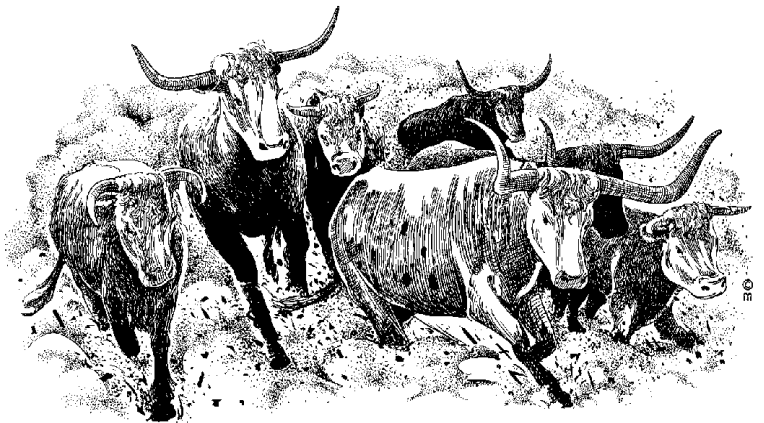


Marion County Extension Service  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road  
Ocala, Florida, 34470  
(352) 671-8400



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## MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

APRIL 2008



### Conservation Opportunities for Agriculture Lands

A Seminar for Landowners,  
Professionals, and Interested Citizens

**Friday, April 18, 2008**

**9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

*(lunch provided by Corporate Group, Ted Cannella)*

**Florida Carriage Museum and Resort  
Weirsdale, Florida**

#### Seminar Topics:

**Basics of Conservation Easements**

**Financial Impacts and Benefits**

**Conservation Easement Appraisals**

**For more information and to RSVP:**

**352-372-6568**

### Celebrating the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual **Beef Cattle Short Course**

**Hilton University of Florida Conference Center  
April 30 – May 2, 2008  
Gainesville, Florida**

*"Positioning Cattle Producers to Access Markets,  
Choose Bulls, and Fine Tune Management"*

Topics for this year's program include:

- **Economic and Market Outlook for 2008**
- **Implementation of Instrument Grading for Beef Carcasses**
- **Market Definitions of Alternative Production Systems**
- **Economic Comparison of Alternative Production Systems**
- **Allied Industry Trade Show and Reception**
- **Understanding and Utilizing EPDs to Select Bulls**
- **"No Bull" Discussion on Genetic Markers**
- **Adapting Bulls to Florida**
- **Bull Management for Commercial Producers**
- **How Much Can I Pay for a Bull?**
- **Phenotypic Evaluation of Bulls**
- **Ultrasound Evaluation of Bulls**
- **Fertility and Breeding Evaluation of Bulls**
- **Matching Bulls to Different Cow Types**
- **Backgrounding Calves on Co-Products Forage-Based Replacement Heifer Management**
- **Factors Affecting Calf Value**
- **Utilization of Biosolids for Pasture Fertilization**

(see Beef Cattle Short Course pg 2)

## Healthy Horses: An Educational Conference on Successful Equine Health Care

May 10, 2008; 8:30 am – 5:00pm  
Gainesville, FL

Healthy Horses is an educational day with a focus on equine health care for horse owners and enthusiasts. The day will include lectures, lunch, tours of the hospital, and live equine treadmill demonstrations. The topics will include vaccination, deworming, nutrition, lameness, and gastric ulcers – just to name a few. The presenters will predominately be the board certified faculty of UF's Large Animal Hospital, and a brief summary book of the lectures will be provided to all attendees. Purina and Fort Dodge will be present as our sponsors and to answer any questions you may have about their products. We sincerely appreciate their sponsorship, which makes it possible for the low registration fees for all attendees (one of the lowest for an event of this type in the state!) Thank you for your interest and support. We are dedicated to improving owner education and hope you will make this an annual event. Registration is limited, so please register soon!

**Topics include:** Vaccination, Deworming, Foal Care, Lameness, MRI for Horses, Gastric Ulcers, Nutrition, Live Treadmill Demonstration, Hospital Tour and More!

Refreshments and Lunch provided!

The conference will be held at the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville, Florida from 8:30am-5:00pm. A map will be mailed upon receipt of your registration form and \$30.00 fee.

### Register On Line:

<http://www.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/equine>

OR

### Mail or Fax Completed Registration To:

UF Department of Conferences  
2209 NW 13th Street, Suite E  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
Fax: (352) 392-5437

Include: Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone #  
If paying by credit card, include name of card, card number, CVV (security) Code and expiration date.

For more information, call 352-392-1701.

# Beef Cattle Short Course

## Registration Information

The reduced early registration fee is \$110.00 if payment is postmarked by April 18, 2008. **After April 18, 2008, the regular registration fee will be \$150.00.**

The registration fee includes refreshment breaks, exhibitor's reception, Thursday's luncheon, one Cattlemen's Steak-out ticket, and proceedings. Extra Cattlemen's Steak-out tickets are available at \$15.00 each. Please refer to the registration card to purchase extra tickets.

Conveniently register in 1 of 3 easy ways:

1. **ONLINE:** register online at:  
<http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/basic/214.aspx>
2. **FAX:** If paying by credit card, FAX completed registration form to: (352) 392-9059
3. **MAIL:** Please make check, money order, or purchase order payable to: **UF Foundation**

Mail registration and payment to:

**Pam Gross**

**Beef Cattle Short Course**

UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences

P.O. Box 110910

Gainesville, FL 32611-0910

PLEASE PRINT

Fed. ID: 59-0974739

Charge my:

VISA    Master Card    American Express Discover

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hotel Accommodations/Meeting Site

The Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, located at 1714 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL, is the host hotel. Please call the hotel directly at (352) 371-3600 to make your reservation and inform the attendant that you are with the "Beef Cattle Short Course" in order for Hotel Reservations to recognize you as a Beef Cattle Short Course participant.

**Special Needs:** *Participants with special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting Matt Hersom at least 10 working days prior to the workshop. He may be reached by phoning (352) 392-2390 or faxing (352) 392-9059.*

# Bahiagrass

## *A Quick Reference*

Yoana C. Newman, UF/IFAS Extension Agronomist

In Florida, bahiagrass is a warm-season perennial planted more than any other improved grass. Two thirds of improved pastures are planted with bahiagrass and some of its attractions for producers include its excellent adaptation, ease of management, persistence under low fertilization and close grazing, as well as its relatively simple planting.

However, prospective growers need to be willing to compromise in quality and production because this grass has some limitations in quality and quantity compared with other options like hybrid bermudagrasses.

### **Origin**

Native to South America, to equivalent latitude to that of northern Florida

### **Use**

Most of the acreage is used for grazing, with some hay and sod production, and production of seed harvested from pastures.

### **Adaptation**

pH: 5.5 to 6.5. High pH (approximately > 6.5) will start negatively affecting production.

Soil: Low to high fertility; sand to clay, dry to wet.

Rainfall: > 35 inches.

Climate: Subtropical and humid regions; coastal plains.

### **Management Practices**

Planting date: March (if irrigated) or during summer (June-August; rainy season).

Planting rate: 15 lb/acre or 25-30 lb/acre (low rates will have more initial competition with weeds).

Planting depth: 1/4 - 1/2 inch maximum. A common mistake is to plant **too** deep.

### **Fertilization**

Planting: As soon as plants have emerged, apply 30 lb Nitrogen (N)/acre, all phosphorus ( $P_2O_5$ ) and 50% of potassium ( $K_2O$ ) recommended in soil test. 30-40 days later, apply rest of the potassium plus 70 lb N/acre.

Grazing:

**Low input system:** 50 lb N/acre/yr only;  $P_2O_5$  as per recommendation based on soil and tissue tests; no phosphorus ( $P_2O_5$ ), and no potassium ( $K_2O$ ).

**Medium input system:** 100 lb N/acre/year;  $P_2O_5$  as per recommendation based on soil and tissue tests; or tissue P is less than 0.15%), and 50 lb  $K_2O$ /acre/year.

**High input system:** 160 lb N/acre/year (80 lb N/acre in spring + 80 lb N/acre in fall),  $P_2O_5$ , and  $K_2O$  as per soil and tissue test recommendation.

Hay: 80 lb N/acre/cut +  $P_2O_5$ , and  $K_2O$  as per soil test recommendation. Do not apply any fertilizer after mid-August.

Seed Production: In hay fields; same recommendation as above. If grazing, 60-80 lb N/acre in Feb or Mar, when seed heads appear remove cattle and apply 60-80 lb N/acre.

### **Weed Control**

Seedlings are susceptible to phenoxy type herbicides (2,4-D or Banvel), can only spray when plants are 8 inches tall.

### **Pests and control**

Mole crickets. Control with nematode biological control traps.

## **Beef Cattle Management Tips**

### **APRIL**

- 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 cull cows and bulls.
- Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.

### **MAY**

- Remove bulls.
- 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 21<sup>st</sup> to end calving season March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact the Extension Service one-week in advance of program for assistance.*



# *University of Florida* *2008 Performance Bid Sale*



The following horses are available for your consideration. Sealed Bids will be opened at 1:00 pm Friday, May 2, 2008.

UF Magic Ville **Bay QH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 01/21/2006**

UF Did I Do It **Sorrel Overo PH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 03/01/2006**

UF A Justifiable Hit **Sorrel Overo PH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 03/03/2006**

UF A Jokers Revenge **Bay QH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 01/17/2006**

UF A Colorful Gator **Bay QH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 02/08/2006**

UF Its Quit N Time **Bay QH Mare,**  
**Foaled 03/14/2006**

UF Spanish Love **Chestnut XQH Mare,**  
**Foaled 02/11/2006**

UF San Bar **Gray QH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 02/17/2006**

UF Shallow Hal **Chestnut XQH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 02/21/2006**

UF Princess Dancer **Grey XQH Mare,**  
**Foaled 03/26/2006**

UF Investinthisbar **Chestnut QH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 01/28/2006**

Paseo De Holiday **Sorrel QH Gelding,**  
**Foaled 04/04/2006**

To view these horses on-line, go to the following website:

<http://www.animal.ifas.ufl.edu/htu/sale/horses/index.htm>

John Mark Shuffitt  
Livestock Agent III  
Marion County Extension Service