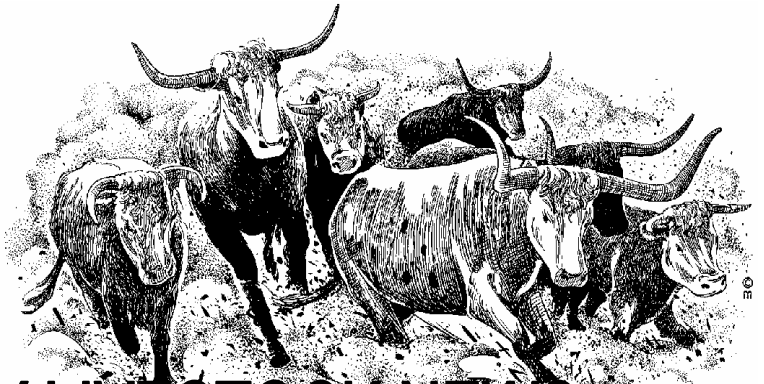


Marion County Extension Service
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
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(352) 620-3440



MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

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APRIL 2003

Livestock Summary

The USDA is forecasting that livestock and poultry prices will rise in 2003 as aggregate red meat and poultry production combined will drop one to two percent from last year. An anticipated five percent rise in exports will contribute to the positive price movement.

Prices of all species are expected to be higher in 2003. Leading the movement, choice steer prices are expected to average in the \$73 to \$78 per hundredweight, as compared to \$67 in 2002.

Nationally, cattle and calves totaled 96.1 million head on January 1, 2003. The national herd is down one percent from a year earlier and down seven percent from the cyclical peak of 103.5 million head in 1996.

Last year marked the seventh year of herd liquidation in the current cycle, which began in 1990 with 95.8 million head nationwide. Beef production in 2003 is expected to drop about four percent from 2002.

Higher cow slaughter and continued drought in many areas will likely extend the liquidation stage beyond 2003. Tight forage supplies, uncertain water supplies, and a weakened financial base for producers may prevent a rapid herd expansion. General economic uncertainty will also be a factor.

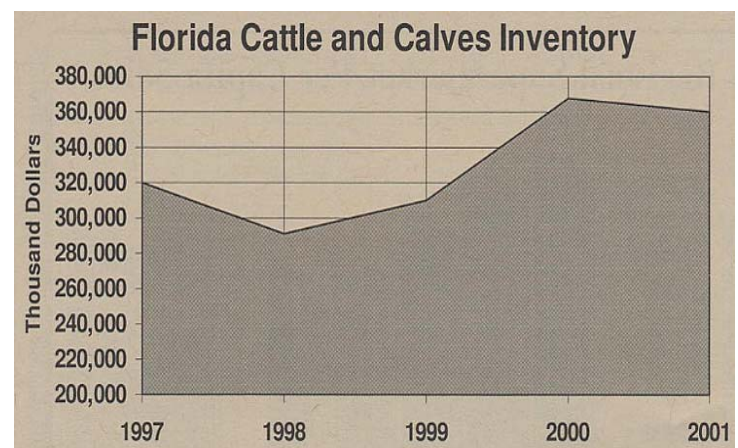
Periodic drought in some areas and continued drought in others has limited the industry's forage resources. Rebuilding the forage base and, for many producers, the financial base is likely to be slow even with stronger prices.

The limited resource situation has forced cow slaughter to remain relatively high. Cow slaughter is up eight percent while beef production is down about two percent. As a comparison, steer and heifer slaughter was down four percent.

Cattle and boxed beef prices have moved into record territory. Retail prices for choice beef have been increasing since October when they dipped to the lowest price in 2002 at \$3.26 a pound. Prices rose throughout the fourth quarter, but averaged below the fourth quarter 2001 record of \$3.35 a pound.

Retail prices are expected to rise throughout the year. The average for 2003 likely will break the record of \$3.38 set in 2001.

Just over the horizon is the Country of Origin Labeling requirement from the 2002 Farm Bill. Requirements become mandatory in October 2004. The industry impact is unknown and debated.



Forages and Pasture Update



Plateau (imazapic) has received a section 3 federal label for selective grass control in established bermudagrass pastures and hayfields.

General use recommendations for the control of sandbur (*Cenchrus* spp.) in established bahiagrass pastures and hay meadows.

For the control of sandbur, apply PLATEAU herbicide postemergence at a rate of **4 fluid oz. per acre** prior to sandbur producing a seedhead. Use of a **nonionic surfactant at 0.25% (volume per volume)** of the spray volume is required when using water as the spray carrier. **Use of methylated seed oil (MSO) as the spray adjuvant is not recommended and can increase bahiagrass response.** If nitrogen based liquid fertilizer such as 28%N, 32%N, 10-34-0 or ammonium sulfate is used as the spray carrier then the addition of a spray adjuvant is not required.

Use of PLATEAU herbicide for the control of sandbur in bahiagrass **will result in a temporary reduction in bahiagrass growth.** This growth reduction can be expected to last for two to four weeks and may result in the loss of one hay cutting. If this bahiagrass growth reduction is not acceptable then PLATEAU herbicide should not be used.

Overlapping spray passes and continuous application while making turns will result in areas of over application and bahiagrass injury.

Do not apply to turf under stress (drought, cold, insect, disease, etc.) or severe injury may occur.

Do not use more than 12 fluid oz per acre of PLATEAU herbicide within a 12 month period.

Grazing and haying restrictions

There are no grazing restrictions. Do not cut bahiagrass for hay for 7 days after treatment with PLATEAU herbicide.

OBSERVE ALL PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS IN THE PLATEAU HERBICIDE LEAFLET LABEL BEFORE USING. SEE THE PLATEAU HERBICIDE LEAFLET LABEL FOR USE AREA, MIXING AND APPLICATION INFORMATION AND WEEDS CONTROLLED.

®Registered Trademarks of BASF

52nd Annual Beef Cattle Short Course

Staying Ahead of the Cattle Cycle

April 30 – May 2

Sheraton Hotel

Gainesville, Florida

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

AM

11:00 **Registration**

PM

Presiding: *F. Glen Hembry*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF, IFAS,

1:00 **Welcome**

1:15 **Remarks** – *Wayne Godwin*, President, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Zolfo Springs, FL

1:35 **Market Outlook for 2003 and Beyond** – *Walter Prevatt*, Auburn University

2:25 **Refreshment Break**

Presiding: *Cindy Sanders*, Alachua County, UF, IFAS

2:45 **Evaluating Opportunities to Market Feeder Calves** – *Walter Prevatt*, Auburn University

3:30 **Negotiating a Grazing or Feeding Contract** – *Bob Bliss*, Consultant, Amarillo, TX

4:15 **Ranchers Who Have Retained Ownership After Weaning** – Panel Discussion
- *Kay Richardson*, Richardson Brothers, Evinston, FL
- *Wade Grigsby*, Allico Inc., LaBelle, FL
- *Wes Williamson*, Williamson Cattle Co., Okeechobee, FL
- *Herman Laramore*, Bar L Ranch, Marianna, FL

5:00 **Florida Beef Cattle Improvement Association Super Cow Awards** – *Bob Sand*, Department of Animal Sciences, UF, IFAS

5:05 **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 1, 2003

Managing Factors Influencing Income

AM

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

8:15 **Do I Have the Cow That is the Most Efficient Producer for My Environment/Management Level?** – Chad Chase and Sam Coleman, ARS/STARS, Brooksville, FL

9:00 **Cactus Feedyard's Experience with Feeding Florida Cattle** – Paul Coleman, Cactus Feeders, Amarillo, TX

9:45 **Refreshment Break**

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

10:00 **Preparing Florida Calves for the Feedlot: Repairing Our Reputation** – Karen Rogers, DVM, VRCS, Greeley, CO

10:45 **Country of Origin Labeling (COOL): Implications of Policy on Cow/Calf Producers** – John Van Sickle, Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

11:30 **Update on the Florida Voluntary Johnes Control Program** – John Crews, Cesar Ruiz, and Ashby Green, Florida Department of Agriculture, Tallahassee, FL

12:00 **Leave for Lunch at Beef Research Unit** (Sponsored by **Farm Credit Associations of Florida**) (Transportation provided)

PM

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

2:00 **Demonstrations and Discussions**

A. Grazing Management – Lynn Sollenberger and Lawton Stewart, Department of Agronomy, UF, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

B. Grazing Early Weaned Calves – John Arthington, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, UF, IFAS, Ona, FL and Lynn Sollenberger, Department of Agronomy, UF, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

C. How Do We Control Johnes in Florida Herds? – Owen Rae, College of Veterinary Medicine, Gainesville

D. Chute Side Health and Quality Assurance for Florida Calves – Karen Rogers, VRCS, Greeley, CO

4:30 **Adjourn**

6:00 **Cattlemen's Steak-Out** (Horse Teaching Unit Arena) - Transportation on your own.

Friday, May 2, 2003

Cutting Corners Without Compromising Future Ranch Performance

AM

Presiding: Bob Sand, Department of Animal Sciences, UF, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

8:15 **Should I Modify My Herd Health Program When Considering Retained Ownership** – Hal Phillips, DVM, Williston, FL

8:45 **Utilizing a Terminal Sire Breeding Program – An Economic Evaluation** – Todd Thrift, Department of Animal Sciences, UF, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

9:15 **Should I Purchase Replacement Females?** – Tom Anton, Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL

9:45 **Refreshment Break**

10:00 **Economic Options to Increase the Value of Your Ranch Lands** – Alan Long, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, UF, IFAS, Gainesville, FL

10:30 **Supplemental Income Sources for the Ranch** – Panel Discussion
- George Kempfer, Kempfer Cattle Company, St. Cloud, FL
- Dean Hendrick, Hendrick Family Farm, Mayo, FL
- Arnie Sarlo, Ranch Manager, Babcock Wilderness Adventures, Punta Gorda, FL
- Wayne Godwin, Westby Corporation, Zolfo Springs, FL

11:30 **Question and Answer Session with Morning Speakers**

11:40 **Closing Comments** – F. Glen Hembry, Department of Animal Sciences, UF, IFAS, Gainesville

11:45 **Adjourn**

Registration Fees:

\$85.00 – Early registration (Postmarked on or before April 18th, 2003)

\$110.00 – Regular registration (Postmarked after April 18th, 2003)

\$10.00 – Additional Cattlemen's Steak-Out Tickets

Make checks payable to:

UF Leadership & Education Foundation, Inc. – (UFLEF)

Mail to:

Beef Cattle Short Course

Office of Conferences & Institutes (OCI)

P.O. Box 110750

Gainesville, FL 32611-0750

THE LAST WORD

Beef Cattle Management Tips

APRIL

Marion County Extension Service

- Plant warm season and perennial 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 prior to 12 months of age.
- Market culls cows and bulls.
- Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.

MAY

- Harvest hay from cool season crops.
- Plant warm season perennial pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeders.
- Check for spittlebugs and treat if necessary.
- Apply spot-on agents for grub and louse control.
- Check dust bags.
- Vaccinate and implant with growth stimulant any later calves.
- Re-implant calves with growth stimulant at 90-120 days, when you have the herd penned.
- Update market info. and refine marketing plans
- Remove bulls by May 21st to end calving season March 1st.

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent II

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