

Lake County
Extension Service
1951 Woodlea Rd.
Tavares, FL 32778
(352) 343-4101
cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu

Volume 2, Issue 3
September, 2007

July –

Do Your Cows Have Enough Ear?

The title of the 56th Annual Beef Cattle Short course was “Enhancing Quality Production While Maintaining Profitability”. To be profitable in today’s beef cattle industry you must save money where ever possible. In the southern United States Brahman influenced females are the most productive mothers a commercial, cattlemen can own.

The main reasons being:

- Heavier Weaning Weights
- Longevity 12-15 years
- Higher Milk Production
- Insect Tolerant
- Less Heat Stress

However to make these cows work you can not slack on Nutrition, Genetics, and Health. These three variables are what will make or break your operation. Poor genetics, lead to less than desirable weaning weights, low fertility, and low quality carcasses. Poor nutrition and health leads to low pregnancy rates in cattle. Getting cattle bred economically is dependent on pasture forages. Therefore you must analyze your soil and make sure you are getting nutrients into the grass you are producing. Also a soil analysis will help you save money because your pastures may not need the Phosphorus and Potassium you usually apply.

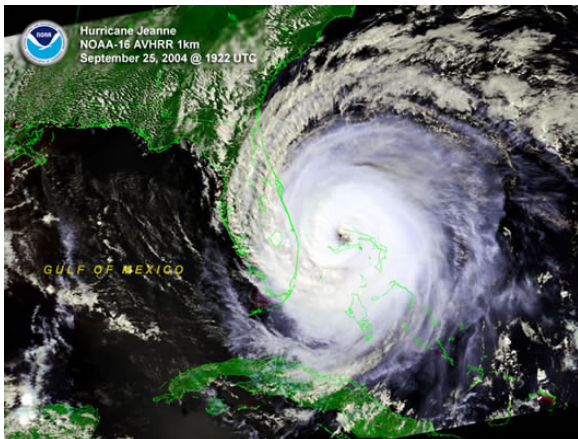


When buying bulls or replacing females of a certain breed you need to pick individuals that will carry their outstanding traits to their progeny. Whether that be carcass traits or fertility. There are many reputable breeders around Florida, however you need to visit different breeders and make sure you are getting the best. Within each breed there is much variability. Therefore it is critical to select animal with good disposition, high fertility, and carcass traits that meet industry standards.

For proceedings from this years Beef Cattle Short Course visit <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/ProbcscIndex07.shtml>

Maternal and reproductive performance of Brahman x Angus, Senepol x Angus, and Tuli x Angus cows in the subtropics C. C. Chase, Jr., D. G. Riley, T. A. Olson, S. W. Coleman and A. C. Hammond.

Reproductive performance of cows mated to and preweaning performance of calves sired by Brahman vs alternative sub tropically adapted breeds. F. A. Thrift



Preparing Livestock for Hurricane Season

By Marsha Schloesser Lake Agricultural Advisory Board Member www.carouselworkshop.com

Disaster Planning for those who know
Everything
(and those who Don't)

After 15 years of presenting disaster planning seminars, I am convinced everyone thinks they know it all....so instead of a long article....just an outline...you do the math.....and what a surprise some of you will find !

Only fact you might want to remember is there really is not much difference in planning for a Hurricane disaster, or a fire disaster.....except TIME.

You have how many HORSES.....
DOGS.....
CATS.....
BIRDS or Small Caged Animals.....
EXOTIC Animals.....
CHILDREN.....
OLDER PARENTS.....
Other animals.....

HOW big is your Horse Trailer.....
How many People in your family drive.....
HOW long will it take you to load....
HOW many can you load.....
WHO will you leave behind.....
Live alone, can you handle it ALL?
Where are you going? How long a trip?Gas

If you stay....

Do you have enough Water for 7 days?
Enough Food and Medical for 7 days?

Just a few tips, before you have heart failure.....most of the time you can remove the partitions in you horse trailer to get one more horse in. Keep cages on hand for all your cats and dogs.

For those of you with home based or computer oriented businesses....what do you need to take and save?

Most people value the same items.....personal such as photos.

Hurricane season is here.....hopefully no more fires....then you may only have 15 minutes to evacuate.....instead of three to four days.....

Just think about it, plan ahead....and let someone know your plans.

For tips on preparing barns and livestock for disasters please go to The Disaster Handbook at <http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School

August 6-9, 2007 -Deseret Ranch

Do you want to learn to pregnancy check your cattle so that you can make better culling decisions? If so, the Central Florida Livestock Agents are going to be hosting a reproduction management school for four days at the beautiful Deseret Ranch in Deer Park Florida. The first half of the day will be spent in the cow pens learning how to palpate cattle and the afternoon will be spent in the classroom going over health, nutrition, and reproduction. This is an excellent class for all cattlemen. This year we will be covering some new technology in pregnancy diagnosis so come and join us. Schedules will be attached just call Martha to register.



Equine Institute and Trade Show

September 20, 2007-Ocala Livestock Pavilion



This years Institute will be held at the Ocala Livestock Pavilion 2200 NE Jacksonville Rd Ocala, FL 34470.

Pre Registration is \$25 Registration after September 10 is \$50.

The keynote speaker will be Julie Goodnight:

Julie Goodnight is a full-time equine professional with more than a quarter-

century of experience. Her varied background ranges from dressage and jumping to racing, reining, colt-starting, and wilderness riding.

Julie is known for her upbeat and logical style of teaching, and for her ability to bridge natural horsemanship techniques with the principles of classical riding. <http://www.juliegoodnight.com/index.html>

The Institute will also have an extensive trade show and many other knowledgeable equine educators. **To register for this event contact Mark Shuffitt at (352) 671-8400.**

Beef Management Calendar

July

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- Be sure any replacement purchases are healthy and have been calfhooed 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 those 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. Hay, Molasses, Winter Annuals

Calendar of Events

July

5th - 6:00pm Summer Equine Workshop Tavares Ag Center

12th -14th - State 4-H Horse Show Tampa Fair Grounds

18th -20th - Farm to Fuel Summit

21st - 4-H Fun Horse Show

August

6-9th -Reproduction Management School Deseret Ranch

18th -19th Lake County Cattlemen's Junior Rodeo

September

15th - Poultry Seminar Tavares Ag Center

20th - Florida Equine Institute & Trade Show Ocala Livestock Pavilion

Martha Thomas
 Lake County Livestock/Natural Resources Agent
 marthat@ufl.edu
 352-343-4101

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Science (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, IFAS, FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.