

# MANATEE LIVESTOCKER

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June 2009

## 2nd Annual Range Cattle REC Youth Field Day

Once again the Range Cattle REC in Ona will be hosting a Youth Field Day. The event will take place June 30th from 8:30am until 4:30pm. The event has expanded from last year to include afternoon sessions. The morning sessions will include soil testing and sampling, poisonous plants, wildlife to putting your arm in a cannulated steer. New to this years field day we will have afternoon sessions. These sessions include understanding the uses of ultrasound in livestock, gross anatomy and physiology of the cows reproductive system, livestock and farm safety, station tours and much more.

There will be a \$5.00 charge per person for this event. Each person needs to pre-register to ensure they are enrolled in an afternoon session of their choice. For more information you can call Andrea Dunlap at 863-735-1314 or visit the website at <http://rcrec-on.a.ifas.ufl.edu/yfd063009.html>.

## Cow Calf Water Quality BMP's

As many of you are aware, the 2009 Water Quality BMP Manuals for Cow Calf Operations has been released. Many producers may be familiar with the 1999 BMP manuals that were distributed. Those manuals have been updated and the 2009 version is now available in my office. The new BMP manual is complete with a Notice of Intent (NOI) and a self appraisal form for the rancher to use on their property. By adopting the cow calf BMP's ranchers will have the advantage of a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards.

It is strongly encouraged that all cow calf ranchers have a NOI on file with the state. It is in your best interest to enroll and follow these BMP's.



# Beef Management Calendar

## July

- Cut corn silage.
- Control weeds in summer pastures.
- Apply nitrogen to warm season pastures, if needed.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for army worms and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
  - Wean calves and cull cow herd.
  - Watch for evidence of footrot and treat.
- Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.
  - Check dust bags.
  - Update market information and plans.
  - Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

## August

- Treat for liver flukes as close to August 15th as possible, if they are in your area.
  - Cut hay.
- Apply lime for fall and winter crops.
  - Harvest Bahiagrass seed.
  - Check mineral feeder.
- Update market information and marketing plans.
- Check for army worms, spittlebugs, and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
  - Check dust bags.
  - Wean calves and cull cow herd.
  - Watch for evidence of abortions.
  - Observe animals regularly for signs of disease.
- If cattle grubs were found on cattle last winter or heel flies were observed in the pasture, treat for cattle grubs this month.
  - Pregnancy test and cull open heifers from replacement herd.

## September

- Cut hay.
- Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to cool season pastures.
  - Check mineral feeder.
- Check for mole crickets, spittlebugs, and grasshoppers, and treat if necessary.
  - Check dust bags.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd if not already done. Remove open, unsound, or poor producing cows.
  - Train cowboys to observe normal and abnormal behavior and signs of disease.
  - Be sure any replacement purchases are healthy and have been calfhood vaccinated for brucellosis.
  - September or October is a good time to deworm the cow herd if internal parasites are a problem.
- When replacement heifers are weaned, give them required vaccinations and teach them to eat from a bunk – Then, put them on a good nutrition program.
  - Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
  - Review winter feed supply and feeding plans so that needed adjustments can be made before supplies tighten and prices rise.

## PASTURE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The spring has past and summer is upon us. Thankfully we have started to get some moisture in our pastures. Many farmers and ranchers are looking to improve or establish new pastures as the rains begin. Along with the improving and establishing of pastures come many questions.

To answer many of these questions and even some you may not know you have we will be conducting a Pasture Management Seminar. The program will be held on Tuesday, July 14 at the Manatee County Department of Agriculture and Resource Conservation Kendrick Auditorium, located at the Manatee County Fairgrounds, 1303 17<sup>th</sup> St W, Palmetto. The program will begin at 7:00pm.

During the course of the program we will discuss different varieties of grasses and other forage species. We will also address what varieties are best for different situations. While some grasses prefer wet soil others prefer dryer soil. We will also explain how to plant and prepare your pastures for planting by both seed and vegetative material. After we have finished discussing forage species we will talk about soil tests and the importance of these tests to your forages. We will discuss how to properly obtain soil samples and options for testing. We will then move into a fertilizer discussion for your forages. The evening will conclude with a discussion about animal stocking rates and how it affects your pasture's production.

This course is available to you at no charge. We do ask that anyone wishing to participate please register so we can have adequate materials ready for everyone. You can register by calling 941-722-4524 and speaking with either Christa or Linda. If you have any questions regarding this seminar please contact us at the above number or by email at [ccarlson@ufl.edu](mailto:ccarlson@ufl.edu)

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## FLORIDA SMALL FARMS AND ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES CONFERENCE

On Aug. 1-2, 2009, the first Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference will be held at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee. The event will feature exhibitors, educational sessions and more. Educational sessions will be held on business and marketing, alternative energy, horticulture, livestock, organic and sustainable farming, as well as policy and regulation for small farmers. All Florida farmers are invited to attend. Early bird registration is currently open. The registration fee is \$100.00 until June 15th and then it increases to \$120.00. You can visit the conference Web site at <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>. For information on conference sponsorship or being an exhibitor, contact Bob Hochmuth, 386-362-1725 or [bobhoch@ufl.edu](mailto:bobhoch@ufl.edu).

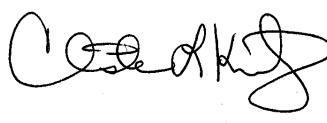


## **Grazing Management for Horse Owners**

The Manatee County Extension Service will be holding a Grazing Management for Horse Owners seminar on Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00pm in Kendrick Auditorium at the Manatee County Fairgrounds. This course will cover topics from the importance of soil sampling and grass varieties for grazing to grazing patterns and grazing pressure. Each topic will be discussed as it relates to horse owners.

This course is available to you at no charge. We do ask that anyone wishing to participate please register so we can have adequate materials ready for everyone. You can register by calling 941-722-4524 and speaking with either Christa or Linda. If you have any questions regarding this seminar please contact us at the above number or by email at [ccarlson@ufl.edu](mailto:ccarlson@ufl.edu)



  
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