## April 2004 / Volume 26 Number 4

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Beef Basics 101, DeSoto County Extension Office, 7:00 PM-Basics of Reproduction – Managing for a high calf crop, Management for efficient beef production</td>
<td>DeSoto County Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Beef Seminar: How will BSE and National Animal ID affect my operation? Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 6:30-8:30 PM</td>
<td>Turner Center Exhibit Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Beef Basics 101, DeSoto County Extension Office, 7:00 PM-Marketing feeder calves and cull cows, Record Keeping for cow-calf operations.</td>
<td>DeSoto County Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>DeSoto Ag-In-The Classroom, DeSoto Middle School, 6th Grade, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM</td>
<td>DeSoto Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Southwest Florida Farm Credit Annual Meeting, Hardee County Agri-Civic Center, Wauchula, Fl. 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Hardee County Agri-Civic Center, Wauchula, Fl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>DeSoto County Cattlemen’s Association Spring Meeting, Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Turner Center Exhibit Hall</td>
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### May

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>53rd Annual Beef Cattle Short Course, Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, Gainesville, Fl</td>
<td>Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, Gainesville, Fl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Anglers 4-H Fishing Club Meeting, Turner Center Exhibit Hall, 5:15-6:45 PM</td>
<td>Turner Center Exhibit Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Homeowner Horticulture Seminar- Ornamental Insect Pests, Desoto County Extension Office, 7:00-8:30 PM</td>
<td>Desoto County Extension Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Florida 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament, Lake Wales Country Club, Lake Wales, Fl</td>
<td>Lake Wales Country Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Beef Basics—Pasture Weed Identification and Management of Poisonous Plants, Desoto County Extension Office, 7:00-8:30 PM</td>
<td>Desoto County Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>STARS Forage/Beef Field Day - Subtropical Agricultural Research Station; Brooksville, FL</td>
<td>Brooksville, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Corn Silage Field Day, Plant Science and Education Research Unit, Citra, Fl</td>
<td>Plant Science and Education Research Unit, Citra, Fl</td>
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### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>Florida Cattlemen’s Association Convention and Allied Trade Show, Marco Island Marriott, Marco Island, Fl</td>
<td>Marco Island Marriott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CREEKSTONE ANTICIPATES TESTING APPROVAL
Creekstone Farms has begun sampling brain and stem tissue in cattle slaughtered at its Arkansas City, Kan.-based plant in anticipation of the USDA's approval of the company's plan to test all cattle for BSE. Creekstone executives believe Kansas State University will soon be designated as an approved BSE-rapid test site, and that the university will then designate the Creekstone lab a "satellite laboratory," where KSU technicians, under USDA supervision, will conduct BSE rapid tests.

Last week, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced accreditation of the first seven state laboratories for the federal BSE testing/surveillance program. The newly accredited labs are dispersed across the country to ease some of the burden of extra testing on the federal laboratory in Ames, Iowa. The seven labs are located in Davis, Calif.; Fort Collins, Colo.; Athens, Ga.; College Station, Texas; Pullman, Wash.; Madison, Wis.; and Ithaca, N.Y. — Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, March 25, 2004, Vol. 4, Issue 14

SUMMER BEEF PROMOTION READY TO SIZZLE
In an effort to help keep domestic beef demand strong in light of closed exports market, the beef industry is expanding its summer grilling campaign. The new checkoff-funded advertising, as part of the overall "Taste of America Summer Grilling Promotion," will tap into Americans' passion for beef during the summer grilling season. The Taste of America Summer Grilling Promotion will celebrate the anniversary of the hamburger, which made its public appearance at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Dozens of marketing elements make up this checkoff-funded summer campaign. For more information, visit www.BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com— Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, March 25, 2004, Vol. 4, Issue 14

FOREST SERVICE SELLS CATTLE IN GRAZING DISPUTE
The U.S. Forest Service auctioned cattle seized from a rancher in a long-running battle over grazing rights on public land, according to an Associated Press report. The cattle brought $121,000, which will help pay for gathering the cattle from the Gila National Forest. The rancher did not hold a lease for use of the Gila land but contends to have grazing rights based on historical use of the land predating the forest's creation in 1964. Authorities began rounding up cattle last month after a judge found the rancher in contempt of court for continuing to graze cattle in the forest in violation of earlier rulings against him. — Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, March 25, 2004, Vol. 4, Issue 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beef Management Calendar</th>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove bulls May 21 to end calving season March 1st</td>
<td>Check mineral feeder, use at least 8% phosphorus in mineral an not over 2 ½ to 1 calcium to phosphorus ratio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant warm season perennial pastures.</td>
<td>Check pastures and hay field for spittlebugs, mole crickets, and army worms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilize warm season pastures.</td>
<td>Treat if necessary; best month for mole cricket control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check mineral feeder.</td>
<td>Check dust bags.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check for spittlebugs and treat if necessary.</td>
<td>Watch for evidence of pinkeye and treat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply spot-on agents for grub and louse control.</td>
<td>Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinate and implant with growth stimulant any later calves.</td>
<td>Pregnancy check cows.</td>
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Bean acreage up, corn acres tight
With $9-plus soybean prices, it's no surprise that farmers intend to plant more beans this year.
According to a USDA report released last week, farmers intend to plant 75.4 million acres of soybeans — the largest crop ever. Despite being 1 million acres more than expected, the news hasn't dampened soybean futures, though it may in the coming months. But the opposite could be true with corn. The USDA estimates that just 79 million acres will go into corn this year. A record crop will be needed to maintain minimum stocks. Anticipate higher corn prices. — Greg Henderson, Drovers editor—Drovers Alert Thursday, March 25, 2004, Vol. 4, Issue 14

James F. Selph, DeSoto County Extension Director, IV, Livestock