



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Animal Science Newsletter

June 2001

DATES TO REMEMBER

June:

- 7-8 Small Farm Field Day and Show - Quincy
- 15 Nomination Deadline for 2001 Florida Bull Test
- 16-17 CVM Annual Florida Goat Production Conference - Gainesville
- 16-17 CVM MBNA Equine Convention
- 17-23 Florida Cattleman's Convention - Marco Island
- 19-21 Natural Resources Forum: Watershed Science, Policy, Planning and Management - Can We Make it Work in Florida? - Tampa
- 25-27 Hog & Ham - Gainesville
- 28 State 4-H Horse Bowl - Gainesville
- TBA Annual Equine Health Conference

July:

- 12-14 State 4-H Horse Show - FL State Fairgrounds
- 12-14 Senepol Cattle Breeders Association Annual National Convention - Kissimmee
- 14 Senepol Cattle Breeders Association National Sale - Kissimmee
- 27-28 Fall Born Bulls Delivery to Test Site

PREPARED BY EXTENSION SPECIALISTS IN ANIMAL SCIENCES

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BEEF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

JUNE

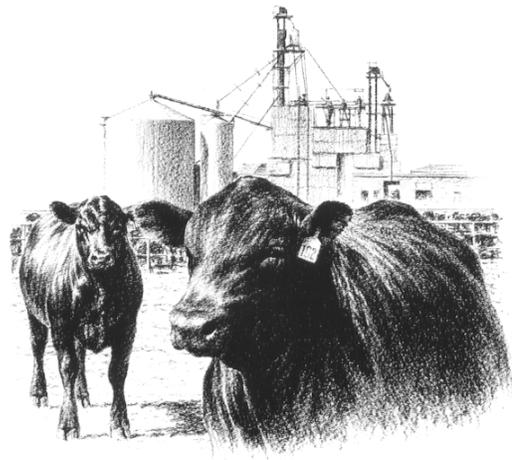
- S Last date for planting sorghum.
- S Check mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 1/2 to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- S Check pastures and hay field for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and army worms. Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.
- S Check dust bags.
- S Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- S Utilize available veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories.
- S Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.
- S Pregnancy check cows.
- S Update market information and plans.
- S Make first cutting of hay.
- S Put bulls out June 1 for calves starting March 11.
- S Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

JULY

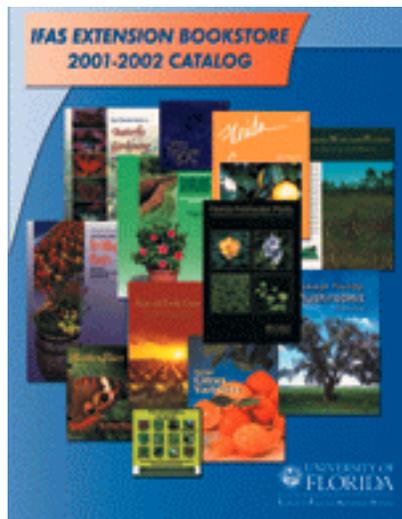
- S Control weeds in summer pastures.
- S Apply nitrogen to warm season pastures, if needed.
- S Check mineral feeder.
- S Check for army worms and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- S Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- S Watch for evidence of footrot and treat.
- S Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.
- S Check dust bags.
- S Update market information and plans.
- S Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

AUGUST

- S Cut corn silage.
- S Cut hay.
- S Apply lime for fall and winter crops.
- S Harvest Bahiagrass seed.
- S Check mineral feeder.
- S Update market information and marketing plans.
- S Check for army worms, spittlebugs, and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- S Check dust bags.
- S Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- S Watch for evidence of abortions.
- S Observe animals regularly for signs of disease.
- S If cattle grubs were found on cattle last winter or heel flies were observed in the pasture, treat for cattle grubs this month.
- S Pregnancy test and cull open heifers from replacement herd.



UF/IFAS BOOKSTORE EXPANDS SERVICES TO MEET DEMAND



Consumers seeking advice from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service can get it fast from the IFAS-Extension Bookstore's 2001 catalog and redesigned Web site.

"In response to public demand, we're making our products more accessible to customers outside the Gainesville area," said Eva Squires, marketing coordinator for the IFAS-Extension Bookstore. "We've also simplified the ordering process."

Squires said the catalog and Web site offer more than 200 books, videotapes, computer software items and other resources, many of them updated for 2001. The catalog will be available in early June; the Web site is already functional.

To aid customers, the catalog and Web site are organized identically. All resources are grouped into topics, including agriculture, education, fruits and vegetables, home and community, landscape and lawns, natural resources and wildlife, livestock and poultry, pesticide training and management guides, she said.

"We redesigned the Web site for easier use," she said. "Every product is accessible with a maximum of three mouse clicks. We tried to make the site equally convenient for customers seeking a specific item, and those who want to browse."

Squires said both the Web site and catalog will be supplemented as new items become available. Customers can request to receive product updates by e-mail.

To help customers select resources to meet their needs, IFAS-Extension Bookstore representatives can answer questions by telephone. Five ordering options are available, including secure online credit card ordering with same-day shipping, she said.

"Many of our customers requested online credit card ordering because it's so much faster, and we're very pleased to have it now," Squires said. "We accept VISA and MasterCard."

Some IFAS-Extension Bookstore resources are available from other distributors, she said. Most major retailers can order out-of-stock IFAS-Extension products using International Standard Book Numbering (ISBN) identification numbers.

"We believe IFAS-Extension Bookstore products offer Florida residents the best possible value," Squires said. "They're developed from research by UF and extension scientists."

She said IFAS-Extension Bookstore products demonstrate the partnership between UF research and extension.

"Together, we find out what works for Florida," she said. "Extension helps researchers understand what the public needs, researchers help extension provide solutions for the public. It's a winning combination."

Squires said extension services throughout the Southeast look to UF for innovative programs and products.

"We get phone inquiries all the time from extension personnel who have seen our publications and want to adapt them for their own states," she said. "It's great to know our work is well-regarded outside of Florida."

The IFAS-Extension Bookstore web site can be accessed at <http://IFASbooks.ufl.edu>. To order a free catalog call (800) 226-1764. For product information, call (352) 392-1764.

SOURCE: Eva Squires
By: Tom Nordlie

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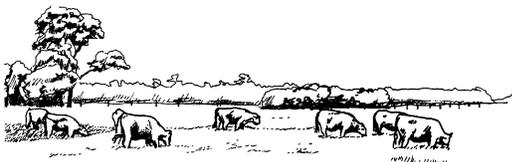
ANIMAL SCIENCES PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

The Department of Animal Sciences will continue to strive towards making as many of our publications available, from our web page, as possible.

The newest addition is the proceedings for the 50th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course, which was held May 2-4, 2001, in Gainesville, Florida. The articles are available in both html and pdf format and can be accessed at <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/BeefCattle/Pubs/Short01/shortcrs.htm>.

If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is necessary for viewing and printing the pdf format files, you may download the free version from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

We will continue to update you as publications become available.



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USDA EXERCISE ROVING SANDS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to be vigilant in its efforts to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) into the United States. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working with the U.S. military on Exercise Roving Sands, an annual military exercise involving international participants. Military personnel and equipment from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Germany are headed to Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico to attend the U.S. exercise June 15-24.

Because of active FMD outbreaks in the United Kingdom and the European Union, USDA is requiring that these three regions comply with stringent agricultural safeguards to protect against the introduction of FMD. USDA allows the importation of military equipment from countries affected by FMD, but only after they have been thoroughly cleaned and inspected. USDA will not accept any equipment that has been used in the control or clean up of FMD outbreaks.

While Germany has not suffered from an FMD outbreak, the country is subject to the same strict entry requirements as countries currently affected by the disease because it is part of the European Union. U.S. military customs inspectors and APHIS personnel have already precleared Germany's equipment for the exercise, and the equipment is currently enroute to the United States.

U.S. military customs inspectors and APHIS personnel will be in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom monitoring the cleaning and inspection of all equipment from those regions scheduled to participate in the Exercise Roving Sands activities. The equipment will also be disinfected.

Equipment from all three regions will be reinspected upon arrival in the United States. Any

equipment that does not meet 'APHIS' cleanliness standards will be refused entry and returned to the ship. All personnel and their baggage will be subject to inspection before their departure and again upon arrival in the United States to protect against the threat of FMD.

USDA takes every precaution, including inspections, use of canine teams, and x-rays, to ensure that military equipment from foreign countries meets all required safeguards.

For more information about FMD, visit the USDA website at www.usda.gov. For recorded traveler information call 1-866-safeguard.



This beagle, one of USDA's Beagle Brigade detector dogs, searches travelers' luggage for prohibited fruit, plants, and meat that could harbor harmful plant and animal pests and diseases. Get more information about USDA's Detector Dogs at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/fmd/detdogs.html>.

SOURCE: APHIS Background
May 2001

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FEEDING WEANED CALVES IN FLORIDA

We have conducted many trials on the preconditioning calves with feed after weaning. In three trials with Lykes Brothers Ranch in the 1970's, steer calves were fed 25 days after weaning in covered, dirt pens at Wild Island. Pay weights (liveweight less 3%) at weaning and out of the preconditioning pens showed that calves gained 25 pounds. Each calf ate 205 pounds of a preconditioning feed with free access to hay. Death loss in Florida was 1%. Calves preconditioned with feed in Florida subsequently gained faster and had less sickness and deaths when finished in a Texas feedlot than similar calves shipped direct to the feedlot at weaning.

In two trials in 1986 steer calves were fed a commercial preconditioning feed 21 days after weaning. In trial 1, calves shipped from Belle Glade were fed in covered, concrete pens at Ona. In trial 2, calves raised at Ona were fed in open, dirt pens. In both trials, pay weight gains were 30 pounds per steer or 1.4 pounds per day. It required 273 pounds of preconditioning feed per calf.

In the 1990's Dr. Bill Brown conducted six trials at Ona with heifer calves fed 30 days after weaning in open, dirt pens. Feed treatments included soybean hulls, soybean hulls + cottonseed meal, and a commercial weaning feed. Pay weight gain was 27 pounds per heifer with no difference among the three types of feed. Preconditioning required 275 pounds of feed per heifer.

In summary, calves preconditioned with feed 4 weeks after weaning in Florida gain 30 to 40 pounds of pay weight. Adding feed, equipment, vaccines, medications, facilities, and death losses, it will cost \$30 to \$35 to precondition a calf four weeks after weaning. With \$100 per cwt for 500 pound calves and 1.25 pounds per day gain, one would breakeven on a similar feeding program.

Will buyers pay a premium for calves preconditioned with feed after weaning to provide

a profit incentive? Dr. Michael King at Colorado State University analyzed four years of sales data accumulated by Superior Livestock Video Auctions throughout the U.S. (King, et al., 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, CSU Beef Program Reports). The study involved a huge amount of data with 6,800 lots and 832,000 calves. Calves averaged 537 pounds when sold at a mean price of \$67.21 and \$74.16 per cwt for heifers and steers, respectively.

Dr. King compared sale prices of calves receiving all vaccinations and sold at weaning with that of calves similarly vaccinated but fed 45 days after weaning (Vac-45). Calves fed 45 days after weaning bought a \$1.94 per cwt premium. With current calf prices and a similar premium it is marginally profitable to precondition calves with feed four weeks after weaning in Florida. With a lower price for feeder calves preconditioning with feed becomes questionable.

Even if preconditioning is not profitable on a pay weight plus a premium basis, it may be cost effective to feed retained-ownership calves after weaning because of production advantages obtained later in the feedlot.

If calves are preconditioned with feed in south Florida, be certain that they are fed in a high, dry area. Heavy rains in July, August, and September can result in standing water, muddy conditions, low feed intake, poor gains, and increase sickness and death losses.

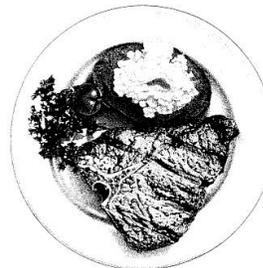
An alternative is to contract feeding calves with a commercial backgrounding operation 45 or more days. A second alternative is to background calves 45 or more days on good quality, well drained pasture and a limited amount of dry concentrate supplement, preferably during the early fall months after the rainy season.

The important thing is to get calves on dry concentrate feed and good quality forage (pasture or hay) immediately after weaning whether shipped or retained. Calves retained on the ranch, including replacement heifers, should be fed dry concentrate

feed 3 to 4 weeks after weaning to maintain health. When feeding is discontinued calves should have access to good quality pasture.

SOURCE: Findlay Pate
Range Cattle REC - Ona
Published in The Peace River
Farmer and Rancher - June, 2001

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2001 PASTURE TO PLATE

Steer Performance
Evaluation in the Feedlot
& on the Rail

Florida's beef cattle industry with 975,000 cows ranks 12th in the U.S. and has the third largest cow herd east of the Mississippi. The inventory value of all cattle and calves in Florida on January 1, 2001, was \$1,134,000,000 and produced cash receipts of \$309,852,000 in 1999. The Florida beef industry must continue to be competitive and we must improve the quality of our calves to maintain our market share and value. Also knowing the performance of your cattle on the rail and in the feedyard is important when evaluating new marketing alternatives that are being offered.

The first step in this process is to determine what you are presently producing and where improvement is needed. *Pasture to Plate* is a program designed to give cattle producers valuable information about their cattle that will enable them to build on the strengths, as well as pinpointing their weaknesses, in breeding, health and/or management practices.

Pasture to Plate is an educational program for cattle producers. The purpose is to give

cattlemen the opportunity to: (1) evaluate the feedlot performance of their cattle, (2) obtain individual carcass quality and cutability information on their cattle, (3) become familiar with custom feeding practices and procedures, and retained ownership without the investment and risk involved in feeding an entire pen of cattle.

This program is sponsored by the Marketing Committee of the Florida Cattlemen's Association in cooperation with the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Cattle will be custom fed at a commercial feedyard after a 45 day commingled backgrounding in Florida.
2. A consignor may enter a minimum of 5 head of home raised steers averaging between 500 and 600 pounds.
3. Consignments are due June 30, or September 1, 2001 with a consignment fee of \$100.00 per head for trucking, feed cost and administrative costs associated with collection and dissemination of the performance and carcass data.
4. All cattle will be fed as a group. Each consignor's cattle will be individually identified with a numbered ear tag and a tattoo in the ear.
5. Each steer will be weighed and a market value assigned by representatives of the Federal-State Market News service to allow economic evaluation of each steer in the lot and on the rail.
6. Cattle will be fed to an estimated low choice carcass quality grade, or to a point of maximum return potential, as determined by the feedlot management.
7. ***Steers remain the property of the consignor and the CONSIGNOR assumes responsibility for loss by death or injury.***
8. The FCA Marketing Committee, its members, members of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and the FCA staff are only a facilitator who will arrange transportation, backgrounding and coordinate the shipping, data handling and dissemination of the data.
9. The feedyard will receive, process, feed and market the cattle the same way they and the rest of

the industry routinely do. They will market the cattle when they are finished and contract for the collection of the carcass data at the packing plant. They will individually weigh the cattle upon arrival and again approximately halfway through the feeding period. The cost of feed will be pro-rated among the cattle and the feed bill (including interest) plus the cost of carcass data collection (approximately \$6.00/head) and any medication required will be deducted from the proceeds when the cattle are marketed.

10. Only information pertaining to the entire pen, or generic divisions thereof, will be made available to the public and data from individual animals will be kept confidential.

PRE-DELIVERY CALF MANAGEMENT

All steers must be:

Dehorned, castrated and healed.

Dewormed treated for lice and grubs.

Vaccinated twice for:

- **IBR, P13, BVD, BRSV**
- **Haemophilus Somnus**
- **Pasteurella (toxoid+cell antigen)**
- **5 way Leptospirosis**
- **7 way Clostridia (blackleg)**

The second round of vaccinations must be administered 15 days before the consignment deadline with at least 21 days between the first and second.

The steers must be weaned and taught to eat from a bunk or trough and drink from a water tank. The calves will be commingled and given appropriate preventative health measures upon arrival. Actual assembly dates are planned approximately 15 to 30 days after the consignment deadline. Shipment to the feedlot will be approximately 45 days after assembly.

SUGGESTIONS

Don't send only your best or worst calves, send a representative sample of your herd. If trying to evaluate a bull for feedlot and carcass traits you need to accumulate data on a minimum

of 16 progeny. They do not all have to be fed in the same year.

**PASTURE TO PLATE
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME _____

RANCH _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

NUMBER OF STEERS x \$100.00 = _____

Make check payable to:

FLORIDA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MAIL TO:

Mr. Jim Handley
Executive Vice President
Florida Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 421929
Kissimmee, FL 34742-1929

For additional information contact:

FCA Office (Jim Handley) - (407) 846-6221 or
Dr. Bob Sand - (352) 392-7529

Sponsored by:



SOURCE: Bob Sand
Department of Animal Sciences
University of Florida

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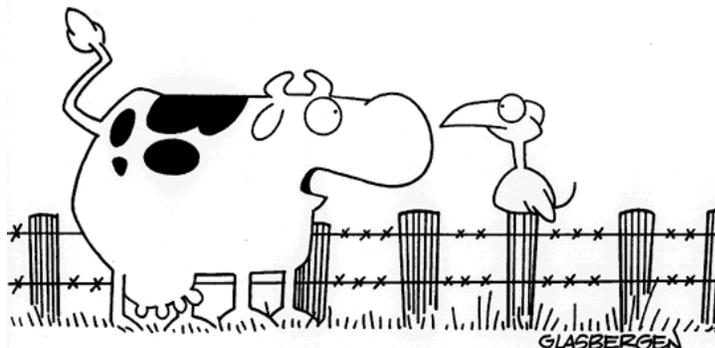
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Laughing Stock

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**"It's true, I did jump over the moon.
I had waaaaay too much coffee that day!"**