



Newsletter

May 2008

In This Issue...

Basic Meat & Poultry HACCP Training Program	1
UF/UGA 2008 Corn Silage Field Day	2
USDA Implements Key Strategy From National Animal Identification System Business Plan	3
Five Florida Families Receive Century Pioneer Family Farm Designation	3
Bush Will Veto Farm Bill	4



Dates to Remember

May

30 - May 2	UF/IFAS Florida Beef Cattle Short Course - Gainesville, FL
12-16	Certified Master Goat Producers Program - Quincy, FL
29	2008 Corn Silage/Forage Field Day - Citra, FL

June

8	Horsemanship School - Welaka, FL
15	Horsemanship School - Welaka, FL
16-17	FCA Cattlemen's College - Marco Island, FL
17-19	FCA & FCW Annual Convention - Marco Island, FL
20	State 4-H Horse Events - Gainesville, FL
22	Horsemanship School - Welaka, FL



Basic Meat & Poultry HACCP Training Program

August 20 - 21, 2008
The Plantation Inn; Crystal River, FL

To register or for more information, please visit <http://www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/conferences>.

The Animal Science Newsletter format is being updated. In order to keep you informed of information in a timely manner, news releases will be posted on <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Printed copies will no longer be available and you are encouraged to visit the website frequently for updated information as it becomes available.

UF/UGA 2008 Corn Silage Field Day
UF/IFAS Plant Science and Education Research Unit,
Citra, Florida
Thursday, May 29, 2008

The 2008 Corn Silage and Forage Field Day has been scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2008, at the UF/IFAS Plant Science and Education Research Unit; Citra, FL. There is no charge for this event, but registrations should be mailed by May 19, 2008, or faxed to Pam Gross at (352) 392-9059, by May 27, 2008, to ensure your reservation for a sponsored lunch. To register or to view the agenda, please visit <http://animal.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/CSFD/index.shtml>.

For program information concerning the Corn Silage Field Day, please contact Jerry Wasdin at jwas@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1120.

For registration information, please contact Pam Gross at pjg352@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1916.

Agenda

AM

8:00 Registration

8:15 Introduction

- *Dr. Geoffrey Dahl*, Chairman, Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida

- *Dr. Jerry Bennett*, Chairman, Department of Agronomy, University of Florida

- *Dr. John Bernard*, Dairy Nutritionist, University of Georgia

8:25 -

9:05 Corn and Sorghum Seed Reps

- *Jerry Wasdin*, University of Florida

- *Don Day*, University of Georgia

9:15 -

10:15

First Rotation

A. Fertility Efficiencies and Crop Alternatives for Reduced Fertilizer Needs

1. "Using Management to Reduce Fertilizer Cost" - *Dr. David Wright*, University of Florida

2. "Getting the Most Out of Your Fertilizer Dollar" - *Dr. Glen Harris*, University of Georgia

3. "Alternative Summer Annual Forage Crops" - *Dr. Dennis Hancock*, University of Georgia

4. "Improving Animal Performance with Warm Season Legumes" - *Dr. Gbola Adesogan*, University of Florida

B. Managing for Drought Growing Conditions

1. "Feeding Drought Stressed Corn" - *Dr. Charlie Staples*, University of Florida

2. "Economics of Sorghums vs Corn" - *Dr. Curt Lacy*, University of Georgia

3. "Feeding Value of Sorghum and Annual Forages" - *Dr. John Bernard*, University of Georgia

4. "Feed Options When the Grass Doesn't Grow" - *Dr. Matt Hersom*, University of Florida

10:15 -

10:30 Break and travel to next rotation

10:30 -

11:30 Second Rotation

A. See above

B. See above

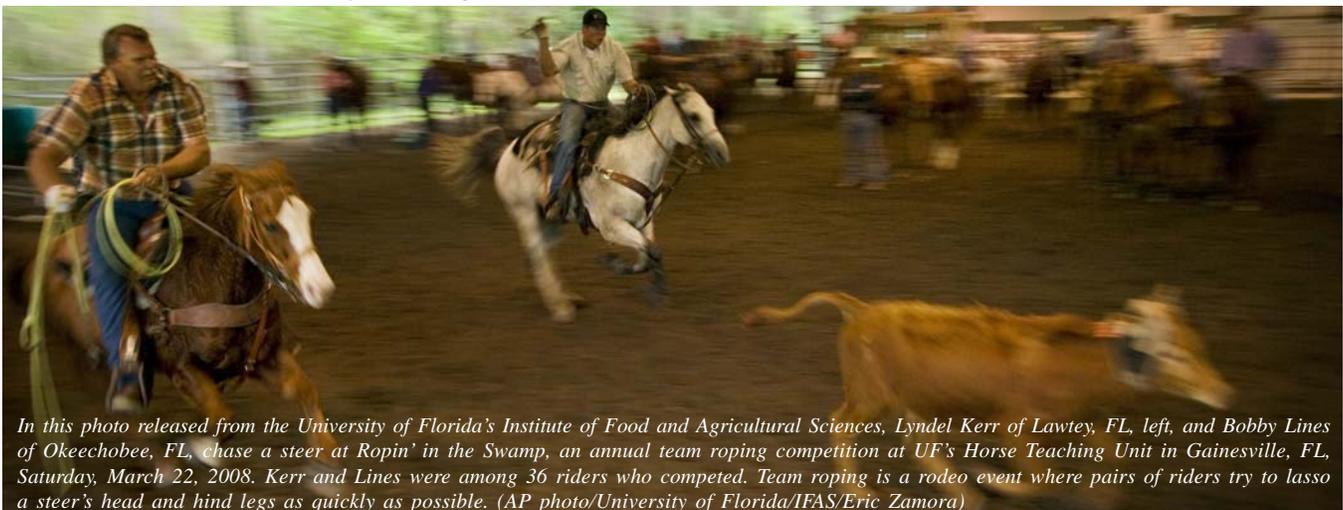
11:30 -

12:15 Exhibitor time

12:20 -

1:00 Lunch

1:00 Field Demonstrations



In this photo released from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Lyndel Kerr of Lawtey, FL, left, and Bobby Lines of Okeechobee, FL, chase a steer at Ropin' in the Swamp, an annual team roping competition at UF's Horse Teaching Unit in Gainesville, FL, Saturday, March 22, 2008. Kerr and Lines were among 36 riders who competed. Team roping is a rodeo event where pairs of riders try to lasso a steer's head and hind legs as quickly as possible. (AP photo/University of Florida/IFAS/Eric Zamora)



USDA Implements Key Strategy From National Animal Identification System Business Plan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced that it has implemented a key strategy from its Business Plan to Advance Animal Disease Traceability by providing National Animal Identification System (NAIS) compliant "840" radio frequency (RF) eartags to animal health officials for use in the bovine tuberculosis (TB) control program.

NAIS-compliant "840" tags provide for individual identification of livestock through a 15-digit number beginning with the U.S. country code. Through the use of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, the "840" tags allow animal health officials to electronically identify an animal. This increases the efficiency of animal disease investigations that involve the tracing of exposed and potentially infected animals. RFID technology also increases the accuracy of recording the animal's 15-digit animal identification number (AIN). USDA has purchased a total of 1.5 million "840" RF animal identification tags to support animal disease control programs, including the bovine TB and brucellosis programs.

"Using NAIS-compliant tags with RF technology establishes a consistent data format across our animal disease programs. It will also increase the efficiency and accuracy of the on-ground animal health task force conducting bovine TB testing and response," said Bruce Knight, undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs. "This effort supports a key strategy outlined in our business plan and is another step toward reaching NAIS' ultimate goal of 48-hour traceability."

Recently, USDA shipped 28,000 tags to California to support bovine TB testing as part of an ongoing investigation. So far, a total of 6,600 cattle in two California

herds have been tagged with "840" devices. The goal is to link the cattle to their premises of origin, so that if there is an outbreak in the future the movements of the infected animals can be quickly traced. Bovine tuberculosis investigations are currently occurring in several States. Since 2002, bovine TB detections in six states have required the destruction of more than 25,000 cattle. USDA has tested over 787,000 animals in response to TB outbreaks since 2004.

RF tags have been used in beef and dairy operations for management and marketing purposes for several years. Incorporating AIN RF tags into animal disease programs promotes the standardization of identification methods and technology so that they can be used by producers and animal health officials for multiple purposes.

Currently, there are five USDA-approved manufacturers that produce eight devices for official NAIS use. Seven of these devices are RFID eartags, while the other device is an injectable transponder to be used in horses and other farm animals not intended to enter the food production chain.

NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to events affecting animal health in the United States. NAIS utilizes premises registration, animal identification and animal tracing components to both locate potentially diseased animals and eliminate animals from disease suspicion. It is a state-federal-industry partnership, which is voluntary at the federal level. For more information on NAIS, go to <http://www.usda.gov/nais>.

SOURCE: Joelle Schelhaus
Phone: (301) 734-0595
Angela Harless
Phone: (202) 720-4623
U.S.D.A.; Washington D.C.
Release - April 15, 2008



Five Florida Families Receive Century Pioneer Family Farm Designation

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson today announced that five Florida properties have qualified for recognition as Century Pioneer Family Farms. Recognition in this program means the families have maintained continuous ownership of the property for at least 100 years.

Continued on page 4...

Five Florida Families Receive Century Pioneer Family Farm Designation

...continued from page 3

The families that qualified are:

- ◆ Terrie B. Ellis and Maribeth B. Wood, in Gadsden County
- ◆ Ben Fant and Margaret Fant Blagg, in Levy County
- ◆ James W. Stokley Jr., in Wakulla County
- ◆ Lise Renee Andrews, in Marion County
- ◆ Jim Tiller, in Washington County

“These families have been able to retain ownership of their land through the Great Depression, diseases, droughts, freezes and the urbanization of Florida,” Bronson said. “That is a great tribute to the many generations of these families.”

The 160-acre Tiller property is mostly now in timber production, but previously was the site of the Tiller Saw Mill. The Fant-Blagg property has 600 acres and has been used for cattle grazing and pine tree production. The Stokley property has 17 acres of pine trees and is part of the old Grimes Bay property. The Andrews property is 46 acres and is used to raise black angus cattle. The 215-acre Sullivan Family Farm, owned by Terrie Ellis and Maribeth Wood, features hay and pine tree production, which replaced shade tobacco.

Since the program began 25 years ago, 144 family farms have received the Century Pioneer Family Farm designation. The program is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with assistance of the Florida Agricultural Museum.

For more information, contact Richard Gunnels at gunnelr@doacs.state.fl.us or (850) 488-3022, or visit http://www.florida-agriculture.com/marketing/century_pioneers.htm.

SOURCE: Richard Gunnels
Phone: (850) 488-3022
Email: gunnelr@doacs.state.fl.us
Release - April 10, 2008



Bush Will Veto Farm Bill

They've hinted. They've warned. And now the Administration said it straight out: President Bush will veto the 2007 farm bill.

"I have visited face to face with our President and he was direct and plain. The President will veto this bill," Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said in a statement, just hours after House and Senate conferees held a news conference to announce completion of the bill.

Schafer said the bill failed to include much needed reform and increased spending by nearly \$20 billion.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) responded quickly to Schafer's statement with his own. "Like any compromise bill resulting from hard bargaining among regional and other interests, this farm bill is far from perfect. But no piece of legislation is perfect. It includes significant reforms, as well as these major advances. It deserves the President's signature."

SOURCE: Janie Gabbett
Email: jgabbett@meatingplace.com
Release - May 9, 2008