



Okaloosa County Extension

5479 Old Bethel Rd.

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## Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	1
Beef Management Calendar	2-3
Beef Management: Culling	2-3
Genetic Tests Beef Up Cattle Breeding	3-4
Peanut Seed Availability	4
Nitrogen Prices and Use of Legumes	4
2005 North Florida Pasture Weed Control Quick Reference Sheet	5

## Calendar of Events



# June

1

### Vegetable Field Day

North Florida Research Center  
Quincy

8:15 a.m.—12:00 noon EST  
Call 850-875-7100 to register.

3

### 6th Annual Perennial Peanut Producers Field Day

Milton, Florida  
See Attached Flyer

5

### Cotton and Peanut Scout School

Jay Extension Office  
8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Call 850-675-6654 to register.  
CEU's Available

10-

11

### 28th Annual Goat Production Conference

College of Veterinary Medicine, Gainesville  
For information call Tom Gorman:  
352-377-6157

# July

10

### Panhandle Cattlemen's Association Quarterly Meeting

Crestview Extension Office  
7:00 p.m.  
Reservation Required—Call 689-5850

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"I let you borrow the car last night...now how about you borrowing the pitchfork today?"



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## May

- ☑ Remove bulls.
- ☑ Harvest hay from cool season crops.
- ☑ Plant warm season perennial pastures.
- ☑ Fertilize warm season pastures.
- ☑ Check mineral feeder.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ Reimplant calves with growth stimulant at 90-120 days, when you have herd penned.
- ☑ Dispose of dead animals properly.
- ☑ Update market information and refine marketing plans.
- ☑ Remove bulls May 21 to end calving season March 1.

## June

- ☑ Last date for planting sorghum.
- ☑ Check mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral and not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.
- ☑ Check pastures and hay field for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and army worms.
- ☑ Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.
- ☑ Check dust bags.
- ☑ Watch 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 for calves starting March 11.
- ☑ Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.

Source: Department of Animal Science, University of Florida



## Beef Management: Culling

Excitement is the feeling many cow-calf producers express when they market their calves. When evaluating the economics behind cow-calf enterprises, producers profit by marketing calves by weight, genetics and sometimes by both. Although these calves generate most of their income, approximately 10 to 20 % of their gross income can be determined by the price they receive from their cull cows (Gill, TAMU).

Culling is an important component when managing beef cattle and should not be overlooked. Producers who develop predetermined production goals can successfully cull cattle from the herd each year.

As with bulls, cows should be evaluated for soundness. Since calves initially receive their nutrients through milk, the cows' udder must be sound. Cows must also have enough teeth for nutritional maintenance. Failure to adequately supply enough nutrients for the cow can result in reduced subsequent reproductive

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capabilities. Soundness must be evaluated and considered when culling.

All breeding-age females in a cow-calf operation must be able to successfully wean a calf each year. To do this, these females must deliver a healthy, live calf, provide milk and be able to become pregnant during the subsequent breeding season. To perform each of these tasks, these females must be reproductively sound. Research from Texas A&M reports that if a cow does not breed during a breeding season, she will lose 15 to 20% of her lifetime production potential (TAMU BCM-7). Determining if, or how many times, a female can remain in a herd after she has been determined not pregnant is a decision that must be considered when culling.

Unlike other commodities that change varieties each year, beef cows may remain in a herd for 10 to 15 years. A cow's genetics coupled with that of a herd sire result in a calf should perform above expectations. Cows that produce poor-performing calves should be considered for culling. However, if she has produced excellent calves in the past, it may be the result of the bull. Regardless, decisions related to the performance of the calf should be made to enhance future production potential.

Structural soundness, reproductive soundness and calf performance are just some of the many criteria that producers use when determining which cows to cull. Producers should determine their production parameters and cull accordingly. If you have any questions related to culling beef cattle, feel free to contact your county extension agent or call me at (912) 681- 5639.

Source: Tim Wilson, Extension Animal Scientist—Beef Cattle

## Genetic Tests Beef Up Cattle Breeding

Geneticists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Clay Center, Neb., are improving traditional cattle breeding methods with marker-assisted selection, a process that incorporates DNA tests into traditional genetic evaluation systems.

Traditionally, breeders have used visual appraisal to estimate cows' genetic merit. By carefully recording the characteristics of herd members and their descendents, animal breeders can calculate an animal's Expected Progeny Difference, or EPD. This is a figure estimating the average performance of specific traits for an individual's offspring.

More recently, geneticists have developed DNA tests associated with important traits in cattle. These tests might someday be incorporated into the established selection process.

According to ARS geneticist R. Mark Thallman, incorporating DNA tests in breeders' calculations could improve the accuracy of their EPDs and place the appropriate degree of emphasis on the DNA tests. With geneticist Mark F. Allan, he is testing that theory, using a herd selected for producing twins as a prototypical population. Previous research located three genetic regions linked to the twinning trait. This information has been incorporated into the scientists' calculations since 1998, enabling them to make more accurate genetic predictions, or "marker-adjusted EPDs."

The twinning experiment is simply one example of marker-assisted selection's potential. In similar work, researchers from Cornell University, ARS and Iowa State University incorporated DNA test results into a genetic evaluation of Simmental cattle for tenderness, allowing Simmental breeders to use marker-assisted selection for tenderness.



In the future the technique could be used to improve other desirable traits, such as efficiency, fertility and growth rate.

Marker-assisted selection will allow breeders to increase the speed and accuracy of traditional assessment methods, but its advantages extend beyond the seedstock industry. Commercial cattle producers would be able to purchase bulls with superior genetics. The desirable characteristics in the livestock would ultimately translate into better products for consumers.

ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency.

SOURCE: Laura McGinnis; Email: lmcginnis@ars.usda.gov; Phone: (301) 504-1654; USDA/ARS, Washington, D.C.; Release - March 22, 2006



## Peanut Seed Availability

It is important to relate to your seed suppliers what variety of peanut you would like to plant next year. There have been many comments that AP3 and C99R were in short supply this season. These varieties have performed very well where TSWV has been a problem and rank near the top of most trials in the SE. Although many of the older varieties of peanuts still produce superior grades, yields have fallen in recent years due to less disease tolerance.

Georgia Green still maintains its dominance on the seed supply and will be the most commonly planted variety again this season. However, more seed of the newer varieties should be available next year. If possible, get a few bags of a new variety this season to test its fit on your farm.

Source: David Wright, Agronomy Notes, Vol. 30:5, May 2006



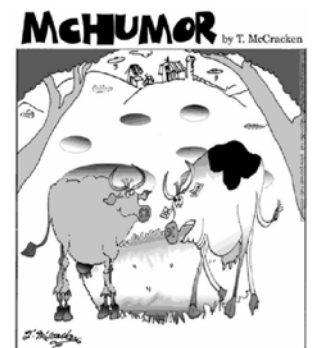
## Nitrogen Prices and Use of Legumes

For years commercial nitrogen prices were relatively cheap and many growers stopped using legumes and manure to supplying nitrogen to subsequent crops. However, this is changing since higher energy cost has led to an increase in the cost of nitrogen fertilizers. Growers need to carefully consider legume crops that can be used during the off season or cash crops that can supply nitrogen. Crops that fix nitrogen and have been widely used in Florida as a cash or cover crop are: red clover-110 lbs N/A, white clover-100 lbs N/A, cowpeas- 90 lbs N/A, vetch- 80 lbs N/A, soybeans- 60 lbs N/A, peanuts- 40 lbs N/A, and green beans- 40 lbs N/A. The actual amount fixed will depend on environmental and soil conditions and length of growing season. Soybeans, green beans and field peas can be planted late in the season (August-September) and frost may kill them or they may be harvested for grain if planted early enough. Clovers and vetch can be planted in the fall after harvest of most crops and used for cover crops or grazing.

Source: David Wright, Agronomy Notes, Vol. 30:5, May 2006



Pay back time on the ranch.



"Let's eat the grass in perfect circles. It drives them crazy."

# 2005 North Florida Pasture Weed Control Quick Reference Sheet

Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Livestock &  
Jay Ferrell, University of Florida Weed Extension Specialist

Weed Response to Herbicides Used in Pastures	2,4-D	Banvel Overdrive	Weedmaster	Remedy	Crossbow	Redeem R+P	Pasture Guard	Velpar	*Cimarron	*Cimarron Max	Roundup (Spot or wiper)
Briars (blackberry)	P	G	P	G	G	G	G-E	F	G	G	F
Bracken fern	P	F	P-F	G	G	G	-	F	G	-	-
Coffee weed (sicklepod)	G	E	E	E	E	G	E	-	G	E	E
Cudweed	G-E	E	E	E	G-E	G-E	-	-	G	G-E	G-E
Curly dock	F	E	E	E	G	E	G	P	E	E	E
Dandelion	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	-	G	E
Dogfennel	F	G	G	E	G-E	E	E	-	F	F-G	E
Galberry	G	E	G	E	E	G	E	P	-	-	-
Goldenrod	F	G	E	G	G	E	G	-	P	F-G	G-E
Henbit	F	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Horsenettle	P	G	F	G	F	F	G	-	F	F	G
Horseweed (mare's tail)	F-G	E	G-E	G	G	G	G	-	F	-	F-G
Jimsonweed	G	G-E	G-E	G-E	G	G-E	G-E	-	-	-	E
Kudzu	P-F	G	F	G-E	G	G	-	-	G	-	G
Lantana	P	P	P	-	-	-	F-G	-	P	P	P
Nightshade	P-F	F-G	F-G	G	P-F	G	G	F	-	-	G
Palmetto	P	P	P	F	-	P	-	P	-	-	P
Pepperweed	G	F-G	G	G	G	-	G	G	-	-	G
Persimmon	P	E	F	F	G	P	-	F	-	-	F
Perilla mint	G	G	G-E	G-E	G-E	G-E	G-E	-	-	-	G-E
Pigweed	G	E	E	E	E	E	E	G	E	E	E
Pokeberry	F	F-G	F-G	P	F-G	P	F	-	-	-	G
Prickly pear	P	F	P	G	-	P	G	P	-	-	F
Ragweed	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	F	G	G	E
Red sorrel	P	G	F-G	E	E	F-G	G-E	-	E	G	E
Smilax (greenbriar)	P	F	F	G	G	P	G	F	-	-	F
Stinging nettle	P	P	P	G	F-G	F	-	-	F-G	-	E
Teaweed (ironweed)	F-G	F-G	G	G-E	G	G	G-E	-	-	-	G
Thistle	G-E	G	G-E	E	E	E	G-E	E	F	-	E
Tropical soda apple	P	G	F	G-E	F	F	F-G	F	P	P	F-G
Wax myrtle	G	G	G	G	-	-	G	-	-	-	-
Wild garlic	G	G	G	-	-	-	-	-	G-E	G	E
Wild radish (mustard)	G	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	G-E	G-E	E
<b>Grasses</b>											
Pensacola Bahiagrass	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	G	G	E
Sandspur	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	G
Smutgrass	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	G	P	P	E
Vaseygrass	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	G	P	P	G-E
<b>Sedges</b>											
Bulrush	G	G	G	G	-	-	G	-	-	-	-
Nutsedge	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	F-G

\*Cimarron and Cimarron Max should **not** be used on bahiagrass