



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



BENEFICIAL WASP PARASITIZING A
TAWNY MOLE CRICKET

Happy New Year

January 2006 / Volume 28 Number 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

19	23 rd Annual Florida Cattlemen’s Institute and Allied Trade Show, Osceola Heritage Park, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Highway 192 East, Kissimmee, 8:00 AM-3:30 PM
19-29	DeSoto County Fair
21	Florida Bull Test Sale - Marianna, FL

March

4 & 18	Small Farms Conference—Advanced Course—LaBelle and Hillsborough Counties
--------	--

HONG KONG ENDS U.S. BEEF BAN

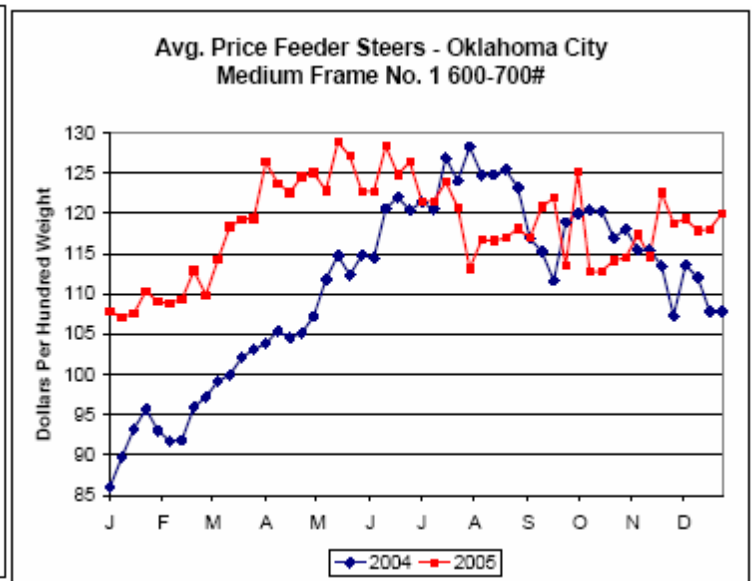
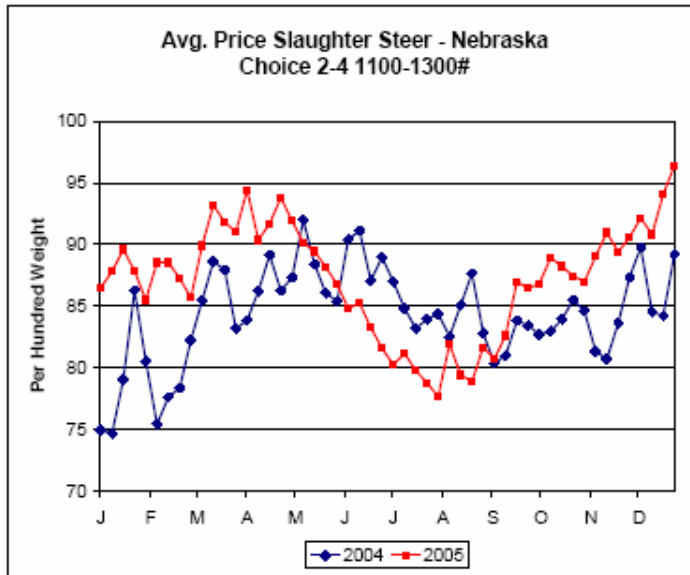
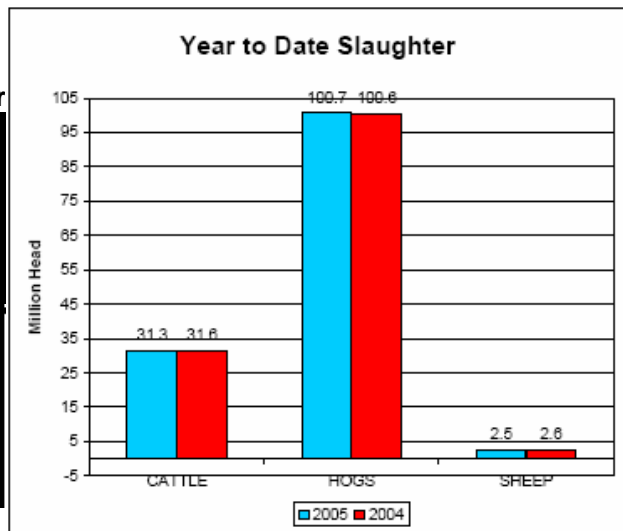
Hong Kong has reopened its market to boneless beef from U.S. cattle less than 30 months of age. Hong Kong authorities said that the government would begin processing import requests immediately, but that each consignment of beef must have prior written permission from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. There were hints that the 30-month restriction was an initial phase and the possibility remained to reinstate imports of all U.S. beef products. Hong Kong was the fifth-largest export market for the U.S. and imported about \$90 million worth of U.S. beef in 2003. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, January 5, 2006, Vol. 6, Issue 1.**

NCBA PRESSES FOR TRADE REFORMS

Representatives of the NCBA were in Hong Kong two weeks ago to urge support among World Trade Organization member countries for a U.S. proposal for global agricultural-trade reform. The representatives focused particularly on beef tariffs imposed by the European Union. “The European Union seems to be clinging to an old-school mentality that supports high tariffs and barriers to entry. We are very disappointed that they are making zero progress in this area,” says NCBA chief economist Gregg Doud. “Our message to the negotiating teams is simple: The future success of our industry depends upon fair and transparent expansion of access to consumers around the globe.” The EU’s bound tariff on beef imports is at 57 percent. The NCBA says the average global tariff on exported beef and beef products is 85 percent. In October, the U.S. made a proposal that would potentially reduce bound tariffs to about 7.5 to 12.5 percent. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* Editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 22, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 51.**

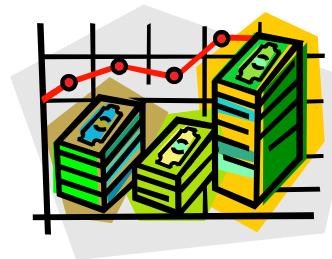
Market Information

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt			
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	527,000	605,000	538,000
Live Weights	1283	1284	1274
Dressed Weights	778	782	772
Beef Production (mil lbs)	407.9	470.7	412.9
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt			
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	93.90	95.73	87.58
Live Heifer	94.09	95.82	87.85
Dressed Steer	150.85	154.59	138.27
Dressed Heifer	149.79	154.78	138.30



The summary below reflects the week ended December 5, 2005 for Medium and Large 1 -- 500- to 550-lb., 600- to 650-lb., and 700- to 750-lb. heifers and steers. **Source: USDA-SJ: National Feeder & Stocker Cattle Summary**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
Calf Weight							
TX	23,000	\$125.31	\$120.66	\$120.14	\$115.19	\$111.46	\$111.85
AL	15,900	\$117-126	\$110-116	\$101-110	\$108-116	\$100-107	\$95-102
TN	12,200	\$117.91	\$112.01	\$108.11	\$107.55	\$101.65	\$95.02
FL	10,900	\$100-125	\$95-110	NR	\$95-110	\$90-100	\$91-96
GA	10,200	\$104-125	\$98-117	\$92-106	\$99-113	\$93-106	\$85-103



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was steady from 1.86-1.87 bushel. US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 2 cents lower at 1.86 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 2 cents lower from 1.88-1.89 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 1 3/4-10 3/4 cents lower from 1.87-1.94 3/4 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 1 1/4 cents higher to 1 1/4 lower from 1.94-1.96 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 2 3/4 cents lower at 1.76 per bushel.



Source: USDA Grain and Feed Weekly, Volume 53, Number 53, Friday December 30, 2005:

http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMNpubs/pdf_weekly/dc_grain.pdf

THE 23RD ANNUAL FLORIDA CATTLEMEN'S AND ALLIED TRADE SHOW— JANUARY 19, 2006

The 23rd Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show will occur again this year in Kissimmee at Osceola Heritage Park. If you plan to attend, please call our office in order to RSVP at 993-4846. This year's theme is "Basics for the Future". If you need a room, call the Best Western Heritage Park Hotel at 407-846-4646 to make a reservation. Please mention the group code of: Florida Cattlemen's Institute. [See the attached flyer for more information on this years Institute.](#)

WEATHER AND CROPS

A massive winter storm dropped as much as 2 ft. of snow in some parts of the Northern Plains last week, with high winds and deep snow sending lots of cattle scattering over fences. Death loss as high as 500 head was reported at several feedlots in Nebraska and South Dakota. On the other end of the spectrum, USDA Ag Marketing Service (AMS) reporters said, "The Southern Plains remains extremely dry with this year's early wheat-pasture season resulting mostly in a bust. There are very few cattle turned out, and many that were have headed back to auction or to growing yards. Luckily, low feed costs are enabling many backgrounders to put pounds on cattle in a growing yard cheaper than on wheat."

Besides low feed costs, this economic reality also has to do with the fact pasture costs in drought-stricken areas have increased significantly as producers with the option have increased irrigation to get some pasture up. Reports last week from the Texas Panhandle said wheat leased on a gain basis was going for 45¢/lb. compared to 34¢ last year. For perspective, 49% of winter-wheat condition in Texas was reported as being poor or worse for the week ending Nov. 27. Only 17% is reported as good or excellent, and that's typically come with the added cost described above. Nationally, 52% of the winter wheat is reported in good or excellent condition, compared to 76% at the same time last year. Conversely, 15% is reported to be in poor or very poor condition, compared to 4% last year.

Source: —Beef Stocker Trends, December 5, 2005.

U.S & CANADIAN BEEF SOLD IN JAPAN

Both U.S. and Canadian beef are on supermarket shelves this week in Japan. On Monday, two supermarket chains, Cowboy and Marunaka Co., reintroduced U.S. beef for the first time in two years, according to the *Kyodo News*. Marunaka received about 6 tons of beef from Kansas, with prices ranging from about \$8/lb. for chuck to \$14/lb. for sirloin. Phil Seng, president of U.S. Meat Export Federation, predicts the U.S. will sell about 110,000 tons of beef to Japan in 2006, about a third of the total in 2003. He made this prediction last week during a welcome-back luncheon in Tokyo. Seng added it will probably be three years before the U.S. attains pre-BSE levels of exports to Japan. And, for the first time in three years, Canada sent 8 tons of Ontario beef to Hanamasa Co., a supermarket and restaurant chain. Before the ban, Japan was Canada's third-largest export market, behind the U.S. and Mexico. **Source: —Beef Stocker Trends, December 5, 2005.**



BILL WOULD REGULATE FERTILIZER PRODUCTION & SALE

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attacks approved legislation that would regulate production and sale of ammonium nitrate (fertilizer). The legislation will require any individual producing, selling or buying ammonium nitrate to register with the Department of Homeland Security. Sellers of ammonium nitrate will be required to keep records of purchasers, including driver's license numbers or other photo ID, and the amount of ammonium nitrate purchased. **Source: —Beef Stocker Trends, December 5, 2005.**

COCCIDIOSIS IN CATTLE

Economics: Coccidiosis in cattle is one of the five most economically important diseases of the cattle industry. It is estimated to cost the industry \$100 million or more annually. Coccidiosis in cattle usually presents as acute diarrhea with or without blood (Fig. 1), straining, severe weight loss, and not uncommonly as a neurologic form that usually results in death of the animal. The more chronic form of the disease causes growth retardation, and/or acts as a stressor causing increased susceptibility to other infections, such as salmonellosis (intestinal disease), or Bovine Respiratory Disease. Coccidiosis is primarily a disease of young animals and also of older animals in poor condition. **Control:** Anticoccidial drugs commonly used in cattle should be used at label recommendations, paying careful attention to maintaining preventive levels for periods long enough (28 days +) to affect the life cycle.

Body Condition Scoring System



BCS 1



BCS 2



BCS 3

BCS 1: Emaciated - Bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins sharp to touch and easily visible. Little evidence of fat deposits or muscling.

BCS 2: Very Thin - Little evidence of fat deposits but some muscling in hindquarters. The spinous processes feel sharp to the touch and are easily seen, with space between them.

BCS 3: Thin -Beginning of fat cover over the loin, back and foreribs. Backbone still highly visible. Processes of the spine can be identified individually by touch and may still be visible. Spaces between the processes are less pronounced.

Over the next two newsletters, I will publish the 6 other Body Condition Scores and Pictures. I also have these in a pocket guide that I have available for free in our Extension Office.

Reproductive Management School

The next Reproductive Management School will be held in Bartow on March 28-30, 2006. The cost for this year's school is \$350.00. The purpose of the course is to strengthen managerial capabilities of owners and operators of beef cattle ranches. This is an intense course in reproductive management of the cow herd. Although the topic of pregnancy diagnosis is given extensive treatment in the program, participants should not expect this training to make them proficient in that skill.

Beef Management Calendar

February

Top dress winter forages, if needed.

Put bulls out with breeding herd.

Check mineral feeder.

Check for lice and treat if necessary.

Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.).

Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.

Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.

Survey pastures for poisonous plants.

Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.

Watch for calf scours.

FOOD PRICE INDEX INCREASES

Food prices have seen moderate increases through this year, according to the government's Consumer Price Index. On average, food and beverage prices increased by 0.3 percent during October, as did the index for food consumed at home. The index for meats, poultry, seafood and eggs decreased by 0.2 percent, led by poultry and eggs, as beef, pork and seafood prices increased somewhat. Overall, the report indicates that food prices will finish the year between 2 and 3 percent higher than last year. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 46.**



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

23rd Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute

And Allied Trade Show

January 19, 2006

Osceola Heritage Park

1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Highway 192 East

Sponsored by:

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE FLORIDA ALLIED INDUSTRIES

“BASICS FOR THE FUTURE”

8:00 AM	Trade Show Opens Moderator: Joe Walter, Chairman 2006 FCIATS, UF/IFAS, Brevard	11:30 AM	“The State of the State”—Charli Bronson, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture
8:45 AM	“Welcome”: Dr. Jimmy Cheek, UF/IFAS—Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources	12:00 PM	<u>AWARDS</u>
9:00 AM	“Welcome”: Joe Marlin Hilliard III, Florida Cattlemen's Association, President	12:15 PM	LUNCH
10:00 AM	“Basics of Pasture Fertilization”—Dr. Jerry Sartain, UF/IFAS—Soil and Water Science	1:00 PM	“Ranch Horse Safety”—Joel McQuagge, UF/IFAS, Animal Sciences Department
10:30 AM	Trade Show Break	1:45 PM	“BQA Update”—Dr. Todd Thrift, UF/IFAS, Animal Sciences Department
	“Recent Developments in Cattle Marketing”—Mark Harmon, Joplin Regional Stock Yard, Joplin, MO	2:00 PM	Trade Show Break
		2:30 PM	“State and Federal Regulations— Changing the Way You Do Business”
			<u>Panel Discussion—Wade Grigsby, Moderator</u>
			Mike Milicevic, Dr. Tom Holt, Don Robertson, Mark Harmond and Mark Donaway
		3:30 PM	Return Evaluations and Drawings for Fence Building Kit

**Please RSVP to our office if you plan to attend:
863-993-4846, e-mail: jselph@ifas.ufl.edu
Hotel Information: Best Western Heritage Park,
2145 E. Irlo Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, Fl,**

**Telephone: 407-846-4646, Room Rate: \$45.95/
Night (Ask for Florida Cattlemen's Institute
Rate)**

**Participants Requiring Special Accommodations Should Contact Randy Bateman (321-697-3000) 48
Hours Before The Event**

USDA CHANGES NASS WEB SITE

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service launched its newly redesigned Web site (<http://www.nass.usda.gov/>) that makes agricultural data easily accessible. Visitors to the site will find a new Google-powered search engine, an SVG interactive mapping application, an RSS news feed and XML technology. USDA reports will continue to be available online within minutes after release. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 47.**

TARIFFS HURTING U.S. BEEF, STOKES SAYS

National Cattlemen's Beef Association Chief Executive Officer Terry Stokes says high tariffs are hurting U.S. beef exports. Tariff reduction is a priority for the NCBA as World Trade Organization negotiations approach in Hong Kong. The U.S. proposes that tariffs on U.S. beef be reduced to 7.5 to 12 percent, significantly lower than the current 30 to 57 percent. **Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 8, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 47.**

PROFITABILITY OF CALVES SIRED BY TERMINAL VERSUS MATERNAL BREEDS OF BULLS

Colorado State University scientists used 80 steer progeny produced by mating British cross females to one of three terminal sires (Charolais) or one of five maternal sires (three Angus and two Red Angus-Composites) to compare the effects of sire type (terminal vs. maternal) on performance, carcass traits, and profitability. Steers sired by terminal bulls were significantly heavier at most stages of production, from birth to harvest, and grew faster from birth to weaning than steers sired by maternal bulls. Terminal-sired steers consumed significantly more feed, but there were no differences between sire types in feed conversion or cost of gain. Carcasses sired by terminal bulls were significantly heavier than those sired by maternal bulls, but other carcass traits did not differ.

Profitability was compared using two different marketing scenarios—selling calves at weaning or retained ownership through harvest. If sold at weaning, terminal-sired calves would generate \$39.52 more net return than maternal-sired calves. If retained through harvest, terminal-sired calves would generate \$83.62 more net return than maternal-sired calves. These results suggest that for commercial cow-calf producers who routinely retain ownership of their calves through harvest and who have access to a reliable source of affordable females, the use of a terminal crossbreeding system may be a viable strategy for enhancing profitability (Schneider et al. 2005. Colorado State Univ. Beef Report). **Source—UF/IFAS Animal Science Newsletter, January 2006**

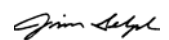
FEEDLOT CATTLE GETTING FATTER IN THE WRONG PLACES

Cattle-Fax™ analysts recently reported that the percent of Yield Grade 4 cattle has been increasing at a rate of about 1 percentage point per year since 2001. In 2005, it averaged about 7%, compared to only 2% in 2001. If this rate continues, the percent of Yield Grade 4 cattle could reach 12% by 2010. Equally alarming is the fact that the percent of Choice grade cattle has remained relatively flat during the same 2001-2005 time period. In other words, carcasses are getting fatter on the outside, but marbling is not keeping pace with external fat. Heavier carcass weights are also contributing to the increase in Yield Grade 4's. **Source—UF/IFAS Animal Science Newsletter, January 2006**

CATTLE IMPORTS AT MODERATE LEVELS

Since the U.S. border reopened to Canadian feeder and slaughter cattle in July, live-cattle imports have not increased as much as expected, according to the Livestock Marketing Information Center. Feeder-cattle imports from Mexico, meanwhile, have dropped off somewhat from a year ago. From late July through late November, U.S. imports of feeder cattle from Canada have averaged slightly above 8,900 head per week versus around 11,400 head per week for the same period in 2002. LMIC analysts note that 2002 import numbers were high due to drought in Canada. Slaughter-cattle imports from Canada have averaged about 12,500 head per week since July, compared with 16,500 head per week in 2002 and an average of about 17,000 head for 2000 through 2002.

Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* Editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, December 15, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 50.



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