



# Newsletter

September 2006



## Dates to Remember

### September

5	Beef Cattle Management School - Hillsborough Co.
7	Beef Cattle Management School - Hillsborough Co.
9	Limousin Sale of the South - Marianna, FL
12	Beef Cattle Management School - Hillsborough Co.
14	Beef Cattle Management School - Hillsborough Co.
20-22	FCA Fall Quarterly Meeting - Sarasota, FL
21	The Florida Equine Institute and Allied Trade Show - Ocala, FL
23	Meat Goat Education Day - Volusia Co.
23	Pine Ridge Angus Sale - Omega, GA
27-28	2006 Grazing Management School - Hardee Co. Agricultural Civic Center, Wauchula, FL
28	Farm Credit Ag Institute Candidates Forum - Orlando, FL
29	FCA Quality Replacement Heifer Sale - Arcadia, FL

### October

6	Oak Knoll Ranch & Mo Brangus Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
6	Okeechobee Bred Heifer Sale - Okeechobee, FL
11	Pasture Weed Day - Ona, FL
12	National 4-H Meat Judging Contest - Manhattan, KS
17-19	Sunbelt Expo - Moultrie, GA
20	Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee, FL
24	Range Cattle REC Field Day - Ona, FL
26	Callaway / Kempfer Sale - Kissimmee, FL
26	Oak Knoll Ranch - Arcadia, FL
27	Lemmon Angus Ranch - Okeechobee, FL

## In this issue...

Geoffrey Dahl Appointed Chairman of UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department ..... 2

Fall Hay and Forage Outlook ..... 3

U.S. Beef in Short Supply in Japan ... 3

Bronson Announces Import Restrictions Of Animals Due To Vesicular Stomatitis ..... 4



### Dr. Don Sloan

Don L. Sloan, died Monday at Shands at University of Florida; his was 62. Born in Wesley, Arkansas. Don moved to Alachua from Plant City 20 years ago. He was a graduate of the Univ. of Arkansas and received his Doctorate from the Univ. of FL. He was a Professor of Animal Science at the Univ. of FL. He was a member of the Alpha Zeta and Farmer House Fraternity, Poultry Science Association, 4 H, FFA & Habitat for Humanity. He was a member of the Forest Grove Baptist Church of Alachua where he served as Deacon and was a Representative for the Florida Baptist Children's Home. Don is survived by his wife of 33 years. Betty Jo "B.J." Sapp Sloan, two daughters, Alexis Sloan of Miami, FL. and Sara Sloan Standridge (Shaun) of Archer, FL. 1 Granddaughter, Jessie Standridge - Archer, FL. Sister, Ruby Linda Berry, 7 Brothers, Leonard Sloan, Walter Sloan Bill Sloan, John Arthur Sloan, Lawrence Sloan, Louis Sloan, and Roy Sloan.



### Dr. Martin B. Adjei

Dr. Martin Adjei, our friend and colleague, was killed August 15, 2006, in a tragic automobile accident on his way home from work. Please keep Dr. Adjei's family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

If you would like to send a card to Dr. Adjei's wife Gloria, please send it to: PO Box 556, Ft. Ogden, FL 34267.



## Geoffrey Dahl Appointed Chairman of UF/ IFAS Animal Sciences Department

Bovine Reproductive  
Endocrinologist Geoffrey  
Dahl, a Professor of Animal

Sciences with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, has been appointed Chairman of the UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Department. The appointment became effective July 28, 2006.

Dahl succeeds Glen Hembry, a UF/IFAS Animal Sciences Professor who became chairman in 2000 when the department was created by merging the UF/IFAS Animal, Poultry, and Dairy Science Programs. Hembry also led the Animal Science Program from 1990 to 2000.

As Chairman, Dahl will initially focus his energies on enhancing the department's teaching, research, and extension programs in beef cattle, dairy cattle, and equine production.

"One of the things that will be a help to me is, I have experience in all three mission areas of the department – research, teaching, and extension," Dahl said. "We're already recognized as one of the top 10 (Animal Sciences) departments in the country, but there's a real opportunity for us to be recognized as the best in the country."

Jimmy Cheek, UF senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources, said he was impressed by Dahl's experience and vision.

"We believe that through his leadership we will build on our strengths and achieve even greater successes in the future," Cheek said. "Dr. Dahl will help this become one of the best departments in the world."

Dahl is perhaps best known for his work on the effects of photoperiod – the amount of daylight in a 24-hour day – on milk production, growth and health in dairy cattle.

His other interests include food security, the effect of milking frequency on lactation, and mastitis, an inflammatory disease that reduces milk production in dairy cattle.

Prior to his UF/IFAS appointment, Dahl was a faculty member with the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign's Animal Sciences Department from 2000 to mid-2006. While at UI he was named Director of the Cross Campus Food Security Initiative and an affiliate of the University's Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, which cultivates cutting-edge interdisciplinary research.

From 1994 to 2000 he was a faculty member with the University of Maryland's Animal and Avian Sciences Department, and also served as the Department's Undergraduate Coordinator. He began his professional career as a research fellow with the University of Michigan's Reproductive Sciences Program, from 1991 to 1994.

Dahl received a bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Massachusetts in 1985, a Master's Degree in Dairy Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1987 and a Doctorate in Animal Science from Michigan State University in 1991.

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## Fall Hay and Forage Outlook

Despite recent rains and brushes with Tropical Storm Ernesto, pasture conditions and hay production remain a potential concern for many Florida livestock enterprises. Soil moisture survey results released by the NASS indicate that 38% of the topsoil is short or very short of moisture and 75% of subsoil is short or very short of moisture. This has resulted in 45% of pasture conditions being rated fair or worse. By in large, these moisture shortages are being reported in the Central, Northern, and Panhandle regions of the state. As a result many of the hay producing areas of the state were 40-50% behind normal in hay harvest entering the month of August. To compound this, USDA national forecasts of decreased hay and alfalfa production have been reported. The mid-August USDA hay forecast was down by 15% compared to a year ago. Likewise, alfalfa production is predicted to be down 6% from last year. The reduction in hay and alfalfa production can be directly related to very dry conditions during the spring and early summer across much of the Great Plains and other hay producing areas of the country.

What does that mean for Florida producers? In many areas of the state, winter feeding of hay was extended into the late spring because of dry conditions. This lengthened hay feeding severely impacted hay reserves for many producers. Likewise, the dry summer has reduced local hay production significantly. Coupled together, this could mean an overall reduction in stored forage supplies for producers as we enter the fall and winter supplementation periods. Another potential set-back could occur if below normal temperatures and early frost set in this fall. Factoring our local hay scenario with the national hay scenario of reduced production, greater production costs, greater transportation cost, and increased demand from drought stricken areas may mean tight hay supplies at premium costs.

Now is the time that cattle and horse producers need to start thinking about their winter forage needs. In some instances alternative roughage sources could be examined for beef cattle enterprises, while the absolute hay quality requirement for horses should be

investigated. Regardless management practices to stretch hay and roughage sources need to be considered. Remember animals have requirements for nutrients, not particular feedstuffs. Cattle have a requirement for roughage in their diet, that minimum is about 6% of their total daily intake. Energy and protein to meet the animal's requirements can come from any number of sources. From a supplementation standpoint, hay is an expensive source of energy and protein compared to many other feedstuffs. Investigate alternatives feedstuffs to supply energy and protein to animals and compare feedstuffs on a cost per unit of energy or protein basis. Contact your local Extension agent to discuss alternative management systems and feedstuffs available in your area.

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 Release - September 1, 2006

## U.S. Beef in Short Supply in Japan



Apart from shipments to Costco Wholesale Japan, U.S. beef is hard to find in Japanese restaurants and retail stores, according to Japanese press reports.

Restaurateurs interested in adding U.S. beef to their menus can't find adequate supplies, and retailers on the whole say their customers don't want the product. Only 17.6 tons of beef arrived by air in the first 10 days since Japan reopened its market, as U.S. producers scramble to find a source of beef from animals 20 months of age and younger, and Japanese wholesale customers nervously gauge consumer interest.

At about \$11.70 a pound on average, U.S. beef costs a fraction of Japanese-raised beef, which often retails for over \$50 a kilogram, but Australian beef is nearly matching the price and is shifting production

from grass-fed to grain-finished to provide the fattier beef Japanese consumers prefer. Western Australia's largest packer, Harvey Beef, announced this week that it will shift its production to grain-fed beef to cut costs, increase sales and stimulate the production capacity of the nation's feedlots.

Fast-food restaurant chains in Japan are eagerly awaiting the arrival of U.S. beef, but they need huge quantities and lower prices they can achieve once beef arrives chilled and frozen by sea. Yakiniku and Yoshinoya, two major chains, have announced they will reintroduce U.S. beef as soon as supplies increase.

Retailers, however, are another matter. Even Wal-Mart's Seiyu stores have ignored U.S. beef to date, and other chains say there is absolutely no demand for the product. One chain, Aeon Stores, told the *Associated Press* that it has not received a single call asking for U.S. beef, adding that it is regularly overwhelmed by callers requesting various products the chain doesn't carry.

Various surveys conducted this summer in Japan found that between 54 percent and 90 percent of Japanese consumers said they would not buy U.S. beef, at least for now. Suspicion lingers that the Japanese government caved to pressure from the United States, reopening the market prematurely as a favor to Washington.

**SOURCE:** Pete Hisey  
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<http://www.meatingplace.com>  
Release - August 23, 2006

## Bronson Announces Import Restrictions Of Animals Due To Vesicular Stomatitis

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson announced the placement of restrictions on the importation of animals from states affected with Vesicular Stomatitis following a confirmed case in **Wyoming**, the first such case reported in the United States this year.

Vesicular Stomatitis is a highly contagious, viral disease that affects horses, cattle, swine, and occasionally sheep, goats, and deer. The virus can also cause flu-like symptoms in people working with infected animals. Signs of Vesicular Stomatitis include blister-like lesions in the mouth, on the tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves, and teats. While the virus is rarely fatal, it does result in significant weight loss and milk production loss. It is also difficult to distinguish between this virus and foot and mouth disease, a devastating livestock disease found outside the United States. States and other countries often impose movement restrictions on animals from Vesicular Stomatitis affected areas.

Earlier this week, the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed the finding of a positive horse, with clinical signs on a ranch in Natrona County, Wyoming.

"I'm pleased to see that Wyoming has taken immediate action to hold animals on the affected premises," Bronson said, "but the possibility that this disease could be in other areas makes it imperative that we have rules in place to prevent the disease from being imported into Florida."

Florida requires veterinary inspection of susceptible animals coming from states affected with Vesicular Stomatitis. Hoofed animals entering Florida from **Wyoming** will require prior permission for entry and must be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection. The certificate of veterinary inspection must state that the animals are free of clinical signs of Vesicular Stomatitis and have not been exposed nor located within 10 miles of a positive premises, within the previous 30 days. In addition, any hoofed livestock from states that are affected with Vesicular Stomatitis are required to have documentation to show they have been tested and found negative within 10 days of movement to Florida.

**SOURCE:** Dr. Thomas Holt  
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