



**DeSoto County  
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



**Plan to attend the Ona  
Range Cattle Field Day**

**October 2006 / Volume 28 Number 10**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**October**

5	DeSoto/Charlotte Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, 6:30 PM DeSoto Middle School
6	Black Brangus Bull Sale, Arcadia Stockyards, Arcadia
5-6	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Quail Management Shortcourse, Willow Pond, Monticello's Rustic Conference Center and Plantations in the Jefferson County Vicinity—Pre-registration \$60
11	Pasture Weed Day, 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM at pasture located south of Limestone on CR 661, approximately .2 mile north of DeSoto/ Hardee Line
17-19	Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, Moultrie, Ga.
24	Ona Range Cattle Research and Education Center Field Day, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM, Steak Dinner
26	DeSoto County Cattlemen's Annual Meeting, 7:00 PM, Turner Center Exhibit Hall

**November**

11	Quail Hunting Season Begins and Runs Through March 4, 2007
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**PASTURE WEED DAY**

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 from 8:30 AM till 1:30 PM we will be having a Pasture Weed Day beginning at 8:30 AM in a pasture on CR 661, .2 mile north of the DeSoto/Hardee County Line. After the program and demonstrations are over we will travel to the Ona Range Cattle Station and have lunch. We will need to know how many people we will be serving for lunch. Please contact Andrea Dunlap at (863) 735-1314 or email her at [asdunlap@ufl.edu](mailto:asdunlap@ufl.edu). A \$10 per person registration fee, made payable to the South Florida Beef Forage Program, may be sent directly to Andrea Dunlap, 3401 Experiment Station, Ona, FL 33865. See the attached brochure for more information.

**2006 ONA RANGE CATTLE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER FIELD DAY**

The Ona Range Cattle Research and Education Center has announced this years date for its annual field day. That date will be October 24, 2006 at the center and will begin with registration and coffee at 8:00 AM. This year's field day is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Martin Adjei. The program will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude at 3:00 PM. A steak lunch is provided. Please RSVP by October 13 by calling Andrea Dunlap at 863-735-1314 or E-mail: [asdunlap@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:asdunlap@ifas.ufl.edu). The following topics will be included in this year's field day: Pasture weed management, Perennial peanuts for drier flatwood soils, Overview of forage management considerations and Evaluation of Angus genotypes derived from northern and southern climates.

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## MARKET INFORMATION

August 31, 2006

	9/30/06	Last Week	Last Year
<b>5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE</b>			
Live Steer	90.64	88.54	86.83
Live Heifer	91.02	88.65	86.92
Dressed Steer	139.81	138.28	135.95
Dressed Heifer	141.58	139.20	136.51

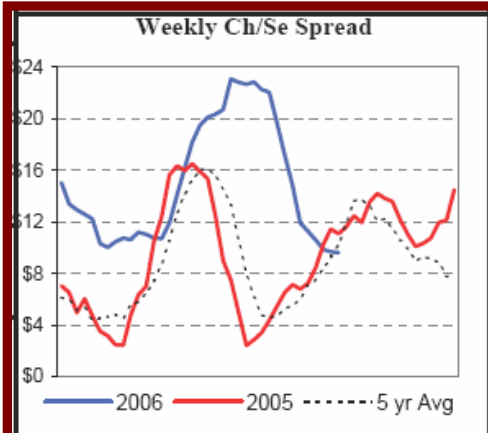
[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm\\_ct150.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt)

	9/30/06	Last Week	Last Year
<b>BEEF PRODUCTION</b>	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	639,000	655,000	611,000
Live Weights	1283	1281	1278
Dressed Weights	787	786	784
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	501.0	512.9	476.3

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

	9/30/06	Last Week	Last Year
<b>National Grading Percent</b>			
Prime	2.66%	2.52%	3.29%
Choice	49.81%	51.66%	49.83%
Select	36.70%	37.70%	38.01%

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW\\_LS196.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt)

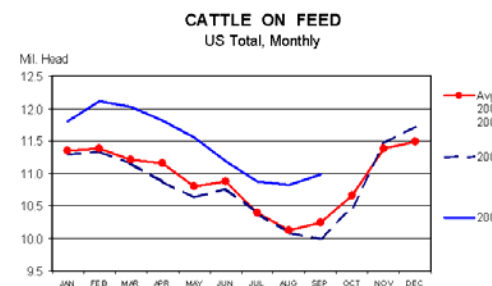
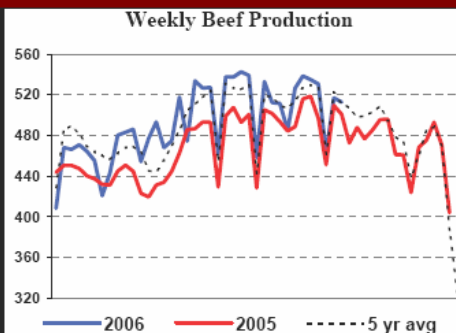


### Choice/Select Spread

9/29/06

**\$8.97/cwt**

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm\\_x\\_b403.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_x_b403.txt)



The summary below reflects the week ended September 22, 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, September 26, 2006.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	32,500	\$120.53	\$112.35	\$108.90	\$113.13	\$107.01	\$102.56
AL	17,800	\$117-126	\$108-117	\$107-114	\$108-115	\$100-107	\$93-100
TN	14,400	\$118.49	\$110.53	\$104.18	\$107.73	\$101.41	\$97.25
FL	10,500	\$96-17	\$94-106	\$89-196	\$95-109	\$86-99	\$80-96
GA	10,800	\$103-124	\$98-115	\$91-106	\$100-116	\$89-110.50	\$88-99



## CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 8 to 12 cents higher from 2.59-2.67 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 11 to 12 cents higher at 2.44 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 18 to 19 cents higher from 2.37-2.39 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 9 to 13 cents higher from 2.36 1/4-2.59 1/4 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 2 to 7 cents higher from 2.34 1/4-2.45 1/4 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 1 cent lower at 2.11 1/4 per bushel.

**Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday September 25, 2006,**  
[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ\\_GR851.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt)

## DESOTO COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2006 DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 26, 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.

### FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL--<http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
0.32"	3.26"	0.97"	0.14"	2.07"	2.71"	5.84"	9.30"	4.15"				28.76"

### 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL QUAIL MANAGEMENT SHORTCOURSE

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Quail Management Shortcourse will be held October 5-6, 2006 in Monticello. Contact the DeSoto County Extension Office, 993-4846, if you would like a copy of the program and registration information. Advanced registration cost is \$60 and \$75 at the door. The program information is also available on our website.

## Beef Management Calendar

October/November

Cut Hay.	Check dustbags, oilers, etc.
Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to ryegrass.	Check pastures and hay fields for armyworms.
Check mineral feeder.	Survey pastures for poisonous weeds.
Wean calves and cull Cow Herd.	Check for external parasites, especially lice & treat.
Watch condition of cow herd and supplement if necessary. Post calving cows have the highest nutritional requirements in the first 82 days.	Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
Plant cool season Ryegrass and small grains.	Plant cool season legumes.

### AGROTERRORISM: GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

With regard to a possible terrorist attack against the food supply, there is good news and bad news, says John Pistole, deputy director of the FBI. The good news is "there is no specific communicated threat at this time," he says. Even though there are no communicated threats, the agricultural and food industries must still be vigilant because vulnerability exists, he told the International Symposium on Agro-terrorism in Kansas City this week. While John Pistole, deputy FBI director, acknowledged there is much vulnerability, he said progress is being made against a possible agro-terrorist attack. "With so many animals, so many fields, so much open access," no single law-enforcement agency can guarantee the safety of the food supply, he said Monday. "We must all work together, and we are." He cited many examples of government agencies working together with law-enforcement and private industry to come up with solutions. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, September 28, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 39.**

### FEEDYARDS FILLING EARLY

Drought and short forage supplies have forced producers in many parts of the country to ship their calves earlier than usual. USDA's September Cattle on Feed report shows a feedyard inventory of 11 million head on September 1, a record for the date. Placements into feedyards during August ran 15 percent ahead of last year and 9 percent above August 2004. Lightweight cattle accounted for the increase, with those weighing less than 600 pounds posting more than a 60 percent increase over last August. Placements of six-weight cattle were up 13 percent while seven-weights declined slightly from August 2004. Feedyard marketings during August were up by 2 percent over one year ago, and while front-end supplies remain large, the number of cattle on feed for 120 days or more showed a month-to-month decline. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, September 28, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 39.**

## **BILL INTRODUCED THAT OPENS INTERSTATE MARKETS TO STATE-INSPECTED MEATS**

The "New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act of 2006" (H.R. 6130) could allow meats (including beef, pork, poultry and lamb) approved by state inspection agencies to be sold in every state. Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) introduced the legislation last week along with 13 original cosponsors. NCBA supports this legislation as a great opportunity for cattle producers and small local businesses to create and market branded beef products and specialty products. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, September 28, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 39.**

## **SMALL BEEF SALES IN JAPAN**

Japan will import 15,000 tons of U.S. beef in 2006, which is 7.5 percent of the 200,000 tons the country imported in 2003. Currently Japan accepts only meat from cows aged 20 months or younger, and the strict checks required have meant higher costs for importers. But Japan has a new prime minister and will soon have new heads of the agriculture and health ministries. They could change Japan's policies on importing beef, as could the talk in Japan that two cases of BSE in animals 21 months and 23 months old may not have been actual cases. That would undermine the claim that only beef from cattle under 20 months is safe and maybe help bring about a change in import practices. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, September 28, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 39.**

## **NATIONAL BEEF QUALITY AUDIT TARGETS AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

The executive summary of the 2005 Beef Quality Audit, partially funded by the beef checkoff, establishes a new benchmark for quality goals and targets by the year 2015. The report, titled *Staying on Track*, follows previous beef quality audits in 1991, 1995 and 2000. Among other uses, the results will be incorporated into the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program that is now active in 47 states to certify and train producers in quality pre-harvest practices. Based on the audit, the checkoff-funded BQA program will target five specific education efforts to improve quality: (1) the effects of animal health product use; (2) quality assurance in care, handling and transportation; (3) marketing opportunities; (4) herd management actions that affect quality and (5) record-keeping practices.

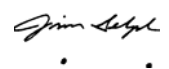
Initial results of the 2005 audit were discussed at the 2006 National Cattle Industry Conference in Reno, NV, in July. The final report provides additional insight into beef quality successes and future challenges over which producers have some or all control. The latest audit further identifies the top three quality gains since 2000: (1) improved microbiological safety; (2) improved cattle genetics resulting in higher quality beef; and (3) fewer injection-site lesions. The rankings are from interviews with beef end-users, including exporters, purveyors, foodservice and retail channels. **Source: Cow-Calf Weekly, September 29, 2006.**

## **USDA EARMARKS FUNDS FOR IRAQI AGRICULTURE**

Ag Secretary Mike Johanns announced this week that USDA is requesting proposals from U.S. land-grant institutions to strengthen ag extension and training at Iraqi ag universities. Johanns says USDA is providing USDA staff as needed in Iraq and is working to develop ag credit training there. This program is designed to match U.S. colleges and universities with Iraqi ag universities to conduct joint ag projects and provide training for Iraqi faculty members. Possible areas of technical cooperation include production of wheat, barley, rice, fruits, vegetables, sheep and goats, animal health initiatives and water resources management. This USDA action builds on other U.S. efforts over the past three years to help Iraq rebuild its ag sector, which is the second largest contributor to the economy behind oil and it has the greatest potential to provide jobs in Iraq. **Source: Clint Peck, Cow-Calf Weekly, September 29, 2006.**

## **SENATE APPROVES MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING**

Pending approval by President Bush, the livestock industry will once again be privy to mandatory livestock price reporting (MLPR). That's due to the Senate's unanimous consent last week to approve a bill (H.R. 3408) to reauthorize the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 1999. As you may recall, the price reporting act expired last fall. The House of Representatives approved the bill for reauthorization a year ago, but it has languished in the Senate until now. "This reporting process is important to U.S. cattle ranchers, and since the mandatory law expired last fall, we have been working diligently to urge its renewal," explains Mike John, National Cattlemen's Beef Association president. "Making price reporting practices mandatory by law assures cattle producers are getting the marketing information they need about their beef products." **Source: Beef Stocker Trends, September 26, 2006.**



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

**Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona  
Field Day**

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**When: Tuesday, October 24**

**Where: Ona, FL**

**Registration: 8:00 to 9:00 AM**

**Program: 9:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Steak lunch is provided. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP by October 13<sup>th</sup>,  
by calling Andrea Dunlap at 863-735-1314 or E-mail:  
[asdunlap@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:asdunlap@ifas.ufl.edu)**

**This field day is dedicated to the memory of our colleague, Dr. Martin Adjei**



**Topics Include:**

- 1. Pasture weed management**
- 2. Perennial peanuts for drier flatwood soils**
- 3. Overview of forage management considerations**
- 4. Evaluation of Angus genotypes derived from northern and southern climates**



# Pasture Weed Day

## Directions

From SR64: Travel South on CR663 past the Range Cattle REC and through Limestone Community. The pasture will be on the left hand side of the road approximately 0.3 miles past the railroad tracks.

From SR70: Travel North on CR661. The pasture is on the right approximately 0.2 miles north of the DeSoto-Hardee County Line (Kinsey County Line Road).



## PLEASE RSVP

We will need to know how many people we will be serving for lunch. Please contact Ms. Andrea Dunlap at (863) 735-1314 or email her at [asdunlap@ufl.edu](mailto:asdunlap@ufl.edu). A \$10 registration fee made payable to the South Florida Beef Forage Program should be sent directly to Ms. Andrea Dunlap, 3401 Experiment Station, Ona, FL 33865.

**Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 AM**

**\$10 Pre-Registration**  
**\$30 On-site registration**

## Hard to Control Weeds

Are you battling tropical soda apple? Dogfennel? Blackberry? Cogongrass? Is there any herbicide that controls soda apple and dogfennel with one pass through the pasture?

These are all questions we answer, especially with the new herbicides Milestone and Forefront. Simply stated, what are the best options for weed control in pastures?

That is a challenging question, and it will depend on the particular weed species, the environment, weed age and size, as well as time of year.

## Who Should Attend?

- Ranchers
- Herbicide Applicators
- Extension Educators
- Anyone who wants to learn more about weed control in pastures

## Program

8:30

Arrive at Pasture (See Map)

9:00

Opening Welcome & Address

9:10

Tour

- Forefront and Forefront tankmixes for mixed stands of TSA and dogfennel
- TSA demonstration trials
- Blackberry Control with Telar, Cimarron and Remedy
- Basal bark, hack and squirt demonstration for woody species control
- Cogongrass management

11:45

Travel to Range Cattle REC

12:00 – 1:30

Lunch at Range Cattle REC

1:30

Adjourn