

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



July 2008 / Volume 30 Number 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Have a Great 4th of July

August

1-2 Florida Junior Cattlemen's Association 1st Annual Beef Show, Okeechobee, FL

23 Grazing Management 101-Okeechobee, FL

September

4-5 Advanced Grazing Management School, LaBelle, FL

9-10 Florida Cattlemen's Association Fall Quarterly, Sebring, FL

17-19 Wildlife Field Days, Longino Ranch, Quail Creek Plantation

26 FCA Replacement Heifer Sales, 1:00 pm, Arcadia Stockyards

October

3 Mo Brangus & Express Ranches/Hines Cattle Co. Bull Sale, 12:00 Noon, Arcadia Stockyards

15 UF/IFAS Ona Range Cattle Research Center 2008 Weed Field Day

21-23 Reproductive Management School, Arcadia, FL

31 1st Annual All Purpose Heifer Sale, 1:00 pm, Arcadia Stockyard

STUDY SHOWS MORE PATHOGENS IN ANTIBIOTIC-FREE PIGS

Research at The Ohio State University indicates that meat from free-range hogs raised without antibiotics carries more pathogens and parasites than meat from conventionally raised hogs fed low levels of antibiotics. More than half of the pigs on antibiotic-free farms tested positive for *Salmonella*, compared with 39 percent of conventionally raised pigs, according to an OSU release. The presence of the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite was detected in 6.8 percent of antibiotic-free pigs, compared with 1.1 percent of conventionally raised pigs. And two naturally raised pigs of the 616 sampled tested positive for *Trichinella spiralis*, a parasite considered virtually eradicated from conventional U.S. pork operations.

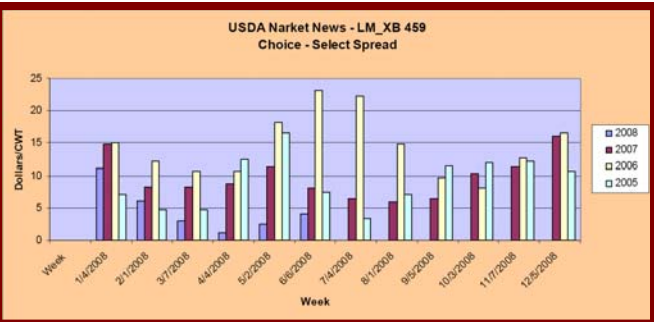
Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, June 19, 2008 Vol. 10, Issue 26.

MARKET INFORMATION

June 30, 2008

	06/28/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	98.28	94.88	85.78
Live Heifer	98.33	95.04	85.75
Dressed Steer	154.72	150.05	133.40
Dressed Heifer	154.90	150.10	133.63

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



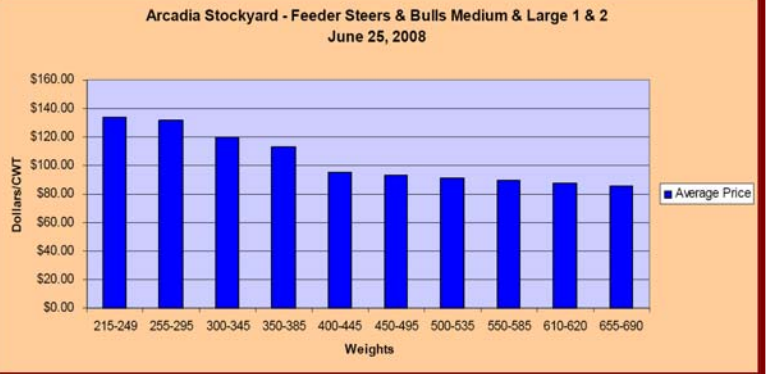
	06/28/08	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	706,000	694,000	696,000
Live Weights	1259	1256	1258
Dressed Weights	765	763	772
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	538.7	527.8	535.4

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

Choice/Select Spread
06/27/08
\$6.60/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/LM_XB403.TXT

	06/14/08	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.50%	2.67%	2.03%
Choice	56.30%	56.00%	51.77%
Select	33.55%	34.27%	37.34%

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



The summary below reflects the week ending June 27, 2008 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, July 1, 2008.**

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	19,200	\$108.80	\$108.76	\$107.65	\$101.27	\$100.44	\$102.25
AL	10,600	\$101-110	\$99-105	\$95-100	\$92-99	\$87-95	\$83-92
TN	9,000	\$106.83	\$102.65	\$98.67	\$94.54	\$92.34	\$89.16
FL	6,200	\$88-100	\$85-97	\$82-96	\$82-95	\$81-94	\$80-92
GA	7,600	\$90-106.50	\$83-104	\$82-102	\$82-97	\$76-91.50	\$74-88
KY	19,800	\$105-115	\$99-109	\$95-105	\$90-100	\$86-96	\$86-96
OK	25,600	\$115.31	\$112.32	\$109.69	\$105.04	\$104.09	\$103.37



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 20 to 24 cents lower from 7.01-7.10 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 26 cents higher from 7.37-7.38 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 22 to 24 cents higher from 7.14-7.17 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 26 to 46 cents higher from 7.03 ¾-7.43 ¾ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 26 cents higher from 7.14 ¾-7.23 ¾ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 36 ½ cents higher at 6.88 ¼ per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday June 27, 2008** http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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GRAIN CROPS—PLANTING AND GROWTH STATUS

Corn – 89% has emerged

Soybeans – 77% is planted

Winter wheat – 84% advanced to the heading stage

Spring wheat – 98% has emerged

Barley – 98% has emerged

Sorghum – 62% of the intended acreage is sown

Oats – 33% has headed

States with the worst pasture conditions—at least 30% of the acreage rated poor or worse—include: Arizona (43%); California (94%); Colorado (50%); Florida (60%); Georgia (35%); New Mexico (65%); North Dakota (45%); South Carolina (39%); Texas (37%).

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2008 [HTTP://DESOTO.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
2008	1.87"	1.51"	2.52"	3.33"	2.55"	7.09"							18.87"
2007	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"
2006	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"
2005						9.71"	8.73"	5.86"	4.03"	8.78"	3.78"	0.11"	NA

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES (2 METERS) AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

HIGH	82.3°	84.9°	86.1°	88.1°	94.6°	94.9°							NA
LOW	28.5°	35.6°	39.3°	41.6°	51.9°	65.0°							NA

Rainfall for 2008 is currently 3.92 inches ahead of 2007

PENCILING BULLS VS. STEERS

Fewer pounds of gain and increased health costs demand running a sharp pencil if you're considering cutter bulls rather than steers. Oklahoma State University (OSU) compared 111 calves arriving as bulls (548 lbs.) with 204 steers (524 lbs.) during a 44-day backgrounding period at the Willard Sparks Beef Cattle Research Center. Calves were processed, including surgical castration after 24 hours. According to Glenn Selk, OSU cattle reproduction specialist, 42.3% of the bulls castrated after arrival became sick at least once, vs. 11.3% of the steers; **mortality rate for the castrates was 23.4% vs. 3.9% for the steers.** Overall health cost for calves arriving as bulls was \$12.30/head, compared to \$2.65/head for the steers. On the other side of the equation, the steers gained more—3.63 lbs./day—than the castrates at 2.97 lbs./day. In his most recent *Cow Calf Corner* commentary, Selk also points to a study conducted at the University of Arkansas (UA) comparing the effects of castration methods and timing — castration at arrival compared to castration 14 days after arrival. Compared to comparable steer calves used as the control group, steers gained an average of 22 lbs. more during the trial (42-51 days) than the castrates. Steers gained 3.52 lbs. for the first seven days of the trial, compared to 1.58 lbs. for the bulls. In the Arkansas study, bulls were separated into four treatment groups: surgical castration on arrival; banding on arrival; surgical castration on day 14, banding on day 14. Though there was no difference in morbidity among the castration groups, 29% fewer steers required antimicrobial treatment than the castrates (50% vs. 79%), resulting in a \$5.56/head health cost advantage for the steers. Bulls castrated on arrival gained 0.33 lbs./day more than those castrated on day 14; they gained 0.24 lbs. more per day than those banded on arrival. "There was no effect of castration method or timing for the number of calves treated once for respiratory disease, the average number of treatments per calf, or the medical costs of treatment. However, more bull calves (24%) required a second treatment, which tended to be greater than steers (9.6%)," explains Selk. **Source—Beef Stocker Trends, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.** Most of you I know go ahead and cut your calves at a young age. For those who don't, put yourself in an order buyers position after having read this report. **Higher mortality and higher health cost = less for bull calves. Jim!**

Beef Management Calendar

July/August

Control weeds in summer pastures.

Check dustbags, oilers, etc.

Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.

Check pastures and hay fields for grubs, mole crickets, and armyworms.

Check mineral feeder.

Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

Wean calves and cull Cow Herd.

Pregnancy check cows.

ETHANOL STUDIES SHOW MORE EFFECT ON FOOD PRICES THAN FUEL

Results of two recent studies indicate federal ethanol mandates have placed significant pressure on food prices with almost no impact on the price of gasoline. Dr. Keith Collins, former chief economist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Thomas Elam, of FarmEcon LLC, submitted their new analyses to the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday, which was the end of EPA's public comment period on a request from Texas Gov. Rick Perry to partially suspend the Renewable Fuels Standard in light of serious economic harm caused by the current policy. The Collins report indicates that unless the RFS is suspended or revisited, U.S. grain stocks will fall even further as ethanol consumes a larger share of the dwindling corn supply. Based on results of his study, Elam concludes that "maintenance of the current RFS schedule in the face of a smaller 2008 corn crop will be devastating to meat, dairy and poultry producers." **Source—Food Systems Insider, Friday, June 27, 2008, Volume 8 Issue 12.**

PIGS RAISED WITHOUT ANTIBIOTICS MORE LIKELY TO CARRY BACTERIA, PARASITES

While consumers are increasing demand for pork produced without antibiotics, more of the pigs raised in such conditions carry bacteria and parasites associated with food-borne illnesses, according to a new study. A comparison of swine raised in antibiotic-free and conventional pork production settings revealed that pigs raised outdoors without antibiotics had higher rates of three food-borne pathogens than did pigs on conventional farms, which remain indoors and receive preventive doses of antimicrobial drugs. "Animal-friendly, outdoor farms tend to have a higher occurrence of *Salmonella*, as well as higher rates of parasitic disease," said lead study author Wondwossen Gebreyes, associate professor of veterinary preventive medicine at Ohio State University. More than half of the pigs on antibiotic-free farms tested positive for *Salmonella*, compared to 39 percent of conventionally raised pigs infected with the bacterial pathogen. The presence of the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite was detected in 6.8 percent of antibiotic-free pigs, compared to 1.1 percent of conventionally raised pigs. And two naturally raised pigs of the total 616 sampled tested positive for *Trichinella spiralis*, a parasite considered virtually eradicated from conventional U.S. pork operations. The scientists tested pigs on farms in North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin. Of the total studied, 324 were raised in antibiotic-free systems and 292 lived on conventional farms. The researchers took blood samples to test for the presence of antibodies against bacterial and parasitic infections. The higher rates of infection on natural farms were consistent in all three geographic regions. **Source—Food Systems Insider, Friday, June 27, 2008, Volume 8 Issue 12.**

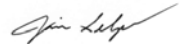
THE PRICE DIFFERENCE IN CALVES BETWEEN FLORIDA, TEXAS & OKLAHOMA

Last Wednesday, 500 weight Medium and Large No. 1 & 2 bulls and steers at the Arcadia Stockyards brought \$90.98/cwt. Using an average weight of 516 pounds and with an 85% calf crop, return per cow would be \$399.04 per cow and with a 70% calf crop return per cow would be \$328.62. For the same day in Oklahoma City, OK, 500 (528 average) weight Medium and Large No. 1 steers brought \$111.66/cwt. Forty-one head Medium & Large 1 & 2 steers that averaged 582 pounds brought an average of \$113.49/cwt. In Tulia, TX, on June 24th, 500-540 weight Medium and Large No. 1 steers brought \$112.00-\$119.50/cwt. That is a significant difference between Florida and the area where the feedlots are located. Typically the spread between Southeastern cattle and that area had been between \$5 and \$8 per cwt. For a comparison, I looked at the weekly averages in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina which resulted in an average of \$95.58. For the one day, Wednesday, Arcadia Stockyards report there is not a significant difference when looking at the Florida average for the week of \$94.72 but the difference with the Midwestern states is a reality that we have to live with. My point with writing this article is to try to focus on things that we have a chance of changing and therefore improving profitability. In the second sentence is one of the biggest keys; that of improving weaning percentages. For every 1% increase in percent calves weaned in the above example, price per calf sold increases by \$4.72. A 15% increase amounts to \$70.42 for every calf sold. There is only one accurate way of determining calf crop percentage and that is by dividing the number of calves weaned by the number of cows that were exposed to breeding bull(s). For example, culling open cows and then dividing that number into the number of weaned calves is not accurate. If you don't know what your weaning percentage is, use your records and do some figuring. It will pay to know. **Jim**

RAINS CUT MIDWEST CORN BY 1.2 MILLION ACRES

Midwest corn producers are reporting losses of around 1.2 million acres to extensive rains and flooding in June, according to USDA's June 30 Planted Acreage Report. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reported the losses after re-interviewing approximately 1,200 farmers June 23-25 in the flood-affected areas. NASS says it will conduct a more extensive acreage update survey during July. Findings from this study will be incorporated in the August crop production report! Corn planted area for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. **Source—Crop News Weekly, July 2, 2008 | Volume 8, Issue 27.**

Have a Great 4th of July



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

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden". Thomas Jefferson