

The Range Review

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Upcoming Events:

- Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science **Black Bear Workshop** - Tallahassee July 19, 2008
- Northeast Florida Beef And Forage Group **Horsin' Around** - Jacksonville Equestrian Center July 31, 2008
- Northeast Florida Beef And Forage Group **11th Annual Hay and Farm Field Day** - WW Ranch, Jacksonville August 28, 2008
- **Beef Cattle Update** - Bradford County Extension Office September 9, 2008

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Howdy from the County Extension Office.

In this issue of The Range Review I will continue my focus on calf management discussing weaning strategies. In the previous two issues, I covered animal identification, castration, vaccinations and parasite control.

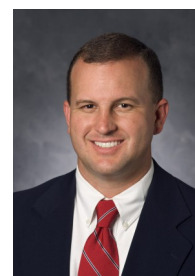
The 2007 Farm Bill has been signed and is now Law. One aspect of this Bill that may be of particular interest for livestock producers is Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL). The 2007 Farm Bill clarifies and simplifies the record-keeping requirements for livestock producers (www.cattlenetwork.com) related to COOL. Implementation is scheduled for September 30, 2008.

The Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group has scheduled two summer programs that may be of interest to you. On July 31st, we are hosting a Horsin' Around Workshop at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center for both adults and youth, and on August 28th, we are having the 11th Annual Hay Field Day at the WW Ranch just outside of Baldwin.

If you have any questions related to livestock and forages, or any other areas of agriculture, please feel free to give me a call at any time.

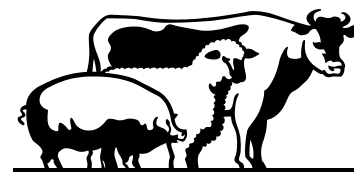
Timothy W. Wilson

Timothy W. Wilson
County Extension Director
Livestock and Forages



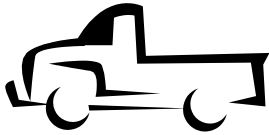
Tim Wilson
County Extension Director
Livestock and Forages

**Stop by any
time and see
how we can
serve you!**



Weaning your Calf

Weaning is one of the most important but stressful events calves undergo and can result in reduced gains, increased sickness and even death.



“Selecting a weaning method that best suits your operation will be useful when trying to maximize production.”

Truck Weaning

Some producers will wean calves and send them directly to market. This type of weaning, sometimes called "truck" weaning, requires very little labor or facilities, and is extremely stressful to the calves (J. B. Hall, Virginia Tech). These calves are more likely to become sick during the next stage of development due to this type of weaning. Producers who wish to reduce sickness may consider an alternative method such as those described below.

Dry-lot Weaning

Dry-lot weaning involves separating calves from their dams and containing them in a dry-lot with feed bunks and water. Feed bunks should be placed perpendicular to the fence or hay bails should be positioned to prevent calves from walking the fence line in search of its dam. Allowing a water trough to overflow is useful for calves that may not be familiar with drinking from a trough. Facilities for dry-lot weaning must be sturdy to prevent calves from escaping. The abrupt separation of the calf from its dam is stressful; however, compared to truck weaning, the stresses related to transportation and marketing are eliminated.

Pasture Weaning

Pasture weaning is similar to dry-lot weaning in that calves are separated from their dams, but rather than being placed in a dry-lot, they are maintained on familiar pasture (J.B. Hall, Virginia Tech). These calves should be located a considerable distance from the cowherd to prevent a cow or calf from tearing through fence lines to reach each other. If facility fences are not in good shape, this method of weaning may be more practical than weaning in a dry-lot. As with dry-lot weaning, stresses related to the abrupt separation are still present, but is still reduced compared to truck weaning.

Fence-line Weaning

Fence-line weaning involves separating calves from their dams by a common fence line. Producers who utilize fence-line weaning must make sure that fences are secure and sturdy to prevent cows and calves from mixing. Cows and calves will migrate into the field to graze, but will return and spend time along the fence line. Although behavioral changes occur as weaning takes place, researchers from The University of California, Davis report that after the 5th day of separation, calves returned to normal behavior. When compared to weaned calves that were totally separated, this research reports that fence-line weaned calves gained more weight 2 weeks after weaning.

Selecting a weaning method that best suits your operation will be useful when trying to maximize production. Regardless which weaning strategy is used, developing an understanding of how stress can play a role in weight loss and sickness will be useful when making sound management decisions.

Trade with South Korea: What's The Big Deal?

Currently there is a lot of press regarding the resumption of beef trade with South Korea. It appears trade officials have their hands full and for good reason. The discovery of BSE in December 2003 shut down most export markets available to the US Cow producer.

In 2003, prior to the BSE discovery, the US beef industry exported approximately 9.6% of it's production and consumed the balance domestically. Of this percentage, trade to Korea was approximately 2.3%.

What does this market mean to the U.S.? In 2003, the 9.6% figures out to 2.518 billion pounds of beef. After most export markets closed, the U.S exported 460 million pounds or 1.9% during 2004. By 2006, many of the export markets resumed beef trade with the U.S. and the total amount increased to 1.144 billion pounds or 4.4% followed by an increase in 2007 to 1.431 billion pounds or 5.4%.

If beef trade normalized to pre-2003 levels with Korea, the increase of 2.3% in exports could increase the amount of beef exported to approximately \$604 million pounds totaling to approximately \$765 million dollars (valued using 2007 pricing). Although it would not be expect that trade with South Korea would resume to pre-2003 levels, the potential impact could be tremendous.

Sources: USDA Economic Research Service: <http://www.ers.usda.gov>



Food (or should I say Beef) for Thought!

Have you ever wondered how much meat the average person eats each year? Recently published data indicates that in the U.S, the average person consumes approximately 42.22 kg/year (or 93 lbs) while World-wide, the average person consumes approximately 9.07 kg/year (or 19.99 lbs).

World Report: Beef Consumption By Population

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	Population	Total Consumption	Consumption Per Person
World	6,677,563,921	60,539,000	9.07
1 Argentina	40,677,348	2,640,000	64.9
2 United States	303,824,646	12,828,000	42.22
3 Brazil	191,908,598	7,540,000	39.29
4 Canada	33,212,696	1,035,000	31.16
5 Mexico	109,955,400	2,603,000	23.67
6 Russia	140,702,094	2,462,000	17.5
7 EU-27	491,018,677	8,575,000	17.46
8 Japan	127,288,419	1,157,000	9.09
9 Pakistan	167,762,040	1,130,000	6.74
10 China	1,330,044,605	7,682,000	5.78
11 India	1,147,995,898	1,855,000	1.62

metric tons
carcass w/e kilograms/year



Source: June 4, 2008 on the web at <http://www.cattlenetwork.com>

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We're on the web!
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SOLUTIONS *for your* LIFE

Beef Management Calendar

July

- Cut Hay!!!
- Store hay in barn or move to well-grained areas and cover them
- Clip pastures that become overgrown
- Control flies
- Check mineral and water supply
- Test forage samples to prepare for winter feeding

August

- Cut Hay!!!
- Store hay in barn or move to well-grained areas and cover them
- Control flies
- Cut-off date to control grubs in Florida is August 31st.
- Check mineral and water supply
- Start planning winter pasture needs, purchase supplies etc.

(Source: Silcox and McCann)