

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

December 2007 / Volume 29 Number 12



**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

7	Florida Brangus Breeders Association Bull Sale, Arcadia Stockyards, 1:00 PM
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January

2	Special Slaughter Cow & Bull Sale, Arcadia Stockyards, 12:00 PM
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17	Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show
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20	DeSoto County Fair, Steer Grooming Contest, 2:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
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22	DeSoto County Fair, Steer Show, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
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23	DeSoto County Fair, Swine Show, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
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24	DeSoto County Fair, Beef Breeding Show, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
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25	DeSoto County Fair, Steer & Swine Sale, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
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SURVEY REVEALS ANIMAL-WELFARE ATTITUDES

The American Farm Bureau Federation and Oklahoma State University recently surveyed more than 1,000 individuals across the United States to measure their opinions about farm-animal welfare. OSU economist F. Bailey Norwood notes several key lessons from the survey results. First, the public cares more about human welfare and farmers than they do farm animals. Respondents rated the financial well-being of U.S. farmers as twice as important as the well-being of farm animals, and poverty, health care and food safety as five times more important. In addition, consumers understand animal welfare is a result of their shopping decisions in addition to farmer decisions. They realize they have a choice of purchasing meat from traditional production or, if they prefer, paying for meat from alternative production systems. According to Farm Bureau release, analysis of the survey results indicates respondents consider the suffering of one human to be equivalent to the suffering of 11,500 farm animals, and a majority of respondents believe producers should be compensated if forced to comply with higher farm-animal welfare standards. Results like these show that while activist groups make headlines, most mainstream consumers still understand and appreciate the role of animal agriculture in food production. — *John Maday, Drovers associate editor* — **Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 29, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 48.**

MARKET INFORMATION

December 3, 2007

	12/01/07	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	95.03	95.09	85.92
Live Heifer	95.20	95.02	85.95
Dressed Steer	150.04	149.85	135.22
Dressed Heifer	149.84	149.85	135.34

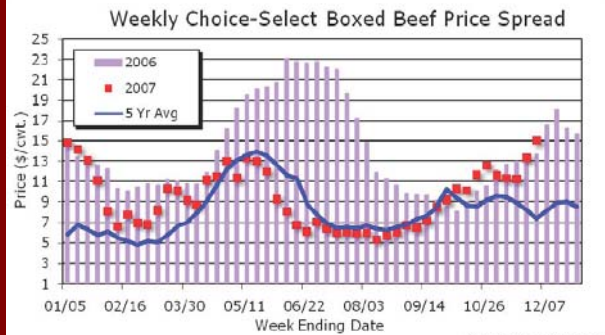
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	12/01/07	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	677,000	580,000	630,000
Live Weights	1305	1304	1295
Dressed Weights	791	791	786
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	533.4	457.1	493.3

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

	11/16/07	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.66%	2.76%	3.21%
Choice	51.55%	52.83%	52.18%
Select	34.21%	33.82%	35.80%

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

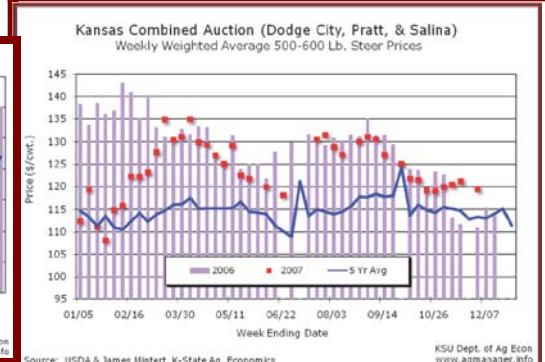
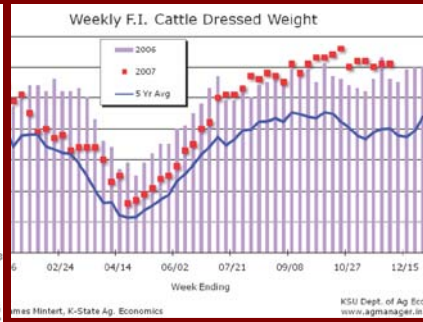


Choice/Select Spread

11/30/07

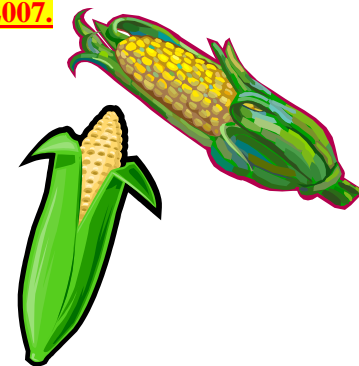
\$16.40/cwt

http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ending November 9, 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, November 13, 2007.

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	28,500	\$106.66	\$102.86	\$103.72	\$97.13	\$91.98	\$90.40
AL	12,800	\$110-120	\$98-105	\$89-97	\$96-106	\$84-94	\$82-92
TN	10,500	\$106.46	\$95.24	\$95.09	\$91.95	\$85.32	\$83.92
FL	10,200	\$92-108	\$85-97	\$80-88	\$80-103	\$79-100	\$77-90
GA	8,200	\$95-109	\$87-105	\$81-97	\$81-99	\$78-94	\$78-82



The above information is reported for earlier in the month because the latest report only list cattle in Texas due to the Holidays. Jim

CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 5 to 7 cents higher from 4.16-4.21 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 2 cents higher from 3.74-3.76 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 6 to 7 cents higher from 3.72-3.74 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 1½ to 17½ cents higher from 3.63½-3.97½ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 7½ cents higher from 3.83½-3.86½ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 4½ cents lower at 3.50¾ per bushel. Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday November 30, 2007, http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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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"	5.04"	5.42"	5.57"	4.56"	1.46"	0.05"		32.01"
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

Currently we are 1.08" ahead of last year.

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°	95.4°	97.1°	94.2°	92.2°	84.92°	°	
33.3°	32.6°	39.5°	43.9°	53.0°	63.2°	69.3°	69.8°	67.8°	63.6°	42.12°	°	

CATTLE-ON-FEED TRENDS CONTINUE

There was little surprise in the November Cattle-On-Feed (COF) Report, in terms of numbers as well as direction. "October placements were up 12% year-over-year as feedlots took advantage of available supplies of heavy yearling cattle coming off of summer grazing programs," says Derrell Peel, Oklahoma State University livestock marketing specialist. "Placements of cattle over 800 lbs. were up 23% from last year and placements of cattle 600-800 lbs. were up 15% from last year." Specifically, according to the Nov. 16 COF report, 11.8 million head were on feed Nov. 1, which is 2% below last year, but 3% higher than the same time in 2005. The 2.72 million head placed in October was 12% more than 2006, but 3% lower than in 2005. Marketings in October (1.88 million head) were 6% higher than a year ago and 8% higher than in 2005. Though it may not yet be a full-blown trend, the latest COF report also underscores the fact that more cattle are being fed closer to the densest population of ethanol plants. Cattle on feed in Iowa were 12% more than a year ago; 8% more in South Dakota. Conversely, cattle on feed declined in Oklahoma (7%), Colorado (9%) and Kansas (5%), compared to the same time last year. —**Beef Stocker Trends, Friday, November 27, 2007**

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 your veterinarian and outline a program for the 2008 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.

USDA PROPOSES STANDARDS FOR NATURAL-MEAT LABELS

Demand for "natural" meats has grown significantly in recent years, but a common complaint among food companies and consumers is there is no uniform standard for the natural designation. In response, USDA this week proposed voluntary standards for naturally raised marketing claims for livestock and meat. The agency is seeking comments on the proposed standards between now and Jan. 28, 2008 —**Drovers Alert, Thursday, November 29, 2007 Vol. 9, Issue 48.**

AUSSIE SCIENTISTS FIND MUSCLING GENE

Researchers at Adelaide University in Australia have identified a gene that explains a large increase in retail beef yield. While the gene, called myostatin F94L, isn't the only gene that influences retail beef yield, it has a large effect. Homozygous animals have 13% larger ribeye areas and 4% more total retail yield, according to the research. The gene is most commonly found in Limousin cattle, researchers say. According to the North American Limousin Foundation (NALF), the gene's high-yielding form occurs in 83% of the Limousin breed, meaning 68% of Limousin animals are homozygous for the trait and 28% are heterozygous. "This gene appears to explain a much larger proportion of the genetic variation of the (retail yield) trait than any of the currently available gene markers for marbling, tenderness, or feed efficiency," says Alex McDonald, general manager of the Limousin Society in Australia. "The discovery of what appears to be a major gene, which can be used to increase retail beef yield in all breeds of cattle throughout the world, is an exciting breakthrough." Negotiations are underway with an Australian laboratory to provide a commercial gene test for the F94L modification. -- NALF release —Cow-Calf Weekly, Thursday, November 21, 2007.

FIRM INTRODUCES MOTOR OIL FROM BEEF TALLOW

Years ago, Conoco advertised its gasoline to consumers by urging them to "put a tiger in your tank." With its introduction of motor oil made from beef tallow, a firm called Green Earth Technologies could consider marketing its product with a tagline such as "beef up your engine." Called G-Oil, it's the first bio-based, high-endurance motor oil to provide superior performance at competitive prices, reports *Doane's Ag Report*. While it takes nearly three barrels of crude oil to make one barrel of motor oil, Green Earth says it gets a full barrel of quality motor oil from a barrel of animal fat. -- Joe Roybal —Cow-Calf Weekly, Thursday, November 21, 2007.

BOBWHITE QUAIL IN FLORIDA: ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT: WILLIAM GIULIANO, JAMES SELPH, AND BRANDON SCHAD

I have had the distinct pleasure of being a co-author on this new book on the Florida Bobwhite Quail. We have a number of copies in our office and we are selling them for \$25.00 (tax included) each. I know many of our ranchers are interested in Quail and this is a book that you might like to have or give as a Christmas present to a friend or family member. Below are some details on the book.

Bobwhite Quail in Florida provides current information on Bobwhite biology, ecology, population status, and habitat requirements. Readers will find detailed descriptions of the habitat necessary for quail to breed, nest, forage, take shelter, and ultimately thrive.

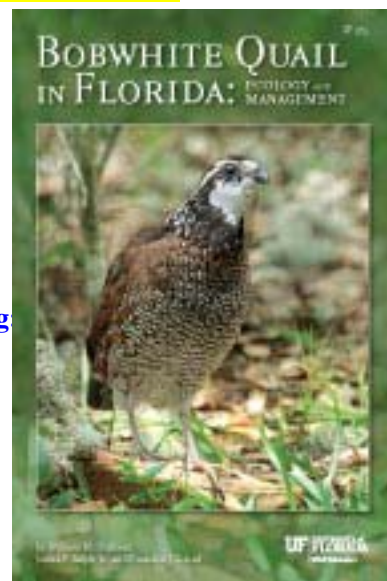
The authors offer useful management practices for farms, rangelands, and forests, including

- Prescribed fire and other disturbances
- Artificial feeding
- Predator management
- Restocking with wild or pen-raised birds
- Harvest and hunting

Over 75 beautiful color photographs illustrate the practical information provided in *Bobwhite Quail in Florida*. With the help of this useful book, landowners, land managers, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts can become active participants in the recovery of the state's most popular game bird.

QUAIL, DOVE, DEER AND TURKEY VIDEOS

To access the online videos from the Shortcourses we have done over the past several year go to the following website: <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>. On the left hand side of this page, click on Wildlife and Conservation under Environment. At this site, in the middle column, click on Florida Quail. Once at the Florida Quail site, click on Courses/Project in the upper right side of the page. On this page are several buttons on the left hand side of the page. The Shortcourses that we did this year are not up yet, but they will be fairly soon. Those from 2005 and 2006 are there and you can view them from your computer. If you should have any problems accessing these videos, please let me know. You should be able to access them even with a dial-up connection, but I suspect that the faster your connection speed is, the better these will run. **It is my sincere hope that you and your family have the best Christmas and New Year and that 2008 will give you the best calf crop and the heaviest weaning weight that you have ever had.** Jim



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