



**UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA**

**EXTENSION**

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences



# Animal Science Newsletter

February 2002

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## Dates To Remember

### February 2002

1	All Breed Bull Sale – Lakeland, FL
2	Southern Section Academic Quadrathlon Lab Practicum
9	State Fair Horse and Livestock Judging Events – Tampa, FL
12-14	FCA Legislative Quarterly Meeting – Tallahassee, FL

### March 2002

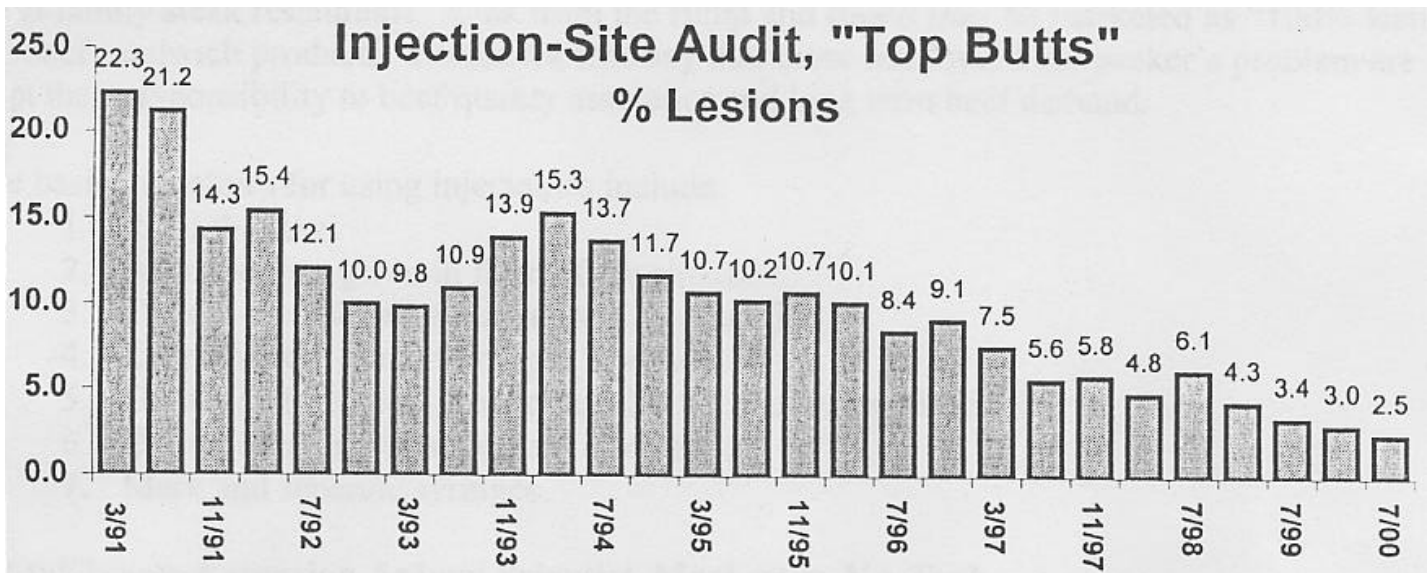
2	Florida Bull Test Sale – Marianna
19-20	Tri-State In-Service Training – Auburn University, Alabama
26	Equine In-service Training – Gainesville
26	Beef In-service Training –Gainesville
27	Forages In-Service Training – Gainesville

## Prepared By Extension Specialists In Animal Sciences

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percentages of the early 1990's, it is obvious a few folks are still not getting the message. There seems to be both some misconceptions about the problem and a lack of willingness for producers to accept responsibility for the issue.

The injection lesions that are found before they reach the consumer are certainly a concern because they result in trim losses and extra labor. These extra expenses add to the processor's costs and are ultimately paid for by the cattle producer. The most serious damage caused to the industry by the lesions is when they reach the consumer. Even lesions that have regressed tend to leave an unsightly scar or calloused area. Additionally, shear force tests have shown that beef located up to three inches away from the lesion is much tougher than normal.

In many cases it has been difficult for cow/calf producers to accept their share of responsibility for the injection site problem. "How can the little vaccination I give to light weight calves show up months down the road?" Some folks have also incorrectly assumed that injection lesions only resulted from the use of vaccines such as the clostridial products. Research work conducted by Colorado State University has demonstrated that injection site damage is present at least one year after the injection and that the clostridial vaccines are not the only culprit. The table below illustrates the incidence of injection site lesions when calves were vaccinated at branding (48 days of age) and at weaning (199 days of age) with different products. It is clear that the lesions were a problem at slaughter; which was 7.5 months after the vaccinations at weaning and 12 months after vaccinations at turn-out time.

**The Effect of Product Injected, Timing of Injection, Incidence of Lesions, and Amount of Trim Loss**

Product Injected	Timing of Injections	% of Calves With Lesion	Weight of Trim Loss
2-mL Clostridial	Branding	72.5%	1.7 oz
	Weaning	46.3%	1.1 oz
5-mL Clostridial	Branding	92.7%	3.0 oz
	Weaning	79.5%	2.4 oz
Vitamin AD	Branding	5.3%	2.7 oz
	Weaning	10.0%	1.9 oz
Antibiotic (4.5 mL/100 lb)	Branding	51.2%	3.7 oz
	Weaning	92.3%	3.1 oz

The injection site lesion problem is also a concern with slaughter cows. The occurrence of injection site lesions in market cows continues to be above 40%. Contrary to many folks' perceptions, the beef from slaughter cows does not wind up in the grinding tub. Many whole primal cuts such as the rib, loin, and top sirloin butt may find their way to family steak restaurants. Cuts from the rump and round may be marketed as "100% lean" and be used in roast beef sandwich products. Producers who say that those lesions are the packer's problem are simply failing to accept their responsibility to beef quality assurance and long term beef demand.

Some basic guidelines for using injectables include:

1. Read the label.
2. All injections given in front of the shoulder.
3. Choose the subcutaneous route when possible.
4. Give no more than 10 mL per injection.
5. Do not use disinfectants around needles when using modified live vaccines.
6. Do not combine vaccines into one needle.
7. Mark and separate syringes.

**SOURCE:** Bill McKinnon, Extension Animal Scientist  
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
(540) 231-9160

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## USDA Issues Permit For Tuberculosis Diagnosis Kit For Cattle

The Agriculture Department has issued a U.S. veterinary biological product permit to Biocor Animal Health, Inc. of Omaha, Neb., a division of Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Limited, Melbourne, Australia, for a bovine gamma interferon test kit for use in the diagnosis of tuberculosis infection in cattle.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service issues permits authorizing the importation of specified biological products subject to restrictions and controls as provided in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 104, according to a news release. Under these regulations, a product that is shown to meet all the necessary requirements may be permitted by the Center for Veterinary Biologics of APHIS' veterinary services program.

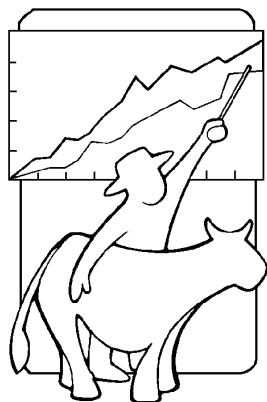
Bovigam-TB is a rapid in vitro blood-based test for the diagnosis of bovine tuberculosis infection in cattle. The test is intended for use after skin testing for tuberculosis in cattle has been completed. The gamma interferon kit is used as a confirmatory test for positive and negative cattle within three to 30 days of the skin test.

Tuberculosis is caused by the organism *Mycobacterium bovis*, which infects cattle worldwide and is of major importance to the U.S. cattle industry as well. Bovine tuberculosis is a contagious, infectious, and communicable disease. It affects cattle, bison, deer, elk, goats, and other species including humans. Bovine tuberculosis in infected animals and humans manifests itself in lesions of the lung, bone and other body parts, causes weight loss, general debilitation, and can be fatal.

APHIS works cooperatively with the national livestock industry and state animal health agencies to eradicate tuberculosis from domestic livestock in the United States and to prevent its recurrence.

**SOURCE:** Bryan Salvage  
<http://www.meatingplace.com>  
 Release – January 8, 2002

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## Livestock Summary

Dry weather nationally has reduced forage supplies, and uncertain domestic and international demand have plagued the beef industry this fall. Another year of drought, added to the uncertainty created by the War on Terrorism, has forced adjustment in the beef sector.

Poor overwintering forage prospects nationally have resulted in large beef cow slaughter as producers in many areas are faced with inadequate grazing conditions and heavier demand on hay stocks. Producers in many of the drier areas have already fed large quantities of hay from this year's crop.

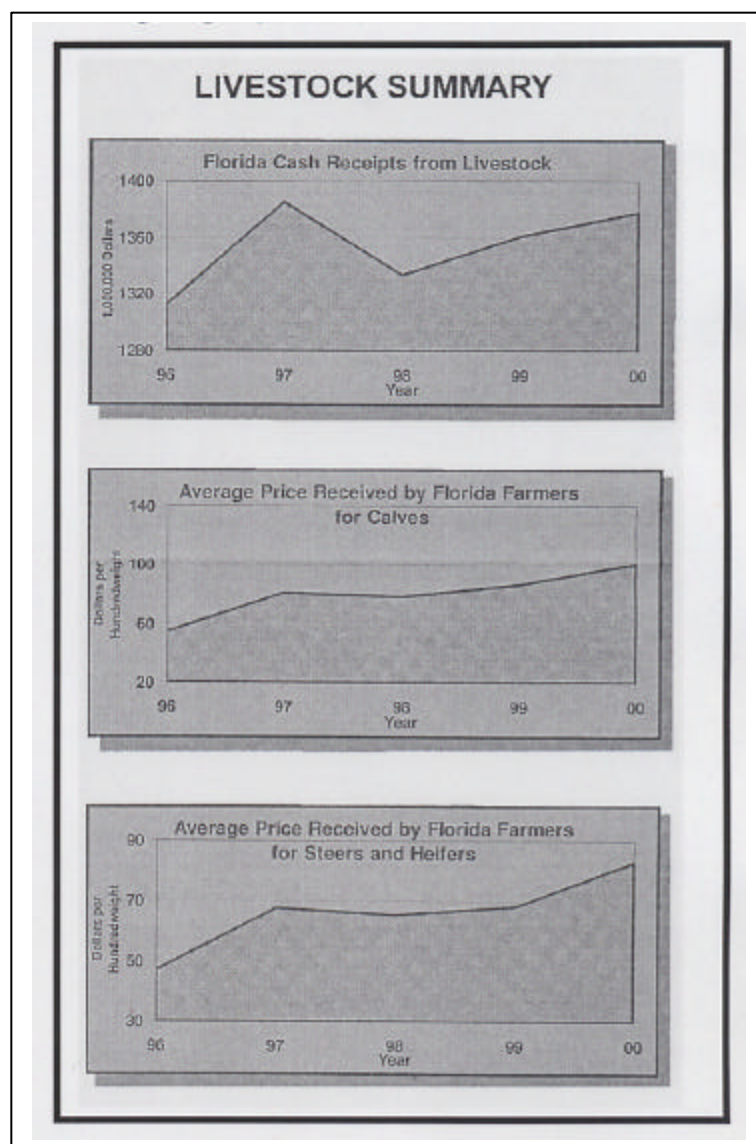
Slowing domestic and international economies have exhibited weaker demand for beef which has resulted in reduced cattle slaughter levels even as slaughter weights set new record highs. Even as the slaughter weights set new records there is no excess of cattle in the Choice grade. Overfinished cattle are not likely to drive prices down in that grade.

The latest reports indicate reduced feedlot placements, but also a much slower marketing trend. Retail demand for beef seems to be holding up, but reduced travel and hotel/restaurant trade as well as weaker export demand are forcing more

beef into the retail market at lower wholesale prices, a condition which should promote additional consumption.

Winter weather conditions likely will play a major roll in determining feedlot performance and marketing numbers. Stacker-feeder cattle supplies continue to be buffeted as much by uncertain forage and overwintering prospects as by fed cattle prices. Placement of stacker-feeder cattle in feedlots is down nationwide.

Adding to the downward price pressure, consumption of beef in Japan, including U.S. produced beef, has dropped significantly since the confirmation of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in a

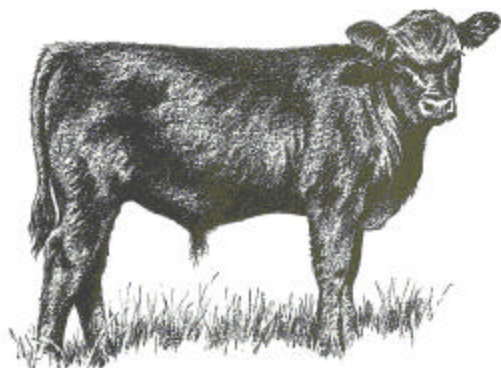


heifer on September 11, 2001. Additional cases have been confirmed since then continuing the near-term downward consumption trend of beef and U.S. beef imports to Japan. First-time cases of BSE have now been confirmed in Finland and Austria.

Pasture conditions from Orlando south are mostly in good shape. Rain has been adequate for supporting pasture feed and normal seasonal conditions exist. The panhandle pasture conditions are poor with many farmers feeding supplemental hay.

**SOURCE:** The Florida Agri-Journal  
Released – January 2, 2002  
Researched by Les Harrison  
Development Rep. I,  
Division of Marketing

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## Size Is Important When Breeding Yearling Heifers

A goal of many Florida cattlemen is to successfully breed yearling heifers to calve at two years of age, and breed them back to calve again at three years of age. This gives an additional calf in the lifetime of producing females in comparison to breeding heifers first at two years of age. In Florida we have to overcome three major hurdles to accomplish this goal.

First, the tropical grasses used in Florida do not provide the energy needed to obtain the necessary weight gains required of heifers from weaning until they are exposed to bulls at 15 months of age. Second, the breeding season most

used in south Florida is from early winter to early spring when the quantity and quality of tropical grass pastures are most limiting. Third, the Brahman genetics needed in cattle production in south Florida produce good, fast growing females that tend to be late maturing, thus slow breeders.

It is difficult to breed yearling heifers and get them rebred after calving under the above conditions. To accomplish this goal heifers require the best pasture available and liberal amounts of supplemental energy and protein. Supplementation must be initiated at weaning and fed through the following breeding season. Heifers then must be fed energy and protein supplement from the time they calve until they are bred back to conceive their second calf. These cows will require special nutrition after dropping their second calf and rebred at three years of age.

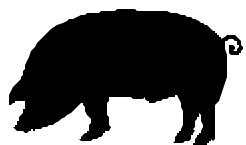
Here are some targets to obtain for a successful yearling heifer breeding program. Heifers should weigh 450 (light mature weight cattle) to 500 pounds or more at weaning. Heifers should obtain 65% of their mature weight when exposed to bulls for the first time. For example, Angus heifers should weigh 600 to 650 pounds or more, while Brangus heifers need to weigh 700 to 750 pounds or more when exposed to bulls.

After breeding, heifers should be managed to gain 1.0 to 1.25 pound per day and have a 6.0 or better body condition score at calving. Heifers should maintain the above body weight and condition score until rebred for their second calf.

A yearling heifer breeding program is expensive, but it can be profitable, especially with good feeder calf prices. However, cattlemen must realize that it is a two to three year program and they must make a commitment to provide good quality pasture and liberal amounts of concentrate supplement to ensure success.

**SOURCE:** Findlay Pate  
Range Cattle REC, Ona, Florida  
Published in "The Peace River  
Farmer and Rancher" – January 2002

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## Florida Processor Recalls Pork Products For Listeria

The Food Safety and Inspection Service said that Opa Locka, Florida-based Special America's BBQ Inc. has recalled about 150 pounds of fresh pork sausage products that may be contaminated with listeria.

The products subject to recall are one pound packages of Special America's MR. TANGO Cuban Brand COOKED BUTIFARRA Cured Sausage. Each package bears the lot number LOT# 355, the sell-by date of 2/20/02 and the Ext. No. 11179 located inside the USDA seal of inspection.

These products were produced on Dec. 20, 2001, and distributed to retail stores in Miami, Florida.

Questions about the recall may be directed to Avio Presa, Special America's BBQ plant manager, at (305) 681-5646.

**SOURCE:** Dan Murphy  
<http://www.meatingplace.com>  
Release – January 22, 2002

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## President Bush Signs Defense Appropriations Bill That Bolsters USDA Homeland Security Efforts

*\$367 million provided for pest and animal disease prevention, food safety, research, and feeding programs*

The President has signed the Defense Appropriations Act, which included \$367 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to bolster biosecurity efforts in the wake of the September 11 tragedies, including strengthening programs for food safety, pest and animal disease protections and research, along with funding for other key programs.

“These appropriations will provide important resources to help strengthen our biosecurity efforts in the wake of September 11,” said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. “The protection of our food supply, including guarding against pest and animal diseases, is extremely critical. We must continue to invest in food safety programs, research and laboratory modernization to ensure America’s consumers and food and agriculture industry are protected against any potential threats.”

Key funding includes:

- \$105 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for pest and disease exclusion, detection and monitoring
- \$80 million for upgrading USDA facilities and operational security
- \$50 million for an animal bio-containment facility at the National Animal Disease Laboratory
- \$40 million for the Agricultural Research Service
- \$23 million for the Plum Island Animal Disease Center
- \$15 million for security upgrades and bioterrorism protection for the Food Safety and Inspection Service
- \$14 million for increased security measures at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa
- \$39 million for the Women, Infants and Children program to respond to the effects of unemployment and other conditions.

“We continue to make our protection systems a top priority,” said Veneman. “I commend the work of the Conference Committee for developing this bipartisan resolution. These resources are important investments that will help strengthen our protection programs.”

Beginning last year, USDA has worked to enhance many of these programs through annual budget requests and emergency appropriations.

Secretary Veneman has repeatedly called for more long-term planning in infrastructure programs to ensure American farmers and consumers are protected against threats such as foot-and-mouth disease, which ravaged the UK and parts of Europe this spring. As well, Veneman has urged further consideration of such critical programs be examined as part of the next farm bill.

Since September 11, USDA has worked with the newly created Office of Homeland Security, states, other federal agencies, states and industry, to examine immediate emergency needs and develop longer-term strategies to continue protecting America's food and agricultural systems.

"We will continue to coordinate with the Office of Homeland Security and other federal agencies, particularly the Department of Health and Human Services, to utilize these additional resources most effectively," Veneman said. "We formed the USDA Homeland Security Council to help coordinate antiterrorism efforts across all USDA program areas and with other federal and state agencies."

For more information on USDA's homeland security efforts, please visit the Department's biosecurity website at <http://www.usda.gov/biosecurity/homeland.html>.

**SOURCE:** Alisa Harrison  
USDA  
Washington D.C.  
(202) 720-4623  
<http://www.usda.gov>  
Release – January 10, 2002

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## UK Declared Free Of Foot-And-Mouth Disease

Nearly a year after the first outbreaks rocked the country's livestock sector, Great Britain has regained its status as foot-and-mouth disease free, according to the results of an evaluation by the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission of the Organization for International Epizootics, the Paris-based international animal health organization.

The commission evaluated documentation on the eradication of FMD, which was submitted by British government officials. In accordance with procedures adopted by the OIE International Committee during its May 1997 session, recognized the UK's FMD-free status, without vaccination. For countries that have been previously declared FMD-free and where vaccination is not practiced, the OIE requires a waiting period of three months after the last confirmed case before free status can be regained.

The last FMD case confirmed in the UK was on Sept. 30, 2001.

The OIE action is not automatically binding, but most countries -- including the United States -- usually follow the agency's decisions.

**SOURCE:** Dan Murphy  
<http://www.meatingplace.com>  
Release – January 24, 2002

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