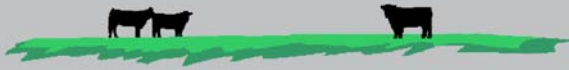


February 2006

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Dates to Remember

February

1	17th Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium - Gainesville, FL
1-4	NCBA Annual Convention - Denver, CO
2	NCBA Bull Auction - Denver, CO
2	Northwest Florida Beef Conference & Trade Show - Marianna, FL
2	Florida Beef Quality Producer Program - Marianna, FL
2-5	American Youth Horse Council Youth Horse Leadership Symposium - Gainesville, FL
3	All Breed Bull Sale - Lakeland, FL
3-5	American Youth Horse Council Youth Horse Leadership Symposium - Gainesville, FL
3-12	Collier County Fair - Naples, FL
9-20	Florida State Fair - Tampa, FL
10-18	Highlands County Fair - Sebring, FL
10-19	Osceola County Fair - Kissimmee, FL
10-20	Martin County Fair and Youth Livestock Show - Stuart, FL
11	Florida State Fair Horse & Livestock Judging - Tampa, FL
17-26	Charlotte County Fair Port - Charlotte, FL
18-26	Southeastern Youth Fair - Ocala, FL
20-25	Hardee County Fair - Wauchula, FL
20-26	Pasco County Fair - Dade City, FL
24-	Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair - Ft. Myers, FL
Mar 5	
26-	Chalo Nitka Festival / Glades County Youth Livestock Show & Frontier
Mar 4	Days Rodeo - Moore Haven, FL
28	Pasture Renovation & Management for Cattle & Horses - Ft. Myers, FL
28	Florida & Georgia Dairy Road Show - Okeechobee, FL

March

1	Florida & Georgia Dairy Road Show - Mayo, FL
2-5	Adult Horsemanship School - Welaka, FL
3	Florida & Georgia Dairy Road Show - Chipley, FL
7	Florida & Georgia Dairy Road Show - Tifton, GA
9	Florida Beef Quality Producer Program - Osceola Co. Extension Office
10-18	Sumter County Fair - Bushnell, FL
10-19	Firefighter's Indian River County Fair - Vero Beach, FL
11-12	Okeechobee Rodeo - Okeechobee, FL
11-17	Polk County Youth Fair - Bartow, FL
16 -	Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition - Miami, FL
Apr 2	
24	4-H & FFA Steer Carcass Contest - Bradford County Fairgrounds
25	State 4-H Hippology Contest - Orlando, FL
25-30	National 4-H Conference - Washington, D.C.
28-30	20 th Annual Reproductive Management School Polk County Ag-Center - Bartow, FL





Beef Management Calendar

February

- ☑ Top dress winter forages, if needed.
- ☑ Check and fill mineral feeders.
- ☑ Put bulls out with breeding herd.
- ☑ Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.).
- ☑ Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- ☑ Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
- ☑ Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.
- ☑ Check for lice and treat if needed.

March

- ☑ Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth and get fertilizer incorporated in grass roots while there is still good soil moisture.
- ☑ Prepare land for summer crops.
- ☑ Begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.
- ☑ Check and fill mineral feeder.
- ☑ Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest if needed.
- ☑ Deworm cows as needed.
- ☑ Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- ☑ Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- ☑ Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.
- ☑ Put bulls out March 1st for calving season to start December 9.
- ☑ Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1.

April

- ☑ Plant warm season annual pastures.
- ☑ Plant corn for silage.
- ☑ Check and fill mineral feeder.
- ☑ Check dust bags or apply treated ear tags.
- ☑ Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.
- ☑ Observe cows for repeat breeders.

- ☑ Deworm cows as needed if not done in March.
- ☑ Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age.
- ☑ Market cull cows and bulls.
- ☑ Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.



55th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course

The 55th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course at the University of Florida will be held on May 3-5, 2006, at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida. Beef cattle production in Florida is a dynamic and challenging industry. Every producer faces challenges regarding economics and marketing, resource utilization, and management decisions. These challenges are on-going processes that necessitate current information for decision making. The 55th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course addresses these challenges that the beef cattle producers face on an everyday basis. The Wednesday afternoon program will begin at 1 pm with the focus on marketing and land resource utilization challenges. As the cattle cycle evolves, knowing where we are and where the market may be headed is always pertinent. In addition, this session will focus on a timely and important topic for the sustainability of the beef cattle industry. The beef cattle enterprise's land resources and the continuing issue of land use and value in Florida will be approached on a number of different fronts. The day will conclude with a reception and Allied Industry Trade Show, a great chance for cattlemen and allied industry representatives to interact and share information. The program Thursday addresses some of the management issues of beef cattle production. Nutrition, cow herd management, beef products, and beef product procurement systems will all be addressed. These basic issues of beef production will be approached with improved production efficiency in mind. Lunch will generously be sponsored by Farm Credit of North Florida. The afternoon program moves outside to utilize the UF/IFAS, Beef Teaching Unit to demonstrate calf processing, cattle evaluation, and hay production techniques. Thursday evening is capped by the annual

Cattlemen's Steak-Out, an opportunity to enjoy a prime rib dinner and time for conversation. On Friday morning, the program highlights the University of Florida's ongoing dedication to beef cattle production. Two concurrent sessions will showcase some of the current research efforts in the Animal Sciences and Agronomy departments that relate directly to the Florida beef cattle producer. Alternatively, that morning will be an opportunity for interested producers to attend a Florida Beef Quality Producer training session. Securing the ability and the resources to maintain the beef industry in Florida will continue to be a challenge. Utilizing new and innovative production practices to profitably produce quality beef cattle and beef products will be an important key to maintaining the opportunity we have to enjoy a profession and lifestyle in the beef industry.

Registration cost is \$90 per participant before April 21, and includes a copy of the Beef Cattle Short Course proceedings, trade show, refreshments, and Steak-Out ticket. Complete information, schedules, and registration can be found online at <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/bcscIndex.shtml>, or contact the University of Florida, Department of Animal Sciences at (352) 392-1916.

Agenda

“Meeting the Challenges of Preserving Our Land, Managing Our Cattle, and Feeding Our Consumers”

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

AM

11:00 Registration (Hilton UF Conference Center)

PM

“Marketing and Land Resource Utilization Challenges”

Presiding: *Tim Marshall*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

1:00 **Welcome**
- *F. Glen Hembry*, Department Chairman and Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

- 1:20 **Remarks**
- *Joe Hilliard II*, President, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Clewiston, FL
- 1:30 **Economic and Market Outlook for 2006**
- *Derrell Peel*, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- 2:15 **Land Use Rights**
- *Marty Smith*, Bond, Arnett, Phelan, Smith & Craggs, P.A., Ocala, FL
- 3:00 **Refreshment Break**
- 3:20 **Alternatives in the Presence of Urban Encroachment**
- *Johnnie James*, Tedder, James, Worden and Associates, PA, Orlando, FL
- 4:15 **Incorporation of the Value of Ranches into Community Planning and Landscapes**
- *Phil Leary*, AICP, Governmental Affairs Consultant, Palatka, FL
- 5:00 **Panel Discussion/Response to Questions - Land Resource Use**
- *Johnnie James*, Tedder, James, Worden and Associates, PA, Orlando, FL
- *Phil Leary*, AICP, Governmental Affairs Consultant, Palatka, FL
- *Marty Smith*, Bond, Arnett, Phelan, Smith & Craggs, P.A., Ocala, FL
- 5:30 **Allied Industry Trade Show and Reception** - Several companies will have exhibits and representatives to answer your questions. Hors d'oeuvres provided compliments of the exhibitors. A cash bar is available for your enjoyment.

Thursday, May 4, 2006

“Management Practices to Optimize Production Efficiency”

AM

7:00 **Importance of Organic Trace Minerals in Beef Rations**
- Breakfast Sponsored by *Alltech, Inc.*

Presiding: *Jeff Carter*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL

8:30 **By-Product Feed Utilization for Forage Diets**

- *Matt Hersom*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:15 **Process Verification and Product Supply Coordination of Beef**

- *Marcine Moldenhauer*, Cargill Meat Solutions, Wichita, KS

10:00 **Refreshment Break**

10:30 **Cow Herd Decisions for Future Tough Times**

- *Ron Gill*, Texas A&M University, Department of Animal Science, College Station, TX

11:15 **Natural-Organic-Grass fed Beef Cattle Definitions and Regulations**

- *Terry Houser*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

PM

12:00 **Leave for Lunch at UF/IFAS Beef Teaching Unit** (Sponsored by *Farm Credit of North Florida* - Directions to be provided)

Presiding: *John Arthington*, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL and *Jerry Wasdin*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

1:30 **Demonstration and Discussion** (Three one-hour sessions repeated with refreshment break sponsored by *Helena Chemical Company*)

• **Feeder-Finish Calf Evaluation**

- *Tim Marshall*, Department of Animal Sciences, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL and *Ron Gill*, Texas A&M University, Department of Animal Science, College Station, TX

• **Calf Processing Techniques**

- *Todd Thrift*, Department of Animal Sciences, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

• **Hay Harvest and Preservation Methods**

- *Matt Hersom*, Department of Animal Sciences, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

5:00 **Adjourn**

6:30 **Cattlemen's Steak-Out** (Horse Teaching Unit)

Friday, May 5, 2006

University of Florida's Ongoing Dedication to Beef Cattle Production - Two concurrent sessions highlighting selected research at the University of Florida pertaining to beef cattle production and forage-grazing management. Participants may attend either session or pick individual topics of interest. Florida Beef Quality Producer program is an all morning single session focusing on quality assurance practices and record keeping.

AM

Session I

Presiding: *Dwain Johnson*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

8:30 **Cull Cow Finishing Performance**

- *Jeff Carter*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL

9:00 **Cull Cow Meat Quality**

- *Alex Stelzleni*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:30 **Johne's Disease Control**

- *Owen Rae*, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

10:00 **Refreshment Break**

10:30 **Nursing Calf Deworming**

- *Jeff Carter*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL

11:00 **Early Weaning Performance and Health**

- *John Arthington*, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL

11:30 **Estrus Synchronization Protocols**

- *Joel Yelich*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

Session II

Presiding: *Terry Houser*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

8:30 **North and Central Florida Herbicide Application**

- *Jay Ferrell*, Agronomy Department, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:00 **South Florida Herbicide Application**

- *Brent Sellers*, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL

9:30 **Getting the Most out of Bahiagrass Pasture Fertilization**

- *Cheryl Mackowiak*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL

10:00 **Refreshment Break**

10:30 **Grazing Programs Utilizing Florida Forages**

- *Lynn Sollenberger*, Agronomy Department, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

11:00 **Perennial Peanut Establishment**

- ¹*Ann Blount* and ²*Martin Adjei*, ¹North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL; ²Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL

11:30 **Pasture Fertilization**

- *Jerry Sartain*, Agronomy Department, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

Session III

8:00 **All morning session - Florida Beef Quality Assurance Program**

- *Todd Thrift*, Department of Animal

Sciences; *Max Irsik*, College of Veterinary Medicine; *Matt Hersom*, Department of Animal Sciences; UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL; and *Jeff Carter*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL

PM

12:00 **Adjourn**

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UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

Florida Land Boom: New UF Survey Shows Florida Farmland Values Increased by 50 Percent to 88 Percent During Past Year

Demand for land by developers, investors and speculators pushed the value of agricultural land to record levels in all regions of the state during the past year, according to a new University of Florida survey.

Prices of agricultural land increased by 50 percent to 88 percent across the state, and most of the farmland is not being purchased for agricultural purposes, said John Reynolds, a professor with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, who conducts the annual Florida Agricultural Land Value Survey.



John Reynolds, a professor with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Gainesville, says demand for land by developers, investors and speculators pushed the value of agricultural land to record levels in all regions of the state during the past year. His annual Florida Agricultural Land Value Survey shows that the price of agricultural land increased by 50 percent to 88 percent across the state, and most of the farmland is not being purchased for agricultural purposes.

“We’ve seen a sharp run-up in farmland prices over the past few years, and now we’re beginning to see an increase in land speculation by out-of-town buyers, developers and foreign investors. And there’s also a strong demand for rural homesites,” he said. “When you consider the volatility of the stock market, coupled with rising interest rates, land is a very attractive investment – some people buy and flip property for quick gain.”

Reynolds’ 2005 survey, which measures changes over the past year, divides the state into five regions: south, southeast, central, northeast and northwest. Because of the impact urbanization has on agricultural land values, the data for the southeast region, including Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, are confined to transition land values.

He said the survey indicates that the average value of agricultural land ranges from about \$2,700 per acre for unimproved pasture and farm woods in Northwest Florida to almost \$10,000 per acre for orange groves in Central and South Florida.

The value of grapefruit groves increased 88 percent in the south region of the state and 81 percent in the central region, largely because of crop loss from hurricanes, he said. The value of orange groves increased 52 percent to 53 percent in the central and south regions.

The average value of orange groves was \$9,956 per acre in the south region – about \$150 per acre higher than in the central region. The estimated value of grapefruit groves was \$9,897 per acre in the south region – about \$1,705 per acre higher than in the central region. The value of land with 5- to 7-year-old citrus plantings was \$8,944 per acre in the south region – \$83 per acre higher than in the central region.

In all regions of the state, the value of other types of cropland also increased by as much as 85 percent, and the value of pastureland increased by as much as 87 percent.

In the south region, the value for cropland and pastureland increased from 66 percent to 81 percent, respectively, Reynolds said. The largest increases were in the Indian River area, Okeechobee County and the Gulf Coast counties. Cropland and pastureland in other regions also posted big increases: 78 percent to 82 percent in the central region; 69 percent to 85 percent in the northwest region, and 69 percent to 87 percent in the northeast region.”

The value of irrigated cropland increased by 67 percent in the south region, 85 percent in the northeast region of the state and 83 percent in the northwest region. The value of irrigated cropland was \$6,509 per acre in the south region, \$6,356 per acre in the northeast region and \$4,012 per acre in the northwest region.

The value of nonirrigated cropland increased 69 percent in the northeast and northwest regions. The value of nonirrigated cropland was \$4,490 per acre in the northeast region and \$3,332 in the northwest region.

The value of pastureland increased about 81 percent in the south region and 78 percent to 82 percent in the central region. The value of improved pasture increased 85 percent to 87 percent in the northern regions. The value of unimproved pasture increased 76 percent in the northeast and 82 percent in the northwest.

The value of improved pasture ranged from \$3,337 per acre in the northwest region to \$6,426 per acre in the central region. The value unimproved pasture ranged from \$2,645 per acre in the northwest region to \$4,715 per acre in the south region.

The value of farm woods increased 81 percent in

the northeast region and 84 percent in the northwest region. The lowest agricultural land values were in the northwest region, ranging from \$2,645 per acre for unimproved pasture to \$4,012 per acre for irrigated cropland.

The survey also measures the value of transition land – acreage being converted or likely to be converted to nonagricultural sites for homes, subdivisions and commercial uses. Counties were divided into metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties, and transition land values were estimated for each region.

The value of transition land within five miles of a major town in metropolitan counties increased from 31 percent to 120 percent from 2004 to 2005, Reynolds said.

Within five miles of a major town in metro counties, the value of transition land ranged from \$18,423 per acre to \$46,481 per acre. The value of transition land more than five miles from a major town in metro counties ranged from \$10,758 per acre to \$23,575 per acre, except in the southeast region where transition land values were \$66,667 per acre.

In non-metropolitan counties, the value of transition land within five miles of a major town ranged from \$6,167 per acre to \$17,143 per acre. Transition land values more than five miles from a major town in non-metro counties ranged from \$5,333 to \$10,600 per acre.

Survey respondents were also asked if they expect agricultural land values to be higher, lower or remain unchanged during the next 12 months. Eighty-two percent in northern areas and 88 percent in southern areas expect agricultural land values to increase during the next year. The expected increases varied by region and ranged from 14 percent to 25 percent.

However, Reynolds also said that participants should not expect large percentage increases in land values of the past year to continue. “The market can not sustain large double-digit increases for any extended period of time,” he said.

The UF Food and Resource Economics Department survey, which Reynolds started in 1985, was compiled from information provided by 185 respondents from around the state. They included property appraisers, farm lenders, real estate brokers, farm

managers, land investors, federal farm-assistance and conservation staff, UF county extension agents, and others who develop and maintain information about rural land values.

More details on the survey, “Strong Nonagricultural Demand Keeps Agricultural Land Values Increasing,” are available on the UF/IFAS Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) Web site at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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Release - January 13, 2006



Aid for Agricultural Producers Affected by Hurricanes of 2005

On January 26, 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$2.8 billion in aid to assist victims of the 2005 hurricane season. USDA will provide \$1.2 billion in aid to agricultural producers; primarily in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas. USDA will provide disaster payments to farmers, ranchers and others through eight separate programs. Funding is provided through (1) Section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 and (2) The Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006.

Programs Created with Section 32 Funds

USDA is providing \$250 million for crop disaster, livestock, tree, and aquaculture assistance from Section 32 funds. These funds will be distributed by way of five new programs:

- Hurricane Indemnity Program (HIP);
- Tree Indemnity Program (TIP);
- Feed Indemnity Program (FIP);
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)¹; and
- Aquaculture Grants.

Producers in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas counties declared primary presidential or secretarial disaster areas in 2005 because of hurricanes are eligible for the new programs. A complete list of the counties is posted online at www.usda.gov. Producers must also meet other eligibility requirements.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer the five programs. Sign-up dates for the new programs (HIP, TIP, FIP, and LIP) will be announced as soon as new regulations and software are developed. Application procedures for aquaculture funds will be made by governors or their designees.

For More Information

For more information about these and other USDA disaster programs, visit <http://www.usda.gov>.

¹LIP will provide payments to producers whose livestock died as a direct result of the hurricanes. The payment will be based on 75 percent of the average sales price for each category of livestock. Payments will be included for contract growers of livestock, such as poultry, who lost livestock.

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Release - January 26, 2006



Johanns: No Signs Other Countries Will Ban U.S. Beef

There are no signs so far that other countries follow Japan's lead and close their borders to U.S. beef following the discovery last week of vertebrae parts in veal shipments sent from the United States to Japan, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Wednesday.

Japanese officials, meanwhile, have indicated they are in no hurry to lift the ban imposed on U.S. beef last Friday.

On Tuesday, Johanns summoned U.S. beef exporters and meat industry representatives to Washington, D.C., for a three-hour meeting to help reassure Japan there would be no further shipments of prohibited beef cuts. Agriculture officials at the meeting provided a refresher course on export rules and how to fill out forms, but not before Johanns issued strong words to attendees. "We know the value of this market," he said. "Before 2003 [it] was \$1.4 billion. That's a lot of revenue to jeopardize over a careless mistake. . . . It would be an understatement to say that I'm treating this incident very, very seriously."

The company that shipped the veal rack, Brooklyn-based Atlantic Veal & Lamb, did not attend Tuesday's meeting. Johanns delisted the company as an exporter to Japan on Friday.

Last week, Atlantic Veal & Lamb indicated it shipped the veal in response to a Japanese customer's order and had made an honest mistake. Johanns said it appeared the government inspector involved in the case didn't realize from the paperwork at the plant that veal hotel rack is a cut that contains backbone. Johanns is now requiring a second inspector to sign off on each U.S. beef shipment to Japan.

USDA is investigating the matter, while Japan officials await a formal report. To further reassure Japan, Johanns has dispatched extra inspectors to U.S. meat processing plants, and ordered unannounced inspections of plants, among other measures.

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