

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



Vol. 11, No. 6

## MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

JUNE 2005

### 2005 Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show

Southeastern Livestock Pavilion; Ocala, Florida

*“Maintaining Performance for  
Competition and Pleasure”*

September 22, 2005

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

a program by:  
CENTRAL FLORIDA LIVESTOCK  
AGENTS' GROUP

~ University Professors ~ Equine Industry Professionals ~  
Allied Trade Show ~ Live Animal Demos

8:00 am — Trade Show Opens  
9:00 am — *“Managing Horse Manure by Composting”*  
9:45 am — *“Maintaining the Mouth of Equine Athletes”*  
11:00 am — *“Saddle Fitting and Pad Selection”*  
12:00 pm — *“Florida Equine Waste Management / BMP's”*  
1:15 pm — *“Common Lamenesses — Diagnosis and  
Treatment”*  
2:00 pm — *“Techniques and Technologies in Hoof Care”*  
3:00 pm — *“Boots and Bandages — Panel Discussion”*

Reservations are required — \$25.00

Participant and Vendor registration forms are available  
at <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/cflag.html>

### Supreme Court Rules Beef Checkoff Constitutional

May 23, 2005

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the Beef Checkoff Program is constitutional, thus allowing the program's demand-building efforts to continue. The decision overturns a ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit that found the federal Beef Promotion and Research Act in violation of the First Amendment. The checkoff has helped grow consumer demand for beef more than 25 percent since 1998 and has increased the prices that producers receive for their cattle.

“We are elated,” said Jim McAdams, an Adkins, Texas, cattleman and president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). “Throughout the lengthy litigation process, we believed in the merits of our case and the merits of the beef checkoff.” He said, “We anticipated a positive decision. This is a victory for all producers who want demand-building efforts in beef safety, nutrition and promotion continued.”

Cattlemen have supported a checkoff assessment since 1922. January 2005 independent research indicates that a significant 73 percent of beef producers support the current \$1-per-head beef checkoff program. Upon the Supreme Court's acceptance of the beef checkoff case in May 2004, an overwhelming 113 state and national beef industry and general agriculture organizations signed a friend-of-the-court amicus brief in support of the beef checkoff. The brief was also signed by attorneys general from 35 states and Puerto Rico and the chairmen of both the U.S. House and  
(see Beef Checkoff pg. 3)

## **Spiny Amaranth Biology**

B.A. Sellers, UF/IFAS Extension Agronomist

A member of the pigweed or *Amaranthus* family, spiny amaranth can be found throughout Florida. Identification of individual pigweed species is quite difficult, especially when plants are in the seedling stage. Spiny amaranth, however, is quite easy to identify. This plant has spines around each branch and inflorescence. Grab this plant, and you will know that it is spiny amaranth, the only weedy pigweed species to have spines throughout the plant.

Pigweed species are characterized by ovatelanceolate to lanceolate (wide at the base of the leaf and tapers to a point) leaf shapes with or without hair on the leaves. Stems can be smooth or hairy, and depends upon the species. Spiny amaranth most often lacks hairs on the leaves and stems. Like most pigweed species, spiny amaranth is monoecious, having both female and male flowers on the same plant. In most cases, male flowers are at the top, and female flowers are located at the base of the leaves near the stem.

Pigweed species are capable of producing hundreds of thousands of seeds per plant. Research in the Midwest revealed that a single spiny amaranth is capable of producing approximately 114,000 seeds. This is substantially lower than other pigweed species like smooth pigweed, which is capable of producing upwards of 300,000 seeds per plant. Even though spiny amaranth appears to be on the lower end of seed production compared to other pigweed species, it is a prolific seed producer when left uncontrolled. On average, spiny amaranth produces 157 seeds per gram of dry plant matter.

Germination of pigweed species generally occurs under conditions of high temperature, soil moisture, and light quality. You will likely see spiny amaranth germination and establishment occur in disturbed areas where light reaches the soil surface. In fact, germination of pigweed species is dramatically reduced when light is intercepted by a particular crop. For example, 100% shade reduced common waterhemp germination by 82%. Although some seedlings do emerge under such conditions, many more seeds would germinate without shading the soil surface. Control of spiny amaranth can be a sticky situation. As pigweeds get larger, control becomes more difficult. Therefore, more herbicide may be required for adequate control. Herbicides that have activity on spiny amaranth include Weedmaster, Pasturegard, Outlaw, Cimarron, Cimmaron Max, and Banvel. Be sure to read the label for specific rates and adjuvant selection. It is best to apply these herbicides when plants are small and actively growing. Except when applied after flowering, any of these herbicides should reduce the number of seeds produced by the plant.

## **Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School**

**August 1-4, 2005**

**Deseret Ranch  
Deer Park, Florida**

**SPONSORED BY:**

Central Florida Livestock Agents Group

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### **Monday, August 1**

##### **PM**

1:00 Registration  
1:30 Welcome  
1:35 Reproduction Basics  
3:00 Break  
3:15 Health Management.- Vaccinations Program  
4:00 Pregnancy Testing Video  
4:30 Reproductive Tract Lab  
5:00 Adjourn

#### **Tuesday, August 2**

##### **AM**

8:00 Lab Session at Cow Pens

##### **PM**

12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Genetic Mgmt. for Efficient Reproduction  
1:30 Heifer Development  
2:30 Break  
2:45 Coping with Calving Problems  
3:30 Bull Breeding Soundness Exam  
4:15 Live Animal Demo of Breeding Soundness Exam  
5:00 Adjourn

#### **Wednesday, August 3**

##### **AM**

8:00 Lab Session at Cow Pens

##### **PM**

12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Repro Implications of Body Condition  
1:45 Nutrition for Reproduction  
3:00 Break  
3:15 Breeding Season Management  
3:45 Body Condition Problem  
5:00 Adjourn

#### **Thursday, August 4**

##### **AM**

8:00 Lab Session at Cow Pens  
10:00 Bull Selection & Use of Performance Records  
10:30 Estrus Synchronization & Heat Detection  
11:30 Review & Exam  
12:00 Lunch & Adjourn

Registration is required – \$175

Contact Marion County Extension at 352-671-8400

## **Preparing For The Storm**

In addition to being equipped for the “normal” emergencies associated with raising horses, Florida Horse owners need to be prepared to handle the fury of a tropical storm and/or a hurricane.

The following recommendations will help you prepare for many types of disasters and storms.

- ✓ Install a generator or hand pump on farm wells. Well water will not become contaminated unless it is submerged by floodwaters.
- ✓ Avoid damage from flying debris. Tie down and/or secure everything you can. Turn over and tie down anything too large to store.
- ✓ Get mobile home tie-downs for your livestock trailer and other vehicles. Move vehicles into the middle of the largest open areas away from trees and tie them down.
- ✓ Have on hand a box packed with halters, leads, tape, rope, tarps, fly spray, and animal medical supplies. Keep in your house.
- ✓ Have on hand in the house: several hurricane lamps, lamp oil or kerosene, fire extinguishers, batteries, battery operated radio, matches, gasoline, and chlorine bleach.
- ✓ Keep two-liter soda bottles filled with water in the freezer. They can be thawed in the refrigerator when electricity fails to keep the refrigerator cold and be used as a water source when thawed.
- ✓ City water becomes contaminated when purification systems are inoperable. To purify water, add two drops of chlorine bleach per quart and let stand for a half-hour.
- ✓ Fill any large outside vessels (rowboats, canoes, feed troughs, etc.) with water. This keeps them from becoming debris and provides a source of water for animals after the storm. Pool water and collected water should be kept chlorinated so it remains usable.
- ✓ Shut off main electrical breakers and close gas and water valves. Unplug appliances and turn off air conditioning.
- ✓ Chain propane tanks to the ground with tie-down stakes and label them “propane”. Label any other hazardous material containers.
- ✓ Bring chain saws, ladders, axes, shovels, metal cables, block and tackles; wire cutters, toolbox, grill, charcoal and lighter fluids into the house.
- ✓ A two-week supply of animal feed and medications should be stored in waterproof containers in a safe location.

- ✓ Contact out-of-town friends and relatives and keep them informed of your plans. It will be easier for you to contact them than for them to contact you.
- ✓ Make sure your insurance is adequate and up-to-date. Photograph or video tape all property and animals, and take the photos or tapes with you if you must evacuate.
- ✓ Remember that after the storm all transactions will have to be made in cash and that banks and gas stations will be closed.
- ✓ Close barn and/or stall doors. Put identification tags on all animals, and turn your large animals out.

**For Assistance During a Disaster Contact:  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
(352) 622-3205**

## **Beef Checkoff**

(continued from pg. 1)

Senate Agriculture Committees.

Myron Williams, a Wall, S.D., cattleman and chairman of the Federation of State Beef Councils Division of NCBA said, “It’s clear that a majority of cattlemen and agricultural groups recognize that checkoff programs are good for local beef industries and economies.” He said, “Cattle-Fax estimates that the beef demand gain in just the past seven years has added about \$250 per head to the value of fed cattle and \$200 per head to the value of calves. Consumers are willing to pay more for the high-quality beef we are producing.”

The beef checkoff has stimulated the development <http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/newsletter.shtml> of more than 2,100 new beef products since 1998. Advertising tracking research indicates that the checkoff is improving consumer attitudes about beef’s nutritional value. And, the checkoff’s organized and proactive public response to a single case of BSE diagnosed in the U.S. has been credited with maintaining the high level of consumer confidence in the safety of U.S. beef.

Williams continued, “State beef councils and their Federation – a division of NCBA – are committed to protecting the brand equity built in the “Beef. It’s What’s For Dinner.®” campaign.”

“It is time now for industry groups to put aside their differences and move forward together,” concluded McAdams.

## **SOURCE:**

Joe Schuele & Sharyl Sauer  
Phone: (303) 850-3359  
NCBA, Centennial, CO

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## **“Beef Cattle Management Tips”**

### **JUNE**

- Check and fill mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- Check pastures for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and armyworms. Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.
- Check dust bags.
- Observe cattle for evidence of pinkeye and treat.
- Utilize available veterinary services and diagnostic laboratories.
- Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.
- Pregnancy check cows.
- Update market information and plans.
- Make first cutting of hay.
- Put bulls out June 1<sup>st</sup> for calves starting March 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **JULY**

- Control weeds in summer pasture.
- Apply nitrogen to warm season pastures, if needed
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Inspect pastures for armyworms and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Observe cows for evidence of foot rot and treat.
- Consider preconditioning calves before sale including vaccination for shipping fever and IBR at least 3 weeks before sale.
- Check dust bags.
- Update market information and plans.
- Revaccinate calves at weaning for blackleg.

John Mark Shuffitt  
Livestock Agent III  
Marion County Extension