

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

July 2007 / Volume 29 Number 7



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**3rd Annual/Quail/Dove
Short Course--October 19,
2007-Mark your Calendar
for October 19th**

August

11	Basic Pasture Management School, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM, Hardee Extension Office
16	Beef Quality Assurance Certification, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM, Highlands Agri-Civic Center, Sebring, Contact Lindsey Fielder, Extension Agent I, 863-402-6540 for Details.

September

5-6	Advanced Pasture Management School, Turner Center Exhibit Hall on the 5 th , 8:00 AM —3:30 PM and Ona Research Station on the 6 th , 8:45 AM—4:00 PM.
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October

4-5	2 nd Annual Florida Deer and Turkey Short Course, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy, FL
19	3 rd Annual Florida Quail/Dove Short Course, Turner Center, Arcadia, FL, 7:30AM—5:00PM

COOL ISSUE RISES TO THE TOP

The American Meat Institute sent letters to 97 producer organizations last week advising them that their members may soon hear from meatpackers about what they will require of their suppliers as part of mandatory country-of-origin labeling. COOL is scheduled to go into effect Sept. 30, 2008. AMI says producers should be aware that cattle born this year are likely to fall under the provisions of the law next year.

AMI and R-CALF have sparred over the COOL issue in recent weeks, with R-CALF claiming that AMI has attempted to mislead Congress and consumers about the law. But while R-CALF is adamantly supporting the implementation of COOL, it just as adamantly opposes an animal identification program. In a letter to House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.), R-CALF urged him to “not tie any sort of animal identification program to the country-of-origin labeling law.” — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor —**Drovers Alert, Thursday, June 28, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 26.**

ETHANOL IMPACTS ON-FEED NUMBERS; NORTH BENEFITS

Everyone predicted that higher corn would result in higher placement weights, and that it would shift the relative competitive advantage of the various feeding regions. The latest Cattle-On-Feed Report reflects those very changes. Placements of cattle weighing over 700 lbs. were up over 20% compared to a year ago. This data may be a little biased as we're comparing to a very small placement number of a year ago. In addition, last year's placements were drought-driven and had served to reduce weights. In fact, the placement number, which was up 13% compared to a year ago, was still 2.5% below the five-year average. Placements in states like Kansas and Texas were down significantly in this latest report, while placements in Iowa and Nebraska were up. A superior basis on corn, and access to ethanol by products, is likely to keep this trend intact for the foreseeable future. -- *Troy Marshall—Cow Calf Weekly, June 29, 2007*

MARKET INFORMATION

June 25, 2007

	6/23/07	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	86.62	89.69	83.22
Live Heifer	86.74	89.68	83.17
Dressed Steer	136.88	140.55	129.67
Dressed Heifer	136.92	140.73	130.21

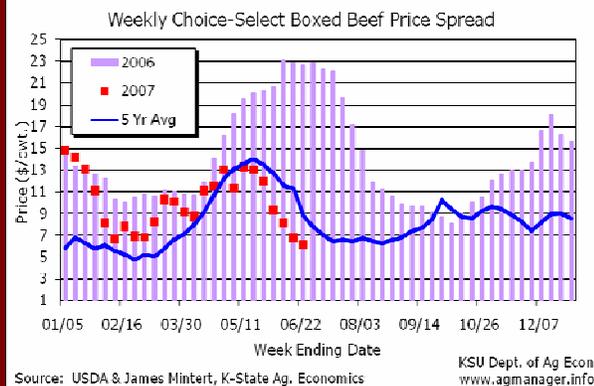
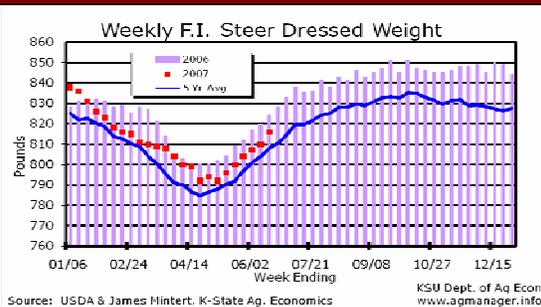
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	6/23/07 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	698,000	716,000	709,000
Live Weights	1241	1237	1266
Dressed Weights	759	756	778
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	527.9	539.3	549.3

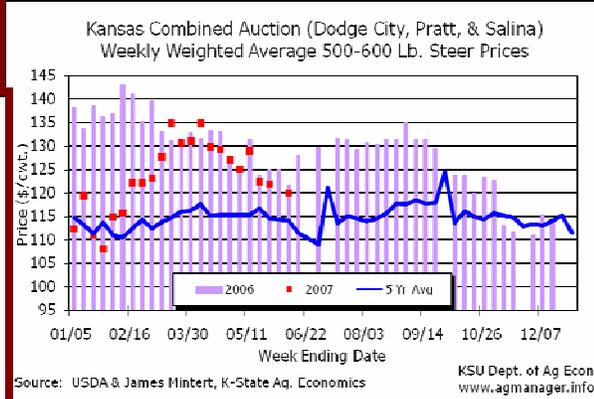
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

	6/08/07	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	1.99%	1.88%	2.32%
Choice	51.83%	51.60%	50.27%
Select	37.36%	36.80%	40.39%

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



Choice/Select Spread
06/29/07
\$6.66/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ending June 22, 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, June 26, 2007.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	12,700	\$112.55	\$101.80	\$106.26	\$106.90	\$102.74	\$100.72
AL	15,100	\$108-116	\$101-108	\$97-102	\$98-107	\$95-99	\$82-86
TN	13,500	\$108.75	\$103.77	\$97.78	\$97.24	\$92.97	\$87.73
FL	5,400	\$99-112	\$89-103	\$90-98	\$88-100	\$89-91	
GA	8,100	\$100-119.50	\$91-107	\$85-100	\$90-106	\$85-101	\$82-88



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 33 to 43 cents lower from 4.57-4.68 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 45 cents lower at 3.32-3.35 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 43 to 45 cents lower at 3.36 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 43 1/2 to 45 1/2 cents lower from 3.22 1/2-3.44 1/2 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 43 1/2 to 47 1/2 cents lower from 3.36 1/2-3.44 1/2 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 36 cents lower at 3.11 per bushel.

Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday June 29, 2007,
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

KOREA LIFTS SUSPENSION OF SIX U.S. PACKING PLANTS

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced Monday that the government of South Korea has lifted the suspension of six U.S. meat plants. "We are pleased that Korea will allow the resumption of shipments from these plants," Johanns says. "USDA has taken action to ensure compliance with Korean import requirements here in the United States, and Korea recognized these efforts. Despite some start-up problems, beef exports to Korea are rapidly increasing." Johanns also announced that a U.S. delegation is in Japan to begin technical discussions, the next step in the process to more fully open the Japanese market to U.S. beef and beef products. —*Drovers Alert, Thursday, June 28, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 26.*

JAPAN, UNITED STATES GRAPPLE AGAIN WITH BEEF DISPUTE

On Wednesday, Japan and the United States resumed trade talks as U.S. officials continued to demand that the Japanese ease restrictions on US beef imports. During the two-day working-level talks, the two countries will discuss a report on US beef published last month by an international farm animal trade body that said the meat posed little risk to health. —*Drovers Alert, Thursday, June 28, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 26.*

LOOK FOR INCREASED LOSS OF MID-SIZED FEEDLOTS

Expect major and accelerated consolidation in the U.S. cattle-feeding sector in the next 5-10 years, says economist and consultant Bill Helming of Olathe, KS. Most at risk, he says, are middle-sized feedyards (5,000- to 25,000-head capacity), which will find it difficult to compete for capital and against the efficiencies of larger feedyards (50,000 to 100,000 head) in the wake of rising input costs driven by the ethanol-production surge and over-capacity in the feeding sector. Cattle-Fax estimates that in 2005, the largest 2% of feedlot operators in the U.S. controlled 85% of the market. Helming estimates the largest 1% could control 75% of the market within the next 10 years due to accelerating consolidation. The livestock industry has always had to contend with surges in corn price, but it was always weather-related issues that temporarily drove grain prices higher, Helming says. This time, the grain-price situation is demand-driven by the ethanol juggernaut and there will be no reprieve in the short term. The result, Helming tells *BEEF*, is the consolidation will largely be at the expense of mid-sized (5,000- to 25,000-head capacity) feedyards forced to merge, quit or sell out in the face of intense competition for cattle, capital and efficiency. "With elevated inputs for energy, labor costs and grain, and underutilized capacity, there's a real onus on feedyard operators to try of figure out how to become more efficient. The problem is that the excess-capacity situation in U.S. cattle feeding, if anything, will only get worse, given the grain situation and where we are in the cattle cycle. That further accentuates the driving force to consolidate. Someone has to go out of business," Helming says.—*Cow Calf Weekly, June 29, 2007.*

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2007 <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>. 1ST COLUMN IS 2007—2ND COLUMN IS 2006—3RD COLUMN IS 2005.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
1.93"	2.09"	0.81"	2.80"	2.28"	4.19"							14.10"
0.32"	3.26"	0.97"	0.14"	2.07"	2.71"	5.84"	9.30"	4.15"	1.36"	0.81"	2.13"	33.06"
					9.71"	8.73"	5.86"	4.03"	8.78"	3.78"	0.11"	NA

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°	89.0°	97.5°							
33.3°	32.6°	39.5°	43.9°	53.0°	63.2°							

COCCIDIOSIS

I asked Dr. Max Irsik for information that I could put in this newsletter on Coccidiosis. Dr. Irsik is the Beef Cattle Extension Veterinarian of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. The following is what he sent me: A colleague of mine recently purchases some bred Angus heifers, which subsequently calved with the calves developing coccidiosis. Her questions to me were: How should she treat the animals? And how long will the organism survive on her farm? Her observations were, she had beautiful calves when born which were visibly damaged by the parasite, and by the time she knew what the problem was it was too late to stop the weight loss and bloody scours. In brief this is an overview of Coccidiosis in beef cattle:

Coccidians are protozoal parasites that are host specific, transmitted by the fecal-oral route and cause diarrhea. Significant species that cause disease in cattle belong to the genus *Eimeria*. Young animals are more susceptible to clinical disease than older cattle. Coccidiosis is frequently observed in confined conditions; however, the disease can occur on pasture. The disease can occur any time of the year but is more prevalent during winter months, even in confinement operations. Animals may pass oocysts in their feces without clinical disease, therefore, a diagnosis of

coccidiosis is based on clinical signs and ruling out other diseases.

Management procedures that reduce stress and prevent contamination of feed and water are important in preventing coccidiosis. Effective control programs also commonly incorporate the use of medicated feed or water. Drugs commonly used for coccidiosis control and prevention programs include monensin, lasalocid, decoquinate and amprolium. When clinical disease is present, amprolium, sulfonamides and management changes are used to control the disease.

Another clinical syndrome attributed to infection with coccidia is nervous coccidiosis (also called nervous enteritis). Affected animals may show, muscular twitching, irregular eye movements, an arched back, paddling, recumbency, seizures and often die. The exact mechanism that causes these neurological signs is unknown, but a neurotoxin or an imbalance is suspected.

By experimentally challenging calves with coccidia, researchers have correlated clinical signs with time of infection. Diarrhea with mucus was observed in infected calves on days 17 and 18 following inoculation, and dysentery and fibrinous casts were observed on day 19. Immunity to one species of coccidian does not cross protect against another species. The level of immunity following exposure may vary. Animals with partial immunity may not exhibit clinical disease, however, infections can still occur. These individuals pass oocysts and, therefore, continually contaminate the environment.

In conclusion, management programs that minimize stress, reduce environmental contamination and improve the overall health of each individual animal through preventive health programs help minimize the impact of coccidiosis. Several products are available for the control, prevention and treatment of bovine coccidiosis. Approved products are efficacious. If animals exhibit clinical signs of coccidiosis, options for treatment are available, depending upon cost-benefit, facilities and labor availability. Veterinarians and producers should be familiar with this disease and take appropriate measures for prevention and treatment.

Beef Management Calendar

July/August

Control weeds in summer pastures.

Check dustbags, oilers, etc.

Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.

Check pastures and hay fields for grubs, mole crickets, and armyworms.

Check mineral feeder.

Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

Wean calves and cull Cow Herd.

Pregnancy check cows.

TEXAS RUSTLER PLEADS GUILTY

The suspect in the largest cattle theft case in Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) history pled out this week, agreeing to serve five years of state jail time and pay restitution for cattle theft. Jerome Heath Novak of Angleton is also scheduled to plead out in four other cattle theft charges in the next several weeks.

Novak, a 28-year-old who grew up in a ranching family, rustled 289 cattle worth more than \$289,000 over nine months. TSCRA Special Ranger Tommy Johnson said Novak knew how to work cattle and how to sell them with the least amount of risk.

"He worked alone and took the stolen cattle to a leased pasture where he mixed them with his own cattle," Johnson said. "He sold the unbranded cows over a period of a couple of months at several sale barns. Branded cows were kept on pasture and allowed to calve out, then he sold the calves." —*Cow Calf Weekly, June 29, 2007.*



Have a Great 4th of July



Jim Selph

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

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