

**DeSoto County
Beef Newsletter
2150 NE Roan Street,
Arcadia, FL 34266**

May 2009 / Volume 31 Number 5



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Beefbasis.com

June

15-18 Florida Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention & Allied Trade Show, Marco Island, FL

30 UF/IFAS Ona AREC Youth Field Day, Ona, FL

HOW LONG IS THE INTERVAL FROM CALVING TO RETURN TO HEAT CYCLES IN 2 YEAR-OLDS?

Research data sets have shown conclusively that cows that calve in thin body condition but regain weight and condition going into the breeding season do not rebreed at the same rate as those that calve in good condition and maintain that condition into the breeding season. The following table from Missouri researchers illustrates the number of days between calving to the return to heat cycles depending on body condition at calving and body condition change after calving.

Table 1. Predicted number of days from calving to first heat cycle as affected by body condition score at calving and body condition score change after calving in young beef cows. (Body condition score scale: 1 = emaciated; 9 = obese) Condition score change after calving to day 90.

Condition score at calving (below)	-1	-0.5	0	0.5	1	1.5	2
3	189	173	160	150	143	139	139
4	161	145	131	121	115	111	111
5	133	116	103	93	86	83	82
5.5	118	102	89	79	72	69	66

Adapted from Lalman, et al. 1997. Journal of Animal Science. 75:2003.

This data clearly points out that young cows that calve in thin body condition (BCS=3 or 4) cannot gain enough body condition after calving to return to heat cycles as quickly as cows that calve in moderate body condition (BCS = 5.5) and maintain or lose only a slight amount of condition. Cows must be rebred by 85 days after calving to calve again at the same time next year. Notice that none of the averages for two-year old cows that calved in thin body condition were recycling in time to maintain a 12 month calving interval. **Source: Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist! Reported in: Cattle Network, April 18, 2009.**

MONTANA WILL ALLOW HORSE SLAUGHTER

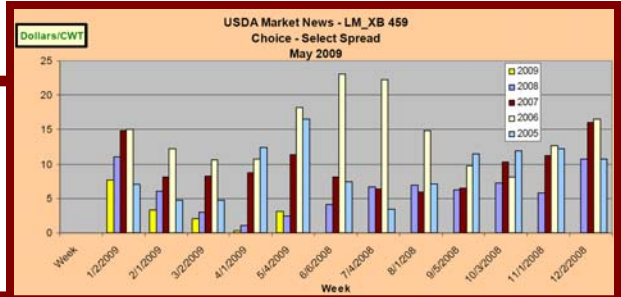
A measure to allow privately owned horse processing facilities in Montana became law last week when Gov. Brian Schweitzer allowed the bill to lapse into law. HB 418 insulates prospective plant developers from permit and licensing challenges on environmental and other grounds. The measure automatically became law after Schweitzer declined to sign or veto it 10 days after it reached his desk. Schweitzer had previously vetoed the bill and sent an amended version back to the legislature. But legislators returned the bill to its original form and sent it back to Schweitzer a second time. Still pending before the U.S. Congress is the 2009 Prevention of Cruelty to Equines Act and the Prohibit Horses for Human Consumption Act. **Source—Drovers Alert, May 7, 2009 —Volume 9, Issue 18.**

MARKET INFORMATION

May 4, 2009

	5/2/09	Last Week	Last Year
5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED CATTLE PRICE			
Live Steer	85.69	87.89	92.27
Live Heifer	85.79	87.93	92.28
Dressed Steer	137.54	142.24	148.25
Dressed Heifer	136.70	141.64	147.83

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lm_ct150.txt



	5/2/09 (Estimate)	Last Week (Estimate)	Last Year (Actual)
BEEF PRODUCTION			
Slaughter	665,000	644,000	701,000
Live Weights	1287	1296	1256
Dressed Weights	780	785	764
Beef Production (M. of Pounds)	516.7	503.6	533.7

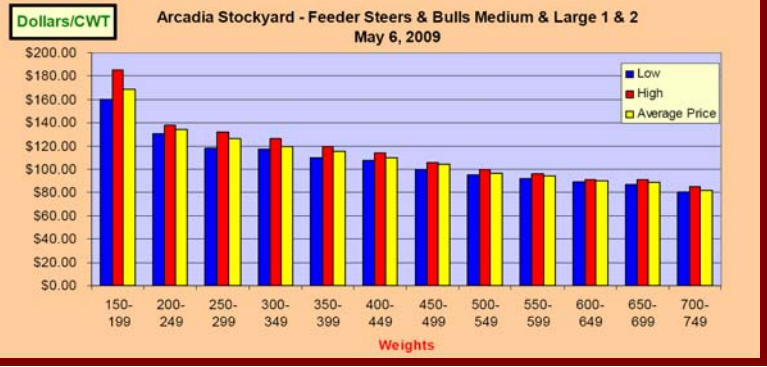
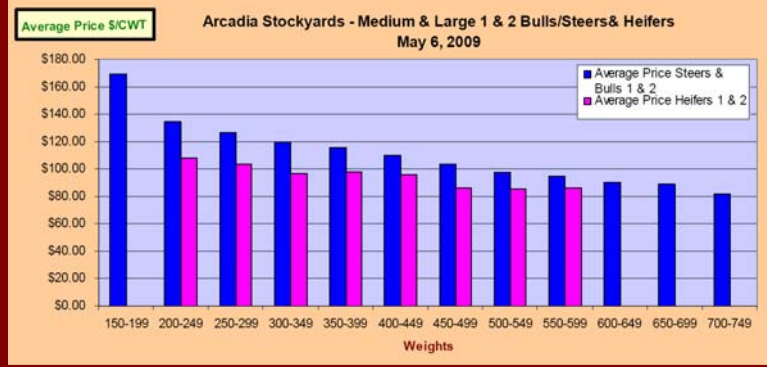
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_LS712.txt

Choice/Select Spread
5/4/09
\$3.10/cwt
http://marketnews.usda.gov/gear/browseby/txt/LM_XB403.TXT

	4/18/09	Last Week	Last Year
National Grading Percent			
Prime	3.06%	3.03%	2.86%
Choice	60.96%	60.38%	57.39%
Select	28.82%	29.09%	32.33%

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/NW_LS196.txt

Note: Last month, the spread was \$0.00 for the date of issue. The price spread at one time was actually negative. A low spread is indicative of the slowing of demand for beef. Jim



The summary below reflects the week ending May 1, 2009 for Medium and Large 1 & 2- 500- to 550-lb., 600- to 650-lb., and 700- to 750-lb. heifers and steers. **Source: USDA National Feeder and Stocker Summary-SJ_LS850.**

State	Volume	Steers			Heifers		
		500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.	500-550 lbs.	600-650 lbs.	700-750 lbs.
TX	18,500	No Report	\$97.16	No Report	\$101.06	\$87.40	\$87.89
AL	12,400	\$102-110	\$94-103	\$89-95	\$87-96	\$84-90	\$81-89
TN	8,100	\$106.48	\$100.28	\$91.31	\$90.86	\$85.24	\$81.50
FL	6,000	\$91-110	\$81-95	No Report	\$82-90	\$80-84	No Report
GA	7,300	\$93-110	\$85-104	\$81-100	\$81-94	\$78-90	\$74-82
KY	28,300	\$107.84	\$102.08	\$93.17	\$92.71	\$87.66	\$84.74
OK	28,900	\$112.17	\$106.76	\$101.17	\$101.13	\$94.53	\$91.55
MO	31,800	\$109.11	\$104.66	\$99.71	\$98.56	\$94.03	\$88.81

Alabama reported only Med. Large 1

CORN:

Kansas City US No 2 rail White Corn was 5 to 9 cents higher from 3.86-3.96 per bushel. Kansas City US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 21 to 25 cents higher at 3.94 per bushel. Omaha US No 2 truck Yellow Corn was 18 cents higher from 3.89-3.96 per bushel. Chicago US No 2 Yellow Corn was 15 ¼ to 18 ¼ cents higher from 3.75 ¼-4.05 ¼ per bushel. Toledo US No 2 rail Yellow corn was 16 ¼ to 18 ¼ cents higher from 3.88 ¼-3.94 ¼ per bushel. Minneapolis US No 2 Yellow Corn rail was 16 ½ cents higher at 3.82 ½ per bushel. **Source: USDA Weekly National Grain Market Review, Friday May 1, 2009** http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SJ_GR851.txt

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FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL RAINFALL—2009 [HTTP://DESOTO.IFAS.UFL.EDU/](http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
2009	0.32"	0.37"	1.83"	0.62"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3.14"
2008	1.87"	1.51"	2.52"	3.33"	2.55"	7.09"	6.79"	8.42"	2.69"	2.12"	0.27"	1.14"	40.30"
2007	1.93"	2.09"	0.81"	2.80"	2.28"	5.04"	5.42"	5.57"	4.56"	1.46"	0.05"	0.78"	32.79"
2006	0.32"	3.26"	0.97"	0.14"	2.07"	2.71"	5.84"	9.30"	4.15"	1.36"	0.81"	2.13"	33.06"
2005						9.71"	8.73"	5.86"	4.03"	8.78"	3.78"	0.11"	NA

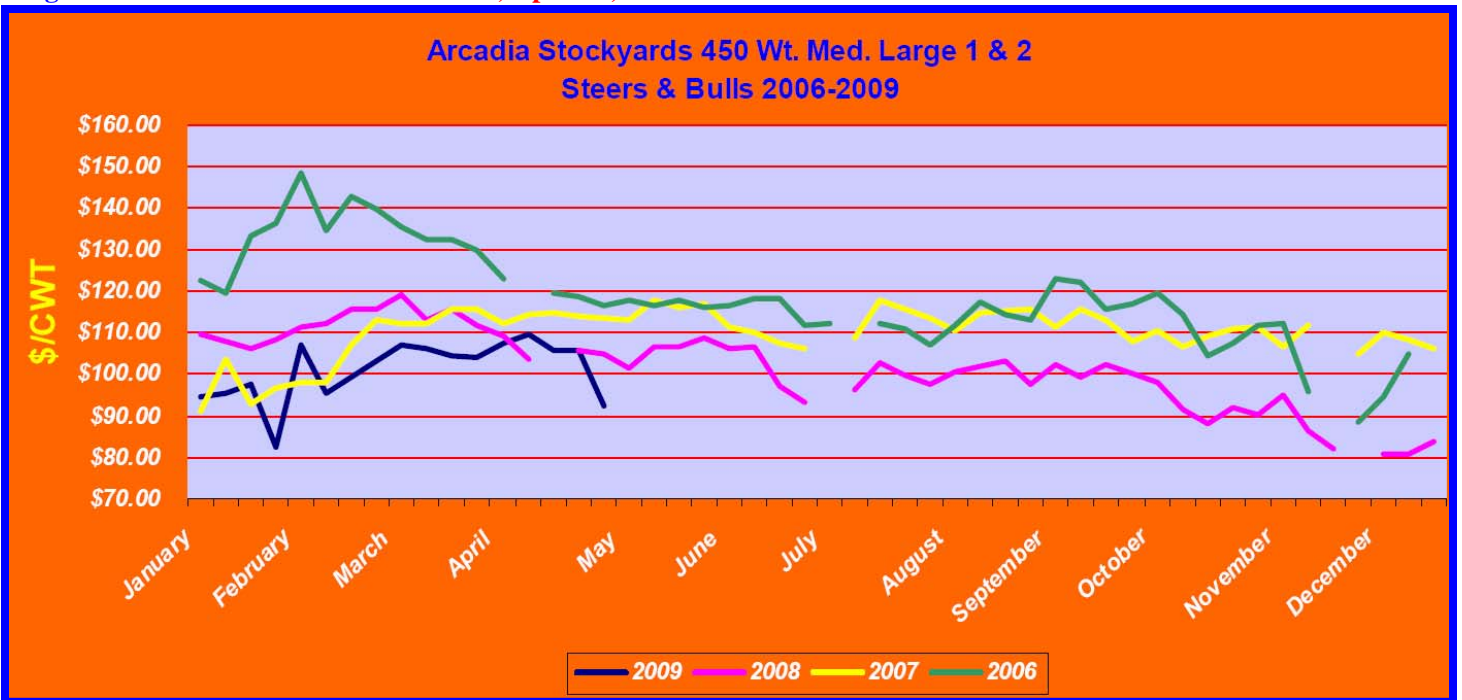
FAWN—DESOTO COUNTY HIGH & LOW TEMPERATURES (2 METERS) AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

HIGH	82.8°	85.5°	87.9°	89.7°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	NA
LOW	26.0°	26.2°	34.8°	42.1°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	°	NA

Rainfall for 2009 is 6.09 inches behind 2008—6.49" behind 108 Year Average

MISS AMERICA GIVES CREDIT TO 4-H

Ask Katie Stam about her passion for community service, and she'll tell you it all started with 4-H. Long before winning her title as Miss America, Katie Stam from Seymour, Ind. would spend hours in 4-H performing in creative dramatics, competing at the Jackson County fair, and visiting with 4-H friends and family. It was there that she learned the values of leadership, mentorship, and community service. And like most 4-H kids, she collected blue ribbons and trophies along the way to mark her accomplishments. In January the Indiana farm girl was crowned Miss America 2009 and now that she's in the national spotlight, Stam is getting the message out that community service is important and rewarding. Stam's platform, Promoting Community Service and Involvement, aims to get youth involved in their own neighborhoods. **Source: Cattle Network, April 18, 2009.**



I have created this chart, because a number of you have asked for this seasonality information. Pulling this information takes quite a bit of time and is somewhat tedious. I plan to over the next several months create several of these for different weights and classes of market animals. If you are wondering about the gaps in data, this is due primarily to holidays when the market is closed. In April of 2006, there was a week that no 450 Weight Medium Large 1 & 2 Steers and Bulls were recorded as sold. 2006 was a very good year overall, but the take home message of this chart is that the higher prices are predominately recorded in late winter or early spring. **Jim**

BEEF BASIS.COM

If you are a computer person, you might want to take a look at this website. Beef Basis is a website that we have recently heard about at the Southeast Beef Cattle Marketing School and the UF Animal Science Shortcourse. Type in <http://beefbasis.com/> to get to the website. Two areas of interest are: the forecasting tools and the market data tool. If you are like me, some of the forecasting tools may be beyond our abilities, but you may enjoy playing with this site. **Jim**

Beef Management Calendar

April/May

Remove Bulls.	Fertilize warm season pastures.
Check mineral feeder.	Apply Spot-On Agent for Grubs and Louse.
Vaccinate and Implant (except for replacement heifers) any late calves.	Reimplant calves at 90 to 120 days with growth stimulant.
Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done.	Pregnancy check cows.
Fertilize warm season pastures.	

ECONOMIC INDICATORS: APRIL 2009

Although cattle-feeding margins during March showed losses of \$65 per head, feedyards are beginning to show cattle with breakeven prices that are near \$80 per hundredweight. That's a result of a \$10-per-hundredweight decline in feeder-cattle prices when they were placed on feed last November. Thus, feedyard margins are projected to be profitable during April and remain at or near breakeven during May. Cattle on feed inventories continue to be tight, but weights are about 25 pounds higher than a year earlier. Packer margins turned negative during March as wholesale beef prices remained under pressure from poor demand. Packer margins are likely to stay under pressure for the next two months. Grain prices are trending higher as planting begins on the 2009 corn crop. **Source: Drovers, April 15, 2009.**

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS 2009

Corn growers intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down 1 percent from last year as lower corn prices and unstable input costs are discouraging some growers from planting corn. If realized, this will be the second consecutive year-over-year decrease since 2007 but will still be the third largest acreage since 1949, behind 2007 and 2008. Expected acreage is down from last year in many States, however, producers in the 10 major corn producing States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) collectively intend to plant 66.3 million acres, up slightly from the 66.1 million acres planted last year.

Soybean producers intend to plant 76.0 million acres in 2009, up slightly from last year. If realized, the U.S. planted area would be the largest on record. Acreage increases of 100,000 acres or more are expected in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Ohio. The largest decreases are expected in Missouri and South Dakota, both 150,000 acres less than 2008. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas and New York will be the largest on record and the planted acreage in North Dakota will tie the previous record high.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 58.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2008. The 2009 winter wheat planted area, at 42.9 million acres, is 7 percent below last year but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.38 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.65 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2009 is expected to total 13.3 million acres, down 6 percent from 2008. Of this total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The expected Durum planted area for 2009 is 2.45 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous year. **Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, March 31, 2009.**

Castorbean, *Ricinus communis*, is a plant that we may see growing near roadsides, ditch bank, etc & at times in pastures. The lectins in castor bean can be lethal by multiple routes (ingestion, injection, inhalation) and a little goes a long ways. Only a few molecules can inactivate a cell's ribosomes' activity and thereby block protein synthesis. The principle toxin is "ricin", which is one of the most toxic chemicals on earth. All parts are toxic and will kill cattle and horses. Six seeds will kill a horse or a cow. **Jim**



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

"No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden". Thomas Jefferson

Body condition or changes in body condition is a more reliable indicator in evaluating nutritional status than liveweight or changes in liveweight. Although cows with higher BCS tend to have higher weight, the body weight alone is not a good estimate of body condition. Most herds have a range in frame and muscling in their cows that make BCS a better measure of body fat than liveweight. Liveweight is also affected greatly by gut fill and pregnancy status, which are seasonal depending on the breeding season, forage quality and forage availability. In winter feeding studies, the body condition loss is usually much higher than the body weight loss.

On many ranches, body condition can be evaluated regularly in circumstances where weighing may be impractical. This technique is easy to learn and can be very useful in making management decisions.

BODY CONDITION SCORES

Body condition of beef cows is scored from 1 (thin) to 9 (fat). This system has been used by many cattlemen and researchers as a guideline in evaluating the body condition. It should be realized that any visual scoring system will vary depending on the people doing the scoring and scoring by different people will not agree exactly. However, condition scores are not likely to vary by more than one score between experienced evaluators.

It is not difficult to evaluate body condition of cattle. The first step is to determine which areas of the body are most useful in determining body condition (Figure 1). Fat deposits are visible over the back, tail head, pins, hooks, ribs and brisket of cattle. A description of body condition scores is given in Table 1 and pictures of cows representative of BCS 2 to 8 are shown in Plates 1-15:

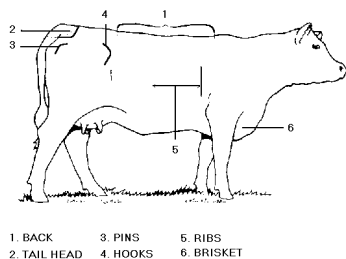


Figure 1.



Plate 1. *Bos indicus*, BCS 1



Plate 2. *Bos taurus*, BCS 2



Plate 3. *Bos taurus*, BCS 3



Plate 4. *Bos indicus*, BCS 3



Plate 5. *Bos taurus*, BCS 4



Plate 6. *Bos indicus*, BCS 4



Plate 11. *Bos taurus*, BCS 7



Plate 7. *Bos taurus*, BCS 5



Plate 12. *Bos indicus*, BCS 7



Plate 8. *Bos indicus*, BCS 5



Plate 13. *Bos taurus*, BCS 8



Plate 9. *Bos taurus*, BCS 6



Plate 14. *Bos indicus*, BCS 8



Plate 10. *Bos indicus*, BCS 6



Plate 15. *Bos taurus*, BCS 9

Table 1. Description of body condition scores (BCS) (1 [thin] to 9 [obese])^a.

BCS	% Body Fat ^a	Detailed Description ^b
Thin		
1	3.77	Clearly defined bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins easily visible. Little muscle tissue or fat present.
2	7.54	Small amount of muscling in the hindquarters. Fat is present, but not abundant. Space between spinous process is easily seen.
3	11.30	Fat begins to cover loin, back and foreribs. Upper skeletal structures visible. Spinous process is easily identified.
Borderline		
4	15.07	Foreribs becoming less noticeable. The transverse spinous process can be identified by palpation. Fat and muscle tissue not abundant, but increasing in fullness.
Optimum		
5	18.89	Ribs are visible only when the animal has been shrunk. Processes not visible. Each side of the tail head is filled, but not mounded.
6	22.61	Ribs not noticeable to the eye. Muscling in hindquarters plump and full. Fat around tail head and covering the foreribs.
7	26.38	Spinous process can only be felt with firm pressure. Fat cover in abundance on either side of tail head.
Fat		
8	30.15	Animal smooth and blocky appearance; bone structure difficult to identify. Fat cover is abundant.
9	33.91	Structures difficult to identify. Fat cover is excessive and mobility may be impaired.

^a (Source: NRC, 2000)

^b (Adapted from: Herd and Sprott, 1986)

How to Body Condition Score

To properly evaluate body condition for cattle, an observer must be familiar with skeletal structures and with muscle and fat positioning. Although there are several methods available to determine body composition, many cattlemen use a scoring system that involves ranking cattle on a scale. This manuscript will focus on the commonly used scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being emaciated and 9 being obese (Whitman, 1975).

Cattlemen can easily observe cattle under pasture conditions to obtain body condition scores. Familiarity with key skeletal structures listed in Figure 1 (p. 3) is required to apply an accurate body condition score. A description of each condition score is listed in Table 1.

Body condition scoring is a subjective measurement, meaning that one producer may score slightly different than another. The producer can gain experi-

ence using body condition scores by identifying cattle into one of three categories: thin (1 to 3), borderline (4), optimum (5 to 7) or too fat (8 and 9). Over time, as the producer becomes familiar with details of each specific body condition score, these categories can be further broken into actual condition scores. Research reported by the University of Florida (Table 2, page 4) demonstrates that as cattle decrease from a body condition score of 5 to 4, they may have reduced pregnancy rates by as much as 30 percent. An additional 30 percent of pregnancies can be lost when cattle drop from a 4 to a 3. Cattle that receive a BCS of 5 or below may have reduced pregnancy rates. Although most cattlemen tend to keep cows on the thin side, cattle that are obese (BCS of 8 to 9) may also have reduced pregnancy rates.



**University of Florida/IFAS
Jim Selph, Livestock, Forages, Wildlife
DeSoto County Extension**

FORAGE WEED MANAGEMENT

Blackberry:

Remedy:	1 qt / acre	Fall Only
Pasturegard:	2 qt / acre	Fall Only
Cimarron:	0.5 oz / acre	Flowering or Fall
Telar	1.0 oz / acre	

- (1) Flowering Stage – Feeds the rhizome
- (2) Fall – Feeds the rhizome
- (3) Cimarron – Devastating to Bahia (90%)

Spiny Pigweed:

Weedmaster:		
Telar:	0.1 oz / acre	\$2.00 / acre

Dogfennel:

Weed master:	\$8.00 / qt	
	0 – 12 in. tall	2 pts
	12- 24 in. tall	3 pts
	>24 in tall	Not Recommended
Pasturegard:		\$6.00 / pint
	Up to 24 – 30	2 pts
	3 pts total control all sizes	

Cleanwave (Fluroxpyr):	(Read the Cleanwave supplemental label or see EDIS Fact Sheet on Cleanwave tankmixes for dogfennel control—SSAGR -283).	
	14 -26 oz / acre	\$0.50 per oz
	* 14 oz Cleanwave + 2, 4 – D (1 qt)	\$10.00 / acre

Prickly Pear:

20%Remedy + 80%Basal oil – sprayed one at a time on each plant.
Cleanwave: 50 oz / acre in fall (October)

Florida Pusley:

Forefront + Cleanwave	2 pt + 14 oz
Forefront + Pasturegard	2 pt + 1 pt

Sedges:

14 varieties – Species	
Plateau, Impose, Panoramic	4 oz
Severe stunting of Bahia or Bermuda	
Outrider (Certainty – sulfosulfuron)	
	1.33 oz / acre
	\$20.00 / acre

- (1) Zero days grazing
- (2) Only established Bahia

As with all recommendations, the label is the law, always read the label before mixing and spraying.
Source: UF / IFAS AG CEU DAY (Poly-Com)—April 21, 2009—Presented by Dr. Jay Ferrell.
www.plantmanagementnetwork.com