



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

IFAS EXTENSION

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter**
2150 NE Roan Street, Arcadia, FL 34266



Future Arcadia Stockyards

April 2005 / Volume 27 Number 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- | | |
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| 21 | Farm Credit of Southwest Florida Annual Meeting—Wauchula, 6:30 PM |
| 28 | DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting—Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 7:00 PM |

May

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| 4-6 | 54th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course--For more information, please visit the web site at http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/2005BCSC.shtml .
- Hilton University of Florida Conference Center - Gainesville, FL |
| 13 | 14 th Annual Florida 4-H Golf Classic—Lake Wales Country Club |

June

- | | |
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| 14-17 | FCA & FCW Annual Convention & Allied Trade Show
- Marco Island, FL |
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54th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course

The Fifty-fourth Annual Beef Cattle Short Course will be held May 4-6, 2005 at the Hilton UF Conference Center in Gainesville, FL. The theme for this year's Shortcourse is: Maintaining Quality Production in a Dynamic Market Place. Registration forms are available at the DeSoto County Extension Office or can be accessed for an on line registration at: <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/2005bcscRegistration.shtml>.

Some of the topics will be: Market Outlook for 2005, Beef and the Consumer: Trends, Expectations, and Demands, Genomics-Building Blocks of the Product/Effect on the Beef Product, Working with Horses and Cattle in Today's Ranch Environment, Cattle Handling with Dogs, and Cow Horse Care and Maintenance. The traditional "Steak-Out" on Thursday evening will provide good prime rib and fellowship.

Pasture Soil Samples

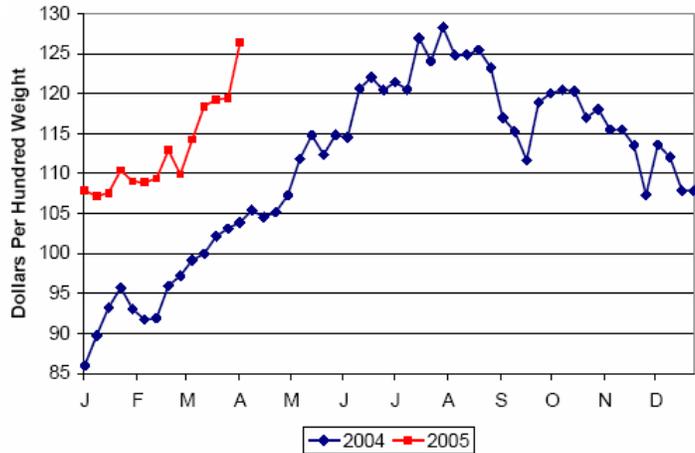
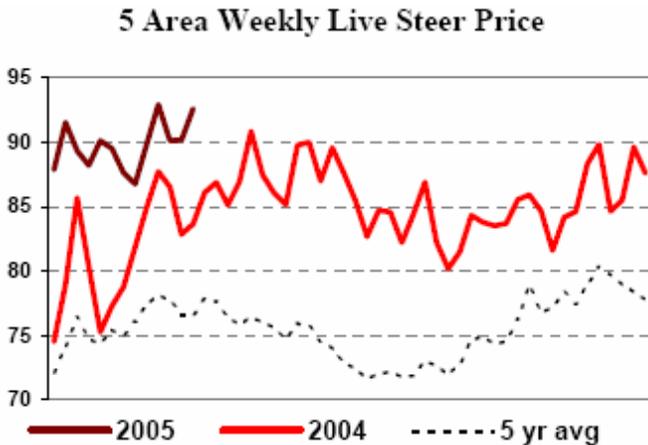
If you have not tested your pasture in recent years, now might be the time to do that through the University of Florida's Extension Soil Testing Laboratory. The necessary forms are available in the DeSoto County Extension Office.

FEE SCHEDULE

Analysis Code	Analysis Name	Determinations Made	Analysis Cost
1	Standard Soil Fertility Test	pH, lime requirement, P, K, Ca, and Mg	\$7.00
2*	Soil pH and Lime Requirement	pH and lime requirement	\$3.00
3	Micronutrients	Cu, Mn, Zn, and pH	\$5.00
4	Organic Matter	percent organic matter	\$10.00
5	Electrical Conductivity("soluble salts")	conductivity in 1:2 soil:water	\$2.00

Market Information

Avg. Price Feeder Steers - Oklahoma City
Medium Frame No. 1 600-700#



National Steer and Heifer Estimated Grading Percentage

<u>Quality Grade</u>	<u>Yield Grade</u>				
	1	2	3	4	5
Prime	0.05%	0.81%	1.44%	0.34%	0.04%
Choice	3.24%	21.20%	23.47%	4.26%	0.46%
Select	6.93%	16.02%	8.69%	1.14%	0.10%
Yield only	1.25%	1.36%	0.75%	0.12%	0.02%
Total	11.47%	39.39%	34.35%	5.86%	0.62%

WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Live Steer	90.03	92.61	86.08
Live Heifer	90.19	92.55	86.03
Dressed Steer	144.59	151.66	137.05
Dressed Heifer	144.54	151.07	137.11

CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was steady from 1.89-1.91 per bushel. US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 2 cents higher from 1.91-1.93 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 3 to 4 cents higher at 1.85 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 2 1/2 to 9 1/2 cents higher from 2.05-2.17 per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 6 1/2 cents higher from 1.97-1.98 per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 19 1/2 cents higher at 1.96 per bushel.

1.2 Million Japanese Ask For End To Beef Ban

The AP reports almost 1.2 million Japanese consumers, as well as restaurants, signed a petition urging Japan officials to end the ban on U.S. beef imports. Organizers submitted the petition to Japan's Ag Ministry Tuesday. "We want U.S. beef back so we can enjoy dishes such as 'gyu-don' (beef and rice) and barbecued tongue," the article quotes campaign spokesman Yasuharu Tagaya as saying. "American beef tastes good, almost like homegrown beef." Reporter Mari Yamaguchi also quotes Tagaya as saying: "Most Americans are eating U.S.-grown beef with confidence about its safety - then why can't we?" Tagaya is identified as an official with the Japanese fast-food chain, Yoshinoya D&C Co., which, like many Japanese restaurants that sold the extremely popular gyu-don beef bowls, relied heavily on U.S. suppliers prior to the December 2003 ban. **Source: — Joe Roybal, *Cow-Calf Weekly*, Friday, April 8, 2005**

USDA to roll out individual-animal ID this summer

Now that 45 states have instituted premises-ID programs, the USDA says it's ready to roll out the next phase of the voluntary National Animal Identification System — individual-animal ID. Officials plan to introduce this step in August. Officials plan to roll out this portion of the national system in August. Its key functions are to:

- * Administer approved official animal identification number (AIN) tag manufacturers.
- * Assign AIN tag product codes to each approved device.
- * Administer the allocation of AINs to tag manufacturers.
- * Administer authorized AIN tag managers/resellers.
- * Receive and maintain the distribution records of all AIN tags
- * Provide information on AIN tags.

"It's not a complete system yet, but it is adequate to begin this step," says Neil Hammerschmidt, NAIS coordinator. "We have developed the basic requirements, which will be increased over time." Therefore, this summer producers may contact an AIN manager in their area to obtain AINs on a voluntary basis.

AIN tag managers include:

- * Private companies and service providers.
- * States, tribes or AVIC offices.
- * Breed registries, national DHIA.
- * Veterinarians.
- * AIN tag manufacturers.

Source: — Greg Henderson, *Drovers* editor—*Drovers Alert* Thursday, April 7, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 14

DeSoto County Extension Brand Wall

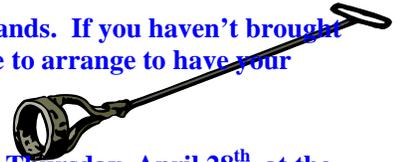
The cypress boards now display 67 brands on the wall. But, there is still room for more brands. If you haven't brought your brand in, please do so. The wall is beautiful. Call 863-993-4846 at the Extension Office to arrange to have your brand(S) added to the wall.

DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting

The 2004 DeSoto County Cattlemen's Association Spring Meeting will be held at 7:00 P.M., Thursday, April 28th at the Turner Center Exhibit Hall. All members, along with their family are invited to attend. Members are asked to bring a covered dish. You may bring one guest to the steak dinner. Members bringing more than one guest will be asked to pay \$10.00 per each additional guest. Come and enjoy a great meal and some very good fellowship along with the evening program.

Animal antibiotics targeted

In what could show a strengthened push against animal antibiotics, five medical and environmental groups filed a petition with the FDA to withdraw approvals for seven classes of antibiotics used as agricultural feed additives. Five major medical and environmental groups today filed a formal regulatory petition with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging the agency to withdraw approvals for seven classes of antibiotics for use as agricultural feed additives, citing those uses' failure to comply with FDA Guidance to protect human health. The petition demonstrates that continued use of these antibiotics as feed additives for chickens, hogs, or beef cattle fails to comply with the safety criteria in the FDA's guidance on agricultural antibiotics, Guidance No. 152. It designates the seven classes of antibiotics as "critically important" or "highly important" in human medicine. The petitioners include the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, Environmental Defense, Food Animal Concerns Trust and Union of Concerned Scientists. The petition is available at KeepAntibioticsWorking.com. The petition quotes several letters FDA recently sent to manufacturers of certain antibiotic feed-additives, noting that those products are "not considered appropriate" and that existing information "does not alleviate (FDA's) concern about the use of these products and their possible role in the emergence and dissemination of antimicrobial resistance. "In a related story, a



state bill in Maine would require public schools, including the University of Maine, and state-run institutions to give purchasing preference to companies brokering antibiotic-free, organic and natural meat products. Opponents, including a state dairy association, contend that Maine would be setting a dangerous precedent. **Source:— Food Systems Insider, E-Version, April 8, 2005, Vol.4, Issue 7**

Brown Mid-Rib Hybrid Sorghum-Sudan and Millet

The name Brown Midrib comes from the brownish color in the midrib of the leaf and at the base of the plants internodes. The brown midrib trait in forages reduces the indigestible lignin component in the plants cells. This reduction of lignin makes for higher digestible proteins and lower neutral and acid detergent fiber, resulting in higher digestible nutrients. Obviously, higher degestible nutrients equates to more milk or beef production. I am planning on planting several of these varieties for demonstration purposes either at the Turner Center or close by in a pasture.

Export requirements for Taiwan

Taiwan will reopen its market to U.S. beef exports effective April 16, 2005 (all forms must be dated April 16 or later). We've been waiting for information from USDA regarding the specifics of the agreement, including export requirements, and we received that information from USDA today.

According to USMEF, Taiwan was the sixth leading market for U.S. beef prior to the ban and in 2003, the United States exported \$76.3 million worth of beef and beef variety meat to Taiwan. Boneless beef, now eligible for export, accounted for \$56.8 million or 74 percent of total U.S. beef exports to Taiwan. U.S. beef and beef variety meat exports to Taiwan totaled 19,184 metric tons (mt) in 2003 with boneless beef accounting for 66 percent of the total. The USDA's press release indicates a \$325 million figure for this market. This includes all bovine related products such as tallow and hides & skins, etc. FSIS has confirmed that it will update its export library to reflect Taiwan's requirements for boneless beef derived from cattle under the age of thirty months slaughtered in the U.S. **Source:— NCBA Member E-Update, April 7, 2005, Gregg Doud, NCBA Chief Economist**

U.S. became a net importer in 2004

Prior to 2004, the United States was a net exporter of beef and cattle products on a dollar-value basis, but that changed last year. In 2003, according to the Livestock Marketing Information Center, the total value of net exports was a positive \$2.4 billion. In 2004, that dollar value was a negative \$1.4 billion. Beef industry exports during 2004 totaled \$2.7 billion, 54 percent or \$3.2 billion below 2003. The combined value of U.S. beef, cattle and product imports in 2004 was \$4.1 billion, 18 percent or \$621 million larger than 2003. The increase was driven by increased beef and veal imports, according to the LMIC, which set a record at \$339.7 million. **Source:— Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, March 31, 2005, Vol. 5, Issue 13**

Beef Management Calendar

May

Remove Bulls May 21 st to end calving season on March 1 st .	Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.
Market Cull Cows and Bulls.	Check mineral feeder.
Reimplant calves with growth stimulant at 90-120 days, when you have herd penned.	Apply spot-on agents for grub and louse control
Check for spittlebug and treat if necessary.	Check dust bags and back rubbers.
Fertilize warm season pastures.	Dispose of dead animals properly.
Deep disc pastures for reestablishment.	Plant warm season perennial pastures.



James F. Selph

James F. Selph, DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock