

The Range Review

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Calendar of Events

Private pesticide Applicator School & Examinations

- March 31: Bradford Co..

Pasture Management Basics Field Day

- April 5: NFREC

Cultivating Agritourism

- April 8: NFREC

Beef Management Workshop

- April 24: Columbia Co.

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Greetings

Hello, my name is Tim Wilson, and I am the new County Extension Director for the Bradford County Extension Office. I have only been in this position for a short time; however, I am impressed with the outpouring of kindness and support that I have received from our community.

To start, I think it is important to let you all know a little about myself. I am a native of Western Texas and I have a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science and a Master's Degree in Reproductive Physiology from Texas A&M University. My wife Katey, a UF graduate, is a Physician's Assistant and is currently staying home with our 4 month old son Jonathan.

I have worked in Extension for the past seven and one-half years as an Extension Animal Scientist – Beef (Beef Specialist) for the University of Georgia, living in both the Southeast and Northwest part of Georgia. Since transitioning to Florida, I have expanded my program area to include all livestock and forage related topics. Initially, I will focus my program on implementing Best Management Practices related to meat and pleasure animals as well as forage production needed for these agriculture operations.

Our office is now fully staffed, and we look forward to serving our community in all areas of agriculture. If we can be of any help or assistance, please let us know.

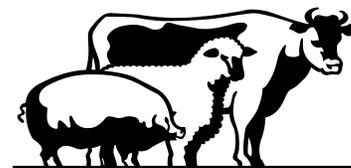
Timothy W. Wilson

Timothy W. Wilson
County Extension Director/Livestock and Forages
Bradford County Extension Service



I look forward to meeting you. Give me a call or stop by the office any time.

Tim Wilson
County Extension
Director/
Livestock and Forages





Beef cattle management practices can improve efficiency and productivity.

“Regardless of management practice described . . . calves will bawl during separation from their dam. . . ”



Controlled Breeding

Calf Removal and Reproduction

The duration between calving and the first post-partum estrus is sometimes referred to as anestrous. Anestrous can vary by female from 30 to 180 days or more depending on circumstance. Extended anestrous periods often cause havoc for breeding plans. Poor body condition, calving difficulty and reduced energy intake are usually the reason for extended anestrous. Several management practices producers might consider to shorten this period of time include short-term calf removal and once-a-day suckling.

Short-term calf removal, or "48-hour" calf removal, is often used with estrous synchronization and artificial insemination. Calves that are at least 45-days of ages are isolated from their dams and provided fresh water and hay. Research has demonstrated that this period of separation may improve the number of females cycling and does not have a significant effect on the weaning weights or yearling weights of the calves.

Once-daily suckling involves separating all calves, at least 30 days of age, from their dams and allowing them to nurse one time each day until the first post-partum estrus occurs. Research from Randel (1981) reported that this method can substantially reduced the post-partum interval in Brahman X Hereford crossed heifers (suckling = 168.2 ± 13.8 days vs. once-daily suckling = 68.9 ± 6.2 days; $P < .005$). Although this method of management can reduce the post-partum interval, it is very labor intensive and overall cost should be considered.

Regardless of management practice described above, calves will bawl during separation from their dam; therefore, considerations should be made as to the location for each method to prevent your discomfort during the evening hours.

Controlled Breeding

Defining a breeding season is as easy as deciding when to place a bull into a herd and when to pull him out. Research has shown that by defining the breeding season, profits can be increased by decreasing labor, culling open females and facilitating management (Spratt and Beverly, TAMU).

A defined breeding season results in a defined calving season. Calves born during a predetermined period of time will be similar in age thus having a similar amount of time to gain prior to weaning. By defining the breeding season and allowing the maximum amount of time to grow prior to weaning, the overall weaning weight average will improve for the herd.

4-H Livestock Judging Team Wins 1st place at the 2008 Florida State Fair

The Bradford County 4-H Livestock Judging Team traveled to the Florida State Fair in Tampa on Saturday February 9, 2008 and took top honors winning first place. Fifty-five 4-H members from 15 Counties competed in this year's contest. The Team is coached by Jamie Whitehead and Brad Muse. Members include Taylor Whitehead, Kendall Morgan, Clay Whitehead, Miranda Taylor, Chance Taylor, Dylan Bradley, and Lizabeth Davis (not pictured). Clay Whitehead was high individual in the contest with a total score of 476 followed by Taylor Whitehead in fourth place with a score of 456. Chance Taylor was 12th and Dylan Bradley was 19th with scores of 430 and 397 respectively.



Left to Right: Brad Muse (coach) Taylor Whitehead, Kendall Morgan, Clay Whitehead, Miranda Taylor, Chance Taylor, Dyllan Bradley, Jamie Whitehead (coach), and Lizabeth Davis (not pictured)



“Clay Whitehead was high individual in the contest with a total score of 476 followed by Taylor Whitehead in fourth place with a score of 456.”

Beef Management Calendar (Source: Silcox and McCann)

March

- Fertilize permanent pastures according to soil test results
- Feed winter supplements as needed
- Do not overgraze winter annuals
- Continue to feed high magnesium mineral to cows on winter grazing
- Evaluate body condition and adjust nutrition accordingly

April

- Fertilize permanent pastures according to soil test results if not already done
- Feed winter supplements as needed
- Start thinking about fly control strategies
- Clean hay storage areas for new hay; use outside hay stores
- Evaluate body condition and adjust nutrition accordingly



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SOLUTIONS *for your* LIFE

Computer Record-Keeping

With the increased use of computers in the last 20 years, it is not surprising that computer software has been developed to assist beef cattle producers in keeping and analyzing records. Utilizing beef cattle records may be one of the most useful management tools available to producers. There are many software packages currently being marketed that maintain a variety of records that range from basic to intense record-keeping.

The first step in keeping computer records is to decide which software package will meet the needs of your operation. Many factors must be considered when choosing a software package. How much time do you want to spend keeping records? What records do you want to keep? What do you want to know about your herd? How much money are you willing to spend on a record-keeping program?

Simply keeping records can help you determine where changes need to be made.

If you have any questions regarding about any of the articles in this newsletter, feel free to contact me at 904.966.6224.

We're on the web!

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

