



October 2004

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Dates to Remember

October

- 1** 10th Annual FCA Quality Replacement Heifer Sale - Ocala, FL
- 1** The Farm Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 4-5** New 4-H Club Leader Training Series - Gainesville, FL
- 7** North Florida REC 3rd Annual Fall Field Day - Quincy, FL
- 9** Cow Creek Ranch Bull Sale - Aliceville, AL
- 12** Animal Health Topics for Today and Tomorrow - Wauchula, FL
- 12** Herd Health Management Seminar - Hardee County Agri-Civic Center, FL
- 14** UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Field Day - Ona, FL
- 14-17** Florida Quarter Horse Show - Canterbury, Newberry, FL
- 16** Florida Santa Gertrudis Association Auction - Bartow, FL
- 16** 2004-2005 County 4-H & Open Horse Show Dates - Newberry, FL
- 21** Florida Section, Society for Range Management Fall Tour - Sarasota, FL
- 21** Little Creek Farm Bull Sale - Kissimmee, FL
- 21** Meadows Creek Bull Sale - Kissimmee, FL
- 21** Callaway Angus Bull Sale - Kissimmee, FL
- 22** Ankony Angus Bull Sale - Ocala, FL
- 22** Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 23** Debter Hereford Bull Sale - Horton, AL
- 27** Circle G Bull Sale - Hampton, GA
- 29** Lemmon Cattle Company - Okeechobee, FL

November

- 1** Three Trees Farm Bull Sale - Woodbury, GA
- 2** Election Day
- 5** Hardee Farms Black Bull Sale - Chiefland, FL
- 5** Rogers Bar HR/Parker Charolais Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 11** Veterans' Day
- 13** Walden Farms Bull Sale - Brantley, AL
- 19-20** Camp Cooley Bull Sale - Franklin, TX
- 25** Thanksgiving Holiday



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 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.



Bronson Urges Floridians to Protect Themselves and Animals Against Mosquitoes

While state and local officials are treating hurricane-impacted areas to reduce mosquito populations, Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson today reminded Floridians to take steps to reduce the threat of exposure to themselves and their animals.

“Mosquitoes remain the single largest carrier of diseases, and it is important that people take precautions to minimize the risk that mosquitoes pose,” Bronson said. “While we have set up a command post and are assisting counties and local mosquito control districts with aggressive mosquito spraying, state residents still need to be mindful of the mosquito threat.”

Toward that end, Bronson is recommending that Floridians:

■ Remove standing water from their property to the extent possible, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside around dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active, and use a mosquito-repellent with DEET.

■ Make sure that horses are vaccinated and receive necessary booster shots against both West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Check with your veterinarian to make sure that the animals have been vaccinated and that the shots are up to date.

■ Make sure or check with your veterinarian to be certain that dogs and cats are on routine preventative medication against heart worm. Animals not being treated need to be tested and be negative for the disease before preventative medications can begin.

Meanwhile, Bronson's department, which oversees mosquito control districts throughout Florida, is aggressively treating storm-impacted areas with aerial spraying of mosquitoes. More than 2 million acres have been treated to date, and Bronson said he expects that treatments will continue for at least a few more weeks until mosquito populations subside.

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FDACS
Tallahassee, FL
Release - September 21, 2004

-SHT-



Bronson Lauds Multi-Agency Response to Animal Needs During Hurricanes

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is praising the efforts of an interagency emergency team created to respond to agricultural needs during a disaster.

The State Agricultural Response Team (SART) was recently formed to bring state, federal and local resources together to address the needs of agriculture and animal industries during natural disasters and other emergency situations. The coordinated effort ensures that agencies involved in agriculture and animal industries effectively communicate and plan for emergencies that affect Florida. This provides for a more effective, unified and efficient use of the various resources needed to respond to a disaster.

“It’s critical that we take care of our citizens during an emergency, but there are many significant issues that affect the agriculture and animal industries as well,” Bronson said. “The multi-agency effort proved very effective during the three recent hurricanes in mobilizing resources, getting information out to the public and industry representatives and ensuring resources were delivered to the intended recipients.”

During the recent hurricanes the department’s Division of Animal Industry, in conjunction with a host of public and private partners, made hundreds of producer assessments; assisted in animal rescue and evacuation; coordinated direct veterinary care; provided emergency feed and water to livestock and small animal shelters; and coordinated receipt and distribution of small and large animal feed, animal crates, fencing, and animal health supplies in the impacted areas. SART was also able to provide individual citizens with information about pet-friendly shelters and hotels and locations of animal shelters.

SART member agencies include the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;

the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Extension Service and College of Veterinary Medicine; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services and Farm Service Agency; Florida Cattlemen's Association; Florida Animal Control Association; U.S. Humane Society; Florida Veterinary Medical Association; Florida Farm Bureau; and Southern Plant Diagnostic Network.

The SART effort is also a vehicle for the various agencies to develop and implement procedures and train participants to provide a safe, environmentally sound and effective response to future disasters. For information about SART visit <http://www.flsart.org>.

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Release - September 22, 2004

-RSS-



UF/IFAS Provides Hurricane Tips for Farmers

Due to the recent hurricanes farmers in the southeastern region have seen much of their crop and livestock destroyed. Hurricanes Charley and Frances brought more than \$2 billion in damage to Florida's annual crops, state officials said. It's a hard hit when Florida's annual crop production revenue is \$6.4 billion, and with a couple months left in hurricane season, there's no telling how much greater the damage will be. The concerns for farmers come in many different forms, from knowing and using safety rules for clean-up; salvaging crops, grains and feeds; health maintenance for livestock and poultry; reconditioning equipment; and recovery of orchards and groves.

Vegetables

Dr. Stephen Olson, a University of Florida/

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) professor of horticulture, says that while there not much vegetable growers can do to prevent the destruction of their crops, they can take a pro-active step towards disease prevention. Before the storm, Olson says farmers should "make sure the proper fungicides or bactericide materials have been applied. After the storm, they are going to be looking at lots of wind damage and a lot of damaged leaves, and they are going to have to go back out into the fields as quick as they can, and assess the damage, and again put out the appropriate protectant materials." He also said that farmers may have to get back out and re-fertilize, due to the heavy rains and flooding washing it away. Another concern for vegetable growers is the management of weeds after flooding from a hurricane. The UF/IFAS "Disaster Handbook," states that in the year after a flood, new weed problems will be likely. Some of the weeds carried into the field by floodwaters may not have germinated in time to be noticed during the previous growing season. Mechanical and chemical methods need to be considered in both the flood year and subsequent years to manage weeds.

Nurseries

According to UF/IFAS publication, by Thomas Yeager, for operators of hurricane-damaged nurseries, irrigation of salvageable container plants or plants planted after the hurricane is a short-term priority. Short-term production efforts should concentrate on removing plants from flooded areas, providing shade where needed, and preparing inventory for sale. "Two of the highest priorities for nursery growers affected by a hurricane or a damaging storm are to, assess damage and initiate insurance filing and set up temporary systems to keep salvageable crops and materials useable," said Dr. Jyotsna Sharma, an assistant professor of environmental horticulture for UF/IFAS, who is based at the North Florida Research and Education Center (NFREC) in Quincy, Fla. "Suitable irrigation water might become a limited resource, and therefore, electrical conductivity of water and substrate should be monitored carefully to maintain plants during the post-storm period."

Row Crops

As for farmers of row crops there are also preventative measures and preparations that they can make before the storm. “If a hurricane is coming through, peanuts should not be dug if the vines are healthy. Peanuts that have been plowed up are often blown around and many areas of the field may be flooded which can cause peanuts to rot,” said Dr. David Wright, a UF/IFAS extension specialist in cropping systems and conservation tillage, and professor of agronomy, who is also based at NFREC-Quincy. “Peanuts should be sprayed with a fungicide prior to the storm if there is a good likelihood that it will be 2-3 weeks to harvest or before the ground will dry out. Disease can explode under these conditions and vines deteriorate quickly causing huge harvest losses.” For cotton farmers, “it is often not advisable to defoliate cotton a week to 10 days before possible high winds since most defoliant are used with boll openers and as cotton opens it becomes more susceptible to being blown out of the boll,” Wright said. After the storm he says “farmers should wait for the soil and then the lint of the cotton to dry out before they can get back in there. They do need to get to it as soon as possible when it dries out.”

Orchards and Groves

The threat of trees uprooting during a hurricane is of extreme importance to farmers who own orchards or groves. If the trees are uprooted during the storm, many can be reset if the root ball is intact. Once reset, secure with stakes to immobilize them. Set up trees that have been knocked down or washed out. Straighten trees while the soil is still wet, but work carefully to avoid breaking roots. Use props, stakes or guy wires for anchorage, although stakes are better if they can be driven deep enough to give adequate support, since props and guy wires make cultivation more difficult. Some of the other tips the UF/IFAS “Disaster Handbook,” provides for orchard farmers after the storm are: drain orchards as soon as possible by digging new drainage or by pumping, standing water may cause root suffocation. To prevent further erosion, use brush, prunings or other material to block gullies and keep heavy equipment out of

orchards with wet soil. Robert E. Rouse says in UF/IFAS publication for citrus grower preparedness should focus on things like personnel assignments, safety training, emergency equipment, and communications equipment. He says that “prepared management can deal with a hurricane and its consequences. By having a plan and following it, grove managers can greatly increase the odds of a grove being productive in the long term following a hurricane.”

Greenhouses

Greenhouse growers should take precautions before the hurricane to prepare the structure and plants. Bob Hochmuth, the multi-county extension agent for UF/IFAS at NFREC-Suwannee Valley, whose extension program focuses on greenhouse production, says that securing the greenhouse structure is very important to the health and survival of the plants. “Greenhouses that are covered with two layers of plastic are kept inflated with a small blower between the two layers. Keeping this air space inflated is very important to the strength of the greenhouse structure,” Hochmuth said. “Power outages disable the blower, so a small backup generator, even if mainly used to keep this blower operating; can be critical during high winds. Backup generators are critical after a major storm to be able to run environmental controls and irrigation systems. “Small greenhouse operators can also help secure the structure prior to the storm by securing a shade cloth over the entire greenhouse even if the shade is not required at that time. This extra layer adds security to the structure.” Hochmuth says that it’s also important to make sure entry doors are properly secured so that wind doesn’t destroy the crop and greenhouse structure. After the hurricane, according to the UF/IFAS “Disaster Handbook,” flooded greenhouses and shadehouses need to follow special procedures to avoid problems with new plantings. One of those procedures is to sterilize greenhouse soil before new plantings are made, which can be done through steam cleaning or chemicals. Also greenhouse growers should disinfect all surfaces and tools, remove flood deposits and the top inch of old greenhouse soil.

Livestock

When it comes to livestock owners, they face very different issues due to hurricanes than crop farmers. Dr. Gary Hansen, a UF/IFAS extension specialist in beef cattle and assistant professor of animal science located at NFREC-Marianna, says that there are a few steps that livestock owners can take before the hurricane. “Probably one of the most critical parts of having a storm come in, is having animals identified so that they can be traced back to who owns the animals,” Hansen said. “A lot of times, fences will be knocked down by trees, animals then get out of the premise that they’re on and if you don’t have them ID-ed, then no one knows who owns the animals or how to get them back to the owner. The other is: make sure you know exactly how many animals you have, count them up before the storm, then go out afterwards and count them up and make sure they’re all there.” Hansen also says that letting the cattle out into a pasture is safer for than putting them in a barn or other structure, “during the Storm, most animals will, amazingly enough, have natural instincts as where to go and what to do.” After the storm, Hansen says it’s important for cattle to have a pasture that is dry. “Cattle do not like to graze under water, so farmers might need to come in and provide animals with hay.” It’s also important to be cautious when giving wet feed to livestock. The best way to approach giving animals wet feed is to only give it to a few first, wait for a few days, then give it to the others.

The Handbooks says that flood-damaged grains must be salvaged quickly because grain can begin to spoil within a few hours. Wet grain molds and heats up quickly, possibly resulting in spontaneous combustion. Farmers can remove dry grain and store it separately, but the best way to save wet grain is to get the grain to a commercial dryer quickly. There are also many diseases that are caused by standing water left over from heavy rains and floods, which can affect livestock, including Blackleg, Anthrax, and Foot Rot. If your fields or farm buildings have been flooded, take special precautions against flood-related diseases in poultry and livestock. For more detailed information and hurricane tips, visit the UF/IFAS

“Disaster Handbook,” online at <http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/chap6fr.htm> or visit http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/TOPIC_Hurricanes.

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 UF/IFAS, North Florida Research
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 Release - September 17, 2004

-RSS-

Livestock Management Issues Brought on by Hurricanes and Flooding

The recent hurricanes have created management challenges and animal stress for the cow herd beyond those normally associated with weaning, late gestation, and calving. While in the midst of recovery efforts from the hurricanes and their lingering effects of damage and flooding it is imperative to continue to utilize some of the best-management practices (BMPs) for the cow-calf enterprise. Delaying and/or skipping crucial management practices may not only affect the 2003-04 calf crop but also the 2004-05 calf crop as well. The following are some thoughts to consider over the next couple of months.

Nutrition and Feeding

Late gestation and calving are critical times to supply adequate energy and protein for the cow. Maintaining cow body condition will help to ensure adequate milk production for the new calf and maintain fertility to produce the next calf. Stretch you pasture and hay supply by providing supplemental feed that are highly digestible fiber sources such as soybean hulls, citrus pulp, brewer’s grains, corn gluten feed, wheat middlings or whole cottonseed. Feed hay in bale rings to reduce waste and encourage maximal utilization of the hay.

Damaged feed grains and moldy hay can cause

digestive disturbances or worse. Generally, the severity of the effects of feeding damaged feeds is greatest for horses, sheep, poultry, swine and cattle in that order. Wet feeds and grain may produce mycotoxins which can be toxic to certain livestock. If you must feed wet or flood damaged feed proceed with caution. Observe animals for any sign of illness.

Wet hay will begin to heat and mold very quickly. Spontaneous combustion could occur in as little as 2-3 days. Move and restack any dry hay. If possible open wet bales to accelerate drying. Standing water will prevent grazing. Lack of available forage can cause cattle to eat poisonous plants which they would normally not consume. Fallen tree branches may offer a tempting but deadly roughage source depending upon the species.

Health

Standing water can also cause a number of health problems for cattle aside from the nutritional issues. Standing in water for a long duration can encourage the onset of foot-rot. Foot-rot can be accelerated by injuries from fencing and other debris in the water and a high bacterial load in the water. Flood conditions are also often associated with blackleg and assorted clostridial diseases. Current vaccination programs are incredibly important during this time of additional stress. Other diseases carried by pest such as flies and mosquitoes will be of concern in flooded areas. Finally, the presence of dead animal carcasses is of great concern for the health of the cow herd, new calves, and the producer.

Remember, utilizing the BMPs that are practiced on a daily basis can help to mitigate the additional challenges and stress to both the cow herd and the producer.

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Release - September 30, 2004

Hurricanes Prompt NCBA to Establish Permanent Disaster Relief Fund

Four hurricanes in six weeks greatly have increased the need for assistance to farmers and cattlemen in the Southeast, so the National Cattlemen's Beef Association has established a permanent Disaster Relief Fund. Money and products collected through this effort will be sent to the local state cattlemen's associations to ensure the most efficient distribution. The fund will be earmarked for cattlemen in areas that qualify for disaster assistance under federal guidelines.

"Today, the urgent need is in Florida and Alabama, but next year there could be forest fires in Montana or drought in the Midwest. By establishing this fund, we'll have resources and the means in place to help producers when they need it," says Jim McAdams, NCBA president-elect.

NCBA organized a relief effort for Florida following Hurricane Charley, the first hurricane to hit this season. To date, about \$50,000 in donated materials, services and money have been received and forwarded to Florida for distribution.

Individuals who wish to contribute to the NCBA Disaster Relief Fund can call 1-866-BEEF-USA for information. Donations also can be sent to NCBA Disaster Relief Fund, c/o NCBA, P.O. Box 3469, Englewood, CO80155.

"When you get blown away, the need for help is pretty immediate," says Dr. Billy Powell, executive vice president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. "Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast, moved inland and dropped lots of rain, went back through Florida and then over to Texas. It was kind of like a Stephen King novel."

Powell says that in 12 counties already declared 100 percent disaster areas, about 4,200 Alabama cattlemen were hit by Hurricane Ivan, and the damage extends well beyond that area. As in Florida, fences are down everywhere, buildings are destroyed and material costs to replace them have skyrocketed.

-MJH-

Jim Handley, executive vice president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, calls the situation there "Tough. There's a world of water. In places, you can't even get a truck in to load calves." He says that some of the auction barns hit in the first storms are reopening, but the most pressing need is for the federal government to expedite disaster relief.

NCBA staff in Washington, D.C., have been working with the congressional delegations from the affected states on the issue. In addition to finding funds, it is important to identify the programs through which they will be distributed. NCBA will establish a hotline for producers seeking information about relief efforts once those programs are identified.

September 27, President Bush offered a supplemental funding bill that included \$400 million specifically for disaster relief for agriculture in Florida and Alabama. Florida Sens. Bob Graham and Bill Nelson are seeking \$700 million in another bill.

"The impact from these storms will be felt for months," says McAdams. "Besides replacing the immediate losses of buildings, crops and livestock, producers will have to contend with pasture loss from 30 or more days of rain. That's going to lower shipping weights, body condition scores and that's going to raise feed costs.

"While we work with the federal government to see what kind of disaster relief is available, this fund will help supply some relief immediately at the time of need."

SOURCE: National Cattlemen's Beef Assoc.
Centennial, CO
<http://www.beef.org>
Release - September 28, 2004

-RSS-



NAMP Course Set for October

The North American Meat Processors Association is offering its next Center of the Plate training course on October 26-28 at the University

of Florida in Gainesville, FL.

The course provides a basic look at the origins of meat products by demonstrating how carcasses are converted into the portioned items commonly traded in the foodservice business. It will cover all major center of the plate protein items, including beef, pork, lamb, veal, poultry and seafood.

Attendees also will receive information about:

- the IMPS/NAMP numbering system, the meat items described by these numbers and NAMP's Meat and Poultry Buyers Guides
- the origination of meat items and how this affects their final use
- how standards keep meat products consistent, wholesome and fair throughout the market
- how to identify common defects or inconsistencies in meat products
- the most current menu trends, ideas and options
- how value is determined for different meat products

The \$699 registration fee (before October 4) includes a copy of NAMP's flagship publications — the Meat Buyers Guide and Poultry Buyers Guide — plus a copy of the IMPS, the U.S. Trade Descriptions for Poultry and the Seafood Handbook.

Twenty-two hours of continuing education credits are available from the American Culinary Federation. RD/DTR credit also is available.

For more information and to download the agenda and registration information, go to <http://www.namp.com> or contact NAMP at (800) 368-3043.

SOURCE: John Gregerson
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release - September 3, 2004

-TAH-