

Lake County  
Extension Service  
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**Volume 2, Issue 4**  
**Fall 2007 October - December**

*As you are all aware the county budget is very tight so please send me your email address to help reduce mailing expenses or let Maggie Jarrell know if you wish to continue receiving our newsletter. 352-343-4101. Thanks Martha*

## Do You Know the Quality of Your Hay?

Are you interested in knowing the quality of your hay? The only way to really know what you are feeding your animals is doing an analysis. The quality of hay can be affected by so many variables such as forage maturity, fertilization, and drying conditions etc. To meet your animal's nutritional needs economically you need to know the amount of Crude Protein in a feed source so that you can compare prices between feed sources. The Ona Research Station has begun taking forage samples for analysis. Reports will contain crude protein and total digestible nutrients (TDN). The cost of the sample will be \$5.00. The submission form, details about the shipping and payment will be found at:








<http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/papfel.html>



## New DOT Regulations for Agricultural Hauling

October 9, 2007 9:00-11:00am

Lake County Agricultural Extension Office

-  Licensing Requirements
-  Distance Travel Limitations
-  Hauling-What and Where
-  Exemptions
-  Width & Weight Limitations

## Pasture Weed Day at Ona Research Station

Thursday, October 11 8:30 am -\$30 On-Site Registration

9:10am Tour

TSA virus

TSA beetle

Climbing fern

Forage grass tolerance to herbicides

Weed Identification

Vaseygrass and Bahiagrass control in Stargrass pastures

Smutgrass Control

Cleanwave Herbicide

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Adjourn

## Farm Safety Day

October 24, 2007 9:00-12:00

Lake County Agricultural Center

Topics Covered:

**Tractor and Equipment Safety** – Kiley Harper, UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Extension

**Avoiding Heat Stroke and Heat Related Illness** – Ryan Atwood, UF/IFAS Lake County Extension

**Killer Bees and other Dangerous Farm Pests**- Martha Thomas, UF/IFAS Lake County Extension

**CRP Basics for Farm Workers**- Dan Meehan, Health Central

## Town Hall Meeting for Cattle Producers

Sumter County Farmers Market (Webster) (352)793-2021 October 24 7:00 pm

Cattlemen's Livestock Market (Lakeland) (863)665-5088 October 25 7:00 pm

Join in and voice your opinion on situations affecting the cattle industry

With key leaders of the cattle industry

Florida Beef Council, Chairman, Brad Etheridge

Florida Cattlemen's Association President, Larry Rooks

**Want to hear what's on the mind of cattle producers today.**

Subjects to be discussed include:

Current Status of the Beef Check off Program

Update on State and Federal Legislative Issues & Initiatives, Membership Program

This open forum will provide an opportunity to learn and to be heard.

Refreshments will be provided

For General Information: Florida Cattlemen's Association (407)846-6221

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cattlemen's Roundup

November 20, 2007 6:30 pm Lake County Extension Office

## **Bull Conditioning & Winter Supplementation for the Cow Herd**

Robert Demaree

## **Selecting Bulls for the Cow Herd**

Martha Thomas

Door Prizes and Steaks Sponsored by  
Sparr Building and Farm Supply-Cody Hensley

Must R.S.V.P. by November 13, 2007 to attend.



## **Parasites That Reduce Goat Herd Productivity**

### **Internal**

The internal parasites of major importance in young, growing kids are coccidia and various nematodes (worms), particularly *Haemonchus*.

Coccidiosis can affect kids as early as two weeks of age. Diarrhea is the most consistent sign. Kids become weak, dehydrated and may demonstrate signs of abdominal discomfort. Rapid detection, isolation, and prompt treatment of affected kids is critical. Coccidiosis is usually treated with Sulfas or Amprolium.

Stomach worms cause the majority of problems in most herds. They suck blood and will cause profound anemia, weight loss and weakness in animals severely affected. Lungworms and tapeworms can be seen in some herds.

### **External**

The external parasites are just as much a problem as internal worms. They also cause anemia, weight loss and gradual debilitation. The following external parasites affect Florida's goats: 1) biting lice, 2) sucking lice, 3) nose bots, 4) Keds, 5) blow fly larvae, 6) mites, and 7) sticktight fleas. They can be controlled by insecticide sprays, dusts, or dips. As with deworming goat owners should consult with their veterinarian for specific information on alternative parasite control.

### **Sanitation**

Control of parasites is nearly impossible without good sanitation. Sanitation is anything that improves the standard of hygiene of the herd. In the case of parasitism by roundworms and coccidia, sanitation

must concentrate on minimizing the contamination of the feed areas with fecal material, as these parasites are transmitted through the manure and by ingestion. Every goat owner must find the optimal solution to this problem by observing their goats to identify and control the areas where the goats feed, which may be contaminated. Common areas are feed troughs, water troughs and areas where the goats graze.

To improve hygiene at feeding time the goats should be fed only as much as they will eat at a time. Once the feed has been eaten, the goats should be denied further access to the feeding area until the next feeding time. If feed troughs are used they should be turned upside down to prevent goats from defecating into them. If possible the feeding area should also be moved periodically, especially during the wet seasons. Therefore goats are not exposed for long periods to mud that may harbor parasite eggs.

Another effective way of improving the hygiene of the kids' environment is to provide climbing pedestals for the kids to play on. This will encourage them to stay off the ground which may be contaminated. Movable and washable structures are best; they should be constructed in such a way that the kids cannot injure themselves. General recommendations for improved hygiene are to improve drainage of the areas where the goats are kept. Improved sanitation will also reduce exposure to other diseases such as listeriosis, toxoplasma, salmonellosis and caseous lymphadenitis.

### **Treatment**

There are many drugs on the market to treat worms. Some are more effective than others. Drugs commonly used are ivermectin, morantel, levamisole, pyrantel, albendazole, thiabendazole, fenbendazole, oxbendazole, coumaphos and phenothiazine. The choice of drug depends on personal preference and experience. **The full dose of dewormer should always be used to ensure maximum kill, and to prevent resistance from developing.** To provide an accurate dosage individual goats should be weighed, e.g., using a weigh tape. Some special comments are necessary: if ivermectin is given orally the injectable dose must be doubled. Morantel holds the best hope for the future of treating lactating goats, as it will probably have no withdrawal time for milk as a minor use veterinary drug. Fenbendazole and albendazole are good for treating tapeworms. Phenothiazine, although licensed for use in goats, is an antiquated product and can no longer be recommended for safe and effective use.

Only a few of the products that are effective against roundworms are licensed for use in goats. Therefore, many products must be used extra-label. This is possible with a veterinarian's prescription. As for all drugs, special precautions must be taken to ensure that none of these enter the human food chain. This is particularly important to the goat industry, which is growing in importance as a supplier of food (meat and milk) for human consumption.

For drugs used extra-label, the withdrawal times for meat and milk have to be extrapolated from other species (usually cattle), in which the drug is licensed. To be on the safe side, a longer withdrawal time than those used in cattle is always recommended.

### **Drug Resistance**

In Florida, roundworms frequently develop resistance to many of the benzimidazoles. These include thiabendazole, fenbendazole and oxybendazole. To keep the potential for resistance to a minimum use the same deworming product for an entire year, rather than using a different product each time the goats are dewormed. This ensures that each generation of worms is only exposed to one drug at a time, so that if a generation of worms has the potential to develop resistance it will only develop resistance to one drug and not several during the same time period. An example of a good deworming program would be then to use ivermectin one year, morantel the next, albendazole the next; then to return to using ivermectin again. Drugs to which worms have developed a resistance should be eliminated from

the deworming program on that farm for at least two full years. Then it should be safe to use these products again.

Information Received from: Meat Goat Herd Health Management <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VM005> and

Common Internal Parasites of Goats in Florida <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/DS164>

## Beef Cattle Management Calendar

### October

- 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?

### 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.

# Calendar of Events

## October

- 4-5- Deer and Turkey Short Course **Quincy**
- 9- New DOT Regulations for Agricultural Hauling 9am **Tavares Agricultural Center** [R.S.V.P to Martha by October 2, 2007](#)
- 11- Pasture Weed Day **Ona Research Station**
- 16- Employee Verification Program 9-11am **Tavares Agricultural Center**
- 16-18- Agricultural Exposition **Moultrie, Georgia**
- 19- Quail & Dove Management Short Course **Arcadia**
- 24- Farm Safety 9am **Lake County Agricultural Center** [R.S.V.P to Maggie by October 16, 2007](#)
- 24- Cattle Producers Town Hall Meeting 7pm **Webster**
- 25- Cattle Producers Town Hall Meeting 7pm **Lakeland**

## November

- 10- 4-H Rotary Horse Show
- 3- Junior Cattlemen's Prospect Show and Fun Day @ Journey Circle M Ranch
- 20-6:30 pm Cattlemen's Roundup **Lake County Agricultural Center** [R.S.V.P to Martha by 11-13-07](#)
- 30- 1:00 pm All Breed Bull Sale Arcadia Stockyard

## December

- 6- 7:00 pm Hog Educational Seminar **Lake County Agricultural Center**
- 5 thru 7- Florida Cattlemen's Association Fall Quarterly **Crystal River**
- 15- 9 am till 12 Horse Tack Swap **Lake County Agricultural Center**. **Contact Martha to buy space by 12-07-07.**



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