

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

December 2006 / Volume 28 Number 12



*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

16 DeSoto County 4-H Beef Prospect Show, Turner Center Cattle Barns

January

18 24th Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show, Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, FL

HELP NEEDED FOR GRADUATE STUDENT HOUSING

We have a need for a site for two travel trailers in order to have some local housing for 2 graduate students and a technician from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. All we need is a site to park the trailers and have available water and electricity. We would handle the septic with an above ground temporary station that could be periodically pumped. Emma Willcox is working on her PhD and is doing research on the effects of prescribed fire and roller-chopping on vegetation, forage conditions, and wildlife habitat. Mary Hobby is an MS student working on the same research project.

The two travel trailers are owned by the University of Florida Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Both graduate students will be doing a lot of their research in the field away from campus and need to have the availability of inexpensive housing. If you would be willing to help, please contact me at the Extension Office or on my cell phone (990-0668). The Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation would be able to provide you with a letter for in-kind donations that you would be able to use for tax purposes.

24th ANNUAL FLORIDA CATTLEMEN'S INSTITUTE AND ALLIED TRADE SHOW

The Theme for this year's Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show will be "Get Em Bred Institute". This year's Institute and Allied Trade Show will be held on January 18, 2007, at the Osceola Heritage Park, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, off of Highway 192 East (Irlo Bronson Highway), Kissimmee. The host motel will be the Quality Inn located just east of Osceola Heritage Park on 2050 E Irlo Bronson Hwy. The Institute will begin with the Trade Show opening at 8:00 A.M., followed by the welcome at 8:45 AM given by Dr. Jimmy Cheek, Vice-President for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). One of the keynote speakers for this year's Institute are Dr. W. E. (Bill) Beal. Dr. Beal is a Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences, College of Agriculture at Virginia Tech University located at Blacksburg, Va. His beef cattle reproductive physiology research is focused on controlling estrus and ovulation in heifers and postpartum cows.

FEEDYARD INVENTORIES REMAIN LARGE

According to USDA's November Cattle on Feed report, feedyard inventories as of Nov. 1 totaled 12 million head, 4 percent above the same date last year and 6 percent above Nov. 1, 2004. Placements during October, however, dropped considerably from those of one year earlier, showing a 13 percent decline from October 2005. The trend toward fewer placements was expected as feed prices have increased and widespread drought pushed many calves into feedyards earlier than usual. Marketing's of fed cattle during October totaled 1.77 million, 2 percent above 2005 but 2 percent below 2004. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 23, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 47.**

MARKET INFORMATION

November 28, 2006

	11/25/06	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	87.55	86.35	90.97
Live Heifer	87.73	86.41	90.98
Dressed Steer	138.37	133.85	143.42
Dressed Heifer	138.42	134.55	143.78

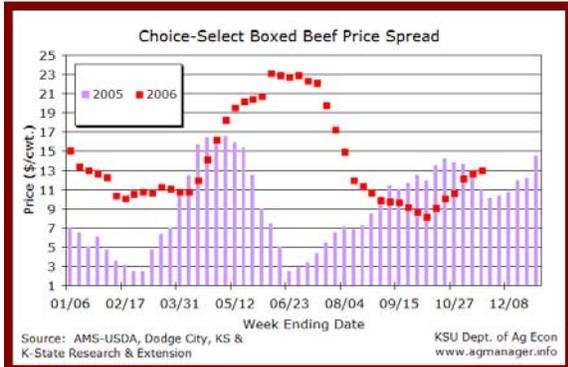
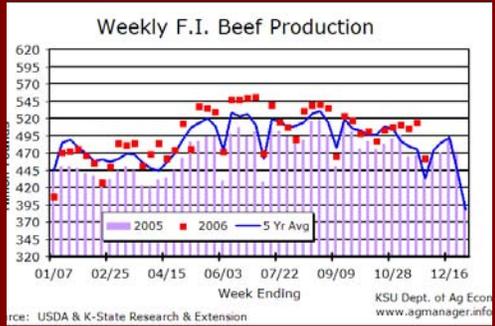
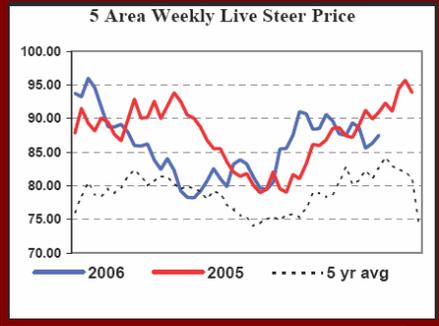
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	11/25/06 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	591,000	658,000	552,000
Live Weights	1291	1292	1286
Dressed Weights	783	784	787
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	461.0	514.0	432.3

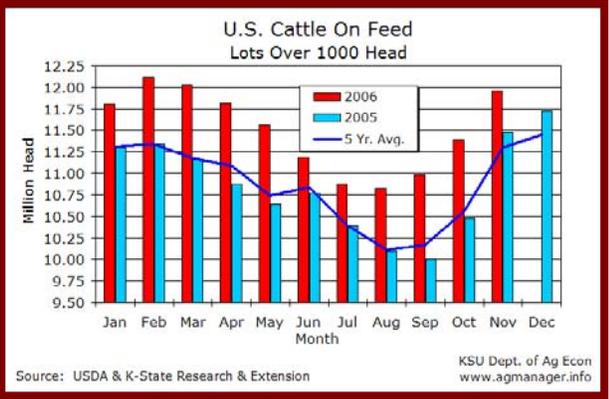
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

	11/25/06	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	3.21%	3.01%	3.25%
Choice	52.18%	52.93%	52.62%
Select	35.80%	35.79%	36.72%

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt



Choice/Select Spread
11/24/06
\$12.81/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/LM_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ended November 10, 2006 for Medium and Large 1 -- 500- to 550-lb., 600- to 650-lb., and 700- to 750-lb. heifers and steers. **Source: Beef Stoker Trends, November 14, 2006.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	26,100	\$110.02	\$101.90	\$101.50	\$100.91	\$91.09	\$89.27
AL	13,100	\$98-105	\$91-96	\$83-88	\$190-100	\$82-91	\$80-84
TN	9,200	\$95.92	\$89.15	\$85.19	\$87.71	\$83.90	\$77.53
FL	9,200	\$85-102	\$76-92	\$78-80	\$78-97	\$72-85	\$70-76
GA	6,000	\$91-108	\$83-97	\$77-84	\$81-99	\$75-93	\$75-88



CORN:

CORN 11 to 13 cents higher except Minnesota only 3 cents higher. Corn prices at a 10 year high after jumping up over 1.00 since the beginning of the harvest season. Fund buyers are getting most of the credit or blame. On the supply side there is a lot of corn in the US. Crops have been good the past few years, including this year, with huge carryovers. The supply side is iffy according to ethanol usage. Plants are springing up throughout the country and supply is estimated to quadruple in the next few years. Everyone is getting on the band wagon and exporters are also active. There were decent export announcements on the books this week. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday November 24, 2006, http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt**

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CATTLE-ON-FEED REPORT OFFERS A MIXED BAG

The Nov. 1, cattle-on-feed (COF) report set an all-time record for the month of November, at least since the new series began in 1996. The COF number came in at 12 million head, so there are a lot of cattle on feed. Perspective is important, however, as this number is only 4% above last year, and the drought spurred a lot of early placements. This is highlighted by the fact the October placement also was the second lowest on record and came in at 87%, which was below expectations. Marketing's came in at a healthy 2% above last-year levels. We've certainly seen the lows from a numbers standpoint in this cattle cycle, but numbers certainly are not the driver in this lower market. In fact, high feed costs, drought conditions and the dramatic drop in feeder prices all combined to create another run of cow liquidation, which means numbers will remain very manageable out front. The lower prices can be explained with two words -- higher corn. The feeder and calf market showed signs of stabilizing this week, fear is subsiding, and the market will return to fundamentals. More than anything, the corn market is reacting to three, bin-busting harvests in a row, and the fact corn supplies aren't increasing due to continuously building demand. **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, Thursday, November 22, 2006.**

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"	0.81"		30.93"

FAWN WEATHER INFORMATION

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. The low for the month of October was 39.4°F and the high was 88°F. In Arcadia, there were 40 hours between 11/1/2006 and 11/27/2006 where the average temperature was at or below 45°F. Plants such as peaches, blueberries, etc. have annual chilling requirements based on the number of hours at 45°F or below. This type of information can easily be “mined” from the FAWN site to help make management decisions on planting specific fruit crop varieties.

Beef Management Calendar

December/January

Check mineral feeder.

Check for external parasites and treat if needed.

Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding season.

Observe regularly for calving difficulties.

Rotate calving pastures to prevent diseases.

Watch for scours in calves.

Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.

Have dead animals posted by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.

Watch condition of cow herd and supplement if necessary. Post calving cows have the highest nutritional requirements in the first 82 days.

Discuss herd health with you veterinarian and outline a program for the 2007 year.

Develop or review of management plan and update for next year.

Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas.

Investigate health of bulls before you buy.

January 1, put bulls out for October calving season.

FLORIDA BEEF COUNCIL

As you are likely aware, the Florida Beef Council is responsible for collection of the Beef Check-Off in the state of Florida. The \$1.00 per head beef Check-Off is to be paid on all cattle sold in the state as stated in the federal law. I am asking you to please help us communicate to all livestock producers their responsibility to pay the Beef Check-Off on all cattle transactions. **Source—Jim Handley, Florida Beef Council**

RUSSIA OPENS MARKET TO U.S. BEEF

The official signing of a bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Russia means that market will immediately open to U.S. boneless beef, bone-in beef and beef variety meats from cattle under 30 months of age with an approved export certificate, pending a plant audit tour by Russian inspectors. In 2003, Russia was the fifth-largest export market for U.S. beef in terms of quantity, importing over 140 million pounds of U.S. beef and beef variety meats, valued at over \$53 million. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 23, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 47.**

CHINA REPORTS TWO FMD OUTBREAKS

China reported two new outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the southwest and northwest part of the country. AFP reports more than 260 head of livestock were culled as a control measure, and both outbreaks are under control, according to China's Ministry of Ag. The outbreaks were in two villages in Wanzhou district of Chongqing municipality in the southwest, and in Yongdeng county in the northwest province of Gansu. The northwest province of Qinghai reported an outbreak Sept. 30. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 23, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 47.**

JAPAN CONFIRMS ITS 30TH CASE OF BSE

Japan's Ag, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry confirmed the country's 30th case of BSE last week. The 64-month-old dairy cow died earlier this month in Hokkaido, being born before Japan implemented its ban on the feeding of meat-and-bone meal in fall 2001. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 23, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 47.**

ID PROGRAM TO REMAIN VOLUNTARY

The Department of Agriculture says its national livestock identification program will be a permanently voluntary system. Undersecretary Bruce Knight says concerns over a mandatory system have only slowed progress, though implementation is on track. By January 2007, USDA wants 25 percent of all livestock-producing premises registered. Thus far about 24 percent are registered. By January 2009, USDA had wanted 100 percent of all premises registered, 100 percent of all newborn animals identified and 60 percent of all animals less than a year old documented. The voluntary nature of the program means that the 100 percent goal may not be possible, but Knight says that will not diminish the program's effectiveness. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 30, 2006, Vol. 7, Issue 48.**

Poisonous Plant ID



Crotalaria pallida var. *obtusifolia*

Crotalaria spectabilis

Cassia occidentales

Crotalaria pallida (common name: smooth rattlebox) along with *Crotalaria spectabilis* (common name: showy crotalaria or rattlebox) are two invasive and toxic plants that are found in DeSoto County. All livestock are susceptible to poisoning. Death can occur from large quantities. Liver damage and photosensitization are exhibited in livestock. *Cassia occidentales* or Coffee senna affects Cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, rabbits & chickens. Moderate to severe diarrhea can occur in cattle as well as death.



And Allied Trade Show

January 18, 2007

Osceola Heritage Park

1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Highway 192 East

Sponsored by:

**UF/IFAS EXTENSION SERVICE AND THE FLORIDA
ALLIED INDUSTRIES**

**“Get'em Bred Institute”
Nutrition, Health and Management for Reproduction**

8:00 AM	Trade Show Opens Moderator: Gary Mikulecky, Chairman 2007 FCIATS, UF/IFAS, Highlands				Pregnancy”—Dr. Bill Beal, Professor – Animal and Poultry Science Dept., Virginia Tech
8:45 AM	“Welcome”: Dr. Jimmy Cheek, UF/IFAS—Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources		11:30 AM		“The State of the State”—Charlie Bronson, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture
	“Welcome”: Dr. Hal Phillips, DVM, Florida Cattlemen's Association, President		12:00 PM		<u>AWARDS</u>
9:00 AM	“Animal Health Needs for Today's Cow Herd”—Dr. Mark Spire, DVM, MS, DACT Manager, Technical Services, Schering-Plough Animal Health		12:15 PM		LUNCH
10:00 AM	Trade Show Break		1:00 PM		“Reproduction Requires Adequate Nutrition”—Dr. Matt Hersom, Ph.D, UF/IFAS, Animal Sciences Department
10:30 AM	“Understanding the Estrous Cycle and Maintenance of		1:45 PM		“Managing Pastures for Beef Cattle”—Dr. Joe Vendramini, Forage Agronomist, UF/IFAS, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona
			2:30 PM		Trade Show Break
			3:00 PM		Wrap-Up, Dr. Bill Beal

Please RSVP to our office if you plan to attend: 863-993-4846, e-mail: jselph@ifas.ufl.edu
Hotel Information: Kissimmee Quality Inn, Heritage Park 2050 E. Irlo Bronson Highway, Kissimmee, FL,
Telephone: 407-932-2268, Room Rate: \$59.00/ Night, plus tax. (Ask for Florida Cattlemen's Institute Rate)

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

Beef Promotion and Research Program

PRIVATE TREATY SALES CHECKOFF INVESTMENT FORM

Both the seller and the buyer have the responsibility to have the \$1 per head assessment collected and remitted to the qualified state beef council. This form is designed for the seller to use in private treaty sales.

FOR OFFICE USE

Seller's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Buyer's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Seller's Signature _____

Seller's Signature _____

Total Number of Cattle Sold _____
Date of Sale _____
State of origin of cattle _____

X \$1.00/Head= \$ _____
Person remitting assessment Seller Buyer
Brand inspection Number (if applicable) _____

Send Form and Remittance to: **Florida Beef Council, Inc.**
P.O. Box 421929, Kissimmee, Florida 34742-1929

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .08 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to USDA, OIRM, Clearance Officer, Room 404-W, Washington, D.C. 20250. When replying refer to the OMB Number and Form Number in your letter.

OMB 30581-0093 Return original to state beef council, pink to seller, yellow to buyer.

Safeguard Business Systems Litho USA
Form No. 85-3/L03CS001393 9/05 182-88

The above document can be used to make copies for the Beef Check-off. Remember to make 3 copies though as highlighted above. Copies can also be obtained at our office and the Florida Cattlemen's Association Office in Kissimmee.

A THING CALLED PODCASTING

A thing called Podcasting is a new hit among the Extension guru's for developing educational strategy for program delivery to our Extension Clientele. I am interested if anyone in my newsletter audience has experienced the use of a Podcast with a portable device such as an iPod or by any other similar device. If you have, let me know by either calling the office (863-993-4846) or my cell phone (863-990-0668). Podcasting is delivering audio content to iPods and other portable media players on demand, so that it can be listened to at the user's convenience. The main benefit of podcasting is that listeners can sync content to their media player and take it with them to listen whenever they want to. Because podcasts are typically saved in MP3 format, they can also be listened to on nearly any computer. Thanks!! Jim Selph

UF/IFAS BUDGET REQUEST 2007

"For your information listed below are IFAS' legislative budget requests, as approved by the Board of Governors and as forwarded to the Governor and Legislature."

- **Citrus Canker and Greening Resistance**
- **Invasive Species Research and Education Program**
- **Technology Enhanced Distance Education and Climate and Weather Decision Tools (FAWN)**
- **Solutions for Water Resource Sustainability**
- **Alternative Energy Initiative**
- **Profitable and Sustainable Alternative Cropping Systems**
- **Florida Foods for Optimal Health**

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