

**POLK COUNTY
LIVESTOCK REPORT**

Polk County Extension • University of Florida • IFAS • 1702 Highway 17 South • Bartow, FL

<http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

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- *Due to state and county budget cuts, postage funds are limited. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please email me at bccarlis@ufl.edu to let me know.*
- *If you know fellow producers that are not receiving this newsletter, please share my contact information with them so that they may be added to the list.*
- *If you have information that needs to be included in the newsletter, please let me know.*

In this issue, you will find information about upcoming programs. I invite and encourage you to participate in these programs as they are planned with you in mind. If you have any topics that you would like to see addressed by the UF/IFAS Extension Livestock Program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I continue to strongly encourage livestock producers to take advantage of the various industry associations, such as the Polk County Cattlemen’s Association and Polk County Farm Bureau. There is value in membership that extends far beyond a magazine or a newsletter. Membership benefits include activities and programs that promote your product, networking with other producers, a voice with your political leaders, and much more.

I hope that the information provided and the programs offered in this newsletter will serve you well as you meet the challenges of today’s beef industry. I would like to personally thank you for your role in the beef and agriculture industry.

As always, I look forward to serving your livestock and forage production needs. Please feel free to call me at (863) 519-1048 or email me at bccarlis@ufl.edu.

Bridget Carlisle, Livestock Extension Agent

Note: The Extension Offices have integrated a new phone system.

My new direct office phone number is:

(863) 519-1048

P.O. Box 9005, Drawer HS03, Bartow, FL 33831 • (863) 519-1048 • bccarlis@ufl.edu • <http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

Cattle ID Rule Adoption

The following announcement is from Dr. Thomas Holt, State Veterinarian/Director of FDACS Division of Animal Industry:

The Cattle Identification Rule(s) (Chapter 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code) has been published with an effective date of February 19, 2014. These rules are intended to improve our ability to respond to serious disease outbreaks and to help the industry maintain out-of-state markets. These rules will require cattle 18 months of age or older entering the state and moving within the state to be tagged with Official Identification. Cattle moving to Approved Tagging Sites for tagging, cattle moving directly to slaughter, and cattle moving between pastures under normal ranching operations are exempted under the rule. Approved Tagging Sites are livestock markets, stockyards and other locations that are authorized

to apply Official Identification as a service to cattle owners.

These rules will become effective on February 19, 2014, although the department will provide a period of continued education and outreach prior to commencing enforcement actions. We are planning, however, to fully enforce this rule beginning April 7, 2014. At that time, eligible cattle moving within the state must be Officially Identified or the cattle will be quarantined until Officially Identified. Subsequent violations will result in administrative fines.

The importance and need for these rules have been discussed with our cattle industry over a number of years and we have appreciated the input we have received in formulating these rules. More than 50 public meetings with affected industry members have been

held over the last year and many producers and markets are now working to prepare themselves to fully comply with the identification requirements.

The department will continue to work with you as we implement these rules. Please check our Web site, <http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry>, or contact Stephen Monroe, Program Manager, at (850) 410-0944 with any questions.



Register for the 2014 Florida Beef Cattle Short Course

The 63rd Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course will be held May 7-9 in Gainesville.

The Beef Cattle Short Course is considered one of the premier beef cattle educational events in the Southeast and Gulf Coast regions with significance nationally and globally. The course addresses issues for beef cattle enterprises at an elevated level of management skill with practical applications for every beef cattle producer, in Florida and

beyond. The course focuses on unique challenges facing our beef industry, beef production issues, urban growth, global competition, changing consumer demands, and economic and environmental sustainability. Every year, this short course leads the industry in covering subject areas and topics prior to those issues becoming management concerns. Participants get to hear contrasting, alternative, and complimentary ideas about the beef cattle enterprise.

Short of paying a professional consultant, there is no better source of information for beef cattle producers than the Florida Beef Cattle Short Course.

For additional information, visit the Florida Beef Cattle Short Course webpage at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/beef/index.htm> or contact Bridget Carlisle at bccarlis@ufl.edu or (863) 519-1048.

Polk County Cattlemen's Association Sweetheart

The Polk County Cattlemen's Association selected Hailey Tomkow to serve as the 2014-2015 Polk County Cattlemen's Association Sweetheart. Hailey's term officially begins March 15, 2014, but expect to see her this weekend at the Trade Show and Ranch Rodeo as Sweetheart-Elect! As the PCCA Sweetheart, Miss Tomkow will serve as an Ambassador to the Polk County Cattlemen's Association and the Beef Industry. She will represent Polk

County at the Florida Cattlemen's Convention and participate in the FCA Sweetheart Contest. She will represent the association and industry at local events throughout her term.

Our current PCCA Sweetheart, Harley Zoehler, represented Polk County well last year at the annual convention and also serves as the Florida Cattlemen's Association Sweetheart. Harley has done a fantastic job representing our industry in Polk County

as well as throughout the state this past year.

Please be sure to congratulate both girls and thank Harley for all of her hard work!

We know that Hailey will do an excellent job representing our industry as well!

Management for Economically & Environmentally Sound Beef Cattle Production

The UF/IFAS South Florida Beef Forage Program invites you to attend “Management for Economically & Environmentally Sound Beef Cattle Production” on Friday, June 6th. The program is hosted by Buck Island Ranch at the MacArthur Agro-Ecology Research Center and will discuss and demonstrate management practices that are not only beneficial to ranch productivity but also benefit water quality and quantity on ranching operations.

Tentative Agenda

9:00 AM	Opening Remarks and Introduction
9:10 AM	Beef Cattle Ranchers - Stewards of the Land
9:30 AM	Managing Nutrients for Soil Fertility
9:50 AM	Cattle Water Sources & Resource Management
10:20 AM	Managing Cattle for Wetland Protection
10:40 AM	Integrated Pest Management: Use of Biological Control Measures
11:00 AM	Producer Panel: Management in Practice
11:40 AM	Becoming a Florida Cow-Calf Water Quality BMP Program Participant
12:10 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Ranch Tour
3:30 PM	Evaluation

Space is limited, so be sure to register early. Cost is \$10 by June 2nd, 5pm, or \$20 at the door.

To register, go to www.beefproductionmanagement.eventbrite.com or contact your local County Extension Agent or Bridget Carlisle at (863) 519-1048 or bccarlis@ufl.edu.

USDA Proposes Allowing Fresh Beef Imports From Brazil

On December 23, 2013, the USDA Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a proposal to amend current regulations and allow, under specific conditions, import of fresh beef (chilled or frozen) from 14 Brazilian states. Fresh beef is already imported from the South American country of Uruguay. Cattle are routinely vaccinated for Foot and Mouth disease in most Brazilian states. In making this proposal, APHIS indicated it

had determined the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply “could detect disease quickly, limit its spread, and report it promptly.”

Under this proposed change, APHIS predicts annual imports of fresh beef to average 40,000 metric tons, an increase in imported beef of less than 1%. It also estimates this level of imports would decrease U. S. price of wholesale beef, retail

beef, and live finished steers by 0.11%, 0.04%, and 0.14%, respectively. Currently, that would be a decrease of \$2.00-2.50/hd for finished steers.

(The proposed rule can be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2009-0017-0010>)

UF/IFAS Extension Polk County

MANAGING CATTLE ENTERPRISES FOR SUCCESS

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The purpose of the Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success Program is to assist cow-calf owners and operators in identifying and applying management tools for the beef cattle operation that will maximize returns on investment and increase productivity in the cow herd and the acreage on which she is maintained.

This program was developed for commercial cow-calf:

- Owners
- Operators
- Managers
- Laborers

DATE: Thursday, March 27th, 2014

TIME: 6:00 PM - includes dinner

PLACE: UF/IFAS Extension
Stuart Center
1702 Hwy 17 S
Bartow, FL

DETAILS:

Adding Value to Market Calves - Dr. Todd Thrift, UF/IFAS Animal Science

Health Management Practices to Add Value - Dr. Robert Gukich, Lake Wales Large Animal Services

Sponsored by: Boehringer-Ingelheim, Carlton Taylor

\$5/person
payable at the door

RSVP no later than

**March 25th,
5pm**

to Bridget Carlisle
at (863) 588-2697 or
bccarlis@ufl.edu.



Consider Selling Calves Now

By Dr. Curt Lacy, Extension Economist-Livestock, University of Georgia

Calf prices are at historical levels, winter grazing is practically non-existent, and many cows are in poor shape. What should cattlemen do? Sell the calves.

Since the first week of January 2014, prices for 300-400 pound calves (bulls and heifers) have been averaging almost \$210 per hundred-weight. That is over \$725 for a 350 pound calf!

How long will this last? We don't really know. However, in light of the current price and feeding situation, producers who need some relief should strongly con-

sider selling at least some of their fall-born calves NOW.

Top candidates for selling include calves from first-calf heifers and cows in Body Condition Score (BCS) 4.5 or less. Selling calves from these first parity and thin cows will provide immediate nutritional relief and can greatly assist with getting females ready to rebreed.

Given that research indicates that pre-conditioning less than 45 days is generally unprofitable, and the fact that we do not know how long these extremely high prices will hold out, pre-conditioning at this time is NOT recommended.

Cattlemen who have lactat-

ing cows with BCS above 4.5 may choose to continue as they normally would. However, the current market signals do not indicate a strong desire for heavier calves. In other words, selling calves right now makes perfect sense, regardless of calf weight. However, for calves weighing 450 pounds or more, and with adequate grazing it also makes sense to graze the pastures and sell later in the spring.

Agents or producers wanting current market information can go to www.secattleadvisor.com and select Local Market Reports under Resource Pages.

Upcoming Events

March

- 10-14 Agri Fest, Bartow
- 17-21 Agri Fest, Bartow
- 27 Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success, 6pm, Bartow

April

- 15 Herd Health Program, 6pm, LaBelle
- 19 Polk Jr. Cattlemen's Ranch Rodeo, Lakeland

24

Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success, 6pm, Bartow

May

- 7-9 Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, Bartow
- 29 Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success, 6pm, Bartow

June

- 6 Management for Economically and Environmentally Sound Beef Cattle Production, 9am, Lake Placid
- 12 RCREC Youth Field Day, Ona
- 16-20 FCA Annual Convention & Trade Show, Marco Island