

# Okeechobee Livestock Letter

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**October/November 2000**

## UP COMING EVENTS

<b>October</b>		
17	Fall Ranch Management Seminar	Bartow
24	Biosolids Workshop	Okeechobee
25	Citrus Best Management Practices Kick-Off Luncheon	Ft. Pierce
27	Beef/Forage Field Day	Brooksville
<b>November</b>		
21	Weather School 2000	Ft. Pierce
29	Stargrass Fertilization Program and Field Day	Okeechobee
30-12/1	FCA/FCW Winter Quarterly	Lakeland
<b>January</b>		
11-12	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Ruminant Nutrition Seminar	Gainesville

## Weather School 2000

On Tuesday, November 21, The Agricultural Weather Task Force and the University of Florida will be holding a Weather School in Ft. Pierce. The morning sessions presentations and discussion will deal with weather forecasting and data. Representatives from Florida State University, University of Miami and the University of Florida will provide a brief overview of El Nino/La Nina and the level of reliability of long range forecasts. They will also give examples of the type of long range guidance available and how these products can impact agriculture. Short term forecasts are available from private and public sources.

A local private service will discuss products provided, method of delivery, and their cost structure. The National Weather Service office will give a general description of various forecast product generated with

special emphasis on those that can be utilized by agriculture. Once in a while there are special needs that require forecasts which are generated during severe weather events. The school will discuss how these forecasts are developed and distributed, as well as who issues warning and alerts. The final area covered in the morning will be weather data. There will be a discussion of the type of weather data collected, locations, reporting interval, confidence of accuracy, how disseminated, and historical data base availability.

A registration fee will cover all written material, refreshments, other expenses associated with the school and lunch. The fee is \$15 preregistration or \$20 at the door.

The afternoon session will deal with using weather information. Growers will see how weather data can be incorporated into a management tool that can help with day to day decisions. Other decision aids for water management and cold protection will be presented. Representatives from emergency management will discuss what weather data they utilize to deal with severe situations such as hurricanes, fire, etc. They will show how these products incorporated into an action plan to protect life and property. The last portion of the school will cover future plans for the completion of the UF/IFAS Florida Automated Weather Network as well as improvements with the collection of weather data, development of management tools, and dissemination of each. Grower input is sought, any comments and/or suggestions from those attending will conclude the school.

If you have questions about the school, please contact John Jackson, Extension Agent at 352-343-4101.

## **Stargrass Fertilization/BMP Field Day**

The Stargrass Fertilization and BMP Field Day, originally scheduled for October 5, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 29.

Dr. Jack Rechcigl has been conducting research at the Williamson Cattle Company to determine the optimum fertilization rates for stargrass along with control and minimization of P runoff with soil amendments.

Although the project is not completed, much information is available and will be shared during this program.

A detailed program will be sent as the time grows nearer.

## **Johne's Disease Seminar**

The Florida cattle industry and Dr. Ed Richey of the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Okeechobee County Extension Office are developing a program for cattle owners and managers relating to the problem of Johne's Disease in Florida. A producer seminar will be conducted in Okeechobee but as yet no date has been set.

When that date is available, notices will be sent out.

## **Cattlemen's BMP Manual**

The Florida Cattlemen's Association BMP manual is available at the County Extension Office. Stop by and

pick one up. In the near future, everyone, will need to create a nutrient management plan. This book will be an integral part of that plan.

**O.Patrick Miller**  
**Extension Agent - Dairy/Water Quality**

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For questions or comments regarding this publication contact



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