

# MANATEE LIVESTOCKER

Manatee County Extension Service  
1303 17th Street W  
Palmetto, Florida 34221  
(941) 722-4524  
Fax (941) 721-6608  
E-mail tes@ifas.ufl.edu

*June 1999*

## *Calendar Of Events*

### **July**

13-15 Forage School for Ranchers. - Sebring

20 South Florida Beef forage Program HERD HEALTH - Wauchula

### **August**

10-12 Forage School Tour - Sebring

26 South Florida Beef Forage Program, STOCKING RATES - Arcadia

### **September**

16 South Florida Beef Forage Program, WINTER SUPPLEMENTATION - Sarasota

### **October**

11 South Florida Beef Forage Program, BULL SELECTION - Bartow

28 South Florida Beef Forage Program, HAY FIELD DAY - Manatee

*- Agricultural Internet Sites -*

University of Florida	<a href="http://www.ufl.edu">http://www.ufl.edu</a>
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences	<a href="http://www.ifas.ufl.edu">http://www.ifas.ufl.edu</a>
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service	<a href="http://www.fl-ag.com/">http://www.fl-ag.com/</a>
FL Ag Information Retrieval System	<a href="http://hammock.ifas.ufl.edu">http://hammock.ifas.ufl.edu</a>
Range Cattle Research & Ed Center	<a href="http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~ona/onahp.html">http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~ona/onahp.html</a>
S. FL Beef Forage Program	<a href="http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~sfbfp/beef.html">http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~sfbfp/beef.html</a>
Animal Science Department	<a href="http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~animal/">http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~animal/</a>
Dairy Science Department	<a href="http://dps.ufl.edu/">http://dps.ufl.edu/</a>
Agronomy Department	<a href="http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~agroweb/">http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~agroweb/</a>

## *Beef Cattle Management Calendar*

### June

- Check Mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not more than 2½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- Check pastures and hay field for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and army worms. Treat if necessary. June is best month for mole cricket control.
- Check dust bags.
- Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- Utilize available veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories.
- Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.
- Pregnancy check cows.
- Update market information and plans.
- Make first cutting of hay.
- Put bulls out June 1 for calves starting March 11.
- Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

### July

- Control weeds in summer pastures.
- Apply nitrogen to warm season pastures,. If needed.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for mole crickets and army worms, and treat in necessary.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.

- Watch for evidence of footrot and treat.
- Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.
- Check dust bags.
- Update market information and plans.
- Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

## Florida Forage Handbook

The Florida Forage Handbook is the definitive guide to all aspect of planting, managing and harvesting forage crops - whether for pasture, hay, or silage. Written by leading agronomists, soil scientists, and cattle specialists at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, this handbook is an essential reference for cattle producers and forage managers.

With specific recommendations for forages adapted to Florida, and additional guidelines for horse and dairy cattle managers, the Florida Forage Handbook is a comprehensive, all-in-one manual for growing forage crops in Florida's unique environment.

Contains:

1. 33 chapters covering all aspects of forage production.
2. Additional sections for horse and dairy cattle managers.
3. Weed and insect management guidelines.
4. 30 color plates for easy forage identification.

**It costs \$10.00 plus shipping and taxes. To order a handbook, please call our office at (941) 722-4524**

## The Grass Corner -- 1) Bahiagrass

Woodland, open range and planted pasture have supported the Florida livestock industry for nearly 500 years. Currently, there are about 5 million acres of grazed forest lands,. 3 million acres of open range and 3.5 million acres of planted pasture. Our state grasslands are under constant pressure to surrender land area for industrial and residential construction alone with roads and recreation facilities such as golf courses to accommodate the 0.25 million new residents annually. This continuous urban pressure on land translates into higher stocking rates and the need for more productive forages or pasture to support the 1.2 million beef cattle in the state. In this and subsequent issues of the Range Cattle REC Newsletter, we plan to give a brief account of the advantages and disadvantages of available warm season grasses.

Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*) remains and will continue to be the predominant grass used by livestock producers in the state. It is grown by 78% of producers in central and south florida and makes up about 70% of planted pasture acreage. Bahiagrass is popular with Florida ranchers because it: 1) tolerates a wider range of soil conditions than other improved grasses; 2) has the ability to produce moderate yields on soils of low fertility; 3) is easily established from seed; 4) withstands continuous close grazing; 5) is relatively free from damaging insects (except mole crickets) and diseases. A major drawback of bahiagrass pasture is that forage growth slows down in October which results in very low forage during the period of short days and cool temperatures between mid-December and early March.

In recent years, about 300,000 acres of bahiagrass pastures have been destroyed by mole crickets in central Florida. Prolonged reliance on bahiagrass has led to the tendency for ranchers to evaluate all new improved grasses under similar stressful grazing management conditions as bahiagrass before acceptance.

Bahiagrasses are native to South America (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil) from where several varieties have been introduced. Bahiagrass varieties in use today include Common, Pensacola, Tifton-9 Pensacola, Argentine, and Paraguay 22. Pensacola, which was found growing in Pensacola, FL in 1935 by Escambia County Extension Agent, Ed Finlayson, is the most widely grown cultivar. Tifton-9 Pensacola was released in 1987 through a breeding program by Dr. Glen Burton, USDA-ARS, Tifton GA. It is 30% higher yielding than its parent, Pensacola, and also shows a better cool season growth. Argentine was introduced from Argentina in 1944 and is most popular in the sod business because it puts out fewer seedheads than Pensacola. All bahiagrasses have similar forage quality. For more information on planting, liming, fertilization and grazing management of bahiagrasses contact your county livestock extension agents. (MBA)

For further information, contact Travis Seawright at 941/722-4524 ext. 236, or your local Farm Service Agency.

---

For questions or comments regarding this publication contact



[Travis Seawright](#)



[Back](#) Back to the Cooperative Extension Newsletters Page



[Back](#) Back to the South Florida Beef-Forage Program HomePage

