

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

September 2008 / Volume 30 Number 9



UF/IFAS Ona Weed Field Day—2007

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

18-19 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

PROPOSED DOWNER RULE IS ALL ABOUT PUBLIC RELATIONS

USDA announced a proposed rule this week to completely ban the slaughter of cattle that become non-ambulatory, even after the initial inspection by the Food Safety Inspection Service. These animals would be condemned and disposed of. The number of cattle affected by this new rule is miniscule – .003% of cattle slaughtered. So this isn't a rule designed so much to bolster food safety; nor is it expected to have much impact on producers' bottom lines. The aim of this rule is to maintain consumer confidence in beef. All the negative publicity created by the Humane Society of the U.S. over the downer cow issue has made it clear to producers that while the issue is a minor one, it can have a big consumer effect. Every segment of the industry has been solidly behind this new rule, because it's in their own economic best interests to send the proper message relative to humane handling of animals. It is, however, one of those precedents that has to be concerning for the industry. This new rule has no basis in science; it's a public relations move. Ultimately, the industry must respond to consumer wishes. But, at some point, the industry is going to have to trust itself to actually respond to these desires or we will continue to see the government becoming more and more involved with the marketing of our product. **Source—Troy Marshall, Cow-Calf Weekly, Friday, August 29, 2008.**

MARKET INFORMATION

September 2, 2008

	09/01/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	98.81	98.66	94.33
Live Heifer	98.96	98.79	94.50
Dressed Steer	155.65	155.70	148.41
Dressed Heifer	155.75	155.78	148.66

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



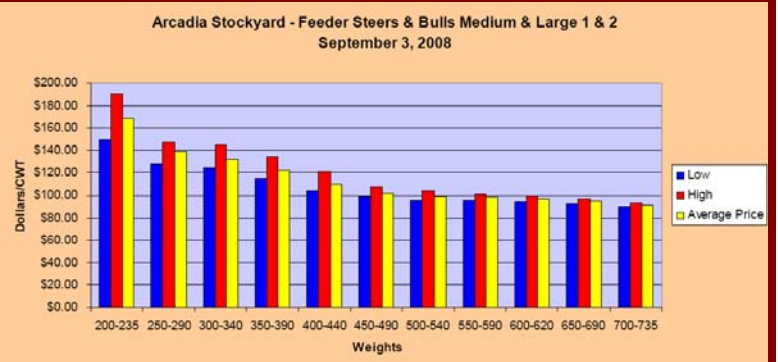
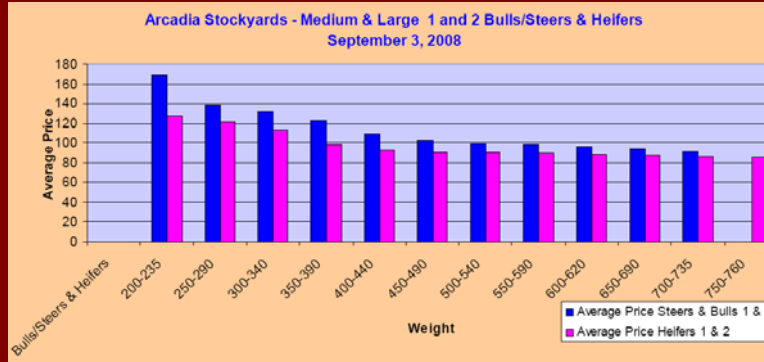
	08/30/08 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	677,000	673,000	705,000
Live Weights	1281	1279	1282
Dressed Weights	782	780	785
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	528.1	523.3	552.1

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

Choice/Select Spread
09/05/08
\$6.25/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/LM_XB403.TXT

	08/17/08	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.37%	2.32%	2.12%
Choice	55.16%	55.10%	52.62%
Select	34.88%	35.11%	35.75%

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



The summary below reflects the week ending September 5, 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, September 9, 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	13,200	\$111.24	\$104.71	\$108.49	\$104.72	\$102.30	\$105.54
AL	9,400	\$106-114	\$102-107	\$96-100	\$94-103	\$90-97	\$86-93
TN	6,200	\$95.81	\$91.01	\$87.46	\$95.81	\$90.01	\$87.46
FL	7,600	\$94-104	\$91-100	\$90-93	\$87-108	\$83-92	\$86-90
GA	9,500	\$90-108	\$90-104.50	\$86-99	\$85-100	\$81-95	\$78-88
KY	13,700	\$107.55	\$106.46	\$107.17	\$96.79	\$98.77	\$101.27
OK	12,200	\$114.91	\$114.70	\$113.66	\$106.63	\$107.96	\$107.40
MO	15,900	\$123.12	\$117.58	\$117.30	\$110.51	\$108.35	\$106.18

CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 25 to 26 cents higher from 6.02-6.19 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 20 cents lower at 5.60 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 25 to 26 cents lower from 5.53-5.56 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 27¾ cents lower from 5.20-5.60 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 21¾ cents lower from 5.41-5.50 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 27¾ cents lower at 5.22 per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday August 29, 2008**
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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GRAIN CROPS—PLANTING AND GROWTH STATUS

Corn – 97% of the crop has reached the silking stage

Soybeans – 94% has reached bloom

Winter wheat – 95% has been harvested

Spring wheat – 35% has been harvested

Barley – 42% has been harvested

Sorghum – 75% of the acreage is heading

Oats – 74% has been harvested

States with the worst pasture conditions—at least 40% of the acreage rated poor or worse—include: **California (100%)**; **Colorado (48%)**; **North Carolina (43%)**; **North Dakota (48%)**; **Oregon (54%)**; **South Carolina (46%)** and **Texas (50%)**.

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"	6.79"	8.42"					34.01"
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°	95.2°					NA
LOW	28.5°	35.6°	39.3°	41.6°	51.9°	65.0°	50.4°	70.8°					NA

Rainfall for 2008 is currently 8.10 inches ahead of 2007

AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE PETITIONS FSIS ABOUT IRRADIATION LABELING

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has scheduled a public meeting about what action it should take regarding a petition from the American Meat Institute that asks FSIS to recognize the use of low-penetration and low-dose electron beam irradiation on the surface of chilled beef carcasses as a processing aid. Doing so would eliminate the need to label the irradiation process in the ingredients label. **Source—Drovers Alert, August 27, 2008 | Volume 10, Issue 35.**

K-STATE RESEARCHERS EXAMINE LINK BETWEEN *E. COLI* AND DISTILLERS' GRAINS

The USDA has awarded Kansas State University a National Research Initiative in Food Safety grant totaling nearly \$1 million to study the connection between feeding distillers' grains and *E. coli* 0157:H7 in cattle. Due to the rapid growth in U.S. ethanol production, feedyards increasingly use distillers' grains, an ethanol co-product, in their rations. Results of some previous research, however, suggest a possible relationship between feeding distillers' grains and higher levels of the pathogen. **Source—Drovers Alert, August 27, 2008 | Volume 10, Issue 35.**

FARMS MUST BE LARGE TO SUPPORT MOST FARM FAMILIES

High input costs and volatility in commodity prices causing fluctuations in farm income have forced changes on farm families, according to a report from University of Minnesota ag business management educator Gary Hachfeld. Some have taken off-farm jobs and shifted to part-time farming, but for many full-time farm families, survival has meant expanding. **Source—Drovers Alert, August 27, 2008 | Volume 10, Issue 35.**

Beef Management Calendar

September/October

Last date to plant Sorghum-Sudan Grass	Check dustbags, oilers, etc.
Check mineral feeder. Use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus.	Check pastures and hay fields for grubs, mole crickets, spittlebugs and armyworms.
Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.	Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.
Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.	Pregnancy check cows.
Control weeds in summer pastures.	Plant warm season perennial pastures.
Make plans to attend the FCA Convention.	

TWO ANIMAL-RIGHTS INITIATIVES ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

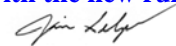
Animal-rights supporters have targeted two states on opposite sides of the country for animal-welfare ballot initiatives this year. In Massachusetts, voters will decide on a statewide ban on greyhound racing by 2010. The initiative could close two greyhound tracks in the state. In California, voters will decide on Proposition 2, a ballot initiative sponsored by a coalition of animal-protection groups requiring that egg-laying hens, veal calves and pregnant sows have room enough to lie down, stand, turn around and fully extend their limbs, effective 2015. The initiative, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, is backed by the California VMA. Some CVMA members have formed the Association of California Veterinarians largely because they disagree with their association's support for Proposition 2. This week, the American Veterinary Medical Association issued a statement indicating the organization is concerned about the California ballot initiative. "Although the AVMA applauds every effort to promote animal welfare, the Association is concerned about possible, unintended negative consequences to animal welfare of enacting the measure." The AVMA statement said the organization "believes Proposition 2, 'Standards for Confining Farm Animals,' is admirable in its goal to improve the welfare of production farm animals; however, it ignores critical aspects of animal welfare that ultimately would threaten the well-being of the very animals it strives to protect. "The best housing environments take into consideration all relevant factors, including: freedom of movement; expression of normal behaviors; protection from disease, injury and predators; adequate food and water; and proper handling. Proposition 2 would clearly provide greater freedom of movement but would likely compromise several of the other factors necessary to ensure the overall welfare of the animals, especially with regard to protection from disease and injury." Selection of California and Massachusetts for animal-welfare initiatives was not random. Clearly they were identified as states where voters would likely support such measures. In California, the United Egg Producers held a rally this summer in hopes of swaying public opinion on the issue. The group estimates that up to \$50 million will be needed to successfully fight the issue. **Source—Drovers Alert, August 27, 2008 | Volume 10, Issue 35.**

THIESSE'S THOUGHTS: USDA CROP REPORT

The USDA Crop Report issued on August 12 came in with a larger-than-expected crop production estimate for the 2008 corn crop in the U.S., which would make it the second largest U.S. corn crop in history, trailing only the 2007 total corn production of 13.1 billion bushels in the U.S. Based on Aug. 1 conditions, USDA is estimating the 2008 corn crop at almost 12.3 billion bushels, which is an increase of about 570,000 bushels from the July 1 estimated production of just over 11.7 billion bushels. The August estimate is slightly higher than the just-under 12 billion bushels that most private analysts estimated. The USDA soybean report on August 12 was slightly below grain trade estimates, and slightly lower than the USDA estimate on July 1. USDA now projects the 2008 U.S. soybean crop at 2.973 billion bushels, which compares to 3 billion bushels estimated by USDA on July 1. **Source---Kent Thiesse Corn & Soybean Report, Crop News Weekly, August 27, 2008 | Volume 8, Issue 35.**

NCBA STATEMENT ON INDUSTRY-WIDE AFFIDAVIT FOR "COOL"

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is pleased to join an industry-wide coalition in announcing the development of a standardized affidavit to declare country of origin for livestock throughout the marketing chain. Tomorrow, NCBA and other representatives from throughout the livestock and meat industries will meet with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary Bruce Knight to present this affidavit. Our goal was to create a simple, efficient, and effective means of declaring livestock origin from conception to consumer, and we believe this affidavit does exactly that. Producers can fill in information specific to their cattle and assert the origin of any animal being sold. Livestock marketers further along the ownership chain can use individual affidavits to create a single, combined affidavit for a group of animals. Representatives from every point in the supply chain unanimously agreed to use this standardized affidavit, which will greatly ease the burden that a mandatory COOL places on producers. NCBA has focused on implementing COOL in a manner that provides maximum benefit and minimal disruption to our ranchers. We believe this affidavit will be a significant help in that effort. Additionally, NCBA is working with our industry partners on the issue of so-called 'gap cattle,' which are animals traded in the period between July 15, 2008 (the date that declared all livestock present in the U.S. as being of U.S. origin) and the September 30, 2008 implementation deadline. We are well aware that owners of these animals would be very hard pressed to recreate the paper trail documenting origin. The industry consensus is that current owners should be considered to have first-hand knowledge of those cattle. Therefore, these animals should be allowed to move through the marketing chain using the standard affidavit. NCBA will continue to work on behalf of our cattlemen to put in place an effective and accurate labeling system. Additionally, we will be leading the effort to educate producers on how to comply with the new rule. **See page 6 of this newsletter for the affidavit. Source: NCBA News Release.**



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



IFAS Extension



South Florida Beef/Forage Program Fall Wildlife Field Day Tours

2:00 – 6:00 PM

Meal Included

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 miles 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, Deer and Pheasant.**

Cost for each tour is \$15.00 or \$20.00 if attending both Field Day Tours. An evening meal will be included in the registration cost for the Tour(s). ~~Pre-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.

Pre-Registration deadline Extended to September 12, 2008.

		Registration Form	
Name _____		Today's Date: _____	
Address _____		Tour One: _____	
City _____			
Zip Code _____		Tour Two: _____	
Phone _____			
Email _____			
Total included: \$ _____		<i>Solutions for Your Life</i>	



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 Division of Animal Industry
 Bureau of Animal Disease Control

MAIL OR FAX COMPLETED FORM TO:
 Bureau of Animal Disease Control
 Division of Animal Industry Cattle
 Programs Office
 Room 327, 407 S. Calhoun St.
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
 850/410-0900; Fax 850/410-0957

APPLICATION FOR NAIS PREMISES REGISTRATION

CHARLES H. BRONSON
 COMMISSIONER

Section 585.145, F. S.,
 5C-3, 5C-4, 5C-5, 5C-6, 5C-7, 5C-9, 5C-20, and 5C-21 F. A. C.

NOTE: All documents and attachments submitted with this request are subject to public review pursuant to Chapter 119, F.S.

Business/Farm/Ranch/Stable Account Information

Business/Premises Name _____
 Primary Contact _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
 Business Phone _____ FAX _____
 Mobile Phone _____ Pager _____
 E-mail Address _____
 On-site Contact _____
 (If different from above; Manager, Agent, Stable Manager, etc.)

Premises Information (Where animals are located or the Florida Management Headquarters)

Physical (911) Address _____
 City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
 County _____

Primary Business Function (please check only one)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Production Unit (Farm, Ranch, Flock, Equine Facility) | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic (Location where animals are treated for disease) | <input type="checkbox"/> Market/Collection Point (Backgrounder, Order Buyer, USDA Approved Market, Approved Dealer) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition (Fairs, Shows) | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarantine Facility | <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slaughter Plant | <input type="checkbox"/> Tagging Site | <input type="checkbox"/> Port of Entry |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Rendering |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-producer Participant |

Species on Premises (please check all that apply, excluding wildlife)

- Bovine => Beef Dairy Bison
- Avian => Chickens Ducks Geese Guineas Pheasants Quail Ratites Turkeys
- Aquaculture Camelid Deer Goats Horses Rabbits Sheep Swine _____

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent _____ Date _____

DACS-09215 Rev. 07/08

SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURE DISASTER PROGRAMS

Under the new Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Programs included in the 2008 Farm Bill, producers must have crop insurance or non-insured crop disaster assistance (NAP) coverage for the land for which assistance is being requested, and for all farms in all counties in which they have an interest, including grazing lands in order to be eligible to participate in the disaster programs. Since the 2008 Act was enacted after the application periods had closed for those programs, producers who did not have such coverage could not comply with this requirement in order to be eligible for the new disaster programs. However, the 2008 Act authorizes a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a "buy-in" fee, to be eligible for this new disaster assistance.

The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility only for either the catastrophic risk protection insurance (CAT) or NAP is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer per administrative county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties less any previously paid fees for CAT and/or NAP. Producers can contact their local administrative FSA County Office to file the application for waiver and pay the applicable fees.

The buy-in fee is due no later than Sept. 16, 2008, 90 days after the date of enactment, as required by the 2008 Act. Those who miss this opportunity will not be eligible for disaster assistance. Producers are also reminded that the payment of the applicable buy-in fee does not afford the producer crop insurance or NAP coverage; it only affords eligibility for the 2008 disaster programs.

The following programs are included in the Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Program in the Farm Bill:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

Note: While the Livestock Indemnity Program is part of the Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Program, it is exempt from the CAT/NAP purchase requirement.

Fact Sheet on the 2008 Crop Year Buy-in for Disaster Assistance Programs.

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/buyinwaiver08.pdf

An additional note: In order for our producers to be eligible for this program, we will have to ask for a USDA Secretarial Disaster Declaration in addition to the Presidential Disaster Declaration that is requested during storms/hurricanes. We work closely with FSA during these times so please feel free to send any loss estimates and data that become available as the storm exits the state to my email (palmer1@doacs.state.fl.us) or Nelson Mongiovi at mongion@doacs.state.fl.us.

21st ANNUAL REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

The next Reproductive Management School will be held here in Arcadia on October 21-23, 2008. The cost for this year's school is \$350.00. The purpose of the course is to strengthen managerial capabilities of owners and operators of beef cattle ranches. This is an intense course in reproductive management of the cow herd. Although the topic of pregnancy diagnosis is given extensive treatment in the program, participants should not expect this training to make them proficient in that skill.

Tuesday – Oct 21, 2008

8:00 Introductions-Jim Selph
8:30 Pregnancy Testing-
10:00 Break
10:10 Quiet Handling of Beef Cattle
11:00 Pregnancy Testing Video
11:30 Lunch (provided)
12:15 Intact Tracts Lab - Dr. Al Warnick, Professor Emeritus, Animal Science Dept., UF/IFAS
1:00 Lab-Hands on Pregnancy Testing
3:30 Heifer Development and Management of Young Cows-
4:15 Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation
5:30 Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation-Live Animal Demo

Wednesday – Oct. 22, 2008

8:00 Genetic Management for Efficient Reproduction
8:30 Coping with Calving Problems
9:15 Breeding Season Management
9:45 Break
10:00 Health Management-Vaccination Program for Reproduction
10:30 Nutrition for Reproduction - Economics of Supplementation
11:15 Reproductive Implications of Body Condition and Nutritional Management
12:00 Lunch (provided)
12:30 Laboratory: Hands on Pregnancy Testing-Staff
3:30 Utilizing Performance Records

4:30 Body Conditions Scoring Problem

Thursday, Oct. 23 2008

8:00 The Role of Artificial Insemination in Beef Cattle - Herd Bull Selection
8:30 Estrus Synchronization and Heat Detection
9:30 Break
9:45 Nutrition for Reproduction – Forage Quality
10:15 The Role of Ultrasound in a Beef Cattle Herd
10:45 Program Summary and Evaluation-Staff
11:00 Hands-on Laboratory – End of Reproductive Management School

A \$ 100.00 Deposit (non-refundable) is Due: **October 3, 2008** if you plan on participating in this year's Reproductive Management School with the remainder due on the first day of the school. For more information (registration forms, etc.), please contact me at the Extension Office: 863-993-4846.

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