



# Newsletter

January 2008

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## 2008 Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium

January 29-30, 2008  
Best Western Gateway Grand  
Gainesville, FL

For more information or to register, please visit:  
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ruminant/index.html>



## Dates to Remember

### January

5	SE All Black Classic - Marianna, FL
8	Marion County Cattlemen's 51 <sup>st</sup> Annual Sale - Ocala, FL
8	Ocala Bull Sale - Ocala, FL
9-13	Western National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - Denver, CO
11-12	4-H/FFA Livestock Evaluation & Meats Judging School - Gainesville, FL
12	Lake City Brangus Bull Sale - Lake City, FL
12	Western National 4-H Meats Judging Contest - Ft. Collins, CO
17	FL Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Tradeshow - Kissimmee, FL
19	Florida Bull Test Sale - Greenwood, FL
21	Hog & Ham Workshop - Gainesville, FL
26	AGRItunity 2008 - Bushnell, FL
26	South Florida Fair Youth Livestock Judging Contest - West Palm Beach, FL
29-30	2008 Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium - Gainesville, FL

### February

1	All Breeds Bull Sale - Lakeland, FL
1	South Florida Fair Youth Horse Judging Contest - West Palm Beach, FL
7	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual UGA Focus on EPD's Bull Sale - Athens, GA
6-9	NCBA Annual Convention - Reno, NV
9	Florida State Fair Horse & Livestock Judging - Tampa, FL
16	Sheep and Goat Basic Management - Jacksonville, FL
29	American Youth Horse Council Youth Horse
Mar 2	Leadership Symposium - Raleigh, NC



## USDA Issues Disaster Payments for Crop, Livestock, and Feed Losses

Acting Agriculture Secretary Chuck Conner announced that USDA will begin issuing payments on December 19, 2007, to tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers across the country who suffered losses because of natural disasters.

"Numerous agricultural producers suffered financial hardships in recent years because of floods, wildfires, tornadoes and other weather-related disasters," Conner said. "These funds will provide assistance to producers affected by these disasters."

USDA is currently processing about \$1 billion in payments under the Crop Disaster Program, Livestock Compensation Program, and Livestock Indemnity Program. Sign-up for these programs is ongoing. The programs provide payments to agricultural producers who suffered crop, livestock and feed losses in 2005, 2006, and before February 28, 2007. But, producers must choose one year for which to receive payments.

The Crop Disaster Program (CDP) provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses from natural disasters and related conditions that happened in 2005, 2006, and for 2007 crops if the crop was planted or prevented from being planted before February 28, 2007. At this time, USDA is only compensating producers for quantity losses under this program. Payments for the quality losses will not be distributed until early 2008, after sign-up for quality loss.

The Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) compensates livestock producers for feed losses resulting from natural disasters that occurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. Producers who suffered losses caused by blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007 are eligible. Producers in primary or contiguous counties that were declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, are also eligible.

Additionally, USDA will soon issue more than \$11 million to Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Mississippi, and Oklahoma through the LCP Catfish Grant Program. Alabama will receive \$3,121,477.94; Florida \$34,879.25; Idaho \$6,968.00; Mississippi \$8,123,840.88; and Oklahoma \$5,651.10. USDA also approved the following six states to receive funds through the Catfish Grant Program: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas. USDA will distribute funds to the six states after they conduct sign-up and submit requests for payments.

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007, that were caused by natural disasters, including blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into 2007. Producers in primary or contiguous counties that were declared secretarial disaster areas or counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are also eligible.

The "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007," signed into law on May 25, 2007, by President Bush authorizes CDP, LCP and LIP. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers the programs.

Farmers and ranchers can apply to receive benefits through these and other disaster programs by visiting their local FSA service center. Find more information about FSA disaster programs online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

**SOURCE:** U.S.D.A.  
<http://www.usda.gov>  
Release - December 19, 2007

## Bronson Urges Florida's Farmers and Ranchers to Participate in Census of Agriculture

*Forms will be delivered by mail in early January*

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is urging the state's farmers and ranchers to watch their mail in early January for the arrival of the 2007 Census of Agriculture form.

"I urge all of Florida's agricultural producers to participate in the Census by completing and returning the form," Bronson said. "The input received by the Census helps shape the future of agriculture for years to come, and we want to make sure that the voices of Florida's farmers and ranchers are heard."

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census examines land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source

of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

“Regardless of how large or small their operation or what kinds of products they produce, it’s important for Florida farmers and ranchers to complete and return the form,” Bronson said. “By participating in the Census, they will help themselves and their communities.”

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or fill out the Census online via a secure web site.

“The Census of Agriculture provides information that benefits agricultural producers and their communities in many ways,” Bronson said. “For instance, policy-makers factor Census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use Census data to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on Census data when determining where to locate their operations. And farmers themselves can use Census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses.”

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Florida Field Office at (407) 648-6013 or (800) 344-6277 or visit <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Census of Agriculture?

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count, taken every five years, of America’s farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is the most complete agricultural data resource available, providing the only source of uniform, comprehensive information for every county in the nation. The Census provides information on land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and many other important topics. The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

### Agriculture’s Voice

By participating in the 2007 Census, producers can help show the nation the value and importance of U.S. agriculture. This is an opportunity for every producer to show how agriculture contributes to America by providing food, fuel and fiber. Each producer has the power to influence key decisions that will shape the direction of

American agriculture for years to come, including:

- Transportation and marketing locations
- Farm services
- Production practices and new technologies
- Policy decisions

### The Future

By responding to the Census, every producer can have a positive impact on the future of their own operation and their entire community. The Census provides valuable information used for:

- Community planning
- Farm succession planning
- Store/company locations
- Availability of operational loans and other funding
- Location and staffing of USDA service centers
- Federal budget support for agriculture

### Everyone’s Responsibility

Everyone’s response to the Census makes a difference. To assure we are providing the best tools and reports, we need accurate information from all farmers and ranchers no matter how large or small their operations. This information is used to make a positive difference in local communities. Additionally, responses are required and protected by law.

### What to Do?

Producers should look for the Census form in their mailboxes in early January 2008.

Forms must be mailed back or completed online by February 4, 2008.

Visit <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov> for more information.

**SOURCE:** **Jim Ewing**  
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 F.D.A.C.S.  
<http://www.florida-agriculture.com>  
 Release - December 14, 2007





## Beef Checkoff Launches New Advertising Campaign

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association announced a new Beef Checkoff Program advertising campaign that lauds beef's nutritional value and consumers' taste for it through a variety of media placements.

With a budget of roughly \$15 million, the campaign encourages Americans to "Discover the Power of Protein in the Land of Lean Beef" and plans to reach 86 percent of the consumer target via radio, billboards and 39 national consumer magazines in 2008.

The first print advertisement will hit the pages of Fitness magazine's February issue and additional consumer magazines, such as Cooking Light, People and Parents, soon thereafter.

New national radio spots will begin airing January 21st. The campaign change will be signaled by a new and distinct campaign voice that the Checkoff said embodies the qualities unique to beef: passion, protein and strength. The famed "Beef. It's What's for Dinner" tagline and Aaron Copland's familiar "Rodeo" music will remain a part of the campaign.

Visit <http://www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com> to view each of the print ads, new corresponding recipes and hear the new radio advertising.

**SOURCE: Janie Gabbett**  
<http://www.MeatingPlace.com>  
 Release - January 8, 2008



## AMI Announces Animal Care Handling Conference

The 2008 AMI Foundation Animal Care and Handling Conference for the Food Industry will be held February 14-15 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., AMI announced.

The conference will open with an informative general session on current global trends in animal welfare, keynoted by Dr. David Bayvel, director of animal welfare for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity, New Zealand.

Following the keynote, the conference will break into three focused tracks: management and policy, applied pig handling and applied cattle handling. Exhibitors may showcase their products and services during a special

welcome reception February 14.

Immediately preceding the conference, the Animal Transportation Association, together with AMI, will host a Livestock Transportation Conference on February 13 to address the increasing focus on ensuring optimal care during livestock transportation.

Registration fees for those registering before December 31 are \$325 for AMI members, \$450 for non-members and \$295 when three or more members register together. After December 31, registration rates increase to \$425 for members and \$395 when three or more members register together.

**SOURCE: Lindsey Klingele**  
<http://www.MeatingPlace.com>  
 Release - January 2, 2008



## FSIS Launches Risk-Based Testing for E. coli in Raw Ground Beef

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has commenced an enhanced risk-based sampling and testing program for E. coli O157:H7 in raw ground beef, one of the many programs it promised to initiate following the Topps Meat Co. recall last fall.

Under the new protocol, effective January 1, FSIS will take into account establishment volume and whether the establishment has had any FSIS or Agriculture Marketing Service positive results within the past 120 days.

FSIS says inspectors will likely collect a minimum of 4 samples and up to 24 samples annually. The new program is independent of follow-up testing, which results from an establishment being implicated in an E. coli O157:H7-positive production lot.

Topps' recall of nearly 22 million pounds of frozen ground beef products in early October, one of the largest beef recalls in U.S. history, followed a rash of recalls in the summer and forced FSIS to review its oversight procedures. The agency vowed it would make improvements, announcing some of its plans shortly thereafter.

**SOURCE: Tom Johnston**  
<http://www.MeatingPlace.com>  
 Release - January 4, 2008