



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

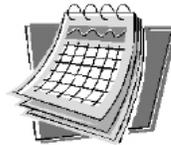


Animal Science Newsletter

October 2002

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Dates To Remember

October

- 3 Fall Field Day – NFREC, Quincy, FL
(Rescheduled from September 26, 2002, due to weather conditions.)
- 4 FCA Heifer Sale - Ocala, FL
- 4 Brangus Bonanza - Okeechobee, FL
- 7 Arcadia Brangus Bull Sale - Mo Brangus & Oak Knoll Ranch - Arcadia, FL
- 7 Livestock Evaluation Coaches Workshop - Gainesville, FL
- 18 Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee Livestock Market - Okeechobee, FL
- 19 St. Johns County Cracker Day - Elkton, FL
- 25 Lemmon Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee Livestock Market - Okeechobee, FL

November

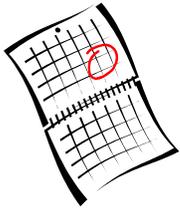
- 1 Hereford Association of Florida Annual Bull Sale - Bartow, FL
- 1 Hardee Farms Black Bull Sale - Chiefland, FL
- 1 Callaway Farms Sale - Hardee Farms -Chiefland, FL
- 1 Milligan Herefords Livestock Market - Okeechobee, FL
- 1-3 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup - Louisville, KY
- 7 Hereford Association of Florida Annual Bull Sale - Bartow, FL
- 8-10 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup - Louisville, KY
- 16 Organics and Sustainable Living Conference - Salem, FL

Prepared By Extension Specialists In Animal Sciences

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Melanie Burson, a student majoring in animal sciences at the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, applies a respiratory vaccine to a calf during a livestock management class in Gainesville, Friday-Sep. 21, 2002. Burson, a junior from St. Cloud, FL, said the experience of working with animals will be valuable for her future career in Florida's \$5 billion livestock industry. Upon graduation, many students further their education in UF's College of Veterinary Medicine. (AP photo by Tara Piasio/University of Florida/IFAS)



Beef Management Calendar

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 fall-calving cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- ☑ Use minerals with a high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
- ☑ Check for external parasites. Treat if needed.
- ☑ Maintain adequate nutrient level for the cow herd.
- ☑ Calve in well-drained pastures.
- ☑ Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
- ☑ Start summarizing your annual records, both production and financial. This will allow time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
- ☑ Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
- ☑ Get breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements if some fail.

- ☑ Implement bull conditioning program.
- ☑ Review plans and arrangements for the upcoming breeding season.
- ☑ Check progress of developing replacement heifers - are they going to meet your target weight by the start of the breeding season?

December

- ☑ Begin grazing small grain pastures (if ready).
- ☑ Check mineral feeder.
- ☑ Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- ☑ Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding season.
- ☑ Observe regularly for calving difficulties.
- ☑ Rotate calving pastures to prevent diseases.
- ☑ Watch for scours in calves.
- ☑ Investigate health of bulls before you buy.
- ☑ Have dead animals posted by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.
- ☑ Complete review of management plan and update for next year. Check replacement heifers to be sure they will be ready to breed 3 - 4 weeks prior to the main cow herd.



Livestock Summary

The USDA is reporting that this year's large meat production is resulting in an abundant supply of meats for domestic consumption. An eight to nine percent decline in exports and a two to three percent increase in imports is exacerbating the situation. Cattle, hog, and broiler prices will be pressured lower.

Weather conditions and limited forage supplies continue to affect cattle producers' decisions. Increase cow slaughter and large feedlot placements of heavyweight cattle suggest that producers may not be planning to expand herds. Reduced harvest estimates for corn and soybean harvest will likely intensify the trend.

The cattle industry has faced almost continuous drought since herd liquidation began in 1996. Grazing conditions are poorest in the western half of the U.S. The Northern Plains and the Mid and South Atlantic Coastal State are in a similar condition. The mid-August pasture and range conditions indicated 48 percent very poor and poor conditions as compared to 38 percent a year earlier.

Florida is marvelous by comparison. Pasture feed is 15 percent fair, 80 percent good, and five percent excellent. Army worms are causing some damage in northern and panhandle pastures.

As such, forage conditions and hay production remain major uncertainties for the industry at mid year. The USDA's Acreage Reports indicated that farmers and ranchers expect to expand harvested hay acreage by nearly two percent over a year earlier. This will be the largest hay acreage since 1988. However, drought and limited irrigation water in many areas will influence crop yield.

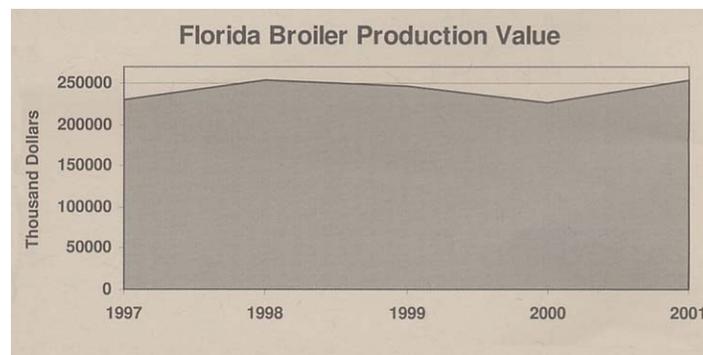
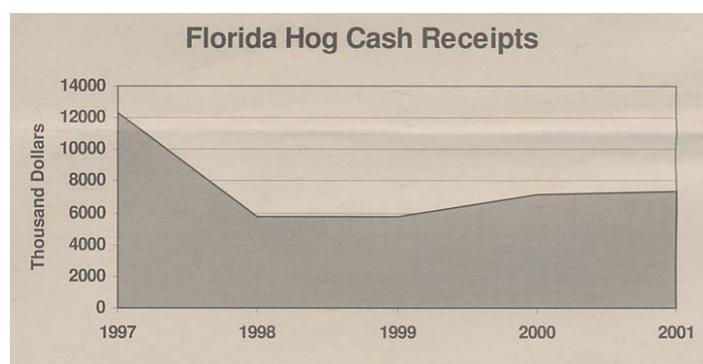
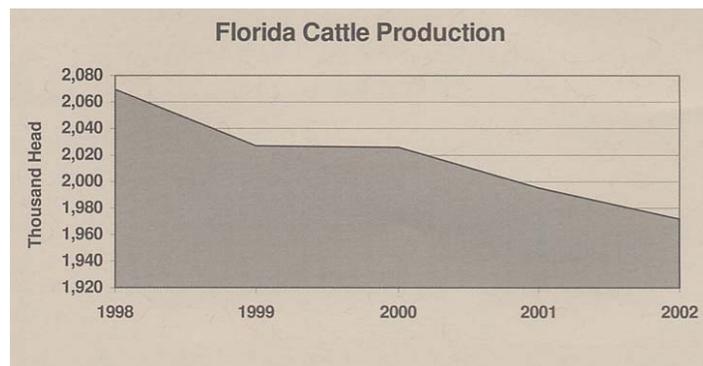
Cow slaughter in the first half of 2002 was down nearly four percent from the weather elevated levels of a year earlier. The levels were still up over one percent from the first half of 2000.

Heifer slaughter was down marginally in the first half of 2002, but large feedlot placements weighing over 800 pounds in April and May raise questions on the number of heifers that are likely to be bred this year and calve in 2003. A positive sign for Florida's cow-calf operations.

Parts of Canada are suffering from drought, yet other areas have received too much rain. The result is an unexpectedly large number of cattle being sent south for finishing. This trend is expected to diminish later in the year as inventory is reduced. Additionally, the weather conditions are causing fewer U.S. cattle to be sent north.

Total beef cattle exports are expected to be up nearly one percent in 2002 and an additional five percent in 2003. Concerns by the Japanese public over BSE has depressed demand for beef imports, but the Republic of Korea has increased its imports by 104 percent through April 2002.

Livestock Trends



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

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Forage Testing¹

Why Test Your Forage?

Forage testing provides useful information about the nutritive value of a forage. This information can be used to adjust the amount of protein and energy supplements that are fed with the forage in order to meet the needs of the animals. If the energy and protein of the forage are relatively high, the amount of supplement can be reduced, resulting in a cost savings. On the other hand, if energy and protein in the forage are not sufficient to meet the needs of the animals, the producer can feed the correct amount of supplement in order for the animals to perform satisfactorily.

How To Get Started

Contact one of the certified forage testing labs listed on this web site:

<http://www.foragetesting.org/>

<http://www.foragetesting.org/fap/>

Ask the following questions:

1. What analyses are available?
2. Is chemical or near infrared reflectance (NIR) used?
3. What is the cost per analysis?
4. How long will it take to receive the test results?
5. What are the instructions for collecting, processing, and mailing the sample?

How To Collect A Sample

General Instructions

Properly collecting and identifying a sample is very important. A sampling device or tool is needed for collecting hay samples. Several commercial types are available. They usually consist of a tube with a cutting edge on one end and a shank on the other that is fastened in the chuck of an electric drill or hand brace. The sampler is driven into the end of a rectangular bale or the rounded side of a round

bale to obtain core samples that are a cross section of the bale. Collect a single core sample from each of 12 bales for a particular lot of hay. Combine the 12 cores into one sample. This will insure that the sample is representative. The outer layer of weathered round bales should be pulled away before sampling.

Each hay cutting, type of hay, etc. should be sampled and analyzed separately. Each hay cutting or lot should be identified and stored separately so that when it is fed it can be matched with its forage test results.

Silage also can be analyzed. Collecting a silage sample may be somewhat more difficult but can be managed. A sample can be collected from the face of a bunker silo as it is being fed and from the unloader of an upright silo. Bagged silage can be sampled by cutting small slits along the side of the bag, collecting a handful of silage and then covering or resealing the slit with waterproof tape. Collect silage from 5 or 6 places along the bag, mix well, and extract a small sample to send to the laboratory. Immediately place the sample in the plastic bag and seal it. If not mailed right away, place the sample in a refrigerator or freezer. Also, a fair estimate of the nutritive value of the silage can be obtained by analyzing the fresh material as it is going into the silo.

Pasture samples can be collected and analyzed by plucking the forage with your fingers at about the height the animals are grazing it. Scissors or some other cutting device also could be used. If possible, these samples should be dried before sending to the laboratory. If drying is not possible, mail the sample immediately after it is harvested.

Your results are only as good as your sample!

What Results Are Provided

Results provided may include dry matter, crude protein, total digestible nutrients (TDN), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), acid detergent fiber (ADF), minerals, and some type of quality index. A quality index assigns a numerical value to a hay which then can be used to compare one hay to

another. The lab you use may price each analysis separately or some as a group. Often you can select which analyses you want and omit others, thus reducing the cost. Ask the lab to send you information on how to interpret each analysis.

How To Use The Results

The results of forage tests may be compared to the requirements for TDN and protein of different classes of animals. An example for growing beef heifers is in Table 1. The TDN requirements of heifers increase with higher weights and higher gains. Many residual pastures and hays available during the fall and winter have a TDN concentration of 50% or lower. Forages with lower TDN concentrations also have lower levels of voluntary intake. If the forage alone will not meet the requirements for TDN or protein, then supplements will be needed.

If you do not know how to use the results, contact your County Agricultural Extension Office or your nutrition consultant for advice.

¹This document is SS-AGR-63, one of a series of the Agronomy Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. This publication is also part of the Florida Forage Handbook, an electronic publication of the Agronomy Department. For more information you may contact the editor of the Florida Forage Handbook, C. G. Chambliss (cgc@mail.ifas.ufl.edu). Revised June 2002. Please visit the Edis website at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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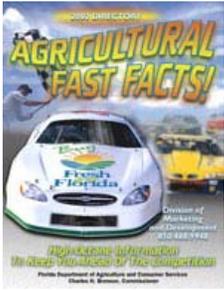
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-TAT-

Table 1. Daily TDN and protein requirements of heifers at various weights and gains.^a

Heifer Weight (lb)	Daily Gain (lb)	Dry Matter Intake (lb/day)	Daily TDN Requirements		Crude Protein Requirements	
			lb/day	% of Total Dry Matter	lb/day	% of Total Dry Matter
500	0	9.8	4.9	50.0	.75	7.6
	0.5	11.0	6.2	56.0	.94	8.5
	1.0	11.8	7.3	62.0	1.11	9.4
	1.5	12.1	8.3	68.5	1.25	10.3
700	0	12.6	6.3	50.0	.89	7.1
	0.5	14.1	7.9	56.0	1.11	7.9
	1.0	15.1	9.1	62.0	1.27	8.4
	1.5	15.5	10.6	68.5	1.40	9.0

^aNational Research Council Nutritional Requirement of Beef Cattle, 1984.



“2002 Florida Agricultural Fast Facts Directory” Now Available

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced the availability of the “2002 Florida Agricultural Fast Facts Directory” which provides a statistical examination of Florida’s food, fiber and forestry industries.

The 168-page directory, published by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, combines information that previously was printed in various separate publications.

In addition to agricultural statistics and specialized data, the “Fast Facts” contains price histories and production levels of various commodities, a listing of agricultural groups and associations in Florida, agricultural news stories, and a listing of publications and producer assistance services offered by the Department.

“The directory is of interest to those involved in commerce, education and government who need information about Florida’s second-largest industry,” Bronson said. “It’s a quick reference for everyone -- from teachers seeking data for school projects, to agricultural producers wishing to determine the impact of their crops and livestock on the state and the nation.”

“Fast Facts” is available free upon request while supplies last. To obtain a copy, call (850) 488-9948, or visit www.florida-agriculture.com (click on “Publications”), or write to:

“2002 Agricultural Fast Facts Directory”
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services
Mayo Building, Room 435
407 Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800

SOURCE: Les Harrison
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Phone: (850) 488-4366
Email: harrisl@doacs.state.fl.us

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CSPI Slams Meat Industry on New Kids’ Website

The Washington, D.C.-based activist group Center for Science in the Public Interest has launched a children's Website (www.Smart-Mouth.org) that aims to teach kids how to "bite back" at fast food chains and food processors, according to a new release from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The CSPI news release leads off: "Learning about healthy eating can be fun on Smart-Mouth.org, a snazzy new Web site where games teach kids (and their parents and teachers) how to eat well-and resist the food industry's marketing campaigns. Kids can see how their favorite restaurant foods stack up, play 'true or false' with a food industry spokesman, and 'bite back' by asking food companies and government officials to promote nutrition."

The news release continued, "Smart-Mouth.org is launched as the food industry -- and fast-food chains in particular -- come under increased scrutiny for their roles in promoting overweight and obesity in children. Smart-Mouth.org is part of a comprehensive strategy by CSPI to help address childhood obesity and other diet-related health problems."

Industry had a far different reaction.

"This Website is one of more extreme efforts we've seen from CSPI," read a statement from NCBA, "and we are dismayed by the tone and the 'facts' that are taken out of context."

Here are examples of some of the messages on Smart-Mouth.org:

- "It takes up to 10 times more land to feed people on diets including meat, milk, and other animal-based foods than on diets made up mostly of plant foods (fruits, veggies, bread, rice, cereal)."

- "Two feedlots (for cows being fattened for slaughter) in Colorado produce more excrement (cow poop) than the cities of Denver, Boston, Atlanta and St. Louis -- combined."

- "Eating chicken instead of beef? Good for you. Just make sure it's grilled (not fried) and skip the mayo or cheese on your chicken sandwich."

- "When cows are getting fattened up for slaughter, they produce about 50 pounds of manure each day. So in two to three days, the poop from one cow would weigh as much as you do. Hamburger anyone?"

- "If you give people foods that pack a lot of calories into a small volume, they tend to eat more calories. That's why foods like ice cream, cheese, fried foods and meats are fattening."

- "Eating beef, pork, and other red meat is a major cause of heart disease in the U.S. and other industrialized countries."

Here are talking points to respond to this information:

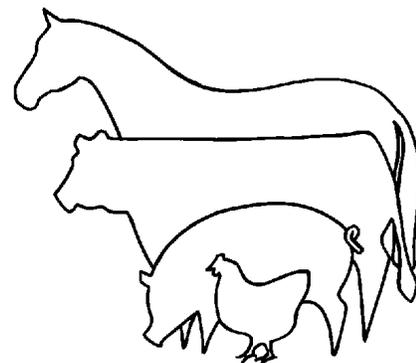
- Given the growing incidence of both overweight/obesity and eating disorders, more than ever it is important for kids to develop a healthy, positive relationship with food. That includes enjoying foods, even snacks and fast food, in moderation. This web site does not help kids do that.
- The American Dietetic Association and the Dietary Guidelines advise Americans to eat diet of balance, variety and moderation. What this Website does is divide foods into good foods and bad foods, and leaves no room for middle ground.
- Ironically, CSPI is doing exactly what they accuse food marketers of doing --

manipulating impressionable children with half-truths and misinformation.

- More than three-quarters of kids under the age 11 are not eating the recommended servings from the meat group, putting them at risk for nutritional deficiencies such as iron, zinc and B-vitamins.
- Beef is important to include in a kid's diet. It provides more than nine essential nutrients that help kids grow and develop.
- The CSPI Website says that chicken is a preferred protein for children. [But] to get the same nutrients provided in a three-ounce serving of cooked top round steak (compared with a three-ounce chicken breast), you would have to eat seven chicken breasts to get the same amount of vitamin B12; five and a half chicken breasts to get the same amount of zinc; three chicken breasts to get the same amount of iron or folate; two and one-third chicken breasts to get the same amount of riboflavin; and two chicken breasts to get the same amount of thiamin.

SOURCE: Dan Murphy
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release – September 24, 2002

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Federal Agencies Release Updated FDA Food Code



FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and the Food Safety and Inspection Service released the 2001 edition of the Food Code, a revised and updated guide containing the most recent and best advice to ensure that food sold at retail is safe, properly protected and presented. The guide is available through the National Technical Information Service.

Epidemiological outbreak data repeatedly identify five major risk factors related to employee behaviors and preparation practices in retail and foodservice establishments as contributing to food-borne illness: improper holding temperatures; inadequate cooking, such as undercooking raw shell eggs; contaminated equipment; food from unsafe sources; and poor personal hygiene.

Food Code 2001 provisions address the four areas of personnel, food, equipment/facilities/supplies and compliance and enforcement.

The Food Code 2001 is available in a four-color, spiral-bound edition from NTIS by calling (800) 553-6847 or (703) 605-6000, for \$49 plus \$5 handling fee (no additional charge for shipping). Quote order number PB2002-100819KRZ. Most major credit cards accepted. Fax orders to (703) 605-6900.

SOURCE: Dan Murphy
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release – September 20, 2002

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