

**DeSoto County  
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

**November 2006 / Volume 28 Number 11**



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Happy Thanksgiving**

**November**

9	Society for Range Management; 8:30 AM, Palmdale
9	Florida Citrus Mutual District Meeting; 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon; First Baptist Church, Arcadia
11	Quail Hunting Season Begins and Runs Through March 4, 2007
17	Hardee County Cattlemen’s Association All Breed Bull Sale, Cattlemen’s Arena, Wauchula, FL
23	Thanksgiving Holiday
29-1	FCA Quarterly Meeting; Ocala Hilton, Ocala, FL

**December**

4	Understanding the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act; 5:30-8:30 PM; Turner Center Exhibit Hall, Arcadia
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**UNDERSTANDING THE MIGRANT AND SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION ACT**

On December 4, 2006, the DeSoto County Extension Office will be sponsoring an educational program for farm labor contractors and agricultural employers with compliance requirements of the migrant and seasonal agricultural worker protection act. The program will begin at 5:30 PM at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall and snacks and drinks will be provided. Federal and state representatives will conduct the training and there will be a special emphasis on transportation, migrant housing, as well as H2A registration information and wage and hour’s role in the enforcement of H2A contracts. Registration for this program is not required.

**WHOLE FOODS LAUNCHES "ANIMAL COMPASSIONATE" LABEL**

The New York Times reported this week that Whole Foods Market will roll out a line of meat carrying labels signifying "animal compassionate." The labels indicate the animals were raised in a humane manner until slaughter. The Times reported that Whole Foods "decision to use the new labels comes as a growing number of retailers are making similar animal-welfare claims on meat and egg packaging, including 'free-farmed,' 'certified humane,' 'cage free' and 'free range.'" The Times also reported that while the animal-welfare labels are proliferating, "it remains unclear whether they appeal to anyone other than a niche market of animal lovers, particularly since the meat and eggs are as much as twice as expensive as products that do not carry the labels." Industry watchers agree that the increase in animal-welfare labels has been driven in large part by animal-rights organizations. Whole Foods founder and CEO, John Mackey, is a vegan who has been increasingly outspoken on animal-rights issues. The U.S. government does not regulate how farm animals are treated, or verify animal-welfare labels. However, the federal government does require that labels are truthful and has established definitions for such designations as free range, natural and organic. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, October 26, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 43.**

# MARKET INFORMATION

October 28, 2006

	10/28/06	Last Week	Last Year
<b>5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE</b>			
Live Steer	89.38	87.55	87.21
Live Heifer	89.70	87.55	87.32
Dressed Steer	139.69	136.41	136.63
Dressed Heifer	140.36	137.32	137.47

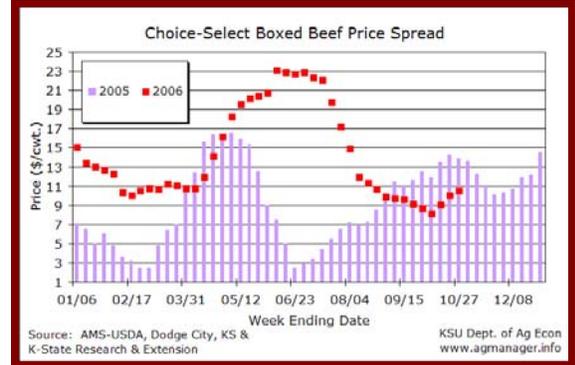
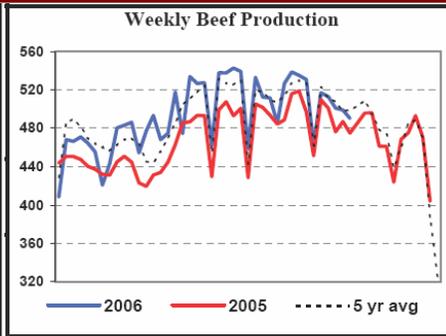
[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm\\_ct150.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt)

	10/28/06	Last Week	Last Year
<b>BEEF PRODUCTION</b>	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	652,000	639,000	630,000
Live Weights	1291	1291	1284
Dressed Weights	788	788	784
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	511.5	501.9	490.9

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

	10/14/06	Last Week	Last Year
<b>National Grading Percent</b>			
Prime	3.01%	2.67%	3.16%
Choice	51.19%	51.26%	50.70%
Select	36.96%	37.59%	36.47%

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

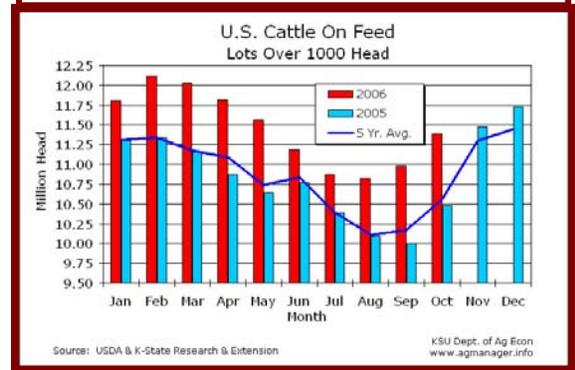


## Choice/Select Spread

10/27/06

\$10.49/cwt

[http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm\\_xb03.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_xb03.txt)



The summary below reflects the week ended October 20, 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, October 24, 2006.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	25,100	\$114.93	\$108.80	\$105.85	\$108.81	\$102.02	\$95.15
AL	13,100	\$110-120	\$100-108	\$96-105	\$102-108	\$93-101	\$87-97
TN	9,900	\$107.82	\$99.78	\$92.63	\$97.22	\$89.55	\$83.90
FL	9,700	\$89-102.50	\$84-98	\$80-87	\$985-100	\$80-96	\$73-88
GA	8,900	\$93-113	\$86-101	\$85-100	\$84-110	\$80-103	\$75-103



## CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 2 to 6 cents lower from 3.32-3.36 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 12 to 14 cents higher from 3.13-3.15 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 10 to 11 cents higher at 3.00-3.02 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 14 to 20 cents higher from 3.07-3.22 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 17 to 19 cents higher from 2.99-3.09 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 23 cents higher at 2.91 per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday October 27, 2006, [http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ\\_GR851.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt)**

## IT'S DEER-COLLISION SEASON

Hunters may look forward to the fall season, but auto insurers are understandably nervous. Each year some 1.5 million deer-vehicle collisions kill more than 150 people, injure tens of thousands more, and cause more than \$1 billion in vehicle damage. And the damage is probably much higher, as auto insurers say that nearly as many collisions go unreported, either because the owner isn't required by law to report, or because of lack of insurance. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the average cost per insurance claim for collision damage is about \$2,600. With injury claims, the total reaches \$11,000 per collision. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that more than 11 million people hunted big game such as deer and elk in 2001, the most recent year the agency conducted its National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. (The survey is conducted every 5 years.) But few believe hunting pressure can have much of an effect on deer-vehicle collision rates. Recent studies show the deer population growing exponentially across the United States. How to protect yourself? Insurance companies say the best defense is alert driving. Be aware the peak time of deer movement is morning and evening, and remember that deer tend to travel together and often cross a roadway in single file. As for those vehicle-mounted "deer whistles?" Save your money. Research shows deer are not affected by that deterrence method. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, October 26, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 43.**

## 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"	1.36"			30.12"

## FAWN WEATHER INFORMATION

Last week, we had the first real cool spell of the fall. On October 25, 2006 at 7:30 AM we recorded a low of 41.12° F. The FAWN (Florida Automated Weather Network) can be accessed at the following website: <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/>. There is also a toll free number that can be called to get information when you are in the field away from a computer. That number is: 866-754-5732. Most FAWN users are farmers or growers working in the State of Florida. The most common usage of FAWN is in day-to-day management decisions, though FAWN can also be used in longer-term planning. As winter approaches, the FAWN site might be a website that you want bookmarked for easy access and also store the toll free number in your phone.

## Beef Management Calendar

### November/December

Cut Hay.	Check dustbags, oilers, etc.
Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to ryegrass.	Check pastures and hay fields for armyworms.
Check mineral feeder.	Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
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.
Calve in well drained pastures.	Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
Implement bull conditioning program for the breeding season.	Get breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements this fall.

## RESEARCHERS LOOK AT *E. COLI*/EATING VIRUS

Researchers are working on developing a virus that will kill *E. coli* 0157:H7 in the digestive tract of cattle. Several years ago, USDA researchers were trying, unsuccessfully, to get *E. coli* 0157 to be resident in sheep; after several tries, they realized the sheep had a bacteria-eating virus. Researchers have isolated the virus and are now trying to develop it into a treatment. They are moving slowly to be certain they don't create another problem with the virus. All of the viruses being used occur naturally in cows and sheep. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, October 26, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 43.**

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## RED MEAT PRODUCTION DECLINES IN SEPTEMBER

U.S. red meat production during September, at 3.93 billion pounds, declined from 4.25 billion pounds during August according to a USDA report. The number was, however, up slightly from that of September 2005. For January through September this year, red meat production totaled 35.23 billion pounds, up from 33.89 billion pounds during the same period last year. Beef production during September, at 2.16 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter for the month was down slightly from a year earlier, but a seven-pound increase in average slaughter weights accounts for the increase in production. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, October 26, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 43.**

## PLACEMENTS SLOWER, BUT ON-FEED NUMBERS STILL HIGH

October's USDA Cattle on Feed report, released last Friday, shows feedyard inventories as of October 1 up 9 percent from one year earlier. Placements during September, however, declined 5 percent from September 2005 after large year-to-year increases during June, July and August. Placements in the under 600 pound weight category were the exception, showing an increase of 28 percent over one year earlier and demonstrating the continuing impact of drought. The report shows another important trend in the number of heifers on feed. Heifer numbers in feedyards as of October 1 were up 16 percent from one year earlier, suggesting that forage shortages are limiting the expansion of breeding herds. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, October 26, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 43.**

## LAW INTRODUCED TO PROHIBIT ANIMAL ID

Senator Jim Talent (R-MO) and Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) has introduced legislation that would prohibit USDA from implementing a national animal ID system. It would allow for a voluntary animal identification system and would require USDA to protect any information obtained through a voluntary system. **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, October 27, 2006**

## CATTLE-FAX SEES HIGHER CORN PRICES CONTINUING

Higher corn prices are here to stay, says Randy Blach, vice president of Cattle-Fax. Speaking at last week's joint convention of Texas Cattle Feeders Association and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in Amarillo, TX, Blach said the ethanol boom and continued feed demands will pressure feed costs at feedyards. "This isn't a short-term thing," he said, noting U.S. ethanol production will likely see its corn usage increase from nearly 3 billion bu. to about 6 billion bu. within a few years. In addition, feedyard capacity increased by 22% from 1990-2004, "and we're still adding pens," he says. "The need for good fundamental market information is greater today than it's ever been," Blach says. Clayton Yeutter, USDA Secretary from 1989 to 1991, said the government's 51¢/gal. subsidy for ethanol production allows an ethanol plant to "pay for itself in 18 months. So ethanol is the real wild card for beef production costs." Yeutter projects higher corn prices in the short term, and possibly the intermediate term. He believes increased ethanol production could foster more flexibility in the next farm bill, as some want more Conservation Reserve Program acres put back into production to help meet the demand for more corn. **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, October 20, 2006**

## Poisonous Plant ID



Lantana



Black Nightshade



Bracken Fern



I ran these in a newsletter last year, but with winter coming on, and the lack of moisture, I thought that I would put them in this newsletter again. Toxicity from plants primarily results when we have a lack of available forage for cattle and other livestock species, especially into the late fall and winter after frosts.



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