

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

May 2007 / Volume 29 Number 5



Don't forget to register for the Cattlemen's Convention

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

25	SubTropical Agricultural Research Center Field Day—Brooksville, FL
30-1	Southern Pasture & Forage Improvement Conference —Tallahassee, FL

June

18-19	FCA Cattlemen's College—Marco Island, FL
19-21	Florida Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention & Allied Trade Show—Marco Island, FL

WHAT'S THE COST OF A MISSED BREEDING CYCLE?

A tight breeding season offers the opportunity to manage and market the resulting calves as one consistent group. However, have you ever considered the direct economic benefit of cows that conceive on the first cycle? Assuming adequate nutrition is available; a good calf is likely gaining about 2.25+ lbs/day at weaning time. If born 21 days later than his counterpart, a calf could easily weigh 40-50 lbs. less as a feeder calf come market time in fall 2008. If feeder calves are worth \$1.20/lb. next fall, one missed breeding cycle could cost \$50-60 for each calf that is born only one cycle late. For a cow that's two cycles late, those numbers double. Herd health (vaccinations, etc.), cow body condition (nutrition), bull (breeding) power, bull breeding soundness and estrus synchronization programs are all factors that equate to getting cows settled early in the breeding season. Now's the time to consider the economic impact of each of these management opportunities as it relates to the harvest of your 2008 calf crop. -- Stan Smith, Ohio State University Extension—Beef Cow-Calf Weekly, April 27, 2007.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT

USDA's April Cattle on Feed report, released last Friday, shows U.S. feedyard inventories, as of April 1, down by 1 percent from one year earlier. Placements into feedyards during March totaled 1.97 million, 7 percent above 2006 and 12 percent above 2005. Fed-cattle marketings during March were down by 6 percent from last year. About 63 percent of March placements were in the heavier weight categories above 700 pounds. Stronger prices for fed cattle and a somewhat more favorable grain outlook apparently encouraged placements during March.—Drovers Alert, Thursday, April 26, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 17.

RESEARCHERS WORK TO UNLOCK ENERGY POTENTIAL IN SWITCHGRASS

Molecular biologists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the University of Nebraska are studying gene sequences in perennial switchgrass in an effort to improve the crop's potential for ethanol production. Specifically, the researchers are identifying genes that regulate the production and deposition of lignin, which holds plant cell walls together. Development of new varieties of the grass with a lesser capacity to produce lignin could make sugars more available for fermentation. Development of "cellulosic" sources of ethanol, such as switchgrass, could reduce the industry's dependence on corn as a raw material. —Drovers Alert, Thursday, April 26, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 17.

MARKET INFORMATION

April 30, 2007

	4/28/07	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	96.29	96.06	79.27
Live Heifer	96.27	96.07	79.35
Dressed Steer	154.49	154.46	127.65
Dressed Heifer	154.24	153.70	127.03

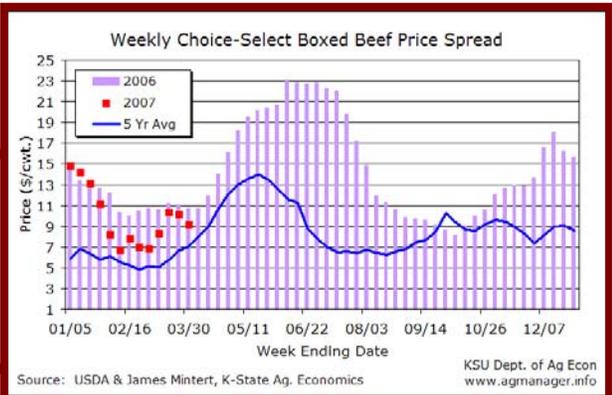
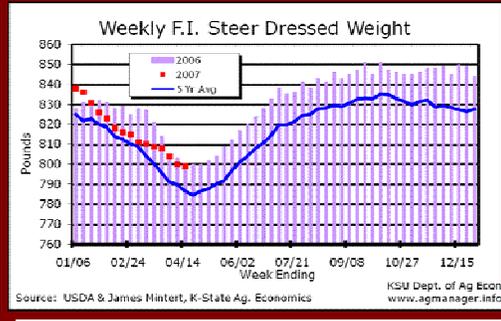
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	4/28/07	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	671,000	647,000	681,000
Live Weights	1247	1252	1236
Dressed Weights	756	759	755
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	461.2	471.6	483.5

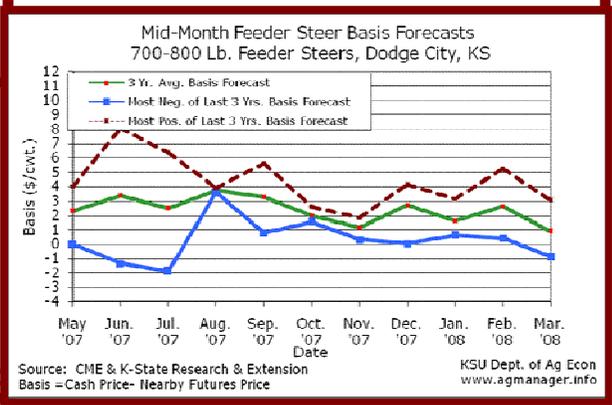
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

	4/13/07	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.32%	2.29%	2.67%
Choice	51.33%	50.46%	51.26%
Select	36.92%	37.80%	37.23%

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



Choice/Select Spread
04/27/07
\$12.12/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ending April 20, 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, April 24, 2007.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	23,200	\$123.06	\$112.15	\$109.27	\$122.26	\$105.92	\$101.51
AL	9,600	\$112-120	\$107-112		\$100-110	\$92-100	\$85-91
TN	9,200	\$116.91	\$109.01	\$98.72	\$104.35	\$95.86	\$88.96
FL	5,600	\$99-115	\$95-102	\$90-98	\$90-107	\$86-100	\$80-90
GA	9,300	\$104-122	\$95-111	\$84-103	\$93-114	\$90-105	\$84-95



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 13 to 19 cents higher from 4.75-4.89 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 3 cents lower from 3.51-3.52 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 4 to 6 cents lower at 3.43-3.47 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 3½ to 2½ cents higher from 3.47 ¾-3.70 ¾ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 1½ cents higher from 3.54 ¾-3.55 ¾ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 3½ cents lower at 3.41 ¾ per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday April 27, 2007, http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt**

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

PINKEYE IN BEEF CATTLE

In last month's newsletter, I had an article on pink eye in beef cattle. The picture that accompanied that article was of Stage 1. In this newsletter, I thought you might like to see stages 2 and 3.

Stage II: The clinical signs described in Stage I continue, but the ulcer spreads across the cornea. As more inflammation occurs, the cornea becomes increasingly cloudy. At this point, some of the dark color of the iris can still be seen. Blood vessels from the outside portion of the cornea begin to grow across the cornea to help with healing. These blood vessels make the cornea appear pink, which is how the disease received its name.

Stage III: The ulcer covers most of the cornea and the inflammation continues to spread into the inner parts of the eye. When this occurs, the inside of the eye fills with fibrin, which is a pus-like substance that gives the eye a yellow appearance versus the typical brown appearance.



STAGE II



STAGE III

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"	2.09"	0.81"	2.80"									7.63"

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

86.6°	86.5°	86.3°	90.5°									
33.3°	32.6°	39.5°	43.9°									

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY CHILLING HOURS AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

18.8	33.2	28.5	1.2									
------	------	------	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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.

Beef Management Calendar

May/June

Remove Bulls.

Fertilize warm season pastures.

Check mineral feeder.

Apply Spot-On Agent for Grubs and Louse.

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

Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.

Pregnancy check cows.

BEEF QUIZ BOWL & MARKETING CONTEST Every year at the Cattlemen's Convention, which is held in June, there are two contests held for the youth. One being the Beef quiz bowl and the other being a Beef marketing team. The quiz bowl consists of a 4 person team with questions pertaining to beef knowledge, all questions are taken from the cattlemen's magazine. The point is to answer the questions correctly and faster than your opponents; as well as, to prove your knowledge of the Beef industry. The marketing contest is a 3-person team that sells something, a lot of

steers, bulls, heifers, embryo's, etc. The speech needs to be between 3 - 5 minutes and no props may be used. However, video and / or power point presentation, to show the product, is acceptable. In addition, it also helps to have a handout for the judges. This speech must be given to the local Cattlemen's Association prior to the competition. If any one is interested in participating, please call the extension office 863-993-4846. I strongly urge the older kids to take advantage of this opportunity because they will receive recognition in front of FLORIDA'S finest cattlemen and they also will receive prizes. Furthermore, for those of you who are dual tasking in 4-H and FFA, there should be no worries; this event takes place after the FFA State Convention. If you are interested in participating in these activities, the deadline is May 15, 2007.



INFORMATION FROM THE 56th ANNUAL BEEF CATTLE SHORT COURSE

Last week was the 56th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course which is held annually in Gainesville. Over the next several issues of this newsletter, I plan to highlight information that I gleaned from this year's program.

Economic and Market Outlook for 2007: Dr. Walter Prevatt of Auburn University provided this information on the program. Some of you may remember Walter when he was a young livestock economist located at the Bradenton Research Center. His written procedure is 8 pages. In the remaining space I will try highlight some of his major points. As of January 1, 2007, the U.S. Cattle and Calves inventory was 97 million head (+.3% previous year). The new cattle cycle began in January 2004 and is exhibiting modest growth. 2007 U.S. domestic beef production is expected to increase about 0.6 billion pounds over last year. Net beef supply (domestic and imports) is expected to increase by 0.5 billion pounds.

The current combination of higher levels of cow slaughter year to date and the minimal change in January 2007 beef replacements with a year ago, suggests that future cow-herd expansion is questionable. A level inventory of cattle and calves does not mean that total pounds of beef production will grow slowly. There is a strong potential of more live cattle imports from Canada.

Higher corn prices are expected to entice significantly additional acres to be planted in corn. If fewer than 6.5 million additional acres are planted, then corn prices will move higher. Many analysts expect about 8 million additional acres to be planted. These increases will probably come at the expense of soy bean acreage.

Pasture and range conditions will be very important this year as feeders are held on pastures longer to avoid the higher costs of gains in the feedlot. If widespread drought conditions develop, this could potentially depress feeder prices this year. Nationwide, a drought of any magnitude will have a significant effect on cattle production costs and the potential for continued herd expansion during 2007.

Per capita consumption of beef is expected to remain close to the 66-68 pounds per person through the rest of this decade. The forecast for 2007 U.S. cattle imports is 2.2 million head (-4% from a year ago). U.S. beef imports totaled 3.1 billion pounds during 2006, down 14% from 2005 due to increased U.S. domestic cow slaughter. Cattle farmers will want to pay close attention to the corn market this year. Corn futures market prices may be viewed daily at <http://www.futuresource.com> (click on grains at the bottom of the webpage).

If you would like a copy of the complete proceedings of this presentation, they will be available in the DeSoto County Extension Office.

Table 3. Estimated feeder steer prices based on various corn prices, Alabama auctions, September 2007.

Weight (lb)	Corn price, \$/bu						
	\$3.00	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.50	\$6.00
	\$/cwt						
350	\$162	\$147	\$132	\$117	\$101	\$86	\$71
450	\$142	\$130	\$118	\$107	\$95	\$83	\$71
550	\$124	\$115	\$106	\$97	\$89	\$80	\$71
650	\$113	\$106	\$99	\$92	\$85	\$78	\$71
750	\$107	\$101	\$95	\$89	\$83	\$77	\$71

Assumes each \$0.50/bu increase in corn prices will result in a corresponding feeder steer price decrease of \$15.25/cwt, \$11.75/cwt, \$8.75/cwt, \$7.00/cwt, and \$6.00/cwt for 350 lb, 450 lb, 550 lb, 650 lb, and 750 lb feeder steers, respectively.



The Foundation for The Gator Nation

Jim Selph
James F. Selph

DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.

