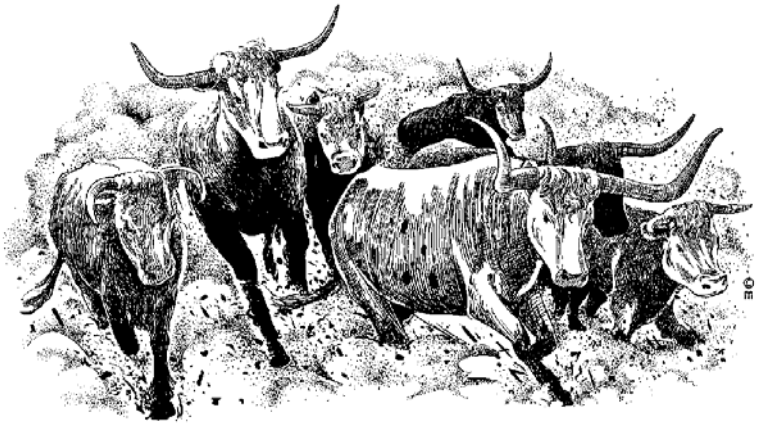


Marion County Extension Service
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida, 34470
(352) 620-3440



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MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

MARCH 2005

Central Florida Beef Forage Field Day

Wednesday, March 2nd, 2005

10 A. M. – 2 P.M.

Water Conserv II

Topics

Early Weed Control

New Herbicides Update

Legume varieties and trials

Alfalfa production results & techniques

FREE ADMISSION & LUNCH

Provided by Central Florida Livestock Agents Group

Please RSVP for lunch by February 28, 2005

Contact Kay at 352-343-4101

Directions: Take hwy 27 S from Clermont or 27 N from Polk County to Kings Ridge shopping center red light. Make a left coming 27 S or right coming 27 N on Harwood Marsh Rd. Look for Publix and CVS pharmacy at intersection. Continue till Hartwoods Marsh rd dead ends into Avalon Rd (10 miles). Make a right on Avalon Rd and continue for approximately 4 miles to McKinney Rd. Look for field day signs and Water Conserv II signs on right. Make a right on McKinney Rd and continue for 1/4 mile past Water Conserv II distribution center to first dirt rd on your left. Continue on dirt rd through the gate and make an immediate right. Follow the signs to the parking area.

Equine Forum

Thursday

March 17th, 2005

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Marion County Agriculture Center
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida

TOPIC:

Equine Reproduction

**Managing your Broodmare
for
Breeding**

SPEAKERS:

Maria Cadario, D.V.M.
Specialist Equine Reproduction

Mark Shuffitt, Marion County Extension

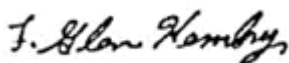
Celebrating the Fifty-fourth Annual
Beef Cattle Short Course
Hilton University of Florida Conference Center
Gainesville, Florida
May 4-6, 2005

Dear Colleagues

The rapidly changing cattle industry requires the beef producer to use everything at his or her disposal to remain competitive in a world market place. We know the effects that closed international markets can have on our industry. And, we understand that our competitive advantage in the world market depends on the production of a high quality product. We are also challenged by U.S. consumers that have never expected a higher quality beef product than they do today. Knowing market dynamics and understanding the consumer is critical to your success. The first half day of this year's Beef Cattle Short Course examines consumer trends, expectations and demands, international trade of beef and beef products, and the 2005 market outlook. An outside perspective of Total Quality Management sets the stage for discussions the second day related to factors effecting the quality of your beef herd. A panel of beef industry representatives will conclude the morning discussion with remarks and answers to your questions. Plan on being informed and entertained during Thursday afternoon's session.

New this year will be live demonstrations of low stress handling of cattle with ranch horses and cattle working dogs. The demonstrations will conclude with a session on cow horse care and maintenance. Friday morning's program will focus on grazing issues including pasture management, defining fertilization, and pH management for optimum forage production. The last half of the morning will be devoted to breakout discussion sessions for producers from various regions of the state. There will be an Allied Industries Trade Show on Wednesday evening and a reception sponsored by the trade show participants. Farm Credit of North Florida will again host a cook-out lunch on Thursday. The traditional "Steak-Out" on Thursday evening will provide good prime rib and fellowship. Production of quality beef is the key to market share and this year's Beef Cattle Short Course will provide you with the keys.

Sincerely,



F. Glen Hembry, Chairman

Department of Animal Sciences

Registration Information

The reduced early registration fee is \$85.00 if payment is postmarked by April 22, 2005. **After April 22, 2005, the regular registration fee will be \$110.00.**

The registration fee includes refreshment breaks, exhibitor's reception, Thursday's luncheon, one Cattlemen's Steak-out ticket, and a proceedings. Extra Cattlemen's Steak-out tickets are available at \$10.00 each. Please refer to the registration card to purchase extra tickets.

CONVENIENTLY REGISTER IN ONE OF THREE EASYWAYS:

1. **ONLINE:** If paying by credit card, register online at:
<http://www.animal.ufl.edu/extension/beef/2005BCSC.shtml>

2. **FAX:** If paying by credit card, FAX completed registration form to: (352) 392-9734

3. **MAIL:** Please make check, money order, or purchase order payable to:
UF Leadership & Education Foundation, Inc. (UFLEF)

Mail this form with payment to:

Beef Cattle Short Course

UF/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes (OCI)
P.O. Box 110750
Gainesville, FL 32611-0750

PLEASE PRINT

Fed. ID: 59-3104978

Charge my:

VISA Master Card American Express Discover

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Name of Cardholder:

Amount: _____

Signature: _____

Hotel Accomodations/Meeting Site

The Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, is offering a special group rate of \$79.00 single or double occupancy, plus 9% tax. To qualify for this special rate, reservations must be made prior to April 15, 2005. Please call the hotel directly at (352) 371-3600 to make your reservation and be ready to provide Code BCS in order for Hotel Reservations to recognize you as a Beef Cattle Short Course participant. After the deadline, the discounted group rate and guest room availability are no longer guaranteed.

49th Ocala Bull Sale - report

The Ocala Bull Sale is held each year on the second Tuesday of January at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala. Grading takes place beginning at 8:00 am on the day before the sale. Buyers are welcome to preview the bulls on Monday (all day) and Tuesday (until noon).

All bulls are evaluated on weight, condition, conformation, scrotal circumference and EPD's then assigned a grade from A+ to C. Bulls that do not score a C grade or higher are sifted from the sale.

Ninety-six bulls representing eight breeds sold for an overall average of \$2,180 at the 2005 Marion County Cattleman's Association Annual Graded Sale in Ocala. This year's sale topper lot #3 an (A) graded Angus bull consigned by Black Crest Farms of Sumter, SC sold for \$3,700. Lots #23X an (A-) graded Angus bull consigned by Double C Farms, Inc. of Marshallville, GA and lot #101 an (A-) Hereford bull consigned by Woodard Hereford Farms of Springfield, TN brought a price of \$3,100 each. Four other bulls realized a price of \$3,000 each. In addition, 32 bulls sold for \$2,500 to \$2,900 and 29 bulls brought a price of \$2,000 to \$2,400.

This year three **A** graded bulls averaged \$3,033 and sixteen **A-** bulls averaged \$2,594. Twenty-eight **B+** bulls brought an average price of \$2,158, twenty-one **B** graded bulls averaged \$2,157 and eighteen **B-** graded bulls averaged \$1,632. Seven **C+** bulls averaged \$1,728. Only three bulls received a **C** grade and sold for an average price of \$1,233.

Breed averages were as follows:

- ⇒ 31 Angus sold for an average of \$2,300
- ⇒ 10 Brangus sold for an average of \$1,850
- ⇒ 6 Braford sold for an average of \$1,500
- ⇒ 18 Charolais sold for an average of \$2,277
- ⇒ 21 Hereford sold for an average of \$2,595
- ⇒ 1 Maine-Anjou sold for \$1,200
- ⇒ 8 Polled Hereford sold for an average of \$1,762
- ⇒ 1 Santa Gertrudis sold for \$1,300

A special **THANK YOU** to our volume buyers **Flying P Ranch**, Dunnellon; **G&M Cattle**, Ocala; **Richard Passetti**, St. Augustine; **Circle Square Ranch**, Ocala; **Haylo Farms**, Ocala; **Doug Partin**, Kenansville; **Thomas Acres**, Inverness; **Albert Roler**, Brooksville; **Alex Fulford**, Lake Wales and **Mr. B's Ranch** of Wheaton, MD. We hope to see all of you again January 10th, 2006 for the

50th Annual Ocala Bull.

The Oldest Graded Bull Sale in the Nation

Beef Cattle Management Tips

MARCH

- Prepare land for summer crops.
- Begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Observe bulls for condition and success.
- Rotate and rest bulls as necessary.
- Deworm cows as needed.
- Observe calf health and provide adequate nutrition for "good" weight gains.
- Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant and work late calves.
- Put bulls out by March 1st for calving season to start December 9th.
- Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1st.

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.

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent III
Marion County Extension Service

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THE LAST WORD

The Ten Commandments of Grits

1. Thou shalt not put syrup on thy Grits.
2. Thou shalt not eat Cream of Wheat and call it Grits; for this is blasphemy.
3. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors Grits.
4. Thou shalt **only use** *Salt, Butter and Cheese* as toppings for thy Grits.
5. Thou shalt not eat Instant Grits.
6. Thou shalt not put syrup on thy Grits.
7. Thou shalt not put syrup on thy Grits.
8. Thou shalt not put syrup on thy Grits.
9. Thou shalt not put sugar on thy Grits either.
10. Thou shalt not put sugar or syrup on thy Grits.

Safe to swim here?

While fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft. Spotting an old guy "Florida Cracker" standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?!"

Naw," the man said, "They ain't been around for years!" "Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there he asked the man on the shore, "How'd you get rid of the gators?" The "Cracker" replied "We didn't do nothin'." "The sharks ate 'em."

"The South--where roots, place, family, and tradition are the essence of identity." Historian Carl N. Degler

"The South is America. The South is what we started out with in this bizarre, slightly troubling, basically wonderful country--fun, danger, friendliness, energy, enthusiasm, and brave, crazy, tough people." -- P.J. O'Rourke