

MANATEE LIVESTOCKER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

25th Annual Cattle-
men's Institute and
Allied Trade Show 1

Manatee County Fair 5
Youth Livestock
Schedule

Beef Cattle Manage-
ment Calendar 7

26th Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show

The Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show will be held January 15, 2009 at the Osceola Heritage Park. The theme for the this year will be "Management Solutions for Economic Challenges". The trade show will open at 8:00am with the program to begin at 9:45am. The first speaker will be Dr. Yoana Newman and Dr. Jay Ferrell with the UF/IFAS Agronomy Department, discussing Growing Feeds not Weeds. Following there presentation we will have Dr. Ed Richey, DVM discussing herd health and reproductive performance. Other

topics to be discussed include least cost production with Randy Blach, Dr. Chad Carr discussing alternative markets, and will conclude the day with a panel of cattle producers discussing ways they are coping with the slower economy on their operations. Lunch will be provided free of charge to participants.

If you are planning to attend, please contact Christa so we may have an accurate lunch count. She can be reached at 722-4524.



Soil Testing for Forage Production

Supplying adequate soil fertility and the correct pH to your forages is one of the keys to a successful forage production. If your are a hay producer, plant annual forage crops every year, or overseed in winter time, then you need to soil test every year. If your operation is based on perennial forages, you could do so less frequently. One of the first action to get ready for the upcoming season in terms of fertilizer needs should be to have your soil tested. Now more than ever, a soil test will save you money because it will indicate those nutrients that are in your soil in sufficient amounts. Soil testing followed by the proper fertilization, is one of the practices that will possibly have the most long-term

effect on your forage production per acre. There is no other way to find out the status of your soil nutrients but to soil test. Keep in mind that the recommendations coming back from the soil test report are based on efficient fertilizer use and environmentally sound nutrient management without losses of yield or crop quality. Use these months prior to spring time to test your soil and correct soil pH if necessary; acidic soil condition is a tendency for many Florida soils. If lime is needed it will be indicated on your soil report.

By: Yoana Newman

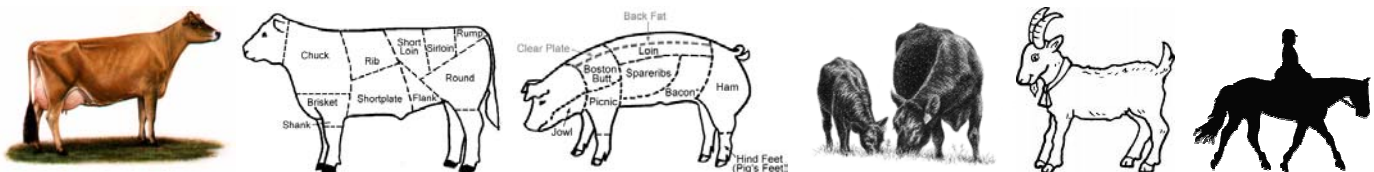
Extension Forage Specialist

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. 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 13 – Swine Weigh-In - 2-6:00pm
- Wednesday, January 14 – Dairy Check-In – 4-7:00pm
Swine Showmanship – 6:00pm
- Thursday, January 15 – Swine Show – 6:00pm
- Friday, January 16 – Dairy Show – 6:00pm
- Saturday, January 17 – Dairy, Swine and Horse Judging – 7:30am
Dairy Costume Contest – 10:00am
Swine Sale – 2:00pm
FNGLA Youth Plant Sale – 6:00pm
Swine Released—10:00pm
- Sunday, January 18 - Dairy Released—6:00pm
- Monday, January 19- Goat Check-In – 5-7:00pm
- Tuesday, January 20 – Steer Weigh-In – 2-6:00pm
Beef Breeding Check-In – 2-6:00pm
Goat Show – 7:00pm
- Wednesday, January 21 – Steer Showmanship – 6:00pm
- Thursday, January 22 – Steer Show – 6:00pm
- Friday, January 23 – Beef Breeding Show – 6:00pm
- Saturday, January 24 – 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 25 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.



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.

Up-Coming Events

January

- 6 Manatee County Cattlemen's Meeting, 7pm
- 15-25 Manatee County Fair
- 15 Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show, Kissimmee

February

- 5-16 Florida State Fair
- 17 Manatee County Cattlemen's Meeting, 6:30pm

April

- 16 Range Cattle REC Field Day, Ona
- 29-5/1 Beef Cattle Short Course, Gainesville

June

- 30 Range Cattle REC Youth Field Day, Ona



Christa L. Carlson-Kirby
Extension Agent II, Livestock