

October 2005

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Dates to Remember

October

- 4** North Florida Beef & Forage Group Bull Selection & Management Meeting - Wellborn, FL
- 7** Livestock Evaluation Coaches Workshop - Gainesville, FL
- 7** Mo Brangus / Oak Knoll Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 13** National 4-H Meats Judging Contest - Manhattan, KS
- 13** Florida Angus Association Bull Sale - Wauchula, FL
- 13-14** 1st Annual Quail Management Shortcourse - Arcadia, FL
- 15** St. Johns County Cattlemen's Cracker Day - Elkton, FL
- 19** Bartow Angus Bull Sale - Bartow, FL
- 21** Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 22** Debter Hereford Bull Sale - Horton, AL
- 22** 4-H Horse Show - Newberry, FL
- 25** Bradford County Swine Clinic - Starke, FL
- 27** Kempfer/Callaway Sale - Kissimmee, FL
- 28** Lemmon Cattle Enterprise Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
- 29** SE Brangus Breeders Showcase Sale - Andalusia, AL
- 29** Walden Farms Bull Sale - Brantley, AL
- 29** Garell O'Grady Dispersal Sale - Williston, FL
- 29** Georgia Limousin Association Graded Bull Sale - Irwinville, GA

November

- 1-3** Inter Agency Basic Prescribed Fire Training Course, Cattlemen's Version - Arcadia, FL
- 3** Southern Cattle Company Bull Sale - Marianna, FL
- 4** First Annual Cowboy "Chute" Out - Okeechobee, FL
- 4-5** Florida Cracker Cattle Association Gathering & Sale - Brooksville
- 4-6** Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup - Louisville, KY
- 7** Three Trees/Twin Valley Bull Sale - Woodbury, GA
- 9** Agricultural Enterprise Workshops for North Florida - Suwannee Valley, FL
- 15** National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - Louisville, KY
- 30 - Dec 2** FCA Quarterly Meeting - Clewiston, FL



Beef Management Calendar

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?

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.



International Stockmen's Educational Foundation Travel Fellowship Guidelines

In an effort to enhance the educational experiences of college students and strengthen the leaders of tomorrow's livestock industry, the International Stockmen's Educational Foundation awards travel fellowships each year for the International Livestock Congress held in Houston, Texas, to senior level and graduate students of accredited colleges or universities.

The International Livestock Congress, managed by the International Stockmen's Educational Foundation in cooperation with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is a unique global event, that brings leaders from the livestock industry together in a think-tank environment with government officials, scientists, and educators to discuss issues of international importance that affect the future of animal agriculture. The event will be held February 27-March 2, 2006, in Houston, Texas.

Fellowships include airfare, ground transportation, hotel and scheduled meals. Scholastic achievement, leadership experiences and letters of recommendation are all part of the stringent qualifying requirements.

Travel fellowship recipients must participate in all activities of the Congress and develop a professional paper that summarizes the outcomes of the event.

These papers must be submitted in English to the student's department head and a copy forwarded to the ISEF office within 90 days following the Congress. Papers will be evaluated by a selection committee for possible publication in a proceedings of the event, with the author of the paper selected as outstanding invited to return to the ILC Houston or other related event.

Recipients will also be required to make a presentation to a breed association or a similar group in their area about their experiences at the International Livestock Congress.

An application may be downloaded from <http://www.livestockcongress.com>. For further information please contact:

Julie J. Bryant
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International Stockmen's Educational Foundation
P.O. Box 26918
Fort Worth, TX 76126
Phone: (817) 443-0686
Fax: (817) 887-5288
Email: julie@livestockcongress.com

Deadline for applications: November 1, 2005

Please note that students have been disqualified for failing to send all required information. You will not be notified if all information is not received.

SOURCE: Julie J. Bryant
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2006 AMIF Animal Care and Handling Conference Slated for Feb. 23-24, 2006, in Kansas City

Wal-Mart, McDonald's Representatives to Keynote Conference

Representatives of Wal-Mart, McDonald's and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Counterterrorism Division will headline the AMI Foundation Animal Care and Handling Conference for the Food Industry, February 23-24, 2006, at the Sheraton Overland Park in Overland Park, KS, just outside Kansas City.

The conference will again offer an opening general session followed by three tracks: Management and Policy, Applied Pig Handling and Applied Cattle Handling.

This year's conference boasts 11 cosponsoring organizations: The American Association of Bovine Practitioners; American Association of Swine Veterinarians; Animal Agriculture Alliance; Food Marketing Institute; National Cattlemen's Beef Association; National Grocers Association; National Milk Producers Federation; National Pork Board; National Pork Producers Council; National Council of Chain Restaurants; and the National Restaurant Association.

Joan Menke-Schaenzer, vice president of food safety and security at Wal-Mart, and Bob Langert, director of social responsibility at McDonald's, will deliver a "keynote panel discussion" of consumer expectations for animal welfare. The discussion will be moderated by Charlie Arnot, president of CMA Consulting.

Also during the conference's opening general session, John Lewis, director of the FBI's counterterrorism division, will deliver a provocative talk on animal extremism and the challenges faced in the United States.

Many of the conference's highly rated faculty will return again to instruct in the various tracks. They include Temple Grandin, Ph.D. of Colorado State University; Joe Regenstein, Ph.D., of Cornell University; Gerald

Kinard of LEARN, Inc.; John McGlone, Ph.D., of Texas Tech University (invited); Robert “Bo” Manly, president and COO, Premium Standard Farms, Inc.; and Mike Siemens, Ph.D. of Smithfield Foods.

Attendees in the Management and Policy Track will benefit from sessions on auditing, leading culture change, security, managing controversy and USDA humane slaughter initiatives.

Attendees in the Applied Pig Handling Track will enjoy a special, in-depth session on CO2 stunning, a look at practical ways to improve handling, a discussion of pig transport issues and a look at AMIF’s Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide.

The Applied Cattle Handling Track features a look at religious slaughter and how to troubleshoot problems in Kosher and Halal operations; cattle transport, handling and stunning and the relationship between cattle handling and beef quality.

New this year are special “Welfare Tech” sessions, where equipment suppliers can present data and information about their products and how they have been documented to enhance animal handling stunning. To request a Welfare Tech application, contact AMIF’s Ginger Bray at gbray@meatami.com or (202) 587-4200.

In addition, exhibitors may showcase their products and services during a special Welcome Reception on February 23. To reserve an exhibit space, contact Katie Brannan at kbrannan@meatami.com or (202) 587-4200.

The conference will be immediately preceded by the International Meat Animal Welfare Research Conference (IMAWRC), a research-focused conference that looks at emerging research and issues in the field of animal welfare.

Registration fees for those registering before December 31, 2005, are \$325 for AMI members, \$450 for non-members and \$295 when three or more members register together. After December 31, registrations rates increase to \$425 for members and \$395 for when three or more members register together.

For a complete agenda or to register, go to www.animalhandling.org.

For more information contact:

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SOURCE: AMI - American Meat Institute
Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 587-4200
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Release - September 21, 2005

USDA Releases Estimates of Farm Production Losses

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has released a preliminary assessment of U.S. agricultural production losses due to hurricane Katrina in the mid-south and drought in the eastern Corn Belt. The report estimates hurricane-related losses to be nearly \$900 million.

“Given the severity of the hurricane, the agricultural losses could have been much greater,” Johanns said. “With that said, there is a long road ahead for many of our producers who face infrastructure and long-term losses not accounted for in this assessment. USDA is committed to supporting producers throughout long and short term recovery.”

Hurricane-force winds missed major crop production areas in the mid-south. Substantial portions of rice, soybeans and corn production in hurricane-affected states were harvested prior to landfall of Hurricane Katrina, which also limited production losses. Much of the crop losses are attributable to lost horticultural production in Florida and along the Gulf Coast.

USDA’s Sept. crop production survey indicated cotton production losses in the range of 4 percent for

Alabama and Mississippi, key cotton production states. Louisiana is estimated to have lost 9 percent of the state's sugarcane production, which would account for about 1.5 percent of the U.S. sugar production expected for fiscal year 2006. Although corn, rice and soybean losses appear to be modest, the assessment report acknowledges that producers will face higher costs harvesting the blown over crops, which will require more time and high-cost fuel to harvest.

Short-term livestock production losses due to the hurricane are estimated in the range of \$30 million. Millions of chickens were killed. Producers also lost eggs, poult and chicken grow-out facilities, which will lead to longer term economic losses for some producers. Dairy producers discarded an estimated \$3 million worth of milk due to lost electricity on farms and at dairy processing plants and might face a period of reduced cow productivity. An estimated 10,000 cattle were lost.

This preliminary assessment provides estimates of 2005 production losses and does not include infrastructure or long-term losses. Crop and livestock producers face added losses in the form of damaged or destroyed barns, equipment buildings, fences, machinery, as well as losses associated with degraded farm fields, carcass disposal, electrical power losses and fuel shortages.

The nearly \$900 million in lost production due to the hurricane compares to a combined total of \$20 billion in farm cash receipts in 2004 for producers in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The USDA assessment also reviews production losses due to the drought in the eastern Corn Belt, estimating \$1.3 billion in corn and soybeans losses in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. In addition to hurricane and drought production losses, the report notes that grain and oilseed producers throughout the Midwest have faced reduced prices due to the shipping interruption in New Orleans ports.

Crop insurance will cover a portion of farm production losses attributable to Hurricane Katrina, the drought and other adverse weather conditions this year. While coverage varies by crop and state, in general, 70 to 95 percent of planted acreage is covered by insurance in the hurricane-affected area and 60 to 75 percent of corn and soybean acreage is covered in the drought-

affected area.

USDA's preliminary assessment is subject to change as more information becomes available. The report is available on the USDA Web site at <http://www.usda.gov/katrina>.

SOURCE: Terri Teuber
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United States Department of
Agriculture
Washington, D.C
Release - September 20, 2005



Applications Accepted for 2006 Beef Industry Vision Award

The National Cattlemen's Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2006 Beef Industry Vision Award.

The Vision Award recognizes individuals in the cattle industry for innovations that have enhanced not only their business, but the industry as a whole. Applications are evaluated on the basis of effective use of technology, impact on production cost, ingenuity of implementation, innovative marketing, impact on the industry and optimum resource management.

Applications should focus on a specific concept and its effect on the beef industry. This competition is not limited to original ideas, practices or technologies. It also encompasses alternative uses for existing procedures, practices and technologies that have benefited the cattle industry. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or U.S.-based business engaged in some aspect of the beef industry. Regional winners will be eligible every other year to re-submit an application for the national award.

Up to seven regional finalists will be selected, and one recipient will be named national Vision Award winner. Each regional winner will receive a \$500 award and is

asked to designate an NCBA affiliate to also receive a \$500 grant. The national winner will receive roundtrip airfare, hotel accommodations and two complimentary registrations for the 2006 Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show in Denver, Colorado. Regional winners also receive two complimentary registrations for this event.

Applications and all supporting material must be received by November 30, 2005. Detailed information about the Vision Award can be found on the National Cattlemen's Foundation website at <http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org> or by calling (303) 850-3347.

The 2005 Vision Award winner was Jim Schwertner from Texas. He was recognized for his involvement in developing industry-leading programs such as the *Vac 45* program, *Schwertner Select*, *Beef Advantage* and *Consolidated Beef Producers*. "For years, I've believed that the industry needs vertically integrated information," Schwertner said. "The current technology, combined with individual ID, could evolve this industry into a marketplace focused on quality and consistency. From the rancher to the retailer, we can evaluate the quality of the product, striving to represent a better and more wholesome center of the plate for the consumer."

The Beef Industry Vision Award program is a collaborative effort of the National Cattlemen's Foundation and Micro Beef Technologies.

SOURCE: Paula Waggoner
Phone: (303) 850-3347
Email: pwaggoner@beef.org
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
<http://www.beefusa.org/>
Release - September 21, 2005

Senate Stalls Japan Imports

AMI questions USDA 'consistency'

A bipartisan Senate coalition voted overwhelmingly to prohibit Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns from spending any money for the purpose of making its proposed rule reopening the border to Japanese beef

permanent. The vote was 72-26, and the ban would last until "the president certifies to Congress that Japan has granted open access to Japanese markets for beef and beef products produced in the United States."

Ben Nelson, D-Neb., introduced the amendment. In his floor speech, Nelson cited objections to the rule made by Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund in their comments submitted last week concerning the proposed rule.

USDA supporters aren't too happy with the proposed rule, either. In its comments concerning USDA's proposed rule to allow limited imports of Japanese beef, the American Meat Institute approved of the initiative but asked why Japan is allowed to export to the United States when it has only had a feed ban in place for four years — compared to eight in Canada — yet is being allowed the same rights as Canadian exporters while Japan continues to ban shipments from both the United States and Canada.

"It is both ironic and exceptionally disappointing to the beef industry that APHIS is expeditiously moving forward to reopen the American market to these products from Japan while the Japanese government refuses to apply the OIE (Office of International Epizootics) guidelines with respect to American beef products," said J. Patrick Boyle, AMI president. He added that due to the length of the feed ban in place in Canada, the continued ban on live cattle and beef products from cattle 30 months and over makes little sense. "Although AMI supports the proposal to allow the importation of Japanese beef, consistent treatment should also be afforded to Canada and other minimal risk regions," Boyle said.

SOURCE: Pete Hisey
Email: phisey@meatingplace.com
<http://www.meatingplace.com>
Release - September 21, 2005

National ID Process Appears In Disarray

It's tough to slow down a stationary object, but USDA and the industry have apparently managed it where the National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

is concerned.

At the ID-Info Expo in Chicago last week, USDA clarified its expectations for the private-industry, NAIS database the agency announced it would allow on Aug. 30. You may remember that ever since USDA established NAIS in April 2004, its stated intent had been for a federal database. Besides ensuring access to the requisite information in the event of an animal health emergency, USDA said federal control would allow the leverage and interface with other government databases, such as those used for emergency response.

On the other side of the fence, some in the industry — most notably the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) — had remained adamant that a private database would offer more privacy protection for the data. Incidentally, there’s still no definitive answer as to whether that will ultimately prove true.

But, for whatever reason, USDA bowed to producers who wanted a private database. What some proponents of the privatized system may not have anticipated, however, is that in assuming responsibility for building and maintaining this database — over which USDA will still have oversight — industry also assumes the total cost for an NAIS component that USDA appeared ready to pay for. It’s akin to someone forcing you to spend your money to buy them a pickup to drive.

Furthermore, USDA officials emphasized last week that the private system must be developed and maintained by “a legal entity” representing all livestock species. According to John Clifford, Deputy Administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Veterinary Services program, this entity must be able to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with USDA. He said USDA doesn’t care if the organization is preexisting or newly minted, just so it fits the criteria and the industry decides it’s the organization it wants to use.

The crux of this, besides letting USDA off the hook for financing, or at least sharing cost in this portion of the system, is the livestock industry must now figure out how to develop a new organization everyone agrees to, or identify and agree upon an existing organization that meets USDA’s criteria.

Beginning last January, NCBA said it was

spearheading the effort to organize a private livestock industry consortium to develop an NAIS database. At the meeting last week, Mike John, NCBA president-elect, intimated such a group was coming together. When asked for names of organizations joining NCBA in the process, though, he demurred.

Likewise, visiting with reps of other key livestock industry organizations, we’ve yet to find any who admit they’ve signed on to this or any other consortium. So, either folks are keeping their cards close, or they’ve none to play.

For the record, based on about 600 responses to USDA’s request for public comment to its “Draft Program Standards” and “Draft Strategic Plan” issued in May, 54% of all responding producers supported a private database; 39% a federal one. Of cattle producers responding, 64% wanted a private system. If you consider producers and everyone else who responded, the majority supported a federal database (48%), while 36% wanted a private one.

In the meantime, there’s still no definitive answer whether NAIS will be mandatory or voluntary. USDA has yet to issue program rules and standards. It’s also yet to begin issuing NAIS numbers, as it had planned to do beginning in August. And, and...

One long-time, dogged advocate of national animal ID in the name of protecting the national herd was so downhearted by the turn of events at the Chicago meeting last week that he speculated NAIS progress had been set back at least a year.

In an effort to help unite the industry to figure out how to organize in order to build the database NAIS requires, USDA will host a public meeting Oct. 12 at the Radisson Hotel & Suites in Kansas City, MO., from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more at: a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-18760.htm.

SOURCE: Beef Stocker Trends
Email: beef@pbmmenewslatters.com
Release - October 3, 2005

The Florida Beef Quality Producer Program

Why is it Important to My Beef Cattle Operation? and How Can I Get Involved?

A series of upcoming meetings will be held to address these questions and many others. The Florida Beef Quality Producer Program is a cooperative program that has been developed by the University of Florida Beef Cattle Extension Group, the Florida Department of Agriculture and the Florida Cattlemen's Association. The educational program is designed to update producers on Beef Quality Assurance (BQA). Florida has had an informal BQA program for 15 years and most producers are aware of the beef quality issues facing our industry like injection site blemishes and bruises. With the current market situation, it is becoming increasingly important to not only be aware of what can be done to improve beef quality but it is also critical to DOCUMENT your beef quality practices and procedures. The demand for source verified, age verified, and process verified cattle is increasing and market access is certainly greater for cattle with a known and documented history. The Florida Beef Quality Producer Program will focus on these topics and many others including:

- Injection site management
- Avoiding residues from antibiotics, medicated feeds, chemicals, feed contaminants, feed toxins, ruminant by-products
- Foreign object avoidance
- Breeding and genetic selection
- Utilization of animal health products
- Cattle handling/processing
- Cull cow management

Most importantly, the training will focus on the Record Keeping that will help you DOCUMENT the beef quality practices on your operation. Producers who attend the meeting will receive the 140 page Florida Beef Quality Producer manual that outlines how a producer can implement a Beef Quality Assurance Plan on his/her operation. I would encourage all beef cattle producers

to attend this meeting and I also recommend that all producers bring their cow crew. Beef Quality Assurance is everyone's job and it takes everyone to implement it properly

Meeting Dates for Florida Beef Quality Producer program:

Arcadia

November 16th - 10am-3:00 pm
Desoto Co. Extension Office
Contact: Jim Selph (863) 993-4846

Okeechobee

November 30th - 10am-3:00 pm
Okeechobee Co. Extension Office
Contact: Pat Hogue (863) 763-6469

Marianna

February 2nd - 10am-3:00 pm
Jackson Co. Extension Office
Contact Doug Mayo (850) 482-9620

Kissimmee

March 9th - 10am-3:00 pm
Osceola Co. Extension Office
Contact Randy Bateman (321) 697-3000

SOURCE: Todd Thrift
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UF/IFAS, Department of Animal Sciences
Gainesville, FL 32611-0910
Release - October 4, 2005



Careers in agriculture are exciting, rewarding, well-paying and plentiful. Go beyond the farm to discover the many college, career, and job opportunities that are out there. Agriculture isn't just crops, tractors, livestock and dirt. It's also finance, sales, science, and marketing. Visit <http://www.agforlife.com/> to search, explore, and dig a little deeper into cool careers and awesome opportunities.