



Newsletter

November 2006



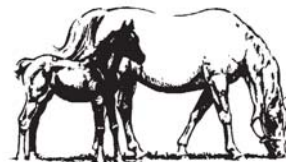
Dates to Remember

November

- 2 Southern Cattle Angus & Charolais Bull Sale - Marianna, FL
- 3 Southern Cattle 2006 Fall Angus Female Sale - Marianna, FL
- 3 Florida Brangus Breeders Bull & Heifer Sale - Kissimmee, FL
- 3-4 Florida Cracker Gatherin & Sale - Brooksville, FL
- 3-5 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup - Louisville, KY
- 7 Election Day
- 9 Adams Ranch 28th Annual Bull Sale - Ft. Pierce, FL
- 9 4-H/FFA Horse Judging School - Gainesville, FL
- 11 Gibbs Farms 1st Annual Bull & Replacement Heifer Sale - Ranburne, AL
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14 Ag Lands, Development and the Future of Florida - Palm Beach County Convention Center - West Palm Beach, FL
- 14 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - Louisville, KY
- 17-18 Camp Cooley Ranch Bull Sale - Franklin, TX
- 18 Small Farms Livestock Production Conference - Vero Beach, FL
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 FCA Quarterly Meeting; Ocala Hilton - Ocala, FL
- 30 Goat Workshop - Bradford County Extension Office, FL

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The 2006 FL Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show Proceedings is now available on the web at <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/equine/pubs.shtml>.

December

- 1 FCA Quarterly Meeting; Ocala Hilton - Ocala, FL
- 1 Lemmon Angus Sale - Lake City, FL
- 2 Salacoa Valley Brangus Bull Sale - Fairmount, GA
- 2 AGRitunity 2006 - Meeting the Needs of Farmers Large and Small - Bushnell, FL
- 4-7 Western National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - Denver, CO
- 6 Western National 4-H Meats Judging Contest - Ft. Collins, CO
- 6 4-H Youth Livestock Evaluation School - Gainesville, FL
- 15 Hog & Ham Workshop - Gainesville, FL
- 18 24th Annual Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show - Kissimmee, FL
- 20 Livestock Judging Reasons Day Camp - Gainesville, FL
- 25 Christmas Day



Range Cattle REC Field Day, Ona, FL; October 24, 2006



HorseQuest.info is an interactive site established to provide clientele and other Internet visitors a source of reliable and up to date horse information through a knowledge base of commonly asked questions that have science-based, peer reviewed answers. HorseQuest.info allows you to ask questions or search for questions and answers asked by other horse people.

HorseQuest.info contains answers to questions in the subject areas of nutrition/feeding, health, breeding, parasites, training, marketing, diseases, facilities, horsemanship and managements just to name a few. HorseQuest.info is an ever expanding knowledge base that grows with the addition of every user.

The Ask the Horse Expert site provides answers to horse questions asked by clients/consumers. These answers are provided by Equine Extension Specialists from the Southern Region Land-Grant Universities and are based on the most current, research- or science-based information available at the time of posting.

As the progressing sciences associated with horses develop, new or additional information impact horse science, the questions and answers at www.horsequest.info will be revised accordingly. If you ask a question of the experts, you are encouraged to visit the site periodically to obtain any possible updates.

We provide educational information only, and we are not responsible for any consequences that may result from the choices you make based upon the information provided and are to be held harmless. We reserve the right to choose which questions to answer and which ones to include in our public database.

Some of the information provided may be specific to your geographical area. Please consult your

state's Equine Extension Specialist for more specific local information. The information provided is not designed to serve as a substitute for legal advice, nor is it intended to be a comprehensive statement of the law. If you need legal services, please consult an attorney.

HorseQuest.info is accomplished by coordinating the resources of the Southern Region Equine Extension Specialists located at the 13 Southern Region Land Grant Universities and the Cooperative Extension Service currently providing answers to horse questions.

- ◆ **Elizabeth Buist** - Clemson
- ◆ **Dr. Robert Coleman** - University of Kentucky
- ◆ **Dr. Clint Depew** - Louisiana State University
- ◆ **Dr. David Freeman** - Oklahoma State University
- ◆ **Ashley Griffin** – University of Kentucky
- ◆ **Dr. Gary Heusner** - University of Georgia
- ◆ **Kristen Janicki** - University of Kentucky



In this photo released from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Xiong Xi, a postdoctoral research associate with the agronomy department, evaluates genetically modified bahiagrass on UF's main campus in Gainesville – Friday, Oct. 20, 2006. Xiong monitors photosynthetic activity in plants recovering from severe drought stress, using an instrument that measures how much light the grass utilizes. The experimental bahiagrass samples are being evaluated for drought tolerance as part of a study aimed at developing hardier varieties for use as turfgrass and livestock forage. (AP photo/University of Florida/IFAS/Josh Wickham)

- ◆ **Dr. Steve Jones** - University of Arkansas
- ◆ **Dr. Ed Johnson** - University of Florida
- ◆ **Dr. Doyle Meadows** - University of Tennessee
- ◆ **Dr. Cindy McCall** - Auburn University
- ◆ **Dr. Robert Mowrey** - N. Carolina State University
- ◆ **Dr. Brett Scott** - Texas A&M University
- ◆ **Gale Chrestman** - Mississippi State University
- ◆ **Dr. Craig H. Wood** - University of Kentucky

SOURCE: <http://www.horsequest.info/>

Florida's Young Farmers & Ranchers Feed Community in a New Way

While Florida's Young Farmers and Ranchers have long been an integral part of the state's food supply, it is their recent charitable work that is helping feed the less fortunate in our state. This past summer, at the annual Florida Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Conference, this group partnered with America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network and set a goal to raise 1,500 pounds of food by October.

In October, at the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach, Florida's Young Farmers and Ranchers demonstrated how they could reach new heights. With donations totaling \$5,771 in cash and 29,621 pounds of food, these young leaders demonstrated how they could give back to their communities.

A part of American Farm Bureau's Harvest for All Campaign, the Young Farmer and Rancher's food drive began with a challenge and then quickly grew as pledges came in. Organizer Erin Best challenged the group of young farmers and ranchers to collect 1,500 pounds of food by October as well as publicly soliciting pledges of food from other groups and businesses.

"If we could get a pledge of two bags per county, we would quickly achieve our goal," Best said.

With pledges of 2,000 pounds each by Hillsborough, Columbia and other counties, the scope of the food drive grew quickly.

Marion, Alachua, Highlands and Suwannee counties collected food donations from their Farm Bureau membership at their county annual meetings. Because the intent of the food drive is to feed the hungry locally, donations were weighed and left with local food banks in the America's Second Harvest Network.

Columbia County raised the largest donation thanks to thousands of pounds of generous donations from vegetable farmer Wendi Jennings.

"We were fortunate enough to have a bountiful crop and we coupled that with donations from our neighbors and Farm Bureau members," said Jennings. Columbia County's donation totaled 24,100 pounds of food.

Hillsborough County took an innovative approach to their donation. Hillsborough County Farm Bureau President Shawn Crocker used a \$5,000 donation to purchase fresh citrus through the Farm Bureau Buyers club, and donated that food to local America's Second Harvest food banks.

Every donation counts and the success of the Florida Young Farmer and Rancher food drive was due in part to smaller campaigns such as that of Dade County, where Farm Bureau staff collected 90 pounds of food. They intend to use the donations to create Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets, which will include turkeys, will be given to families in need in Homestead.

The Young Farmer and Rancher Program's primary goal is to enable and encourage young adults to become active, participating members of Farm Bureau and become strong advocates for Florida agriculture.

The Florida Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general-interest agricultural association with offices in 60 counties and about 144,000

member-families statewide. Headquartered in Gainesville, the Federation is an independent, non-profit agricultural organization. More information about Florida Farm Bureau is available on the organization's website, <http://FloridaFarmBureau.org>.

SOURCE: Rachel Kudelko
<http://floridafarmbureau.org>
 Release - October 27, 2006



Irradiation for Healthier Food

Radiation takes a lot of blame for a variety of problems, from sunburn to superhero maladies. But in small doses, it actually contributes to a safer food supply.

Low levels of irradiation can help ensure that U.S. beef producers are providing the safest, highest-quality ground beef products possible. That's the conclusion of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Neb.

Ground beef can pose a serious threat to human health if contaminated by a disease-causing microbe, or pathogen, during grinding. USMARC Director Mohammad Koochmaraie and his colleagues examined the effectiveness of using low levels of radiation on beef carcasses before cutting, to reduce pathogens in ground beef.

High-penetration, high-energy radiation is a safe method of killing bacteria, but it can alter the beef's odor and flavor. Could low-dose, low-penetration electron beam (E-beam) irradiation offer an effective alternative?

The researchers discovered that the low-penetration E-beam reached approximately 15 millimeters (about 1/2 inch) below the surface of the carcass. Because pathogens are most prevalent on the surface, this technology can significantly lower their numbers.

Research also showed that E-beam irradiation effectively reduced pathogens on the carcass surface



Ground beef samples are prepared for enumeration of bacteria by microbiologists Mick Bosilevac and Dayna Harhay.

with little to no influence on the flavor of beef that was used to make stir fry and ground beef products.

SOURCE: Laura McGinnis
 Email: Laura.McGinnis@ars.usda.gov
 Phone: (301) 504-1654
<http://www.ars.usda.gov>
 Release - October 30, 2006



HACCP Training Course; UF/IFAS Broward County Extension Office; Davie, FL; October 19-20, 2006.