



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

**DeSoto County  
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



**Don't forget the Cattlemen's  
Annual Spring Meeting**

**April 2006 / Volume 28 Number 4**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April**

13	Advanced Beef Basic Class, <b>Smutgrass Management and Control</b> , 6:00 PM, DeSoto County Extension Office— Meal Sponsored by DuPont—RSVP Required
27	<b>DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Spring Meeting</b> , 7:00 PM, Turner Center Exhibit Hall

**May**

3-5	<b>55<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Beef Cattle Shortcourse</b> , Hilton UF Conference Center, Gainesville, FL Brochure is inserted into the envelope with this Newsletter
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**BIRD FLU AFFECTING POULTRY EXPORTS**

The USDA has reduced its estimate of broiler-meat exports during the second half of 2006 in its World Agricultural Supply And Demand Estimates. The report projects higher domestic poultry production based on slaughter numbers and weights but says exports will decline because of international concerns over avian influenza. Estimates of 2006 beef and pork production and exports remained steady with last month's report. Projected broiler prices are lower, however, because of larger domestic supplies. Increased competition from poultry at the retail meat case could pressure beef prices during the coming months. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 16, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 10**

**DESOTO COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2006 DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Spring Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 27, 2006, at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall. All members, along 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. Not only will you be able to enjoy an excellent steak dinner by attending, you will also hear excellent information concerning beef cattle production and most of all you will have a great time socializing with your friends.

**ADVANCED BEEF BASIC CLASS, SMUTGRASS MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

On the evening of April 13, 2006, we will be having at the DeSoto County Extension Office a program on Smutgrass Management and Control put on by me and Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Specialist, UF/IFAS, Ona Research Station. Probably the number one weed that ranchers in DeSoto County are currently fighting is Smutgrass. The purpose of this seminar will be to help you make the best decisions in working to control this problem weed in your pastures. A BBQ meal sponsored by DuPont will be served at 6:00 PM that evening and the program will begin after the meal is over. Because we are serving a meal, we

request that you contact the office with an [RSVP](#) to let us know if you plan on attending. CEU's will be offered for this educational program.

## MARKET INFORMATION

April 3, 2006

This Week

Last Week

Last Year

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ\\_LS712.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt)

BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	613,000	583,000	566,000
Live Weights	1279	1282	1223
Dressed Weights	782	782	746
Beef Production (mil lbs)	477.4	454.5	419.6

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm\\_ct150.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt)

5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	83.87	86.24	92.61
Live Heifer	83.96	86.25	92.55
Dressed Steer	133.58	137.04	151.66
Dressed Heifer	133.54	137.41	151.07



Select grade beef is very uniform in quality and somewhat leaner than the higher grades. It is fairly tender, but, because it has less marbling, it may lack some of the juiciness and flavor of the higher grades. Only the tender cuts should be cooked with dry heat. Other cuts should be marinated before cooking or cooked with moisture to obtain maximum tenderness and flavor.

### Corn Plantings

Year	Planted All Purposes	Harvested	Yield	Production	Price per Unit	Value of production
2006	78,019 <sup>1</sup>					
2005	81,759 <sup>1</sup>	75,107 <sup>1</sup>	147.9 <sup>2</sup>	11,112,072 <sup>3</sup>	1.90 <sup>4</sup>	21,040,707 <sup>5</sup>
2004	80,929 <sup>1</sup>	73,631 <sup>1</sup>	160.4 <sup>2</sup>	11,807,086 <sup>3</sup>	2.06 <sup>4</sup>	24,381,294 <sup>5</sup>
2003	78,603 <sup>1</sup>	70,944 <sup>1</sup>	142.2 <sup>2</sup>	10,089,222 <sup>3</sup>	2.42 <sup>4</sup>	24,476,803 <sup>5</sup>
2002	78,894 <sup>1</sup>	69,330 <sup>1</sup>	129.3 <sup>2</sup>	8,966,787 <sup>3</sup>	2.32 <sup>4</sup>	20,882,448 <sup>5</sup>
2001	75,702 <sup>1</sup>	68,768 <sup>1</sup>	138.2 <sup>2</sup>	9,502,580 <sup>3</sup>	1.97 <sup>4</sup>	18,878,819 <sup>5</sup>

The following are the Unit(s) used above.

1 - thousand acres 2 - bushel 3 - thousand bushels 4 - dols / bu 5 - thousand dollars

The summary below reflects the week ended January 27, 2006 for Medium and Large 1 -- 500- to 550-lb., 600- to 650-lb., and 700- to 750-lb. heifers and steers. **Source: Beef Stocker Trends, February 21, 2006.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	18,600	\$128.28	\$113.91	\$103.61	\$124.13	\$105.78	\$94.97
AL	5,600	\$125-134	\$104-114	\$94-100	\$115-122	\$103-109	**
TN	6,100	\$123.68	\$109.02	\$98.82	\$112.70	\$100.25	\$89.64
FL	4,300	\$109-124	\$94-113	\$91-97	\$101-115	\$92-93	**
GA	7,200	\$109-134	\$100-117	\$91-101	\$101-125	\$91-105	\$82.50-90

### CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 5 to 6 cents higher from 2.20- 2.23 bushel. US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 3 cents higher at 2.00 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 15 to 17 cents higher at 2.00 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 10 1/2 to 11 1/2 cents higher from 2.05 3/4-2.16 3/4 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 14 1/2 cents higher from 2.02 3/4-2.05 3/4 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail no bid. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday March 31, 2006**

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ\\_GR851.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt)

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## **PASSING OF DR. FINDLAY PATE**

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Findlay Pate, our friend and colleague. Findlay passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. Dr. Pate served IFAS for over 30 years and recently retired as Director of the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona. As an IFAS leader, Dr. Pate was widely known for his strong support of the Florida cattle industry. He asked that all programs at Ona be directed toward improving the lives of our Florida cattle ranching families. He was widely recognized for his support of county extension faculty, which was always a visible component of Ona's research and education programs. Many of the IFAS faculty and staff that may have never met Findlay will remember his annual E-mails during the University Christmas holiday. These E-mails reminded the IFAS-ALL list that, “. . . although much of the University will be closed over the next week, the Range Cattle Research and Education Center will remain open to care for our animals, oversee our programs, answer producer questions, and greet visitors to our Center.” Findlay was truly the Cattlemen's professor and an undeniable link between IFAS and the strong bond of support among the beef clientele. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and was impacted by his life. **Source: Dr. John Arthington**  
**Phone: (863) 735-1314 Email: [jarth@ufl.edu](mailto:jarth@ufl.edu) Center Direction and Associate Professor UF/IFAS, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL**

## **TRADE FIRST, REDUCE TESTING LATER**

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has indicated he wants to resolve the trade dispute and resume beef exports to Japan before reducing BSE testing in the United States. The USDA has planned to eventually scale back the intensified testing once it achieved its goal of helping determine the prevalence of BSE in U.S. herds. The department currently tests about 1,000 cattle per day, but a budget proposal would reduce the number to about 110 per day. Johanns stated in a Monday news conference that he is in no hurry to decide on future testing levels, suggesting he wants to resolve ongoing negotiations with Japan first. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 30, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 12**

## **GLOBAL BSE CASES DECLINING**

Worldwide cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy have declined about 50 percent per year over the past three years, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. In 2005, just 474 animals died of BSE around the world, compared with 878 in 2004 and 1,646 in 2003, and against a peak of several tens of thousands in 1992, the FAO said. Deaths caused by the human form of BSE, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, have also been dropping, the FAO said. There were five deaths in 2005, compared with nine in 2004 and 18 in 2003. All of the deaths occurred in the United Kingdom, which was hit hardest by both BSE and vCJD.

The incidence of BSE, and vCJD, may be on the wane, but misinformation and sensationalism about the disease are rampant. One of this season's more popular TV dramas has a “gun-toting, mad-cow-afflicted lawyer” played by William Shatner. But possibly the most maddening news comes from a poem in a test meant for preparation for standardized tests in Missouri. The poem reads in part:

*“Your brain could rot from eating beef  
From mad cow disease there is no relief.”*

Two Republican Missouri state senators, John Cauthorn and Bill Stouffer, have objected, claiming the test is propaganda, not education. Obviously, some children will be left behind if this test is allowed to stand. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 30, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 12**

## **TENNESSEE LEGISLATOR CHALLENGES ELECTRONIC ID**

Tennessee is looking to opt out of the national electronic cattle-tracking system under a bill being considered by the House. Rep. Frank Niceley, the measure's sponsor, said Tuesday that electronic tracking is too expensive and that tags containing microchips could be manipulated for fraudulent purposes. He instead is calling for no-tech metal tags that are “cheap, dependable (and) can't be monkeyed with.” According to news reports, his proposal is at odds with the state's governor's goal of making Tennessee a world leader in electronically tracking cattle. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 30, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 12**

## **MORE CATTLE, LESS BEEF FROM CANADA**

As expected, imports of feeder and slaughter cattle from Canada have increased since the border opened in July. According to the Livestock Marketing Information Center, weekly imports of Canadian feeder cattle averaged about 10,000 head in February, compared with a weekly average of 5,700 head before the border closed in 2003. As of mid-March, weekly feeder-cattle imports were running about 10,500 head, and Canadian on-feed inventories were 3 percent below those of one year ago. Slaughter -cattle imports from Canada averaged about 17,000 head

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per week during February, compared with about 13,000 per week for the same period in 2003. LMIC analysts note that in conjunction with the increased imports of live cattle, U.S. beef imports from Canada have run below those of last year. **Source— Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 30, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 12**

## BODY CONDITION SCORING SYSTEM



**BCS 7:** Very Good - Ends of the spinous processes can only be felt with very firm pressure. Spaces between processes can barely be distinguished at all. Abundant fat cover on either side of tail head with some patchiness evident.

**BCS 8:** Fat - Animal taking on a smooth, blocky appearance; bone structure disappearing from sight. Fat cover thick and spongy with patchiness likely.

**BCS 9:** Very Fat - Bone structure not seen or easily felt. Tail head buried in fat. Animal's mobility may actually be impaired by excess amount of fat.

## Beef Management Calendar

April/May

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

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

Check mineral feeder.

Check for lice and treat if necessary.

Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.). Be sure to work late calves.

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

Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.

Survey pastures for poisonous plants.

Observe cows for repeat breeders.

Observe bulls for condition, rotate and rest if needed.

Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.

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

Remove Bulls May 21<sup>st</sup> to end calving season May 1st

Apply Spot-On Agent for Grubs and Louse

Vaccinate and Implant (except for replacement heifers) any late calves

Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age

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