

MANATEE LIVESTOCKER

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August 16, 1999

Calendar Of Events

August

10-12	Forage School Tour - Sebring
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26	South Florida Beef Forage Program, STOCKING RATES - Arcadia
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September

2-3	FCA Fall Quarterly Meeting, Ft. Myers
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16	South Florida Beef Forage Program, WINTER SUPPLEMENTATION - Sarasota
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25	Florida Santa Gertrudis Association Cattleman's Kind Auction, Bartow
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October

1	1999 Florida Cattlemen's Association Heifer Sale, 1:00 PM - Hardee Livestock Market, Wauchula
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4	Arcadia Brangus Bull Sale, Arcadia
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11	South Florida Beef Forage Program, BULL SELECTION - Bartow
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14	Herd Bull Selection Program, 3:00 - 6:00PM - Hardee Agri-Civic Center - Wauchula For more information contact Lockie Gary at (941) 773-2164
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18	Running M Ranch/GDQQ Ranch Braford Bull Sale, Arcadia
19-21	Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, Moultrie, GA
28	South Florida Beef Forage Program, HAY FIELD DAY - Manatee
29	Graham Angus Bull Sale, Okeechobee

- Factors Affecting Price of Feeder Calves -

Many producers do not believe their management practices have much effect on the selling price of their feeder calves. But factors other than supply and demand actually have a great effect on price. Incorporating marketing strategy into the management plan can produce higher returns on calves.

To get more for your calves, you have to market them, not just sell them. Efficient marketing entails knowing what the market prefers, and then meeting that demand. Marketing begins when the bull is turned in with the cows, and continues throughout the production process, ending when the calves are sold. Feeder calf grades, weight, breed, season, sex, fleshiness, quality, volume, and uniformity affect the price of feeder calves.

Source: Florida Cow-Calf Management by the University of Florida

- South Florida Beef-Forage Program -

The South Florida Beef Forage Program, a multi-county extension effort, will be providing a series of beef cattle management programs in surrounding counties this summer and fall. In the next two months there will be a Stocking Rate Program held in Wauchula on August 26 and a Winter Supplementation Program will be held in Sarasota on September 16.

Do you have too many cows on your operation? How do you know and how should you establish the proper stocking rate? Would it be profitable to reduce the size of your herd? These are the questions that a Stocking Rate Program will address on August 26 at the Hardee County Agri-Civic Center in Wauchula from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

Dr. Bill Kunkle, University of Florida Animal Science Department Nutrition Specialist, will lead a hands on body condition scoring exercise and discussion on timing and the use of this management tool to determine stocking rates and optimal production. Dr. Findlay Pate, Center Director, Range Cattle REC, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL will discuss Determining Stocking Rates on Florida Pastures. John Earman, Vero Beach will demonstrate a computer program he has developed that allows cattlemen to determine impact of production changes on the profitability of a herd for up to 10 years. He will discuss how this tool might be used to determine what affects stocking rate changes would have on reproduction and total ranch performance. This is an excellent opportunity to get some tools to answer the difficult question of what is the optimum stocking rate for an individual operation. For more information and to RSVP contact Jim Selph at 941-993-4846 or Doug Mayo at 941-533-0765 by August 20.

The next program coming up in September will focus on Winter Supplementation. Bill Kunkle and Findlay

Pate, Ona Research and Education Center, will cover the types of feeding programs that are available in Florida and focus on the economic and nutritional value of each. They will compare liquid, by-product and commercially available feed sources. John Arthington, Ona REC, will demonstrate a free ration balancing program developed at Oklahoma State University and how it might be used by Florida cattlemen to determine which feeding programs best suit their needs and be able to determine the total cost of a winter feeding program. The program will be held in Sarasota at the Sarasota County Extension Office from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on September 16. For more information and to RSVP by September 10 contact Jennifer Myers at 941-316-1000 or Doug Mayo at 941-533-0765.

Other programs coming later in the year will focus on bull selection, hay production, and the new Florida Cattlemen's Association Best Management.

The following article was published in THE FLORIDA CATTLEMAN AND LIVESTOCK JOURNAL, August 1999

- Trace Mineral Nutrition of Florida Grazing Cattle -

By J. Arthington, Animal Scientist
University of Florida, Range Cattle REC

Essential Trace Minerals

Approximately 16 different minerals are required to support normal biological functions in beef cattle. Under grazing situations nearly all of these are adequately provided by forage and water. Minerals, which are not met by dietary sources, need to be supplemented. These minerals are grouped into two categories, macrominerals and microminerals. The macrominerals, which are commonly supplemented to grazing animal diets, include sodium (as NaCl), potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and sulfur.

Only the microminerals which form a group called the essential trace minerals (ETM's) will be discussed in this report. Seven trace minerals are considered essential to support normal physiological functions in beef cattle. These include cobalt, copper, iodine, iron, manganese, selenium, and zinc. The level at which these ETM's are supplemented varies in accordance with the amount and availability in the diet being consumed. A common misconception is that animals will consume trace minerals, as they are needed. In reality, sodium as sodium chloride (salt) is the only mineral which animals have the innate ability to consume as needed. Therefore, proper trace mineral intake is crucial when addressing potential deficiency situations.

The most common form of trace mineral supplementation is through the consumption of commercial, free-choice loose mineral mix. Typically, these mineral mixes are formulated with an intake expectation of 2 to 4 ounces of mineral per animal per day. Unfortunately, achieving this target intake by all animals does not occur. Several animals within a herd will consume very little to no mineral at all. However, over time and on the average mineral consumption usually meets the desired intake levels. It is this averaging effect, over time, which allows free-choice mineral supplements to be the most practical choice for most Florida Cattlemen.

Is This Enough?

Although deficiencies due simply to an insufficient mineral intake exist, many minerals, such as copper, zinc, and selenium, may experience impeded absorption due to the influencing factors of other antagonizing elements. One well-known example in Florida is the antagonistic combination of copper and molybdenum rendering copper unavailable for absorption. For molybdenum to exert an influence on copper, it is essential that an adequate level of dietary sulfur be available. When total dietary sulfur levels fall below .25%, even high levels of molybdenum are seldom a problem with copper absorption. The contribution of multiple interfering compounds makes a clear understanding of trace mineral metabolism difficult. Many research groups, ours included, continue to focus effort toward a better understanding of the intricate relationship of trace mineral nutrition in beef cattle production systems.

Do I have a Trace Mineral Deficiency?

1. Address Other Factors:

The first step in identifying trace mineral deficiencies is to attempt to rule out other more directly contributing factors to decreases in animal performance. For instance, if average cow body condition scores are below 4 ½, chances are far greater that decreases in reproductive performance and/or immune competence are a result of energy/protein deficiency versus trace mineral deficiency. Secondly, be sure that proper management of free-choice trace mineral feeding is offered. For instance, are the cattle being offered a continuous supply of fresh, dry mineral? Are they consuming the mineral at an appropriate level?

2. Forage Trace Mineral concentrations:

Know the trace mineral contribution of the available feedstuff. Collect forage samples being careful to select that forage which the animals are actually grazing or consuming as hay. Perform a standard trace mineral evaluation of the forage. Many commercial laboratories offer trace mineral packages which provide multiple analyses for a minimal price.

3. Herd Trace Mineral Status:

Often times it is possible to establish a reasonable plan of action by addressing points 1 and 2. However, in some instances it may be important to further explore a potential trace mineral deficiency by examining animal trace mineral status through blood and liver collection. For two of Florida's most troublesome trace minerals, copper and selenium, liver samples provide the most reliable indicator of actual animal stores. Blood samples are an unreliable approach for the measurement of these elements. Today, the liver tissue collection technique is simple, inferring very little stress to the animal.

For further information, contact Travis Seawright at 941/722-4524 ext. 236, or your local Farm Service Agency.

For questions or comments regarding this publication contact



[Travis Seawright](#)





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