



April 2006



Dates to Remember

April

- 1 State 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest - Gainesville, FL
- 1 Southern Showcase IV Sale - Pavo, GA
- 1 SERRA Grasstime Auction - Cullman, AL
- 5 ServSafe™ - Gainesville, FL
- 6 Georgia Beef Expo - Perry, GA
- 8 State 4-H & FFA Horse Judging Contest - Gainesville, FL
- 8 Orange County Cattlemen's Association Meeting - Orlando, FL
- 8 3rd Annual Southern Classic Charolais Sale - Perry, GA
- 10 Panhandle Cattlemen's Association Meeting - Crestview, FL
- 19 Graham Angus Sale - Albany, GA
- 20 Beef Quality Assurance Certification Training - Alachua County
- 20 2006 Alachua County Master Cattlemen Program - Gainesville, FL
- 20 Goat, Sheep & Ruminant Production Workshop - Ft. Myers, FL
- 21-22 Escambia Co. GCA & NRA Spring Livestock Show - Escambia Co. 4-H Center
- 23 Circle G Ranches 37th Anniversary Production Sale - Adel, GA
- 23-28 FCA Young Cattlemen's Tour - Kissimmee, FL
- 27 2006 Alachua Co. Master Cattlemen Program - Gainesville, FL
- 29 State 4-H & FFA Meats Judging Contest - Gainesville, FL

May

- 2 43rd Florida Dairy Production Conference - Gainesville, FL
- 3-5 55th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course - Gainesville, FL
- 4 ServSafe™ - Gainesville, FL
- 18-21 NCBA Region II Meeting - Pigeon Forge, TN
- 20 Heart of Florida Annual Club Calf Sale - Alachua, FL
- 25 2006 Corn Silage/Forage Field Day - Citra, FL

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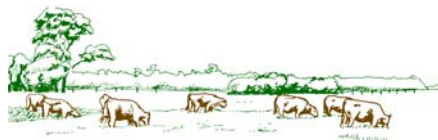
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There's still time to register for the 55th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course and receive the reduced early registration fee of \$90.00, but you must register by April 21, 2006, to be eligible for this rate. After April 21, 2006, the regular registration fee will be \$120.00. To register, please visit <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/bcscIndex.shtml>. For further information, please contact Dr. Matt Hersom at (352) 392-2390 or by email at hersom@animal.ufl.edu.



Beef Management Calendar

Along with the obvious changes to the Animal Science Newsletter, please notice that the Beef Management Calendar is no longer included on page 2. The entire year is now available on the UF/IFAS, Department of Animal Sciences web site. Please visit <http://www.animal.ufl.edu> and click on "Beef Management Calendar" under the Beef column.



Dr. Findlay Pate

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dr. Findlay Pate, our friend and colleague. Findlay passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2006.

Dr. Pate served IFAS for over 30 years and recently retired as Director of the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona. As an IFAS leader, Dr. Pate was widely known for his strong support of the Florida cattle industry. He asked that all programs at Ona be directed toward improving the lives of our Florida cattle ranching families. He was widely recognized for his support of county extension faculty, which were always a visible component of Ona's research and education programs. Many of the IFAS faculty and staff that may have never met Findlay will remember his annual E-mails during the University Christmas holiday. These E-mails reminded the IFAS-ALL list that, "... although much of the University will be closed over the next week, the Range Cattle Research and Education Center will remain open to care for our animals, oversee our programs, answer producer questions, and greet visitors to our Center." Findlay was truly the Cattlemen's professor and an undeniable link between IFAS and the strong bond of support among the beef clientele. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and was impacted by his life.

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More Florida Properties Recognized as Century Pioneer Family Farms

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that four more families have qualified for recognition as a Century Pioneer Family Farm. They include properties in Marion, Bradford, Polk, and Leon counties. Recognition in this program means the families have maintained continuous ownership of the property for at least 100 years.

The families who qualify are:

- ◆ Verner Evan Knoblock, Marion County
- ◆ James Richard Wainwright, Bradford County
- ◆ Cecil E. Whaley, Polk County
- ◆ Richard Henry Billingsley, Leon County

"These families have been able to retain ownership of their land through the depression, droughts, freezes, and the urbanization of Florida," Bronson said. "That is a great tribute to the many generations of these families."

Agricultural products produced on these properties ranged from black angus cattle on the Knoblock property, to pecans on the Wainwright property, to cotton and corn on the Billingsley property, to cattle and citrus on the Whaley property. Since the program began 25 years ago, 85 farms families have received the Century Pioneer Family Farm designation. The program is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services with assistance of the Florida Agricultural Museum.

For more information about the program or to apply for membership into the program, contact Richard Gunnels at gunnelr@doacs.state.fl.us or call (850) 488-3022.

SOURCE: Richard Gunnels
Email: gunnelr@doacs.state.fl.us
Phone: (850) 488-3022
FDACS, Tallahassee, FL
Release - March 8, 2006

USDA Food Safety Technologies Applicable for Small and Very Small Meat and Poultry Plants - FY 2003

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recognizes that the development of new technologies is often an expensive endeavor, and that many small and very small plants lack the capital to do so. On the other hand, new technologies have often been very useful in helping the meat, poultry, and egg product industries improve the safety of their products.

Therefore, beginning in 2003, FSIS entered into a series of cooperative agreements with academicians and other researchers under which the Agency supported the development of new technologies that should be useful to small and very small plants. While not all of these agreements have proven to be successful, some have produced some very interesting results. For example, one cooperator has designed an inexpensive, easy to build, effective carcass sanitizing spray system that reduces E. coli on beef carcasses.

Thus, FSIS is pleased to announce that it will be

posting full summaries of work done under cooperative agreements at the FSIS web address titled "Food Safety Technologies Applicable for Small and Very Small Plants and can be found at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Technologies_Applicable_for_Small_Very_Small_Plants_FY2003/index.asp.

Detailed reports on the specific cooperative agreements will be added in the electronic format as they become available.

In addition, in 2004, FSIS established an information resource list that provides a brief summary describing some of the new technologies that it has received and reviewed, and for which FSIS has had "no objection" or concern for their use in FSIS establishments. This list titled "Food Safety and Inspection Service New Technology Information Table" can be found at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/New_Technology_Table/index.asp

For questions on these links and for information or to obtain additional information, please contact Shaukat H. Syed, DVM at (202) 205-0675 or FSISTechnology@fsis.usda.gov.



Texas Panhandle Fire Update

After what fire officials are calling the single largest wildfire in Texas history, farmers and ranchers in the Texas Panhandle got a wintry surprise on the first day of spring.

"It's snowing on us right now," said Brandon Wheeler at press time, agency manager at the Gray Roberts County Farm Bureau office in Pampa.

Wheeler, who is heading up the Texas Farm Bureau collection efforts for those devastated by the fires, said most of the area had received between ½ and ¾ of an inch of rain over the weekend, the first since last summer. As of early Monday afternoon, about an inch of snow had already blanketed the area, Wheeler said.

"This is a real blessing for the people out here," he said. "Although they've lost a lot, (the precipitation) will definitely go a long way in helping our ranchers get back on their feet."

Texas Forestry Service officials said last week's Panhandle fires claimed nearly 1 million acres of land. All

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totaled, 1.3 million acres of the state have burned since December 2005, including a blaze in Central Texas that claimed much of the community of Cross Plains in January.

The Panhandle fire, officials said, was the single largest mobilization of firemen in state history, with more than 700 professional and volunteer firemen lending their services over the weeklong blazes.

Eleven people died in the blaze, and reports of between 10,000 and 25,000 head of livestock were killed. Dozens of homes, barns and outbuildings were laid to waste, and miles of fence lines and power lines were in ruins.

Farm Bureau relief efforts for those affected by the fires began on Monday, with loads of hay and range cubes flowing into the local rodeo grounds in Pampa for

distribution to area ranchers. Monetary donations are also pouring in from across the state, helping fund feed and livestock transports, as well as rebuild the many miles of fence line. Plans are also in place for benefit concerts and pledge drives in the Amarillo area. Singer Michael Martin Murphey has pledged to hold a concert benefit over Easter weekend, with proceeds going to help the relief efforts.

Donations can be made to the Fire Relief Fund, c/o Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau Office, 500 W. Kingsmill Ave., Pampa, Texas 79065. More information on how you can help may also be obtained by calling (806) 665-8451 or visiting the Texas Farm Bureau Web site at <http://www.txfb.org>.

SOURCE: Texas Farm Bureau
<http://www.txfb.org>
Release - March 20, 2006



Report Provides Overview of Beef Checkoff Research

Information on the broad range of research being conducted through the national Beef Checkoff Program can be found in a new annual report titled “Research: Leading Change in the Beef Industry.”

The report summarizes extensive checkoff-funded beef safety, product enhancement, nutrition and market research the program has conducted. This research has provided a foundation for other marketing, promotion and information programs funded through the checkoff.

“The work captured in this book is both impressive and important,” according to Cattlemen’s Beef Board member Roger West, a Florida cow-calf producer and chairman of the Joint Research & Knowledge Management Group. “The knowledge base that has been acquired is the work of many people, from state and national checkoff staff to researchers at many universities and institutions. These researchers are the best of the best.”

The 42-page report identifies priorities in each of the research program areas and summarizes key research conducted with the results they’ve provided. It also lists

each of the research projects funded, including the name of the researcher, their institution, the duration of the study, and the total amount of funding. Research projects funded through state beef councils are also included in this list. Finally, citations from research that has been published in key publications or presented at important meetings are provided.

“We’re proud of the role the Beef Checkoff Program has played in the acquisition, implementation and dissemination of knowledge,” West said. Industry progress “could not have happened without research,” he says, “and ongoing research is needed in order to build upon these accomplishments.”

For a copy of “Research: Leading Change in the Beef Industry,” contact your state beef council, or write to: Annual Report, Research & Knowledge Management, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, 9110 East Nichols Ave., Centennial, CO 80112-3450.

The report can also be viewed on-line at <http://www.beef.org/resereseearchannualreport.aspx>.

SOURCE: NCBA
<http://www.beefusa.org/>
Release - March 8, 2006