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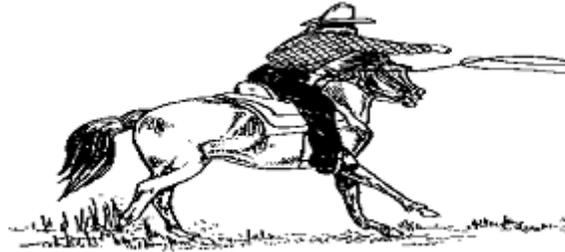
IFAS EXTENSION

The Polk County Rancher

Polk County Extension Service

1702 Hwy 17/98 South,

Bartow, FL



UPCOMING EVENTS

July

31 – 01 Aug	Farm Bureau’s Young Farmer and Rancher Convention
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August

03	Meat Goat Seminar, Ona Range Station
16	National Animal ID Listening Session @ FCA Hqtrs in Kissimmee, FL @ 2:30

September

11	FL Brangus Breeder’s Association Field Day, Oak Knoll Ranch <i>RSVP by 15 August if interested</i>
16	Nematode Seminar, Lightsey’s Cattle Company
17	Nematode Seminar, Flanders Ranch
25	Santa Gertrudis Bull Sale in Bartow
27	Cow/Calf Seminar Jackson County
28	Cow/Calf Seminar, Madison and Alachua Counties
29	Cow/Calf Seminar, Osceola and Volusia Counties
30	Cow/Calf Seminar, Sumter County

October

01	Cow/Calf Seminar, Okeechobee County
04	Brangus Bull Sale, Arcadia, FL Livestock Market
12	South Florida Beef Forages Program, Wauchula, FL

This Issue:

- NAID Listening Session Announced
- Membership Drives
- Polk County Mole Cricket Control Seminars Announced
- Fall Army Worm Alert
- Poisonous Plant Alert

NATIONAL ANIMAL ID LISTENING SESSIONS ANNOUNCED



USDA to Hold Listening Sessions on National Animal Identification Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a series of listening sessions across the country to discuss the development, structure and implementation of a national animal identification program for all livestock and poultry animals.

"These sessions will provide public forums to discuss the national animal identification program," said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Bill Hawks. "A national animal identification program will help the government and industry more quickly control outbreaks of a variety of animal diseases and reduce the economic impacts on the market."

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced in December 2003 that USDA would expedite the implementation of a national animal identification program. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has received more than \$18 million to begin implementing a national system that will quickly and efficiently trace back diseased or potentially diseased animals. A premise identification system will be completed this summer, which will allow for the beginning of pilot programs to test identification systems.

The local listening session will be held in Kissimmee, FL at the Florida Cattleman's Association Office. Registration will be at 2:30 p.m. on 16 August 2004.

Source: University of Florida's Animal Sciences

FALL ARMYWORM ALERT

Now is the time of year to be alert to fall armyworms in your pastures and hayfields, especially on recently fertilized forage. It doesn't take these insects long to damage a crop, so be vigilant at this time of year. Flocks of egrets are a real "tip-off" that you may have a problem. Sometimes in the early stages it takes more than a casual drive through the field. So get out and walk around and look closely.

These caterpillars or "worms" are the immature stages of grayish-brown moths. Females lay their eggs on the lower leaves of grasses and the larvae begin to feed as soon as they hatch. Because they often move in large numbers from one area to another in search of food, they are called armyworms. To prevent extensive damage, treatment must be made when the worms are small. The almost mature larvae (1 to 1 1/2 inches) are difficult to control.

Control Recommendations for Pasture

Insect infestations in pastures usually start in small, isolated areas. Make frequent inspections and spot treat before infestations become widespread. This practice not only saves insecticide, but also prevents extensive injury to the grass and reduces the residue problem.

Apply low rates of materials to light infestations. Light forage cover, and smaller stages of pests. Apply higher

rates to heavy infestations; dense forage cover, and mature stages of pests.

Following is a list of recommended insecticides that may be used for control of armyworms. See individual brand labels for usage instructions.

Bacillus thuringiensis-Carbaryl (Sevin)-Malathion-Methomyl (Lannate)-Methoxychlor-Methyl Parathion-Naled (Dibrom)-Permethrin (Ambush)-Pyrethrin + Piperonyl-butoxide + silicon dioxide-Pyrethrin + PBO (Pyrenone)-Rotenone (Rotacide)

Mention of product names does not constitute endorsement by the University of Florida/IFAS, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, or the Polk County Board of County Commissioners.

Source: Lockie Gary

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES

The Polk County Cattleman's Association is soliciting new membership for the upcoming year. The Florida Cattleman's Association is an important part of the beef industry, especially with the environmental issues that producers deal with in Florida. The association is your voice in Tallahassee and in Washington D.C.. If you are interested in becoming a member of Polk County Cattleman's Association contact your local Cattleman Board Members.

Jr. Florida Cattlemen's Association



The Polk County Extension Service and the above organizations are in search of youth and teens interested in becoming involved in the Junior FCA. This organization is designed for young people to become an active part in one of the State's most exciting industries.

The Jr. Florida Cattlemen's Association is open to those youth and teens who want to serve as an essential part of Florida's cattle industry. The members of the Jr. FCA hold ranch tours, meetings and discuss current issues facing the cattle industry.

Members of this group will conduct activities throughout the year to better familiarize themselves with every aspect of cattle production in Florida. The group will compete in events at the annual Florida Cattlemen's Convention at Marco Island. If you are interested in becoming a Jr. Cattleman or Jr. Cattlewoman, please contact Brantley Ivey at the Polk County Extension Service.

Brantley Ivey
Polk Co. Livestock Agent
Phone (863) 519-8677 Ext. 104
BIvey@ifas.ufl.edu

Join Polk County Young Farmers and Ranchers

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and a member of Polk County Farm Bureau (PCFB) getting involved with the Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) is a great way to network for your business, build relationships with people in the local industry and get involved on a county level.

Polk County's YF&R members raise money for a scholarship fund to benefit future agriculturalists, conduct educational programs, work to raise the profile of Polk County's industry and participate in statewide YF&R activities.

On a state level, members have the opportunity to compete for the title of Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher and participate in the state Discussion Meet. In addition, the Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers & Ranchers who do not derive the majority of their income from an owned agricultural operation to earn recognition.

From the Polk County YF&R Christmas Hayride to networking locally to winning a Dodge Truck at state competitions... get involved with the Polk County's YF&R. Contact Heather Nedley at PCFB for more details, 863-533-0561 or hnedley@verizon.net.

Poisonous Plant Alert

Brantley Ivey

Living in Florida we have unique pleasures that most states don't. Beaches, sun, warm winters, the best ranch land in the nation, and *weeds*. We have learned how to deal with our weed problems for the most part, but I have received many calls lately about plant poisoning in livestock. We are in the prime time of the year for many toxic plants so it is important that we can identify these plants and follow the proper recommendations for getting rid of them. The most common toxic plants and their associated symptoms that we deal with in Central Florida are:

Lantana: Cattle are most often affected. There are two forms of toxicity: acute and chronic. The acute form usually occurs within 24 hours after eating the plants with the animal exhibiting gastroenteritis with bloody, watery feces. Severe weakness and paralysis of the limbs are followed by death in three to four days. The chronic form is characterized by jaundiced mucous membranes, photosensitization, ulcerations of the mucous membranes of the nose and oral cavity. The skin may peel, leaving raw areas that are vulnerable to blowfly strike and bacterial infection. Severe keratitis may result in temporary or permanent blindness.

Black Nightshade: All classes of livestock and humans have been poisoned. Two syndromes have been described: acute and chronic. The acutely poisoned animal is characterized by irritation of the mouth and gastrointestinal lesions. In the chronic form, unthriftiness, jaundiced mucous membranes, abdominal dropsy and constipation have all been seen.

Pokeberry: The most commonly observed symptom is a severe gastroenteritis with cramping, diarrhea and convulsions. Postmortem lesions include severe ulcerative gastritis, mucosal hemorrhage and a dark liver.

Black Cherry: Ruminants are most commonly affected; however single stomach animals such as dogs, cats, and horses are affected as well. Symptoms are difficult breathing, bloat, an anxious expression, moaning, staggering, recumbence and convulsions before death. Animals may die within one hour after consuming the leaves. The mucous membranes are bright red in color, as is the blood.

Horsenettle: All classes of livestock and humans have been poisoned. Two syndromes have been described: acute and chronic. The acutely poisoned animal is characterized by irritation of the mouth and gastrointestinal lesions. In the chronic form, unthriftiness, jaundiced mucous membranes, abdominal dropsy and constipation have all been seen.

Oleander: Severe gastroenteritis, diarrhea, abdominal pain, sweating and weakness are the usual symptoms. These signs appear within a few hours after eating the leaves. Cardiac irregularities are common, often characterized by increased heart rate. However, a slower heart rate is often detected in the later stages.

Polk County Mole Cricket Control Seminars Announced

The Polk County Extension Service, in conjunction with Becker Underwood and Host Ranches, are announcing two seminars concerning mole cricket control with use of Nematode application. These seminars will be held at Dr. L.B. Flanders ranch in Northern Polk County on 17 September 2004, and Lightsey's Cattle Company in Eastern Polk County on 13 September 2004. The program will include proper application of the Nematode, an explanation of the process, an update on National Animal ID, and a field demonstration after lunch. If you are interested in attending either of these seminars please contact Brantley Ivey at the Polk County Extension office.

Tentative Program

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Dr. Martin Adjei	(Ona Research Station)
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Gabe Diaz-Saavedra	(Becker Underwood)
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	National Animal ID Update	
Lunch	(Provided)	
Field Demonstration		

Brantley Ivey
Polk Co. Livestock Agent
Phone (863) 519-8677 Ext. 104
Fax (863) 534-0001
BIvey@ifas.ufl.edu

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