



Winter Supplementation

With the days becoming shorter and the average daily temperature steadily declining preparation for the winter grazing season should be in full swing. While you prepare for the winter feeding season there are several options to be reviewed. The strategies to feed the cow herd can be broken down into three distinct options: Forage Management, Cattle Management, and Supplementation. Forage management should be primarily focused on producing and/or storing forages for consumption during the winter season. This includes evaluating hay production, annual forage plantings, forage testing, and potential hay treatments. Cattle management should be primarily focused on evaluating the ability to balance available forage with cow numbers and establishing herd nutrient requirements. This can include early weaning of calves, selling of cows, evaluating BCS and grouping of cattle by sex, maturity, and pregnancy status. The third strategy is that of supplementation. The supplementation of the cow herd is focused on Daily Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) and Crude Protein (CP) requirements of the cow herd. With the current commodity price inflation and its potential to stay that way for the next 12-18 months, evaluating the TDN and CP of both forage reserves and potential purchases is critical. Along with

establishing costs we must also look at the TDN and CP requirements of the segmented herd. When supplementing it is essential to only supplement those cattle that it will give an economic response. Fleshy, open, or late calving animals need to be separated from the herd being offered supplement. Also important is determining the level of supplementation of your herd based on Body Condition Score (BCS), level of production, weather and other factors. This is done through monitoring and management decision making. Never wait until the cattle are thin to supplement as regaining BCS is harder than maintaining BCS. Finally we need to select a cost effective supplement for energy and/or protein and/or mineral based on the above factors. For more in-depth information on this subject please refer to the EDIS publication: Strategies for Cost-Effective Supplementation of Beef Cattle by Matt Hersom and W.E. Kunkle from which this information is derived. If you have any questions or would like to review your winter supplementation plan, please feel free to give me a call.

Ken Johnson

Director and Livestock Agent

DeSoto County Extension Office

Calendar of Events

October 2012

- 16 Pasture Weed Field Day
- 16-17 Florida Beef Excellence Institute
- 25-27 ABS Global Training School

November 2012

- 9 Arcadia Black & White Bull Sale/ Meadows Creek Farm
- 10 Chobee Cattle Prospect Show
- 17 Agfest Cattle Prospect Show
- 19-20 Cracker Cattle and Horse Gatherin' and sale
- 29-30 FCA Year-End Quarterly Meeting

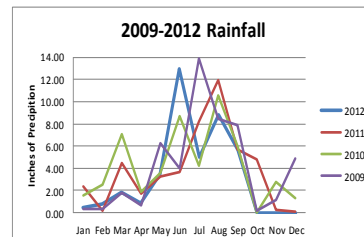
Beef Management Checklist

October

- Plant cool season legumes.
- Plant small grain pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for external parasites, especially lice, and treat if needed.
- Check for spittlebugs and grassloopers and treat, if needed.
- Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition.
- Isolate any additions to the herd for 30 to 60 days and observe for signs of disease; retest for brucellosis and leptospirosis.
- Be sure you have adequate handling facilities, and they are in good working order.
- If you are raising bulls for the commercial market, October thru December is the main bull-buying season for cattlemen in south Florida and now is the time to have your promotion program fully activated.

2009-2012 Monthly Precipitation

	2012	2011	2010	2009
Jan	0.48	2.39	1.59	0.32
Feb	0.75	0.17	2.53	0.37
Mar	1.80	4.47	7.03	1.83
Apr	0.83	1.71	1.85	0.62
May	3.45	3.22	3.58	6.23
Jun	12.92	3.67	8.66	3.95
Jul	4.96	8.22	4.26	13.88
Aug	8.82	11.92	10.57	8.44
Sep	5.63	5.66	6.04	7.91
Oct		4.79	0.04	0.17
Nov		0.24	2.74	1.16
Dec		0.07	1.33	4.86
	39.64	46.53	50.22	49.74



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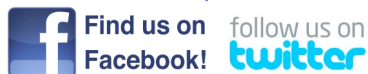
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Cattle Board

Board Prices	Wed Oct 03	Thur Oct 04	Fri Oct 05	Mon Oct 08	Tues Oct 09	Change
Live Cattle	123.08	122.33	123.05	123.35	124.70	1.35
Feeder Cattle	145.30	144.48	144.83	144.83	144.70	-0.13
Corn	7.57	7.57	7.48	7.42	7.42	0.00

Boxed Beef	Wed Oct 03	Thur Oct 04	Fri Oct 05	Mon Oct 08	Tues Oct 09	Change
Boxed Beef—Choice	190.70	191.35	189.99	190.57	191.20	0.63
Boxed Beef—Select	177.53	177.09	175.64	176.42	177.29	0.87
Boxed Beef—C/S	13.17	14.26	14.35	14.14	13.91	-0.23

Other	Wed Oct 03	Thru Oct 04	Fri Oct 05	Mon Oct 08	Tues Oct 09	Change
Est. Cattle Slaughter	121,000	120,000	115,000	128,000	127,000	-1,000
Daily Drop	13.29	13.29	13.26	13.31	13.26	-0.05
Cutter Cow Cutout	159.46	159.60	159.07	159.35	158.84	-0.51
Beef Carcass—Ch	179.24	178.95	179.34	179.55	179.90	0.35

Pasture Weed Day 2012

**Ona Range Cattle Research and
Education Center**

Tuesday, October 16, 2012—9:00 AM

\$50 On-site registration

Are you battling smutgrass? What new herbicides are available for pasture weed control? Do you really have Johnsongrass? How do you control bracken fern? Can I really calibrate a hand-held sprayer? What does “spray to wet” mean when spotspraying? These are all questions we ask. Every year we are challenged with new questions, problems, and sometimes, new weeds. It is our goal to help you find an economical approach to weed control in your pastures.

Who Should Attend?

- Ranchers
- Herbicide Applicators
- Extension Educators
- Anyone who wants to learn more about weed control in pastures