

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



February 2007 / Volume 29 Number 2

**Grand Re-opening &
Ribbon Cutting, Turner
Center Exhibit Hall**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

15	Grand Re-Opening of the Turner Center Agri-Civic Center, Open House, 11:00 AM till 6:00 PM; Ceremony 1:00 PM
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March

3	Small Farms Livestock Conference: "So You Want to be a Farmer", 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Highlands County Extension Office, Sebring, FL
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17	Small Farms Livestock Conference: "So You Want to be a Farmer", 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Manatee County Extension Office, Palmetto, FL
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WELCOME NEW EXTENSION AGENTS TO THE DESOTO COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

This month, we welcome 2 new Extension Agents to our office. Beginning on February 9, 2007, Ms. Christy Pryor will begin work as our new Extension 4-H Agent. Ms. Pryor is originally from Sarasota County and received her B.S. from the Animal Science Department at the University of Florida. On February 15, 2007, Ms. Kristy Candelora will begin as a Regional Specialized Agent—Wildlife/Natural Resources. Ms. Candelora is originally from Dade City, FL and received both her Bachelor's and Master's of Science from the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Department at the University of Florida. She also has a psychology degree from the University of North Carolina. She will plan, develop, teach and evaluate educational programs of regional interests related to Upland Wildlife (Northern Bobwhite, Turkey, Dove, etc.) and Ecosystems, in cooperation with the Upland Ecosystem Restoration Project. Please join me in welcoming these 2 new agents to our office.

RESEARCHERS WORKING ON VACCINE TO PREVENT CATTLE ABORTIONS

Researchers at the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine are working to develop a vaccine to prevent a foothill abortion, a bacterial disease that annually causes the loss of 45,000 to 90,000 calves, costing \$6.3 million to California cattle producers. The disease is transmitted by bites from the pajaruelo tick. Although infected pregnant cows show no obvious clinical symptoms, they will abort their calves anywhere between six to nine months into the pregnancy. "There is evidence that the infected cows and their fetuses are producing an immune response to the bacterium," said Jeffrey Stott, a veterinary pathologist. "This is encouraging because it indicates that a properly formulated vaccine should be effective in preventing this disease." **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, February 1, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 5.**

EXPANDING WTO COMPLAINTS AGAINST U.S. CORN

The European Union, Australia, Argentina and Brazil have joined Canada in a complaint against the United States in the World Trade Organization. The dispute involves what the countries claim are illegal government handouts to American corn growers. Canada's complaint also challenged whether overall farm subsidies in the United States comply with rules of international commerce. The WTO already has ruled that some U.S. cotton subsidies do not. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, February 1, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 5.**

MARKET INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

	1/27/07	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	86.33	86.73	94.63
Live Heifer	86.46	86.87	94.55
Dressed Steer	135.58	139.51	149.39
Dressed Heifer	137.60	139.15	149.48

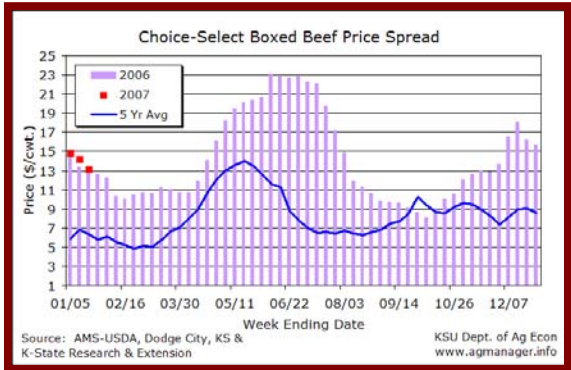
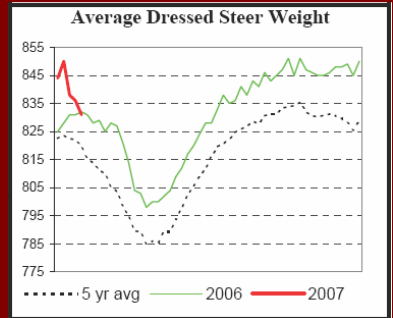
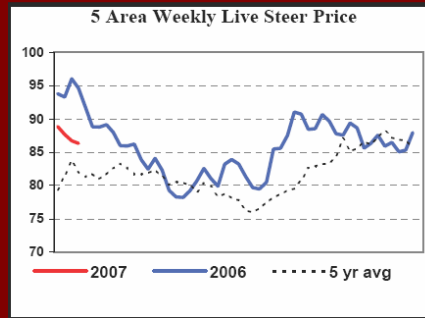
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	1/27/07	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	632,000	610,000	608,000
Live Weights	1300	1301	1289
Dressed Weights	784	788	784
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	493.8	479.0	475.3

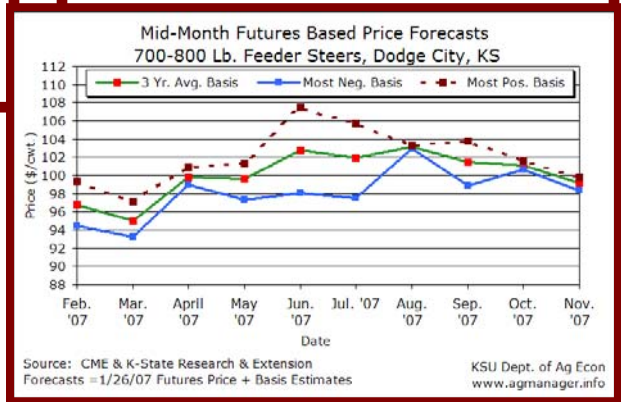
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

	1/12/07	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	3.04%	2.97%	2.57%
Choice	54.86%	55.56%	52.91%
Select	33.08%	33.90%	36.56%

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



Choice/Select Spread
02/01/07
\$7.76/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/LM_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ending January 19, 2007 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, January 23, 2007.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	6,600	\$98.11	\$94.23	\$90.84	\$90.95	\$88.03	\$86.18
AL	12,900	\$95-104	\$84-90	\$80-88	\$80-90	\$75-85	\$72-82
TN	7,200	\$93.93	\$85.73	\$80.99	\$83.99	\$79.32	\$79.10
FL	5,200	\$82-101	\$76-92		\$74-91	\$76-79	
GA	2,000	\$87-102	\$80-98	\$72-87	\$76-91	\$72-85	\$75.50-80.50



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 2 to 5 cents higher from 4.64-4.68 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 9 cents lower at 3.81 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 6 to 7 cents lower from 3.70-3.73 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 8 cents lower from 3.71-3.85 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 5 to 6 cents lower from 3.75-3.77 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 9 cents lower at 3.56 per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday February 2, 2007,** http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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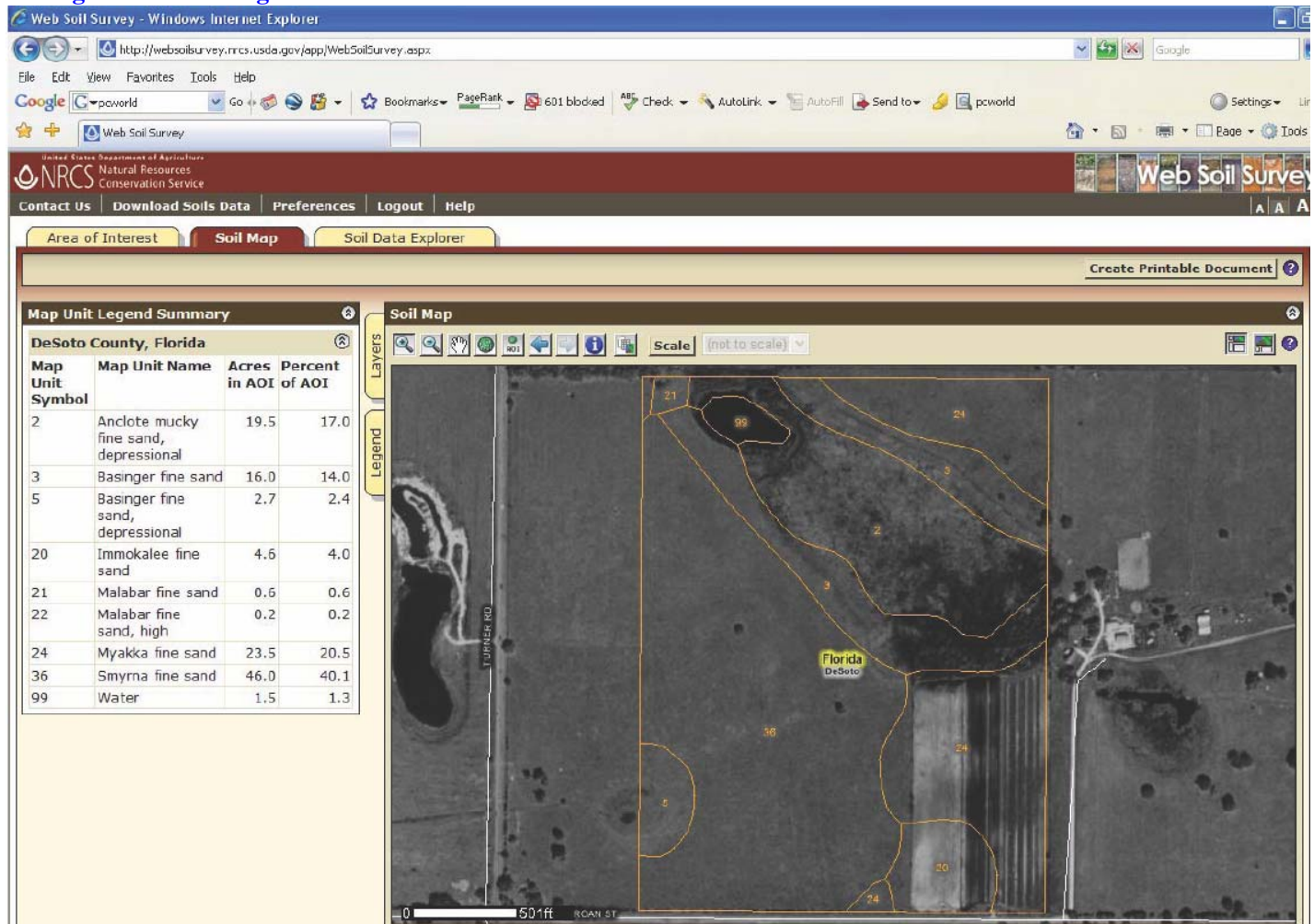
GLYPHOSATE RESISTANCE STILL INCREASING

Cotton producers have been using glyphosate for weed control for many years now. Though once thought of as a herbicide that would never lose effectiveness, we now know that previously susceptible weeds can and will become resistant to glyphosate. In 2000, the first documented case of glyphosate resistance in the US was discovered in Delaware. Although horseweed was the first resistant weed, it was soon revealed that it would not be the last. Since that time, 6 additional glyphosate resistant weeds have been found. These weeds include 2 ragweeds (common and giant ragweed), 2 pigweeds (Palmer amaranth and common waterhemp), and 2 ryegrasses (Italian and rigid ryegrass). Although no glyphosate resistant weeds have been found in Florida, considering the national trend, it is possible (if not likely) to occur here as well. It is critically important that we do not rely on glyphosate for total weed management in any cropping system for extended periods of time. In corn, the use of atrazine and preemergence grass control herbicides will provide a great weed control and resistance management advantage. Likewise, preemergence grass herbicides and residual products at layby will be greatly beneficial in cotton. It is true that adding alternative herbicides will increase the expense of the production system. However, managing resistant weeds is much more troublesome, time consuming and expensive than a resistance prevention strategy. A pro-active resistance management strategy employed now will pay great dividends in the future.

Source—Agronomy Notes, Vol. 31:2 February 2007, Jason Ferrell UF/IFAS Weed Scientist.

VALUABLE WEBSITE FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Ken Harrison obtained information on the following website and I thought that I would pass this along to you. The website is: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> This site is interesting in a couple of ways. First, it allows you to highlight an area on an aerial map and determine acreage. Secondly, it then will define the soil types in the highlighted area and give you both the acreage and the percentage of those soil types. The picture below is of the roughly 100 acres at the Turner Agri-Civic Center. The website is fairly easy to navigate and use. I was able to find the aerial and mark it without reading any instructions, which is probably pretty typical for a lot of us. A special thanks to Ken Harrison for finding this and sharing the site with us.



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NEW C.A.B. SPECS TAKE EFFECT

Packing plants licensed to produce the Certified Angus Beef brand began using new, 10-part carcass specifications today. The CAB board voted last fall to replace the brand's original Yield Grade 3.9 limit with more specific consistency requirements, including ribeye area of 10 to 16 square inches, hot carcass weight less than 1,000 pounds and fat thickness less than 1.0 inch. The change is in response to a trend toward heavier cattle, closely trimmed fabrication of cuts and other technical advances, says CAB president John Stika. It also recognized the top concerns of end users surveyed in the 2005 National Beef Quality Audit. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, February 1, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 5.**

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2007 <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
1.93"												

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE—FIRST COLUMN IS THE HIGH & 2ND COLUMN IS THE LOW

86.6°												
33.3°												

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY CHILLING HOURS AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

18.8												
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FAWN WEATHER INFORMATION

"Chilling hours " or "chill units" refers to the hours of temperature below 45°F and above 32°F that occurs while the tree is dormant. Deciduous trees require a certain number of these hours for buds to break in a timely manner and start the growing season that follows the winter cold period. It is a natural method of adaptation, thus higher chilling fruit tree cultivars grow and fruit in higher chilling locations. Many of the more temperate fruit trees like peaches, plums and pears are sold on the basis of their chilling hour requirements. 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.

Beef Management Calendar

February/March

Check mineral feeder.

Check for external parasites and treat if needed.

Work Calves (castrate, deworm, vaccinate, implant)

Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases

Cull cows that failed to calve & market in April

Check for lice and treat if necessary

Pull soil samples to be run at UF Soils Lab

Fertilize ryegrass if necessary

FEEDYARD PLACEMENTS SLOW

January's Cattle on Feed report shows a continuing trend toward fewer cattle being placed into feedyards. Many cattle moved to feedyards earlier than normal this year due to drought, and higher grain prices have discouraged placements this winter. The report lists placements into feedyards during December at 1.71 million head, 9 percent below the total for December 2005. Fed-cattle marketings also dropped 5 percent below the year-earlier total during December, partly due to weather. Feedyard inventories as of Jan. 1 stood at 12 million head, 1 percent above those of Jan. 1, 2005. As of Jan. 1, the number of heifers on feed was 4 percent higher than one year earlier, suggesting a slowdown in herd expansion. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, February 1, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 5.**

CALL FOR FORMATION OF BIO-FUELS WORKING GROUP

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and other producer and industry groups have asked USDA to form a panel to study the emerging bio-fuels economy and its implications for livestock producers and animal ag. In a letter to USDA Secretary Mike Johanns, the groups said, "Public focus on ag issues continues to expand as new and exciting technologies place the ag sector in the driver's seat of America's energy future. However, with these changes and developments have come serious and significant concerns for the tens of thousands of farmers, farm families and all those involved in the \$128-billion livestock, dairy, and poultry sectors." The purpose of the working group is to "study the emerging bio-fuels economy and its full implications for these producers, the sector and the consumers they supply

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and serve". Joining NCBA in the request are: The National Pork Producers Council, American Meat Institute, National Chicken Council, National Milk Producers Federation, and National Turkey Federation. **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, January 26, 2007.**

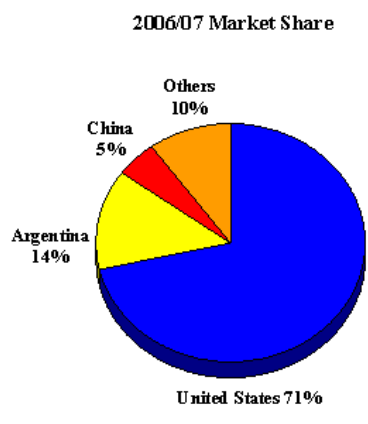
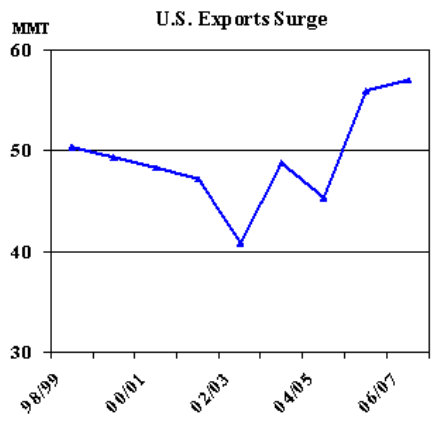
PETA PET-KILLING PAIR GOES ON TRIAL

Two employees of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) went on trial this week for killing animals. Adria J. Hinkle and Andrew B. Cook, employees in PETA's Norfolk, VA, headquarters office, are charged with 21 counts each of animal cruelty, a felony, and some assorted misdemeanor crimes of littering and dumping. The duo is accused of discarding garbage bags of euthanized cats and dogs into a grocery store dumpster outside Raleigh, NC. PETA contends the pair provided humane deaths to unwanted animals while local officials say the PETA workers took the animals promising to find them homes but secretly killed them. In its defense, PETA says it actually euthanizes thousands of animals each year, claiming destroying the animals is superior to putting the animals in animal shelters. The arrests and trials have been a public-relations bonanza for anti-PETA groups. One group, the Washington D.C.-based Center for Consumer Freedom (CCF) circled the courthouse this week sporting a banner that read: "PETA: As Warm and Cuddly as You Thought?" "PETA doesn't deny that the two threw the dead bodies into a dumpster. And they don't deny that what Hinkle and Cook did is standard practice for a group that wants constitutional rights for pigs," CCF (www.consumerfreedom.com) says. CCF asks, with PETA's \$25-million budget, "if euthanizing these animals is more humane than keeping them in overcrowded shelters, it begs the question: If local shelter conditions really are that bad, and the preservation of animal life is PETA's singular purpose, why didn't they adopt the animals themselves? Maybe the home they'd provide is less than ideal -- but it's certainly better than being dead." **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, January 26, 2007.**

APPEALS COURT KILLS TEXAS HORSE SLAUGHTER

The Humane Society of the U.S. is cheering but not many cattlemen are happy about last Friday's ruling from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. A three-judge panel from the Big Easy ruled that a 1949 Texas law that bans horse slaughter for human consumption is valid. The ruling affects two of the nation's three horse slaughter plants -- Dallas Crown Inc. at Kaufman, and Beltex Corp at Fort Worth. A third plant, Cavel International, Inc., is located in DeKalb, IL. The plants produce horsemeat for export to the European Union and other countries. C.R. "Dick" Sherron, president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, says horse slaughter is an emotional issue, and a legal decision based on emotion is alarming and has threatening implications for owners of other types of livestock. There are approximately 9.2 million horses in the country, Sherron says, and USDA figures show that about 88,000 horses, mules and other equines were slaughtered in 2005. "That's less than 1%," he says, "which is a good indication that slaughter is not a decision horse owners make indiscriminately." **Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, January 26, 2007.**

Corn Exports for the U.S. MMT: Million Metric Tons



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

Small Farms Livestock Conference II

Highlands County Extension Office
Sebring, FL
March 3, 2007



Manatee County Extension Office
Palmetto, FL
March 17, 2007



The South Florida Beef Forage Program Extension Agents will be holding the annual Small Farms Livestock Production Conference at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center in Sebring, Saturday, March 3, 2007 and at the Manatee County Extension Office in Palmetto on March 17, 2007. The Small Farms Livestock Production Conference is designed for ranchette or small landowners who are considering the raising, management and production on livestock for pleasure or profit. This course, "So You Want to be a Farmer", was designed more specifically for new or agriculturally inexperienced landowners who are considering some field of livestock production on their small or limited acreage to help guide them and provide them information for making a more informed decision about what type of livestock producer they may want to become.

This course will provide basic information about all the different animal species as possibilities for a small farming operation. We will explore some economic and business basics of agricultural production; look at specialty production and markets as possibilities; give some basics of animal health, buying healthy animals and keeping them healthy; pasture and forage requirements before you ever get started, including understanding different forage species and their fertility and maintenance requirements will be presented; and what considerations you will need to make for fencing, housing, handling and holding equipment for all types of animal species.

Agenda topics for the day long conference will be:

8:00 – 8:45	Check-in and registration	12:15	Lunch
8:45	Welcome and Introductions	PM	“What You’re Going to Need”
9:00	Exploring the Possibilities: An overview of animal species for production consideration – Pat Hogue	1:00	Fencing for all types of Livestock – Dr. Ike Ezenwa
9:45	4R’s of Farming: Resources, Risks, Rules & Rewards – Steffany Dragon	1:45	Pastures: Species, Fertility and Maintenance – Christine Kelly-Begazo
10:30	Break	2:30	Break
10:45	Overview of Specialty Markets to Explore – Robert Halman	2:45	Equipment, Holding, Handling and Housing Needs and Wants for Livestock Production – Jim Selph
11:30	Animal Health Issues: Sources, Buying and Keeping them Healthy – Lockie Gary	3:30	Questions and Adjourn

Cost of the conference will be \$ 20 per person pre-paid registration by February 16, 2007, and \$ 30 late registration received after February 16, to include lunch and any program materials. **Individuals planning to attend should contact Jim Selph (863-993-4846 or e-mail: jimselph@ufl.edu) at the DeSoto County Extension Office.**

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

Program location you plan to attend, check one of the following: Sebring Palmetto

