9 cents higher from 4.95-4.99 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 15 cents lower from 3.75-3.77 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 15 to 17 cents lower at 3.69 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 11 to 15 cents lower from 3.69 ½-3.88 ½ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 13 cents lower from 3.72 ½-3.73 ½ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 19 cents lower at 3.52 ½ per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday March 30, 2007, [http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ\\_GR851.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt)**

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## MEAT AND BEEF PRODUCTION UP IN FEBRUARY

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in February, up 4 percent from that of February 2006, according to USDA. Beef production, at 1.95 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from one year earlier, while cattle slaughter posted a 9 percent year-to-year increase. Average slaughter weights were down 10 pounds from one year ago. Veal production during February was up 7 percent from the same period last year, and slaughter weights for veal calves was down by 50 pounds. Pork production during February was down slightly from last year. —Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 29, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 13.

## KOREA IS KING OF HIGH-PRICED BEEF

The price of beef in South Korea is the highest among 29 countries, with South Korean consumers paying the U.S. equivalent of \$59/kilo (55,800 won) for imported beef and 54,500 won (\$58) for domestic product. One kilo is 2.2046 lbs. An international survey conducted by Consumers Korea and consumer organizations in 28 other countries found Australian beef is nearly twice as expensive in South Korea as in Japan, says group chairman Kim Jae-ok. Russia came in second, with imported beef being equivalent to 50,318 won/kilo, followed by the United Arab Emirates with 24,646 won, and Vietnam with 22,823 won. Japan's average beef import price was 21,023 won. In January, the International Labor Organization (ILO) said that, as of October 2005, the average price of a kilogram of beef in South Korea was \$56.44, six times more expensive than in the United States (\$8.94) and five times more expensive than in Britain and Italy. The ILO survey of 13 countries also showed the price of Korean beef was roughly \$15 more expensive than that of Japan. Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, March 23, 2007.

## 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FLORIDA BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE—MAY 2-4, 2007

The beef cattle industry continues to be a changing environment full of challenges and opportunities. Cattle producers face increasing demands for quality and consistent cattle and beef products while facing increasing production costs. This combination of demands looks to re-shape beef cattle production in the coming years. The 56th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course looks to address the issues of production management, profitability, and opportunities for quality strategies. The 2007 Short Course kicks off on Wednesday afternoon with a session identifying aspects affecting enterprise profitability. The program starts with the annual market outlook for the beef cattle industry. The market outlook is paired with an assessment of risk management and the cost of production for beef enterprises. The Wednesday afternoon program includes a discussion of international competition and opportunities for quality beef led by Clint Peck of BEEF Magazine. Persistently infected BVD is a current issue in the beef industry and is addressed during our afternoon program. The afternoon program concludes with an opportunity for the participants to interact and exchange information during the evening reception and Allied Trade Show. Identifying the aspects of quality is the theme for the program on Thursday. The day starts with a review of the 2005 Beef Quality Audit as it relates to cow-calf production. This assessment is a key tool to benchmarking the progress of production in the beef cattle industry. An interesting assessment of the relationships that contribute to the Choice-Select spread continues the theme of quality beef production. The morning concludes with an examination of the factors that affect cattle performance and grade. The morning promises to be an informative and valuable program to improve the quality of beef production. The afternoon program continues the assessment of quality in beef cattle. Live cattle, carcass, and beef production evaluation demonstrations will be utilized to emphasize the need for quality beef cattle production. The annual Cattleman's Steak-Out on Thursday provides an event for all participants to enjoy a prime rib dinner and time for conversation and relaxation. On Friday, the program splits into two sessions to identify opportunities in Florida production. The first session looks to examine the utilization of Bos indicus cattle in Florida beef enterprises. This session will span the cow herd, growth and feed efficiency, and carcass traits and merit. The second session on Friday morning will address forage management for Florida pastures. Pasture management topics will include the cost of pasture establishment, selection and use of cool season forages, and weed control. The 2007 Beef Cattle Short Course promises to continue the tradition of being the best educational event for cattle producers in the Southeast. The spectrum of topics related to the production, profitability, and quality of beef cattle should provide something for every beef cattle producer.

## FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2007 <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
1.93"	2.09"	0.81"										4.83"

## FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE—FIRST COLUMN IS THE HIGH & 2<sup>ND</sup> COLUMN IS THE LOW

86.6°	86.5°	86.3°										
33.3°	32.6°	39.5°										

## FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY CHILLING HOURS AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

18.8 33.2 28.5

### FAWN WEATHER INFORMATION

The FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) can be accessed at the following website: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>. There is also a toll free number that can be called to get information when you are in the field away from a computer. That number is: 866-754-5732.

## Beef Management Calendar

April/May

Check mineral feeder.

Plant warm season annual pastures.

Check dust bags or apply treated ear tags.

Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.

Observe cows for repeat breeders.

Deworm cows as needed if not done in March.

Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age.

Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.

Market cull cows and bulls.

Vaccinate and implant with growth stimulant any later calves.

### DESOTO COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2007 DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Spring Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 26, 2007, at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall. All members, along with their family are invited to attend. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. You may bring one guest to the steak dinner. Members bringing more than one guest will be asked to pay \$10.00 per each additional guest. Not only will you be able to enjoy an excellent steak dinner by attending, you will also hear excellent information concerning beef cattle production and most of all you will have a great time socializing with your friends.

### PINKEYE IN BEEF CATTLE

Being in the spring of the year, I thought this might be a good time to talk about Pinkeye in Cattle. What causes Pinkeye? Most cases are caused by a bacterium--*Moraxella bovis*. This bacterium is found in the eyes of many normal cattle. An irritant to the eye is the trigger that sets the disease in motion and creates the headaches for you the producer. Eliminating the source of the irritants whether they are flies or tall weeds and vaccinating the calves can help you avoid some of the headaches of Pinkeye. Below is some information on Stage One of Pinkeye. Stage I: Cattle have excessive tearing and increased sensitivity to light. They will blink frequently and there is redness along the eyelids. Cattle will often seek shade, which will decrease their grazing time. Pain associated with pinkeye also decreases their feed intake. Stage I will progress to a small ulcer in the center of the cornea which appears as a small white spot. The cornea develops a slightly cloudy grey appearance due to inflammation. One or both eyes may be affected. Based on purchases of 50 dose vials of vaccine, the cost per dose is approximately \$.68 and a 10 dose vial will run about \$.80 per dose. The vaccines can be purchased alone or in combination with other vaccines such as black leg. Some have 3 strains of the bacterium and others have as high as 8 strains. Most require a single shot with an annual booster prior to the start of the pinkeye season. If have ever had an outbreak and had to treat a number of calves, you would probably decide that the amount that the vaccine cost is worth the time, effort and money to vaccinate. During the 15 + years that my sons had their 4-H Livestock Projects that were mostly Hereford cattle, I annually gave the pinkeye vaccine. I never had to treat a single case of pinkeye during those years.



Celebrating the Fifty-sixth Annual

# Beef Cattle Short Course

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center  
Gainesville, Florida

May 2-4, 2007



## Agenda topics for the 3-day long conference will be:

### Wednesday, May 2, 2007

#### Identifying Aspects Affecting Profitability

Presiding: **Matt Hersom**, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

- 1:00 Welcome – **Geoff Dahl**, Department Chairman and Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL.
- 1:15 Cattlemen's Comments – **Hal Phillips**, President, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Williston, FL.
- 1:30 Economic and Market Outlook for 2007 – **Walt Prevatt**, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.
- 2:15 International Competition and Opportunities for US Quality Beef – **Clint Peck**, Beef Magazine, Billings Mt.
- 3:00 Refreshment Break
- 3:20 Risk Management and the Cost of Production – **Curt Lacy**, University of Georgia, Tifton, Ga.
- 4:15 Persistently Infected BVD Cattle – A Cow/Calf Perspective – **Clint Peck**, Beef Magazine, Billings, Mt.
- 5:00 Allied Industry Trade Show and Reception - Several companies will have exhibits and representatives to answer your questions. Hors d'oeuvres provided compliments of the exhibitors.

A cash bar is available for your enjoyment.

### Thursday, May 3, 2007

#### Identifying the Aspects of Quality

Presiding: **John Arthington**, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL

- 8:30 Review of the 2005 Beef Quality Audit - **Dan Hale**, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 9:30 Relationships Affecting the Choice-Select Spread - **Curt Lacy**, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
- 10:30 Refreshment Break
- 11:00 Interactions of the Factors Affecting Cattle Grade/Performance - **Clint Krehbiel**, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- 12:00 Leave for Lunch at UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit (Sponsored by Farm Credit of North Florida - Directions to be provided)

Presiding: **Jerry Wasdin**, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

- 1:30 Evaluation of Differences in Quality of Cattle
- Feeder / Finish Calf Evaluation - **Larry Eubanks** and **Todd Thrift**, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
  - Finished Steer and Cow Carcass Evaluation - **Dwain Johnson** and **Todd Thrift**, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
  - Beef Products Taste Panel - **Alex Stelzleni**, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
- 2:30 Refreshment Break
- 2:45 Second Rotation
- 3:45 Refreshment Break
- 4:00 Third Rotation
- 5:00 Adjourn
- 6:30 Cattlemen's Steak-Out (Horse Teaching Unit)

### FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007

#### Identifying Opportunities in Florida Production Session I

Presiding: **Mark Shuffitt**, Marion Co. Extension, UF/IFAS, Ocala, FL

#### Utilization of *Bos Indicus* Cattle in Florida Beef Enterprises

- 8:30 Cow Herd - **Todd Thrift**, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
- 9:30 Growth and Feed Efficiency - **Gary Hansen**, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL
- 10:30 Refreshment Break
- 10:45 Carcass Traits and Merit - **David Riley**, USDA, Sub-Tropical Agriculture Research Station, Brooksville, FL
- 11:45 Adjourn
- #### Session II
- Presiding: **Elena Toro**, Columbia Co. Extension, UF/

**IFAS, Lake City, FL**

**Forage Management for Florida Pastures**

- 8:30** Cost of Pasture Establishment - *Yoanna Newman, Department of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL*
- 9:30** Selection and Use of Cool Season Forages - *Ann Blount, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL*
- 10:30** Refreshment Break
- 10:45** Weed Control - *Jay Ferrell and Brent Sellers, Department of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL and Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL*
- 11:45** Adjourn

**REGISTRATION**

**Note:** If making payment for multiple registrants, please list each individual's name on the form of payment. This will ensure proper crediting for each registrant.

**Refund Policy:** Requests for registration refunds will be honored if a written notification of cancellation is received on or before April 20, 2007. A \$35.00 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. Sorry, no refunds will be honored for cancellations after April 20, 2007.

**CONVENIENTLY REGISTER IN ONE OF THREE EASY WAYS:**

1. **ONLINE:** If paying by credit card, register online at: <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/bcscIndex.shtml>
2. **FAX:** If paying by credit card, FAX completed registration form to: (352) 392-9059
3. **MAIL:** Please make check, money order, or purchase order payable to: **UF Foundation** Mail this form with payment to: **Pam Gross**

**Beef Cattle Short Course**  
UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences  
P.O. Box 110910  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0910

**Charge my:** VISA Master Card American Express Discover

PLEASE PRINT Fed. ID: 59-0974739

**Credit Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Cardholder:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Needs:** Participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Matt Hersom at least 10 working days prior to the workshop. He may be reached by phoning (352) 392-2390 or faxing (352) 392-9059.

**Registration Information**

The reduced early registration fee is \$90.00 if payment is postmarked by April 20, 2007. **After April 20, 2007, the regular registration fee will be \$120.00.** The registration fee includes refreshment breaks, exhibitor's reception, Thursday's luncheon, one Cattlemen's Steak-out ticket, and a copy of the proceedings. Extra Cattlemen's Steak-out tickets are available at \$10.00 each. Please refer to the registration card to purchase extra tickets. Requests for registration refunds will be honored if a written notification of cancellation is received on or before April 20, 2007. A \$35.00 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. Sorry, no refunds will be honored for cancellations after April 20, 2007.

In compliance with ADA requirements, participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Matt Hersom at least

10 working days prior to the workshop. He may be reached by phoning (352) 392-2390 or faxing (352) 392-9059.

**Hotel Accommodations/Meeting Site**

The Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, located at 1714 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL, is offering a special group rate of \$139.00 single or double occupancy, plus 9.25% tax. To qualify for this special rate, reservations must be made prior to March 30, 2007. Please call the hotel directly at (352) 371-3600 to make your reservation and inform the attendant that you are with the "Beef Cattle Short Course" in order for Hotel Reservations to recognize you as a Beef Cattle Short Course participant. After the deadline, the discounted group rate and guest room availability are no longer guaranteed.

**Celebrating the Fifty-sixth Annual  
Beef Cattle Short Course**

May 2-4, 2007 · Hilton UF Conference Center · Gainesville, FL

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee** (includes: refreshment breaks, exhibitor's reception, Thursday's luncheon, one Cattlemen's Steak-out ticket, and a proceedings.)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$90.00 Early Registration Fee (for fees postmarked on or before April 20, 2007)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$120.00 Regular Registration Fee (for fees postmarked after April 20, 2007)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Each EXTRA Cattlemen's Steak-out Ticket

**\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed (payable to: UF Foundation)**

**JOURNAL TRANSFER OF PAYMENTS NOT ACCEPTED**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

PO #: \_\_\_\_\_

Money Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_

