



Newsletter

February 2007



Dates to Remember

February

- 1** 2007 4-H and FFA Meat Judging Clinic - Gainesville, FL
- 6** 2007 4-H and FFA Meat Judging Clinic - Washington Co. Extension Office
- 8-19** Florida State Fair - Tampa, FL
- 10** Florida State Fair Horse & Livestock Judging - Tampa, FL
- 10-18** Florida State Fair - Tampa, FL
- 15** Hog and Ham Workshop - Gainesville, FL
- 20** Livestock Judging Reasons Day Camp - Gainesville, FL
- 22** Goat Showmanship Workshop - Bradford Co. Fairgrounds Livestock Arena

March

- 3** Small Farms Livestock Production Conference - Sebring, FL
- 3** Horse Judging Reasons Day Camp - Gainesville, FL
- 9-11** American Youth Horse Council Youth Horse Leadership Symposium - Denver, CO
- 13-15** FCA & FCW Legislative Quarterly - Tallahassee, FL
- 17** Small Farms Livestock Production Conference - Manatee Co. Extension Office
- 24** State 4-H Hippology Contest - Orlando, FL
- 27-30** NCBA Spring Conference - Holiday Inn on the Hill - Washington, DC
- 31** State 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging Contest - Gainesville, FL

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In this photo released from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Becky Urion, a fourth-year animal sciences student, removes nails from a shoe worn by horse UF Amazingly Tuff, at the Horse Teaching Unit south of Gainesville – Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007. Urion is preparing to change the animal's shoe, as part of her work in the class Techniques in Farrier Science. (AP photo/University of Florida/IFAS/Sally Lanigan)



See page 2 for agenda and registration information.

56th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course



The 56th Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course at the University of Florida will be held on May 2-4, 2007, at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida. The beef cattle industry continues to be a changing environment full of challenges and opportunities. Cattle producers face increasing demands for quality and consistent cattle and beef products while facing increasing production costs. This combination of demands looks to re-shape beef cattle production in the coming years. The 56th Annual Beef Cattle Short Course looks to address the issues of production management, profitability, and opportunities for quality strategies. The 2007 Short Course kicks off on Wednesday afternoon with a session identifying aspects affecting enterprise profitability. The program starts with the annual market outlook for the beef cattle industry. The market outlook is paired with an assessment of risk management and the cost of production for beef enterprises. The Wednesday afternoon program includes a discussion of international competition and opportunities for quality beef led by Clint Peck of BEEF Magazine. Persistently infected BVD is a current issue in the beef industry and is addressed during our afternoon program. The afternoon program concludes with an opportunity for the participants to interact and exchange information during the evening reception and Allied Trade Show. Identifying the aspects of quality is the theme for the program on Thursday. The day starts with a review of the 2005 Beef Quality Audit as it relates to cow-calf production. This assessment is a key tool to benchmarking the progress of production in the beef cattle industry. An interesting assessment of the relationships that contribute to the Choice-Select spread continues the theme of quality beef production. The morning concludes with an examination of the factors that affect cattle performance and grade. The morning promises to be an informative and valuable program to improve the quality of beef production. The afternoon program continues the assessment of quality in beef cattle. Live cattle, carcass, and beef production evaluation demonstrations will be utilized to emphasize

the need for quality beef cattle production. The annual Cattlemen's Steak-Out on Thursday provides an event for all participants to enjoy a prime rib dinner and time for conversation and relaxation. On Friday, the program splits into two sessions to identify opportunities in Florida production. The first session looks to examine the utilization of *Bos indicus* cattle in Florida beef enterprises. This session will span the cow herd, growth and feed efficiency, and carcass traits and merit. The second session on Friday morning will address forage management for Florida pastures. Pasture management topics will include the cost of pasture establishment, selection and use of cool season forages, and weed control. The 2007 Beef Cattle Short Course promises to continue the tradition of being the best educational event for cattle producers in the Southeast. The spectrum of topics related to the production, profitability, and quality of beef cattle should provide something for every beef cattle producer.

Registration cost is \$90 per participant before April 20, 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

Enhancing Quality Production While Maintaining Profitability

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

AM

11:00 Registration (Hilton UF Conference Center)

Identifying Aspects Affecting Profitability

PM

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

1:00 **Welcome** - *Geoff Dahl*, Department Chairman and Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

1:15 **Cattlemen's Comments** - *Hal Phillips*, President, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Williston, FL

1:30 **Economic and Market Outlook for 2006** - *Walt Prevatt*, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

- 2:15 **International Competition and Opportunities for US Quality Beef** - *Clint Peck*, Beef Magazine, Billings, MT
- 3:00 **Refreshment Break**
- 3:20 **Risk Management and the Cost of Production** - *Curt Lacey*, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
- 4:15 **Persistently Infected BVD Cattle - A Cow/Calf Perspective** - *Clint Peck*, Beef Magazine, Billings, MT
- 5:00 **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 3, 2007

Identifying the Aspects of Quality

AM

Presiding: *John Arthington*, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL

- 8:30 **Review of the 2005 Beef Quality Audit** - *Dan Hale*, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 9:30 **Relationships Affecting the Choice-Select Spread** - *Curt Lacey*, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
- 10:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 11:00 **Interactions of the Factors Affecting Cattle Grade/Performance** - *Clint Krehbiel*, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

PM

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

Presiding: *Jerry Wasdin*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

- 1:30 **Evaluation of Differences in Quality of Cattle**
- **Feeder / Finish Calf Evaluation** - *Larry Eubanks* and *Todd Thrift*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
 - **Finished Steer and Cow Carcass Evaluation** - *Dwain Johnson* and *Todd Thrift*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
 - **Beef Products Taste Panel** - *Alex Stelzleni*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL

- 2:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 2:45 **Second Rotation**
- 3:45 **Refreshment Break**
- 4:00 **Third Rotation**
- 5:00 **Adjourn**
- 6:30 **Cattlemen's Steak-Out** (Horse Teaching Unit)

Friday, May 4, 2007

Identifying Opportunities in Florida Production

AM

Session I

Presiding: *Mark Shuffitt*, Marion Co. Extension, UF/IFAS, Ocala, FL

Utilization of *Bos Indicus* Cattle in Florida Beef Enterprises

- 8:30 **Cow Herd** - *Todd Thrift*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
- 9:30 **Growth and Feed Efficiency** - *Gary Hansen*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL
- 10:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 10:45 **Carcass Traits and Merit** - *David Riley*, USDA, Sub-Tropical Agriculture Research Station, Brooksville, FL
- 11:45 **Adjourn**

Session II

Presiding: *Elena Toro*, Columbia Co. Extension, UF/IFAS, Lake City, FL

Forage Management for Florida Pastures

- 8:30 **Cost of Pasture Establishment** - *Yoanna Newman*, Department of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL
- 9:30 **Selection and Use of Cool Season Forages** - *Ann Blount*, North Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Marianna, FL
- 10:30 **Refreshment Break**
- 10:45 **Weed Control** - *Jay Ferrell* and *Brent Sellers*, Department of Agronomy, UF/IFAS, Gainesville, FL and Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS, Ona, FL
- 11:45 **Adjourn**

SOURCE: Matt Hersom
UF/IFAS, Dept of Animal Sciences
Phone: (352) 392-2390

Peterson Aims For September Passage of New Farm Bill

House Ag Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) plans to have a new farm bill through the House, House-Senate conference committee, and on President Bush's desk before the 2002 law expires Sept. 30. In remarks to the American Farm Bureau Federation this week, Peterson said he expects the new farm legislation to look "a lot like we have now" with some changes such as a permanent disaster assistance provision.

Peterson said he also believes Congress will pass disaster legislation that will cover crop losses in 2005 and 2006. He expects the House to pass a \$3-billion disaster bill among the first items after the body completes its "first 100 hours" priorities.

Peterson also said he expects renewable fuels "to drive this farm bill," and he would like to see 50% of the fuel in America be renewable fuel, but not just from corn.

"We've got to do cellulosic, too," he said. "The issue will become: How do we produce the necessary feedstocks?"

More research is needed to figure out what grows best in different parts of the country, and until enough cellulosic ethanol plants are built to provide an adequate market for switchgrass, straw and other feedstocks, the farm bill might be changed to include a program that pays farmers to produce those crops, he said. "The country needs to start growing them now."

Peterson said he intends to get the bill out of the House before the August recess, while Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Ag Committee, intends to do the same. Then Congress could work out a conference agreement over the August break, finish the tough issues in the early part of September and get the bill on the president's desk for signing by the end of that month.

SOURCE: BEEF Cow-Calf Weekly
<http://beef-mag.com/>
 Release - January 14, 2007

Bronson Announces End to Horse Virus Outbreak

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services

Commissioner Charles H. Bronson today said he is confident that the outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus-type 1, or EHV-1, has been brought under control. It has been more than three weeks since any horse has tested positive for the virus and the last quarantine was lifted over the weekend.

"I credit the cooperation and proactive steps taken by the equine community and the quick response by the Department's Division of Animal Industry with the end of this outbreak," Bronson said. "Identification of infected and exposed horses, implementation of biosecurity measures and other proactive measures taken by horse owners prevented further spread of this disease."

While some industry locations instituted voluntary decontamination measures and restricted horse movements, protocol required the state to place 10 locations under mandated quarantine including sites in Wellington, Jupiter, Indiantown, Morriston, Loxahatchee and Ocala. Last week, after lab test results confirmed there had been no new case in three weeks, all but one of the quarantines were lifted. The final quarantine was lifted over the weekend when all lab results were negative.

The outbreak started when horses imported from Europe through a federal quarantine site in New York were brought to Wellington in late November. One of those horses was infected with the virus, which spread to other horses early in the outbreak through close contact before movement restrictions were in place. The Department's Division of Animal Industry then set up an incident command post in Palm Beach County to oversee control efforts, educate the community and monitor the situation. Six horses succumbed to the disease and 12 others recovered with treatment.

"It is extremely tragic that we lost six horses," Bronson said. "But the situation could have been far more deadly were it not for the quick actions of so many people."

EHV-1 is a contagious virus of horses that can cause respiratory disease, abortion and occasionally serious neurological signs. It is spread through the air but can also be carried on shoes, clothes, hands and equipment.

SOURCE: FDACS
<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/>
 Release - January 23, 2007