

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



August 2007 / Volume 29 Number 8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**3rd Annual/Quail/Dove
Short Course--October 19,
2007-Mark your Calendar
for October 19th**

August

16 Beef Quality Assurance Certification, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM, Highlands Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Contact Lindsey Fielder, Extension Agent I, 863-402-6540 for Details.

September

5-6 Advanced Pasture Management School, Turner Center Exhibit Hall on the 5th, 8:00 AM —3:30 PM and Ona Research Station on the 6th, 8:45 AM—4:00 PM.

October

4-5 2nd Annual Florida Deer and Turkey Short Course, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy, FL

10-12 Florida Farm Bureau Annual Convention, Daytona Beach Hilton, Daytona Beach, FL

11 Pasture Weed Field Day, Ona Range Cattle Research Center, 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

11 DeSoto/Charlotte Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, DeSoto Middle School Cafeteria, 6:30 PM, Arcadia, FL

16-18 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, Moultrie, GA

19 3rd Annual Florida Quail/Dove Short Course, Turner Center, Arcadia, FL, 7:30AM—5:00PM

25 DeSoto County Cattlemen’s Association Annual Fall Meeting, Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 7:00 PM, Arcadia, FL.

PASTURE WEED MANAGEMENT

When we think of pasture weed management at this time of the year, we often think of controlling Dogfennel. The biggest mistake made is being late with our application of the herbicide. By that I mean that we should be applying a herbicide to the Dogfennel when they are approximately 12 to 18 inches in height. At that height, the recommended herbicide is Weedmaster at 2-3 pints per acre. Weedmaster is a combination of 2 chemicals, 2,4-D and Dicamba. For control of larger dogfennel that has reached approximately 24 to 36 inches in height the IFAS recommendation is to use 3 pints of PastureGard per acre. PastureGard is a combination of triclopyr (Remedy) and fluroxypyr (Vista). A 3rd option is the use of Forefront at 2-2.6 pints per acre. The addition of 8 oz. of Vista to 2 pints of Forefront will improve the Dogfennel control to greater than 90%.



MARKET INFORMATION

August 6, 2007

	8/4/07	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	91.97	90.63	80.52
Live Heifer	92.04	90.80	80.60
Dressed Steer	144.69	141.39	128.04
Dressed Heifer	144.99	141.66	128.09

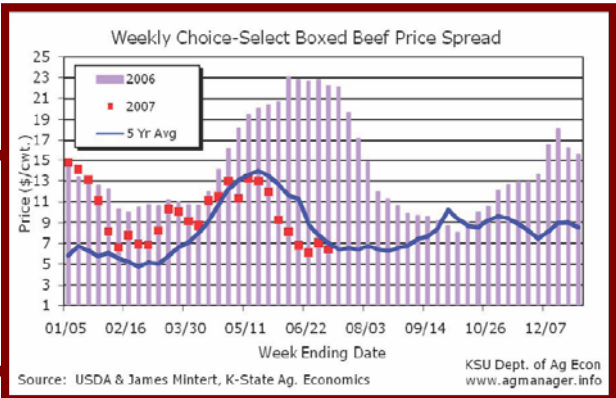
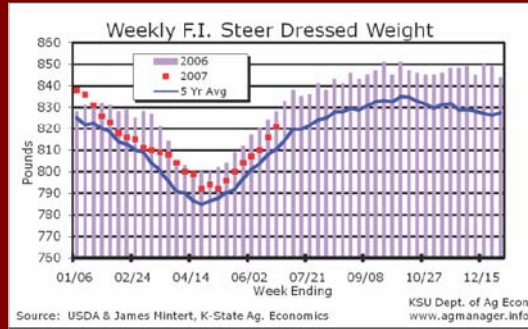
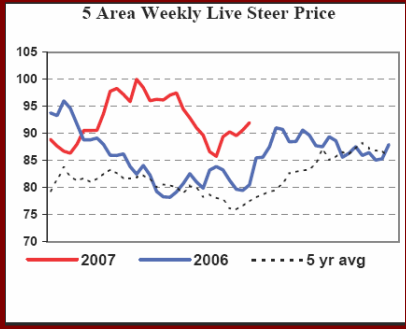
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	8/4/07 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	671,000	668,000	629,000
Live Weights	1270	1265	1273
Dressed Weights	781	778	780
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	522.3	517.9	488.9

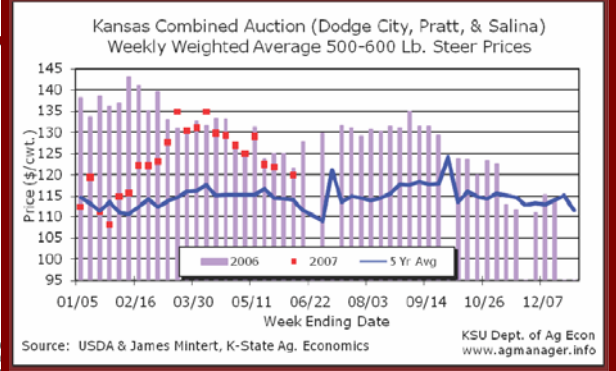
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

	7/20/07	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.16%	2.04%	2.56%
Choice	53.24%	53.74%	52.28%
Select	35.96%	37.23%	37.72%

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt

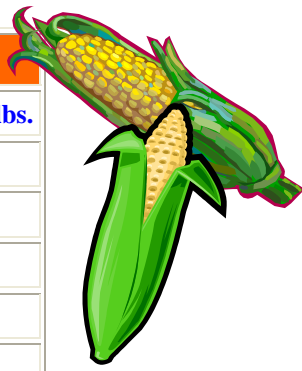


Choice/Select Spread
08/07/07
\$4.98/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ending August 7, 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, August 3, 2007.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	18,500	\$120.38	\$114.41	\$111.46	\$113.72	\$108.93	\$109.21
AL	12,200	\$118-123	\$107-115 ³	\$101-108 ⁵	\$106-115 ¹	\$102-110 ³	\$96-101
TN	10,700	\$117.49	\$119.99	\$105.37	\$108.57	\$103.89	\$96.59
FL	8,000	\$102-116	\$96-111	\$91-106	\$98-107	\$93-106	\$96-99
GA	8,900	\$103-123	\$99-116	\$90-108.50	\$97-114	\$92-107	\$81-97



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 6 to 13 cents higher from 3.67-3.78 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 10 to 11 cents higher at 3.24 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 8 cents higher from 3.10-3.12 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 14 ½ to 16 ½ cents higher from 3.02-3.31 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 6 ½ to 9 ½ cents higher from 3.26-3.28 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 37 ½ cents lower at 2.89 per bushel.

Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday August 3, 2007,
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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SECOND CASE OF FMD CONFIRMED IN ENGLAND

Officials in England have confirmed a case of foot and mouth disease in a second cattle herd within the 6-mile quarantine area set up after the first case appeared last week. According to news reports, investigators have confirmed that the strain of the virus is the same as one used in a nearby laboratory. According to a report in the English newspaper *The Guardian*, officials believe human error might have resulted in a person or vehicle introducing the virus to the affected farm, rather than airborne dispersal from the laboratory. British officials remain hopeful that rapid containment and culling of potentially infected herds will prevent a widespread outbreak of FMD. —Drovers Alert, Thursday, August 9, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 32.

TYSON OFFERS CAB PREMIUMS FOR ANGUSSOURCE-TAGGED CALVES

Tyson Fresh Meats, the nation's largest beef packer, now offers Certified Angus Beef (CAB) brand premiums for AngusSource-tagged calves that qualify. The Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Lexington, Neb., rails off these Angus-based cattle for certified Angus program evaluation by the USDA. Historically, "Angus-type" was defined only by a phenotypic, 51% black-hided criterion. In April, Tyson became the second packing company to accept this form of genotypic verification as well. Tyson Fresh Meats now offers Certified Angus Beef (CAB) brand premiums for AngusSource-tagged calves that qualify. "This is great news for commercial producers who are working to raise high-quality calves, but color kept them from getting any CAB premiums," says Mark McCully, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB). "Now that we know their genetics, they'll also be considered for the brand." "Adding another packer just increases the scope of this opportunity," the CAB supply development director says. AngusSource is a leader in the Angus genetic-, source- and age-verified arena. The USDA Process Verified Program (PVP) requires calves to be at least 50% Angus—sired by a registered and transferred Angus bull. Cattle are enrolled at the ranch of origin and group age is documented as the month, day and year of birth for the firstborn calf in the group. Since 1995 packers have paid producers more than \$200 million in value-based grid premiums for cattle accepted into the brand. —Drovers Alert, Thursday, August 9, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 32.

CROPS LOOKING GOOD

Although conditions can vary widely between locations, current surveys indicate a big U.S. crop of corn, soybeans and sorghum, and pasture conditions generally have improved over last year. This week's USDA Crop Progress report rates 56 percent of the nation's corn as good to excellent and 18 percent at poor or very poor, numbers that mirror those from the same time last year. The report rates soybeans at 58 percent good or excellent compared with 53 percent last year. Sorghum, at 68 percent good or excellent, looks much better than last year when just 31 percent of the crop fit those categories. Drought has severely damaged pasture and range conditions in some areas, particularly in the Southeast and Upper Midwest. Nationally though, 67 percent of pasture and range rates at least fair, compared with 50 percent last year, and 33 percent rate poor or very poor, compared with 50 percent last year. —Drovers Alert, Thursday, August 9, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 32.

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2007 <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>. 1ST COLUMN IS 2007—2ND COLUMN IS 2006—3RD COLUMN IS 2005.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
1.93"	2.09"	0.81"	2.80"	2.28"	5.04"*	5.42"						20.37"
0.32"	3.26"	0.97"	0.14"	2.07"	2.71"	5.84"	9.30"	4.15"	1.36"	0.81"	2.13"	33.06"
					9.71"	8.73"	5.86"	4.03"	8.78"	3.78"	0.11"	NA

*I have corrected the June entry and have adjusted the annual total. Currently we are 5.06" ahead of last year.

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE—FIRST COLUMN IS THE HIGH & 2ND COLUMN IS THE LOW

86.6°	86.5°	86.3°	90.5°	89.0°	97.5°	95.4°						
33.3°	32.6°	39.5°	43.9°	53.0°	63.2°	69.3°						

OKLAHOMA CATTLEMAN ACQUITTED OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

A Webbers Falls, OK, cattleman charged with animal cruelty after he shot and killed two hunting dogs chasing his cattle was acquitted after just an hour of jury deliberation. *MuskogeePhoenix.com* reports that James Yang argued a legal right to protect his property from the dogs, which a group of coyote hunters had let run loose across the countryside the night of March 25, 2006. Evidence presented during the three-day trial showed Yang, a Laotian immigrant who owns an egg- and cattle-production operation in southeastern Muskogee County, had previous problems with dogs harming his livestock, the article says. —Cow Calf Weekly, August 3, 2007.

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Beef Management Calendar

August/September

Control Smutgrass with Velpar if there is adequate soil moisture.	Check dustbags, oilers, etc.
Treat for liver flukes as close to August 15th as possible.	Check pastures and hay fields for armyworms.
Check mineral feeder.	Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.
Wean calves and cull Cow Herd.	Pregnancy check cows.
If cattle grubs were found on cattle last winter or heel flies were observed in the pasture, treat for cattle grubs in August.	Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
Heavily graze pastures to be inter-planted to cool season pastures.	Pregnancy test and cull open heifers from replacement herd.

USDA KICKS IN \$35 MILLION IN BOVINE TB FUNDING





USDA is providing an additional \$35 million in emergency funding for the bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication program. This is in addition to \$2 million in emergency funding already available for TB control and eradication. Bruce Knight, USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, says the funding "will support our efforts to protect the health of the national herd and prevent disease spread." Currently all states are designated accredited-free for TB, except Minnesota and portions of Michigan and New Mexico. Bovine TB is a contagious and infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. It affects cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats and other warm-blooded species and can be fatal. The disease can only be transmitted to humans through direct contact with infected animals or consumption of raw milk. It isn't transmitted through consumption of pasteurized milk. TB outbreaks can compromise international and domestic trade in U.S. animals and animal products. —*Cow Calf Weekly, August 3, 2007.*

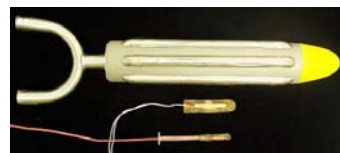
ADVANCED PASTURE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Make your plans to attend the Advanced Pasture Management School to be held here at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall on September 5-6, 2007. This 2 day school costs \$60.00 if registered by August 17, 2007, after that date the cost is \$80.00. See the information on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter for more details.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BREEDING SEASON—SIRE POWER

Let's start with a herd of 100 brood cows. You would normally have 4 bulls. Let's also say that the bulls vary in age from 3 to 8 years. You will put your bulls out the first Monday after Christmas. How many calves do you expect to be produced by the 100 cows and 4 bulls? The first calves will begin around October 10th. Can you look at a bull and decide if he is a good breeder just from an external view point? Back to the 4 bulls!! Research has shown that if you are using say 4 bulls, typically one may sire as many as 70-80% of the calves. Typically that bull will be your older more dominant bull. The older bull is probably more likely to have degraded semen counts or worst yet to be totally infertile. What should we do if we find ourselves in such a circumstance? First of all, we definitely want to avoid a calf crop of 30-40%. Start by conducting a Breeding Soundness Exam on all 4 bulls prior to the breeding season. Bulls should be examined at least 60 days prior to the start of the breeding season. This allows for re-testing and replacement of bulls failing the examination. A BSE consists of four basic steps:

-  Visual assessment of the feet, legs, eyes, teeth and external genitalia;
-  Palpation of the accessory sex glands (prostate and seminal vesicles);
-  Measurement of the scrotum as well as palpation of the testis and epididymis;
-  Collection and microscopic evaluation of a semen sample.



If you are in a multiple sire situation, try to use bulls of the same age. When buying replacement bulls, also try to buy half-brothers. Doing this will increase the uniformity of the resulting calves.

James Selph



James F. Selph
DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock & Forages

GRAZING MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

This course is sponsored by The South Florida Beef-Forage Program of the University of Florida, Cooperative Extension Service. It is conducted with the volunteer assistance of area livestock producers and Allied Industries. It represents separation of the original Forage and Pasture Management School into subject components that can be taught in a couple of days. It is part of a continuing multi-County education effort to help South-Central Florida producers raise and market high quality beef cattle, per cow, per acre, profitably.

Grazing management is the manipulation of livestock grazing to obtain defined outputs of livestock products. It involves careful management of both pasture and livestock resources to meet desired objectives. This new course is offered in a two day session. The theories of grazing management concepts and methods are discussed in a classroom setting during the first day. Concepts taught are supported by practical applications in the field during the second day tour to selected ranches in the area and the Ona Range Cattle Research and Education Center.

This is the second annual "Grazing Management School" and we encourage you and your personnel to attend. Registration fee for this school is **\$ 60.00 if returned by August 17, 2007, and \$ 80.00 if returned after August 17, 2007.** Registration forms can be obtained at one of the Extension offices in The South Florida Beef-Forage Program area, or by contacting one of the participating Extension Agents listed on the back of this brochure. Registrations should be **returned to, and checks made payable to:**

**South Florida Beef-Forage Program
c/o Christa Carlson, Treasurer
1303 17th Street West
Palmetto, FL 34221**

Dates, times and locations are tentative and subject to change.

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

AGENDA

ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

- AM** Moderator: **Jim Selph**
- 8:15 – 8:30 Introduction
Jim Selph
- 8:30 – 9:10 Soil Fertility for Forages, Pastures, and Hay
Dr. Maria Silveira
- 9:10 – 9:50 Forage Varieties for Grazing Systems
Pat Hogue
- 9:50 – 10:00 **Break**
- 10:00 – 10:45 Pasture Establishment & Renovation
Lockie Gary
- 10:45 – 11:30 Weed Control in Varying Grazing Systems, **Steffany Dragon,**
Dr. Brent Sellers
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch**
- 12:30 – 1:10 Conserved Forage Options (hay, haylage, silage), Nutritive Value and Dry Matter Losses
Jim Selph
- PM** Moderator: **Lindsey Fielder**
- 1:10 – 1:50 Grazing Management Systems
Dr. Lynn Sollenberger
- 1:50 – 2:00 **Break**
- 2:00 – 2:40 Matching Management Concept and Systems to our Warm Season Grasses and Legumes
Dr. Joao Vendramini

2:40 – 3:20 Understanding Forage Based N Nutrition and Deficits in Forage Quantity and Quality
Dr. John Arthington

3:20 – 3:30 Open Discussion with Presenters

Thursday, September 6, 2007

ALL DAY FIELD TOUR

Moderator: **Glenn Schaibly**

- AM** 8:45 Arrive at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center (RCREC), Ona
- 9:00 – 11:30 **RCREC, Ona** – Ordinary Rotational Grazing of Mulato Brachiaria, Bahiagrass, Stargrass and Limpograss: Effect of Defoliation on Root System.
Dr. Joao Vendramini
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch**
- PM** 12:30 – 4:00 Afternoon Programs To Be Announced



**The South Florida Beef- Forage Program
Participating Extension Agents:**

Desoto County	Jim Selph	(863) 993-4846
Glades County	Shelley Humphries	(863) 946-0244
Hardee County	Lockie Gary	(863) 773-2164
Hendry County	Sonja Crawford Glenn Schaibly	(863) 674-4092
Highlands County	Lindsey Fielder	(863) 402-6540
Hillsborough Co.	Brent Broaddus	(813) 744-5519
Manatee County	Christa Carlson	(941) 722-4524
Okeechobee Co.	Pat Hogue Pat Miller	(863) 763-6469
Polk County	Bridget Carlisle	(863) 519-8677
Collier County	Robert Halman	(239) 353-4244

Participating Specialists:

Range Cattle REC, Ona	Dr. John Arthington Dr. Brent Sellers Dr. Maria Silveira Dr. Joao Vendramini
UF Animal Science Dept., Gainesville	Dr. Matt Hersom

**Other Grazing Management School
Speakers:**

UF Agronomy Dept.	Dr. Lynn Sollenberger Forage Mgmt & Nutrition
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Persons requiring special accommodations per the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Jim Selph at (863) 993-4846 at least (5) five working days prior to the conference.

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**2007 GRAZING MANAGEMENT
SCHOOL**

September 5 - 6, 2007

**DeSoto County
Turner Center
Arcadia, FL**



Sponsored By:

DeSoto County Extension

And

**The South Florida Beef-Forage Program
University of Florida
IFAS Extension**