

The Range Review

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Upcoming Events:

- **Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference**
Kissimmee, FL
July 15 - 17, 2011
- **13th Annual Hay and Farm Field Day**
W.D. Andrews Farm
Lake Butler, FL
July 21, 2011
- **Integrated Pest Management Workshop**
Columbia County
August 25, 2011
- For more information, call 904-966-6224

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Howdy from the Bradford County Extension Office!

A couple of months ago we were excited that Spring had arrived and the rains would soon follow. Unfortunately, it came and it went without leaving much precipitation. Two weeks ago, as of this writing, the Santa Fe Swamp was on fire and the smoke advisory warnings in the news were as frequent as the rain forecast had once been. Thankfully, last night, we received some rain and we're hoping to see more in the forecast.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I hope you all have begun the annual maintenance checks on your tractors, bailers, rakes and mowers. Our pastures will eventually receive the rain it needs and we'll be cutting and bailing soon after. Hopefully, there will be enough forage to justify the cost of operating the machinery. Remember to scout your pasture for weeds and spray herbicides appropriately.

In this issue of the Range Review, you'll find some interesting and helpful information on grazing management, beef cattle marketing and nutritional effects to vaccine response. The annual Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference is coming up in mid-July and, as we've seen in the past, this year's conference looks to be full of interesting information. Also, the Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group is planning the 13th Annual Hay and Farm Field Day at W.D. Andrews Farm in Union County. Materials presented at these workshops are intended to empower you with the information you need to make sound management decisions related to your operation.

We have a lot going on here in the Extension Office. If you are interested in attending one of the many programs we have planned, please give us a call and register. 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

Timothy W. Wilson
County Extension Director
Livestock and Forages



Areas of Control in Grazing Management

Grazing management can be used more or less intensively, or more or less extensively. Intensive grazing management usually brings more inputs such as labor, livestock, plant nutrients, etc., to improve forage production and utilization. Extensive grazing management uses lower optimum inputs of labor and resources toward the same goal of animal production. Which ever the case, the areas of control in grazing management include:

- a) grazing intensity (or residual stubble height in the pasture)
- b) grazing method (or the manner in which animals are stocked), and
- c) timing of grazing.

Grazing intensity or stubble height is the most important factor in grazing management decisions. "How short is too short?" should be a recurring question to avoid overgrazing pastures. A two inch stubble height recommendation for bahiagrass may not be adequate for other plants with accumulation of reserves in the lower section of the canopy as is the case with limpgrass (*Hemarthria* spp), stargrass, Tifton 85 bermudagrass, or some of the summer or winter legumes. Under drought conditions, try to protect the stand by taking the cattle off before you graze the pastures too low.

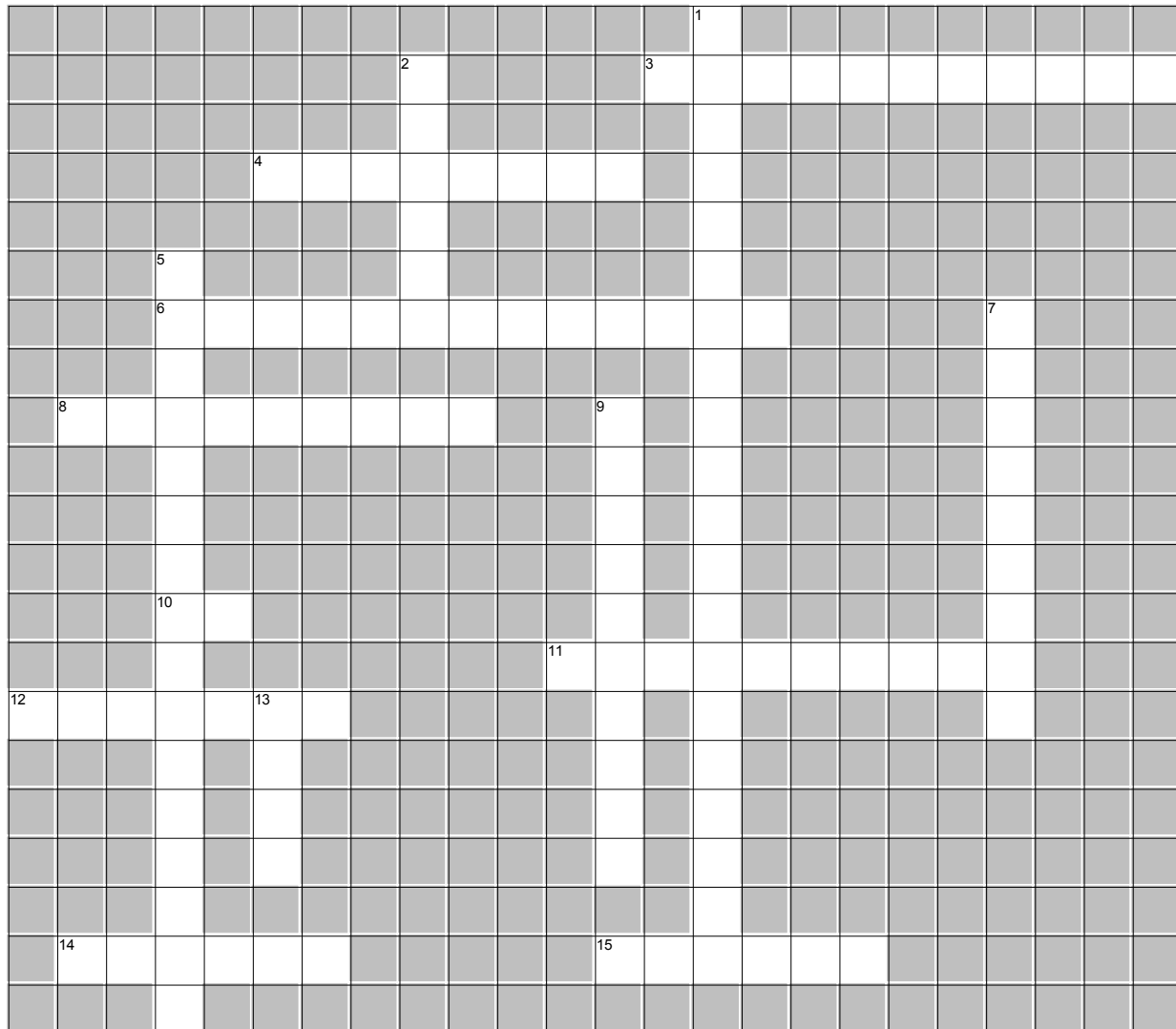
Grazing method refers to the manner in which animals are stocked or have access to the different pastures and paddocks. Choosing a grazing method is a separate decision from that of grazing intensity. Pastures can be stocked continuously, or they can be grazed rotationally. Is one method better than the other? Not necessarily. However, pastures that are rotationally stocked may be more productive because there is a better spread of the animals and recycled nutrients from manure and urine, and the forage is more uniformly grazed. Spot grazing observed in continuously grazed pastures is reduced when rotationally stocking.



Timing of grazing is also critical, depending on specific grass type and situations. For example, removal of shade conditions by grazing winter annuals is critical for the emerging dormant warm-season grass in the spring.

Of the three areas under your control, grazing intensity or stubble height is the most important.

Grasses, Sedges and Weeds Crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. Forage disorder caused by low levels of magnesium in the blood
4. Used to determine what is needed in a pasture, garden or lawn
6. The flowering portion of a plant
8. A plant that normally lives for more than two years
10. Measure of the acidity or basicity of soil
11. More than 2 million acres of this forage is grown in Florida
12. The stalk of a leaf
14. Plant which completes its life cycle and dies within one year
15. Clover

Down

1. Poisoning that can occur immediately after a frost in johnsongrass, sorghum sudangrass and sorghum-sudan hybrids, and wild cherry
2. Can be used to decrease pH
5. primarily caused by the consumption of pasture or hay containing high levels of nitrate-nitrogen
7. Weed easily controlled with glyphosate
9. Adding water to your pasture
13. Used to increase pH

Are You Leaving Money On The Table When You Market Your Calf?

Marketing beef cattle can be daunting for new as well as experienced cattle managers. Most beef producers I know spend time trying to improve their management in hopes of increasing the revenue their calves bring when they go to market. Good management is important when trying to produce a quality product. We tend to focus on incorporating good genetics, improving tenderness, using the right breeding season, making sure our cattle are bred, installing the right vaccination program while at the same time keeping costs low. Although we spend a lot of time focusing on beef cattle management, we have to make sure that we don't forget about marketing.



Cattle buyers want a good product. Adjusting management to meet these demands may increase costs, and more often than not, cattlemen may not feel that they are being paid for these changes. With this type of scenario, some producers reduce management which results in a lower quality product. When these cattle are sold, instead of receiving a premium, they were discounted. How do you get the price you need to cover your break-even when you've incorporated management strategies to improve your product? This is a question that all cattle producers must ask themselves. The bottom line is this: cattle that have been managed to meet the needs of the buyer can bring a premium.

There are many marketing alternatives available to beef cattle producers. Some of these alternatives may include private treaty, video auction, group sales and board sales. However, most small producers rely on stock yards to market their calves. All of these marketing options have their advantages and disadvantages, and understanding how they can be used may seem confusing. Keep in mind, just because you change your marketing doesn't mean you're going to get more than you got last time. Because of this, many producers may prefer to use the same marketing method they've used in the past since they sometimes have success. You have to find the market that will pay you for your product.

The Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group (NFBFG), made up of livestock Agents from the 16 Northeast Florida Extension Offices, will host a Beef Cattle Marketing Workshop in late August or early September. Topics will focus on an overview of marketing strategies and tips for large and small beef producers. A round-table discussion will be used to provide examples of first-hand experiences that have been successful for some producers. Every beef producer is different so keep in mind what works for one may not work for another; however, knowing how they did it may help you in the future.

Nutritional Effects on Vaccination Response

As we prepare for weaning and/or marketing of our calves, we need to remember that nutrition has a profound impact on cattle's ability to remain healthy. Without proper nutrition the immune system of cattle functions poorly. Proper nutrition includes the intake of feedstuffs as well as the drain of nutrition from parasites.

The first area of concern is de-worming. Research has demonstrated that cattle with a heavy parasite burden will not respond adequately to vaccination. Calves coming off pasture will likely be heavily parasitized. This means that if heavily parasitized calves are vaccinated and de-wormed at the same time we can expect some of the calves will suffer from a vaccination failure and will not be protected against disease.

Consequently, there will be a reduced return from the investment in vaccine and time spent to run the cattle. Ideally, calves should be de-wormed 30-60 days before we begin our vaccination program. This adds an extra step but with pour-on dewormers you could get the calves in a corral with a 12 x 12 pen at one end, run 10-12 head of calves in the 12 x 12 pen, pour on the de-wormer, and turn them out. This would result in minimal stress to the calf. The first of July is an ideal time to de-worm the cowherd. The hot weather makes the worms on the pasture go dormant in most of July and August so there is minimal exposure to worms for the next couple of months after you deworm.

Another area of nutritional concern affecting immunity (resistance to disease) is trace mineral deficiencies. In many areas, trace mineral deficiencies are known to limit livestock production through dysfunctions in animal metabolism and immunity. Many of these deficiencies are marginal, resulting in unrecognized disorders that reduce animal performance and profitability. Several trace minerals, along with other essential nutrients, have been identified as important factors in a properly functioning immune system. The immune response depends on good nutritional status of the animal before the vaccination process. The literature on nutritional status and the ability of an animal to resist an infectious organism is well established, but only recently have trace minerals been investigated in their role in the proper functioning of the immune system. In this recent research, deficiencies of zinc, iron, copper, manganese and selenium have been shown to lower resistance to disease either through an impaired immune response or decrease white blood cell function.

A well-coordinated nutrition, health care, and management program is required to maximize efficiency and productivity. The higher the productivity level in a herd, the higher are the nutritional, health, and management requirements for the animals. Animals fed properly are more resistant to many bacterial and parasitic infections. When proper nutritional programs are implemented, greater animal productivity can be attained, with the potential of increased profits. So, how do we use this information to improve our calves response to vaccination? It is important to get adequate levels of trace minerals into the calves before vaccination. This can most effectively be accomplished by using a trace mineralized salt and mineral mix. Your county extension agent should be able to assist you in developing a trace mineral program. Trace mineral deficiencies and parasite load will decrease the effectiveness of your vaccination programs.



Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference
Kissimmee, FL
July 15—17, 2011



The purpose of the Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference is to provide farmers with more in-depth educational information, to facilitate networking, dialog, and visioning among members of the Florida small farms community, and to increase awareness of the small farms industry to decision makers, supporting institutions, and the general public.

The conference will provide high quality educational and networking activities geared to small farms. Concurrent educational sessions (presentations, workshops, hands-on demonstration, and discussion groups) will be provided to share results of groundbreaking research and provide educational support for producers to operate sustainable and profitable enterprises. For more information and to register for this event, follow the following link: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/smallfarms/index.html>

13th Annual Hay and Farm Field Day

W.D. Andrews Farm, Union County
July 21, 2011; 9AM - 3PM

The UF/IFAS Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group will host an educational field day for hay and cattle producers at W.D. Andrews Farm in Union County on July 21, 2011 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. This program is designed to provide updates on various topics related to hay production along with equipment demonstrations from local dealerships and industry partners. This year the educational sessions include the latest information on pasture herbicides, the economic outlook for hay production, alternative nutrient sources, hay quality, best management practices for cow-calf producers and forage disease detection.

The location of the farm is 5102 SW 76th Place, Lake Butler, 32054. There is a \$5.00 registration fee to cover materials and a lunch prepared by Farm Credit. Contact Tim Wilson, 904-966-6224 at the Bradford County Extension Office to register. For a detailed agenda and directions visit: www.nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu.

Livestock and Pasture (IPM) Field Day

August 25, 2011
Columbia County; Registration - \$5.00

This IPM Workshop will discuss topics related to livestock and pasture management. Specialists from Gainesville will be available to provide the latest information related to integrated pest management. To register for the FREE workshop, contact the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6224 by August 18, 2011.

Recent University of Florida/IFAS Publications of Interest

Horn Fly *Haematobia irritans irritans* (Linnaeus) (Insecta: Diptera: Muscidae) (EENY490/IN885)

The horn fly is one of the most economically important pests of cattle worldwide. Just in the United States, hundreds of millions of dollars in losses are attributed to the horn fly annually, while additional millions are spent annually on insecticides to reduce horn fly numbers.

Learn more about this pernicious, obligate blood-feeding ectoparasite in this 7-page fact sheet, written by Dan Fitzpatrick and Phillip E. Kaufman, and published by the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology, April 2011.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in885>

Specialty Meat Marketing Claims: What's the Difference? (AN191)

American consumers are confused about the differences between meat products with special marketing claims (i.e., organic, natural, naturally raised, and grass-fed) and regular or commodity meat products. This 5-page report discusses these claims as defined by the USDA and addresses the differences between these products for food safety, human health, and eating quality. Written by Chad Carr, Larry Eubanks, and Ryan Dijkhuis and published by the UF Department of Animal Science, April 2011.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an191>

Granulate Ambrosia Beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* (Motschulsky) (Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculidae: Scolytinae) (EENY131/IN288)

The granulate ambrosia beetle is a minute ambrosia beetle of Asian origin that was first detected near Charleston, South Carolina. It can become abundant in urban, agricultural, and forested areas and has been reported as a pest of nursery stock and young trees in the Old World tropics and of peach trees in South Carolina. It is a potentially serious pest of ornamentals and fruit trees and is reported to be able to infest most trees and some shrubs (azalea), except for conifers. Learn more in this revised 4-page fact sheet was written by Thomas. H. Atkinson, John L. Foltz, Robert C. Wilkinson, and Russell F. Mizell, and published by the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology, March 2011.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in288>

Redbay Ambrosia Beetle *Xyleborus glabratus* Eichhoff (Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) (EENY491/IN886)

Ambrosia beetles are wood-degrading insects that live in nutritional symbiosis with ambrosia fungi. Usually we consider ambrosia beetles beneficial because they accelerate the decay of dead trees, which is important for nutrient cycling in healthy forests. However, the redbay ambrosia beetle and its fungal symbiont transmit the causal pathogen of laurel wilt disease among plants in the Laurel family (Lauraceae). They are considered a "very high risk" invasive disease pest complex having potential equal to that of Dutch elm disease or chestnut blight. Laurel wilt is a relatively new disease and much is still unknown about how it will impact the flora of North America. This 7-page fact sheet highlights what we do know about this important new pest. Written by Rajinder Mann, Jiri Hulcr, Jorge Peña, and Lukasz Stelinski, and published by the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology, May 2011.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in886>

