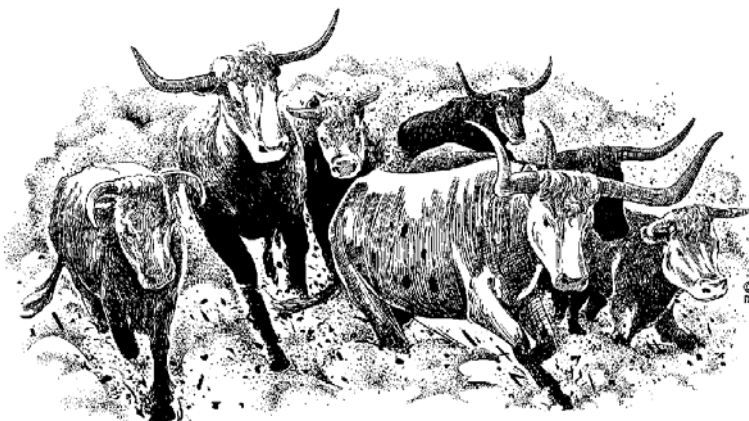


Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences

Marion County Extension Service  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road  
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## MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

FEBRUARY 2007

### **2007 Southeastern Youth Fair**

**February 17 – 22**

and

### **High School Rodeo**

**February 23 & 24**

**One of Florida's oldest and  
largest Youth Fairs!  
Over 1,000 4H & FFA exhibitors  
will compete**

### **Come out to our Market Animal Shows and Auctions**

**Lamb Show** Sat., Feb., 17<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 pm  
**Lamb sale** Sat., Feb., 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm  
**Steer show** Mon., Feb., 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm  
**Steer sale** Tues., Feb., 20<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm  
**Swine show** Wed., Feb., 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 pm  
**Swine sale** Thur., Feb., 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 pm

### **Annual BBQ Dinners only \$6**

BEEF Dinner: 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Tuesday, Feb., 20<sup>th</sup>  
PORK Dinner: 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Thursday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

For more information call 352-629-1255

Check out our website

<http://www.seyfair.com> for a complete list of  
all events and activities.

## **Equine Forum**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**7:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Marion County Agriculture Center  
2232 NE Jacksonville Road  
Ocala, Florida**

### **Keeping Horses Healthy**

**"Developing a Health Care Plan for  
your Horse"**

**Dana Zimmer, DVM Diplomate ACVIM, ABVP  
University of Florida  
College of Veterinary Medicine**

For more information call (352) 671-8400.

## **New Hires in UF/IFAS Agronomy Department**

We are very pleased to announce two new faculty members.

JOAO VENDRAMINI was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor – Forage specialist.

He is stationed at the ONA Research and Education Center in Ona, Florida, with extension (35%) and research (65%) responsibilities. His research program will mainly focus on different aspects of the plant-animal interface. Dr. Vendramini received his M.S. in Animal Science from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Ph.D. in Agronomy from University of Florida.

After completing the Ph.D., Dr. Vendramini joined Texas A&M University where he served as an assistant professor and forage specialist for the East region of Texas. Joao (Joe) will focus primary efforts in south central Florida.

Dr. Vendramini joined the University of Florida in August, 2006.

YOANA C. NEWMAN was recently appointed to the position of Assistant Professor - Forage Specialist.

She will be stationed in Gainesville with extension (70%) and research (30%) responsibilities in forage management and production. Dr. Newman received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Agronomy from University of Florida. After completing the Ph.D., Dr. Newman worked as a research associate for UF/IFAS investigating different aspects of forage science and afterwards went to Texas A&M University as an assistant professor and extension forage specialist for the North-Central region of Texas.

Yoana will focus primary efforts in north and central Florida but will also serve statewide extension coordination for forages.

We are certainly pleased to welcome Joao (Joe) and Yoana (Joanna) to our Department.

Jerry Bennett  
Professor and Chair, Ph.D.  
UF/IFAS Agronomy Department

## **Non-Selective Herbicides for Dormant Pastures and Hayfields**

Winter is not a common time to think about controlling weeds in pastures and hayfields but, especially during mild winters, the presence of winter weeds will compete with the forage grass as it transitions from dormancy. This competition will slow greenup of the forage and cause delays in early season grazing or first cutting yield. However, there are ways to control these winter weeds, rather inexpensively, while improving first cutting quality and allowing grazing earlier in the season.

In North Florida, where bermudagrass and bahiagrass go fully dormant, an application of Roundup Weathermax (glyphosate) at 8 to 11 fl. oz/A will effectively control many weedy grasses and broadleaf weeds. In a pasture setting, these weedy grasses may be beneficial for early-season grazing, but in hay fields these grasses will greatly decrease the value of the hay and increase drying time of the first cutting. It is important that glyphosate be applied when the desirable forage grasses are fully dormant. Applications made before or after dormancy can cause injury and delay spring greenup.

Gramoxone Inteon is an ideal product in Central or South Florida where bahiagrass or bermudagrass do not

go fully dormant. It is also an ideal product in North Florida if the pasture has begun to transition from dormancy prior to the application. Gramoxone Inteon is often not as effective as glyphosate on weedy grasses, but it possesses greater flexibility because it can be applied to pasture grasses that have transitioned from dormancy and grown to a height of 3 inches. This application is possible because Gramoxone Inteon does not translocate to the root system. Treated leaves will indeed be killed by the herbicide, but the root system remains healthy and growth will quickly resume. Gramoxone Inteon should be applied at 1.5 to 1.8 pt/A with the addition of a spray adjuvant.

Using either Roundup Weathermax or Gramoxone Inteon, as described here, have no restrictions for grazing or harvest. However, it must be noted that Gramoxone Inteon is a Restricted Use Herbicide and requires the possession of a proper herbicide license for purchase or application of the product.

Jason A. Ferrell  
Weed Specialist  
UF/IFAS Extension

# 51<sup>st</sup> Annual 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 by a committee of qualified cattle producers. Bulls that do not score a C grade or higher are sifted from the sale.

One hundred forty six bulls representing nine breeds sold for an overall average of \$1,779 at the 2007 Marion County Cattleman's Association Annual Graded Sale in Ocala. This year's sale toppers were lot #126 an (A-) graded Braford bull consigned by Greenview Farms of Screven, GA and lot #148 an (B+) graded Brangus bull consigned by Little Creek Farms of Alachua, FL sold for \$4,500 each. Additionally, lot #62 an (A-) graded Angus bull offered by Express Ranches of High Springs, FL sold for \$4,100. Lot #64 an (A-) graded Angus bull consigned by Express Ranches of High Springs, FL brought a price of \$3,800.

Lot numbers #145 (B+) and #149 (B) out of the Little Creek Farms consignment sold for \$3,700 each. Other Bulls bringing a price over \$3,000 included: lot #45 an (A) graded Angus consigned by Robert Delozier of Mebane, NC brought a price of \$3,600; lot #53 out of the Express Ranches consignment sold for \$3,400 and lot #133 a (B) graded Brangus sold by Double C Farms, Inc of Marshallville, GA for \$3,200. In addition, 9 bulls sold for between \$2,600 and \$2,850 and 19 bulls brought a price of between \$2,000 and \$2,500.

This year one **A** graded bull sold for \$3,600. Sixteen **A-** bulls brought an average price \$2,481. Fifty-one **B+** bulls brought an average price of \$1,987, thirty-seven **B** graded bulls averaged \$1,757 and twenty-two **B-** graded bulls averaged \$1,339. Eight **C+** bulls averaged \$1,231. The eleven **C** graded bulls sold for an average of \$977.

Breed averages were as follows:

- ⇒ 49 Angus sold for an average of \$1,926
- ⇒ 18 Red Angus sold for an average of \$967
- ⇒ 6 Braford sold for an average of \$2,033
- ⇒ 2 Brahman sold for an average of \$2,300
- ⇒ 20 Brangus sold for an average of \$2,318
- ⇒ 26 Charolais sold for an average of \$1,892
- ⇒ 16 Hereford sold for an average of \$1,431
- ⇒ 8 Polled Hereford sold for an average of \$1,388
- ⇒ 1 Simmental sold for \$1,600

The Marion County Cattleman's Association would like to **THANK everyone** who had a part in making this sale possible. We hope to see all of you again January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ocala Bull Sale, **The Oldest Graded Bull Sale in the Nation.**

## Beef Cattle Management Tips

### FEBRUARY

- Top dress winter forages, if needed.
- Check and fill mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out with breeding herd.
- Work calves:
  1. Identify
  2. Implant with growth stimulant
  3. Vaccinate
- Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
- Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.
- Check for lice and treat if needed.

### MARCH

- Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth and get fertilizer incorporated in grass roots while there is still good soil moisture.
- 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 if needed.
- Deworm cows as needed.
- Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1<sup>st</sup> for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.
- Put bulls out March 1<sup>st</sup> for calving season to start December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Remove bulls March 22<sup>nd</sup> to end calving season January 1<sup>st</sup>.

*The Institute of Food and Agriculture 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 with out regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Extension Service one-week in advance of program for assistance*

John Mark Shuffitt  
Livestock Agent III  
Marion County Extension Service

# Soil Testing

Gerald Kidder and R.D.Rhue

## Why Soil Test?

Lime and fertilizer are essential for good crop production.

Soil testing helps you manage those production inputs.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. What is the pH of your soil?
2. What are the fertility levels of the principal nutrients?
3. How much and what kind of lime does your soil need?
4. Which nutrients need to be added to your soil as fertilizer?
5. How much fertilizer is needed for your crop and soil?

If you cannot answer these questions, a soil test may help.

## However, a soil test can't:

1. Tell you which crop to grow.
2. Prevent poor crops caused by drought, disease, insects, too much water, etc.
3. Substitute for proper cultural practices.
4. Take the place of good management.

## How to Take a Soil Sample

1. See your county agent for complete information.
2. Divide farm into fields or areas for sampling. Sample separately areas with different crop growth, soil color, or lime or fertilizer histories.
3. Don't sample areas too small to be fertilized or limed separately. Don't sample unusual areas. Avoid wet spots,

feeding areas, burn piles, old fence rows, sand boils, etc. The sample you collect should be the average of the field or area sampled.

4. Proper sampling tool is important. Use sampling tube or auger. If necessary to use shovel or trowel, dig a V-shaped hole in the soil 6 inches deep, and slice 1-inch slab off one side of hole. Lift out and save center 1-inch wide strip of soil.
5. Take a core (with sampling tube) of soil 6 inches deep from at least 15 spots in each field or area to be tested. Sample lawns only to a 3 inch depth. Mix together the cores from one field or area. Put about a pint of the mixed soil in a soil sample bag.
6. Identify samples by letter or number. Make a sketch or record of some kind so you will know which sample came from which field.
7. Fill out an information sheet and include it and payment in box with samples.
8. Send samples to the laboratory for analysis. Shipping boxes are available from county Extension offices.
9. Consult with county agent if help is needed with interpretation of test results or fertilization recommendations.