

# The Range Review

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## Upcoming Events:

- 2012 Older Americans Month Celebration  
Bradford County Senior Center 1 - 4:30PM  
May 8, 2012
- Small Ruminant Production Meeting  
Alachua County Extension Office  
May 17, 2012
- 4-H Awards Banquet  
Fairgrounds Bldg #1  
May 29, 2012
- Tri-County Pond Update  
Bradford County FFA Farm  
May 31, 2012
- For more information, call 904-966-6224

Volume 5, 2nd Quarter

April/May/June 2012

Howdy from the Bradford County Extension Office!

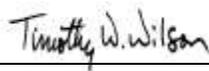
**Rain, oh rain, where have you gone. This is the second spring in a row I've written about the lack of rain in Bradford County. Although meteorologists forecasted the biggest rain event of 2012 during the weekend of the Strawberry Festival, we could certainly use more now. It is important to keep in mind that even though we are dry, we typically don't get a substantial amount of rain in April and May. I'm sure hoping it arrives by June 1st.**

Regardless of the rain, I hope you all have begun the annual maintenance **checks on your tractors, bailers, rakes and mowers. We'll be cutting and bailing soon after we receive rain. Scout your pasture for weeds and spray herbicides appropriately.**

**In this issue of the Range Review, you'll find some interesting and helpful information related to the Labor Department rules regarding children working on farms, horn fly control, vaccine suggestions and more.**

**We've got some great programs planned over the next couple of months covering sheep/goat production, pond management, business management, and weed control. In addition, we've got a slew of other programs that our office is involved with. Give us a call and let us know what your interested in and we'll let you know when the next program will take place. Don't miss out because you forgot to RSVP!**

If you have any questions related to livestock and forages, please feel free to **give me a call at any time. If I don't know the answer, I'll help you find it.**



Timothy W. Wilson  
County Extension Director  
Livestock and Forages



## Labor Department statement on withdrawal of proposed rule dealing with children who work in agricultural vocations

U.S. Department of Labor  
Wage and Hour Division  
Release Number: 12-826-NAT  
April 26, 2012

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor today issued the following statement regarding the withdrawal of a proposed rule dealing with children who work in agricultural vocations:

"The Obama administration is firmly committed to promoting family farmers and respecting the rural way of life, especially the role that parents and other family members play in passing those traditions down through the generations. The Obama administration is also deeply committed to listening and responding to what Americans across the country have to say about proposed rules and regulations.

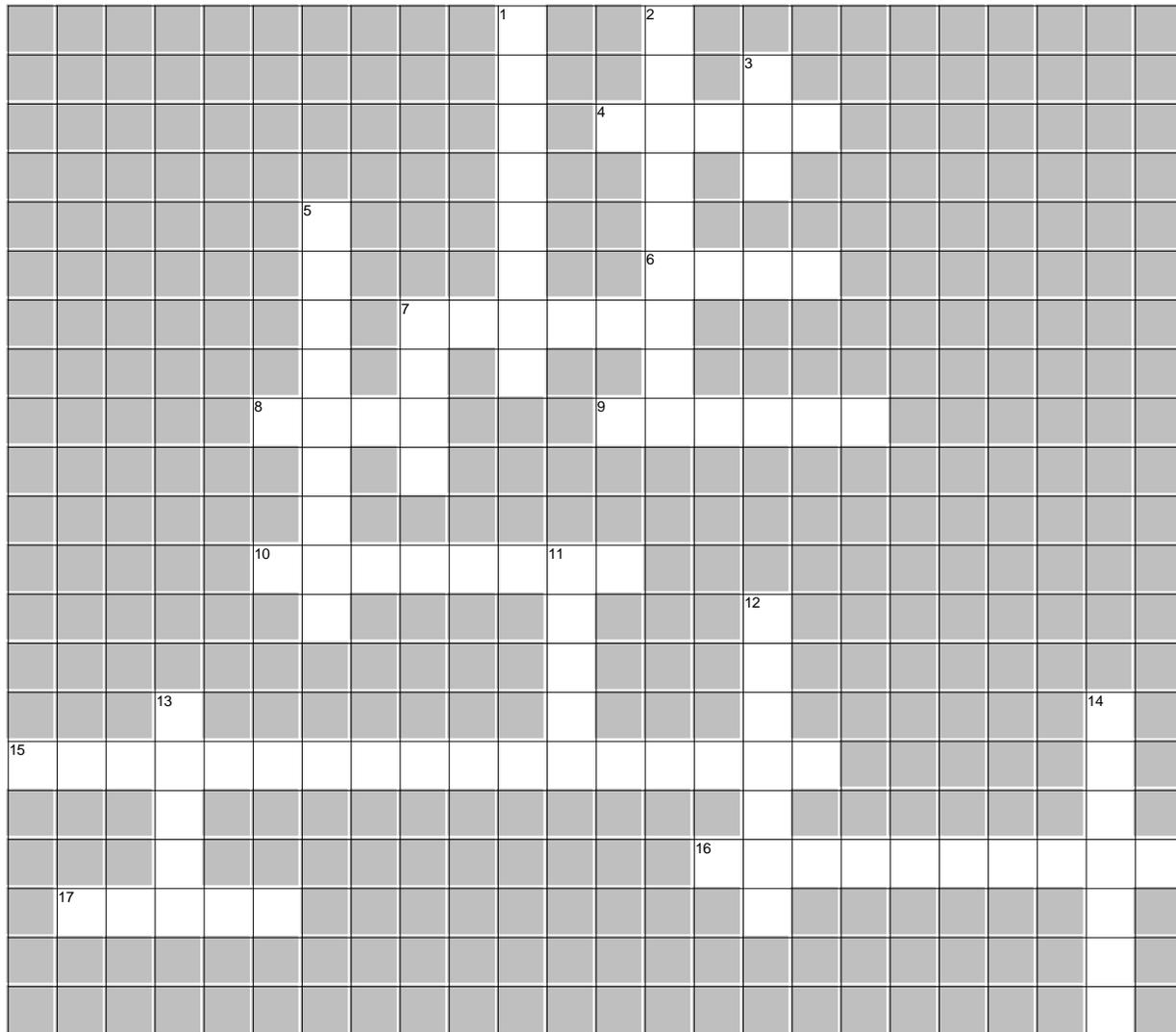
"As a result, the Department of Labor is announcing today the withdrawal of the proposed rule dealing with children under the age of 16 who work in agricultural vocations.

"The decision to withdraw this rule – including provisions to define the 'parental exemption' – was made in response to thousands of comments expressing concerns about the effect of the proposed rules on small family-owned farms. To be clear, this regulation will not be pursued for the duration of the Obama administration.

"Instead, the Departments of Labor and Agriculture will work with rural stakeholders – such as the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Union, the Future Farmers of America, and 4-H – to develop an educational program to reduce accidents to young workers and promote safer agricultural working practices."

Contact: Joshua Lamont or Elizabeth Alexander  
Phone: (202) 693-4661 or 4675

# Beef Cattle Management Crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

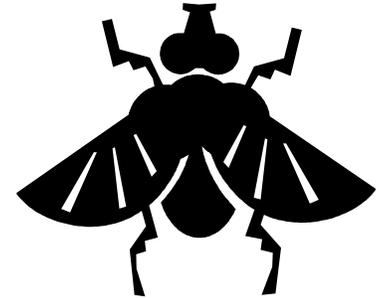
## Across

## Down

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 4. Caused by a buildup of gas inside the rumen                                   | 1. Known for its outstanding milk production       |
| 6. T/F When cattle kick, they usually kick forward and out to the side           | 2. The first milk given to newborn calves          |
| 7. A cow is called a _____ before she has a calf                                 | 3. Part of a show steer's diet                     |
| 8. Number of compartments in the ruminant stomach                                | 5. Animal identification method                    |
| 9. Compartment of a ruminant stomach   | 7. Group of cattle is called a                     |
| 10. The nutritional requirements of a heifer or cow _____ after calving          | 11. A castrated calf is called a                   |
| 15. Grazing method that uses a regular sequence of grazing and rest of a pasture | 12. Common external parasite for cattle in Florida |
| 16. Distinctive, comfortable space around animals                                | 13. T/F Cattle have both upper and lower teeth     |
| 17. Herbicides are used to kill unwanted   | 14. Separating young cattle from their dams        |

## Horn Fly Control for Beef Cattle

Have you ever seen cattle that are so close to each other in a pasture they look as they are one unit? What are they doing? If you look closely, many times they are swinging their tails to swat flies not only on themselves, but on their neighbors as well. Horn flies can become a problem as the spring and summer months arrive, but they can be controlled when a carefully thought out strategy is implemented.



Losses to the beef industry associated with horn flies have been estimated to be as high as \$700 million annually due to blood loss, irritation, annoyance and reduced weaning weights of calves nursing dams (Allison, NCSU 1996). Producers may use one or more of the many methods of application currently available to control horn flies such as sprays, dusts, ear tags, back-rubbers, boluses and feed additives. Some take advantage of de-wormers applied as an injectable or pour-on that are labeled to control horn flies .

Many beef producers will use ear tags that are impregnated with an insecticide to control horn flies. This method of control, although relatively simple, is often misused and can result in future problems. These ear tags contain an ingredient that, over time, is reduced in its effectiveness, so they should be removed once they are no longer effective. Typically, insecticidal tags can last a couple of months, but should always be removed at the end of the season. If these tags are not removed they will continue to release their ingredient at a lower, less effective dose and fly populations could develop resistance to that particular ingredient. It is recommended to read the label closely and remove these tags at the appropriate time to prevent resistance.

Development of new technology to control horn flies has been limited for the past 20 years. Until recently there have only been two primary chemical classes of insecticides, pyrethroids and organophosphates, commonly used to control horn flies. A new class of insecticide called endosulfan has been on the market for a couple of years with success controlling horn fly populations. Producers are encouraged to design their fly control strategies to change chemical classes every two years, to prevent flies developing resistance.

Removing fly tags at the appropriate time and alternating the chemical class of insecticides can help prevent horn fly resistance in beef cattle. When using insecticides, review the label and follow it closely. Failure to do so may not only be illegal, but may also result in future problems associated with resistance. If you have any questions related to horn fly control, please contact me at any time.

## Blackleg: The most likely disease to cause problems in your herd

Despite all of the articles in the news media about Foot and Mouth Disease, E-coli in meat, and Mad Cow disease, Georgia cowherds are hundreds of times more likely to have calves die of Blackleg than any of these diseases. Blackleg is one of a group of fatal diseases of cattle that are caused by the group of bacteria called Clostridia. These bacteria have the ability to form shell-like spores that allow them to persist in soils for long periods of time. As cattle graze, they ingest the bacteria. **The clostridia migrate in the cattle's body and under the right conditions produce toxins that may be highly fatal.** A member of this same group of bacteria is *Clostridium tetani* (the bacteria that causes tetanus). Vaccination is generally effective in preventing death loss from Clostridial diseases.



### Blackleg

Blackleg is caused by *Clostridium chauvoei* and is highly fatal in cattle under two years of age. Cattle consume the bacteria while grazing. Signs of the disease include depression, lameness, swelling of muscle masses, production of gas under the skin and sudden death. The usual clinical case is a cattle producer finds a dead calf that was one of his or her **“best doing” calves. Treatment is not effective but large doses of penicillin may save some calves if the diagnosis is made very early in the disease.** Post mortem diagnosis is based on clinical signs, sudden death with a gas swelling in unvaccinated calves.

### Malignant Edema

Malignant edema is a disease of any aged cattle and is caused by *Clostridium septicum*. The bacterium is shed in the feces of most normal cattle and is found in high numbers in soil where cattle graze. The bacteria enter the body through wounds and cause depression, soft swelling around the wound, high temperature and death usually in 24 to 48 hours. The lesion is a necrotic, dark, foul-smelling area under the skin with very little or no gas. Post mortem diagnosis is based on lesions and sudden death of unvaccinated cattle.

### Black disease

Black disease is caused by *Clostridium novyi* and can occur in cattle of any age. The route of infection can be oral or through a wound. The bacteria are found in the soil where cattle normally graze. This disease is seen as a sudden death syndrome in feedlot cattle as well as cow/calf herds. Diagnosis is usually after death and the lesions are similar to *Clostridium septicum*, a foul smelling wet lesion with little or no gas in unvaccinated cattle.

### *Clostridium sordelli*

This is a sudden death disease encounter in feedlot cattle and cow/calf animal herds. The organism is ingested and the usual syndrome is sudden death of a healthy looking animal. Post mortem lesions are a dark black hemorrhagic area in the brisket or throat in unvaccinated cattle.

### Enterotoxemia

This disease occurs primarily in young calves and feedlot cattle. It is caused by *Clostridium perfringens* and the clinical signs are a bloody diarrhea and/or sudden death. The bacteria are ingested orally, grow in the gut and produces toxins that cause the disease. The toxins most often affecting cattle are type C and type D toxin. The disease is enhanced by high carbohydrate diets (like milk or grain), a partial slow down of the gut from ingesting a large amount of feed. These conditions permit bacterial growth that produces excessive amounts of toxin, which is absorbed through the gut. Young calves may show abdominal pain, go down, have convulsions and die in a few hours. Often we see baby calves that are less than a week old that die suddenly with no signs observed. The post mortem lesion is an area of bright red gut in a calf that died suddenly.

The common component in all of these diseases is that the bacteria exist in high numbers in soils where cattle graze, they are ingested while eating or enter through a wound, and all of them produce toxins that kill cattle very rapidly. The good news is that vaccination for Clostridial diseases has been proven to be extremely effective. In areas of high exposure, young calves should be vaccinated around 60 days and the vaccination repeated after the calves are four months old. In areas of low incidence, vaccination when calves are four to six months is usually effective. *Clostridium perfringens* in baby calves can be prevented by vaccination of the cowherd before calving to produce better colostrum and/or *Clostridium perfringens* antitoxin to the calves at birth. Your veterinarian is the best source of information of the specific recommendations for your herd.

Source: Article used with permission and written by:

Mel Pence DVM MS PAS Diplomat ABVP (beef cattle), (mepence@uga.edu); Professor (Retired), The University of Georgia

## 2012 Older Americans Month Celebration

### **“Never Too Old to Play”**

May 8, 2012

Bradford County Senior Center

1 - 4:30 PM

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## Sheep and Goat Production Workshop

May 17, 2012

Alachua County Extension Office

To register, contact (352) 955-2402

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## 2012 4-H Awards Banquet

May 29, 2012

Bradford County Fairgrounds Building #1

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## Tri-County Pond Update

May 31, 2012

Bradford County FFA Farm

To register, contact (904) 966-6224 by May 28th

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## 4-H Wildlife/Hunter Safety/Shooting Sports Day Camp

June 11, 12 and 13, 2012

Bradford Sportsman Farm

To register, contact Kim at (904) 966-6224

Registration limited to the first 25

Must complete online hunter safety course before attending

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To learn more about the programs above and others, contact the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6224. Some of these programs have pre-registration **deadlines, so don't miss out, call today.**

## Recent University of Florida/IFAS EDIS Publications of Interest

### Estimating Amount of Forage in Hay Fields and Pastures (SSAGR360/AG369)

Forage serves as the primary source of nutrients for livestock in Florida, and efficient use of forage is critical to the livelihood of Florida farmers and ranchers. Estimating the amount of forage in a past can provide useful information when making management decisions. There must be enough material in the field to justify the cost of using harvesting equipment; otherwise, the area should be grazed. This 2-page fact sheet contains instructions for a simple method to determine the approximate amount of forage in hay fields and pastures. Written by T. Wilson, C. Sanders, J. Breman, and L. Sollenberger, and published by the UF Department of Agronomy, March 2012.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag369>

### Helminthosporium Leaf Spot (SSPLP9/LH048)

This fungal disease is most serious on bermudagrass and acts over a wide range of temperatures. This 2-page fact sheet was written by M. L. Elliott and P. F. Harmon, and published by the UF Department of Plant Pathology, February 2011.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh048>

### Identification of Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Poison Sumac, and Poisonwood (ENH886/EP220)

Florida parks and woodlands are favorite places for many people who enjoy outdoor activities. Unfortunately, the native plants poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and poisonwood can make these outings a miserable experience. All four contain urushiol, a plant oil that can cause a severe skin rash (dermatitis) when any part of the plant is contacted. Allergic reaction can occur directly by touching the plant or indirectly by coming into contact with the oil on animals, tools, clothes, shoes, or other items. Even the smoke from burning plants contains oil particles that can be inhaled and cause lung irritation. This 6-page fact sheet helps individuals learn to identify these plants in order to avoid contact with them. Children should be taught to recognize these plants, particularly poison ivy, as it is by far the most common. Written by Sydney Park Brown and Patricia Grace, and published by the UF Department of Environmental Horticulture, March 2012.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep220>

### Hydration in Hot Working Environments (FCS80018/FY1325)

Are you at risk for heat-related illnesses? **Summertime isn't the only time you should be concerned about** drinking enough water to stay hydrated. Workers in construction, landscaping, laundry, factory, farm, or restaurant settings, among others, often are faced with hot working environments year-round. These conditions can increase the risk for developing heat-related illnesses, so staying well hydrated is very important. This 3-page fact sheet was written by Jeanine Beatty and Gail P. A. Kauwell, and published by the UF Department of Family Youth and Community Sciences, March 2012.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1325>

### Keeping Food Safe: Special Tips for Potluck Parties (FCS8999/FY1287)

Potluck parties are very popular in the United States because they allow people to share responsibility of **cooking and food preparation. While it's wonderful to be able to share favorite recipes with friends and** to have the opportunity to eat a variety of foods without much cost, potluck meals are also associated with an increased risk of foodborne illness. To decrease your risk of foodborne illness, it is very important to **follow the "two-hour rule" and refrigerate all prepared foods within two hours of purchasing or cooking.** Read this 2-page fact sheet for more potluck food safety tips. Written by Claudia Peñuela and Amarat Simonne and published by the UF Department of Family Youth and Community Sciences, March 2012.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy1287>

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**We're on the web!**  
<http://bradford.ifas.ufl.edu>



# SOLUTIONS for your LIFE

## Beef Management Calendar

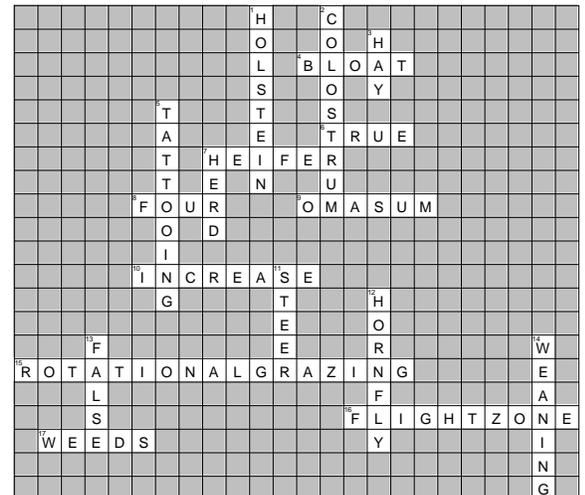
### May

- Control pasture weeds by spraying herbicides or mowing.
- Fertilize pastures based on soil test recommendations.
- Inspect and prepare hay making equipment.
- Cut Hay when its ready.
- Continue to provide supplements until pastures are capable of maintaining cattle.
- Control Flies.
- Vaccinate calves

### June

- Cut Hay!
- Apply nutrients to pastures when needed.
- Control Flies
- Wean calves that were born in Oct./Nov.

(Source: Silcox and McCann)



ElipseCrossword.com