

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

March 2008 / Volume 30 Number 3



Burning Woods

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

11-13	Florida Cattlemen's Association Legislative Quarterly Meeting, Tallahassee
29	Small Farms Livestock Conference: "So You Want to be a Farmer", 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Polk County Extension Office, Bartow, FL

April

5	Small Farms Livestock Conference: "So You Want to be a Farmer", 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, Hendry County Extension Office, LaBelle, FL
17	Farm Credit of South West Florida Annual Meeting, Hardee Agri-civic Center, Wauchula, 6:00 PM
24	DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting, Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 7:00 PM

E. COLI VACCINE NEARS U.S. APPROVAL

Bioniche Life Sciences, based in Belleville, Ont., announced last week that the USDA has given notice that the latest data for the company's *E. coli* O157:H7 vaccine for cattle meets the agency's "expectation of efficacy" standard, allowing the company to seek a conditional license. Once it receives the conditional license, Bioniche can begin selling the vaccine in the United States if at least one step in the manufacturing process takes place on U.S. soil. "This is a large step forward for the *E. coli* O157:H7 vaccine," says Bioniche President and CEO Graeme McRae. "The granting of a U.S. conditional license will permit U.S. beef and dairy producer's access to a scientifically validated means to reduce the risk of *E. coli* O157:H7 contamination." **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, February 14, 2008 Vol. 10, Issue 7.**

SPRING PASTURE FERTILIZATION

This time of the year, Cattle producers should be thinking about fertilizing their grass pastures. Most of Florida's pastures are comprised of Bahiagrass. Our current recommendation is to conduct a standard soil test (UF/IFAS Standard Soil Fertility Test: pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, and Mg—Cost \$7.00). If P (phosphorus) is low, then a tissue test should be run and P applied if tissue concentrations are below 0.15% P. Pastures that have had no P applied for several years should have both soil and tissue samples submitted simultaneously. If you are just planning to apply a low level of fertilizer, then apply 50 to 60 pounds of actual N (Nitrogen). This year, the cost of N is high (over \$40/acre). You may ask if that is the best place to spend your dollars for inputs! A study done by Cattle-fax several years ago determined that "high return—low cost cow-calf producers" had 3 areas that they didn't cut back their spending. Those 3 things were: Bull Prices, Herd Health and Pasture Maintenance (fertilization, pasture rotation, etc.). If you have other improved grasses such as star or flora-alta grass, fertilizer is required to avoid losing a grass stand.

MARKET INFORMATION

March 3, 2008

	03/01/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	93.00	91.59	93.63
Live Heifer	93.02	91.57	93.54
Dressed Steer	148.11	145.58	149.28
Dressed Heifer	148.18	145.65	149.30

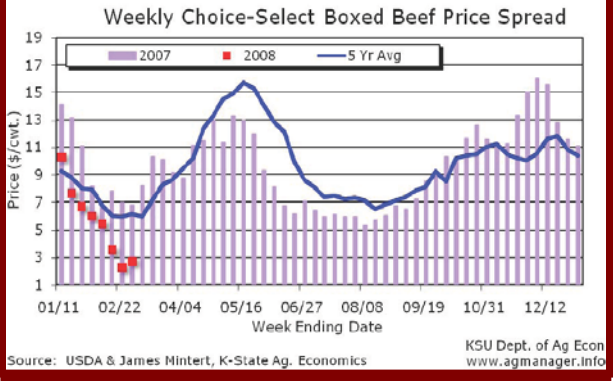
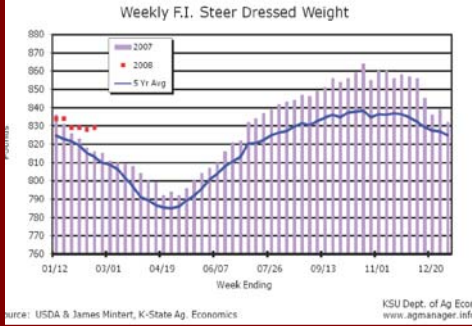
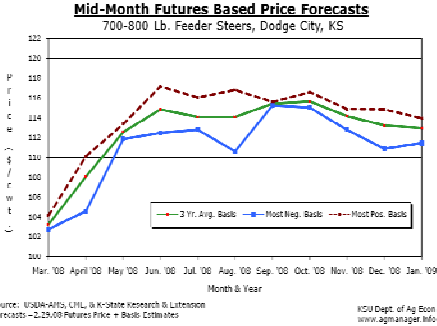
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	03/01/08	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	630,000	620,000	623,000
Live Weights	1289	1290	1267
Dressed Weights	777	777	763
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	487.7	480.0	474.1

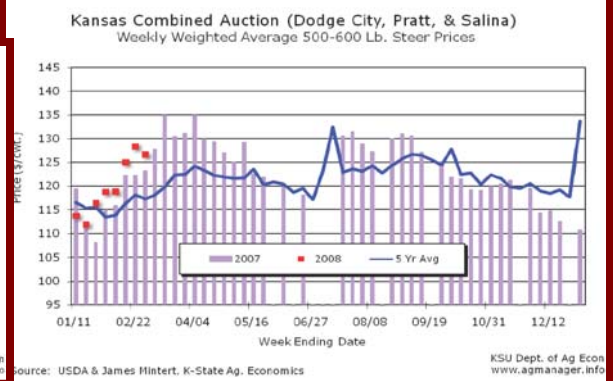
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

	02/16/08	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.43%	2.55%	2.74%
Choice	57.73%	57.75%	54.89%
Select	31.76%	31.80%	34.04%

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



Choice/Select Spread
03/03/08
\$3.96/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/L_M_XB403.TXT



The summary below reflects the week ending February 22, 2008 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, February 26, 2008.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	12,200	\$121.71	\$112.53	\$103.99	\$104.62	\$100.43	\$97.31
AL	11,600	\$110-115	\$102-108	\$96.25-102.50	\$100-109	\$88-96	\$85-93
TN	10,200	\$113.22	\$102.98	\$95.16	\$100.09	\$90.38	\$86.19
FL	4,400	\$102-116	\$93-108	\$73-90	\$90-102	\$80-95	\$73-82
GA	7,200	\$104-123.50	\$92-109	\$86-103	\$90-116	\$82-98	\$82-85
KY	21,000	\$107-117	\$93-103	\$90-100	\$90-100	\$85-95	\$80-90



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 3 to 5 cents higher from 5.12-5.20 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 15 to 15 cents higher from 5.33-5.36 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 18 to 19 cents higher from 5.19-5.29 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 13 ¾ to 18 ¾ cents higher from 5.13 ¼-5.28 ¼ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 19 ¾ to 20 ¾ cents higher from 5.27 ¼-5.29 ¼ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 7 ¾ cents higher at 5.01 ¼ per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday February 29, 2008** http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2008 <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/>

1ST COLUMN IS 2008—2ND COLUMN IS 2007—3RD COLUMN IS 2006—4TH COLUMN IS 2005.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
1.85"	1.46"											3.31"
1.93"	2.09"	0.81"	2.80"	2.28"	5.04"	5.42"	5.57"	4.56"	1.46"	0.05"	0.78"	32.79"
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 0.71" behind last years rainfall.

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

82.3°	84.9°											NA
28.5°	35.6°											NA

Arcadia, FL: Period of Record Monthly Climate Summary, Period of Record : 1/1/1931 to 6/30/2007

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Average Max. Temperature (F)	74.5	76.3	80.4	84.8	89.5	91.0	91.8	91.8	89.9	85.5	79.7	75.3	84.2
Average Min. Temperature (F)	49.2	50.4	54.3	58.1	63.6	68.9	70.9	71.3	70.5	64.3	56.3	51.2	60.7
Average Total Precipitation (in.)	2.04	2.54	2.84	2.37	3.69	8.84	8.14	7.47	7.66	3.31	1.82	1.84	52.56

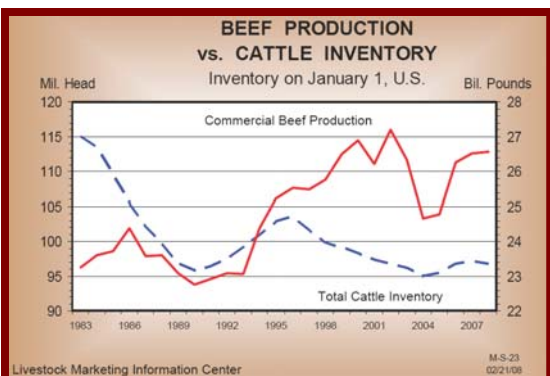
Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center, sercc@climate.ncsu.edu, NOAA

MEAT CONSUMPTION TO DECLINE

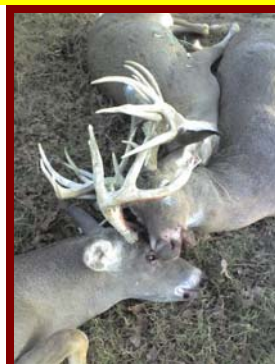
As rising production costs and export growth drive retail prices higher, U.S. consumers are likely to purchase less meat over the next 10 years, according to USDA's Agricultural Long-Term Projections to 2017, released this week. The report projects that per-capita beef consumption will decline by about 5 pounds and pork by about 2 pounds. Poultry consumption will increase by about 2.5 pounds during the same period. Source—Food System Insiders, February 15, 2008, Vol. 8, Issue 3.

IS OUR MONETARY POLICY RIGGED FOR SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

Initially, the weakening of the U.S. dollar was seen as a positive for ag. After all, it encouraged exports, thus making our product cheaper to foreign sources. But the list of unintended consequences makes it a lot more difficult to analyze the results. Many experts argue that if we'd maintained the value of the dollar or at least prevented its freefall, we would have avoided inflationary concerns. Nor would the price of oil have climbed to \$100/barrel, they say, thus mitigating the explosion in input costs. Plus, consumers would have more disposable income, allowing continued growth in beef demand, and on and on. We've already seen returns diminish in the ethanol industry despite increased mandates. Where would ethanol, corn prices and the like be if oil were \$60/barrel rather than \$100? It's almost impossible to say, but the general consensus is that, for export-dependent markets such as ag, a slight weakening in the U.S. dollar was a positive. The magnitude of the devaluation is something no one predicted and its implications are far more disturbing. Troy Marshall-- Source—Cow-Calf Weekly, February 29, 2008.



THREE BUCKS LOCKED UP!



TURKEYS BY: MAC TURNER



Beef Management Calendar

March/April

Check mineral feeder.

Check for external parasites and treat if needed.

Deworm cows as needed.

Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.

Cull cows that failed to calve & market in April

Check for lice and treat if necessary

Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth and get fertilizer incorporated in grass roots while there is still good soil moisture. Fertilize ryegrass if necessary.

Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BEEF PROCESSOR

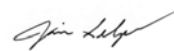
By acquiring Smithfield Beef and National Beef, JBS would become the largest U.S. beef processor. The acquisitions would allow JBS to slaughter more than 42,000 head per day in 12 U.S. plants. America's second- and third-largest beef packers are Cargill Meat Solutions, 29,000 head per day, and Tyson Foods at 28,000 head per day. Last year JBS bought Swift and Company for \$225 million, with a slaughter capacity of about 18,000 head per day. JBS's Australian acquisition, Tasman Group, is Australia's largest multi-species meat processor. Additionally, Tasman operates a feedlot for 25,000 cattle and 45,000 lambs. JBS's acquisition of Five Rivers Ranch includes the company's 10 feedyards with a capacity of more than 800,000 head. Industry observers believe this huge deal will be subject to review by the U.S. Department of Justice which may have antitrust concerns. When completed, the acquisitions would make JBS the world's largest beef processor, with the capacity to slaughter 80,000 head per day in plants in Brazil, Argentina, United States, Australia and Italy. Analysts believe JBS wants to expand in the United States, Australia and Europe to boost sales in markets that restrict imports of beef from Brazil. Smithfield spokesmen indicated now is a good time for them to exit the beef business amid rising corn costs and excess U.S. beef slaughter capacity. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 6, 2008 Vol. 10, Issue 10.**

CATTLE-FAX: CORN PRICES DOMINATE IN 2008

The corn market will dominate cattle talk in 2008. While the industry struggled to adjust to \$3 per bushel corn for most of last year, prices exploded to over \$5 per bushel by January. Volatility in the grain markets is sure to squeeze cattle feeders and limit prices for feeder calves in the coming year. "There is even more reason to be concerned about corn prices this year," says Randy Blach, executive vice president of Cattle-Fax, speaking from the annual Cattle-Fax Outlook Seminar at the Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show in Reno, Nev. "Prices for other commodities have risen along with corn, increasing competition for what farmers choose to plant." Prior to the latest spike in corn prices, Cattle-Fax had projected that corn plantings would decrease by 6 million acres in 2008, down from the 93 million planted in 2007. Now the Centennial, Colo.-based market analyst firm says one of the key indicators to watch is how prices for other commodities respond. If they stay high, it's a signal that other grains are ready to compete for planted acreage. Unprecedented demand for corn, wheat and soybeans is driving the price surge. Export demand is strong and Congress in December increased the ethanol mandate to 15.2 billion gallons from livestock feed sources like corn by 2012. While the 2007 corn harvest was record-large at just over 13 billion bushels, Cattle-Fax analysts say the need for another near record-large corn crop will pressure margins across the industry.

"Profit opportunities exist, but it will take tough management to find them this year," says Blach. "We are in a period of rapid change and thin margins." He added that rather than producers pushing beef through the production chain, consumer desires increasingly drive it, offering cattlemen more chances than ever for profits. Today, nearly 25 percent of cattle are sold through some sort of certified program. Nearly 60 percent of all fed cattle do not sell on the cash market. "There are a lot of programs out there that hold promise for increased value," Blach says. "But you have to do your homework to make sure you're selling into one that actually pays. We always have to re-evaluate our business, and some of the dynamics this year make it imperative that cattlemen position their business to minimize risk as much as possible and take advantage of the profit opportunities that are out there. Volatility will be more extreme than in years past." **Source—NCBA Policy News/Cattle Fax, February 7, 2008, Reno, Nevada—Mike Miller.**

Congratulations: Alexis Stinson for having the 2008 Grand Champion Steer at the Southwest Florida Fair in Lee County.



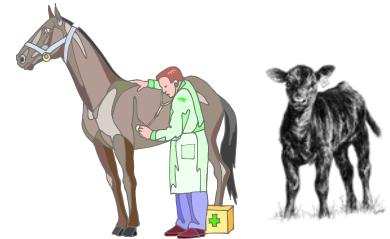
James F. Selph
DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock & Forages

Small Farms Livestock Conference III “So You Want to be a Farmer!”



**Polk County Extension Office
Bartow, FL
March 29, 2008**

**Hendry County Extension Office
LaBelle, FL
April 5, 2008**



The South Florida Beef Forage Program Extension Agents will be holding the annual Small Farms Livestock Production Conference at the Polk County Agriculture Center in Bartow, Saturday, March 29, 2008 and at the Hendry County Extension Office in LaBelle on April 5, 2008. The Small Farms Livestock Production Conference is designed for ranchettes 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:

AM “So You Want to be a Farmer”

- Moderator: Sonja Crawford, Bridget Carlisle**
- 8:00 Check-in and registration**
- 8:45 Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:00 Exploring the Possibilities: An overview of animal species for production consideration – Pat Hogue**
- 10:00 4R’s of Farming: Resources, Risks, Rules & Rewards – TBA**
- 10:45 Break**
- 11:00 Overview of Specialty Markets to Explore – Robert Halman**
- 12:00 Lunch**

PM “What You’re Going to Need”

- Moderator: Lindsey Wiggins, Christa Carlson**
- 12:45 Animal Health Issues: Sources, Buying and Keeping them Healthy – Lockie Gary**
- 1:45 Fencing, equipment, holding, handling and housing needs and wants for Livestock Production – Jim Selph**
- 2:45 Break**
- 3:00 Pastures: Species, Fertility and Maintenance – Christine Kelly-Begazo**
- 4:00 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: Bartow LaBelle

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HORSE BOTS

Horse bots (Figure 1) are bot fly larvae and are internal parasites of horses. The horse bot larvae develop in the stomach of horses causing symptoms ranging from stomach ulcers, and esophageal paralysis to occlusion of the digestive tract.

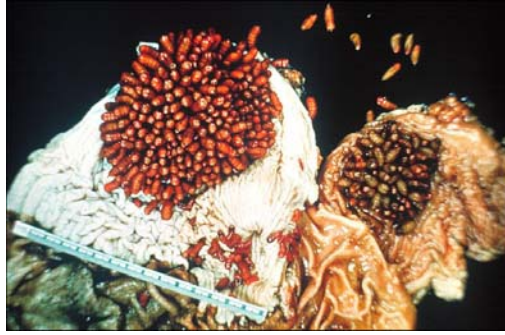


Figure 1: Intestinal Bots, CREDITS: J. F. Butler, University of Florida

The adult bot fly (Figure 2) is a bee-like fly about 1/2 to 3/4 inch in length. Bot flies are covered with black and yellow hairs and do not feed as adults. In Florida two species of adult bot flies may be active throughout the year, although they are more abundant from late spring to early winter. Female bot flies lay from 150 to 1,000 yellowish eggs. The eggs are firmly glued to the hairs of the forelegs, belly, flanks, shoulders and other parts of the body of the horse. While the fly's egg laying does not cause the horse pain, the horse often is bothered by the presence of the fly.

Egg laying principally occurs on the inside knees of the animal where the horse can easily reach the eggs with its tongue. The eggs are ready to hatch 7 to 10 days after oviposition, and will hatch only if the horse licks or bites the area where they have been glued. It is believed that the sudden increase in temperature from the tongue stimulates the young larvae to hatch. Warm moist grooming cloths may also cause eggs to hatch and present a hazard of infestation to the individual grooming the animal. Once inside the horse's mouth, the larvae burrow into the mucous linings of the mouth and tongue and remain there for 3 to 4 weeks. Damage to the mouth membranes is often seen during this stage. From the mouth, the larvae pass to the stomach and intestine where the second and third instar larvae remain attached but may change location. They remain in these areas until the following summer.



Figure 2: CREDITS: J. F. Butler, University of Florida

When fully mature, the third stage larvae detach from the stomach, pass through the intestines and are passed in the droppings. They migrate out of the droppings and burrow under the surface of the soil. Here the pupae remain for 1 to 2 months. The adult fly emerges throughout the summer and fall. The adult fly does not feed but immediately starts its egg laying cycle, which lasts for about two weeks, after which the fly dies. Cold weather and frost usually kill off the remaining flies in the fall of the year and signal the end of the egg laying season. Only one generation is completed per year. In south Florida, adult bot flies have been found to be active year-round. In central and north Florida adults are found from spring to early winter. Highest populations of adults are recorded from August through September. Larval populations sampled in horses in October and November ranged from 1 to 184 larvae per stomach in central and north Florida.

Effective control of horse bots requires breaking the life cycle of the fly. Insecticides are labeled for external treatment using warm water wash. This must be done after eggs have been laid but before they hatch. For external insecticide treatment, a warm water wash (110 -120° F) should be rubbed or sponged on areas infested with eggs. The larvae will hatch and die from contact with the insecticide. Treatments should be applied weekly during peak oviposition periods (August-September). During the wash, care should be taken to protect hands from both insecticide and larvae with synthetic rubber gloves. Grooming may aid in removal of eggs but effectiveness of control is questionable. For internal treatment of horse bots, consult a veterinarian. **Source: External Parasites on Horses, P. E. Kaufman, P. G. Koehler and J. F. Butler, ENY-283**

Age, Calving Interval & Gestation Table

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	32	60	91	121	152	182	213	244	274	305	335	1	366	397	425	456	486	517	547	578	609	639	670	700
2	2	33	61	92	122	153	183	214	245	275	306	336	2	367	398	426	457	487	518	548	579	610	640	671	701
3	3	34	62	93	123	154	184	215	246	276	307	337	3	368	399	427	458	488	519	549	580	611	641	672	702
4	4	35	63	94	124	155	185	216	247	277	308	338	4	369	400	428	459	489	520	550	581	612	642	673	703
5	5	36	64	95	125	156	186	217	248	278	309	339	5	370	401	429	460	490	521	551	582	613	643	674	704
6	6	37	65	96	126	157	187	218	249	279	310	340	6	371	402	430	461	491	522	552	583	614	644	675	705
7	7	38	66	97	127	158	188	219	250	280	311	341	7	372	403	431	462	492	523	553	584	615	645	676	706
8	8	39	67	98	128	159	189	220	251	281	312	342	8	373	404	432	463	493	524	554	585	616	646	677	707
9	9	40	68	99	129	160	190	221	252	282	313	343	9	374	405	433	464	494	525	555	586	617	647	678	708
10	10	41	69	100	130	161	191	222	253	283	314	344	10	375	406	434	465	495	526	556	587	618	648	679	709
11	11	42	70	101	131	162	192	223	254	284	315	345	11	376	407	435	466	496	527	557	588	619	649	680	710
12	12	43	71	102	132	163	193	224	255	285	316	346	12	377	408	436	467	497	528	558	589	620	650	681	711
13	13	44	72	103	133	164	194	225	256	286	317	347	13	378	409	437	468	498	529	559	590	621	651	682	712
14	14	45	73	104	134	165	195	226	257	287	318	348	14	379	410	438	469	499	530	560	591	622	652	683	713
15	15	46	74	105	135	166	196	227	258	288	319	349	15	380	411	439	470	500	531	561	592	623	653	684	714
16	16	47	75	106	136	167	197	228	259	289	320	350	16	381	412	440	471	501	532	562	593	624	654	685	715
17	17	48	76	107	137	168	198	229	260	290	321	351	17	382	413	441	472	502	533	563	594	625	655	686	716
18	18	49	77	108	138	169	199	230	261	291	322	352	18	383	414	442	473	503	534	564	595	626	656	687	717
19	19	50	78	109	139	170	200	231	262	292	323	353	19	384	415	443	474	504	535	565	596	627	657	688	718
20	20	51	79	110	140	171	201	232	263	293	324	354	20	385	416	444	475	505	536	566	597	628	658	689	719
21	21	52	80	111	141	172	202	233	264	294	325	355	21	386	417	445	476	506	537	567	598	629	659	690	720
22	22	53	81	112	142	173	203	234	265	295	326	356	22	387	418	446	477	507	538	568	599	630	660	691	721
23	23	54	82	113	143	174	204	235	266	296	327	357	23	388	419	447	478	508	539	569	600	631	661	692	722
24	24	55	83	114	144	175	205	236	267	297	328	358	24	389	420	448	479	509	540	570	601	632	662	693	723
25	25	56	84	115	145	176	206	237	268	298	329	359	25	390	421	449	480	510	541	571	602	633	663	694	724
26	26	57	85	116	146	177	207	238	269	299	330	360	26	391	422	450	481	511	542	572	603	634	664	695	725
27	27	58	86	117	147	178	208	239	270	300	331	361	27	392	423	451	482	512	543	573	604	635	665	696	726
28	28	59	87	118	148	179	209	240	271	301	332	362	28	393	424	452	483	513	544	574	605	636	666	697	727
29	29		88	119	149	180	210	241	272	302	333	363	29	394		453	484	514	545	575	606	637	667	698	728
30	30		89	120	150	181	211	242	273	303	334	364	30	395		454	485	515	546	576	607	638	668	699	729
31	31		90		151		212	243		304		365	31	396		455		516		577	608		669		730

For leap year, add 1 day to all dates after February 29. Example, March 1, 1996 is day 61 rather than day 60.

Beef Cattle Calving Records

Date	Calf Sex	Calf Tag	Birth Wt.	Calving Ease	Calf Sire	Calf Vitality	Cow ID	Cow BCS*	Cow Problems	Comments

***Body Condition Score: 1=Thinnest through 9=Fatthest**

Calving Ease:	Calf Vitality:	Cow Problems:
1. Unassisted	1. Abortion	1. Wild & Aggressive
2. Easy Pull	2. Stillborn	2. Abandoned Calf
3. Hard Pull	3. Alive & Slow	3. Reluctant to allow suckling
4. Caesarean & Other Malpresentations	4. Alive & Lively	4. Adoption
	5. Other	5. Lack of Milk
		6. Udder Problems
		7. Reproductive Problems

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BIF Frame Score Chart – Cows & Heifers
Dr. Larry W. Olson - Extension Animal Scientist

Age	Frame Score & Hip Height (inches)										Age
months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	days
5	33.1	35.1	37.2	39.3	41.3	43.4	45.5	47.5	49.6	51.6	---
6	34.1	36.2	38.2	40.3	42.3	44.4	46.5	48.5	50.6	52.6	---
Wean	34.8	36.9	38.9	41.0	43.0	45.1	47.1	49.2	51.2	53.3	205
7	35.1	37.1	39.2	41.2	43.3	45.3	47.4	49.4	51.5	53.5	---
8	36.0	38.0	40.1	42.1	44.1	46.2	48.2	50.2	52.3	54.3	---
9	36.8	38.9	40.9	42.9	44.9	47.0	49.0	51.0	53.0	55.0	---
10	37.6	39.6	41.6	43.7	45.7	47.7	49.7	51.7	53.8	55.8	---
11	38.3	40.3	42.3	44.3	46.4	48.4	50.4	52.4	54.4	56.4	---
12	39.0	41.0	43.0	45.0	47.0	49.0	51.0	53.0	55.0	57.0	365
13	39.6	41.6	43.6	45.5	47.5	49.5	51.5	53.5	55.5	57.5	---
14	40.1	42.1	44.1	46.1	48.0	50.0	52.0	54.0	56.0	58.0	---
15	40.6	42.6	44.5	46.5	48.5	50.5	52.4	54.4	56.4	58.4	452
16	41.0	43.0	44.9	46.9	48.9	50.8	52.8	54.8	56.7	58.7	---
17	41.4	43.3	45.3	47.2	49.2	51.1	53.1	55.1	57.0	59.0	---
18	41.7	43.6	45.6	47.5	49.5	51.4	53.4	55.3	57.3	59.3	550
19	41.9	43.9	45.8	47.7	49.7	51.6	53.6	55.5	57.4	59.4	---
20	42.1	44.1	46.0	47.9	49.8	51.8	53.7	55.6	57.6	59.6	---
21	42.3	44.2	46.1	48.0	50.0	51.9	53.8	55.7	57.7	59.7	---

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Frame Scores, are a method of estimating skeletal size based on hip height, which is shown in this chart. Frame scores represent differences in height at the same age of about 2 inches. Values in the chart represent averages of thousands of cattle, but individual animals may vary. Heights should be determined on the top-line directly over the hips or hooks with cattle standing on a firm, flat surface, legs symmetrically positioned, and head in a normal position. The most common device for determining height is a measuring stick, available at many livestock supply companies. It consists of a cross-arm (with a bubble level) attached in a 90- degree angle to an upright containing a ruler. Body size is an important genetic factor in beef cattle production. Historically, size was first estimated by measurements such as height or length. As scales were developed, weight became more common as a measure of size. Measurement and weight are related but their rates of maturity differ. By 7 months of age, cattle reach about 80 percent of mature height but only 35 to 45 percent of mature weight. At 12 months, about 90 percent of mature height is reached, compared to only 50 to 60 percent of mature weight.