

# *Polk Rancher*

## *Beef and Forage Newsletter*

P.O. Box 9005, Dwr. HS03  
Bartow, FL 33831-9005  
(941) 533-0765  
Fax (941) 534-0001  
E-mail DEM@ifas.ufl.edu

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### **Building Performance for the Market at FCI**

The 15th annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade show will be held in Kissimmee at the Ag Center on January 22. The trade show will open at 8 AM with the speakers set to begin at 9. The theme for this year will be increasing cattle production and also increasing the value of the product we sell.

Mark Gardiner from Gardiner Angus Ranch, Ashland, Kansas will be the featured speaker this year. Gardiner will share the remarkable genetic improvement his family's operation has been able to make using EPD selection. Their herd went from a very average purebred weaning weight of 526 lbs. to over 800 lbs. in 17 years. Their calves average daily gain in the feedlot has increased to 4 lbs./day on 5 lbs. of feed/lb of gain. Gardiner says "We're after pounds in the right package." Since the cattle have performed so well, they have become a major partner in a marketing alliance.

Del Allen, Vice President for Quality & Training, for Excel Corporation will also be on hand to give a meat packers perspective on current and upcoming trends in the marketing and performance of cattle. He will give his viewpoint on the current product the beef industry provides and where we need to aim for the future.

Dr. Gary Cowman from NCBA will lead a discussion on beef quality assurance. He will give report on the recent beef quality audit and what we can do to improve our end product, retail beef.

The program will be rounded out after lunch by a panel of Florida Ranchers and speakers from the University of Florida and Farm Bureau. Topics of interest will include: Revised IFAS Fertilization Recommendations,

and Update on Mole Cricket Research and The New Estate Tax.

If you are interested in attending please call the Extension Office 533-0765 by January 15 so we can order enough food for lunch. There is a brochure outlining speakers and topics enclosed with the newsletter.

## **FDA Approves Irradiation for Beef**

The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new tool the beef industry will use to protect the wholesomeness of beef. Irradiation, also known as cold pasteurization, can destroy harmful bacteria on food without compromising the flavor or nutritional value. Research shows that irradiation of ground beef does not adversely affect flavor, aroma, color or shelf life.

This process will allow meat packers to kill bacteria at the end of the production line after the meat is sealed and packaged and cannot be contaminated further. This is particularly important with ground beef, where bacteria can easily get beneath the surface during grinding.

*(Source: Beef Business Bulletin)*

## **Annual Cow Herd Vaccination Seminar to Be Held January 26**

There will be a program on annual beef cattle vaccination and immunization held at the Ag Center Stuart Building in Bartow on January 26 at 7:00 PM. Dinner and the main speakers are being provided by Boehringer Ingelheim, an animal health product manufacturer.

The main topic for discussion will be which diseases Polk County Ranchers need to be concerned with in the breeding herd as well as the calves they produce. Disease prevention in the cow herd focuses in on maintaining or increasing the breeding percentage. The calf-hood vaccinations are aimed at reducing death loss and improving growth and performance both before and after weaning.

In addition, there will be a presentation on protecting beef quality. Over 7.5 % of the sirloins tested in March of 97 had scars or lesions due to vaccinations given in the wrong location.

Other sponsors of this program are the Polk County Cattlemen's Association, the Polk County Cooperative Extension Service and the Polk County Beef and Forage Advisory Committee.

If you are interested in coming to this program, please call the Extension Office at 533-0765 and let us know. You can also leave a message on our answering machine after 5 PM. We need your reservation by January 20 so that the proper number of meals and vaccination notebooks can be ordered. If need be, call up to noon on January 26 so we can assure there will be adequate food.

## 1998 Ranch Service Directory

The following is a listing of a variety of services available to cattle producers in Polk County. This may not be a complete listing for each service, so other businesses can be added and a revised directory will be printed on an annual basis. These are not paid advertisements and are provided as a free service for your use. This is simply a listing of these businesses for your information and is not an endorsement by the Polk County Extension Service.

<b>Cattle Day Workers</b>	
Teke Williams	692-1586
Donald Conroy	324-3521
Bobby Costine and Tom McBroom	Have portable chute and panels 534-8021 pager (813) 887-7574
Dennis Ford	Emergency cattle removal from roadside or large pastures 984-1884 or 858-1380
Ron Phay	352-242-4381
Three F Bar Ranch Stuart Fitzgerald	2825 Masterpiece Rd. Lake Wales 676-2023 or 676-4183, pager - 297-2967, mobile - 696-6431
<b>Livestock Hauling</b>	
Pioneer Hauling Louie Pella	48' goose neck stock trailer or flatbed trailer for plants and trees 941-735-2531 or 941-998-5744 pager
Bobby Wigham	352-978-3850 or 352-583-3850 (mobile)
Ron Phay	352-242-4381
Joe Kelly	Local or long distance 6095 Lockhart Rd., Brooksville 352-799-5322
Johnny Aycock	533-0150 or 537-2503
Ron Sizemore Trucking (semi)	352-793-5266 or 800-972-8543
John Hause	20' trailer, also 20' flatbed 299-3171
J R Rolison	Livestock hauling 813-671-1061

Pete Escobio Oak Creek Ranch	Dover, FL Livestock hauling 813-659-1514
Three F Bar Ranch Stuart Fitzgerald	676-2023 or 676-4183, pager - 297-2967, mobile - 696-6431
<b>Custom Tractor Work</b>	
Art Bassford	Mowing, discing, leveling, dirt spreading, grove discing, front-end loader work, flat bed-will haul 646-3104
Ron Phay	Pasture mowing 352-242-4381
Johnny Aycock	Custom Hay Bailing, Grass sprigging 537-2503 or 352-568-0437
Donald's Tractor Work	Discing, bush hog mowing, etc. 853-1699
Jim's Backhoe Service	Ponds dug, backhoe work 859-5128
Frank Rhodes	Small pasture mowing, trenching 4" wide up to 40" deep 967-6210
Lemuel Bath	Grass planting 858-5133
T L Hancock	Tractor work, mowing, bush hog, roto tilling, box blade, grading, cut and roll hay, general work 941-424-5353
John Hause	bush hog 299-3171
J R Rolison	Tractor work 813-671-1061
David Shibles	Custom tractor work, bush hog, disc, roto tiller, bottom plow, land prep 646-9295
Daniel Thibodeau	Tractor work, discing, fertilizing, hay & feed drums 439-6013
R & R Tractor Service	bushhog, disc, finish mowing, groves and pastures 285-8796
Agri-Tiller	Complete palmetto removal 813-783-1132
Dale Locke	Custom hay bailing 858-7141
C & W Hay Baling	Custom bay bailing and pasture mowing Teke Williams, 692-1586, Lake Wales or Darrell Cranor, 665-1562, Lakeland
Danny Boatwright	Mowing, discing, fertilizer spreading, custom hay bailing round or square bales 635-1077
L-S Hay & Bailing	Larry Spears Hay cutting, square bales, tractor mowing 858-5772
Bobby Costine & Tom McBroom	Tractor work 534-8021, pager (813) 887-7574

Bryant's Spreader Service Irvin Bryant	Hauling and spreading of fertilizer, dolomite, as well as ryegrass, bahia and rhodesgrass seeds 665-3189
Bar Running W Ranch	Bruce Williams Light mowing 285-7364
Ted Sutherland Construction	Grassing, earth moving, site preparation and land reclamation 534-3378
Anderson's Land Clearing	Tree removal, front end loader work 533-6156
<b>Purebred Cattle Sales</b>	
Oak Knoll Ranch Registered Brangus	Lake Wales, FL. - Bill Adkinson, Owner and Scott Saddler, Manager Phone: Office - 676-1763, Home - 676-4414, and Fax - 676-5929
Bar Running W Ranch Registered Brangus	Bruce Williams - Phone: 285-7364
JMC Ranch, Inc. Beefmasters	Martha Carter - Phone: 676-2442
Circle G Bar Ranch Belgian Blues	Curtis Chandley - Belgian Blues, full and half bloods - 90% lean, low cholesterol beef Phone: 692-1500
John Hause Brangus	Phone: 299-3171
Evans Cattle Company Simental & Simbrah	Randy Evans - Phone: 941-285-9491 or 941-285-7457
<b>Hay For Sale</b>	
Clark Sherwood	Alicia Bermuda Mend Bales 682-6425
Art Bassford	Coastal-cross Bermuda square and round bales, will deliver 646-3104
Johnny Aycock Custom Hay Bailing	Pangola, Stargrass, Argentine or Pensacola Bahia, Hemarthria, Coastal and Callie Bermuda, mulch, round and square bales 537-2503 or 533-0150
Florida Native Flora, Inc.	Stargrass, Pensacola and Argentine Bahia, and Alfalfa, square bales 853-8695
George Watson	Bahia, mulch, square and round bales 285-9677
Gapway Grove Corporation John Strang	Florona Stargrass, round & square bales 956-3485

Donald Cason	Coastal Bermuda, round & square bales 858-7406
James R. Burney	Argentine Bahia, Pangola, round and square bales 422-8916
S-T Ranch Fred Smith	Pangola round bales 533-3322, Farm 537-1887
Bobby Costine	Pangola round bales 534-8021
Pine Creek Ranch	Bahia round bales 421-3671
Double "D" Hay Danny Boarwright	Hemarthria bales 635-1077
Joe Stokes	Rhodesgrass hay 692-1111
Bailey's Custom Hay Bailing	Rick & Karen Bailey 537-2859
Oak Knoll Ranch Lake Wales	Bill Adkinson, Owner, Scott Saddler, Manager Rhodes & Bahia rolls 676-1763 Office, 676-4414 Home, 676-5929 Fax

### **Fence Building**

Bobby Costine	534-8021 or 813-887-7574
Donald Conroy	fence building and repair 324-3521
Ron Phay	Ranch and grove fencing 352-242-4381
John Hause	299-3171
J R Rolison	custom fence building 813-671-1061
Three F Bar Ranch Stuart Fitzgerald	676-2023 or 676-4183 pager - 297-2967, mobile - 696-6431

### **Large Animal Veterinarians**

Larry Black	285-8652
Robert Gukich	Lake Wales Animal Hospital 676-1451
Anthony Weirather (Dr. Why)	Outback Animal Hospital 984-4123
Bennet Flanders	Flanders Animal Clinic 859-1100

### **Artificial Insemination**

Accelerated Genetics Bernon Rowe	A.I. service and semen sales 984-1323
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Gary Cotterrill	A.I. service, heat synchronization 646-7987
Bar Running W Ranch Bruce Williams	A.I. services 285-7364
Brian Fielder American Breeders Service Rep.	A.I. Services 537-5267
<b>Horse Training</b>	
High Gait Farm Kenneth B. Allen	Horse training, showing and riding instruction, horse sales 537-2720
Donald Conroy	324-3521
Ron Phay	Horse training and hauling, team penning and jackpot roping arena 352-242-4381
<b>Custom Cattle Slaughter</b>	
Combee & Son	Slaughtering and meat processing 984-1187
Hoof & Horn	Slaughtering and meat processing 813-752-3955
Jim Hicks	Slaughters on your farm, meat processing 813-752-2076
Osteens Custom Meat Services	Butchering, processing and smoking cattle, hogs and ostriches 352-394-6465
Redditt Meats	407-277-9483
Dan's Custom Meat Cutting Shop	Dan & Linda Scott, domestic or wild game cut and wrapped to your order 537-1445
The Meat House	Jerald Story, 941-773-4240 or Jimmy Fussell, 941-494-2112
<b>Sources of Citrus Pulp</b>	
Sun Pure	Avon Park 453-2222
Citrus World	Lake Wales 676-1411
Orange-Co	Bartow 533-0551
Peace River Citrus Products	Arcadia 494-0440
Tropicana	Brandenton- 747-4461 or Ft Pierce - 561-465-2030
Silver Springs	Howey in the Hills 800-940-2277

Florida Global Citrus	Auburndale 967-4431
Duda Citrus Belle	Labelle 675-0336
Southern Gardens US Sugar Corp	Clewiston 983-3030
Lykes Pasco Citrus	Dade City 352-521-2275

### **Sources of Byproduct Feeds**

Columbia Grain	Lake City 800-323-1594
Central States	Orlando 800-935-3503
Miracle Feeds	Trenton 800-562-0480
Archer Daniels Midland	soybean hulls and soybean meal Valdosta, GA 800-841-9612
Chickasha	whole cottonseed Albany & Tifton, GA 912-883-4580
Bay State Milling	wheat middlings Indiantown 407-597-2056 to place order - 612-332-0555

### **Miscellaneous Services**

Waters Weed Removal David Waters	Herbiciding pastures and groves, specializing in tropical soda apple control 534-1455
Florida Agricultural Consultants Sid Sumner	Wide range of experienced agricultural consulting services with emphasis on beef cattle and forage management. Cattle sales, selection, appraisals and more. 533-2192
Farm & Ranch News George Parker	Advertising, news, promotion 813-737-6397
Florida Cattlemen's Association	Bobbie Lollis, Executive V.P. Polly Golden, Ex. Dir. Beef Co. 407-846-6221
Florida Cattlemen's Magazine	800-647-0026 or Fax 407-933-8209
Fla Dept. Of Agriculture Market News Line	407-897-2708
Cattlemen's Livestock Markets	Mike and Dave Tomkow Mondays - Tampa sale 813-626-5164 and Tuesdays - Lakeland sale 665-5088
Skip Lee	Dead cattle removal 813-634-3881



Hunt's Appraisal Service John Hunt	Accredited rural appraiser, certified appraiser for farm/land, livestock, and environmental inspection office - 533-0869 or home 533-1346
Albert Roberts Lakeland Trailer	Manufacturer of utility trailers, sales and service, welding, hitches 941-666-5789
Gene Bass	Portable cow pen panels 6' x 10', pasture gates custom made 285-8345
Thompson Agri-Service David Thompson	Steel fabrication and erection, light gas & diesel repair, portable cowpens & gates, sandblasting and painting 941 -375-3977
Three F Bar Ranch Stuart Fitzgerald	676-2023 or 676-4183 pager - 297-2967 mobile - 696-6431
Best Farrier Services Timmy Best	Horses trimmed and shod 984-1169
Levi's Hoseshoeing Levi Kuhn	407-931-3435
DC Portable Welding & Fabrication Don Dumire	533-6148
Dane Hendry	Bovine foot specialist hoof trimming and lame cow specialist, home - 813-773-4055 office - 813-773-4414
F-O-F, Inc Fly on Farming Dick Weisman	aquatic weeds and mosquito control, spraying, dusting, seeding and fertilizing, flight instruction, home/office - 813-773-9300, mobile - 380-7594, or beeper - 999-0040
Polk County Extension Service	Doug Mayo-Livestock/Youth (941) 533-0765, Fax (941) 534-0001

## **Burch Wet Blade May Cut Weed Control Costs**

The Burch Company of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina has developed a machine that may make controlling problem weeds more affordable. This machine combines the mechanical weed control of a bush hog mower with the ability to also use herbicides for a more complete kill.

The machine is a modified rotary mower that wipes the stalks of cut weeds with a low volume of herbicide. After a weed stalk is cut, the plant draws in all the moisture from the end of the stalk. The herbicide is drawn in along with the sap and kills the plant. This natural process takes place almost instantly, so the herbicide must be applied as the stalk is cut.

Currently the wet blade system is available on a 6 foot mower, but it will soon be available on a 15 foot batwing mower. In the fixture Burch will be developing a front mount mowing deck to provide even better chemical control, because the tractor tires will not crush the weeds before the chemical is applied. Depending upon the volume of liquid applied, the wet blade can cover 6 to 15 acres before the chemical magazines need refilling.

Dr. Jeff Mullahey, of the University of Florida's Southwest Florida Research and Education Center-Immokalee, is conducting research comparing the Burch Wet Blade with normal herbicide broadcast spraying. The first year's data showed that the wet blade gave equal weed control to broadcast spraying when using the same volume of chemical per acre. Now Dr. Mullahey will begin testing control using lower chemical rates per acre. There must be a reduction in chemical costs to offset the original cost of the machine. Currently the only advantages to the using the wet blade versus a traditional spray rig is the immediate removal of weed material and no off-target herbicide drip.

Dr. Mullahey has been working with tropical soda apple, dogfennel and giant smutgrass. So far the smutgrass control with the wet blade has not been adequate, but the soda apple and dogfennel control is very promising. It takes several years of trial to adequately test new techniques. The wet blade may prove to be a valuable weapon against hard to control pasture weeds.

## Mole Cricket Bait Trial Inconclusive

In July, a study was started by Dr. Martin Adjei, Extension Specialist Ona Range Cattle Research and Education Center and Doug Mayo, Polk County Livestock Extension Agent to study population changes of mole crickets in bahiagrass pastures and to evaluate the effectiveness of the new *Prozap* mole cricket bait produced by Hacco, Inc. United Agriproducts of Florida supplied the bait and three ranchers in Polk County: A.D. Combee and George Clark of Polk City and Jack Waters, Lakeland provided 20 acres each for the test.

Each site was divided into two 10 acre plots. One plot was treated with the bait and one left untreated as a control. Six pit-fall traps (made from 5 gallon buckets and 4-10 ft. x 3" PVC pipes) were installed and checked weekly and the number of crickets counted and recorded.

The weekly trap catch totals allowed for a study of the overall population and how they moved around the pasture as soil moisture changed. Basically many common beliefs were proven true. During periods of standing water, large numbers of crickets were captured in the traps on the high ground. Also during short drought periods the mole crickets spread out to wetter areas and then followed the surface water as it went down into the ground. This migration was even more noticeable in November once the crickets had wings and could fly to higher ground.

The *Prozap* mole cricket bait was applied twice at a rate of 10 pounds per acre. This product is made with 10% Sevin as the active ingredient and molasses as the attractant. These applications were made September 4 and October 3 following a rain. The first application came after an extended dry period over the last few weeks of August. There had been a recent rain but not enough to drive the crickets to the surface in large

numbers. For this reason there was a second application of bait following a weekend of very heavy rains. This rain provided a period of saturation and standing water.

At all three sites dead mole crickets were found following treatment, so we do know that if the bait is consumed the 10% Sevin is effectively killing the mole crickets. There was a definite decline in the mole cricket population (approximately 72% on one site), however, there was also several weeks of dry weather following the second application and mole cricket populations went way down in the untreated areas as well. This made it difficult to tell if the decline was due to the bait or just natural conditions.

A final conclusion on the effectiveness of this bait could not be made because of the huge swings in soil moisture this year. From the observations of the population move, it appears that there may be an optimal time to apply bait. If a bait were applied during periods of standing water to the high, dry portions of a pasture, it might be possible to kill large numbers of crickets with a limit amount of bait. More research will be conducted in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Doug Mayo

Livestock Extension Agent I

# *Calendar Of Events*

## **January**

8	Frostproof FFA Livestock Judging Contest, Frostproof
13	Junior Cattlemen's Assoc. Youth Fair Contest Workshop, Bartow
13	Ocala All Breed Bull Sale
22	Fla. Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show, Kissimmee
22-31	Citrus Festival, Auburndale
26	Cow Herd Vaccination Seminar, Bartow

## **February**

2-8	Agrifest, Bartow
6	Cattlemen's Livestock Market All Breed Bull Sale, Lakeland
5-14	Fla. State Fair, Tampa

16-20	Agrifest, Bartow
23-March 7	Central Fla. Fair, Orlando
<b>March</b>	
4-5	FCA Quarterly Meeting, Tallahassee
7-13	Polk County Youth Fair, Bartow 7-Horse Show 9-Hog and Dairy Show 10-Hog Sale & Lamb Show 11-Jr. Cattlemen & Whip 12-Beef & Steer Shows 13-Citrus, Lamb, and Steer Sale
<b>April</b>	
7-8	Land & Resource Management School, Arcadia
16-18	NCBA Region II Meeting, Orlando
28-30	Reproductive Management School, Wauchula
<b>May</b>	
6-8	Beef Cattle Short Course, Gainesville
21	Florida Cattlemen's Institute Ranch Tour, Deseret Ranch, St. Cloud



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