

# FROM THE GROUND UP

*UF/ IFAS DeSoto County Extension*

## Welcome!

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the new DeSoto County Extension newsletter. In this issue you will find information on the various happenings around the extension office, DeSoto County, and the UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension. I hope to bring you interesting, valuable, and cost benefiting information in this new format. We have seen many of you in the last few months at many of our program activities including the herd health management course, the 2012 DeSoto County Fair, the Ona Field day and many other community activities. Over the next few months you will begin to

see many programs and events ranging from beef cattle production, Young/Begging Farmer and Rancher leadership development, and small farms activities. As always when questions arise please don't hesitate to contact our office so that we may be of service.

Respectfully yours,

Ken Johnson, County Extension  
Director and Agent



### ONA FIELD DAY

On April 12, 2012 the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona held it's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and field day. The day was marked with an animal handling presentation from Dr. Temple Grandin of Colorado State University, Beef Quality Assurance update from Dr. Matt Hersom of the University of Florida and a cattle handling demonstration done by Curt Pate. The field day reviewed the many research

activities and educational opportunities that the RCREC has to offer. Dr. John Arthington, the Center Director, stated that "The research programs at the center have and will continue to be directed toward the creation of applicable solutions to real world problems"

## Ag Calendar

### May

- May 2-4<sup>th</sup> Beef Cattle Short Course, Alto Straughn Extension Building, Gainesville
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> Florida Farm Bureau Youth speech contest
- May 12<sup>th</sup> Farmers Market Tree of Knowledge park, Arcadia
- May 19<sup>th</sup>, Small Farms Livestock Production Conference, Turner Center

### June

- June 14<sup>th</sup> Youth Field Day, Range Cattle REC, Ona
- June 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> FCA Annual Meeting, Marco Island
- June 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Florida Dairy Goat Association Annual Meeting, Turner Center

### WHATS IN SEASON

Bell Pepper, Blueberry, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cantaloupe, Carrot, Cauliflower, Celery, Cucumber, Eggplant, Grapefruit, Guava, Lettuce, Lime, Mushroom, Onion, Orange, Papaya, Potato, Radish, Snap Bean, Squash, Strawberry, Sweet Corn, Tangerine, Tomato, and Watermelon

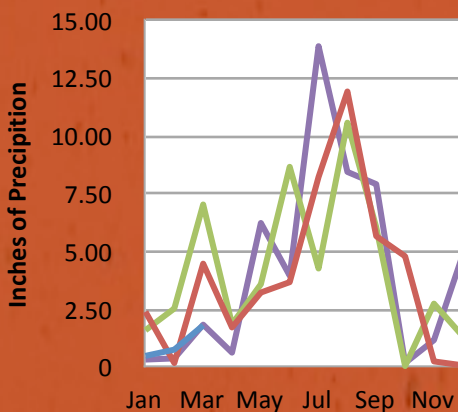
# BEEF MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

- Remove Bulls
- Check Mineral Feeder
- Vaccinate & Implant (Except for replacement heifers) any late calves
- Get heifers vaccinated for brucellosis if not already done
- Fertilize warm season pastures
- Treat for grubs & Lice
- Re-implant calves at 90-120 days with growth stimulant
- Pregnancy check
- Check dust bags or apply treated ear tags

## 2009-2012 RAINFALL AMOUNTS

	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	-	1.71	1.85	0.62
May	-	3.22	3.58	6.23
Jun	-	3.67	8.66	3.95
Jul	-	8.22	4.26	13.88
Aug	-	11.92	10.57	8.44
Sep	-	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
	3.03	46.53	50.22	49.74

— 2012 — 2011 — 2010 — 2009



# CATTLE ANALYZER



Daily Reports	Thu 19-Apr	Fri 20-Apr	Mon 23-Apr	Tue 24-Apr	Change
CME Live Cattle	120.7	120.55	119.8	116.8	-3
CME Feeder Cattle	150.88	150.13	149.43	148.4	-1.03
Feeder Cattle Index	150.18	149.96	149.48	0	-0.48
CBOT: Corn	6.21	6.13	6.23	6.18	-0.05
DJIA	1,290,200	1,298,800	1,287,100	1,287,100	0
Meat Price Cash Index	133.28	134.37	133.45	134.67	1.22
Boxed Beef: AM	186.87	188.1	187.83	189.2	1.37
Boxed Beef: PM	187.08	188.01	188.57	189.94	1.37
Daily Drop	13.47	13.47	13.57	13.61	0.04
Est. Cattle Slaughter	125,000	123,000	120,000	126,000	6,000
Cutter Cow Cutout	174.37	174.42	175.12	175.48	0.36
Weekly Reports	30-Mar	6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	Change
Beef Production	475.4	490.3	456.8	469.3	12.5
Cattle Slaughter	602,000	622,000	582,000	598,000	16,000
Cattle Weights: Live	1,308	1,304	1,298	1,298	0
Cattle Weights: Dressed	792	790	787	787	0
Cattle Trade: Steers	125.55	121.91	122.16	122.71	0.55
Export: Sales	-9,660	13,159	23,486	20,748	-2,738
Export: Shipped	15,222	16,011	16,776	16,839	63
COT: Open Int - Live Cattle	354,737	361,339	345,591	349,958	4,367
COT: Open Int - Corn	1,309,002	1,342,159	1,349,593	1,355,022	5,429
Feedstuffs: Soybean Meal	362.5	371.2	370.8	372.8	2
Gasoline Prices	3.79	3.83	3.87	3.92	0.05
Diesel Prices	3.89	3.99	4.01	3.96	-0.05
Monthly Reports	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Change
Cattle on Feed	11,861,000	11,811,000	11,677,000	11,482,000	-195,000
Feedlot Occupancy	71.02%	70.72%	69.92%	68.75%	-1.17%
Marketing	1,796,000	1,816,000	1,755,000	1,918,000	163,000
Beef In Storage	414,647	435,174	444,963	460,238	15,275
Cattle Slaughter	2,754,800	2,715,700	2,557,700	2,751,100	193,400
Retail Beef Prices	0	4.49	4.465	4.489	0.024
Exports By Country	229,919	223,948	229,891	182,248	-47,643
Imports By Country	157,009	141,205	156,258	190,393	34,135
Red Meat Production	4,216.40	4,123.40	3,914.00	4,169.70	255.7

# Energy Efficiency

## SOLUTIONS for *your* LIFE

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning accounts for more than 40% of the average utility bill.

For every degree setting below 78°F, you spend up to 8% more in cooling costs.



Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of the energy a typical household uses for cooling



### 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE)

Signup for the 2010 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program (SURE) continues through June 01, 2012. 2010 SURE is for those who suffered crop production losses during crop year 2010.

### NAP Application Closing Dates

Counties serviced by this service center are considered to be in the "South Florida" region. Many application closing dates have changed and several planting periods have been added to our NAP Crop Table. The following application closing dates are applicable to this service center for the 2013 season:

July 31, 2012

Beans, Cucumber, Eggplant, Greens, Herbs, Lettuce, Onions, Peas, Peppers, Pumpkins, Squash, Tomatoes, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Corn for Silage

FSA Newsletters & Notifications are now being published via emails. To signup please contact your local FSA office or go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>

## Water Conservation

### Southwest Florida Water Management

District Watering Schedule Restrictions apply to all of Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter counties and portions of Lake and Levy counties except where stricter measures have been imposed by local governments. Always refer to your local government or utility restriction guidelines first. This is a summary; for details see [www.watermatters.org](http://www.watermatters.org), or call 800-848-0499.

### Lawn Watering Schedule and Times

Lawn watering is limited to twice per week unless your city or county has a different schedule or

stricter hours in effect,

Even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

Odd addresses may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

## EVENTS

### SMALL FARMS LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION CONFERENCE

DeSoto County Turner Center  
Exhibit Building Arcadia, FL

May 19, 2012

Sponsored by:  
The South Florida Beef-  
Forage Program  
UF IFAS Extension  
**Contact the extension  
office for more  
information**



Florida Small Farms and  
Alternative Enterprises  
CONFERENCE

July 27-29, 2012

Kissimmee, FL

**Educating Entrepreneurs  
to Strengthen Local Food  
Systems**

**Contact the extension  
office for more  
information**



### Celebrating the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Florida Beef Cattle Short Course

*Making Dollars and Sense in  
the Cattle Industry*

May 2-4, 2012

Alto and Patricia Straughn  
IFAS Extension  
Professional Development  
Center

**Contact the extension office  
for more information**

make it  
bake it  
grow it

Farmers Market  
2nd Saturday of the month at  
the tree of knowledge park.  
For more info on dates and  
times or how to become a  
vendor please call 863.494.2020

## 4-H Spotlight

By: Kristie Popa  
4-H Agent

### Calendar of Events

#### 4-H calendar of events

- May 1<sup>st</sup> Ag Literacy day on
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> Tropicana Speech Contest, with the District Contest
- June 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>: Camp Cloverleaf
- July 12<sup>th</sup>: Doggy Day Camp
- July 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>: From Farm to Fork
- August 8<sup>th</sup>: Cattle Grooming Clinic
- August 13<sup>th</sup>&14<sup>th</sup>: From Grove to Glass

<http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H>

### 4-H Update

The 2011-12 4-H year has been very busy and productive thanks to our hard working DeSoto County 4-H members, parents and volunteers. We had many of our 4-H kids exhibit at the fair successfully, we also recently had double the amount of members from last year attend county events. The first annual DeSoto County AgVenture was a huge success. AgVenture was a day long program which 400 of DeSoto County's 4<sup>th</sup> graders attended to learn about different aspects of agriculture. Another great new project area has been introduced to DeSoto County 4-H, a citrus tree project which will last throughout the year. Thanks to Mr. Lynn Steward at Orange Co., the members were given an orange tree, pot, soil and fertilizer to get them started. The members (40) will attend workshops and complete projects throughout the year related to the citrus industry here in Florida. The culmination of the project will be at the 2013 county fair with a tree judging and sale.

Sign up on our website to receive this newsletter, upcoming local events conferences information, and other important updates from our office in your email box. <http://desoto.ifas.ufl.edu>



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