



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences



September 2002

In This Issue...

Beef Management Calendar	2
Livestock Summary.....	2
Deer Flies a Biting Problem?	4
Veneman Releases State Funding	5
Deaths of Three Deer-Eating Hunters Being Investigated for Possible CWD Link	6
Human WNV Case Confirmed	7
Lettuce Linked to E. Coli O157:H7 Outbreak	7
House Ag Committee to Hold Hearings on Livestock Industry Structure.....	8



Dates To Remember

September

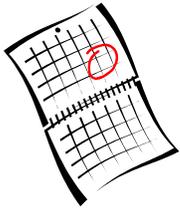
- 2 Labor Day (Holiday)
- 5 Hay Day/Agronomic/Crops Field Day -
WFREC, Jay, FL
- 6 & 20 In-Service Training Beef Cattle Agents -
Beef Genetics-Molecular to Management
- 9-11 FAEP Meeting - Panama City
- 12-13 FCA Fall Quarterly Meeting -
Polk County
- 21 Florida Junior Limosin Field Day -
Gainesville, FL
- 23-27 2nd Annual Florida Cow/Calf Seminars
([http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/
CCsem-02.html](http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/CCsem-02.html))
- 28 Florida Santa Gertrudis Sale Auction -
Bartow, FL

Prepared By Extension Specialists In Animal Sciences

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- ❖ S.H. TenBroeck, Associate Professor,
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October

- 4 FCA Heifer Sale - Ocala, FL
- 4 Brangus Bonanza - Okeechobee, FL
- 7 Arcadia Brangus Bull Sale - Mo Brangus
& Oak Knoll Ranch - Arcadia, FL
- 18 Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee
Livestock Market - Okeechobee, FL
- 25 Lemmon Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee
Livestock Market - Okeechobee, FL



Beef Management Calendar

September

- ☑ Cut hay.
- ☑ Heavily graze 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, or poor producing cows.
- ☑ Train cowboys to observe normal and abnormal behavior and signs of disease.
- ☑ Be sure any replacement purchases are healthy and have been calfhood 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.

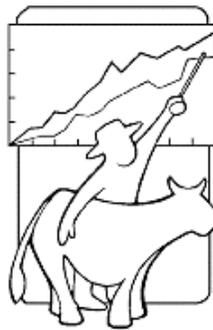
October

- ☑ 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.
- ☑ If you are raising bulls for the commercial market, October thru December is the main bull-buying season for cattlemen in south Florida and now is the time to have your promotion program fully activated.

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.



Livestock Summary

The USDA is reporting that cattle prices continue under pressure from large supplies. Price pressure will continue as summer weather tends to reduce demand following the May-June period of strong holiday demand, and as seasonal production rises.

Anticipated prices should average in the low to mid \$60 range this summer. Prices are expected to strengthen in late summer.

Stocker-feeder cattle prices continue under pressure from feedlot financial losses since Spring

2001. Poor to uncertain forage prospects in most areas will exacerbate the trend.

Hay prospects have declined with most areas of the nation too dry, but some areas have been too wet. Florida has been an exception with good July moisture, but armyworms have been active.

Limited irrigation water may also hold down forage production in a number of usually dependable areas. Florida is fortunate not to be included in this grouping.

Most of the feedlot placements have been heavier feeder cattle, but placement numbers have declined from April 2001. The heavier weight placements will add to the already large number of feedlot inventories that likely will be marketed by the end of Summer 2002.

Weather related conditions will affect breeding and sale decisions in a few months, and by default, beef supplies this fall and in 2003. Areas with good moisture and forage prospects will likely have a higher retention rate of breeding age stock.

Second and third quarter 2002 beef production is expected to rise four and three percent, respectively, over the weather reduced levels of the same period in 2001. First quarter 2002, production levels were up three percent.

Cattle slaughter is only modestly different from a year earlier. However, improved feeding conditions in 2002 have resulted in sharply increased commercial dressed slaughter weights.

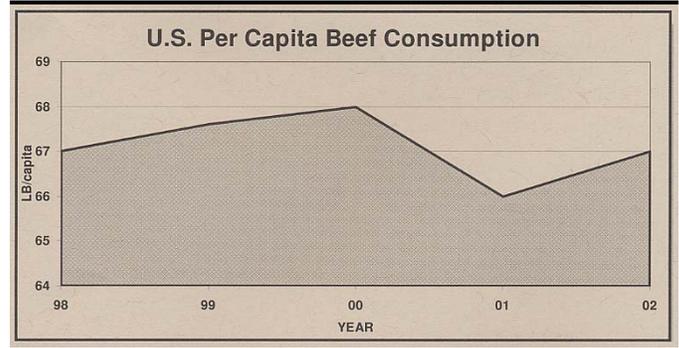
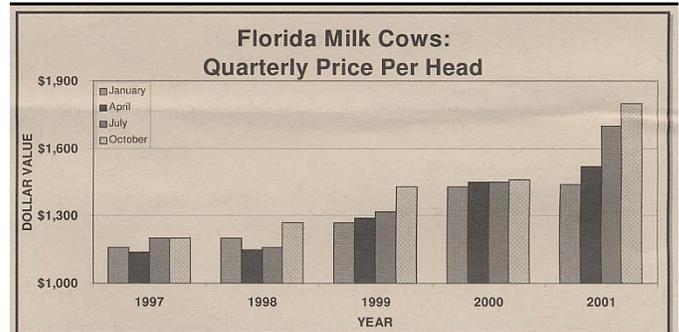
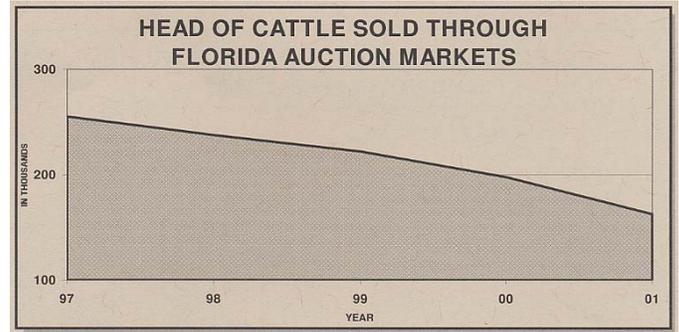
First quarter 2002 weights were up 31 pounds. Second quarter weights are estimated to be up 20 to 25 pounds.

Retail beef prices are currently well under the same period last year and are predicted to decline through the summer. Increased supplies of beef, especially higher grading beef, and larger supplies of competing meats have held down retail prices.

Beef exports have held up well against the depressed level of a year earlier when U.S. beef was priced out the export market. Beef is predicted to

rebound about one percent after declining eight percent last year. The sluggish worldwide economic growth will impede better performance.

Livestock Trends



SOURCE: The Florida Agri-Journal
 Researched by Les Harrison
 Development Rep. I
 Division of Marketing
 Release – August 5, 2002

-RSS-



Deer Flies a Biting Problem?

Oddly, "Trolling" May Be Just The Ticket

The deer flies are so bad at Dick Coski's farm near Lake Erie in northeast Ohio that he used to get covered in bites mowing his small field. Hunting for a solution, the retired Social Security claims representative found a Web site about a curious deer fly-control device invented by a University of Florida scientist. The bright blue plastic flowerpot, covered with sticky material and suspended upside-down on a pole, was said to entice and capture the pesky bugs. It looked goofy. But when Coski, 70, rigged up a similar device and stuck it on the front of his John Deere, he was amazed at the result.

"The deer flies didn't even look at me they were all buzzing around that darn flowerpot," Coski said. "My sister-in-law's husband is one of those hard-nosed Englishmen, and he didn't believe me. He came up from Columbus and took a ride on my lawn tractor, and he couldn't get over it."

Insects are strange creatures that sometimes prove vulnerable to even stranger methods of elimination. That seems to be the lesson of the curiously effective deer-fly trap invented by Russell Mizell, a professor of entomology at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Mizell's article about the trap appeared in the June issue of the journal *Florida Entomologist*, although it previously was featured on an IFAS pest-control Web site.

Mizell, who is based at UF's North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, said he first launched the research several years ago as a high school science project with his son, but "it got so interesting, I just kept doing it."

He was familiar with reports that African tsetse flies are drawn to silhouettes of hooved animals. He also had noticed that deer flies often buzzed the rearview mirrors on his truck as he drove along the gravel driveway to his Jefferson County home. Deer flies are so-called ambush predators: They wait for

prey to walk by rather than actively searching for it, so they are highly attracted to movement.

With this in mind, Mizell and his son decided the best way to snare deer flies likely was to "troll" for them from a slow-moving vehicle. Working in the spring and summer when deer flies are most prominent, they "did all kinds of crazy things" to try to discover what kind of trap worked best, he said.

The Mizells first tried draping their 1992 Dodge Dakota pickup with white plastic covered with black silhouettes of various shapes painted with Tanglefoot, a commercially available sticky spray for insects. But the deer flies snubbed the silhouettes. Theorizing that three-dimensional shapes would work better because they had more surface area, the Mizells built a test platform on their truck hood that could troll seven different shapes at once. They ambled along in deer fly-infested countryside for set periods of one to five minutes, testing sticky pyramids, squares, balloons, plant containers and other shapes, then counting immobilized prey. They also tried black, tan, blue and shapes of other colors suspended from various heights.

After numerous experiments, the trap that wooed the most deer flies proved to be a 6-inch flowerpot painted bright blue capturing as many as 30 deer flies in a one-minute test. It worked best when suspended three to six feet above the ground and trolled no faster than 10 feet per second. The capture rate was 35 percent to 50 percent higher than for other shapes, Mizell said.

Mizell said he isn't sure what it is about this color/shape/speed combination that makes it so irresistible to the hapless deer flies. It could be that something about it appeals to their genetic memory of a tasty but extinct animal. But more likely, he said, the blue contrasts sharply with the predominant background of green foliage, making it easy for the deer flies to zero in on. The optimum size and height, meanwhile, are close to the head of a person or large animal.

The traps are remarkably effective, Mizell said. "Many times after running the traps through an area, we found there were no deer flies left," he said.

"You trap them out for a short period until they repopulate the area."

The traps do not have to be suspended from a vehicle they also work when attached to a baseball cap and trolled by the hat's wearer.

After hearing Mizell give a presentation on his project, Wendy Meyer, a staffer at UF's Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead, decided to try out such a rig to combat the deer flies that attacked her during her field research. Wanting to avoid wearing a flowerpot, she used a blue soda cup painted with Tanglefoot.

"It worked wonderfully," she recalled. "I'd come back in, and I'd have 10 or 12 flies on my cap and none that had annoyed me."

Despite its effectiveness, it is doubtful the trap ever will gain widespread appeal for personal protection. As Meyer noted, its aesthetic appeal leaves something to be desired.

"The thing is, it looked really silly, so everyone laughed at me when I wore it, but then they complained about getting bitten by deer flies," she said. "It's a hard sell to get people to try it, but it really did work."

SOURCE: Dr. Russ Mizell
Entomology
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Education Center
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-RSS-

Veneman Releases State Funding Allocations for Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that the additional \$227 million for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been released to all states, Puerto Rico and the Pacific Basin. This is an important step towards implementing an improved, streamlined program that includes changes authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill and outlined in the July 24 Federal Register notice. Florida will receive \$5,088,162.

Through this allocation, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) state offices will receive allocated funding needed to provide financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and tribes through EQIP for conservation practices that improve soil, water and air quality; wildlife habitat; and surface and ground water conservation on eligible agricultural land, including livestock operations.

"These funds will enable farmers and ranchers to enhance and protect our nation's soil, air and water resources for the future by implementing sound conservation practices today," said Veneman. "Farmers and ranchers are the best stewards of the land and this Administration continues its strong commitment in providing additional tools to enhance conservation efforts on working farmlands."

Key factors used to determine the distribution include acres of cropland, acres of irrigated cropland, acres of rangeland, acres of tribal lands, number of animals and tons of animal waste produced.

Veneman announced earlier this month that an additional \$200 million is being provided for general enrollment for EQIP in FY 2002 and up to an additional \$25 million of EQIP funds in FY 2002

6 September 2002

will provide technical and financial assistance for ground and surface water conservation.

SOURCE: Alisa Harrison
(202) 720-4623
Mary Cressel
(202) 690-0547
USDA
Release – August 1, 2002

-RSS-

Deaths of Three Deer-Eating Hunters Being Investigated for Possible CWD Link

Here's some potentially scary news relating to chronic wasting disease from *Reuters*. The deaths of three Wisconsin hunters back in the 1990s who regularly ate wild game are being investigated for any possible connection to chronic wasting disease - - a fatal brain disease afflicting the state's deer herd. Eight other states have reported cases of CWD in deer and elk herds.

Two of the deaths were attributed to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a rare disorder that has been tied in Europe to eating meat from cattle infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, according to the report. The other man died from Pick's disease, a more common brain disease. Scientists from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta will help investigate these deaths.

What is chronic wasting disease?

CWD is an untreatable, fatal neurological disease found in deer and elk in certain geographical locations in North America. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or prion diseases. The disease attacks the brain and neural tissue of infected deer and elk.

Although the exact mechanism is not known, CWD is believed to be spread by the agent responsible both by direct animal-to-animal contact and indirectly via the soil or other contact surfaces. It is thought that the most common mode of transmission from an infected animal is via saliva, feces, and urine.

No reason to panic

The bad news is that CWD is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep, but the good news is there is no known relationship between CWD and any other TSEs of animals or people. To date, CWD has not been shown to infect humans or cattle, but the World Health Organization has advised against eating venison or any part of an animal showing signs of the disease. This warning has raised red flags about venison stored in home freezers throughout the state of Wisconsin, a prime state for deer hunting that generates roughly \$1.5 billion annually, according to *Reuters*.

Wisconsin plans to eradicate the deer herd from an area where more than 12 animals have tested positive for the disease and then test the carcasses.

SOURCE: Bryan Salvage
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release – August 2, 2002

-RSS-



Human West Nile Virus Case Confirmed

Medical Alert Extended to Include Lake, Marion, Orange, and Sumter Counties

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announced that the first human West Nile (WN) virus infection of 2002 in Florida has been confirmed. The patient is a resident of Sumter County, but had exposure to mosquitoes in Louisiana prior to illness. Due to the uncertainty regarding where the infection was acquired, and due to additional WN detections in animals, a medical alert is being issued for Lake, Marion, Orange and Sumter counties. Medical alerts were issued last week for Escambia and Volusia counties.

"Even though the risk of contracting West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne viruses by humans is low, people need to use protective measures to reduce their risk of getting the disease," said DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A. He added, "It is important to take measures to guard against mosquito bites." Agwunobi recommends the following:

- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are likely to be active and biting;
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing shoes, socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt;
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions; and
- Eliminate stagnant water in birdbaths and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

The Department of Health laboratories provide testing services for physicians treating patients with clinical signs of mosquito-borne (arboviral) disease. These signs may include headache, fever, fatigue, dizziness, weakness and confusion. Physicians should submit serum and, if available, cerebrospinal fluid samples to either the Tampa or Jacksonville Department of Health laboratories. People over the age of 50 are at the greatest risk of having severe disease from an arbovirus infection.

DOH continues to conduct statewide surveillance for arboviruses, including WN, eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE) and St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE). Residents of Florida are encouraged to report dead birds by calling the West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-800-871-9703, or via the Web site <http://www.wld.fwc.state.fl.us/bird/>.

For more information on West Nile virus, visit the DOH Bureau of Epidemiology's West Nile virus Web site at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us> (click on Epidemiology, then Health Topics), or call the Bureau's hotline at 1-888-880-5782 for recorded information.

SOURCE: Rob Hayes
(850) 245-4111
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Release – August 13, 2002

-ELJ-



Lettuce Linked to E. Coli O157:H7 Outbreak

Where's the Outrage Now?

Just in case you missed this news -- and there's a good chance you might have since little has been published on it that the **Meatingplace.com** is aware of -- the Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers not to consume Spokane Produce brand romaine lettuce because this product was associated with an outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 at a cheerleading camp in Washington state in mid July.

FDA is urging consumers to throw this product out. The latest reported illness associated with this outbreak was on July 19, according to FDA. The romaine lettuce, which is sold under several different brand names, is known to be packaged in 5-pound bags labeled "Romaine Toss" and was

8 September 2002

distributed by Food Services of America to restaurants and institutions in the Spokane area.

The product has a shelf life of two weeks. To date, the outbreak has only involved exposure to romaine lettuce packaged in these 5-pound bags. The romaine lettuce may also be sold at retail establishments in various size packages.

Twenty-nine individuals at the cheerleading camp have been confirmed to have E. coli O157:H7. Other illnesses in Washington state are being investigated.

This situation was discovered when many individuals at the camp became ill, according to FDA. The FDA is working with the Spokane Regional Health District, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Health and other agencies to determine the cause and scope of this problem. FDA is telling consumers who bought such a product to check with the place of purchase to ensure that they do not consume Spokane Produce brand romaine lettuce until this health emergency is resolved, the news release added.

Where's the outrage?

There's no satisfaction in knowing that the source of contamination was a non-meat product. However you look at it, it's a tragedy. But isn't it strange how E. coli outbreaks in meat products result in a media, consumer activist and anti-meat activist frenzy while outbreaks from non-meat foods go largely unnoticed?

"If this would have involved meat, it would hit the front page [in every major newspaper] and be on the TV news," complained one well known meat industry veteran to the **Meatingplace.com** via e-mail. "Activists would be screaming for tighter inspections, claiming a link to the inspection authorities and all that other junk. Where are they now -- now that it involves one of their precious vegetables -- the 'good-for-you' foods, the healthy food, and a non-meat item? Hypocrites! Now I feel better."

Thanks, meat industry veteran, for blowing off steam. I feel better now, too.

SOURCE: Bryan Salvage
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release – August 1, 2002

-RSS-

House Ag Committee to Hold Hearings on Livestock Industry Structure

Following-up on a pledge at the completion of the Farm Bill, House Agriculture Chairman Rep. Larry Combest (R-Texas) has asked state and national producer groups, agricultural economists, national farm groups, packers and the Secretary of Agriculture to "respond to specific questions that will lay the foundation for hearings on the current state of livestock markets."

The goal of the probe is to understand the potential impact -- positive and negative -- government intervention would have on the livestock marketplace. An amendment was included in the Senate version of the Farm Bill that would have prohibited packer ownership, feeding or control of livestock within 14 days of slaughter, a provision not included in the final bill. Since then, as the political debate has persisted, bills have been introduced that would ban packer ownership from owning livestock, alter the use of forward contracting and limit the use of captive supplies of livestock.

While a deadline has not been set for comments and answers to be submitted, the comments will likely serve as "foundation for hearings" in the near future. To view the list of questions or to submit answers, visit <http://agriculture.house.gov/press/pr020812.html>.

SOURCE: Dan Murphy
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release – August 16, 2002

-RSS-