

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

April 2008 / Volume 30 Number 4



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tropical Breeds of Cattle
Boran "Cow-Calf" in
Kenya**

April

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
30	57 th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, Hilton UF Conference Center, Gainesville, FL

May

1-2	57 th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, Hilton UF Conference Center, Gainesville, FL
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MARCH NEWSLETTER MAILING WAS DELAYED

We were delayed in mailing the March issue of the newsletter till late March due to the fact that we were waiting on envelopes from the University. In the climate of lower operating budgets, UF has outsourced such things to lower costs. The problem with this is the non-responsiveness on behalf of the companies that they outsource to. We started in early February trying to get our supply of pre-printed envelopes. They were delivered to us March 25th. With this issue arriving on the heels of the March Newsletter, I thought I would let you know what happened. **Jim**

ONLINE CEU OFFERINGS AT THE UF/IFAS PESTICIDE INFORMATION OFFICE

The UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office has been offering online Continuing Education Unit modules for over a year now. Our library of modules is constantly growing. We currently offer 30 quality CEU online modules available to all licensed Florida applicators. These modules can all be taken immediately online through a web browser. Each module qualifies for one CEU credit and is organized by category. Please help us get the word out to Florida applicators, and feel free to use the included image on your counties extension website. All of our modules can be found at: <http://pested.ifas.ufl.edu/onlinepesticideceus/>

INCREASED COSTS WILL BE HARD TO PASS ON

Abundant protein supplies will keep prices from gaining much ground. Meanwhile, input prices weigh heavily. Pablo Zuanic, JPMorgan food analyst, considered USDA forecasts with commodities' futures prices and projects grain prices to rise 78 percent this year and energy costs 58 percent. He says wheat prices could jump 98 percent, soybeans 78 percent and corn 59 percent. The American Feed Industry Association predicts that consumer food prices will rise another 10 percent to 12 percent this year. But Zuanic says passing cost increases on to consumers could be difficult given the state of the overall economy. "While all large-cap food companies have announced price hikes, those with consistent investment in innovation and brand building are in better shape to make those hikes stick," he adds. **Source—Drovers Alert, Thursday, March 27, 2008 Vol. 10, Issue 15.**

MARKET INFORMATION

March 31, 2008

	03/29/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	87.93	89.77	95.86
Live Heifer	87.91	89.95	95.71
Dressed Steer	141.00	144.17	154.67
Dressed Heifer	140.08	144.23	154.35

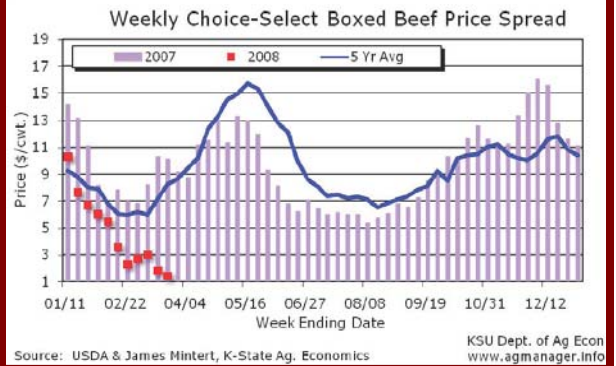
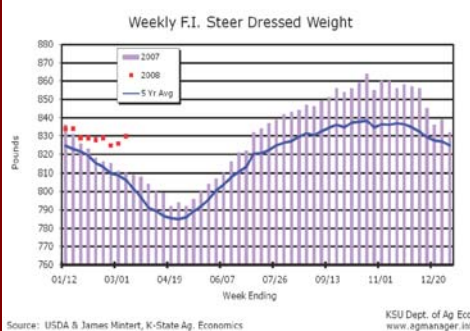
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt

	03/29/08	Last Week	Last Year
BEEF PRODUCTION	(Estimate)	(Estimate)	(Actual)
Slaughter	619,000	648,000	611,000
Live Weights	1283	1284	1255
Dressed Weights	776	776	760
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	478.7	501.0	462.6

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

	03/15/08	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.83%	2.78%	2.53%
Choice	58.59%	57.81%	53.40%
Select	29.66%	29.16%	35.29%

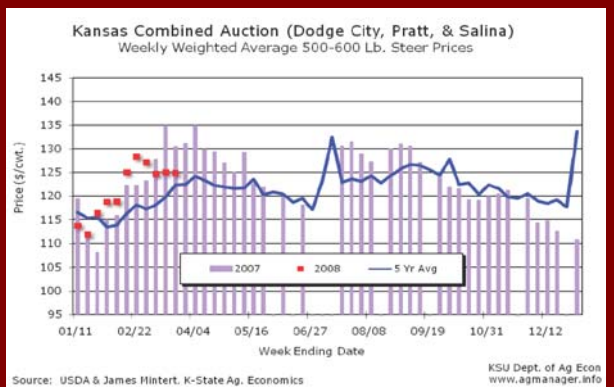
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt



KSU Dept. of Ag Econ
www.agmanager.info

Choice/Select Spread
03/28/08
\$0.34/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browsebytxt/LM_XB403.TXT

Take note of this spread, the reality is that there is no difference at this time between Choice and Select. People who have retained ownership are not very happy right now. Jim



KSU Dept. of Ag Econ
www.agmanager.info

The summary below reflects the week ending March 21, 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, March 25, 2008.**

State	Volume	Steers		Heifers			
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
Calf Weight							
TX	17,700	\$122.98	\$105.53	\$99.83	\$100.59	\$96.82	\$92.08
AL	8,600	\$105-108	\$90-101		\$91-101	\$86-91	\$82-85
TN	7,800	\$114.06	\$96.80	\$89.04	\$98.39	\$85.84	\$80.74
FL	4,200	\$93-113	\$93-104	\$80-87	\$86-102	\$83-92	\$75-82
GA	7,400	\$95-111	\$85-103	\$77-92.50	\$83-102	\$80-92	\$76-85
KY	21,700	\$102-112	\$92-102	\$86-96	\$90-100	\$81-91	\$77-87
OK	33,600	\$123.65	\$111.81	\$102.45	\$104.60	\$99.10	\$93.53



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 10 to 11 cents higher from 5.23-5.38 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 48 cents higher at 5.34 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 48 to 49 cents higher from 5.18-5.24 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 47 ½ to 60 ½ cents higher from 5.15-4.43 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 48 to 52 cents higher from 5.30 ½-5.35 ½ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 55 cents higher at 5.15 ½ per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday March 28, 2008** http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2008 [HTTP://DESOTO.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
2008	1.85"	1.51"	2.52"										5.88"
2007	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"
2006	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"
2005						9.71"	8.73"	5.86"	4.03"	8.78"	3.78"	0.11"	NA

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

HIGH	82.3°	84.9°	86.1°										NA
LOW	28.5°	35.6°	39.3°										NA

Rainfall for 2008 is currently 1.05 inches ahead of 2007—A good sign!!

AUSTRALIA FEED MILLERS TO TRY U.S. DRIED DISTILLERS GRAIN

A prolonged drought curtailing Australian grain production might compel that country to import more U.S. dried distillers grains (DDG) in the future, according to the U.S. Grains Council. The action would be necessary to help keep Australia's livestock industries going, said USGC Chairman Dale Artho, a Texas grain producer. During a USGC tour of Australia, Singapore and the Philippines, Artho said Australian feed millers have agreed to a feeding trial using imported U.S. DDG. "What they're looking for is some energy and protein for their rations. And since Dried distillers grains are cooked, you don't have the problem with weeds or other foreign material being in it. It's a clean product, and the quarantine laws shouldn't be as strict." —Elton Robinson, Farm Press Editor—Source—Crop News Weekly, March 26, 2008.

FEED SUPPLY CHALLENGE HITS DAIRY, BEEF SECTORS

U.S. hay and other feedstuff prices should continue rising for the rest of 2008, according to USDA's March Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook. Milk production is forecast to rise 2.7 percent this year over last year's numbers, reaching 190.7 billion pounds and reflecting an estimated 1 percent increase in cow numbers. According to the Livestock Slaughter report, January dairy cow slaughter was very near last year's level. Because of higher feed prices, feed intensity will likely be reduced and milk production per cow is projected to rise by less than 1 percent on a daily basis. That's well below the trend of the previous two years. Milk-feed price ratios may weaken and lower returns in mid-year may point toward herd contraction by late 2008. Commercial use of dairy products, however, is expected to increase by more than 3%. Many Upper Midwestern farmers, who produce much of their own feed, are somewhat insulated from rising feed prices. Dairy herd expansion continues in the West in part because of the lengthy process of obtaining permits. Once current expansion is complete, the process may slow because permits are becoming difficult to obtain, especially in California. Although the Jan. 1 beef cow inventory is lower than last year's, first-quarter cow slaughter could exceed first-quarter 2007's. And that was 15% above first-quarter 2006's slaughter numbers. Commercial slaughter levels are relatively high, in part because Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee growers face dry conditions and high feed costs. Dry conditions are also seen southward from Canada through the Northern Plains states and northward from Mexico through New Mexico and Texas, possibly contributing to increased numbers of cows in the slaughter mix. Some cows are also being imported from Canada, adding to the total U.S. commercial cow slaughter. Source—E-Hay Weekly, March 25, 2008.

Beef Management Calendar**April/May**

Check mineral feeder.	Plant warm season annual pastures.
Check dust bags or apply treated ear tags.	Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.
Observe cows for repeat breeders.	Deworm cows as needed if not done in March.
Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age.	Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.
Market cull cows and bulls.	Vaccinate and implant with growth stimulant any later calves.

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DESOTO COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2008 DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Annual Spring Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, April 24, 2008, at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall. All members, along with their family, are invited to attend. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. You may bring one guest to the steak dinner. Members bringing more than one guest will be asked to pay \$10.00 per each additional guest. Not only will you be able to enjoy an excellent steak dinner by attending, you will also hear excellent information concerning beef cattle production and most of all, you will have a great time socializing with your friends.

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.**

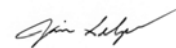
1ST ANNUAL RANCH RODEO

Come & see Florida's Finest Cowboys and Cowgirls show off their ranch skills as they compete for a spot in the Florida Cattlemen's Ranch Rodeo Circuit. Not only are these men & women expected to show off their everyday working skills, but they are required to show their True Grit by Riding Bulls and Running Barrels. This event will be held at the Arcadia Rodeo and Fair Grounds. It Kicks off Friday Night, April 18th @ 7:00PM and carries over until Saturday, April 19th. Saturday will be a full day of festivities with a parade beginning at 10:00AM. The rodeo gates open at 4:00PM for shopping and an autograph signing by Tater Porter, Florida's Former PBR Bull Rider. The Ranch rodeo performance starts at 7:00pm, and we'll have a shin-dig of a dance to follow. Hope to see y'all there!!

Tickets are available for \$8.00 in advance at [Stockyard](#) in Sarasota, [Beef 'O' Brady's](#) in Arcadia, and [The Hayloft](#) in Ft. Myers or \$10 at the gate. This event is a benefit for the DeSoto County 4-H. 4-H is a non profit organization focusing on youth life skills and making the best better.

COMPANIES PLAN TO DEVELOP BIO-GASOLINE

Shell and Virent Energy Systems, Inc., (VirentTM) of Madison, Wisconsin USA, today announced a joint research and development effort to convert plant sugars directly into gasoline and gasoline blend components, rather than ethanol. The collaboration could herald the availability of new biofuels that can be used at high blend rates in standard gasoline engines. This could potentially eliminate the need for specialized infrastructure, new engine designs and blending equipment. Traditionally, sugars have been fermented into ethanol and distilled. These new 'bio-gasoline' molecules have higher energy content than ethanol (or butanol) and deliver better fuel efficiency. They can be blended seamlessly to make conventional gasoline or combined with gasoline containing ethanol. The sugars can be sourced from non-food sources like corn stover, switch grass, wheat straw and sugarcane pulp, in addition to conventional bio-fuel feedstock like wheat, corn and sugarcane.



James F. Selph

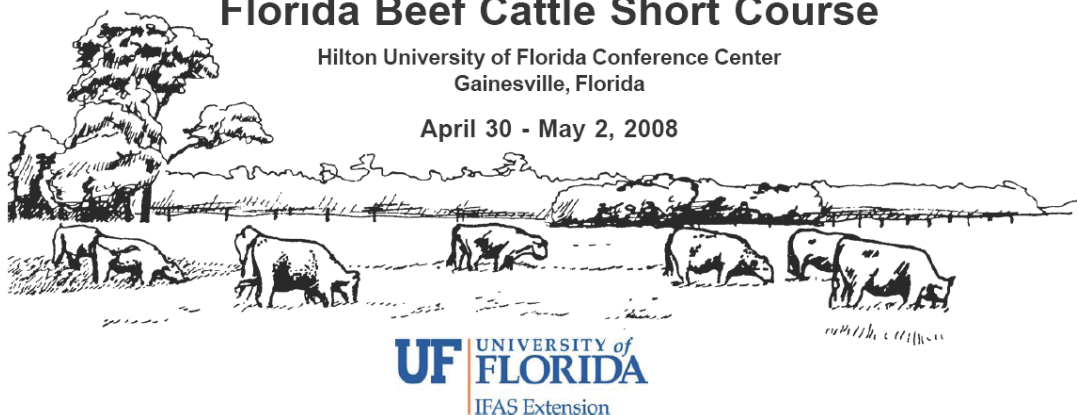
DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock & Forages

Celebrating the Fifty-seventh Annual

Florida Beef Cattle Short Course

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
Gainesville, Florida

April 30 - May 2, 2008



Agenda topics for the 3-day long conference will be:

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Market Outlook & Current Topics

Presiding: Matt Hersom, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

1:00 Welcome – Geoff Dahl, Department Chairman and Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

1:15 Cattlemen's Comments - Mr. Larry Rooks, President, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Inverness, FL

1:30 Economic and Market Outlook for 2008 - Dr. John Lawrence, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

2:15 Implementation of Instrument Grading for Beef Carcasses - Dr. Kerry Smith, USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, DC

3:00 Refreshment Break

3:30 Market Definitions of Alternative Production Systems - Dr. Kerry Smith, USDA/Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, DC

4:15 Economic Comparison of Alternative Production Systems - Dr. Curt Lacey, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA

5:00 Allied Industry Trade Show and Reception - Several companies will have exhibits and representatives to answer your questions. Hors d'oeuvres provided compliments of the exhibitors.

A cash bar is available for your enjoyment.

Thursday, May 1, 2008

All About Bulls

Presiding: John Arthington, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL

8:30 Understanding and Utilizing EPDs to Select Bulls - Dr. Jane Parish, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS

9:15 "No Bull" Discussion on Genetic Markers - Dr. Dorian Garrick, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

10:00 Refreshment Break

10:30 Adapting Bulls to Florida - Dr. Chad Chase, USDA-STARS, Brooksville, FL

11:00 Bull Management for Commercial Producers - Dr. Todd Thrift and Dr. Matt Hersom, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

11:30 How Much Can I Pay for a Bull? - Dr. Curt Lacey, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA and Dr. Todd Thrift, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

12:00 Leave for Lunch at UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit (Sponsored by Farm Credit of North Florida - Directions to be provided)

Presiding: Mr. Jerry Wasdin, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

1:30 • Phenotypic Evaluation of Bulls - Dr. Todd Thrift, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

• Ultrasound Evaluation of Bulls - Dr. Roger West, Gainesville, FL

• Fertility and Breeding Evaluation of Bulls - Dr. Joel Yelich, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

• Matching Bulls to Different Cow Types - Mr. Jesse Savell, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

2:15 Second Rotation

3:00 Refreshment Break

3:15 Third Rotation

4:00 Fourth Rotation

5:00 Adjourn

6:30 Cattlemen's Steak-Out (Horse Teaching Unit)

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

UF Emphasis on Production Practices

Presiding: Dr. Chad Carr, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

8:30 Backgrounding Calves on Co-products - Dr. Matt Hersom, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:00 Forage-Based Replacement Heifer Management - Mr. Brad Austin, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

- 9:30 Factors Affecting Calf Value - Mr. Jesse Savell, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL**
- 10:00 Refreshment Break**
- 10:20 Utilization of Biosolids for Pasture Fertilization - Dr. Maria Silveira, UF/IFAS, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL**
- 10:50 Utilization of Limpgrass for Grazing - Dr. John Arthington and Dr. Joao Vendramini, UF/IFAS, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL; Dr. Bill Brown, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL**
- 11:45 Adjourn**

REGISTRATION

Note: If making payment for multiple registrants, please list each individual's name on the form of payment. This will ensure proper crediting for each registrant.

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds will be honored if a written notification of cancellation is received on or before April 18, 2008. A \$55.00 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. Sorry, no refunds will be honored for cancellations after April 18, 2008.

CONVENIENTLY REGISTER IN ONE OF THREE EASY WAYS:

- 1. ONLINE:** If paying by credit card, register online at: <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/bcscIndex.shtml>
- 2. FAX:** If paying by credit card, FAX completed registration form to: (352) 392-9059
- 3. MAIL:** Please make check, money order, or purchase order payable to: **UF Foundation** Mail this form with payment to: **Pam Gross**

Beef Cattle Short Course

UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences
P.O. Box 110910
Gainesville, FL 32611-0910

Charge my: VISA Master Card American Express Discover

PLEASE PRINT Fed. ID: 59-0974739
Credit Card #: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Name of Cardholder: _____
Amount: _____
Signature: _____

Special Needs: Participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Matt Hersom at least 10 working days prior to the workshop. He may be reached by phoning (352) 392-2390 or faxing (352) 392-9059.

Registration Information

The reduced early registration fee is \$110.00 if payment is postmarked by April 18, 2008. **After April 18, 2008, the regular registration fee will be \$150.00.** The registration fee includes refreshment breaks, exhibitor's reception, Thursday's luncheon, one Cattlemen's Steak-out ticket, and a copy of the proceedings. Extra Cattlemen's Steak-out tickets are available at \$15.00 each. Please refer to the registration card to purchase extra tickets. Requests for registration refunds will be honored if a written notification of cancellation is received on or before April 18, 2008. A \$55.00 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds. Sorry, no refunds will be honored for cancellations after April 20, 2008.

In compliance with ADA requirements, participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Matt Hersom at least 10 working days prior to the workshop. He may be reached by phoning (352) 392-2390 or faxing (352) 392-9059.

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Hotel Accommodations/Meeting Site

The Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, located at 1714 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL, is offering a special group rate of \$139.00 single or double occupancy, plus 9.25% tax. To qualify for this special rate, reservations must be made prior to March 24, 2008. Please call the hotel directly at (352) 371-3600 to make your reservation and inform the attendant that you are with the "Beef Cattle Short Course" in order for Hotel Reservations to recognize you as a Beef Cattle Short Course participant. After the deadline, the discounted group rate and guest room availability are no longer guaranteed.

Celebrating the Fifty-seventh Annual Beef Cattle Short Course

April 30 & May 2, 2007 - Hilton UF Conference Center - Gainesville, FL

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

First Name: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Organization: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Country: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Business Phone: _____
 Fax: _____

Registration Fee (includes: refreshment breaks, exhibitor's reception, Thursday's luncheon, one Cattlemen's Steak-out ticket, and a proceedings.)

- _____ \$110.00 Early Registration Fee (for fees postmarked on or before April 18, 2008)
- _____ \$150.00 Regular Registration Fee (for fees postmarked after April 18, 2008)
- _____ UF Faculty Contact Pam Gross for Special Pricing: 352/392/1916
- _____ \$15.00 Each EXTRA Cattlemen's Steak-out Ticket
- \$_____ Total amount enclosed (payable to: UF Foundation)**

JOURNAL TRANSFER OF PAYMENTS NOT ACCEPTED

OFFICE USE ONLY

Receipt #: _____
 Check #: _____
 Date Received: _____
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 Amount Received: _____