

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

August 2008 / Volume 30 Number 8



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fall Armyworm

August

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

2 | **DeSoto/Charlotte Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, DeSoto Middle School Cafeteria, 6:30 PM**

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

3-4 | **FCA Ranch Rodeo Finals and Cowboy Heritage Festival, Silver Spurs Rodeo Arena, Kissimmee**

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

21-23 | **Reproductive Management School, Arcadia, FL**

30 | **DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Fall Meeting, Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 7:00 PM**

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

RESEARCHER DISPUTES CLAIMS OF ORGANIC FOOD BENEFITS

Proponents of organic foods often claim they are nutritionally superior, and a recent research report from the Organic Trade Association supports those claims. However, Joseph D. Rosen, PhD, emeritus professor of food toxicology at Rutgers University and a scientific advisor to the American Council on Science and Health, evaluated the research and released his findings this week. His report, titled "Claims of Organic Food's Nutritional Superiority: A Critical Review," concludes that researchers used selective data and failed to prove any nutritional benefits for organic foods. **Source—Food Systems Insider e-version, Friday, July 25, 2008, Vol. 8, Issue 14.**

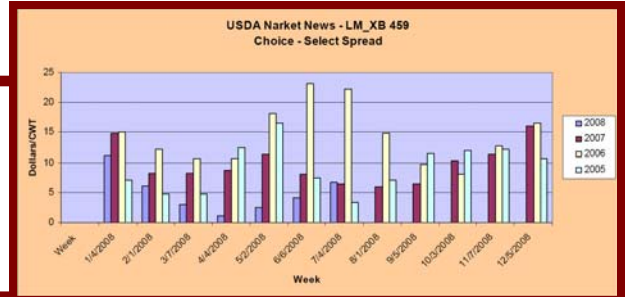
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MARKET INFORMATION

July 28, 2008

	07/26/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	94.88	97.21	90.63
Live Heifer	94.68	97.25	90.80
Dressed Steer	151.61	154.26	141.39
Dressed Heifer	151.31	154.32	141.66

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



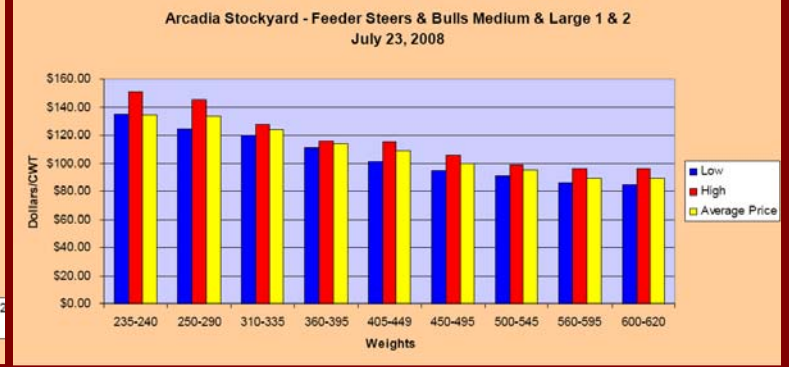
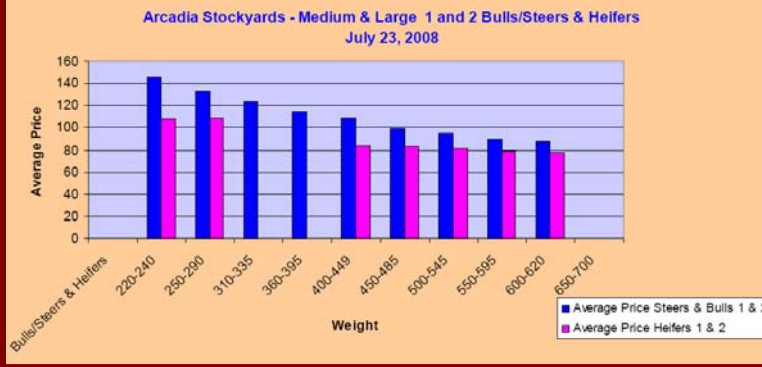
	06/26/08 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	668,000	686,000	669,000
Live Weights	1271	1268	1273
Dressed Weights	777	775	783
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	517.6	530.1	521.9

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

Choice/Select Spread
07/25/08
\$6.37/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/LM_XB403.TXT

	07/12/08	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.44%	2.51%	2.04%
Choice	56.80%	57.32%	53.74%
Select	33.48%	32.95%	37.23%

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



The summary below reflects the week ending July 25, 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 29, 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	\$106.12	\$112.60	\$110.12	\$100.49	\$99.90	\$104.92
AL	9,000	\$100-109	\$98-106	\$96-101	\$92-102	\$89-96	\$84-91
TN	7,600	\$103.18	\$100.73	\$97.90	\$95.61	\$91.68	\$87.60
FL	6,200	\$89-102	\$85-97	\$81-90	\$81-96	\$80-90	\$80-87
GA	7,300	\$83-110	\$86-104	\$84-104	\$76-101	\$82-97.50	\$79-80
KY	16,800	\$111.52	\$105.05	\$99.30	\$101.03	\$96.01	\$99.62
OK	24,600	\$122.46	\$114.51	\$112.92	\$108.23	\$106.92	\$106.42
MO	16,200	\$117.06	\$113.88	\$114.32	\$105.32	\$106.10	\$104.89



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 60 to 65 cents lower from 5.74-5.95 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 58 cents lower from 5.43-5.44 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 51 to 53 cents lower from 5.24-5.30 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 42 ¾ to 59 ¾ cents lower from 5.21 ½-5.53 ½ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 59 ¾ cents lower from 5.19 ½-5.29 ½ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 57 ¾ cents lower at 4.96 per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday July 25, 2008** http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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GRAIN CROPS—PLANTING AND GROWTH STATUS

Corn – 34% of the crop has reached the silking stage

Soybeans – 45% has reached bloom

Winter wheat – 71% has been harvested

Spring wheat – 95% has headed

Barley – 93% is at or beyond the heading stage

Sorghum – 33% of the acreage is heading

Oats – 98% of the crop has headed

States with the worst pasture conditions—at least 30% of the acreage rated poor or worse—include: Arizona (47%); California (100%); Colorado (52%); North Carolina (42%); South Carolina (56%); and Texas (48%).

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"	6.08"						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°	94.9°						NA
LOW	28.5°	35.6°	39.3°	41.6°	51.9°	65.0°	50.4°						NA

Rainfall for 2008 is currently 3.92 inches ahead of 2007

Note: During July our FAWN Tower was relocated due to the construction of the new EOC for DeSoto County. There was a loss of data for some items we record. It is our understanding though that rainfall amounts were not recorded from 11:00 AM on July 28, 2008 until 1:00 PM on July 29, 2008. I would estimate that we had about 1.25 inches here during that time. Also, I believe there was a problem with the low temperature.

\$202.5 MILLION ADDED FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

An additional \$200 million will be made available through the 2008 farm bill to help farmers and ranchers nationwide to solve natural resource problems through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, according to Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer. An additional \$2.5 million will be available for Agricultural Management Assistance in 16 states. "These additional funds will assist farmers and ranchers in solving critical natural resource problems," Schafer said. "Voluntary incentive-based programs like EQIP and AMA are the key to helping producers meet their conservation goals and provide the public with important benefits such as cleaner water, improved air quality, healthy soils, and abundant wildlife." **Source—Crop News Weekly, Corn & Soybean Digest, July 23, 2008 | Volume 8, Issue 30.**

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, & 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.

SURVEY OUTLINES FOOD-SHOPPING TRENDS

In spite of rising food costs and supermarket promotions, about 84 percent of U.S. consumers said they did not use their economic stimulus checks for groceries. The survey was sponsored by Precima, a retail analytics firm, and involved almost 2,000 consumers. Eighty-two percent of survey respondents indicated they have cooked at home more in the past six months instead of spending at a restaurant. **Source—Food Systems Insider, Friday, July 25, 2008, Vol. 8, Issue 14.**

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CATTLE ON FEED REPORT SHOWS SLIDING NUMBERS

USDA's latest Cattle On Feed (COF) report was called neutral to bearish as the marketing number came in significantly lower than estimates. Nationwide, the COF number was at 96% of a year ago, placements were 91% and marketings at 92%. The seven-state COF number mimicked the national trends, as the numbers for on-feed, placements and marketings came in at 96%, 90% and 88%, respectively. Placements were down 47% in Colorado, 18% in Texas, 22% in Nebraska, and 20% in Kansas. The demise of the Canadian feeding industry continues, as Canada registered its lowest COF number since 2004.

CATTLE INVENTORY NUMBERS DOWN AGAIN. As expected, the semi-annual inventory report released last week showed a continued but small reduction of the U.S. beef cattle herd. USDA estimates the number of beef cows and heifers that have calves at 33.15 million head on July 1 – down from 33.35 million head in 2007; a drop of about 0.6%, but a smaller decline than most pre-report estimates suggested. Similarly, USDA estimates a 2.2% decline in beef replacement heifers, which is on the high side of pre-report figures, as well. All cattle and calves in the U.S. (as of July 1) totaled 104.3 million head, slightly below the 104.8 million on July 1, 2007 and down 1% from the 105.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million, was down slightly from both July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2006. Beef cows, at 33.2 million, were down 1% from July 1, 2007, and 1% below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.25 million, were up 1% from July 1, 2007 and 1% above two years ago. **Source—Cow Calf Weekly, Friday, August 1, 2008.**

USDA TAKES ACTION ON MANDATORY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING

WASHINGTON, July 29, 2008 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued an interim final rule for the mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) program that will become effective on Sept. 30, 2008. The rule covers muscle cuts and ground beef (including veal), lamb, chicken, goat, and pork; perishable agricultural commodities (fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables); macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng; and peanuts -- as required by the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills. USDA implemented the COOL program for fish and shellfish covered commodities in October 2004. Commodities covered under COOL must be labeled at retail to indicate their country of origin. However, they are excluded from mandatory COOL if they are an ingredient in a processed food item.

USDA has also revised the definition of a processed food item so that items derived from a covered commodity that has undergone a physical or chemical change (e.g., cooking, curing, smoking) or that has been combined with other covered commodities or other substantive food components (e.g., chocolate, breadings, tomato sauce) are excluded from COOL labeling.

Food service establishments, such as restaurants, lunchrooms, cafeterias, food stands, bars, lounges, and similar enterprises are exempt from the mandatory country of origin labeling requirements.

The rule outlines the requirements for labeling covered commodities. It reduces the recordkeeping retention requirements for suppliers and centrally-located retail records to one year and removes the requirement to maintain records at the retail store. The law provides for penalties for both suppliers and retailers found in violation of the law of up to \$1,000 per violation.

The rule will become effective on Sept. 30, 2008. To allow time for covered commodities that are already in the chain of commerce -- and for which no origin information is known or been provided -- to clear the system, the requirements of this rule will not apply to covered commodities produced or packaged before Sept. 30, 2008.

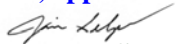
The rule prescribes specific criteria that must be met for a covered commodity to bear a "United States country of origin" declaration. In addition, the rule also contains provisions for labeling covered commodities of foreign origin, meat products from multiple origins, ground meat products, as well as commingled covered commodities. **Source—USDA.**

NEW BEEF CUTS BOOST EXPORTS TO JAPAN

The U.S. Meat Export Federation, with support from USDA, Nebraska Beef Council, Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, University of Nebraska and Colorado State University, has developed 17 unique new beef cuts to appeal specifically to Japanese consumers. The group credits these products with helping increase export volumes of U.S. beef to Japan in April 2008 by 93 percent over those from one year earlier. **Source—Cow Calf Weekly, Friday, August 1, 2008.**

MISCANTHUS: BIOFUELS WITH LESS LAND THAN CORN

In the largest field trial of its kind in the United States, researchers have determined that the giant perennial grass *Miscanthus x giganteus* out performs current biofuels sources – by a lot. Using *Miscanthus* as a feedstock for ethanol production in the U.S. could significantly reduce the acreage dedicated to biofuels while meeting government biofuels production goals, the researchers report. The new findings, from researchers at the University of Illinois, appear this month in the journal *Global Change Biology*. **Source—Crop News Weekly, Friday, August 6, 2008.**


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

This course is sponsored by The South Florida Beef-Forage Program of the University of Florida, Cooperative Extension Service. This course represents basic Pasture Management principles and concepts. 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 course is offered in a two session format to offer basic pasture management principles along with hands-on activities and demonstrations. The theories of grazing management concepts and pasture establishment methods are discussed in a classroom setting during the first half of the day, and concepts taught are supported by practical applications in the field during the afternoon session.

This is the second offering of "Grazing Management 101" and we encourage new farmers to attend. Registration fee for this school is **\$ 20.00 if returned by August 8, 2008, and \$ 30.00 if returned after August 8, 2008 or at the door.** Registration forms can be obtained by contacting Jim Selph at 863-993-4846. Registrations should be **returned to, and checks made payable to: South Florida Beef-Forage Program, c/o Christa L. Carlson-Kirby, 1303 17th St W., Palmetto, FL 34221.**

Agenda

8:00am	Registration	10:15am	Pasture Establishment
8:30am	Introduction		Lockie Gary
	Pat Hogue	11:15am	Pasture Management
8:45am	Soils and Fertilization		Dr. Joe Vendramini
	Christa Carlson-Kirby	12:00pm	Lunch
9:30am	Morning Break	12:45pm	Afternoon Tour
9:45am	Forage Species	4:00pm	Conclusion
	Pat Hogue		Dates, times and locations are subject to change

Sponsored By:

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



**South Florida Beef/Forage Program
Fall Wildlife Field Day Tours**

2:00 – 6:00 PM

Meal Included

September 17, 2008—Frazier Ranch, Polk City

September 18, 2008--Longino Ranch, Sarasota

September 19, 2008--Quail Creek Plantation, Okeechobee

2:00 PM Registration each Day

2:30 PM Tour of each Site

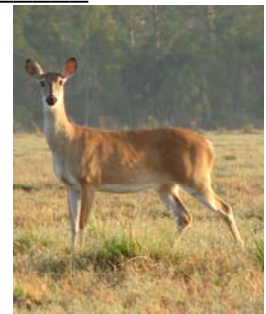
5:30 PM Meal

Tour One: Longino Ranch is located approximately 15 West of Arcadia off of State Highway 72. This tour site will be a follow up to last years Quail/Dove Shortcourse and we will tour the same approximate route to highlight changes to the habitat that have occurred since last year. Highlights to this tour will include areas that were burned and chopped last year as well as food plots and native plant ID for wildlife. Focus of wildlife at this Ranch is Quail, Turkey and Deer.

Tour Two: Quail Creek Plantation is located on Hwy. 68E/Orange Avenue, Okeechobee, 5 miles east of 441. This tour site will look at the hunting operations of this plantation with a focus on their quail release program, the habitat at the plantation and native plant ID. The plantation utilizes burning and chopping in their habitat management program. Focus of wildlife at this Ranch is **Quail, Turkey and Pheasant.**

Cost for each tour is \$15.00 or \$20.00 if attending bothTours. An evening meal will be included in the registration cost for the Tour(s). Registrations are due by September 5, 2008. After that date the cost to register is \$20.00 per tour. Make checks payable to: The South Florida Beef-Forage Program, c/o Christa L. Carlson-Kirby, 1303 17th St W., Palmetto, FL 34221.

Registration Form	
Name _____	Today's Date: _____
Address _____	Tour One: _____
City _____	Tour Two: _____
Zip Code _____	
Phone _____	
Email _____	
Total included: \$ _____	



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