

DESOTO COUNTY BEEF NEWSLETTER

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September 2000

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

4	Restricted Use Pesticide License Review and Testing - Hardee County Extension Service, 507 Civic Center Drive - Wauchula, Review, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Testing begins at 1:00 p.m.
6	6 th Annual Florida Cattlemen's Association Replacement Heifer Sale - Hardee County Livestock Market, Wauchula, 1:00 p.m.
10	Aquatic Weed Control in Citrus Canals - Immokalee, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. contact Dr. Mongi Zekri at 863-674-4092
12	Aquatic Weed Control in Citrus Canals - Fellsmere, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. contact Mr. Jack Hebb at 561-462-1660
12	DeSoto/Charlotte Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - DeSoto County High School Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
16	Braford Bull Sale - Arcadia State Livestock Market, 1:00 p.m.
17	Fall Ranch Management Seminar - Polk County Extension WH Stuart Conference Center, Bartow, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
17	Aquatic Weed Control in Citrus Canals - Family Service Center Annex, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
17-19	Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition - Moultrie, GA
24	Weather Seminar - Lake Alfred, contact John Jackson 352-343-4101
26	DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Fall Meeting - Family Service Center Annex, 7:00 p.m.
30	Charolais Bull Sale - Arcadia State Livestock Market, 1:00 p.m.
31	Weather Seminar - Immokalee, contact John Jackson 352-343-4101

November

4	4-H Pancake Breakfast - Golden Corral, 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
21	Weather Seminar - Fort Pierce, contact John Jackson 352-343-4101

December

4	ABC Angus, Brangus and Charolais Bull Sale - Arcadia State Livestock Market, 1:00 p.m.
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Aquatic Weed Control Program

*The Extension Service is sponsoring a program on **Aquatic Weed Control in Citrus Canals, Ditches and Reservoirs** on October 17. The program will be conducted at the Family Service Center in Arcadia. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The morning session will deal with various issues relating to the identification and control of aquatic weeds in canals, ditches and reservoirs. Luch is sponsored by SePRO. The afternoon session will visit canals and reservoirs adjacent to a grove area where calibration and demonstration of various equipment will be conducted. Registration is \$10.00 per person and is due by October 1. For more information contact Steve Futch at 863-956-1151 or stop by the Extension Office to pick up a registration form.*

This program will be repeated in Immokalee on October 10 for more information contact Dr. Mongi Zerki at 863-674-4092 and again in Fellsmere on October 12 contact Jack Hebb at 561-462-1660.



Turner Agri-Civic Center

*Work on the **Turner Agri-Civic Center** is proceeding at this time. According to the architect, we feasibly could see construction begin by February 2001 and with a completion date as soon as October 2001. If we are realistic when it comes to architects and contractors, the date will probably be several months later than projected. Many of you may be interested in ways that the community can participate financially in this great project for the county. In the next few weeks, we should be unveiling to the community a plan by which individuals, businesses and corporation can become a part of the Turner Agri-Civic Center. Currently, we plan to have different levels of recognition for those who participate in the fund drive. I plan to have blueprints and a facility model of the project at the October 26, 2000 Annual DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Meeting.*

FCA BMP Manual

*In 1997, the Florida Cattlemen's Association began a process to develop **Water Quality Best Management Practices for Florida Cow/Calf Operations**. The process included many hours of study, much debate and discussion and many meetings, all of which contributed to and are reflected in the BMP Manual.*

The manual describes the water quality Best Management Practices (BMP's) for beef cow/calf operations in Florida. These practices are designed to protect our water bodies and maintain compliance with the States's water quality standards. These practices are specifically targeted for beef cow/calf operations in Florida and the activities that normally occur in conjunction with beef cattle production.

*The FCA has asked the livestock agents of the state to distribute these manuals. We currently have them available to cattlemen at the extension office. I also plan to take the remaining books to the **DeSoto County Cattlemen's Annual Meeting on October 26, 2000** at the Family Service Center Annex. If you would like an electronic version of the BMP's, go to: <http://www.floridacattlemen.org> and click on "Bulletins." This will take you to a site titled "Bulletins and Press Releases." In order to open the file your computer must have Acrobat Reader. From this page you can download the Reader. Scroll down the page until you see: Water Quality Best Management Practices for Florida Cattlemen Cow/Calf Operators Manual and then click on this site. You are now at the electronic version of the BMP Manual.*



DeSoto County Cattlemen's Annual Meeting

The 1999 DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 26 at the Family Service Center Annex. All members long with their family are invited to attend. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. You may bring one guest to the steak dinner. Members bringing more than one guest will be asked to pay \$10.00 per each additional guest.

Fall Ranch Management Seminar

*On **Tuesday, October 17, 2000**, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. the South Florida Beef/Forage Program will have its first Annual **Fall Ranch Management Seminar** at the W.H. Stuart Conference Center in Bartow, see the enclosed handout. The topics will be: Bull Selection, Molasses Supplementation, The Use of Body Condition Scores in Making Supplementation Decisions and Beef Cow Culling. Suga Lik will sponsor a dinner meal after the program and **RSVP's** need to be called in to 993-4846 by **October 10th**.*

Often we refer to Supplementation decisions as Winter Supplementation. The real truth is that we need to be observing Cow Condition right now and not allowing them to slip down below a score of 5 to 5.5 at this time. When a cow loses Body Condition, it is much harder to restore that condition than it is to maintain Body Condition. If you would like to know more about Body Condition Scoring, stop by the Extension Office and pick up a copy of publication number SP 144 Effects of Body Condition Son Productivity in Beef Cattle. These normally are for sale publications, but the first 20 producers that come by and ask for a copy I will give them a free copy.

What is nitrate poisoning?

Nitrate poisoning in grazing cattle occurs following the consumption of plants that contain excessive amounts of nitrate. Nitrate is naturally converted to nitrite and then to ammonia by microbes in the rumen. Acute or chronic nitrate poisoning occurs when the amount of nitrate consumed exceeds the rumen's ability

to convert into ammonia. This excess nitrite is then absorbed into the bloodstream where it complexes with hemoglobin. Bound with nitrite, hemoglobin is unable to bind and transport oxygen causing a buildup of methemoglobin in the blood. Methemoglobin has a chocolate brown color, which is a telltale sign of acute nitrate poisoning in cattle. By blocking the transport of oxygen to peripheral tissue, acute nitrate poisoning results in suffocation. Source: John Arthington, PhD; Range Cattle Research and Education Center; University of Florida - IFAS



4-H Pancake Breakfast

*This year's **4-H Pancake Breakfast** will be on Saturday, November 4 at the Golden Corral from 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. Tickets will be \$3.50 again this year and include "all-you-can-eat" pancakes, coffee, juice, and sausage (limited). This is one of our major fund raisers for 4-H, so please come!*

If you have any comments or need additional information, please contact the DeSoto County Extension Office at (941) 993-4846.

Sincerely,

James F. Selph

DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock

For questions or comments regarding this publication contact



[James F. Selph](#)



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