

MANATEE LIVESTOCKER

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25th Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show

The Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show will be held January 17, 2008 at the Osceola Heritage Park. The theme for the this year will be "Keys to Profitability" Nutrition, Health and Management for Reproduction. The trade show will open at 8:00am with the program to begin at 9:45am. The first speaker will be Dr. Marisa Silveria with the Range Cattle REC in Ona, discussing Soil Fertility Management for Forage Crops. Following her we will have Dr. Joao Vendramini from the Range Cattle REC in Ona, discussing winter forage preparation. Other topics to be dis-

cussed include why and how you have your forages analyzed, how to produce your cattle for the least amount of costs and reproductive tactics to improve profitability. The program will be concluded with a panel discussion. There will be a \$5 charge for lunch at the Institute.

If you are planning to attend please let me know. I can be reached at 722-4524.

Dairy Producer Forage Workshop

There will be a workshop for Dairy Producers and/or managers at the Hardee County Extension Office in Wauchula for Dr. Joao Vendramini to discuss his Dairy Forage Analysis Program with you. The program will be held on January 8th from 11:30am until 1:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The program will consist of lunch and a short program outlining the free forages tests that will be con-

ducted by Dr. Vendramini at the Range Cattle REC in Ona. This program is being sponsored by the Dairy Check-Off. If you are able to attend please let me know, 722-4524.

CALENDAR

January 8—Dairy Forage
Workshop, Wauchula

January 11—South Florida
Beef Forage Advisory Meeting

January 17—Cattlemen's Insti-
tute and Allied Trade Show

January 17-27 Manatee
County Fair



Bronson Urges Florida's Farmers And Ranchers To Participate In Census Of Agriculture

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 1-800-344-6277 or visit www.agcensus.usda.gov

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.

For more information:

Jim Ewing, (407) 648-6013, jim_ewing@nass.usda.gov

Ethics and Livestock Shows

Christa L. Carlson

Extension Agent II, Livestock

Many state and regional fairs are requiring that youth attend or become “certified” in livestock ethics. In many ways it is difficult to teach youth about livestock ethics. This is due to each individual person having his or her own set of ethics which they developed as growing up.

Most people will say that you cannot teach ethics. In many ways this statement is true. If we are not teaching ethics, how are the youth of today developing their own standards of ethics? After teaching a portion of the Florida State Fair Ethics training it became evident to me that everyone a youth comes in contact with will shape one’s ethics. Of course, the people whom one comes in contact with as well as the culture and region of the world he or she is brought up in will also shape one’s ethics.

It is our hope that through the youth development programs and livestock shows, we are helping to shape positive ethics for the youth. Ethics can be defined as moral standards that tell us how to behave or as a code of values that guide our choices and actions. Basically, ethics are what help us decide what is right and wrong. General H. Norman Swartzkopf states that “the truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.”

During the livestock shows, it is important to remember that decisions made by both adults and youth are affecting the stakeholders of that show. Many will ask who the stakeholders are. They are the youth, parents, family members, sponsors, breeders, show committees, and consumers. Basically a stakeholder is anyone who comes in contact with while participating in a livestock project.

One of the easiest ways to decide if a decision is an ethical one is to ask four questions from Jeff Goodwin’s “Line in the Sand” video.

Does it violate Food and Drug Administration law?

Is it fraud?

Does it compromise the welfare of the animal?

Does it relate to real-world agriculture?

Another way to decide is to ask yourself if you would be doing what you are doing if your mother or grandmother were watching you, or if you would like your friends and family to read about your actions on the front page of the newspaper.

A few years back I came across an article in a newsletter entitled “The Ten Commandments for Showring Parents.” With the show season at our doorstep, I believe it is appropriate to share these “commandments” with you.

1. Thou shall know the rules.

There are written and unwritten rules regarding the showing of animals. Topping the list of unwritten rules is to be courteous at all times and never lose your temper.

2. Thou shall allow your children to do their project themselves.

Obviously, when a child is 8, 9, or 10 years old, a parent is going to do much of the work. However, there is a gradient in which the youngster starts doing more and accepting an increasing amount of the responsibility.

3. Thou shall be supportive and involved.

To the other extreme, some parents believe there should be no parental involvement or help. That is unrealistic. The breakdown of many American families can be directly related to the family having nothing in common, no family projects or goals. A 4-H Project can bring the entire family together with a common goal. Parents often find they have as

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Small Farms Livestock Production Conference

“So Ya Wanna Be a Farmer”

The Small Farms Livestock Production Conference is presented by the South Florida Beef Forage Program and was designed for ranchette or small landowners who are considering the raising, management and production of livestock for pleasure or profit. This course, “So You Want to be a Farmer”, was designed more specifically for new or agriculturally inexperienced landowners who are considering some field of livestock production on their small or limited acreage to help guide them and provide them information for making a more informed decision about what type of livestock producer they may want to be.

This course will provide basic information about all the different animal species as possibilities for a small farming operation, explore some economic and business basics of agriculture production, look at specialty production and markets as possibilities, give some basics of animal health, buying healthy animals and keeping them healthy, your pasture and forage requirements before you ever get started, including understanding different forage species and their fertility and maintenance requirements, and what considerations you will need to make for fencing, housing, handling and holding equipment for all types of animal species.

This course will be offered on Saturday, March 29, 2008, 8:00am, at the Polk County Extension Office located in Bartow. Cost of the conference will be \$20 per person pre-paid registration to include lunch and any program materials. On site registration will be available for \$30 per person. If you are interested in participating you can pre-register with Christa Carlson, 941-722-4524.

Beef Ambassador Program Undergoes Revisions for the 2008 Contest

New this year, the Florida Cattlewomen’s Association has modified the Florida Beef Ambassador Program to align our contest to the National Beef Ambassador Contest. The 2008 Florida Beef Ambassador Program is open to youth ages 13 to 20; juniors age 13-16, seniors age 17-20. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for youth to become spokespersons and future leaders for the beef industry.

The District Contest will now consist of each participant competing in a mock media interview as well as presenting a lesson related to beef products and the industry for third grade youth. At the State Contest each participant will compete in a mock media interview, the presentation for a class of third grade youth as well as responding to a letter to the editor about a beef related issue.

The state contest will be held at the Annual FCA Convention in Marco Island on June 19th. To qualify for the state contest, junior and senior contest-

ants compete at the district level. The junior winner from each district will receive \$75 cash and an invitation to compete in the state contest. The senior winner from each district will receive \$100 cash, an invitation to compete, and a one night stay at the Marco Island Marriott during the FCA Convention.

At the state competition, the junior winner will receive \$100 in cash. The senior winner will earn a \$500 scholarship, the opportunity to represent Florida, and the potential to earn a \$1,000 scholarship at the National Beef Ambassador Contest in Oklahoma City in October, 2008.

District Contest Registration Deadline is March 1st. For further information and to register, please contact Christa L. Carlson at 941-722-4524 or ccarlson@ufl.edu.

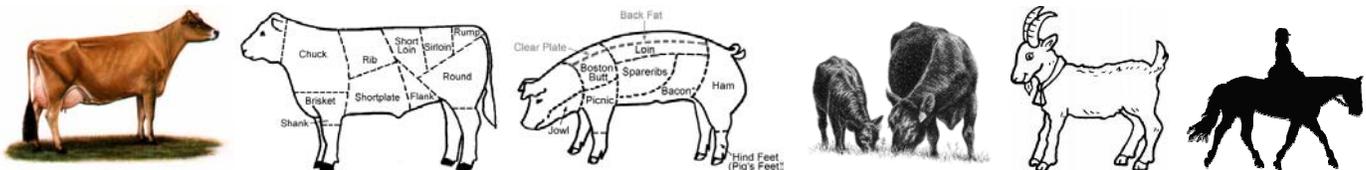


Manatee County Fair Youth Livestock Schedule of Events

Every year many youth participate in the Manatee County Fair to compete for prizes, awards and most of all bragging rights. Many of these youth will be competing in many different areas during the fair. At this point we are looking at a very successful fair in the livestock area. To date we have 98 market steers, 175 market swine, 45 dairy animals, 75 beef breeding animals, and 30 goats registered. I encourage each of you to take some time to come out and support the youth of today who will become the leaders of tomorrow.

- Tuesday, January 15 – Swine Weigh-In - 2-6:00pm
- Wednesday, January 16 – Dairy Check-In – 4-7:00pm
Swine Showmanship – 6:00pm
- Thursday, January 17 – Swine Show – 6:00pm
- Friday, January 18 – Dairy Show – 6:00pm
- Saturday, January 19 – Dairy, Swine and Horse Judging – 7:30am
Dairy Costume Contest – 10:00am
Swine Sale – 2:00pm
FNGLA Youth Plant Sale – 7:00pm
Swine Released—10:00pm
- Sunday, January 20 - Dairy Released—6:00pm
- Monday, January 21- Goat Check-In – 5-7:00pm
- Tuesday, January 22 – Steer Weigh-In – 2-6:00pm
Beef Breeding Check-In – 2-6:00pm
Goat Show – 7:00pm
- Wednesday, January 23 – Steer Showmanship – 6:00pm
- Thursday, January 24 – Steer Show – 6:00pm
- Friday, January 25 – Beef Breeding Show – 6:00pm
- Saturday, January 26 – Beef Breeding, Steer and Goat Judging – 8:30am
Steer Sale – 2:00pm
Youth Livestock Awards – 7:00pm
Goats, Beef Breeding and Steers Released—10:00pm
- Sunday, January 28 Horse Show – 11:00am

As a reminder to all youth entering livestock in the Manatee County Fair, you are required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Health Inspection (health certificate) for your animals to be admitted to the fair. Without a certificate you will not be allowed to exhibit your animal. Check your fair livestock rules for any additional tests, bleedings, or any other procedures that must be followed prior to exhibition at the Manatee County Fair.



Ethics and Livestock Shows, Continued

much to learn as their children.

At home, parents can help with the training, feeding, and care—as the youngster learns, grows, and develops. At the show, parents can give advice if they see a judge is looking for something particular in the showing. They often see an area on the animal that needs more attention. Parents make great bucket-carriers, runners for something that was forgotten, animal holders, etc. Most importantly, they can give a word of encouragement and a smile when it is needed the most.

4. Thou shall allow your child to participate in as many shows as possible.

Experience is the best teacher. Nothing builds more confidence or takes the place of the actual feel of the show equipment in a child's hand. Many 4-H and FFA clubs sponsor showmanship workshops and one-day shows throughout the year. These activities not only give your child an opportunity to gain experience and insight---they help you get an idea of the type of animal needed for a project.

5. Thou shall provide the proper equipment.

Although it is not fancy or expensive equipment that determines a winner, the appropriate equipment is a necessary part of showing.

6. Thou shall keep your attitude in check on show day.

Your attitude on show day can temper how your youngster performs. If they are worrying about their mother or father being upset, it is impossible for them to concentrate on what they ought to be doing.

7. Thou shall not be a showing sideline director.

Parents standing on the sidelines giving instructions to their children are distracting to other exhibitors and to the judge. Your child is better off doing it on his or her own and making his or her own mistakes. That is how they learn—and, after all, the education and growth of the youngster is the ultimate goal.

8. Thou shall not complain about the judge.

Complaining about the judge rarely, if ever, accomplishes anything positive. You do not have to agree with the judge's decision and opinion, but you should try to see his or her perspective on that day. Even if you cannot, don't complain. Remember, there is another show and another judge down the road. Regardless of the judge, you will win a few and lose a few.

9. Thou shall not disparage the competition.

There always seems to be a good deal of griping about how somebody got the job done. The only solution is to make sure you and your children are getting the job done in the right way. If others are cheating or not behaving in a suitable manner, they will cause their own demise.

10. Thou shall honor your child.

When parents ridicule their children for bad performances as they leave the showing, they are forgetting that the award—the trophy, the plaque, or the ribbon—is not as important as the things the children learn and the friends that they make while pursuing that goal. Since we are beginning another club year and show season, let us remember, as parents (and as Extension Educators, FFA Advisors, and as 4-H/FFA Leaders) that the showing is not just for prize animals; it is the show place for the finest young people in America.

I am looking forward to an exceptional show season with the youth of Manatee County. There are many things that occur behind the scenes that many never see. Many hours of work and preparation go into livestock shows. It is important to always remember that we are here for the youth and the final question on everyone's mind should be, "What is best for the youth in this program?"

Beef Management Calendar

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.

January

- Apply lime for summer crops.
- Check for lice and treat if necessary.
- Control weeds in cool season pastures.
- Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately 6 inches high. Rye should be 12-18 inches high.
- Check mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out for October calving season.
- Make up breeding herd lists if using single sire herds.
- Watch for calf scours.
- Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.
- Make sure cow herd has access to adequate fresh water.
- Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
- Get taxes filed.
- Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year.
- Review herd health program with your veterinarian regularly.
- Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings and other data.
- Observe cow herd for calving difficulties.
- Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
- Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes if grass tetany has been previous problem (if you are not already using a high magnesium mineral).
- Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality prior to the breeding season.
- Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.

February

- Top dress winter forages, if needed.
- Check and fill mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out with breeding herd.
- Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.).
- Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
- Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.
- Check for lice and treat if needed.

The South Florida Beef Forage Producer Survey

Many beef cattle producers will receive the South Florida Beef Forage Program Producer Survey after the first of the year. This survey is used to advise and guide programs provided by the South Florida Beef Forage Program. I will also use this survey to develop and guide the Manatee County Livestock Program. The survey will be sent to approximately 60 individuals in Manatee County. If you receive a survey please fill it out and return the completed survey by using the self addressed stamped envelope provided. I would like to thank you advance for your assistance with this survey.

Christa L. Carlson
Extension Agent II, Livestock

