

POLK COUNTY LIVESTOCK REPORT

Polk County Extension • University of Florida • IFAS • 1702 Highway 17 South • Bartow, FL

<http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

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- *Due to state and county budget cuts, postage funds are limited. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please email me at bccarlis@ufl.edu to let me know.*
- *If you know fellow producers that are not receiving this newsletter, please share my contact information with them so that they may be added to the list.*
- *If you have information that needs to be included in the newsletter, please let me know.*

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April saw the last of La Niña weather conditions as we moved into the neutral climate phase. This means that near normal rainfall and temperatures are most likely. Normal rainfall will not be able to make up for the long term drought, but may alleviate some of the effects. This is relatively good news for livestock producers considering. Nutritive value and yield of pasture grasses will improve.

I would like to invite you to attend the Ona REC Youth Field Day, an excellent opportunity for youth (and parents too) to learn about the center and livestock research practices; and the Florida Cattlemen's Convention and Trade Show in Marco Island, from the Cattlemen's College to the Allied Trade Show to the last reception, the convention is sure to be valuable.

I continue to strongly encourage livestock producers to take advantage of the various industry associations, such as the Polk County Cattlemen's Association and Polk County Farm Bureau. There is value in membership that extends far beyond a magazine or a newsletter. Membership benefits include activities and programs that promote your product, networking with other producers, a voice with your political leaders, and much more.

I hope that the information provided and the programs offered in this newsletter will serve you well as you meet the challenges of today's beef industry. I would like to personally thank you for your role in the beef and agriculture industry.

As always, I look forward to serving your livestock and forage production needs. Please feel free to call me at (863) 519-8677 Ext. 104 or email me at bccarlis@ufl.edu.

Bridget Carlisle, Livestock Extension Agent

P.O. Box 9002, Drawer H203 • (863) 519-8677 ext. 104 • bccarlis@ufl.edu • <http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

Liver Flukes in Beef Cattle

As we approach the summer months, now is a good time to think about liver fluke control in your cow herd. Be sure to always follow label recommendations when handling medications.

Liver flukes are considered one of the most damaging parasites of cattle in Florida. The condemnation of damaged livers at slaughter and the losses in beef production associated with fluke infections result in an estimated loss \$10 million each year to the Florida beef industry. Fascioliasis (liver fluke disease) is associated with reduced fertility of the brood cow herd, lighter calves at weaning, slower growth of replacement heifers, higher culling rates in cow herds and lighter weight cull cows.

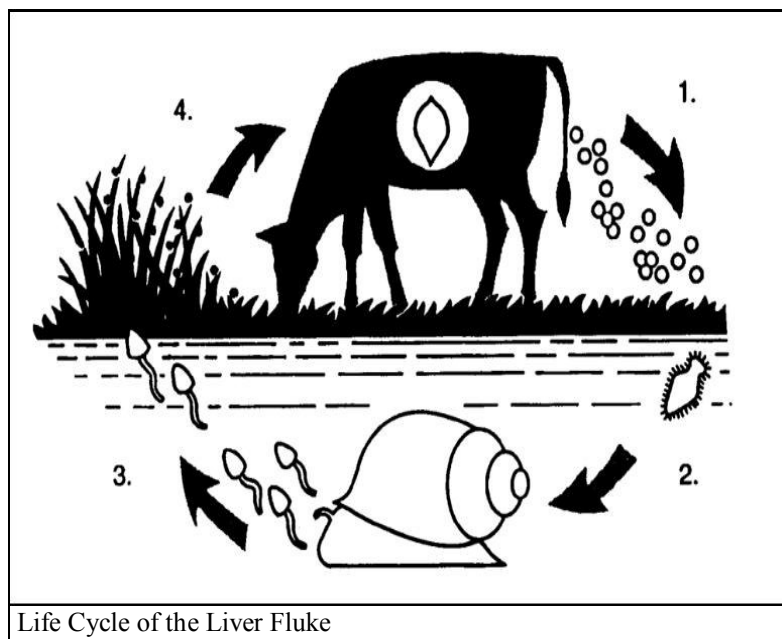
Treatment of beef cattle in Florida during late summer, ideally between August 15 and September 1, will eliminate flukes acquired during spring & early summer. This is the weak point in the liver fluke's life cycle - flukes survive the summer in Florida only as adult flukes in the livers of cattle. Fluke treatment kills the adult flukes. This prevents cattle from shedding fluke eggs onto pasture when snails, the intermedi-

ary host, emerge from summer estivation with the onset of wet, cool weather and thereby breaks the life cycle of the liver fluke.

C l o r s u l o n (Curatrem[®]) and albendazole (Valbazen[®]) are the only approved flukicides for use in cattle in the U.S. Clorsulon is compatible with concurrent administration of benzimidazoles, levamisole, and ivermectin. Albendazole or a reduced dose (3.5 mg/kg) of clorsulon is effective only against mature flukes. These doses should only be used at times of the year (i.e. late summer) when you are certain no immature flukes are present. Clorsulon also is available in combination with ivermectin (Ivomec Plus[®]). This injectable for-

mulation delivers the biological equivalent to the "half dose" of oral clorsulon. Spring treatments, when all ages of flukes are present in infected cattle, will only temporarily reduce the fluke numbers. Spring fluke treatments can be helpful to reduce fluke exposure to calves and young cattle but by no means can a spring treatment be expected to provide the fluke control required in infected herds in Florida.

For more information on liver flukes and their control in cattle refer to EDIS publication #VM12 *Liver Fluke Control in Beef Cattle*.



Cull Cow Opportunities



Photo courtesy Dennis Wynn

Spring processing is a critical time for cattlemen to make important management decisions that include culling of non-productive, poor performing cows. A systematic culling process will offer cow-calf producers the opportunity to make decisions that will improve cow herd production, reduce output expenses, and increase sale income.

Culling cows that are poor performers will improve overall herd production. Cows whose calves are poor performers may possess inferior genetics, or be poor milkers. These are factors of economic importance that are passed along to offspring and affect overall herd productivity.

Additionally, cows with poor reproductive performance should be critically scrutinized for retention in the

cow herd. All cows that are open at the end of the breeding season, calve outside the calving season or are late calving, should be at the top of the cull list as the carrying cost to the next breeding season cannot be recouped and is counterpro-

ductive.

Factors such as age, presence of teeth, udder condition, structural soundness and health condition can affect performance of cows in their ability to rebreed, calve and/or wean a calf. Consider culling cows that are over the age of 10, have smooth or broken mouths, are structurally unsound, and/or have health conditions such as cancer eye, lumpy jaw, vaginal prolapse, Joehne's disease, etc.

By culling those cows that are poor performers, cow-calf producers can improve overall herd performance. Resources such as feed, forage and man-power are better utilized by the performing cattle and are no longer wasted on those that are not efficient producers.



Receive Recognition for Your Well Managed Land

By Carrie Kotal, Polk County Forester



The Florida Division of Forestry's Forest Stewardship program provides landowners with the recognition they deserve for managing their land in a sustainable manner. The program also increases awareness among the general public of the importance of Florida's agricultural lands and the benefits these lands provide to all citizens of the state. By participating in the free program, landowners have the opportunity to receive technical assistance, learn about natural resources management, and reduce their tax liability. With stewardship planning, landowners experience opportunities like growing high value timber that can be harvested and sold, preparing estate plans for their heirs, or protecting and enhancing their lands to create environmental benefits like clean air, water and wildlife habitat. A primary focus of the program is the development of free, comprehensive, multi-resource man-

agement plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services. Landowners with at least 20 acres of forest land can participate in the Forest Stewardship program.

Certification is the award reserved for landowners that have consistently practiced good management on their land, and followed the recommendations within their Stewardship Plan. Some landowners that have been practicing good forest stewardship even before they received their written plan may be eligible immediately for certification, while others may take several years to complete their recommended practices and be awarded certification. Stewards are recognized with a certificate and Stewardship sign for their land that serves as an example for other landowners and the public. The recognition demonstrates to the community that they are managing responsibly with the idea that stewardship benefits all citizens, not just the landowner.

Private (non-industrial) landowners own nearly half of Florida's total land—more than 16.5 million acres and claim over half of the state's raw timber supply that provides for thousands of consumer items used daily. Private (non-industrial) land-

owners have the ability to directly impact the supply and condition of Florida's forest resources. As the state's top agribusiness, the forest industry has a total economic impact of \$16.5 billion. Impacts on tourism and recreation claim about \$6 billion. Additionally, forests provide a water filtering system that improves the drinking water of 90 percent of the state's population and shelters over 100 wildlife species.

Florida's Division of Forestry has 45 foresters in 15 districts whose job it is to help private (non-industrial) landowners. Management tools for forest landowners include prescribed burning, advising, and resource information as well as other programs like Best Management Practices, cost-share programs, and the American Tree Farm program. The Tree Farm program is designed for private non industrial forest landowners with 10 or more forested acres.

For more information on any of these programs please contact your County Forester:

Polk County: Carrie Kotal
863-519-8677 ext. 128 ko-talc@doacs.state.fl.us Or visit the Division of Forestry Forester web site:

www.yourforestmanaged.com

Ona RCREC Youth Field Day

The Range Cattle Research and Education Center will be hosting their 2nd annual Youth Field Day **Tuesday, June 30th in Ona**. 4-H and FFA member, and other interested youth are invited. The following educational sessions and tours will be offered:

Ultrasound Clinic – Instructor, Amy Perryman—Learn how and why we use ultrasound equipment in today's livestock, watch and participate as we take pictures of a beef ribeye and find how much marbling is on a live animal! Also, come and learn the ideal carcass traits for your market hogs and steers!

Is This Cow Pregnant? – Instructor, Lindsey Wiggins - Students will be instructed in the gross anatomy and physiology of the cow's reproductive system. They will observe, handle and dissect both non-pregnant as well as pregnant cattle reproductive tracts. This class is designed for the more mature student with a genuine interest in biology.

Farm & Horse Safety - In-

structors: Sonja Crawford, Courtney Davis, and Bridget Carlisle - It is imperative that youth be made aware of the unique dangers present on the farm. Youth will have the opportunity to learn about chemical, tractor, ATV and horse safety. Learn techniques that livestock handlers utilize on a day to day basis to keep injuries at bay.

Cattle Tour- Guide, Austin Bateman - Take a wagon tour and view RCREC cattle.

Careers in Agriculture - Got Jobs? We do! Join the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Ambassadors for an interactive "Careers in Ag and Life Sciences workshop". We will look into the possibilities the college and its majors has to offer you and your potential career goals. Whether your career goals include medicine, dentistry, pharmacy vet medicine, education, family youth and community sciences or biological and engineering, CALS has a place for you!

Weather Workshop - Instruc-

tor: Dr. Clyde Fraisse. The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) and Southeast Climate Consortium (AgroClimate) offer a workshop in which students will learn various aspects of weather and climate and develop an understanding of a variety of important aspects of meteorology, including important terminology, differences between weather and climate, basic observations and use of instruments, and obtaining and using weather data. This is a very education program which involves classroom instruction and fun hands on learning experiences.



Squeeze Chute Available for Use

Beef cattle producers are encouraged to take advantage of the W-W Beefmaster Squeeze Chute and yoke trailer that was donated by the Polk County Cattlemen's Association for use by Polk County cattle producers on a loan basis. If you are interested in using the squeeze chute, please contact Bridget to reserve it (863) 519-8677 or bccarlis@ufl.edu.

*Donated for your use by the
Polk County Cattlemen's Association*

Forage Testing

Forage testing provides useful information about the nutritive value of forage. This information can be used to adjust the amount and composition of nutritional supplements offered to livestock consuming forage. The correct adjustments can reduce costs of forage production and optimize the amount of nutrients imported to the property.

The UF/IFAS Forage Extension Laboratory is located at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona. The laboratory provides forage testing for Florida's livestock and forage producers. Results of the tests include crude protein (CP) and total digestible nutrients (TDN). Beyond understanding the nutrient quality of your forage, it is also valuable to

understand how your forage samples compare with other such samples submitted to the laboratory. On an annual basis, the Forage Extension Laboratory publishes the average forage nutritive values by forage species (Table

1).

For more information on collecting forage samples for analysis, please refer to EDIS publication SS-AGR-63 or contact Bridget at (863) 519-8677 or bccarlis@ufl.edu.

Excerpted from EDIS pub SS-AGR-63

Table 1. Dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP), total digestible nutrients (TDN), acid detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) of forage samples submitted to the Forage Extension Laboratory at the RCREC – Ona, FL (Oct., 2007 to July, 2008)

Forage Species ¹	Number of Samples	DM	CP	TDN	ADF	NDF
Bahiagrass²						
Hay	36	85 ± 4	7.5 ± 2.4	49 ± 5	--	--
Pasture	8	24 ± 2	9.2 ± 0.8	53 ± 3	--	--
Bermudagrass						
Hay	82	89 ± 2	10.3 ± 3.5	53 ± 7	44 ± 5	79 ± 3
Silage/Haylage	18	31 ± 5	8.8 ± 1.8	50 ± 3	45 ± 1	77 ± 1
Stargrass						
Hay	18	84 ± 2	9.9 ± 2.7	53 ± 5	59 ± 2	73 ± 3
Pasture	26	36 ± 3	13.1 ± 3.6	58 ± 7	50 ± 20	68 ± 15
Silage/Haylage	56	34 ± 8	10.1 ± 2.5	57 ± 7	52 ± 13	69 ± 16
Limpograss						
Hay	48	83 ± 3	4.2 ± 1.2	54 ± 6	38 ± 5	78 ± 8
Pasture	13	35 ± 3	7.5 ± 1.3	57 ± 3	--	--
Silage/Haylage	28	40 ± 4	6.1 ± 0.9	49 ± 6	40 ± 4	70 ± 6
Corn						
Silage/Haylage	18	28 ± 2	8.4 ± 0.8	75 ± 5	28 ± 1	48 ± 9

²ADF and NDF analysis performed only on samples submitted by dairy producers. Bahiagrass was not analyzed for these nutrient constituents.

Upcoming Events

May

- 1 [UF/IFAS Beef Cattle Short Course](#) (Cont.), Gainesville
- 6 Water Quality BMP Mtg, Sebring
- 7 Pasture Management Seminar, 7pm, Bartow
- 14 Water Quality BMP Mtg, Bartow via poly-com, 6:30pm
- 14 Beef Cow Nutrition Seminar, 7pm, Bartow

June

- 21 Herd Health Seminar, 7pm, Bartow
- 28 Reproductive Management Seminar, 7pm, Bartow
- 16-18 FL Cattlemen's Conv. & Trade Show, Marco Island
- 19 Registration deadline for Ona RCRED Youth F.D.
- 30 Ona RCREC Youth Field Day

July

- 16 Polk Cattlemen's Membership Dinner