

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

January 2008 / Volume 30 Number 1



In Memory of Charles

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

10	Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM, Hardee County Agri-Civic Center, Wauchula
17	Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show
20	DeSoto County Fair, Steer Grooming Contest, 2:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
22	DeSoto County Fair, Steer Show, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
23	DeSoto County Fair, Swine Show, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
24	DeSoto County Fair, Beef Breeding Show, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
25	DeSoto County Fair, Steer & Swine Sale, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds

PASSING OF CHARLES G. HARMAN

On Wednesday, December 12, 2007 Charles Harman passed away. Charles was raised from the age of 3 by a loving aunt and uncle, Harriett and Byron Southwell of Afton, GA. Charles moved to Arcadia in 1967 from Lake Port, FL. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia. Charles was a cattle rancher. He graduated from Tift County High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida, class of 1956. He was a member of the Florida Cattleman's Association, serving as state director for many years, was a former president of the DeSoto County Cattleman's Association, a member of the National Cattleman's Association, served on the board of directors of the DeSoto County Farm Bureau for many years, and was extremely active on many committees with the Florida Farm Bureau. Charles is survived by his beloved wife, Joyce Ray Harman of Arcadia; daughter, Nancy (Jeff) Adams of Arcadia; half-brothers, Robert (Joy) Hall, of Julian North Carolina, William (Kris) Hall of Herndon, VA, and Stephen Hall of Milton, FL; and grandchildren, Charles Robert "Robb" Adams, and Logan Perry Adams. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Nellie Harman, and Byron and Harriett Southwell. Charles was both a personal friend and a great supporter of Extension and the Beef Cattle Industry.

I, as well as so many of you, will truly miss Charles. Charles was a true gentleman. He was always there to lend a helping hand, everything from helping me with meetings, going with me to pull a calf for a fellow cattleman's wife while he was away, to having the right words to either get me out of the doldrums or to simply make me laugh. I personally believe we will meet again one day. He was truly a very special friend!!! **Jim**

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MARKET INFORMATION

January 7, 2008

	01/05/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	94.53	92.21	88.88
Live Heifer	94.65	92.06	89.07
Dressed Steer	150.66	146.47	141.11
Dressed Heifer	151.09	146.73	141.33

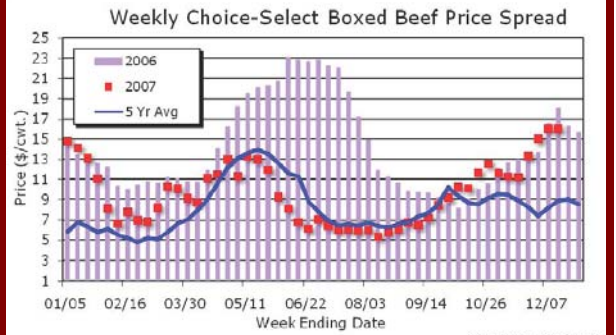
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	01/05/08	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	528,000	483,000	526,000
Live Weights	1305	1308	1298
Dressed Weights	784	790	784
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	412.6	379.9	411.0

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

	12/20/07	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.67%	2.69%	2.69%
Choice	54.03%	53.90%	52.56%
Select	34.80%	34.67%	35.61%

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



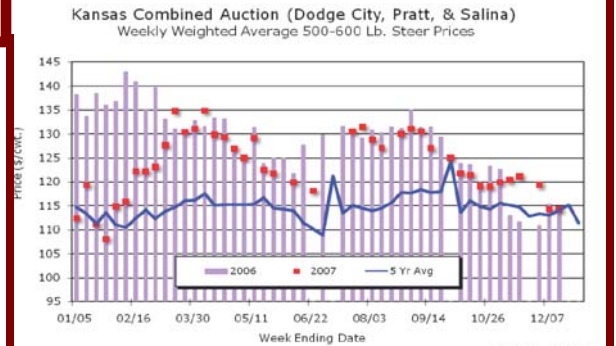
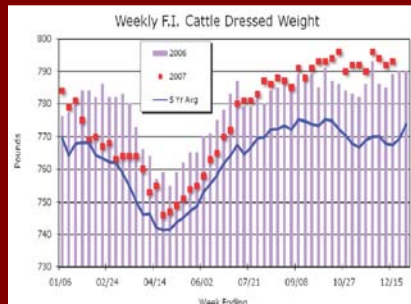
Choice/Select Spread

01/07/08

\$11.19/cwt

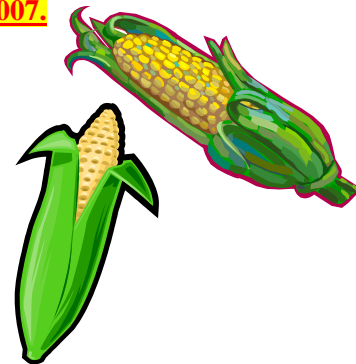
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT

KSU Dept. of Ag Econ
www.agmanager.info



The summary below reflects the week ending December 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, December 11, 2007.

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	27,700	\$112.81	\$105.98	\$102.25	\$99.88	\$95.21	\$92.62
AL	16,100	\$102-112	\$90-100	\$89-96	\$92-100	\$86-94	\$81-87
TN	12,700	\$105.16	\$97.24	\$95.66	\$90.82	\$86.29	\$85.51
FL	10,900	\$92-112	\$87-101	\$83-85.50	\$80-95	\$79-87	\$85-86
GA	9,800	\$95-111	\$86-107	\$84-93	\$83-100	\$80-94	\$78-85



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 9 to 16 cents higher from 4.75-4.85 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 11 cents higher at 4.51 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 11 cents higher from 4.47-4.50 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 6¼ to 11¼ cents higher from 4.31-4.59 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 11¼ cents higher from 4.51-4.53 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 11¼ cents higher at 4.27 per bushel. Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday January 4, 2008
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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"	5.57"	4.56"	1.46"	0.05"	0.78"	32.79"
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

Currently we are 1.08" 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°	97.1°	94.2°	92.2°	84.92°	84.18°	
33.3°	32.6°	39.5°	43.9°	53.0°	63.2°	69.3°	69.8°	67.8°	63.6°	42.12°	38.47°	

NAFTA IS NOW FULLY IMPLEMENTED

Effective Jan. 1, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was fully implemented. The last remaining trade restrictions are now removed for U.S. exports to Mexico of corn, dry edible beans, nonfat dry milk and high fructose corn syrup, and Mexican exports to the U.S. of sugar and various horticultural products. Concerning full NAFTA implementation, Acting USDA Secretary Chuck Conner said, "It has contributed to significant increases in agricultural trade and investment between the U.S., Canada and Mexico and has benefited farmers, ranchers and consumers throughout North America." Under NAFTA, U.S. ag exports to Canada and Mexico have increased from a total of \$10.1 billion in 1994 to an estimated \$28 billion in 2008. -- *P. Scott Shearer, Washington, D.C. correspondent—Cow-Calf Weekly, Friday, January 4, 2008*

Beef Management Calendar

January/February

Check mineral feeder.	Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding season.	Observe regularly for calving difficulties.
Rotate calving pastures to prevent diseases.	Watch for scours in calves.
Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.	Have dead animals posted by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.
Watch condition of cow herd and supplement if necessary. Post calving cows have the highest nutritional requirements in the first 82 days.	Discuss herd health with you veterinarian and outline a program for the 2008 year.
Develop or review of management plan and update for next year.	Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas.
	January 1, put bulls out for October calving season.
Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.	Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.).

MEAT STORIES AMONG TOP UNFOUNDED HEALTH SCARES

The American Council on Science and Health has listed its top 10 unfounded health scares of 2007, including two meat-related stories that made headlines last year. A claim that red and processed meat increases the risk of breast and colon cancer is number three on the list, and news of separate research linking cured meats and lung disease ranked number five. The ACSH maintains that news reporting on health issues often is based on preliminary research data, or that reporters and even researchers misinterpret data, resulting in unsubstantiated health concerns among the public.--

Drovers Alert, Thursday, January 3, 2008, Vol. 10, Issue 1.

MARTIN REALTY HOSTS THE COWBOY ARTIST ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA—RECEPTION AND EXHIBIT

The Cowboy Artist Association of Florida will be featured in an exhibit at the Art Gallery of Martin Realty Fla. in Arcadia. The exhibit will begin with a reception from 5pm to 8pm. All of the member artists will be on hand.

The CAAF is comprised of six members including Hobby Campbell, Eldon Lux, Sean Sexton, Brad Phares, Linda Ballentine-Brown, and Regina Briske. All of the artists are accomplished in oil paintings, as well as sketching, and pencil drawings. Of course, the theme of all of the art is Florida's colorful cowboy culture and lifestyle. Many of the works will be available for purchase. Also on hand will be author Barbara Ohlbeck, who will be signing her books that are about Florida pioneers and hearty folks. Mark your calendar for Friday, January 11th and don't miss the Cowboy Artist Association's debut in DeSoto County. For more information call Martin Realty Fla. at 863-494-2100.



DECEMBER HOGS AND PIGS REPORT: INCREASES ACROSS THE BOARD

USDA released its December Hogs and Pigs Report last Thursday, showing increases in all categories from December 2006 levels. The September/November pig crop, at 28 million head, was up 4 percent from 2006 and up 7 percent from 2005. Sows farrowing during that period totaled 3.03 million head, up 3 percent from 2006. The average number of pigs saved per litter was 9.24 for the September/November period. That compares to 9.11 pigs last year. U.S. pork producers intend to farrow 2.98 million sows during the December 2007/February 2008 period, up 2 percent from the actual farrowings for that same period a year ago. Intended farrowings for March/May 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are up just slightly from 2007 and 4 percent higher than in 2006. Total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with more than 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent last year. USDA's Hogs and Pigs Report is bearish for hog prices in 2008, and won't help the beef business much either. Iowa State University economist John Lawrence says the combination of rising feed costs and abundant hog numbers will both put significant pressure on producers' breakevens in 2008. As a rough estimate, Lawrence used \$4-per-bushel corn and \$300-per-ton soybean meal and came up with a \$70 carcass-price breakeven. "I have red ink for all of 2008, except perhaps for a few weeks in the summer," he says. Abundant supplies of pork should pressure prices at retail and give some consumers a price incentive to choose pork over beef. — **Drovers Alert, Thursday, January 3, 2008, Vol. 10, Issue 1.**

AG CENSUS UNDER WAY

Census forms arrive in the mail this week, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture collects new data on the nation's farmers and ranchers. The last census of agriculture took place in 2002.

REPORT OUTLINES AGRITOURISM TRENDS

Farm-based recreation or agritourism activities such as hunting, fishing or horseback riding represent a growing source of income for farmers and ranchers, according to a new report from USDA's Economic Research Service. The report provides a detailed view of the types of farmers and the types of places where farm recreation may have the greatest potential. An ERS study found the South accounts for more than half of all farms receiving recreational income, followed by the Midwest, which accounts for about a quarter. Earnings from these activities tend to be highest in more densely populated counties, in areas with low or negative growth rates, and in counties where the overall recreational activity is high. — **Drovers Alert, Thursday, January 3, 2008, Vol. 10, Issue 1.**

CATTLE-ON-FEED REPORT IS MILDLY BEARISH

Last Friday's Cattle-On-Feed (COF) Report was mildly bearish with the COF number coming in at 100.9% of a year ago; the average of industry estimates was 99.4%. The big surprise was that placements came in at 112.3%, well above the industry guess of 103.9%. Marketings also finished on the negative side, coming in at 96.7% with the market looking for 98.1%. The curiosity isn't in the numbers but the industry's surprise about them. With wheat at record-price levels, there simply isn't going to be anywhere near the typical number of cattle on wheat pasture. We'd accepted the idea that increased feed costs would drive down the number of lighter-weight cattle going into feedyards, but winter grazing programs have never been an option in the Northern Plains, nor are they much of an option in the Southern Plains. As a side note, the packing and feeding industries, which are burdened with too much capacity, have been showing their frustration that the price signals they've been sending haven't resulted in expansion. The Jan. 1 inventory number is expected to show the cowherd smaller once again. The reality is stocker programs have become far more profitable than cow-calf operations as a result of escalating feed costs.


James F. Selph

DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock & Forages