



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



February 2005 / Volume 27 Number 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

28	Pasture Establishment/Renovation Program—6:00 PM— Polk County Ag Center, Bartow
-----------	--

March

1	Pasture Establishment/Renovation Program—6:00 PM— Hardee County Ag Center, Wauchula
----------	--

3	Pasture Establishment/Renovation Program—6:00 PM— Turner Center Exhibit Hall, Arcadia
----------	--

5	Small Farms Conference—9:00 AM— Okeechobee High School Vo-Ag Facility, Okeechobee
----------	--

7	Bobwhite Quail Habitat Enhancement Dinner and Workshop Turner Agri-Civic Center Exhibit Hall — 6:30 PM— Arcadia, FL
----------	--

8	Pasture Establishment/Renovation Program—6:00 PM— Okeechobee County Ag Center, Okeechobee
----------	--

10	Pasture Establishment/Renovation Program—6:00 PM— Hendry County Ag Center, Labelle
-----------	---

19	Small Farms Conference— 9:00 AM— Turner Center Extension Office, Arcadia
-----------	---

Pasture Establishment/Renovation Program

Due to a number of factors such as 3 major hurricanes, low citrus prices and citrus diseases, mole crickets, weeds, etc., landowners may see a need to reestablish pastures. The South Florida Beef Forage Program will be hosting a series of seminars on “Pasture Establishment/Renovation” at 5 different locations in the South Florida Beef Forage Program Area. The following are the topics to be discussed beginning at 6:00 PM at each location. The cost will be \$10 per person and will include a meal. The following topics will be presented:

Panel of producers (2-3) from hosting county.

“Land Preparation” – Lockie Gary

“Grass Varieties” – Martin Adjei and Carrol Chambliss

“Fertilization & pH” – Jim Selph

“Weed Control and Herbicides” – Pat Hogue

“Grazing Management of Newly Seeded Fields” – John Arthington & Matt Hersom

“Economics of Re-Establishment” – Gary Mikulecky



Bobwhite Quail Habitat Enhancement Dinner and Workshop

On Monday evening, March 7, 2005, at 6:30 PM there will be a program to inform interested ranchers, landowners and quail hunters of a special project to help restore and improve bobwhite quail habitat on native rangeland in south-central Florida. There will be a meal with this program provided by the Southwest Florida Chapter of Quail Unlimited. Please contact our office by February 28, 2005 if you are interested in attending. For more information, I have included a separate flyer in this newsletter.

Small Farms Conference--2005

The Small Farms Livestock Production Conference was designed for ranchette and small landowners engaged in or considering the production, care and management of cattle, horses and/or goats for pleasure or profit. This conference is designed to give producers on a few acres, a better understanding of pastures and forages, health management, nutritional needs and management, reproduction and breeding management, general management practices and equipment, and marketing prospects and techniques to assist them in being as productive and economically efficient as possible. The conference will be three concurrent programs running at the same time with the same general agenda topics for each of the three animal species, with the discussion topics to be tailored toward the needs and requirements of the particular species in each program session. The conference will be offered in two locations, Saturday, March 5, 2005 at the Okeechobee, High School Vo-Ag teaching facility on Hwy 441 in Okeechobee Fl. and Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Desoto County Extension Office at the Turner Center in Arcadia, FL.

Cost of the conference will be \$ 10 per person pre-paid registration to include lunch and any program materials. Individuals planning to attend should contact one of the participating Extension Agents listed in this brochure to obtain or return registration information form or mail to address listed on attached registration form to insure adequate lunch and program material plans are allowed for. A program flyer has been included for your consideration.

Beef Management Calendar

March

Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth and get fertilizer incorporated in grass roots while there is still good soil moisture.

Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.

Prepare land for summer crops.

Check mineral feeder.

Begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.

Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.

Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest if needed.

Put bulls out March 1st for calving season to start December 9.

Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.

Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1.

Check for lice and treat if needed.

Deworm cows as needed.

U.S. to Halt Canadian Under-30 Beef

The United States will halt the importation of Canadian boxed beef from animals 30 months and over, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Wednesday. “Our ongoing investigations into the recent finds of BSE in Canada in animals over 30 months are not complete,” he said. “Therefore, I feel it is prudent to delay the effective date for allowing imports of meat from animals 30 months and over.” Johanns said the United States will continue to target March 7 as the effective date to reopen the border to live animals under 30 months of age. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, February 10, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 6**

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

Market Outlook--Cattle-Fax Predicts +\$100 Calf and Feeder Market

The profitability enjoyed by cow-calf producers the past several years should continue, albeit at a reduced rate, for the next several years. That's according to the recent 2005 Outlook presented by Cattle-Fax last week.

In round numbers, Cattle-Fax expects fed cattle to trade at \$82-\$84/cwt. in 2005, feeder cattle (750 lbs.) at \$100-\$102/cwt., and calves (550 lbs.) at \$120/cwt. Consequently, while profitable, Cattle-Fax anticipates returns for summer stocker programs this year to return to a more historical \$20/head, vs. the better than \$160/head average enjoyed the two previous years. **Source: Beef Stocker Trends, February 7, 2005.**

Japan Approves U.S. Grading System for Cattle Aging

Earlier this week, Japanese technical experts accepted the U.S. grading system for determining the ages of cattle, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said. While this action resolves a technical issue on resuming beef trade, Japanese officials are still not certain when the ban will be lifted. "Today's determination by the Japanese experts is an important step towards resolving this issue between our two countries," said Johanns. "We now call upon our Japanese colleagues to expedite the remaining implementation process so that trade may resume."

Japan, which has kept its border closed to American beef exports for nearly 14 months, agreed in October to resume buying beef from cattle under 20 months of age. But how an animal's age is determined has been a negotiating point. This week's agreement means they'll accept a slaughterhouse inspector's visual determination of carcass maturity. Export sales to Japan totaled \$1.7 billion in 2003. Despite this week's progress, no date has been set for the Japanese to reopen its market to American beef. **Source: Source:— Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, February 10, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 6**

City Seeks to Stop Animal Slaughter

The mayor of Schenectady, N.Y., who failed in an attempt to outlaw the slaughter of food animals inside the city limits, has proposed new legislation that would simply forbid the keeping of livestock and poultry by city residents. Mayor Brian Stratton said the new proposal would effectively halt animal slaughter inside the city limits. The ban on slaughter was proposed in September after a man complained that his son and stepson witnessed neighbors killing a goat for consumption. The neighboring family was Guyanese, so the proposal was quickly viewed as anti-Guyanese. The new proposal to ban livestock ownership by city residents, excluded any reference to the slaughter of animals.

City council members also said they would consider a proposal that would allow livestock and poultry to be slaughtered behind closed doors. I certainly understand that a lot of city folks don't want to see a goat "harvested" by their neighbors next door. On the other hand, if my yard joined a neighbor's goat "pasture," I might be relieved to see the process of turning a fertilizer producer into dinner. **Source:— Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, February 10, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 6**

2005 Beef Advertising Designed to Keep Beef Demand Rising

America's Beef Producers are coming out of the gate in 2005 with an advertising strategy that continues last year's award-winning campaign, designed to reinforce consumers' positive attitudes and help keep beef demand on the rise. In 2005, advertising will include five new print ads that will continue to fuel the passion consumers have for beef. These ads will run 106 times this year in 27 magazines like *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Country Home*, *Gourmet*, *Parents* and *Sports Illustrated*. They began in January and will run through June. Additionally, nearly \$2.5 million worth of free consumer programs were negotiated with the magazines, further extending the beef message.

Four two-week flites of national radio ads will run during the same time period, adding still another dimension to the plan. The checkoff radio spots will run 125 times each week across the country on programming such as Fox Sports, Country Gold and The Top 20. This national print and radio plan will reach 94 percent of adults ages 25-54, 16 times in 2005. Beef advertising programs are funded by America's Beef Producers through the \$1-per-head beef checkoff program. . **Source:— Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, February 10, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 6**

NCBA proposes control of animal-ID data

The NCBA is proposing a private national animal-identification plan, with the association joining a consortium of companies to control and manage the data. Such a system, according to the NCBA, would enhance animal-health surveillance and give the agriculture industry oversight for the system. The USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, meanwhile, is deeply involved in developing and testing its own National Animal Identification System with industry participation. The association approved the alternative plan during last week's convention, but it still must be approved in the coming weeks by members voting by mail ballots. The plan would provide a number of avenues for producer participation, directly or through a service provider or data trustee. Also at the convention, the NCBA and Allflex USA announced an official NCBA Tag program using Allflex's "Beef USA" electronic tags. For more information about the NCBA's animal ID plan, go to drovers.com. For information about the Beef USA tags, go to www.ncbatag.com . **Source— Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, February 10, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 6**

Environment-- Williamson Family Named Nation's Top 2004 Steward

Frank "Sonny" W. Williamson Jr. and Frank "Wes" Williamson III of Williamson Cattle Company in Okeechobee, FL, and Faunsdale, AL, were selected as the National Winners of the 2004 National Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP). The award recognizes U.S. cattle producers whose stewardship practices are progressive, cost-effective and contribute to environmental conservation. The announcement occurred last week during the Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in San Antonio, TX.—Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, February 11, 2005.

A Look At How NCBA Border Directive Might Fare

The directive that sailed through the cattle industry convention last week and will be sent to the entire National Cattlemen's Beef Association membership on Feb. 17 set forth a laundry list of concerns NCBA wants addressed before it can support a border reopening. The directive's 11 key points include:

1. Prohibit the importation of cattle and beef products from cattle more than 30 months of age.
2. Assure all Canadian firewalls to prevent BSE, specifically adherence to their feed ban, are functioning properly.
3. No feeder cattle imported animal health standards, especially bluetongue and anaplasmosis, are harmonized.
4. Movement of Canadian cattle into the U.S. must be managed to minimize market disruptions.
5. Fed cattle imported for immediate slaughter must be certified to be less than 30 months of age at time of importation.
6. Ban the use of fetal bovine serum from heifers imported for immediate slaughter.
7. Disallow USDA grades and stamps on any imported beef.
8. Feeder cattle must be branded with "CAN," individually ID'd with an ear tag, certified to be less than 30 months of age at time of slaughter, shipped in sealed trucks from the border directly to an approved feedlot, then moved directly in sealed trucks to slaughter.
9. Canadian feeder heifers imported to the U.S. must be spayed.
10. USDA must work with primary trade partners to ensure expanded access for U.S. beef exports isn't jeopardized in any way by expanded importation of Canadian cattle and beef.
11. The administration must reach an agreement to re-establish beef and beef byproduct trade with Japan, South Korea and Mexico, and apply economic sanctions if necessary.

USDA has already taken action on Point 1. Point 2 was partially addressed by NCBA's trade delegation, and additional investigations are ongoing with reports expected prior to March 7. Point 3 isn't only obvious, but doable with little difficulty. The reality is Canada has far more at stake than the U.S., and this non-tariff trade barrier issue has existed for nearly 20 years. It must be resolved and aligned with the science immediately, as the U.S. will never have this much leverage again. Point 4 is merely a restatement of past NCBA policy but it points out just how complicated implementing this ruling will be and the possible need for more time. It's also an issue difficult to define and adhere to without trade first being established. Nothing in the current rule addresses mitigating negative short-term market effects. Point 5 is essentially already part of the USDA rule and isn't expected to be a major stumbling block. Point 6 is another difficult-to-resolve issue, while Point 7 is merely a restatement of current NCBA policy that USDA will likely continue to ignore. Point 8 is essentially a part of the current rule. Point 9 is a major departure from the current rule and would be easy to implement. But, it's not likely to happen as the provisions and tracking of these heifer feeders are considered to be adequate. While inherently obvious, Point 10 isn't expected to carry much weight. Point 11, however, is critical and the most controversial. USDA seems adamantly opposed to it, feeling the border reopening will lead to reopening of U.S. export markets. This will likely be the most difficult objective to achieve. —Troy Marshall—Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, February 11, 2005.



James F. Selph, DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock





Bobwhite Quail Habitat Enhancement Dinner and Workshop Turner Agri-Civic Center Exhibit Hall Arcadia, Fl



Time: *March 7, 2005 6:00 p.m.*

Activity: This workshop is part of a special project to help restore and improve bobwhite quail habitat on rangeland in south-central Florida.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Florida, University of Georgia and Tall Timbers Research Station (Tallahassee) in this habitat enhancement project. Representatives will be on hand to share expertise.

This project will focus on cost-share incentives to landowners who agree to work to increase quail populations on their property by improving quail habitat on their property. Financial assistance for achievement of specified habitat management will be in the form of incentives payments for these conservation practices: prescribed burning, brush management (double drum roller chopping, disking, herbicide application), and range planting (planting for wildlife habitat). Mowing, fencing, water trough, pipelines, invasive/exotic plant control, prescribed grazing, and upland wildlife habitat management will also be included in the program.

This project specifically targets ranches in Charlotte, DeSoto, Glades, Highlands and Sarasota counties.

Register: This program is free, but you must pre-register. Please contact, Jim Selph (863) 993-4846 by February 28, 2005.

Sponsor: Dinner is sponsored by the Southwest Florida Chapter of Quail Unlimited.

Directions: From Highway 70 East of Arcadia, go north on Turner Avenue to the next Traffic Light (.9miles) which will be Gibson/Roan and turn east (right). Take the second entrance to the left into the Turner Center and proceed to the Exhibit Hall. From Highway 17 North of Arcadia, turn East on Gibson and go 1.2 miles till you reach the Turner Center on your left. Enter at the second entrance.



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION



The University of Georgia
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



“Renovating Forages Program”

South Florida Beef Forage Program

February 28, 2005 Bartow, Polk County

March 1, Wauchula, Hardee County

March 3, Arcadia, DeSoto County

March 8, Okeechobee, Okeechobee

March 10, Labelle, Hendry County

Due to a number of factors such as 3 major hurricanes, low citrus prices and citrus diseases, landowners may see a need to convert citrus land to pastures or reestablish pastures that were damaged by excessive water. The South Florida Beef Forage Program will be hosting a series of seminars on “Renovating Forages Programs” at 5 different locations in the South Florida Beef Forage Program Area. The following are the topics to be discussed.

- i) Panel of producers (2-3) from hosting county.**
- ii) “Land Preparation” – Lockie Gary**
- iii) “Grass Varieties” – Martin Adjei and Carrol Chambliss**
- iv) “Fertilization & pH” – Jim Selph**
- v) “Weed Control and Herbicides” – Pat Hogue**
- vi) “Grazing Management of Newly Seeded Fields” – John Arthington & Matt Hersom**
- vii) “Economics of Re-Establishment” – Gary Mikulecky**

If you plan on participating, please RSVP to the host county that you plan on attending.

Polk: 863-519-8677. Brantly Ivey, BIvey@ifas.ufl.edu

Hardee: 863-773-2164, Lockie Gary, Hardee@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

DeSoto: 863-993-4846. Jim Selph, JSelph@ifas.ufl.edu

Okeechobee: 863-7636469, Pat Hogue, PHogue@ifas.ufl.edu

Hendry: 863-674-4092, Sonja Crews-Crawford,

SYCR@ifas.ufl.edu