



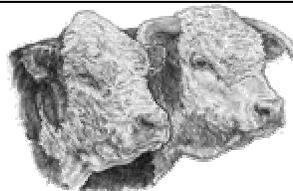
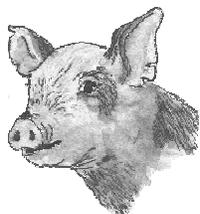
UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

# Animal Science Newsletter

September 2001



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### September

- 11 Florida Limousin Association Show & Sale - Fair grounds, Lake City
- 29 Equine Institute and Allied Trade Show - Volusia County
- 29 FL Santa Gertrudis Assoc. Cattlemen's Kind Auction - Bartow

### October

- 1 Oak Knoll and Mo Brangus Bull Sale - Arcadia
- 5 FCA Replacement Heifer Sale - Ocala
- 11 UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Field Day - Ona
- 7-13 National 4-H Week - Statewide
- 19 Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee
- 26 Lemmon Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee

## PREPARED BY EXTENSION SPECIALISTS IN ANIMAL SCIENCES

- ❖ F.G. Hembry, Professor, Department Chairman
- ❖ R.S. Sand, Associate Professor, Extension Livestock Specialist
- ❖ E.L. Johnson, Associate Professor, Extension Equine Specialist
- ❖ W.E. Kunkle, Professor, Extension Beef Specialist
- ❖ F.W. Leak, Associate Professor, Extension Meat Specialist
- ❖ S.H. TenBroeck, Associate Professor, Extension Youth Specialist
- ❖ R.O. Myer, Professor, Animal Nutritionist, Marianna
- ❖ W. Taylor, Coordinator Youth Education/Training



September 3

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Beef Cattle Management Calendar .....	2
First West Nile Virus Vaccine For Horses Released .....	2-3
The Animal Rights 2001 Conference.....	3-6
Quarter Million Bucks At Stake For Best Angus Breed Cattle .....	6
Comparative Intake and Nutrient Digestibility of the Grass Forages: Florakirk and Tifton 85 Bermudagrasses and Florona Stargrass To Coastal Bermudagrass Fed To Horses.....	7-8

The newsletter is also available on the web at <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/BeefCattle/Newsletter/index.htm>.

## BEEF MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

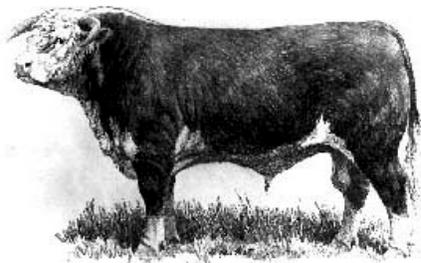
- Cut hay.
- Heavily grazed pastures to be interplanted to cool season pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for mole crickets, spittlebugs, and grassloopers, and treat if necessary.
- Check dust bags.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd if not already done. Remove open, unsound poor producing or overage cows.
- Train cowboys to observe normal and abnormal behavior and signs of disease.
- Be sure any replacement purchases are healthy and have been calfhooed vaccinated for brucellosis.
- September or October is a good time to deworm the cow herd if internal parasites are a problem.
- When replacement heifers are weaned, give them required vaccinations and teach them to eat - then put them on a good nutrition program.
- Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
- Review winter feed supply and feeding plans so that needed adjustments can be made before supplies tighten and prices rise.

### OCTOBER

- Plant cool season legumes.
- Plant small grain pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for external parasites, especially lice, and treat if needed.
- Check for spittlebugs and grassloopers and treat, if needed.
- Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition.
- Isolate any additions to the herd for 30 to 60 days and observe for signs of disease; retest for brucellosis and leptospirosis.
- Be sure you have adequate handling facilities, and they are in good working order.

### NOVEMBER

- Have soils tested.
- Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
- Calve in well-drained pastures.
- Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
- Start summarizing your annual records, both production and financial-then you will have time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
- Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.



## FIRST WEST NILE VIRUS VACCINE FOR HORSES RELEASED

The equine industry called out for a way to protect its horses from the deadly neurological disease West Nile virus (WNV), and researchers and federal authorities responded.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Fort Dodge Animal Health announced Wednesday, Aug. 1, the approval and release of the very first WNV vaccine for horses. The virus had already begun to appear in horses in the panhandle of Florida. This is the southernmost and earliest onset of equine cases in the three years since the virus first appeared in the Western Hemisphere. To be conditionally licensed, the vaccine had to meet federal standards of purity, safety, and reasonable expectation for efficacy. Each state will have to give approval for the vaccine's use, and most states have conditionally licensed products available only through a veterinarian.

West Nile virus hit the northeastern United States in 1999, baffling public health officials and epidemiologists when it killed birds, horses, and humans. Officials are still not sure how the disease was introduced in the United States, but they believe after studying the genetic makeup of many virus samples it was a single introductory occurrence. The virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and harbored by birds. West Nile virus killed 36% of its diagnosed equine victims in 1999, and 38% in 2000.

Officials hope the vaccine will give veterinarians the upper hand in preventing the appearance of equine cases, which typically do not occur until late summer or early fall. (Learn more about the history of WNV in this country at [http://www.thehorse.com/news/index\\_westnile.html](http://www.thehorse.com/news/index_westnile.html)).

In February of 2000 when the USDA was forming its WNV Strategic Plan, authorities agreed to expedite the processing of applications for conditional licensure of a WNV vaccine. Several pharmaceutical companies were working to make the vaccine available to the horse industry, but Fort Dodge was the first to complete field trials to test the safety of the vaccine in horses and submit their product to the USDA Veterinary Services' Center for Veterinary Biologics in Ames, Iowa, for conditional approval.

The killed vaccine consists of a two-dose initial series of injections given intramuscularly. The vaccine is a "first generation" product, meaning that other approaches are already in the works to provide a vaccine that will allow better differentiation between horses naturally exposed to WNV and horses which have been vaccinated for the virus. According to industry sources, there should be 25,000 doses of the vaccine immediately available, and 4,000 more available at the first of September. In mid-September, Fort Dodge should release another 200,000 doses of the vaccine, followed by a possible 600,000 by the first of November. The vaccine price should remain in the ballpark of the costs of routine equine vaccines.

Tom Overbay, DVM, Director of Professional Services at Fort Dodge Animal Health stated, "We definitely have a product that does no harm. We certainly don't want unrealistic or unreasonable fear of the virus; we want horse owners to use a product because they think it is good medicine." Overbay explained that the vaccine has been shown to stimulate an immune response in the animal against the virus. "Whether the immune response that is stimulated is the correct immune response to prevent the disease, that's something continual testing will answer for us," he said. Proof of an immune response has been used to grant full approval to other equine vaccines used to prevent Eastern/Western/Venezuelan encephalitis, and this represents the same criteria in approving human vaccines.

But as with all health products, the vaccine will need to be part of a sound health management disease program, according to Overbay. "It's just a part of the program, along with sound nutrition, the horse's housing, and as much protection from mosquitoes as possible. All these things roll together."

Horses affected by parasites or suffering from inadequate nutrition cannot mount as strong an immune response against WNV as horses which are healthy and on a good preventive health care program.

Only time will tell whether this vaccine will be a solution to the problem of disease in horses caused by West Nile virus.

**SOURCE:** The Blood-Horse  
<http://bloodhorse.com>  
 Release – August 2, 2001

-ELJ-



## THE ANIMAL RIGHTS 2001 CONFERENCE

**Terrorism and a Radical Agenda at a  
Hilton Hotel, as described by Jim Beers  
(July 10, 2001)**

After several requests by Conservation Force, an international sustainable use conservation organization located in Louisiana, I agreed to attend the annual animal rights meeting. The Conference ran from June 30 to July 5 at the Hilton Hotel in McClean, Virginia. John Jackson, Chairman of Conservation Force, believed that it was important for hunters and other sustainable use supporters to attend this conference just as animal rights representatives attended annual wildlife management meetings. This made sense to me.

I was surprised to learn that no other sustainable use or hunting or fishing group planned to have anyone attend this meeting in a suburb of Washington. As the five days passed, I discovered that no participants or attendees from any of the national conservation groups were to be found, here in their own backyard. To the best of my knowledge, no one else who questioned the goals or tactics of the animal rights movement was in attendance.

Those of you who hunt, fish, trap, wear fur, raise mink, sell fur or leather products, train animals, have pets, enjoy rodeos, enjoy circuses, live on ranches or farms, log timber or graze animals, use wood products, eat meat, eat eggs, eat cheese, eat wild fish and wildlife, eat seafood, attend dog races, support animal research for human treatments, support proactive fish and wildlife management for human benefit, use public lands, own guns, support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, wear leather, oppose terrorism, oppose intimidation, oppose physical threats, recreate in the outdoors with your families, love your children, want you religious institutions kept free from infiltration and manipulation, believe in the Constitutional freedoms of the USA, oppose the continued expansion of Federal power, oppose forcible establishment of rule by anarchy in our USA, oppose the efforts of the UN to regulate everything to do with fish and wildlife and guns throughout the world, and who love this nation and what it stand for; should have been there. Organizations that represent your interests should have been there. Law enforcement organizations should have been there.

The people and groups that gathered at this luxury Hilton Hotel for five days, made no bones that they are going to eliminate every traditional use of animals and many other American freedoms

and traditions. They have been going about this incrementally for years. Since there have been no serious consequences of their activities, the boldness and arrogance has reached gargantuan proportions. They clearly believe and preach the radical reformation of the way we live, the way we relate to our government, and the elimination of most freedoms that we take for granted here in the USA. They intend to change the relationship between mankind and the animal world that has existed for millennia.

This radical movement must be brought into the light of day. Their agenda, from mandated veganism to obtaining legal rights first for apes and then for all other animals, must be understood by all of us. The current process where bear hunting is voted out in one state and all of us say, "I don't hunt bears." Where wild Himalayan sheep are added to UN lists and all of us say, "I will never get to the Himalayas." Where public land is locked up and we say, "I will never have to use that land." Where dog breeders are restricted to low numbers or forbidden to breed their dogs and we say, "I have a cat." This incremental process of dividing us and slowly taking away right after right, this must be exposed and responded to by all of us, including those vegans and disgruntled citizens who value freedom and America's promise.

The only way for me to convey the truly frightening experience of attending this conference is to describe what I encountered. I earnestly hope that the reader will be convinced to treat this movement with the serious consideration and public scrutiny that it deserves. If all of us don't pull together to maintain our freedoms and way of life, these people will surely turn us into a society that our forefathers would not recognize and in which we, and I ultimately believe they, would not want to live.

I can only report what I saw through the eyes of a 60-year-old white male. These are also the eyes and ears of a Catholic wildlife biologist and ex-law enforcement officer who hunts, fishes, and understands the benefits of proactive fish and wildlife management. After a stint with the Utah Game and Fish, the US Navy, the Minneapolis Police Department, and 30 years in various locations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service; I am what I am and I see what I see. All of these things are relevant to what I am about to report to you.

Although the First Amendment guarantees the right of free speech and free assembly, many of the things I saw and heard could only be characterized as inciting mayhem. Many of the people making presentations crossed state lines to get there and there were numerous inferences, suggestions, and encouragements to commit violent and unlawful acts of major magnitudes.

### Arrival and Registration

Walking through the parking lot each day revealed an abundance of bumper stickers. Most referred to veganism in varying intensities. The eventual imposition of veganism nationwide was the most common. Other stickers referred to resisting globalism, disrupting NAFTA, outlawing circuses, outlawing rodeos, stopping fishing, stopping hunting, stopping dog racing, protesting at Seattle and Quebec, intimidating the World Bank, and outlawing all fur and leather.

The exhibit area outside, lays between the registration desk and the conference rooms. Passing through the exhibits revealed an incredible range of protest topics. The following is a partial list of the handouts and publications:

- How the international chemistry industry is killing poor people around the world.
- How President Bush is using religion to kill our Constitution.
- Why we must stop the war on drugs.

- How the World Bank is being forced to meet the demands of protesters.
- Why we should teach children not to be ashamed of their bodies.
- How all religions were originally vegan.
- Ending the use of animals in research, testing, and education.
- Stopping the use of animals for meat, eggs, and dairy products.
- Spiritual Communication with animals.
- Using animal communicators.
- What would Jesus eat today?
- Stopping logging in the Philippines.
- How President Bush is oppressing minorities.
- Why we shouldn't eat bananas, chocolate, or beef; or use coffee.
- How to stop union busting in Haiti.
- Boycotting McDonalds, Macy's, Anheuser Busch, and the Back Bay Restaurant Group.
- Why criminals start out as animal abusers.
- What's wrong with—leather, hunting, seafood, fur, meat, etc.
- Protesting in Solidarity with the U'wa People.
- The Global Sweatshop Coalition.
- Ending Procter and Gamble Testing on animals.
- Internships for animal rights, indigenous rights, anti-sweatshop, and anti-fur.
- Internship for Direct Action/Civil Disobedience.

There were more things here but space is limited. I mention these to give the reader a taste of the atmosphere at this conference.

#### Video Presentations and Sessions

Videos were constantly being shown. The following selections represent the flavor of those presentations:

- Igniting a Revolution. A sympathetic primer by radical environmental and animal activists on "ecotage."
- Sexual Politics of Meat. Carol Adams, feminist-vegetarian author.
- Animal Liberation: The Movie. Alf raids of British laboratories and factory farms.
- What's Wrong With Hunting. By Buffalo Bills Coach Marv Levy.
- Puppy Mill Expose. By actor Charlize Theron.
- The Real Life of Circus Animals. By Ali McGraw.
- Great American Meatout. By Ed Asner.
- Money and Myths. How state wildlife agencies fail to protect wildlife.
- The Burger King Campaign. By Dan Rather.
- Australia Factory Farm Raids.

There were many others on trapping, chicken farms, the cowboy image, etc. There were four concurrent sessions throughout the days. Here are selections from the program:

- When Is Killing OK? (Attacking animals? Unwanted dogs & cats? Fetuses or babies?)
- What Rights? Which Animals? (Should intelligence matter?)
- Getting Attention (Legally) (Effective use of street demonstrations)
- Getting Attention (Otherwise) (CD's, disruptions, banner drops, rescues, phone/web siege, destruction)
- Animal Spirituality (Communicating with animals)
- How Broad Our Ethics? (Can we justify lying, cheating, stealing, subordinating other social goals?)
- Animal Victimhood (Commonality of oppression of animals, children, women, minorities)
- Winning Hearts and Minds (Changing behavior through feelings and beliefs)
- Your Son or the Rat? (Whose life do we value?)
- Role of Violence
- Direct Tactics (economic and peer pressure, physical threats)
- Enacting Federal Legislation (issues, coalitions, legislators and committees)

- How Can We All Get Together? (What are the opportunities and obstacles? What are the steps?)
- Enacting State and Local Laws
- What Price Solidarity? (When should we tolerate damaging tactics or statements by other leaders?)
- What Price Animal Liberation? (How far should we go to liberate animals? What should be off limits?)
- Medicine Campaigns (Huntingdon, Coulston, OPRC, Procter & Gamble, WWAIL)
- Outreach to Women and Minorities
- Outreach to Religion
- Companion Campaigns (property, puppy mills, spay/neuter, no-kill, Korean dogs)

#### Things Heard in the Sessions

I could only attend one-fourth of the sessions because there were four presented at a time in four locations. I can only say that those I did attend ranged from very old rhetoric about trapping and hunting to scary references to the violent change of our form of government. There were reportedly over a thousand attendees. Many were my age and boasted about starting in the Vietnam protests. Many of the middle-aged attendees boasted of other protest movement experience on behalf of radical feminism, the environment, and oppressed workers and minorities. About a third of the attendees were under 25. Many of these were heavily tattooed and made liberal use of metal rings through various body parts. My guess would be that half of them were attending their first such conference. In my opinion, they were being scrutinized by many of the sponsors and session instructors. They were encouraged to meet with instructors later in hallways and at dinner if they were interested in learning "more" about what was discussed and the things only alluded to.

It appeared to be a bazaar for inducting young people into terrorist activities. Keep this in mind as you read the following excerpts from sessions which I attended.

#### General Comments

- Animals are like exploited workers and prisoners.
- WTO demonstrations helped to save turtles.
- Oppressed people are like labor and environmental supporters.
- Pollution is just like police brutality. Use it as an excuse to demonstrate and forage coalitions.
- Abortion rights activists can help to involve the women's movement and the lesbian/gay activists.
- An eco-feminist ethicist ranted against patriarchy and the "Miss Vegan" contests.
- A German leftist studied right wing extremism. He concludes: People in power exploit, oppress, and exclude. Speciesism is racist and right wing like Nazism talked about Slavs. Invading Russia was like invading the wilderness. Nazism today is the animal users who enslave and kill animals like slave laborers who were "hunted" for the sport by Nazis.
- Competition establishes inequality and oppression.
- Guns must be eliminated from society.
- Anyone with a gun wants to kill.

#### On Tactics...

- I've been arrested six times and I still teach at my University.
- Some places like San Francisco will never prosecute you for anything.
- Put bricks through windows to intimidate wives and children.
- Baseball bats, when they pull into their driveways, have a way of discouraging people.
- Sometimes you have to "blow shit up."
- Some people should be "blown up."

- Bomb threats at key moments, in England, have won the day for us.
- Harass business acquaintances on the golf course and their neighbors.
- Break up stockholder meetings and company parties.
- Here's how to find out where people live.
- There is "other" stuff that I will be glad to tell you about in the hall or after the dinner.
- There are no consequences of arrest.
- Break-ins, destroying property (fire, etc.) is all justified since society refuses to protect animals.
- Make things as costly as you can.
- I'm proud of all my threats.
- Propagandize and energize the young, especially radicals in their teens and twenties who will take risks.
- Institute demonstrations and maximize disruptions and publicity. Use "comely" people as spokespersons and always appear rational and reasonable.
- Coordinate harassment by any means that destroys key businesses, business leaders, and other opponents.
- Lying, cheating, destruction, and "anything else" are justified since society won't listen and the laws are against us.
- The end justifies the means.
- Stress victimhood. Racism equals Sexism equals Speciesism.
- Women and blacks had to chip into men's rights. Now animals are chipping in also.
- "Person" is not just humans.
- The privilege of "whiteness" equals privilege over animals.
- Attack history notions and focus on our progressive enlightenment on all matters.
- Break up traditions and change the status quo to where we are in charge.
- Disrupt lawmaking that threatens us at any level.
- European culture is our enemy.
- White males must be suppressed.
- The Huntingdon Life Sciences model from England can serve American activists as an example of what to do.
- No one owns a pet. We are guardians only. The whole man/pet relationship needs to be revamped.

**NOTE:** There were many comments about cockfighting in states that still permit it, dog racing, meat, eggs, dairy products, animal research, and other matters that resemble the foregoing but are simply redundant and too much for this already extensive report.

### On Religion...

- Focus on progressive Churches.
- I'm a Buddhist but I speak at every progressive Church that will let me.
- Manipulate progressive Christians, Jews, and others.
- Assert that all early Churches were vegan.
- Identify and support vegan ministers and other religious leaders.
- One humane leader compared himself to Mother Theresa. He, like she, "could save X many more animals per day or week, if he had X more dollars."
- Go beyond dogma. Go beyond religion. Enter the circle of life.
- Unity and Unitarian Churches are good bets to turn people to veganism.
- We are establishing a vegan-spiritual based society.
- We may soon convert the Dalai Lama to veganism.
- Tell people that we all come to this planet from somewhere.
- Saint Francis and Suma Ching How, support us.
- The religious issue is really the health/ethics/spirituality issue.
- Christian tradition has been adulterated.
- Beware of hierarchical priests.
- Utilize professional animal communicators who engage in telepathic communication with animals.

- Establish conversations with "the other side" (meaning the dead).
- Animal souls fit with all religions.

### On Coalitions...

- Read Angela Davis.
- Talk about dietary racism.
- Establish solidarity with women of color.
- Be very careful that you don't get a Clarence Thomas.
- Stress solidarity with all progressive movements.
- People of color are at great risk around hunters and trappers.
- Get whites upset, this energized minorities.
- Anti-nuclear protesters share our goals as do people against slave labor and those against using the third world to grow our food.
- Always keep an eye out for free floating radicals who can help.
- Globalization is the issue to forge coalitions around. (Cheers)
- Preach solidarity with unions, minorities, feminists, and gay/lesbians.
- Animals equal the Holocaust equals child abuse.

### On Hunting...

- New Jersey is running out of kids indoctrinated to hunt.
- Training kids with guns endangers everyone.
- Stress issues that divide hunters like "canned" hunts. Dog hunting and baiting also divide hunters so use these topics.
- Hunters are already divided; keep dividing them.
- Oppose all right to subsistence hunting by indigenous people.
- Use kites, recordings, bullhorns, and "other" things. This last comment brought a titter of laughs from many of the young people.
- Hunters want to kill bears in New Jersey and we saved the bears.
- Hunter Constitutional Rights at the state level are funny. They are a placebo to hunters and just put control in state legislatures which we will soon control.
- The restrictions on ballot initiatives in Utah must be fought anywhere that they pop up.
- Hunters are getting old. Pretty soon they will just disappear.
- We are successful in getting to children early in school so they learn to hate hunting.
- We need to work more with the UN to bring more animals under their control.

### On Fishing...

- PETA has cracked the wholesomeness of fishing. This will deter families and help us with the wholesome labels of other animal uses.
- Always deal with sport fishing and commercial fishing bans separately.
- Fishermen are tools of international businesses.
- All killing of fish must be stopped.
- PETA is proud to be forcing the Boy Scouts to drop their fishing and wildlife management merit badges. They are proud to be in solidarity with others who are trying to change that indoctrination organization.

### Trapping and Fur...

- Confront anyone wearing fur and intimidate them.
- Use any tactics to put fur stores out of business.
- Confront people wearing fur trim.
- Embarrass fur wearers in front of their friends and at places where they wear fur.
- Personalize the animals to children and the public.
- Trappers are dying out.
- The propaganda about animal control is all lies. No animals need to be controlled.

- Predators must all be protected and allowed to spread everywhere.
- Europe and especially England is way ahead of us here. The Labor Party is very sympathetic.

#### On Circuses and Rodeos...

- Cowboys are all sissies. Confront them and they run.
- Take concealed videos to circuses and try to get footage of what goes on.
- Get local ordinances passed that make it more expensive and more difficult to put on performances.
- Identify and support local law enforcement vegans and sympathizers.

#### On Animal Rights...

The NARAL representative described how she is working with and supporting the Great Ape Project. The only goal is to obtain legal rights for apes as the crack in the wall for all other animals (like abortion, endangered species, and gun control).

#### On Politicians...

- Since industry bribes politicians, anything we do to get political support is good.
- Remember that we have friends who are not Democrat. Senator Smith (R-NH) and Senator Jeffords (I-VT) are two of our best friends.
- Our new PAC will be an umbrella for all of us to give money directly to those we favor and to defeat those who are not our friends. We look forward to a large PAC.
- We have eliminated several enemies like Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA).
- Eighty percent of the people are "assholes."
- If we can control 11% of the voters, we can win control.
- Clinton didn't do enough for us.
- Bush is an enemy to us all. (Cheers)
- If 2% of the voters are ours, we can succeed beyond our wildest dreams.

#### On Federal Controls...

- The Animal Welfare Act is the vehicle for expansion and amendments that we had hoped it would be.
- The Federal Bear Protection Act proposed by Senator McConnell (R-KY) will transfer control of bears from the state to the Federal government.
- We control the Federal Congress and the Federal bureaucracy now. In a few years, we will get supporters in Federal agencies and work together.
- We need federal laws over dogs and cats.
- Training dogs for security, hunting, and performing must be controlled by the Federal government.
- Most Federal legislators are pro-animal rights and soon most state legislators will be too.
- Federal controls break the back of the state fish and wildlife agencies that are pro-hunting.
- State agencies are enemies.

These selected comments are but a few of what I heard over five days. The more explosive sessions were avoided by the leaders and lawyers. Often hands were put over microphones and comments from spontaneous participants were not audible but caused considerable chuckling. I shudder to think about those things which they didn't mention but invited participants to ask about "in the hall" or "after dinner." The sessions held anywhere from 50 to 200 people, depending on the topic, and not once was anything questioned.

At one point, I felt as if I was attending a communist training program back in the 50's or 60's for a cadre of insurgents to be sent into a country to be subverted. Some are trained to control the media, others to influence politicians and control bureaucracies, still others to control religion and schools, demonstrators were to disrupt things, and others to do the "other things" that ultimately underpin all the rest.

Frightening is too weak a word to describe what it is to watch this take place in a luxury hotel in a free country.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to John Jackson of Conservation Force for having the persistence to have me attend this Conference. Everyone who reads this should share it with your family, your neighbors, your associates and everyone else you come in contact with each day. All of us, whether or not we are concerned directly with one of these animal issues, should understand what is happening and protect the traditions and rights of all of us, whether or not we are an absolute majority. Allowing these tactics and organizations to succeed threatens all of us in every way.

-RSS-



## QUARTER MILLION BUCKS AT STAKE FOR BEST ANGUS BREED CATTLE

Cattlemen say they will produce high quality, consistent beef when they're paid for doing so. That time has arrived.

With nearly \$250,000 in prize money at stake, the "Best of the Breed" Angus Challenge will reward superior carcass genetics, according to a news release. Winners in the contest, organized by Agri Beef Risk Management Co., Boise, Idaho, will be determined by the highest beef value on a Farmland National Beef contest grid.

Cattle are enrolled by state of origin, and placed into one of seven corresponding National Cattlemen's Beef Association regions. The top three lots in the nation will win cash prizes of \$100,000 for first, \$50,000 for second, and \$25,000 for third. The three winners from each of the seven regions will be awarded \$5,000 for first, \$2,500 for second, and \$1,000 for third. "That's serious money," said Kevin Hughes, president of Agri Beef Risk Management Co. "But the contest—dubbed "BoB" for short—is meant to deliver as much fun as cash."

As if the prize money isn't enough incentive, Merial has offered to double the cash prize for the grand prize winner. If the enrolled cattle are Merial SUREHEALTH certified, they will receive an additional \$100,000, bringing the total to \$200,000. The enrollment process begins Sept. 1, and the first cattle will go on feed this fall. Slaughter data will be accepted until Dec. 31, 2002. The first "Best of the Breed" winners will be announced at the annual NCBA conference in January 2003.

For more information, visit the "Best of the Breed" web site at [www.bestofthebreed.com](http://www.bestofthebreed.com), or call toll-free (866) 262-1160. Corporate sponsors of the contest include Agri Beef Co., Allflex USA, Certified Angus Beef, Farmland National Beef, and Merial.

**SOURCE:** [www.meatingplace.com](http://www.meatingplace.com)  
Release – August 21, 2001  
Reprinted by permission of "Best of the Breed"

-RSS-

## COMPARATIVE INTAKE AND NUTRIENT DIGESTIBILITY OF THE GRASS FORAGES: FLORAKIRK AND TIFTON 85 BERMUDAGRASSES AND FLORONA STARGRASS TO COASTAL BERMUDAGRASS WHEN FED TO HORSES

Feed normally makes up about 80% of the cost of maintaining a horse aside from labor. The roughage portion of a horse's diet is usually from 50 to 100% of the feed expense. Locally grown forages are normally about 50 to 70% of the cost of those brought into the state of Florida. Therefore substantial savings can be made in the overall cost of raising and maintaining horses when a homegrown high quality forage is fed. Over the last two decades there have been several new varieties of grass forages developed in the Southeastern USA, suitable for making hay, which are very productive and are high in nutrient value. These forages have already been evaluated for feeding cattle but, have limited or no evaluation for feeding to horses. The palatability and digestibility of grass forages can vary greatly between horses and cattle so it is important that these forages be evaluated for feeding to horses.

The objective of this experiment was to determine and compare the nutrient digestibility and palatability of Florakirk Bermudagrass, Tifton 85 Bermudagrass, Florona Stargrass, and Coastal Bermudagrass hays when fed to horses.

### Materials and Methods

Four adult geldings were used in a 4x4 Latin square design (4 hays, 4 periods). Forage was fed at 0800 and 2000 in excess of voluntary intake during the first 14 d of the preliminary period. The first 2 d of the preliminary period was to transition from one forage to the next. Hay composed 100% of the diet, except for a free choice trace mineral salt supplement. Average daily hay consumption was determined from the last 12 d of the preliminary period. A 10 d digestion period followed with the forages being fed at 80% of their average daily voluntary consumption, and during the last 5 d of the digestion period total fecal excretions were collected, weighed, mixed, and sampled. Forage grab samples were taken at each feeding (10% of amount fed) for the last 5 d of the digestion period.

Feed and fecal samples were analyzed to determine DM, gross energy, CP, EE, ADF, NDF, ash, and lignin. Cellulose was calculated as ADF-lignin-acid insoluble ash. Hemicellulose was calculated as NDF - ADF. Nutrient digestibility and % digestible nutrient value (DM basis) were calculated for each nutrient in each forage (Figures 1, 2, and 3). The data was analyzed by ANOVA with multiple comparisons being made using Duncan's multiple range test with the alpha level set at 0.05.

### Results and Discussion

All hays appeared to have similar chemical compositions (Table 1) but the CP values had a large range with the highest for Coastal and Florakirk and lowest for Tifton 85 and Florona (13.2, 11.7, 9.1, and 7.6 % of DM, respectively).

Dry matter digestibility was highest for Tifton 85 and Coastal with Florakirk and Florona being the lowest (Table 2). Tifton 85 had higher DM digestibility than Florakirk and Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ) and Coastal was higher than Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ). The Coastal Bermudagrass DM digestibility of 44.7% was similar to the 43.0% reported by Aiken et al. (1989). However, the DM digestibility of 48.1% for Tifton 85 was slightly less than the 54.1% observed by McCann et al. (1995). Nutrient digestibilities using horses have not been found in the literature for Florona and Florakirk.

Crude protein digestibility was highest for Coastal and Tifton 85 and lowest for Florakirk and Florona (Table 2). Coastal had a higher CP digestibility than all other hays ( $p < 0.05$ ); and Tifton 85 and Florakirk had higher CP digestibility than Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ). For this experiment the crude protein digestibility for Coastal Bermudagrass (54.4%) was less than that observed for mature horses by McCann et al., (1995) and Sturgeon et al., (2000) who reported 65.4 and 60.6%, respectively, and more similar to Aiken's et al., (1989) reported CP digestibility of 50.7%. Tifton 85 had a much lower CP digestibility of 48.4% than the 63.5% previously reported by McCann et al. (1995).

Neutral detergent fiber digestibility was highest for Tifton 85 and Coastal and lowest for Florakirk and Florona (Table 2 & Figure 3). Tifton 85 had higher NDF digestibility than Florakirk and Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ). Coastal Bermudagrass hay NDF digestibility (46.4%) was lower than that previously reported for mature horses by McCann et al., (1995) and Sturgeon et al., (2000) (54.6 and 51.7%, respectively); however, it was similar to Aiken's et al., (1989) reported value of 45.5%. The Tifton 85 NDF digestibility of 51.4% was also lower than that observed by McCann's et al., (1995) 57.2% for mature horses. Hemicellulose digestibility was highest for Tifton 85, Coastal, and Florakirk and lowest for Florona (Table 2). Tifton 85 and Coastal had higher hemicellulose digestibility than both Florakirk and Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ).

For this experiment the acid detergent fiber and cellulose digestibility values for Tifton 85, Coastal, Florakirk, and Florona) were not different (Table 2 & Figure 3). The Coastal ADF digestibility of 39.3% was lower than the values reported for mature horses by McCann et al., (1995) and Sturgeon et al., (2000) (56.3 and 43.5%, respectively), but similar to the 35.7% value observed by Aiken et al. (1989). Tifton 85 had lower ADF digestibility than that seen by McCann, et al. (1995).

Energy digestibility was highest for Tifton 85 and Coastal and lowest for Florakirk and Florona (50.2, 47.3, 42.1, and 39.4 %, respectively, Table 2). Tifton 85 had higher energy digestibility than Florakirk and Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ). Coastal had higher energy digestibility than Florona ( $p < 0.05$ ). In the present experiment Coastal had a slightly greater energy digestibility (47.3%) than the range of 42.1% to 44.1% which was previously reported by Ott (1981) and Aiken et al. (1989).

In general, the nutrient digestibility values of Tifton 85 bermudagrass, Florona Stargrass and Florakirk bermudagrass hays make these forages comparable in feeding value to Coastal bermudagrass; however, the low voluntary intakes (Figure 4) of these forages by the four mature geldings during the experiment resulted in body weight losses (Figures 5). Coastal bermudagrass hay was the only forage that was consumed in enough quantity to produce positive weight gains. It was felt by the researchers that some of the low intake might have been caused by poor forage harvesting and handling technique which resulted in some of the hay being musty. However, Heusner et al., (1995) also found lower intakes for Tifton 85 compared to Coastal. Figures 1 & 2 show the comparative gross-digestible energy and crude-digestible protein levels for these forages and compared to the line indicating the requirement, one can see how moderate weight loss is possible on some of these forages when fed without supplements.

### Conclusion

The nutrient and digestibility differences between these four hays are not substantial; however, the voluntary intake of the three test forages, when fed alone, were barely sufficient to meet the maintenance requirements for energy and protein for the mature horse.

**Table 1.** Chemical composition<sup>ab</sup> of Coastal bermudagrass, Tifton 85 bermudagrass, Florakirk bermudagrass, and Florona stargrass

Item	Coastal bermudagrass	Tifton 85 bermudagrass	Florakirk bermudagrass	Florona stargrass
CP, %	13.2	9.1	11.7	7.6
NDF, %	79.1	81.0	80.5	81.6
ADF, %	39.0	41.7	40.3	43.0
Lignin, %	9	8	9	9
Hemicellulose, %	40.1	39.3	40.2	38.6
Cellulose, %	29.3	33.4	30.9	33.1
Ash, %	6.6	5.4	6.2	5.3
Gross energy, Mcal/kg	4.53	4.51	4.54	4.52

<sup>a</sup>For each mean n = 4.

<sup>b</sup>Dry matter basis: coastal bermudagrass (88.8% DM), tifton 85 bermudagrass (89.1%), florakirk bermudagrass (88.7% DM), and florona stargrass (88.9% DM).

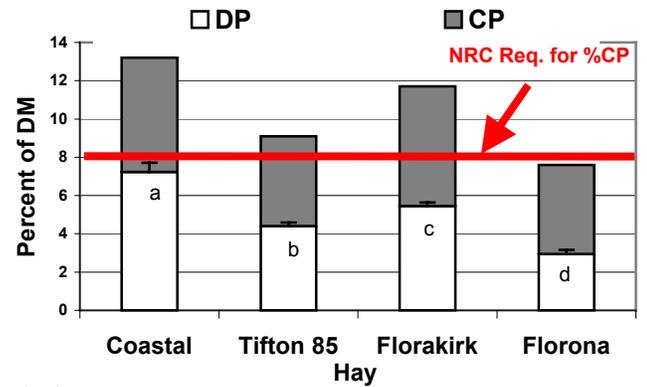
**Table 2.** Digestion coefficients<sup>a</sup> of nutrient components of Coastal bermudagrass, Tifton 85 bermudagrass, Florakirk bermudagrass, and Florona stargrass in equine

Item	Coastal bermudagrass	Tifton 85 bermudagrass	Florakirk bermudagrass	Florona stargrass	SEM
Dry matter, %	44.7 <sup>bc</sup>	48.1 <sup>b</sup>	39.9 <sup>cd</sup>	37.7 <sup>d</sup>	1.6
CP, %	54.4 <sup>b</sup>	48.4 <sup>c</sup>	46.3 <sup>c</sup>	38.6 <sup>d</sup>	1.6
NDF, %	46.4 <sup>bc</sup>	51.4 <sup>b</sup>	43.3 <sup>c</sup>	40.1 <sup>c</sup>	1.9
ADF, %	39.3	49.4	39.3	36.9	3.0
Hemicellulose, %	53.2 <sup>b</sup>	53.6 <sup>b</sup>	47.4 <sup>c</sup>	43.5 <sup>c</sup>	1.6
Cellulose, %	45.0	55.0	47.9	41.9	3.1
Ash, %	47.1 <sup>b</sup>	45.3 <sup>b</sup>	36.2 <sup>bc</sup>	32.8 <sup>c</sup>	3.0
Energy, %	41.9 <sup>bc</sup>	44.6 <sup>b</sup>	37.4 <sup>cd</sup>	35.0 <sup>d</sup>	1.6

<sup>a</sup>For each mean n = 4.

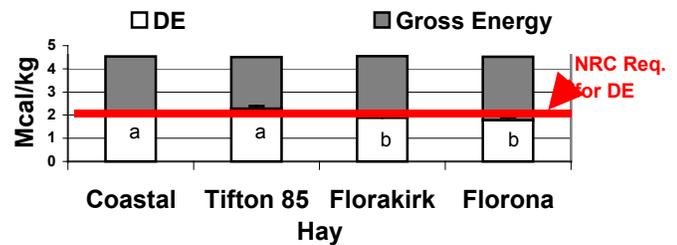
<sup>b,c,d</sup> Within a row means without a common superscript letter differ (p < 0.05).

**Fig. 1.** Crude and Digestible Protein



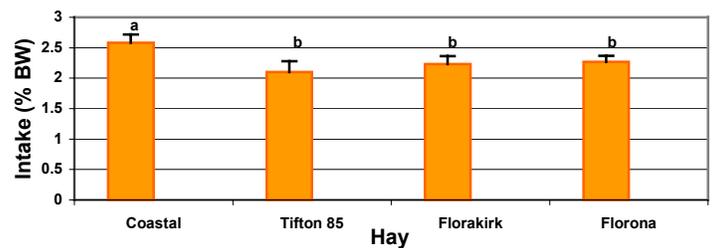
a,b,c,d Bars without a common superscript letter differ (P > 0.05)

**Fig. 2.** Gross and Digestible Energy



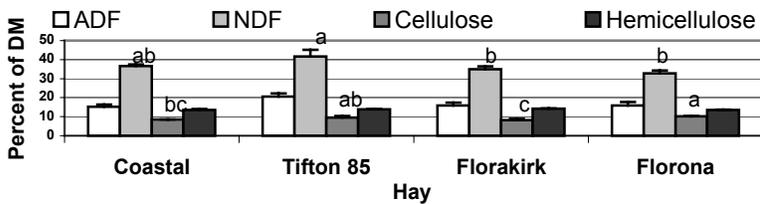
a,b Bars without a common superscript letter differ (P > 0.05)

**Fig. 4.** Dry Matter Intake



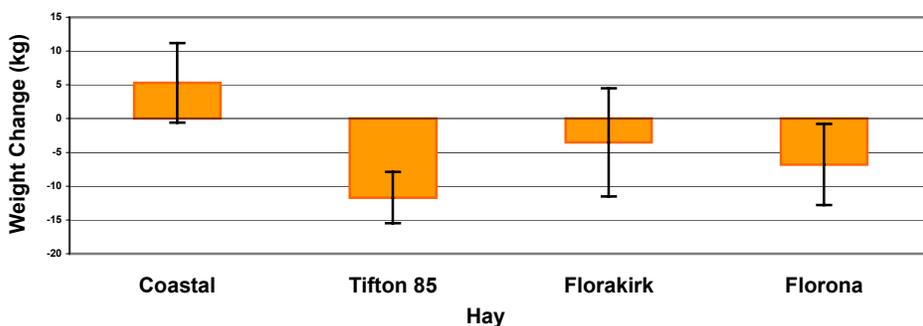
a,b Bars without a common superscript letter differ (P > 0.05)

**Fig. 3.** Digestible ADF, NDF, Cellulose, and Hemicellulose



a,b,c Same color bars without a common superscript letter differ (P > 0.05)

**Fig. 5.** Horse Weight Change<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> For each hay in a 24 day period

SOURCE:

Dr. Sandi Lieb and Dr. Paul Mislevy  
University of Florida  
Department of Animal Sciences  
Gainesville, FL 32611