

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS II

David R. Bray

It is a new year once again. It is time to repeat what we did right last year and not to repeat what did not work well last year. Hurricanes caused more problems than anyone could imagine.

Resolution #1 – Cull chronic mastitis and other cows that live in the hospital herd. To do this you must keep records to determine which cows are the problem cows. Many people keep records in a day book but never look at it. PCDART has a herd health section to record all health data. This data should be recorded and looked at and culling decisions should be made on animals staying longer in the hospital herd than the time needed to sell milk to make a profit. If this time is longer than their profit margin, cull them (30 days out of the bulk tank is about the limit before they become unprofitable). You can use hand recorded data as well to determine length in the hospital herd. This is more important than ever with the new “downer cow” rule. If you have a cow that needs to be culled because she is lame or has chronic mastitis or other problems, do not put her in a lot to lose 500 pounds and become a downer cow. Make the decision before you fill her up with antibiotics.

Resolution #2 – Milk clean dry udders, post-dip, and keep equipment in good repair.

Resolution #3 – Keep your cows cool. Our summer research has shown that our cows became hot at night if no sprinklers were used at night. When hot weather comes, leave the sprinklers and fans on all night. Set the sprinkler thermostat at 68 degrees F and run them all night as long if the barn temperature is above 68F. Run fans 24 hours a day if your cows have access to the barns for that time.

Resolution #4 – Clean your fans. For many dairymen, the first time their cooling fans were ever cleaned was last year when Charley, Jean or one of the other hurricanes either blew in enough water to clean them or they blew them into a new lake. Put timers on your sprinklers (set the timer so the cow gets wet to the skin, shuts off, and turns on again before the cow dries off). Cooling occurs when we wet the cow and the fans dry the water off the cow and take the heat with it. Usually, sprinklers that are on for 1 to 2 minutes every 10 to 15 minutes will suffice, but this varies due to water

pressure fluctuations, supply, and pipe size. Set your sprinklers individually for each barn, not what Joe Blow down the road uses. Also keep in mind that dirty fans are half as effective as clean ones.

Resolution #5 – Keep your cows as clean and comfortable as possible. Most of our mastitis problems are due to *Strep uberis*. This organism lives in the ground and in our free stalls, including sand bedding. Bedded packs are a huge reservoir for mastitis pathogens when wet and dirty. Remove old dirt in pasture mud holes, put in clean dirt, especially in calving lots. Clean and drain cooling ponds, keep free stalls and packs bedded and clean.

Resolution #6 – Have a plan for the next hurricane. Generator maintenance is probably higher on your list than this time last year.

Resolution #7 – Enjoy life. You folks are among the best people in the world. You have gone through terrible hardships. This is a tough business in good times, you did not need a bunch of hurricanes to challenge you, but maybe some good may come out of them anyway.

If you need help in any of these areas let me or any of the Dairy Agents know. We will be glad to help. Dave Bray, bray@animal.ufl.edu, phone 352-392-5594.



UF DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES FACULTY STAFFING

F. Glen Hembry

With the departure of Dr. Mary Beth Hall, dairy nutritionist, I have been asked about the timing of a replacement to provide the dairy extension nutrition support to the Florida dairy industry that has been customary during Dr. Hall's tenure in the department. The answer to that question requires an explanation of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' (IFAS) and the Department of Animal Sciences' processes for filling faculty positions.

The IFAS administration releases positions to departments for the purpose of recruiting new faculty

members based on the budgetary situation at the time and the programmatic priority of positions within IFAS. Then, within the Department of Animal Sciences, faculty positions that need filling are prioritized based on programmatic needs. This past year (FY 2004-2005) IFAS has not released any faculty positions to be filled due to budgetary constraints. Therefore, no attempt has been made to fill any positions. The department has prioritized positions to be filled and continuously revisits the priorities as faculty members leave and new ones are employed.

The Department of Animal Sciences has programmatic responsibilities in four broad areas. These are dairy, equine, beef and muscle foods. During the time period beginning in 2000 and continuing through 2004, the department lost 20 faculty members from the various program areas. Three of these 20 were faculty members associated with the Poultry Science Program which was terminated in 2002. During that same time period seven new faculty members were employed with an additional two employed to replace two faculty members that left prior to 2000. The effective net loss in faculty members from all programmatic areas within the Department of Animal Sciences has been 10 since the beginning of 2000. Naturally, with this magnitude of faculty loss, each programmatic area, including dairy, has very high priority faculty positions that need filling. The reality is that, at least for the last 7-8 years, IFAS has not been able to release enough faculty positions to be filled to meet the department's high priority position needs.

Obviously filling the dairy nutrition position is a very high priority for the department. The dairy faculty members in the department recently met and identified the nutrition position and a lactation biology position as two of the highest priority dairy program positions to be filled. Very high priority positions for the department have also been identified in the equine program. In view of the present faculty staffing, the highest priority position to fill is in the department's equine program with the second priority position in the dairy program.

Currently we have two ruminant nutritionists in the department with extensive dairy nutrition experience. They are Dr. Charles Staples and Dr. 'Gbola Adesogan. Although neither has any significant extension appointment, they will try to address your most pressing needs. Presently, I have no indication if any faculty positions will be released by IFAS to the Department of Animal Sciences for filling during FY 2005-2006. Be assured that I and the entire Department of Animal Sciences are committed to having strong dairy teaching, research and extension education programs in support of Florida's dairy industry and will be doing everything we can in the present environment to provide the faculty members necessary for that support.

Dr. Glen Hembry is the Chairman of the
Department of Animal Sciences

16th ANNUAL FLORIDA RUMINANT NUTRITION SYMPOSIUM: FEBRUARY 1-2, 2005

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

AM

9:30 **Registration**

11:45 **Buffet Lunch**

PM

1:00 **Welcome**

1:05 **Formulating Optimum Cation-Anion Diets for the Lactating Dairy Cow** – Dr. David Beede, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

1:45 **Bioavailability and Antagonists of Trace Minerals in Ruminant Metabolism** – Dr. David Ledoux, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

2:25 **Selenium Toxicity for Cattle – Paranoia or Precaution** – Dr. Lee McDowell, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

3:05 **Refreshment Break**

3:35 **Milk Production Efficiency and Monensin Sodium for the Dairy Herd** – Dr. Elvin Thomas, Elanco Animal Health, Greenfield, Indiana

4:15 **Phase-feeding the Beef Herd for Improved Nutrient Utilization** – Dr. Matt Hersom, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

4:55 **Predicting Forage Intake by Grazing Ruminants** – Dr. Sam Coleman, USDA, STARS, Brooksville, Florida

5:35 **Welcome Reception**

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

AM

8:00 **Improving Forage Quality and Animal Performance with Fibrolytic Enzymes** – Dr. Gbola Adesogan, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

8:40 **Randomness Rules: Living with Variation in Nutrient Composition of Feeds** – Dr. William Weiss, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio

9:20 **Molds and Mycotoxins in Feedstuffs - Prevention and Treatment** – Dr. Lon Whitlow, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina

10:00 **Refreshment Break**

10:15 **Maintaining Glucose Balance in Producing Ruminants** – Dr. Chris Reynolds, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio

10:55 **Fat and Fat-Soluble Vitamin Supplementation for Improving Reproduction of the Dairy Cow** – Dr. Charles Staples, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

11:35 **Overview of University of Florida Animal Science Research Initiatives** – Dr. Joel Brendemuhl, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Location:

Best Western Gateway Grand, Gainesville, Florida. This is just west off I-75 Exit 390.

Conference Information:

Dr. Charles R. Staples, Symposium Organizer
Department of Animal Sciences
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Gainesville, Florida 32611-0910
Phone: 352-392-1958 Fax: 352-392-1931
Email: staples@animal.ufl.edu

Registration Information:

Tracy Nininger, Conference Coordinator
Office of Conferences & Institutes (OCI)
University of Florida Leadership and Education
Foundation, Inc. (UFLEF)
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
PO Box 110750
Gainesville, FL 32611-0750
Phone: 352-392-5930 Fax: 352-392-9734
Email: tmnining@ifas.ufl.edu

DR. ALAN EALY JOINS FACULTY

The Department of Animal Sciences is pleased to welcome Dr. Alan D. Ealy to the faculty. Dr. Ealy was raised on a family owned and operated dairy farm in Western Pennsylvania and received a BS in Dairy Production from Penn State University in 1987. He then attended Michigan State University and received an MS degree studying the effects of negative energy balance on reproduction in cattle. His PhD was completed at the University of Florida under the guidance of Dr. Peter Hansen where he investigated the effects of heat stress on embryo development in cattle. Dr. Ealy held a Postdoctoral Fellowship and later a Research Assistant Professor position at the University of Missouri before accepting a position as an Assistant Professor at Penn State University in 2000. Dr. Ealy's primary research interest at the University of Florida is to better understand the events of early pregnancy in cattle so that schemes can be developed to reduce embryo mortality in dairy cattle. Dr. Ealy started his position at Florida in the summer of 2004.

2004 CORN SILAGE HYBRID PERFORMANCE TRIAL RESULTS

Results of the corn silage hybrid performance trials in 2004 at the Plant Science Unit in Citra, Florida, are now available on the UF/IFAS Dairy Extension website <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>. The listing has data on yield, milk, dry matter, crude protein, NDF, ADF, NDF digestibility, starch, TDN and yield digestible NDF for a large number of corn hybrids from various companies. Both mid-season and full-season hybrids were tested.

For further information, contact Jerry Wasdin (352-392-1120; jwasdin@animal.ufl.edu), Charles Staples (352-392-1958; staples@animal.ufl.edu), Gbola Adesogan, (352-392-7527; adesogan@animal.ufl.edu), or Carrol Chambliss (352-392-1811; cgc@ifas.ufl.edu).

2005 CORN SILAGE / CONSERVED FORAGE FIELD DAY: THURSDAY MAY 26

The 2005 Corn Silage / Conserved Forage Field Day will be held at the Plant Science and Education Unit, Citra, Florida, on Thursday May 26. Contact Jerry Wasdin, jwasdin@animal.ufl.edu, phone 352-392-1120, for more information or visit the UF/IFAS Dairy Extension website at <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>.

42nd FLORIDA DAIRY PRODUCTION CONFERENCE: TUESDAY MAY 3, 2005

The 42nd annual Florida Dairy Production Conference will be held at the UF Hotel and Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida, on Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

The final program is still being worked on, but speakers from across the US are confirmed to talk about early lactation milking frequency, photoperiod effects on lactation, monitoring and the importance of compliance of reproductive programs, news on cooling cows, and social issues when dealing with Hispanic labor.

The final program will be announced later in January. Keep an eye on the UF/IFAS Dairy Extension website <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>. For more information, contact Albert de Vries, phone (352) 392-7563 or email devries@animal.ufl.edu.

SPANISH HERDSMAN SEMINAR ON ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Select Sires and UF/IFAS Extension organize a workshop for Spanish speaking herdsmen on artificial insemination. The workshop will be held in Gainesville and Bell on February 1-3, 2005. For more information, contact Jan or Leslie Shearer, phone 352-392-4700 ext. 4112, email jks@ifas.ufl.edu.

**2nd ANNUAL FLORIDA DAIRY ROAD SHOW:
FEBRUARY 7-11, 2005**

The 2nd Annual Florida Dairy Road Show will be held in the week of February 7-11, 2005. The 2005 program will focus on health issues. Just like the 2004 Dairy Reproduction Road Show, the 2005 Road Show will focus on practical cow management and be held at several Extension Offices around Florida.

Program

AM

- 10:00 **Welcome**
- 10:05 **Monitoring health and looking for sick cows** - Dr. Carlos Risco, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 11:00 **Laminitis - more than how you feed your cows** - Dr. Jan Shearer, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

PM

- 12:00 **Lunch**, sponsored by **Pfizer Animal Health**
- 12:45 **A comparison of methods for early pregnancy diagnosis** - Brent Broaddus, University of Florida, Hillsborough County Extension, Seffner, FL
- 1:10 **What is early pregnancy diagnosis worth?** Dr. Albert de Vries - Department of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 1:30 **Management of calving on large dairy farms** - Dr. Maarten Drost, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- 2:15 **Demonstration of calving assistance** - Dr. Maarten Drost
- 2:45 **Adjourn**

Locations & Time

Monday, February 7, 2005, 10 AM
Marion County Extension Office
2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL
Local contact: **Russ Giesy** (952) 793-2728

Tuesday, February 8, 2005, 10 AM
Okeechobee County Extension Office
458 Highway 98 N, Okeechobee, FL
Local contact: **Pat Miller** (863) 763-6469

Wednesday, February 9, 2005, 10 AM
Lafayette County Extension Office
Route 3 Box 15, Mayo, FL
Local contact: **Chris Vann** (386) 294-1279

Friday, February 11, 2005, 10 AM
Washington County Extension Office
1424 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, FL
Local contact: **Andy Andreasen** (850) 638-6180

Registration

Registration received on or before February 1, 2005 is \$10.00 per person. Registration at the door is \$20.00 per person. The registration fee covers organization of the program, refreshments, and includes one copy of the proceedings. Lunch is provided free, courtesy of Pfizer Animal Health.

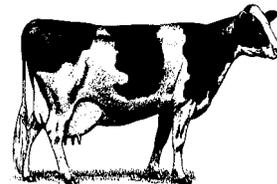
You can directly contact one of the organizing extension agents to register. Registration forms can be also be downloaded from <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu> and mailed to Brent Broaddus.

Organization / More Information

Brent Broaddus UF/IFAS Dairy Extension 5339 County Road 579 Seffner, FL 33584 broaddus@ufl.edu Phone (813) 744-5519 ext. 132 Fax (813) 744-5776	Albert de Vries Dept. of Animal Sciences Building 459, Shealy Drive Gainesville, FL 32611 devries@animal.ufl.edu Phone (352) 392-7563 Fax (352) 392-7652
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And your local Extension Agent:

Russ Giesy: (952) 793-2728
Pat Miller: (863) 763-6469
Chris Vann: (386) 294-1279
Andy Andreasen: (850) 638-6180



**31st SOUTHERN DAIRY CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 15-16, 2005**

The 31st annual Southern Dairy Conference will be held at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, on February 15-16, 2005. This program is planned and presented to focus on issues and opportunities affecting the entire dairy industry of the Southern United States. The program is organized by a committee of people from the Southern Land Grant Universities. The program and other information are listed on the UF/IFAS Dairy Extension website <http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu>.