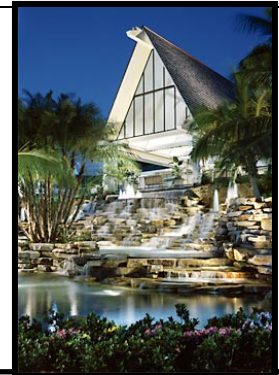


**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**

2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

June 2008 / Volume 30 Number 6



CALENDAR OF EVENTS








**Florida Cattlemen's
Convention and Allied
Trade Show**

June

12	1st Annual Ona Range Cattle Research Station Youth Field Day, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM
16-17	Cattlemen's College, 1:00 PM and 8:00 AM, Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, FL
17-19	Florida Cattlemen's Convention and Allied Trade Show, Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, FL

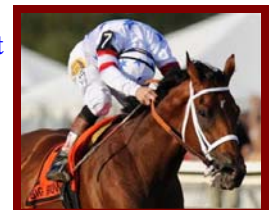
1ST ANNUAL ONA RANGE CATTLE RESEARCH STATION YOUTH FIELD DAY

The Ona Range Cattle Research Station will host a Youth Field Day for 4-H and FFA members who are 8 years old or older. The field day will include speakers, field tours, demonstrations and a lunch. If a child should wish to attend, the AREC is asking that they call (863-735-1313) to register or register by e-mail (ona@ifas.ufl.edu).

-  Brent Sellers – RCREC Grass & Weed Nursery / Demonstration Site
-  Toni Wood – Rumen Canulated Steer: Discussion of his use in laboratory analysis & demonstration
-  Jim Selph – Wildlife & Agriculture: Utilizing Range for Cattle and Wildlife
-  John Arthington – Nutritional Requirements of Beef Cattle / Body Condition Score / Early Weaning
-  Lockie Gary – Forage, Hay, & Soil Sampling and Testing: How it's done properly and why it's important
-  Austin Bateman – The role of the RCREC Cattle: Research & Revenue / Cowpen & squeeze chute demonstration
-  Christa Carlson – Water Quality and Pasture Fertilization / Soil pH testing demonstration

THE HORSE BAN AND THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

The banning of horse slaughter in the U.S. was one of those emotional ideas everyone agreed with initially and that rather handily passed into law. Unfortunately, the experts were right. Since the nation's three horse-slaughter plants were closed by the pulling of federal inspection services last year, horse prices have fallen throughout the system, and neglect has skyrocketed as people have no way of disposing of unwanted animals. This week, the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), as part of its legislative efforts, called on members of Congress to change the law. LMA President Jim Santomaso said the industry is seeing "more and more reports of abandoned horses and of horses turned out and left to starve, because owners can't afford their upkeep, or have the means to properly dispose of them." Santomaso, the operator of a Sterling, CO market, said LMA members report that horses are being left at their facilities when they don't sell, "because their owners don't want them back." Of course, the Humane Society of the U.S. looks to take the suffering even further, seeking legislation that would also ban the transport of horses to outside countries for slaughter. I suppose a bright side to all this is that the "wild" horse population stands to get a big new infusion of genetics, as people increasingly turn horses they can't care for out onto public lands. **Source—Troy Marshall, Editor—Cow-Calf Weekly, May 16, 2008.**

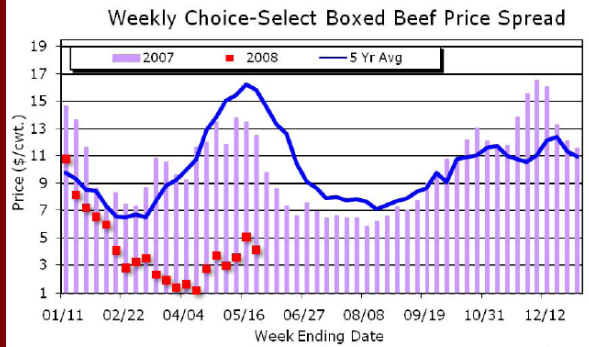


MARKET INFORMATION

June 2, 2008

	05/31/08	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	95.18	94.38	92.89
Live Heifer	95.24	94.40	92.88
Dressed Steer	149.75	148.89	147.35
Dressed Heifer	149.73	148.61	146.97

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



KSU Dept. of Ag Econ
www.agmanager.info

	05/31/08 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	625,000	722,000	610,000
Live Weights	1253	1253	1241
Dressed Weights	762	762	758
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	474.8	548.4	461.1

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

Choice/Select Spread

06/02/08

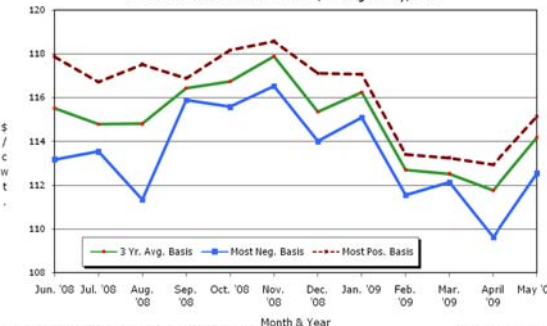
\$3.55/cwt

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

	05/17/08	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	2.76%	2.70%	2.02%
Choice	55.52%	54.92%	50.06%
Select	34.01%	33.54%	37.74%

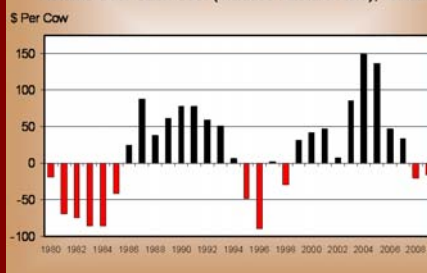
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt

Mid-Month Futures Based Price Forecasts
700-800 Lb. Feeder Steers, Dodge City, KS

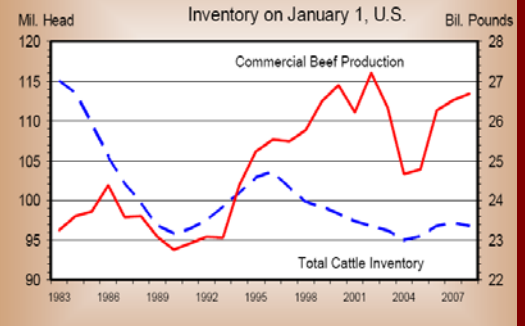


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ESTIMATED AVERAGE COW CALF RETURNS
Returns Over Cash Cost (Includes Pasture Rent), Annual



BEEF PRODUCTION
vs. CATTLE INVENTORY



The summary below reflects the week ending March 30, 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, June 3, 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	16,500	\$112.61	\$107.38	\$104.09	\$105.76	\$103.56	\$94.54
AL	8,500	\$107-113	\$104-110	\$100-106	\$100-106	\$93.50-102	\$90-95
TN	6,300	\$109.46	\$106.06	\$100.51	\$99.91	\$94.69	\$89.77
FL	3,600	\$95-114	\$92-103	\$90-100	\$87-101	\$89-104	\$80-84
GA	6,300	\$95-117	\$90-111	\$86-103	\$89-105	\$84-98	\$80-90.50
KY	15,800	\$108-118	\$100-110	\$96-106	\$94-104	\$89-99	\$88-98
OK	14,700	\$124.23	\$117.26	\$113.06	\$112.44	\$108.90	\$104.62



CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 8 to 11 cents lower from 5.70-5.77 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 6 to 9 cents lower at 5.57 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 13 to 14 cents lower from 5.42-5.48 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 12 1/2 to 23 1/2 cents lower from 5.37 1/4-5.62 1/4 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 13 1/2 cents lower from 5.52 1/4-5.58 1/4 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 15 1/2 cents lower at 5.13 1/4 per bushel. Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday May 30, 2008 http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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GRAIN CROPS—PLANTING AND GROWTH STATUS

Corn – 88% is planted

Soybeans – 52% is planted

Winter wheat – 64% advanced to the heading stage

Spring wheat – 76% has emerged

Barley – 97% of seeding is complete

Sorghum – 46% of the intended acreage is sown

Oats – 98% of planting is complete

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"	2.51"	3.33"	2.51"								11.71"
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°	88.1°	94.6°								NA
LOW	28.5°	35.6°	39.3°	41.6°	51.9°								NA

Rainfall for 2008 is currently 1.58 inches ahead of 2007

USDA TO ELIMINATE “DOWNER” EXCEPTION

“To maintain consumer confidence in the food supply, eliminate further misunderstanding of the rule, and ultimately make a positive impact on the humane handling of cattle, I believe it’s sound policy to simplify this matter by initiating a complete ban on the slaughter of downer cattle that go down after initial inspection,” says USDA Secretary Ed Schafer. He announced May 20 that USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service will draft a proposed rule to remove the exception that allows certain injured cattle to proceed to slaughter. The opportunity for re-inspection has come under increasing scrutiny since the furor caused by the undercover Hallmark-Westland video depicting animal abuse. “We’re pleased by USDA’s decision to ban all non-ambulatory cattle from entering into the U.S. food supply. This ban is important to strengthen consumer confidence in our beef products,” says National Meat Association (NMA) CEO Barry Carpenter. NMA and other industry organizations, including the American Meat Institute and National Milk Producers Federation, recently petitioned USDA to ban the practice. According to USDA, of nearly 34 million cattle slaughtered last year, fewer than 1,000 head that were re-inspected were approved by the veterinarian for slaughter. **Source—Beef Stocker Trends, Tuesday, June 3, 2008.**

Beef Management Calendar

June/July

Last Date to Plant Sorghum-Sudan Grass	Check dustbags, oilers, etc.
Check mineral feeder. Use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus.	Check pastures and hay fields for grubs, mole crickets, spittlebugs and armyworms.
Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.	Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.
Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.	Pregnancy check cows.
Control weeds in summer pastures.	Plant warm season perennial pastures.
Plan to attend the FCA Convention.	

QUIET, GENTLER HANDLING PAYS OFF

Cattle are prey animals and as such their horizontal pupils see the world differently than humans. Cattle can see widely around them, but do not see above them and they have very poor depth perception. For this reason, livestock handling experts say moving toward and then behind the globe of the eye is an ideal spot to encourage cattle to move past you. Handling expert Curt Pate, Helena, Mont., noted during a live cattle handling demonstration that handlers should also be aware that cattle ear tags can obstruct the animal’s vision, and he advised producers to swing wider on those sides of the cattle. Also, finding the one “instigator” in a group of cattle that riles them all up, and then focusing on settling that animal down can help in the overall task of moving cattle where you want them to go. **Source—Drovers Alert Special,**

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June 2, 2008. As a side note to this article, I recently ordered from the NCBA a DVD from their Cattle Learning Center. This DVD was made at the 2006 NCBA Cattlemen's College. The DVD is titled "Low Stress Cattle Handling" and features Curt Pate, Charlie Trayer and Joel Ham. It can be viewed at our office or checked out for viewing at your home or business. **Jim**



ALMOST 40% SUPPORT BAN ON HORSE RACING

In the wake of Eight Belles' euthanasia following injuries in the recent Kentucky Derby, a Gallup poll (www.gallup.com/poll/107293/PostDerby-Tragedy-38-Support-Banning-Animal-Racing.aspx) reveals that almost four in 10 Americans (38%) say they would favor banning sports that involve competition between animals. Women were slightly more in favor of banning racing than men, and those 18 to 29 favored a ban slightly more than older age groups. There was little difference in these attitudes by church attendance or by political party. Results were based on telephone interviews, with 1,017 national adults 18 and up, conducted May 8-11. In addition to the question about banning horse and dog racing, Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs survey updated a broader question about the treatment of animals, last asked in 2003. A quarter of Americans said animals deserve the same rights as humans, while almost all of the rest agreed animals should be given some protection from harm and exploitation. Gallup reported that the aforementioned attitude toward the treatment of animals is virtually the same as it was five years ago. **Source—Troy Marshall, Editor—Cow-Calf Weekly, May 30, 2008.**

STOCKING RATES AND FERTILIZATION OF PASTURES

About once or twice a week, I will get a call about weed problems in pastures. The question usually goes something like this: "I have a 15 acre pasture and it is all weeds and no grass. What do I do to get back my grass?" My normal reply is how many horses do you have! Their response is how do you know that I have horses? We then talk about typical stocking rates of 1 animal unit (horse or cow on bahiagrass) to 3-5 acres. I go on to try to make the point that there is no exact stocking rate number. It is all dependent on soil type, forage type, weather and management. Now to the point of this article; if you are going to forgo an application of fertilizer this year to your pasture, only do this if it is bahiagrass. The other improved grasses such as floralta limpgrass will likely lose their stand if you fail to fertilize. The other consideration that I would encourage is to reduce stocking rate. Our typical scenario of 3-5 acres per animal unit is based on fertilized pastures. Without fertilization, then the stocking rate moves to about 5-7 acres per animal unit. Even if you are not going to fertilize your pastures this year, test your soil to make sure the pH is adequate. You may want to consider liming your pastures if the soil test results called for. With the drought we have been in, our grasses are stressed. We have typically seen an increase in mole cricket activities in those years when we have drought and we have to think of mole crickets in a similar manner to cattle for stocking rate purposes. The late Dr. Martin Adjei in one trap (10 X 10 Meters) trapped in excess of 18,000 tawny mole crickets one night. The tawny feeds on both the roots and leaves of bahiagrass. If you choose to not fertilize, pay more attention to your cattle and pastures through the summer months. If body conditions remain constant or declines and if pastures remain very short, then an adjustment to stocking rate must be made in time to allow the cattle to gain the normal weight gain of the summer before fall. As a final note, it is always tempting to cut corners on costs, but the one thing we should never cut costs on is our mineral program. I know for most of you that would just never happen, but I still need to say it for the benefit of anyone fairly new in the cattle business that reads this newsletter. **Jim**

DOVE FIELDS IN FLORIDA

Mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*) are the most hunted migratory game bird in North America. These, as well as white-winged doves (*Zenaida asiatica*), are also pursued by countless hunters in Florida. As migratory upland game, the management of both species falls to both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Planting and manipulating supplemental food crops for doves through the establishment and management of dove fields is an important dove management tool. If possible, provide supplemental feed year-round through plantings in dove fields. This will keep birds in an area and in better condition. Also consider how long different species will take to mature, and stagger plantings. What and when to Plant? Now is the time to begin preparations and planting. Some of the species to consider are: Browntop Millet, Proso Millet, Japanese Millet, Sunflower, Corn, Sorghum/Milo, Sesame, and a number of other plants. Last fall we wrote a publication on [Dove Fields in Florida](#) that you can find at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/UW265> . It contains the information to insure your legality in planting Dove Fields as well as planting information. Copies are available in our office as well.



"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden". Thomas Jefferson

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "James F. Selph".

James F. Selph

DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock & Forages