Grazing Management School

The Grazing Management School is sponsored by The South Florida Beef-Forage Program of the University of Florida/IFAS, Cooperative Extension Service. It is conducted with the volunteer assistance of area livestock producers and Allied Industries. This program represents separation of the original Forage and Pasture Management School into subject components that can be taught in a couple of days. It is part of a continuing multi-county education effort to help South-Central Florida producers produce and market high quality beef cattle, per cow, per acre, profitably.

Grazing management is the manipulation of livestock grazing to obtain defined outputs of livestock products. It involves careful management of both pasture and livestock resources to meet desired objectives. This new course is offered in a two day session. The theories of grazing management concepts and methods are discussed in a classroom setting during the first day at the Hardee County Agricultural Civic Center. Concepts taught are supported by practical applications in the field during a tour on the second day to selected ranches in the area, and the Ona Range Cattle Research and Education Center.

This is the first offering of a “Grazing Management School” and we encourage you and your personnel to attend. Registration fee for this school is $60.00 if received by Sept 15, 2006, and $80.00 if received after Sept. 15, 2006. Registration forms can be obtained by calling Christa L. Carlson, 941-722-4524.

Florida Cattlemen’s Association

Quality Replacement Heifer Sale

The Florida Cattlemen’s Association will hold their Annual Quality Replacement Heifer Sale on Friday, September 29 at 1:00pm. The sale will be held at the Arcadia Stockyards located on Hwy 17 8 miles north of Arcadia. Mr. Tommy Barnes will serve as auctioneer for this sale. Further questions can be directed to the Florida Cattlemen’s Association, 407-846-6221.
2nd Annual Quail Management Short Course
The 2nd Annual Quail Management Short Course will be held October 5-6 at the Willow Pond Conference Center in Monticello, FL. This program is being presented by University of Florida/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University Extension Service and the University of Georgia Extension Service. This is a program for landowners, managers, hunters and other individuals who are interested in quail habitat and natural resource management practices. The short course will be a combination of field tours, demonstrations, seminars, and will also include a trade show. The cost of the program is $60 for advance registration. Space will be limited to the first 150 participants. For more information contact Dr. Bill Giuliano, 352-846-0575 or Larry Halsey, 850-342-0187.

Pasture Weed Field Day
Dr. Brent Sellers will conduct a Pasture Weed Field Day focusing on studies he has conducted relating to chemical control of tropical soda apple, dogfennel, blackberry, and cogongrass. During the field day participants will be able to view the results of the chemical treatment studies conducted on the various weeds. Following the tour of the study pastures, lunch will be provided at the Range Cattle REC in Ona. There will be a $10 pre-registration fee for this program or a $30 fee for on-site registration. Dr. Sellers is currently applying for CEU and CCA credits for this program. Pre-registrations and checks made payable to South Florida Beef Forage Program, may be sent to Andrea Dunlap, 3401 Experiment Station, Ona, FL 33865. For further information contact Andrea or Brent at the Range Cattle REC, 863-735-1314.

SunBelt Ag Expo
The 2006 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, North America’s Premier Farm Show, will be held October 17-19 in Moultrie, GA. The mission is “to produce the premier farm show in the world, one that is conducive to trade and emphasizes information, education and implementation of the latest agricultural technology, research and equipment.” This is a great opportunity to see many exhibits and demonstrations in one location for all aspects of agriculture. The show is open 8:30am – 5:00pm Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:30am – 4:00pm on Thursday. The cost is $6 per person. The show site is composed of 100 acres of exhibit space and a 600 acre working farm. This year they are expecting over 1200 exhibitors to participate. For further information visit their website at www.sunbeltexpo.com or call 229-985-1968.

University of Florida/IFAS Range Cattle Research And Education Center Field Day
The University of Florida/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona will be hosting a Field Day in the memory of Dr. Martin Adjei. The field day will take place at the Center in Ona on Tuesday, October 24. Registration will begin at 8:00 am with the program set to begin at 9:00am. The topics for the field day will include pasture weed management, perennial peanuts for drier flatwood soils, an overview of forage management considerations, and an evaluation of Angus genotypes derived from northern and southern climates. A steak lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by October 13 by calling Andrea Dunlap, 863-735-1314.
Small Farms Livestock Production Conference  
“So You 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 three dates, and at three different locations. The first offering will be held Saturday, November 18, 2006 at the Indian River Research and Education Center in Ft. Pierce, FL. The second will be held Saturday, March 3, 2007 at the Highlands County Agri-Civic Center in Sebring, FL, and the third, Saturday, March 17, 2007 at the Manatee County Extension Center in Palmetto, FL.

Cost of the conference will be $20 per person pre-paid registration to include lunch and any program materials. If you are interested in participating you can pre-register with Christa Carlson, 941-722-4524.

Manatee County Farm City Week  
Youth Beef Workshop and Prospect Show

All Manatee County 4-H and FFA members who are participating in the Market Steer or Beef Breeding projects are invited to join us for the 3rd Annual Manatee County Farm City Week Workshop and Prospect Show. The workshop will begin at 8:30am on Saturday, November 18 with a session on Herd Health as it relates to Beef Quality Assurance conducted by Dr. Todd Thrift from the University of Florida Animal Sciences Department. Following his presentation Dr. Matt Hersom who is also with the University of Florida Animal Sciences Department, will do a presentation on Beef Cattle Nutrition. We will then move outside for hands-on workshops on grooming, showmanship and proper show preparation and knot tying. Following the workshop youth will be treated to a lunch sponsored by the Manatee County Cattlemen’s Association and we will then move into the prospect show. Youth must participate in the workshop to be eligible for the show. We will also have a skill-a-thon available for youth to participate in during the show. Entry fees are $15 per animal entry. Show entries will be limited to 75 head of cattle. There is no charge for youth wishing to participate in the workshop only. There is no limit on the...
number of youth who are eligible to participate in the workshop. We are seeking sponsors to offset the cost of the workshop and prospect show. If you are interested in sponsoring the event or for further information contact Christa Carlson, 941-722-4524.

Cattle Artificial Insemination School
I have had several individuals inquire about when the next artificial insemination school for cattle will be. After contacting other agents in the area I have found that Mr. Jerry Jones from ABS in Okeechobee is currently working to plan an AI School. The cost will be approximately $285 per person. The classes will most likely be held in Okeechobee. If you are interested in participating in an AI School, please contact me so I can make a list of individuals who would like the information when I receive it. I can be contacted by phone, 941-722-4524 or email ccarlson@ufl.edu

Florida State Fair Youth Livestock Ethics and Animal Care Workshops
Any youth who plans to show any animal at the Florida State Fair and who participated in the fair last year must participate in a Livestock Ethics and Animal Care Workshop if they did not do so last year. If they did not show at the state fair last year they must attend the workshop to participate in the 2008 Florida State Fair. There are currently four workshops advertised on the Florida State Fair Livestock website. They are:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>10am – 4pm</td>
<td>Florida State Fair</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>9am – 12noon</td>
<td>Jupiter High School</td>
<td>October 7</td>
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<td>October 17</td>
<td>6pm – 9pm</td>
<td>Pasco County Extension</td>
<td>October 10</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>9am – 12 noon</td>
<td>Okeechobee Extension</td>
<td>December 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>9am – 12 noon</td>
<td>Riverview High School</td>
<td>January 8</td>
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*This seminar is being held in conjunction with the educational seminars

There will be a seminar held in DeSoto County sometime in November. The exact date has not been set. You can keep up to date on seminar offerings by visiting the State Fair website www.floridastatefair.com/ag_livestock.asp then select youth livestock ethics and animal care workshops.

Manatee County Fair
Steer Weigh-In Information
Many youth have asked what medications their steers were given at the initial weigh in. All steers received Ivomec Plus dewormer, Boss pour-on for lice and fly control, Bova Shield Gold 5 for respiratory diseases, along with One Shot Ultra 8 for Pasturella and Blackleg. They also received an electronic ear tag and a traditional flap-tag plus an ear tattoo for identification. If a steer was seen to have warts present they were also given a wart vaccine. All steers must be wart free at the fair. All products were compiled by Mr. Oren Webb from Walco International. Letters of thanks for his support can be sent to 2300 NW 9th St, Okeechobee, 34972. Further questions regarding steer weigh in can be directed to Danny or Kim Alfonzo, 776-5857.
Beef Management Calendar

September
- Cut hay.
- Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to cool season pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for mole crickets, spittlebugs, and grassloopers, 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.

October
- Plant cool season legumes.
- Plant small grain pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for external parasites, especially lice, and treat if needed.
- Check for spittlebugs and grassloopers and treat, if needed.
- Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition.
- Isolate any additions to the herd for 30 to 60 days and observe for signs of disease; retest for brucellosis and leptospirosis.
- Be sure you have adequate handling facilities, and they are in good working order.
- If you are raising bulls for the commercial market, October thru December is the main bull-buying season for cattlemen in south Florida and now is the time to have your promotion program fully activated.

November
- Have soils tested.
- Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
- Calve in well-drained pastures.
- Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
- Start summarizing your annual records, both production and financial-then you will have time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
- Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
- Get breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements if some fail.
- Implement bull conditioning program.
- Review plans and arrangements for the upcoming breeding season.
- Check progress of developing replacement heifers - are they going to meet your target weight by the start of the breeding season?
Up-Coming Events

**September**
- 4  Labor Day, Extension Office Closed
- 9  Manatee County Cattlemen’s Assn. Annual Meeting - C2C Arena
- 17 Grazing Management School Pre-Registrations Due
- 27-28 Grazing Management School - Wauchula
- 29  FCA 12th Annual Heifer Sale, Arcadia Stockyards

**October**
- 5-6  Quail Management Short Course - Monticello, FL
- 10  Pasture Weed Field Day – Ona Area
- 17-19 SumBelt Agriculture Exposition – Moultrie, GA
- 24  Range Cattle REC, Ona Field Day

**November**
- 3  Manatee County Farm City Week Beef Workshop and Prospect Show Pre-Registrations Due to Christa
- 11 Holiday – Extension Office Closed
- 11-18 Farm City Week
- 15  Ag-Venture – Mosaic Arena
- 17  Farm City Tour
- 18  Manatee County Farm City Week Beef Workshop and Prospect Show – Mosaic Arena
- 18-19 Small Farms Livestock Production Conference – Ft. Pierce
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holidays – Extension Office Closed