

## **POLK COUNTY LIVESTOCK REPORT**

Polk County Extension • University of Florida • IFAS • 1702 Highway 17 South • Bartow, FL

<http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

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- *Due to state and county budget cuts, postage funds are limited. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please email me at [bccarlis@ufl.edu](mailto:bccarlis@ufl.edu) to let me know.*
- *If you know fellow producers that are not receiving this newsletter, please share my contact information with them so that they may be added to the list.*
- *If you have information that needs to be included in the newsletter, please let me know.*

October—December, 2014  
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It's Fall, finally! Unfortunately, as the Dog Days of summer fade away, so does our forage production. Now is the time to start planning, if you haven't already, your winter supplementation program.

In this issue, you will find information the final Florida Cattle Identification Rule, panthers, bull selection and two new limpograss varieties. Also included is an opportunity to get BQA certified for free! I invite and encourage you to participate in the upcoming programs as they are planned with you in mind. If you have any topics that you would like to see addressed by the UF/IFAS Extension Livestock Program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please also thank our sponsors (on page 8) for making this newsletter possible.

I hope that the information provided and the programs offered in this newsletter will serve you well as you meet the challenges of today's beef industry. I would like to personally thank you for your role in the beef and agriculture industry.

As always, I look forward to serving your livestock and forage production needs. Please feel free to call me at (863) 519-1048 or email me at [bccarlis@ufl.edu](mailto:bccarlis@ufl.edu).

Bridget Carlisle, UF/IFAS Extension Livestock Agent

**Note: The Extension Offices have integrated a new phone system.**

**My new direct office phone number is:**

**(863) 519-1048**

P.O. Box 9005, Drawer HS03, Bartow, FL 33831 • (863) 519-1048 • [bccarlis@ufl.edu](mailto:bccarlis@ufl.edu) • <http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu>

## Final Florida Cattle Identification Rule—Effective 9/4/14

The Cattle Identification Rule (Chapter 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code) has been published with an effective date of September 4, 2014. This rule is intended to improve our ability to respond to serious disease outbreaks and to help the industry maintain out-of-state markets. The rule will require cattle 18 months of age or older moving within the state to be tagged with Official Individual Identification. Cattle moving to Approved Tagging Sites for tagging, cattle moving directly to slaughter, and cattle moving between pastures under normal ranching operations, without changing ownership, are exempted under the rule.

Cattle owners can apply Official Identification Tags themselves or have their cattle tagged at an Approved Tagging Site. A variety of Official Identification Tags can be purchased through an animal health product supplier or USDA, National Uniform Eartagging System

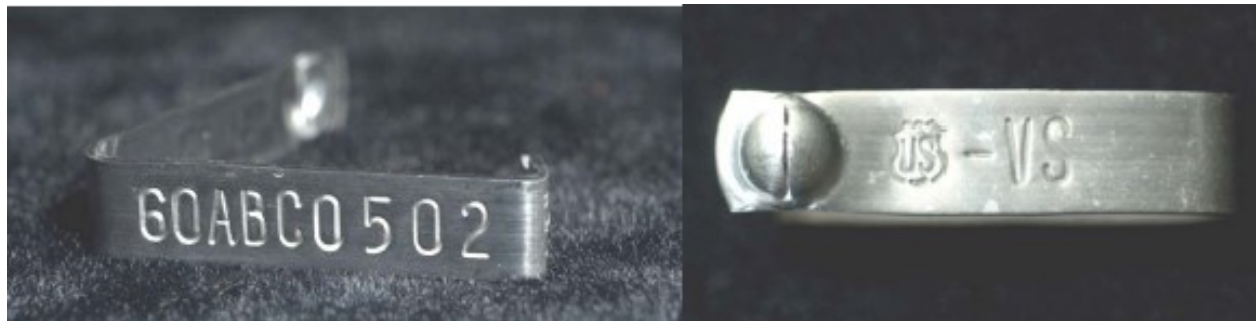
(NUES) tags can be obtained, at no charge, through the Division of Animal Industry by calling 850-410-0900 or by contacting the local district office. A list of our district offices and Approved Tagging Sites is available at the Florida Cattle Identification Web page on the Division of Animal Industry's Website, <http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry>.

The Department will provide a 60-day period of continued education and outreach prior to commencing enforcement actions on November 4, 2014. During this 60-day educational period, the Department will offer training sessions at livestock markets and producer meetings, distribute summary information at the Agricultural Interdiction Stations, and provide access to a PowerPoint presentation with audio on our Website. Once enforcement begins in November, eligible cattle moving within the state must be Officially

Identified or the cattle will be quarantined until the rule requirements are met. Subsequent violations will result in quarantine and administrative fines.

This rule has been discussed for a number of years in over 60 public meetings with our cattle industry, and producers and markets are now working to prepare themselves to fully comply with the identification requirements.

For more information about premises registration, official tags, or Approved Tagging Sites, please contact Stephen Monroe, Program Manager, at (850) 410-0944.



## Panthers prey on ranchers' calves, but how much varies

UFNews—GAINESVILLE, Fla—A two-year panther study at two southwest Florida cattle ranches shows that the endangered cats attack and kill calves, but how often that happens can vary greatly by location and landscape.

Caitlin Jacobs, a University of Florida master's student in wildlife ecology and conservation, conducted the study, in which radio-transmitter tags were put on the ears of 409 calves at two ranches, both near Immokalee.

The Florida panther nearly died out, with an estimated population thinning to just 20 to 25 panthers by 1995, with conservation efforts helping the cat's numbers grow to an estimated 100 to 160 by 2012.

But the panthers' comeback has not always been helpful to cattle ranchers.

One of the ranches Jacobs studied lost 10 calves, or 5 percent of the herd each year, to preying panthers, while the other lost only one, or half a percent of that herd, during the same time span. Both ranches also lost calves to other causes, including eight deaths at one ranch and five at the other not attributed to predators.

Overall, panther attacks caused the most deaths, although panthers weren't the only predator for calves to contend with. Each ranch also lost at least one ear-tagged calf to a bear attack during the two

-year study, while some untagged calves were killed by coyotes and vultures.

The ranches' physical geography, including open spaces and the proximity of wooded areas in which the cats can hide and stalk, likely have much to do with the different rates, she said. But for the panthers to continue their comeback, they rely greatly on the mixed landscape found on ranches, which includes forests, wetlands, prairies and pastures.

Jacobs said she hopes her research helps lead to fruitful policy discussion between state conservation officials and ranchers, perhaps to programs that might pay ranchers to maintain key panther habitat, rather than as compensation for difficult-to-track individual calf losses.

"The ranching landscape is important for panthers. Land that's used for housing or row crops or citrus groves doesn't help them the same way; they need those natural areas," she said.

The research was often gory, with Jacobs, multi-county UF/IFAS livestock Extension agent Lindsey Wiggins and the ranchers themselves evaluating scenes and playing sleuth to determine which predator was to blame: panthers, coyotes, bears or even vultures.

A bite wound to the front or back of the calf's neck was most often

the mark of a panther attack, she said, and the cats almost always dragged their prey to a hiding spot nearby to revisit later. Coyote and bear attacks were much more damaging, with the calf's body badly bruised or found to have many external wounds.

Jacobs presented her research two weeks ago at the North America Congress for Conservation Biology in Missoula, Mont. Marty Main, associate dean for extension for UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, supervised her research. They expect the study to be published later this year.

The study was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Defenders of Wildlife and supported by JB Ranch and Immokalee Ranch, where Jacobs did her research.



# Winter Supplementation Seminar

October 21, 2014

Seminole Cattle & Range Building  
15465 Reservation Rd.  
Brighton, FL

5:30PM

This seminar is sponsored by the South Florida Beef Forage Program of the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service. It is part of a continuing multi-county effort to help South Florida ranchers raise and market high quality beef cattle profitably.

From time to time, pastures in South Florida are negatively affected during winter months. It is important to budget for the costs associated with this time of year—feed, hay, stockpiled forage, etc. Before you spend the time and money to supplement your cattle, learn the nutrient requirements of your cows and bulls—Are you putting out enough? And it isn't always necessary to purchase supplement...manage your forages to last through the winter!

You and your personnel are encouraged to attend this seminar. The registration fee is only \$5.00 if submitted by October 8, 2014.



## Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes steak supper.

If postmarked by October 8, 2014:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Registration Fee

**\*\*Late registrants contact your county agent immediately.**

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
South Florida Beef Forage Program  
Mail to:  
Okeechobee County Extension Office  
Attn: Pat Hogue  
458 Hwy 98 N  
Okeechobee, FL 34972



## Get BQA Certified ....for Free!

For the third time, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI) is supporting the checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program by sponsoring all online certifications this fall for producers who enroll from September 1 - October 31.

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. BIVI will pick up the \$25-\$50 certification fee for beef or dairy producers who are interested in becoming certified or re-certified during this period. To begin training, visit [www.animalcaretraining.org](http://www.animalcaretraining.org). Use coupon code BIVIBQA.



## 2014 Sunbelt Ag Expo

**October 14-15, 8:30am—5pm**

**October 16, 8:30am - 4pm**

**Moultrie, GA Hwy. 133**

**Free Parking - \$10 per adult (\$20 for three day pass)**

**Children under 10 free when accompanied by adult**



# SUNBELT AG EXPO

▶ NORTH AMERICA'S PREMIER FARM SHOW ◀™

One of the many exhibits that producers and consumers look forward to every year is the Beef Cattle exhibits and demonstrations. These demos will be held in the Bill Patten Livestock Pavilion located in block E-8 of the exhibit grounds. Steve Blackburn shares a passion with farmers and ranchers by offering the best health and well being to beef cattle as possible. This is accomplished by staying current on the latest issues, remedies, market trends, and care techniques in the beef cattle industry. The presentations will give cattle producers and consumers the perfect opportunity to gain the knowledge needed for proper care of beef cattle across the nation.

For more information visit [sunbeltexpo.com](http://sunbeltexpo.com). or call 229-890-5425.

## 2014 Beef Efficiency & Profitability Contest

The 2014 Beef Efficiency and Profitability Contest is an interactive educational competition on carcass quality and residual feed intake. This contest is sponsored by Merial, and presented by BEEF magazine and Texas A&M University.

The contest runs until midnight, October 20. \$7,000 in prizes--\$1,000 each for youth and adult groups; \$5,000 in product from Merial for feedyard group--will be awarded.

To enter, visit <http://beefmagazine.com/efficiency-contest/2014-beef-efficiency-profit-contest-entry-form> and guess which steer is the most profitable.

## Bull Selection Considerations

As we approach the breeding season, it is a good time to assess your bull battery. Bulls make the greatest contribution to quality improvement in the calf crop. After all, they represent 50% of the calf crop genetics. A quality bull is a good investment.

All operations are different and emphasis should be placed on the criteria that best matches your operation. There are a number of factors to consider when selecting a bull for purchase that include:

1. Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE) - to assess a bull's potential fertility
2. Structural Soundness—he must be physically able to move freely and service cows.
3. Performance Records/Pedigree
4. Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) - predict the differences expected in performance of future progeny among sires of the same breed.
5. Acclimation to the Environment—a bull must be tolerant of our hot, humid weather and low quality forage.
6. Temperament—is highly heritable.
7. Frame Size—must complement the cow herd to produce calves with sensible and consistent frame size.
8. Breed Type—take advantage of hybrid vigor (the increased performance or expression of a trait that results from crossbreeding).
9. Capacity—depth and spring of rib.
10. Well muscled

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## Two New Limpograss Varieties Released



Limpograss was first introduced in Florida in 1964. Until recently, Floralta was the recommended cultivar for grazing. However, recent efforts for limpograss improvement resulted in more than 50 limpograss hybrids that were produced by crossing Floralta and Bigalta. The hybrids were tested, at UF in Gainesville and Ona, and were evaluated for yield and persistence under clipping defoliation and grazing.

This work has resulted in the release of two cultivars: 'Gib' and 'Kenhy'. These new cultivars have shown greater production and persistence under grazing than Floralta, and Kenhy is greater in digestibility than Floralta. Planting material of these cultivars was distributed to selected growers this past summer and is expected to be generally available to Florida cattlemen in the summer of 2015.

UF/IFAS Extension Polk County

## MANAGING CATTLE ENTERPRISES FOR SUCCESS

The purpose of the Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success Program is to assist cow-calf owners and operators in identifying and applying management tools for the beef cattle operation that will maximize returns on investment and increase productivity in the cow herd and the acreage on which she is maintained.

This program was developed for commercial cow-calf:

- Owners      • Operators
- Managers   • Laborers

**DATE:** Thursday, October 23, 2014

**TIME:** 6:00 PM - includes dinner

**PLACE:** UF/IFAS Extension  
Stuart Center  
1702 Hwy 17 S  
Bartow, FL

### DETAILS:

Understanding Expected Progeny Differences - Bridget Carlisle,  
UF/IFAS Extension

Bull Selection and Management - David McCullers, Crooked Lake  
Ranch

Trichomoniasis - Carlton Taylor, Boehringer-Ingelheim  
Sponsored by: Boehringer Ingelheim

UF IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**\$5**/person  
payable at the door

**RSVP** no later than

**Tuesday,  
Oct 21, 5pm**

to Bridget Carlisle  
at (863) 588-2697 or  
bccarlis@ufl.edu.



## Upcoming Events

### October

- 6-9 Reproductive Management School, Lake Placid
- 14-15 Sunbelt Ag Expo, Moultrie
- 21 Pasture Weed Day, Brighton
- 21 Winter Supplementation Seminar, 5:30pm, Brighton
- 23 Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success, 6pm, Bartow

### November

- 13 Charolais Bull Sale, Bartow
- 13 Managing Cattle Enterprises for Success, 6pm, Bartow
- 18 Horse Short Course and Trade Show, 4pm, West Palm Beach
- 20 PCCA Annual Dinner Meeting, 6:30pm, Bartow

### January

- 15 Florida Cattlemen's Institute & Allied Trade Show, Arcadia
- 24-30 Polk County Youth Fair



## Are you a member of the Ag industry associations that serve you?

If not, consider joining the Polk County Cattlemen's Association and/or Polk County Farm Bureau. Visit their websites at [www.floridacattlemen.org/join/](http://www.floridacattlemen.org/join/) and/or [www.floridafarmbureau.com/membersignup/](http://www.floridafarmbureau.com/membersignup/)

## Thank You Newsletter Sponsors!

Are you looking for ways to showcase your product or service to your clientele? The *Polk County Livestock Report* is looking for industry sponsors to support the production of our newsletter to offset the expense of producing and distributing the printed newsletter. Annual sponsors will be given a business card size (3.75" x 2.5") space to advertise in the quarterly newsletter (four issues). Annual sponsorship is \$100. If you would like to sponsor the newsletter, please contact Bridget at (863) 519-1048 or [bccarlis@ufl.edu](mailto:bccarlis@ufl.edu).

32nd Annual  
Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show



**Save the Date!**  
**January 15th, 2015**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CALL (863) 993-4846.

HELD AT  
TURNER AGRI-CENTER  
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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



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