

June 2004

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Dates to Remember

June

- 11-13** Horse Camp - English
- 14** Open Bids for Horse Teaching Unit Sealed Bid Sale - Gainesville, FL
- 14-18** 4-H Day Camp: Commercial Agriculture Summer Day Camp - Gainesville, FL
- 16-18** FCA Annual Convention and Allied Trade Show - Marco Island, FL
- 17** FCA Bull Sale - Marco Island, FL
- 18-20** Horse Camp - Western/Speed
- 23** State 4-H Horse Public Speaking, Illustrated Talks/Demos, Horseman of the Year Interviews, 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl - Gainesville, FL
- 25-26** 4-H Hog & Ham - Gainesville, FL
- 28-** 4-H Legislature - Tallahassee, FL

July 2

- 29-30** Risk Management in the Cattle Business: An Emphasis on Marketing - Marianna, FL

July

- 8-10** State 4-H Horse Show - Tampa, FL
- 12-15** National County Agent Convention - Orlando, FL
- 24-25** Equine Health Conference
- 26-30** 4-H Congress - Gainesville, FL
- 28-** Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships -
- Aug 1** Monroe, LA
- TBA** Santa Rosa County Farm Tour - Milton, FL

Please visit <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/2004BCSCpics.shtml>, to view pictures from the 53rd Annual Beef Cattle Short Course.

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Fifty-third Annual Beef Cattle Short Course

2004 Beef Cattle Short Course Pictures

- 2004 Beef Cattle Short Course
- Allied Industry Trade Show and Reception
- "The Importance of Selenium Nutrition in Today's Beef Production" and Breakfast - Sponsored by Lakeland Animal Nutrition and Alltech, Inc.
- Demonstrations and Discussions - UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit - Lunch sponsored by Farm Credit of Central Florida
- Cattlemen's Steak-Out
- American Breeds Coalition - Sponsors of the 2004 Beef Cattle Short Course

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Beef Management Calendar

June

- ☑ Last date for planting sorghum.
- ☑ Check mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- ☑ Check pastures and hay field for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and army worms.
- ☑ Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.
- ☑ Check dust bags.
- ☑ Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- ☑ Utilize available veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories.
- ☑ Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.
- ☑ Pregnancy check cows.
- ☑ Update market information and plans.
- ☑ Make first cutting of hay.
- ☑ Put bulls out June 1 for calves starting March 11.
- ☑ Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

July

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

August

- ☑ Treat for liver flukes as close to August 15th as possible, if they are in your area.
- ☑ Cut hay.

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



Livestock Summary

First quarter beef production is likely down about 7 percent from a year earlier, and slaughter is down over 5 percent, with cow slaughter down sharply. Poor feeding conditions are holding down slaughter weights at the same time beef demand is rising seasonally.

Tight beef supplies, in spite of reduced beef exports, and strong beef demand continue to result in higher prices. As the spring barbecue season begins, supplies and slaughter weights are much lower than expected.

Typically slaughter weights do not begin to rise until late April to May and the cool wet conditions in early April will hold down this seasonal weight transition. Cow slaughter is expected to remain low, with the beef sector showing the first feeble steps toward expansion.

Higher milk prices and tight dairy heifer supplies are resulting in much lower dairy cow slaughter than previously expected. First quarter dairy cow slaughter was down nearly 14 percent from a year earlier.

Retail meat prices are up sharply as consumers have become more comfortable with the growing positive image of meat in diets. Consuming beef is now seen in a much more positive light than

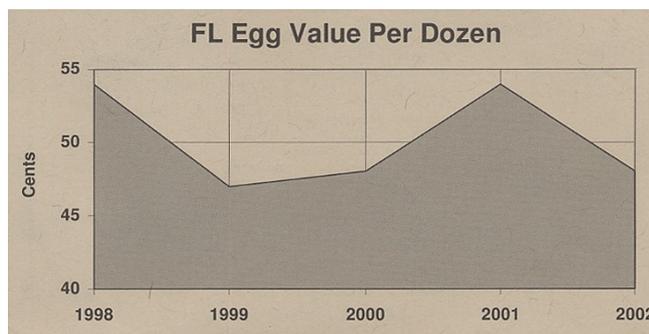
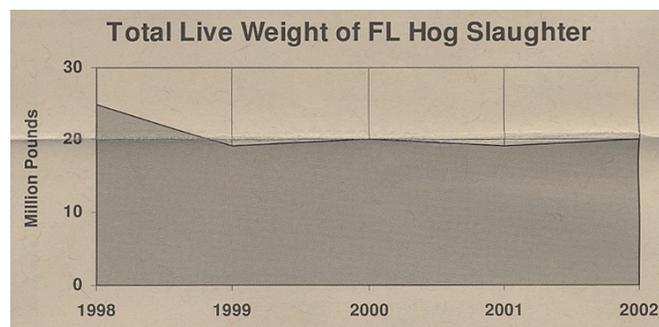
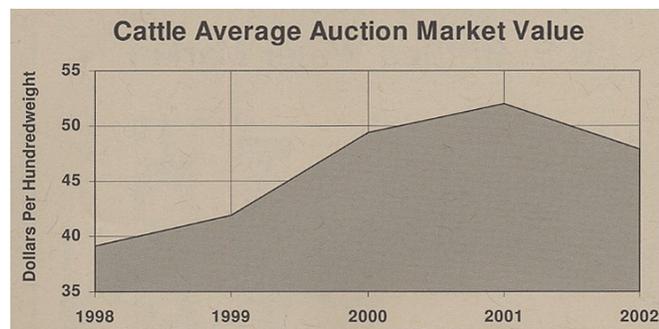
at any time over the past 15 to 20 years. In addition, the movement toward higher quality beef has increased consumer satisfaction.

Unfortunately for much of the past year, higher quality beef supplies have been very tight with retail prices well above year-earlier levels. However, consumers seem very willing to pay the higher prices for today's more consistent quality beef. Declining cattle inventories are going to keep beef supplies tight and prices strong for the next few years.

Although on feed inventories on March 1 were 4 percent above a year earlier, and marketings are expected to rise seasonally throughout the summer, poor feedlot performance continues to hold back marketing numbers and slaughter weights. This very tight supply situation places cattle feeders in a strong negotiating position as the early barbeque season begins.

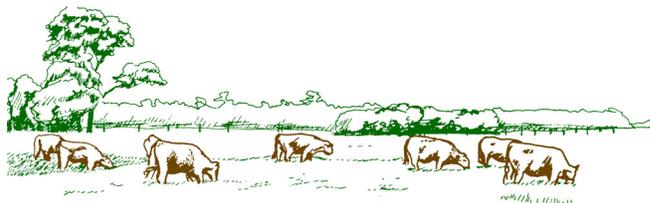
Market uncertainties regarding export markets and new protocols on production and animal identification programs could restrain expansion plans and may well impact cattle prices and market entry for at least some producers. Cattlemen are likely to remain wary of expansion until forage supplies improve.

Livestock Trends



SOURCE: The Florida Agri-Journal
 Researched by Sherilyn Burris
 Information Specialist I
 Division of Marketing
 Release - May 5, 2004

-RSS-



Success for the Fifty-third Annual Beef Cattle Short Course

"What a great blend of education and socialization that enhances the Florida beef industry team!" One participant having attended nearly all years, called the Fifty-third Annual Beef Cattle Short Course the best yet. Not only was attendance at a long-time high with registered participants, but the participant evaluations were excellent! The number of exhibitors for the Trade Show was nearly double from the last few years. This year's theme, Management Issues and Industry Challenges in Defining Times, and program topics resulted from requests received over the last year from many of our Florida producers. Wednesday's program focused on current hot topics affecting the present and future beef industry, National Animal ID, Country of Origin Labeling, and BSE. Thursday's program focused on the value and use of cattle with Bos indicus breeding from pasture to retail. Sponsored by the American Breeds Coalition, this session addressed the fact and fiction of the genetics used in the Gulf Coast region.

The attendance on Friday morning occasionally decreases from the previous day, however, breakout sessions on cow supplementation systems for various regions of Florida attracted large crowds the morning after the well-attended, Thursday night Steak-Out.

The BCSC target audience consists of beef cattle managers who are interested in increasing net profit and willing to make management changes to do so without endangering the resources at their disposal. Profitable production, processing, and utilization of cattle are paramount to the BCSC participants.

SOURCE: Tim Marshall, Professor
marshall@animal.ufl.edu
University of Florida
Department of Animal Sciences
Gainesville, FL
Release - May 18, 2004

-TTM-



Call for Consignments - 2004 Florida Bull Test

It is now time to plan consignments to the 2004 Florida Bull Test at the University of Florida, North Florida Research and Education Center, Marianna, FL. Consignment is open to all breeds and composites with Expected Progeny Differences. Bulls must be born between September 1 and December 31, 2003. Bulls will be gain tested for 112 days. Weight growth, ultrasound, health and reproduction data will be gathered throughout the test. Eligible bulls will be sold at auction at the NFREC Pavilion on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Bulls will be scheduled to arrive at the testing facility on July 30-31, will go on test August 24-25, and complete the test on December 15-16.

Nomination forms are available by contacting: Mary Chambliss, North Florida Research and Education Center, 3925 Highway 71, Marianna, FL 32446-7906, phone: (850) 482-9904 or can be downloaded from <http://flbulltest.ifas.ufl.edu>. A Nomination Form and \$50 per head are due by

July 1, 2004. The overall cost of the test is anticipated to be similar to last year at \$625. Upon receipt of the nomination, additional information will be sent to the consignors.

The 2003 test concluded with a successful sale for those consignors who chose to participate. Sixty-seven bulls sold for an average price of \$2,031. In reviewing the sale results, one noted fact was that buyers are paying close attention of EPD's. Bulls with below breed average EPD's for growth, or well above breed average for birth weight were not as actively sought and their prices fell well below the average of the sale. This is a performance test and sale, so consignors should take this into account before selecting bulls to be placed in the test. This year should be another opportunity to showcase superior beef cattle genetics in Florida. Don't miss this opportunity to see how bulls from your herd compare with some of the best in the Southeast. By consigning a bull to the Florida Bull Test, you will also have the opportunity to participate in one of the highest quality bull sales in the region.

SOURCE: Doug Mayo, Livestock Agent
demayo@ifas.ufl.edu
Jackson County Extension
Marianna, FL
Release - May 4, 2004

-RSS-



Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group Presents our 7th Annual Hay Field Day

Allen Holtzendorf Farm, Bradford County
August 13, 2004

Call your local Extension Office to make your reservations, in Bradford County call (904) 966-6224.

Agenda

8:30 am

Registration (\$5/person) & Welcome

9:00 am**Demonstrations & Discussions**

Forage Storage

Forage Quality & Supplementation

Hay Utilization & Feeding

Anhydrous Ammonia Demo

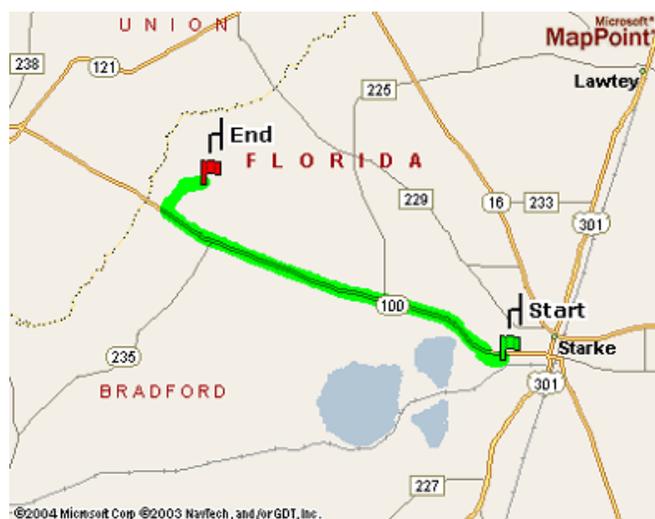
Perennial Peanut Establishment

Fall Fertilization of Hay Fields

Insects & Their Control

12:00 Noon**Lunch****1:00 pm****Equipment Demonstrations****Directions**

From Starke take HWY 100 west to CR 235 (about ¼ mile from the New River Bridge) turn right onto CR 235 and travel approximately 1 1/2 miles to the New River Volunteer Fire Department. The educational programs will be around the firehouse and then field demonstrations will be across CR 235 in a hay field, after lunch.



SOURCE: Cindy Sanders, Livestock Agent
CBSanders@ifas.ufl.edu
Alachua County Extension
Gainesville, FL
Release - May 4, 2004

-RSS-

Flow Cytometry was 90% Accurate in Sorting Sperm Into Male and Female Cells

This Colorado State University study had two objectives: to determine whether calves produced by sexed sperm differed from controls, and to what extent the sex ratio of calves was altered by the sexing procedure (flow cytometry/cell sorting). Data were used from 739 calves produced from control sperm and 1,169 calves produced from sexed sperm.

There were no significant differences between treatments in gestation length, calving ease, birth weight, calf vigor, abortion rate, weaning weight, and calf death rate from birth to weaning. No anatomical abnormalities were noted for any calves in this study.

The sex ratio of calves from unsexed control semen was 49.2% male; 50.8% female. Accuracy of using X (female)-sorted sperm was 87.8% female calves, and Y (male)-sorted sperm produced 92.1% male calves. It was concluded that flow cytometry/cell sorting can be used to preselect calves safely with approximately 90% accuracy (Tubman et al. 2004. J. Anim. Sci. 82:1029).

Sire Milk EPDs Were Closely Related to Production of Their Daughters

Oklahoma State University researchers conducted a long-term study to evaluate the productivity of daughters of highly proven high and low Milk EPD Angus and Hereford sires. The high and low Milk EPD sires differed by 30.0 lb of Milk EPD. Total cow milk production from 37 to 205 days and 205-day calf weights were measured for 1,843 cow-calf pairs from 1991 to 2000. High milk EPD sired cows produced 237.0 lb more total milk than low milk EPD sired cows. High milk EPD sired cows weaned 30.4 lb heavier calves than low milk EPD sired cows. The authors concluded that Milk EPDs are accurate predictors of progeny performance in the Angus and Hereford breeds and can be used by producers as a tool in selection and culling programs

in purebred and commercial beef herds to increase calf weaning weight (Bounds et al. 2004. Southern Section, ASAS, Abstract 21).



Effect of Early Weaning on Replacement Heifer Production

University of Illinois investigators used 64 Simmental x Angus heifer calves to compare the effects of early versus normal weaning age on subsequent productivity. Weaning occurred at 89 days and 232 days of age for early-weaned (EW) and normal-weaned (NW) heifers, respectively. Early-weaned heifers were lighter from puberty to breeding. However, by the time of palpation for pregnancy there was no difference in body weight. In spite of lighter pubertal weights, significantly more EW heifers reached puberty by 8 months of age than did NW heifers (81.3 vs. 59.4%). Pregnancy rate was also higher for EW than for NW heifers (90.0% vs. 74.2%). Weaning age of the heifers did not influence their subsequent milk production nor the performance of their calves. The authors concluded that early weaning reduced heifer size until breeding, increased percentage of replacements cycling at an early age, and improved pregnancy rate without influencing milk production (Sexton et al. 2004. Midwestern Section, ASAS, Abstract 283).



Emerging Issues for Cow Herds

Dr. John Lawrence, Director of the Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State Univ. recently presented an excellent review of emerging trends and issues in the beef industry. Following is a brief summary of some of the points he made (Lawrence. 2004. Proc. 33rd Annual Combelt Cow-Calf Conf., Ottumwa, IA).

◆ Now that USDA has prohibited acceptance of "downer" cows, producers should rethink management of cattle that may potentially become nonambulatory and market them before they begin to go down hill rather than waiting until they are worse.

◆ Value-based or grid marketing will continue its growth and will likely evolve to include other attributes. To date, Choice-Select spread has been the major determinant of grid premiums and discounts. However, premiums on Yield Grades 1 and 2 are growing and discounts on YG 3.5 will become more common. The base price may eventually decline into the YG 2 range. Economics are driving the trend to higher yielding cattle as the industry moves to more case-ready beef products.

◆ Information on how calves may be expected to perform in the feedlot has become increasingly important. In the future, performance in the cooler will increase in importance as carcass premiums and discounts increase.

◆ Information on cow herd health practices will become more valuable now that we know calf sickness has a dramatic impact on carcass value as well as feedlot performance.

◆ Special calf sales in which consignors have common management practices and genetics will become increasingly popular.

◆ A national ID system will improve the opportunity to verify and pass information from seller to buyer regardless of how cattle are sold.

◆ In the past, cow herds needed to retain ownership of their calves to capture their full value. With proven performance and traceable data that can be marketed with the calves, feedyards will be willing to pay closer to their full value.



Effect of Ractopamine on Feedlot Performance, Carcass Traits, and Sensory Characteristics

Earlier this year, FDA approved the use of a beta-agonist, ractopamine, as a growth promotant during the last 28 to 42 days of the finishing period for feedlot steers and heifers. It is marketed by Elanco Animal Health under the trade name of Optaflexx™. It is recommended to be fed at the rate of 200 mg/head/day for 28 days. A five-trial summary of steers

showed the following improvements over controls: Live wt. gain, +17.3 lb; dressing percent, +0.3%; hot carcass wt., 14.1 lb, ribeye area, +0.4 sq. in.; yield grade score, -0.1. Because there was no change in dry matter intake, a significant improvement in feed efficiency was observed. There were no differences in marbling score or quality grade.

At the recent Southwest Nutrition and Management Conference, Dr. Aubrey Schroeder presented the results of a study on shear force and sensory evaluation of strip loin steaks. When Optaflexx™ was fed at the recommended level of 200 mg/head/day, there were no changes from controls in Warner-Bratzler shear force or sensory evaluation of tenderness, juiciness and flavor. However, when fed at 300 mg/head/day, there was a significant change in shear force and sensory tenderness.

In summary, when fed at the 200 mg level, there are significant improvements in gain, feed efficiency, and carcass muscling along with no reductions in marbling or tenderness (Schroeder, A. 2004. Southwest Nutrition and Management Conference, Phoenix, AZ, Feb. 26-27).

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Effect of Limit-Feeding on Performance and Carcass Characteristics

University of Missouri workers used 84 Angus steers (835 lb) in a 128-day finishing trial to evaluate the effect of limit-feeding on feedlot performance and carcass merit. The treatments consisted of two diets that were formulated to generate 3.5 lb ADG according to National Research Council (NRC) recommendations: 1) ad libitum intake (AL) or 2) 80% of ad libitum intake (80). The two diets delivered equivalent amounts of net energy and metabolizable protein per day at the assigned intake levels.

Dry matter intake during the trial averaged 2.8% and 2.3% for AL and 80 steers, respectively. Interestingly, steers on the 80 treatment had significantly better ADG (3.88 vs. 3.64 lb) and feed efficiency (6.67 vs. 8.33 feed/gain) than AL steers.

However, the two treatments were similar in marbling score, yield grade, fat thickness, ribeye area, and incidence of liver abscesses. The authors noted that feedlot performance was greater for the limit-fed steers than that predicted by National Research Council (NRC) models. They concluded that level of intake did not exert economically relevant effects on carcass characteristics (Schmidt et al. 2004. Midwestern Section, ASAS, Abstract No. 261).

SOURCE: Harlan Ritchie, Steven Rust, and Daniel Buskirk
Beef Cattle Specialists
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
Release - Spring 2004

-TTM-



Bronson Takes Action to Keep Animal Disease Out of Florida

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has filed an emergency rule to place restrictions on the importation of animals from states affected with Vesicular Stomatitis following a confirmed case in Texas.

Vesicular Stomatitis is a highly contagious, viral disease that affects horses, cattle, swine and occasionally sheep, goats and deer. The virus can also cause flu-like symptoms in people working with infected animals. Symptoms on animals include blister-like lesions in the mouth, on the tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves and teats. While the virus doesn't usually kill the animals, it does result in significant weight loss and milk production loss. It is also difficult to distinguish between this virus and foot and mouth disease, a devastating livestock disease found outside the United States. States and other countries often impose movement restrictions on animal from Vesicular Stomatitis affected areas.

The emergency rule was filed with the Florida Administrative Weekly after Texas reported a case

of the disease on a farm in western Texas with 9 horses and 8 cattle. Texas has already quarantined the affected premises, prohibiting the export of any hooved animals from that area. However, the disease could turn up in other areas and in an abundance of caution, the emergency rule will place restrictions on animal imports into Florida from Texas.

“I’m pleased to see that Texas has taken immediate action quarantining the impacted area,” Bronson said. “But the possibility that this disease could be in other areas makes it imperative that we have rules in place to prevent the disease from being imported into Florida.”

The emergency rule will require veterinary inspection from hooved animals coming from states affected with Vesicular Stomatitis to have an official certificate of veterinary inspection stating that they are free of clinical signs of this disease and have not been exposed nor located within 10 miles of a positive premises within the previous 30 days and that they receive prior permission in order for them to be imported into Florida. All animals meeting these requirements will be quarantined upon entry in Florida for at least 14 days and be re-inspected by a Department representative and found free of disease prior to quarantine release.

SOURCE: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
<http://doacs.state.fl.us/about/welcome.html>
 Tallahassee, FL
 Release - May 26, 2004

-RSS-



Risk Management In The Cattle Business: An Emphasis on Marketing

June 29-30, 2004

North Florida Research Education Center
Marianna, Florida

Program

Day One-June 29, 2004

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Registration

- The Risks That Cattle Producers Face
- So What Price Do I Need? - Calculating Production Costs and Breakeven Prices
- Understanding Cattle Market Cycles and Price Fluctuations
- Using Futures To Predict Cash Feeder Cattle Prices

5:00 PM - Adjourn

6:00 PM - Supper

- They Stole My Cows!- Live Animal Evaluation Showing What Cattle Buyers are Looking For with USDA-AMS Market Grader and Local Cattle Buyer

8:00 PM - Adjourn

Day Two-June 30, 2004

8:15 AM - Begin Day 2

- What’s a Hedge? The Basics Of Using Futures to Sell Feeder Cattle
- What’s a Put? The Basics of Using Put Options to Set a Price Floor
- Put Options Continued
- Class Exercise Using Cattle Marketing Case Studies

3:00PM - Questions & Wrap-up

Program Participants

T.E. Anton, Area Economist, University of Florida

Todd Davis, Extension Farm Management Specialist, Clemson University

Tim Hewitt, Area Economist, University of Florida

Curt Lacy, Extension Livestock Economist University of Georgia

Walt Prevatt, Livestock Marketing Specialist Auburn University

Jim Rathwell, Retired Extension Livestock Economist, Clemson University

Nathan Smith, Extension Peanut Economist University of

SOURCE: <http://www.ugatiftonconference.org/cattle2004/default.htm>

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