

November 2003

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Dates to Remember

November

- 1 Osceola County Sporting Clay Shoot - TM Ranch, Orlando, FL
- 1 Hines Brothers/Express Ranches Bull Sale - High Springs, FL
- 1 Black & White Bull Sale - Ocala Livestock Market, Ocala, FL
- 1 Twin Valley Farms Bull Sale - Prattville, AL
- 7 Food Safety For The Holidays - FCE Program Training - Alachua County Extension Office, Gainesville, FL
- 7 Callaway Farms Black Angus Sale - Hardee Farms, Chiefland, FL
- 7 Hardee Farms Black Bull Sale - Chiefland, FL
- 7 Rogers Charolais - Okeechobee, FL
- 8 Walden Farms Charolais Annual Production Sale - Brantley, AL
- 14 Leachman Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 21 Hardee County Cattlemen's Association 4th Annual All Breed Bull Sale - Wauchula, FL

Prepared by Extension Specialists in Animal Sciences

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Beef Cattle Nutrition

December

- 4-5 FCA Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting - Gainesville, FL
- 25 Christmas Day
- 29 Okeechobee Slaughter Cow Sale - Okeechobee, FL



University of Florida graduate student Tonya Stephens, left, and sophomore Jenifer Harding prepare horses for exercise at UF's Horse Teaching Unit.



Beef Management Calendar

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.
- ☑ 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.

January

- ☑ Apply lime for summer crops.
- ☑ Check for lice and treat if necessary.
- ☑ Control weeds in cool season pastures.

- ☑ Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately 6 inches high. Rye should be 12-8 inches high.
- ☑ Check mineral feeders.
- ☑ Put bulls out for October calving season.
- ☑ Make up breeding herd lists if using single sire herds.
- ☑ Watch for calf scours.
- ☑ Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.
- ☑ Make sure cow herd has access to adequate fresh water.
- ☑ Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
- ☑ Get taxes filed.
- ☑ Discuss herd health with you veterinarian and outline a program for the year. Review herd health program with your veterinarian regularly.
- ☑ Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings and other data.
- ☑ Observe cow herd for calving difficulties.
- ☑ Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
- ☑ Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes if grass tetany has been previous problem (if you are not already using a high magnesium mineral).
- ☑ Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality prior to the breeding season.
- ☑ Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.



Livestock Summary

The current cattle market is presenting some interesting opportunities for Florida's cow calf operators. A rainy year, too rainy by some accounts, has also offered some challenges.

Frequently one sector of the cattle industry is profitable at the expense of another sector. The Canadian beef situation and the current herd reduction have created a new profitability dynamic.

So how much higher can beef go? The price ratio of beef prices as compared to pork and chicken prices

has continued its acceleration of the past few years. Existing trends suggest that this will continue for a while longer.

The North American beef industry has become increasingly concentrated over the last ten years. The two largest beef packers in Canada are two of the largest packers in the U.S.

Recent years have seen both box beef and cattle imported from Canada. Likewise, both have been exported to Canada in smaller quantities.

Cyclical herd liquidation has been underway in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Weather induced cow slaughter has been large again this year. Dry conditions and reduced forage has delayed herd expansion for at least another year.

About eight to 10 percent of U.S. beef imports are either Canadian cattle or box beef. Removing that import volume from the marketplace and the current tight supply for high-quality beef tighten the situation further.

The earliest that beef production can increase is 2006, and that is only if more heifers are retained and bred in 2004. A hard winter will negatively impact the selling trend and push herd expansion further out.

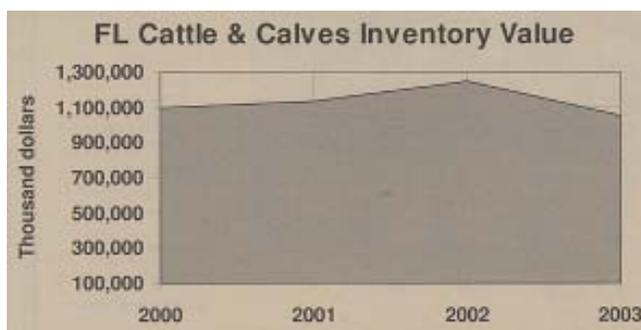
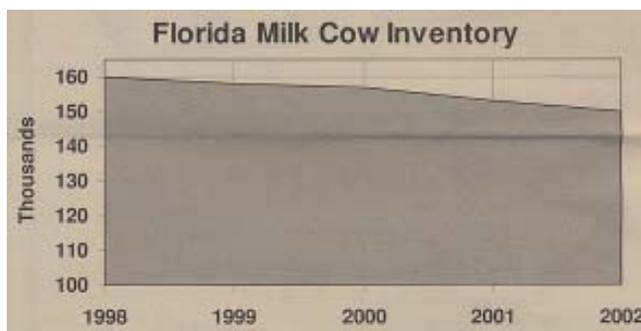
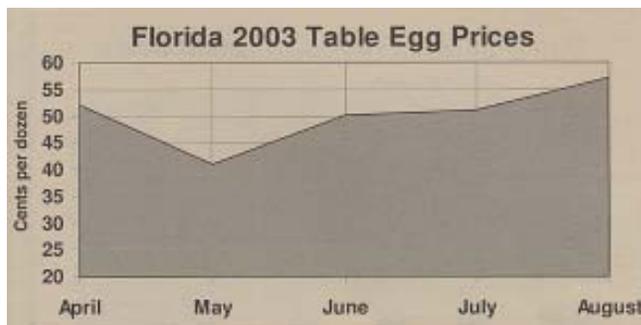
Beef supplies will decline even more in 2004 and 2005. At the same time, beef supplies will become temporarily shorter as the herd expansion signals become stronger and more females are retained.

Florida's cow-calf operators are carefully observing. Demand and prices for quality feeder cattle will be strong if the planned herd expansion proceeds. Weather will play a major roll in any trend that develops, to nobody's surprise.

Other factors that have potential influence on livestock demand are the economy and eating trends. A slip or slowing of the general economic recovery will negatively shift the price of beef, but the prospect for this happening is marginal.

Another potentially influential factor is eating trends. Much is currently being said about the collective waistline of America. To date, beef is still in a favorable light with most consumers.

Livestock Trends



SOURCE: The Florida Agri-Journal
 Researched by Les Harrison
 Development Rep II
 Division of Marketing
 Release - October 3, 2003

-RSS-

Beef Industry University Travel Course for Teen Leaders

The Beef Industry University is an exciting, educational, enlightening experience for teen leaders who plan to spend a life in the beef cattle industry. Maybe the most important function of this summit is to motivate and inspire our outstanding teens to continue

in the beef industry in the face of inhibiting factors presented by the media, their peers, and sometimes their own family. The program is designed to connect teens with the important and influential issues and people in the beef industry.

Applicants must be at least 15 years-of-age by September 2003 of the application year and be a current member of the Junior Florida Cattlemen's Association.

Participants will submit applications by January 15, 2004. The FCA Youth Committee will make the selections by February 1, 2004. Members will be notified immediately so that plans can be made for participation. Session 1 is scheduled for June 2004 and Session 2 is scheduled for July 2004. Please submit applications to:

Dr. Tim Marshall
P.O. Box 110910
Animal Science Building
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

The FCA Youth Committee reserves the right to interview the applicants if the printed applications do not provide sufficient information to complete the selection process.

Follow the format as described in the following to create an application packet. Please be accurate, complete, but concise. Your packet development is an indicator of your communication skills, ability to organize and creativity. Using Microsoft Word, WordPerfect or other software, create this packet. Do not try to hand write on this form.

1. Legal Name - Name that you want used to address you (ie., Sue rather than Susan)
2. Permanent Mailing Address
3. Phone Numbers (home, cell, others)
4. E-mail Address
5. Birth Date
6. Number of years actively involved as member of the Junior FCA.
7. Evidence of school scholastic performance

provided by your high school or college (GPA, SAT, ACT).

8. Provide evidence of activity and professional development gained from:
 - a. 4-H
 - b. FFA
 - c. Junior FCA and local County Cattlemen's Association
 - d. Junior breed associations
 - e. Other youth programs
9. Work experience in the beef cattle industry
10. Other work experience

These questions must be answered by the applicant alone. He/she may use any source of information to respond, but must use personal critical thinking and creative writing to provide the answers.

11. What is the image stocker calves from the southeastern United States? What can you do to enhance this image?
12. Why do you want to participate in this program?
13. Why should you be selected to represent Florida's Junior FCA membership in this program?
14. How would you use what you learn in this program to benefit the beef cattle industry, the Junior FCA membership, and yourself?
15. Describe the United States beef cattle industry structure and discuss how Florida's beef cattle producers fit into this national structure.

Proposed Agenda

Session 1

Florida Cattlemen's Association Office, Kissimmee

- 9:00 Introduction of Beef Industry Course for Teen Leaders
- 9:15 Leadership
What is leadership?
How can I become a leader?
- 10:00 Round Table Discussion of Leadership (15 minutes)
- 10:20 Break

- 10:35 FCA/NCBA
 Florida Cattlemen's Association
 National Cattlemen's Beef Association
 What does FCA/BCBA do for its membership?
 How can its members serve the industry through FCA/NCBA?
 Florida Beef Council and National Beef Board
 How does the Beef Checkoff help our cattlemen?
- 11:35 Round Table Discussion FCA, NCBA and Beef Checkoff
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00 Florida and National Beef Industry
 Current size, scope and structure of the Florida Cattle Industry. Florida is unique in the east, having some of the largest ranches in the nation. Not only does the Florida cattle industry have a large economic effect on the Florida economy, but the economy of other states such as Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas as well.
- 2:00 Round Table Discussion of the Beef Cattle Industry
- 2:20 Break
- 2:35 Issues Facing the Beef Industry
 National Animal Identification; BSE; Export/Import Markets; Food Safety; Beef Demand; Animal Use Guidelines; Land and Water Use; New Product Development; many others
- 3:35 Round Table Discussion of Issues
- 4:00 Planning for Session 2
- 5:00 Adjourn

Session 2

The following is a list of possible host businesses.

Departure point will depend on the geographic distribution of the participants, but we may meet in Kissimmee or Gainesville.

- Day 1 Drive to Marianna REC
 Visit a North Florida cattle operation

- Day 2 Drive to eastern OK for the night
- Day 3 Drive to Flint Hills, Kansas
 Cooper Cattle Company: Flint Hills native grass, stocker cattle management
 Drive to OK City
 Cowboy Hall of Fame
 Night in OK City
- Day 4 Morning: Drive to Amarillo, TX
 Afternoon: Texas Cattle Feeders Association
 Corporate office of large cattle feeder such as Friona Industries or Cactus Feeders
 Many other businesses in the area such as Amarillo Brokerage Company; Micro Beef Technologies; Consulting nutritionist and veterinarians
 Night in Amarillo
- Day 5 Beef Processing Plant (Amarillo Tyson/IBP or Plainview Excel)
 Two feedyards: small private yard and large corporate yard
- Day 6 Drive to Fort Worth, TX
 Fort Worth Stockyards - visit the historic area around the old stockyards
 Superior Livestock Auction
 Drive home
- Day 7 Drive home

SOURCE: Tim Marshall
 Professor
 Department of Animal Sciences
 University of Florida
 Gainesville, FL

-TTM-



Cattle Feeding Library

With increasing interest in cattle feeding by Florida cattlemen comes the increased need for information about cattle feeding issues and topics. One source of concise and accurate information

is the Cattle Today internet library located at <http://www.cattlefeeding.com/library.htm>. Sample topics include:

- Custom feeding as an option
- How grids changed the fed cattle market
- Market trends
- BSE
- Growth implant update
- Health management and biosecurity in feedyards
- Locating a new feedyard
- Stocker cattle management
- and nearly 100 more

SOURCE: Cattle Today
<http://www.cattlefeeding.com>

-TTM-

National Animal Identification Plan

Since September 11, 2001, our nation has been on a heightened state of alert. Threats to our livelihood and way of life not only include direct assaults, which result in loss of lives, but also assaults on our food supply. Several foreign animal diseases pose a threat to production agriculture in the United States. With this in mind, it has been proposed that the United States needs a traceback system in place that can identify all animals and premises potentially exposed to foreign animal disease within 48 hours after discovery. The only way to accomplish this goal is with a National Animal Identification Plan that is mandatory for all producers.

In October of 2003 the National Animal ID Program was released to the public. The plan was requested by the United States Animal Health Association and has been in development phases for a couple of years. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS—a branch of the USDA) and over 100 animal industry professionals (representing more than 70 national livestock industry organizations) were involved in the development of the plan.

Many beef producers may see this as yet another regulatory hurdle that must be dealt with. Cattle fever tick and Brucellosis eradication programs were very

much viewed in this light when they began. The US ID plan encompasses all species including: bison, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas, horses, domestic deer and elk, poultry (eight species including game birds) and aquaculture (eleven species).

Implementation of the National Animal ID program will occur in phases. Phase one will involve a premise identification system that must be in place by July 2004. Management of the premise ID is the responsibility of each state department of agriculture. The premise ID is needed at all locations in the livestock production chain including markets, assembly points (order buyers), exhibitions, processing plants, etc., so that an animal can be tracked through every location where it may have come into contact with other animals.

Phase two stipulates all cattle, swine and small ruminants must possess **individual** or **group lot** identification for interstate movement by July 2005 with the remaining species in compliance by July 2006. Individual ID is necessary for tracking animals that are destined to be commingled with other animals as they move through the system. Acceptable means of identification include Visual tags (with a country code and individual number), however, the accepted means of ID for beef producers will most likely be an electronic ID ear tag. The electronic ear tag will facilitate transfer of information, remove human error, and allow 48-hour traceback. Groups of animals that are never commingled (for example, a load of cull cows that are sold directly from the ranch to the packer) can be assigned a group ID and do not need to be individually identified.

Phase three involves enhancing the ability to track animals through all marketing channels. These date deadlines were established only as guidelines for implementation.

There are still many unanswered questions about the National ID plan. For instance:

- What is the definition of a premise?
- What if a producer runs cattle in two separate counties? Does he have two premise ID's?
- What if the producer runs cattle in two separate states? Does he have to work with the Animal Health Commission in each state?
- What forms of ID are acceptable?

- Who pays for the electronic tag placed in the left ear?
- What is the producers liability?
- Who polices the program?

Lots of questions remain to be answered but one thing is for sure, the National Animal ID plan is starting to take shape and will happen within the next five years in some form. Additional information and the complete 74-page summary of the National Animal ID Plan is available at www.usaip.info.

SOURCE: Todd A. Thrift
Assistant Professor, Beef Cattle
Nutrition
(352) 392-8597
thrift@animal.ufl.edu
Department of Animal Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

-TAT-

USDA Issues Proposed Rule for Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued the proposed rule for the mandatory country of origin labeling program as required by the 2002 Farm Bill.

Under the proposed rule, muscle cuts of beef (including veal), lamb and pork; ground beef, ground lamb and ground pork; farm-raised fish and shellfish; wild fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities (fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables); and peanuts must be labeled at retail to indicate their country of origin. In addition, the notice of country of origin for fish and shellfish must include and distinguish between wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish, as required by the legislation.

Covered commodities are excluded from mandatory country of origin labeling if they are an ingredient in a processed food item. Examples of covered commodities excluded under this provision of the proposed rule would be bacon, orange juice, mixed

nuts and fruit/vegetable party trays.

Food service establishments, such as restaurants, lunchrooms, cafeterias, food stands, bars, lounges and similar enterprises are exempt from the mandatory country of origin labeling requirements.

Under the proposed rule, a covered commodity can only bear a “United States country of origin” declaration if certain criteria are met.

- For beef, the covered commodity must be derived exclusively from animals born, raised and slaughtered in the United States, including animals that were born and raised in Alaska or Hawaii and transported for a period not to exceed 60 days through Canada to the United States and slaughtered in the United States.

- For lamb and pork, the covered commodity must be derived exclusively from an animal that was born, raised and slaughtered in the United States.

- Farm-raised fish and shellfish covered commodities must be derived exclusively from fish or shellfish hatched, raised, harvested and processed in the United States.

- Covered commodities for wild fish and shellfish must be derived from fish or shellfish harvested in the waters of the United States or by a U.S. flagged vessel and processed in the United States or aboard a U.S. flagged vessel.

- In the case of perishable agricultural commodities and peanuts, the covered commodities must be derived exclusively from produce or peanuts grown in the United States.

The proposed rule also outlines the requirements for labeling products of mixed origin including products produced both in foreign markets and in the United States as well as labeling requirements for blended products. Additionally, recordkeeping requirements for retailers and their suppliers are outlined.

The full text of the proposed rule will be published in the October 30 *Federal Register*. Comments may be sent via e-mail to: cool@usda.gov or sent regular mail to: Country of Origin Labeling Program; USDA Agricultural Marketing Service; 1400 Independence Ave., SW Stop 0249; Washington, D.C. 20250-0249,

no later than Dec. 29, 2003. Copies of the proposed rule and additional information can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/COOL>.

SOURCE: Kathryn Mattingly
Billy Cox
(202) 720-8998
Agricultural Marketing Service
USDA
Release - October 27, 2003

-RSS-

Finishing Cull Beef Cows on a High-Grain Diet

Previous research has shown that feeding cull cows a high-energy diet for 60 to 100 days can be profitable depending upon the cost of grain in relationship to the price of cows at the end of the feeding period. In this Montana study, cull beef cows were allotted to a control group (no implant) and a group that was implanted with Synovex-Plus.® The objective was to determine the effects of implant, initial body weight (BW), and initial body condition score (BCS) on feedlot performance and carcass characteristics. Cows were fed 90 days on a high-energy, 80-85% concentrate diet.

- Increased initial BW was associated with increases in final BW, hot carcass weight, ribeye area, and numerical yield grade. Average daily gain (ADG) and backfat were not affected by initial BW.
- Initial BCS had no effect on any feedlot or carcass trait except for an increase in backfat.
- Implant significantly affected all feedlot and carcass characteristics except for backfat. Implanted cows had 0.48 lb/d greater ADG, 40 lb greater final BW, 40 lb greater carcass weight, 1.3 sq. in. larger ribeye area, 0.27 increase in marbling score, and 0.24 numerically lower yield grade.

The authors concluded that feeding cull cows for a period of time before marketing can enhance carcass quality and may improve profitability. However, the cost of gain may often be greater than ultimate sale price of the cows. They added that it is important to consider seasonality of cull cow prices and the price differential

between cull cow slaughter grades. In this study, implanting clearly improved feedlot performance and carcass characteristics (Funston et al. 2003. Prof. Anim. Sci. 19:233).

Corn vs. Soyhulls as a Supplemental Source of Energy for Lactating Beef Cows

Previous research has shown that supplementing cows in early lactation with high-starch grains (e.g., corn) may negatively impact digestion of the forage portion of the diet, whereas supplementing with low-starch feeds (e.g., soyhulls) does not interfere with forage digestion. In this North Dakota study, 78 cow-calf pairs, fed a basal diet of 75% grass hay, 25% wheat straw, were allotted to four different supplemental treatments during early lactation: 1) 10.5# dry rolled corn (8% crude protein [CP]); 2) 8.1# dry rolled corn plus 3.4# sunflower meal (8.9% CP); 3) 11.7# soyhulls (8.9% CP); 4) 9.9# soyhulls plus 2.3# sunflower meal (10.8% CP). All diets were equivalent in energy. On July 25, diets were reformulated to meet the lower energy requirements of late lactation. All cows and calves were weighed every 28 days. At each weighing, milk yield was determined on a sample of five cows in each treatment.

There were no significant differences between any of the treatments for changes in cow weight, cow condition score, milk yield, or calf weight. These results indicate that either corn or soyhulls are suitable as an energy supplement for the quality of forage used in this trial. Furthermore, the addition of sunflower meal as a protein supplement had no effect on cow or calf performance (Baumann et al. 2003. Proc. Beef Field Day, Carrington Res. Center, North Dakota State Univ., Volume 26).

SOURCE: Harlan Ritchie, Steven Rust, and Daniel Buskirk
Beef Cattle Specialists
Beef Cattle Research Update
Michigan State University
Release - Fall 2003

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