## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Florida Cattlemen’s Association Quarterly Meeting</td>
<td>Sebring, Fl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>DeSoto County Legislative Session</td>
<td>1:30-4:00 PM, DeSoto County Administration Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### December

**FLORIDA CATTLEMEN’S INSTITUTE AND ALLIED TRADE SHOW**

The 22nd Annual Florida Cattlemen’s Institute and Allied Trade Show will be held January 20, 2005 at the Osceola Heritage Park (1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane off of Highway 192 East of Kissimmee). The theme this year is “Picking Up the Pieces / Preparing for the Lean Years”. The trade show will open at 8:00 AM with the program beginning at 8:45 AM. Randy Blach, Executive Vice President of Cattle Fax will be the Keynote speaker for this year. The Quality Inn Conference Center will have rates of $55.00 single and $59.00 double. You will need to mention the Florida Cattlemen’s Institute to get this rate.

### Industry-Wide Sigh of Relief Over Negative BSE Test

USDA’s announcement last evening of the negative test results on the animal whose initial rapid screening test results were inconclusive was a welcome relief for cattle producers going into the Thanksgiving holiday. Of course, the major takeaway news is that the animal did not have BSE, our screening program is working and, irrespective of the result, consumers are safe. Source: Beef Cow Weekly, November 26, 2004

### Bone Up on 2004 Tax Act Changes

The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 signed into law last month by President Bush includes some changes in the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) calculation, extension of Section 179, depreciation and other features. Under the new rules, agriculturalists using income averaging are no longer subject to the AMT calculation regarding federal income tax. This increases the value of income averaging and potentially lowers federal tax for farmers. This is especially important following high commodity prices this year.
The Section 179 depreciation allowance was increased from $25,000 to $100,000 back in 2003, and applied to tax years 2003-05. The 2004 law change extends that allowance through 2007. Keep in mind this deduction is for new or used property placed into use by farmers.

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**Beef Management Calendar**

**December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check for external parasites and treat if needed.</th>
<th>Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begin grazing small grain pastures (if ready).</td>
<td>Check mineral feeder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observe regularly for calving difficulties.</td>
<td>Rotate calving pastures to prevent diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch for scours in calves.</td>
<td>Check for army worms and treat if necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have dead animals posted by a veterinarian or diagnostic laboratory.</td>
<td>Investigate health of bulls before you buy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete review of management plan and update for next year.</td>
<td>Check replacement heifers to be sure they will be ready to breed 3 - 4 weeks prior to the main cow herd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.</td>
<td>Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**USDA MOVES TO IMPORT CANADIAN CATTLE**

Canada would be allowed to resume exports of live cattle and additional types of beef to the United States under a regulation approved by the USDA earlier this week. The regulation is now under review by the Office of Budget and Management, which signs off on all major regulatory changes, as well as Congress. Then the rule will be open to public comment, which means that a border reopening is several months away. In addition, a lawsuit filed by R-CALF challenging the rule will probably be heard early next year in court.  


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**FEEDYARD INVENTORIES UP SLIGHTLY**

Last Friday's USDA Cattle on Feed Report indicates that feedyard inventories as of Nov. 1 were 3 percent higher than one year earlier and 5 percent above Nov. 1, 2002. The report was in line with most analysts' expectations. October placements into feedyards, and October marketings, dropped 3 percent below last year's figure, but with two fewer slaughter days during October this year, the daily marketing average was about 6 percent higher than last year. Wholesale beef prices, meanwhile, gained close to $6 per hundredweight last week. For the complete Cattle on Feed report, go to [usda.mannlib.cornell.edu](http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu).  


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**EQIP) OPPORTUNITY: RESTORATION OF NATIVE RANGELANDS TO BENEFIT WILDLIFE AND RANGE RESOURCES**

I am including an insert about a special project is now available to provide financial assistance to landowners who are interested in improving bobwhite quail habitat. The project is funded by the USDA, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The deadline for signing up with the Farm Service Agency in Wauchula is December 15, 2004. There is not a lot of time, but it may be worth a phone call or a visit to the FSA Office if you have an interest in bob white quail production.
DOG FOOD FED TO CATTLE

Recently concern has been expressed about the practice of feeding dog food to show cattle to increase the “shine or bloom” prior to showing. This practice is highly discouraged and likely illegal because of concerns surrounding transmission of BSE. Pet food of any sort can contain ingredients that have been banned by the USDA as feedstuffs for cattle. Dog food in many instances contains meat and bone meal, beef and bone meal, lamb meal, meat products, or meat by-products. Feed ingredients that contain these products from ruminants (cattle, sheep, goat, deer, etc.) are illegal to feed to cattle regardless of the form that they are fed in (i.e. dog food, pelleted feeds). Dog food labels indicate that the food is for dogs only; feeding the food to cattle is off-label use of the product. Ultimately all show cattle will enter the human food chain. By providing cattle illegal feed ingredients our food safety, health, and cattle industry can be put in danger. Better, cheaper, and safer sources of protein and fat are available for show cattle rations. Anyone that owns cattle that will enter the human food chain has a responsibility to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of the product. One question to ask FFA/4-H advisors, leaders, or exhibitors, would you be willing to eat the products from your show calf knowing what you have fed or done? If not, why should anyone else? SOURCE: Matt Hersom, Assistant Professor Phone: (352) 392-2390 Tim Marshall, Professor Phone: (352) 392-1917 UF/IFAS, Department of Animal Sciences Gainesville, FL

CENTURY PIONEER FAMILY FARM PROGRAM HONORS CONTRIBUTIONS TO FLORIDA’S HISTORY

With less than 2 percent of Americans now living on farms, not many can trace their agricultural heritage back 100 years. Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson wants to honor Floridians who have maintained at least 100 years of continuous family farm ownership by certifying them as Century Pioneer Family Farms. “These families are the true pioneers of Florida’s proud agricultural tradition,” Bronson said. “They have seen firsthand the developments in farming over the past century. They have been through good times and trying times; experienced freezes, droughts, deluges and pest invasions. They know about hard work and the satisfaction it brings.” Florida has 176 certified Century Pioneer Family Farms in the program, which was initiated in 1985 by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and is now administered by the department's Florida Agricultural Museum. Bronson is asking families that have continuously owned a farm or ranch since 1905 to contact the department and request an application form. All families previously designated as Florida Century Pioneer Farm Families are also asked to contact the department to update their information. “The Florida Century Pioneer Family Farm program honors those families who struggled and worked for generations to build their farms, better themselves, and develop Florida’s modern agricultural industry,” Bronson said. “The program venerates their perseverance and helps preserve an important part of our state’s history for future generations.” Family members do not have to live in the state or on the property continuously, but title to at least part of the property must have remained in the family throughout the period for the family to be eligible for recognition. An abstract of title is the best evidence of continuous family ownership. The current title to the property must reside with a blood relative of the original owner or a legally adopted child of a descendant. In addition to receiving a certificate, Century Pioneer Family Farms also receives a sign that can be posted on the property denoting its significance. Only one certificate will be issued for each property, so relatives of families who have already been honored are not eligible for recognition for the same property. European agriculture began in Florida with the founding of St. Augustine in 1565, 44 years before Jamestown was founded. The oldest farms and the oldest farm families in the United States are Floridians. Florida was first in agriculture but frequently overlooked in American history because it was a Spanish colony and not one of the 13 British colonies. For information about the Century Pioneer Family Farm program or to request an application form, email famuseum@pcfl.net, or write to: Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture, 1850 Princess Place Road, Palm Coast, Florida 32137 SOURCE: Richard Gunnels, Phone: (850) 488-3022, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, http://www.doacs.state.fl.us Release - November 10, 2004-RSS

LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Cattle sales in Florida this year to date are currently 55,367 head less than last year’s sales, mostly due to damages caused by the recent hurricanes. Power outages and structural damages have temporarily closed many auction barns, and the task of clearing debris and repairing fences kept cattlemen from devoting time to selling their cattle. Out of forty-two scheduled auctions in September, only fifteen auctions took place. The hurricanes hit just as Florida’s cow-calf producers started shipping their calves to feedlots, a season that continues through October. Last year during the month of September 75,655 head were sold through the livestock markets. This year September, due to the hurricanes, 32,337 head were sold. Approximately sixty-five percent of Florida’s cattle-producing areas have been affected by the storms, and the livestock industry has lost about $100 million.
Jim Handley, executive vice president of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association, calls the situation in Florida “Tough. There’s a world of water. In places, you can’t even get a truck in to load calves.” Agricultural damage was widespread and new storms hindered recovery efforts. “The impact from these storms will be felt for months,” says Jim McAdams, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) president-elect. “Besides replacing the immediate losses of buildings, crops and livestock, producers will have to contend with pasture loss from thirty or more days of rain. That’s going to lower shipping weights, body condition scores, and that’s going to raise feed costs.” One of the first needs is to secure perimeter fencing to stop cattle from wandering across highways. The NCBA states in Region II – North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana – sent a load of fencing material, including 3,000 metal T-posts and 520 rolls of barbed wire. Dairy farmers have been forced to dump more than 300,000 gallons of milk because there were no tankers available to ship the milk out. Dairy and beef cattle will continue to be affected by storm-related problems such as stress. Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson praised the Bush Administration for its immediate economic response to the widespread agricultural damage endured in Florida by the Hurricanes. On September 27th, President Bush presented a supplemental funding bill that included $400 million specifically for disaster relief for agriculture in Florida and Alabama. Bronson gave particular appreciation to President George W. Bush, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, U.S. Representative Adam Putnam, and members of Florida’s congressional delegation. Governor Jeb Bush was also instrumental in securing the federal assistance, visiting Washington D.C. and lobbying members of the delegation and the Administration, Bronson said. Source: UF/IFAS Animal Science Department Newsletter, December 2004

JAPANESE TRADE SITUATION STILL MURKY

Resumption of beef trade with Japan will likely be later than sooner. That’s how Alan Smith, newly elected chairman of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) summed up the prognosis at last week’s Texas Cattle Feeders Association annual meeting. "According to USDA, law changes and systems should be in place to allow the shipment of beef to Japan by the end of the year," Smith said. "However, according to a Japanese representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, it will take longer. He failed to speculate on how long it might take, only that Japan would not be in a position to accept exports before the end of the year." Moreover, when trade does resume, Smith cautioned that beef exports can't be expected to return immediately to pre-ban levels. "Beef exports in 2003 amounted to nearly 1.3 million metric tons," Smith said. "That's 2.8 billion lbs., which is 11% to 13% of our production. The value of these exports to the industry was more than $3.8 billion in 2003." He said Cattle-Fax estimates the economic loss to feeders to be $9.50 to $10/cwt. as the result of beef export losses; another $3 to $4 due to the loss of export markets for variety meats; and another 50¢ to $1 because of interruptions in other bovine exports. "Add it up and the market closing hit us in the pocketbook to the tune of $13 to $15/cwt., or $165 to $190/head, Smith said. "In other words, a good year could have been a really great year." Smith expects beef trade to resume with Taiwan soon. As for South Korea, previously the third largest importer of U.S. beef, Smith said Korean officials have told U.S. negotiators to first come back with a proposal that would allow the importation of more South Korean rice into the U.S. "The next year or two will be especially challenging to USMEF and those of us who believe in the value of exporting beef," Smith said. "We will be asked to reintroduce a product with a great track record for taste and safety whose reputation has been tainted in the minds of many international consumers. We will have to explain the science, we will have to build the case for product safety and we will have to resurrect consumer confidence in our product." With that in mind, Smith told cattle feeders, "As incredibly small as the risk is of having infected animals in the human food supply or of contracting the human disease from the beef we eat, BSE remains the single most challenging trade issue confronting this country, and other beef exporting countries, for that matter." Source: Beef Stocker Trends, November 15, 2004.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year