

# The Range Review

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**Upcoming Events:**

- **Beef Cattle Vaccination Workshop**  
County Extension Office  
Starke, FL  
November 2, 2010
- **Farm City Week Celebration**  
Building 1 - Fairgrounds  
Bradford County  
November 16, 2010
- **Small Ruminant Workshop**  
Alachua County  
Extension Office  
November 18, 2010
- For more information,  
call 904-966-6224

Volume 3, 4th Quarter

October/November/December 2010

Howdy from the Bradford County Extension Office!!!

Rain, rain go away.... I can't believe that I started my last newsletter in July with those words. Bradford County for the most part is dry and we could sure use the moisture in our pastures and ponds. I took site pictures of ponds back in February and compared them to those I took in September. I'm not an engineer or surveyor; however, by the look of the comparison, I'd say that pond has dropped at least 2 to 3 feet. I'm sure others are in better shape, but for the most part, I'd say some rain would be nice. If you're planning on planting winter forages such as ryegrass, rye, oats or legumes, check out the article on the climate expectations for the upcoming winter and spring on page 2.

This edition of the Range Review includes topics I hope you all will find useful for your operation. Inside you will find topics related to the climate, a beef crossword puzzle, beef management, and links to several University of Florida/IFAS publications. I want this newsletter to be useful for you and your needs. If you have suggestions on topics you'd like to see covered, send me a quick note, phone call, or email.

We have a lot going on in Bradford County and in Northeast Florida. Inside you'll see several announcements to programs that we are involved with that may be of interest to you or someone you know. If you are interested in attending one of these programs, 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 see if I can help you find it.

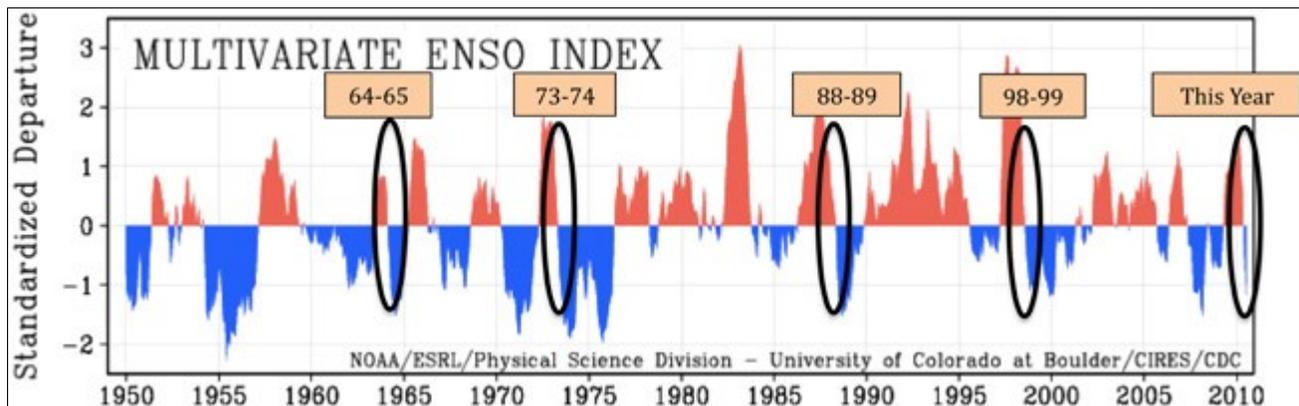


Timothy W. Wilson  
County Extension Director  
Livestock and Forages



## La Niña Conditions Return to the Pacific Ocean How can it affect your crops?

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon is the biggest player in the game of year-to-year climate variability. El Niño and La Niña events tend to develop during April-June and tend to reach maximum strength during December-February. Typically they persist for 9 to 12 months. After a winter of moderate to strong El Niño conditions, ocean temperatures have cooled very quickly in the last 3 months and have now reached thresholds consistent with the La Niña phase (Sea surface temperatures more that 0.5 °C colder than normal). If we look back in our climate records, years in which there were similar quick transitions to a La Niña phase included 1964-65, 1973-74, 1988-89, and 1998-99.



La Niña conditions usually bring a **warmer and drier winter and spring seasons** (November through March) to Florida, central and lower Alabama and central and southern Georgia. La Niña events in 1999 and 2000 and in early 2006 were associated with an increase in forest fires across Florida and Georgia.

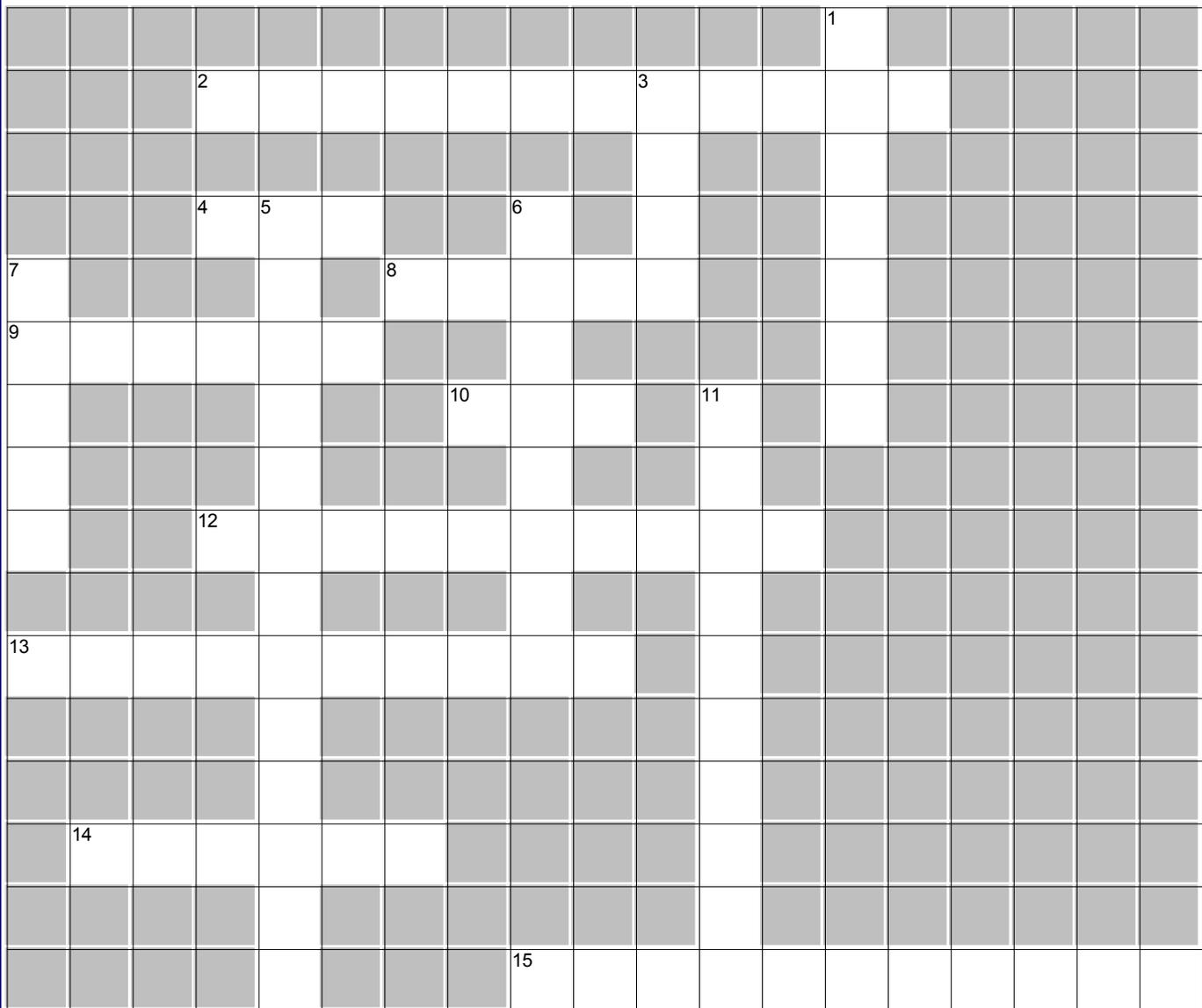
**Pasture:** Success of winter pastures depends on rainfall. This is especially true when overseeding. In central and south peninsular Florida overseeding of cool-season annuals into a established grass sod often fails due to insufficient soil moisture. This practice is generally not recommended unless irrigation is available as dry conditions can be exacerbated during La Niña seasons. Related extension resources:

UF Forages website: <http://agronomy.ifas.ufl.edu/foragesofflorida/>

UGA Forages website: <http://www.georgiaforages.com/>

Source: Excerpt from Agroclimate - Southeast Climate Consortium article written by: Dr. Clyde Fraisse – UF/IFAS  
[http://www.agroclimate.org/forecasts/Agricultural\\_Outlook.php](http://www.agroclimate.org/forecasts/Agricultural_Outlook.php)

# Beef Cattle Crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

2. SQ
4. Hot n spicy
8. Flat-iron steak
9. Better quality grade
10. Non-ruminant animal
12. Heifer born twin to a bull
13. Important component of balance ration
14. Lose weight
15. Tender cut

## Down

1. Beef \_\_\_\_\_ assurance
3. IM vaccination is given here
5. Feeding calves to a certain weight
6. Animal with 4 stomachs
7. De-horning tool
11. Move away when approached

## Beef Management: Estrous Detection

There are many ways to determine estrus in a cowherd. Each year producers strive to increase profits by implementing the best management practices for their operations. Cow/calf producers can focus on many different areas of their operations to lower break-evens and still produce quality calves. Whether natural service or artificial insemination breeding plans are being utilized, simply being accurate with estrus detection can help increase reproductive efficiency.

If natural service is being utilized, knowing when a cow or heifer is in estrus can be very useful in determining her ability to settle and produce calves. If a female continues to show signs of estrus after being exposed to a bull for 2 – 3 cycles, her ability to settle should be evaluated. Since the gestation length in cattle is approximately 283 days and having one calf per year is the production goal of most cow/calf producers, cattle must be bred within the remaining 82 days. Within this 82-day time frame approximately 91% of cows in good body condition should show signs of heat by day 60. If the majority of cattle in the herd are in heat by day 60, this leaves only 22 days or one additional cycle to calve once every 365 days.

Estrous detection is crucial in artificial insemination breeding programs. Without accurate detection, mistakes can increase break-evens and lower overall profits. Costs can be elevated due to wasted straws of semen, technician costs and time. Ultimately, accurate estrus detection should be used to successfully bred cattle with artificial insemination.

One method of estrous detection is visual observation. This method is commonly referred to as the AM/PM rule. This involves checking the cow herd in the morning and the evening for 30 – 45 minutes each time. Cattle that are in heat in the morning will be bred that evening or if in heat in the evening will be bred the following morning. This method is very effective and can be easily implemented.

Some cattle may not show visual signs of heat during the time visual observation is being performed and are very difficult to determine when they cycle. There are many tools available to producers that may help determine when cattle have been in heat. Tail chalk, paint and paste can be applied to the tail head and used to determine if a cow has been active between heat checks. These products are applied to the tail head and the hair is pushed forward. When a cow or bull mounts a cow, the hair is pulled back and stands pointing up. Other tools that can be utilized are patches applied to the tail head, detector animals (gomer bulls, cystic cows and hormone-treated cows) and computerized detection devices.



Chin Ball Marker



Chalk



Heat-mount Detector

Determining estrus in cows and heifers can help producers determine which females in their herd have problems breeding. Deciding on the proper method of detection for each individual producer may depend on many factors. If you have questions related to estrous detection or any beef cattle management strategy, feel free to contact me at 904-966-6224.

## Cattle Warts

Warts may not result in severe losses to the beef industry; their presence is a real problem for purebred producers and those showing cattle.

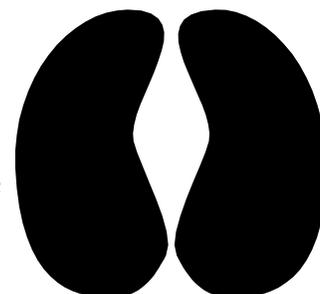
An infectious and contagious virus that spreads by direct contact from infected cattle to non-infected cattle causes bovine warts. If an animal has warts, it cannot be considered free of disease and a health paper cannot be issued on the animal. Papillomatosis (Warts) usually occur in younger cattle as cattle generally develop resistance to the virus that causes warts as they mature. Warts are caused by species-specific viruses. People do not get warts from cattle; cattle only get warts from other infected cattle. The papillomas are usually dry, white to tan colored growths that protrude from the skin and may have a horny surface. There are several strains of bovine papilloma virus (BPV) and each strain has an affinity for different regions of the body: BPV1 on nose, teats and glands penis, BPV2 on head, neck and brisket, BPV3 on head, neck and possibly intra-digital, BPV4 on alimentary track and bladder, BPV5 on teat and BPV6 on teat. Most of these strains are mildly pathogenic and only cause minor problems to the animal.

As cattle mature, they develop an immune response to the virus and the wart regresses leaving little or no scarring. Problems with cattle warts usually arise with show cattle or young purebred bulls ready for sale. Their immune system is at the developmental stage between losing their maternal immunity from colostrum and developing their own immunity to bacteria and viruses in their environment. Since the virus that causes warts tend to be isolated in the wart and not circulating in the blood stream, the animal's immune system is poorly stimulated. Therefore, it may take an extended length of time to develop immunity to the wart virus and see regression of the wart. Virus may also be transmitted indirectly by getting on feeders, waters, halters and even pen walls and non-infected cattle then come into contact with the virus.

Treatment for bovine warts involves surgical removal and/or crushing the wart. The immediate result is that more virus enters the circulation and stimulates the calf, increasing its immunity to bovine papilloma virus. The success of this procedure varies depending on the animal's ability to develop an immune response. This process will not remove the possibility of the wart virus spreading to other cattle.

Vaccination for bovine warts is often not effective in causing the rapid regression of warts. Commercial vaccines are more effective if they contain the specific strain that is involved in the infection. If commercial vaccines are used, they should be administered three to four times at two-week intervals and the last vaccination should be given 30 days before any show. Autogenous vaccines can be made by your veterinarian and involve removing the wart to produce a specific virus sero-type vaccine.

The key to wart control on cattle is to examine the calf early and often for warts. At the first sign of warts, they should be crushed and/or removed. This process may need to be repeated numerous times before the calf is old enough to develop immunity to bovine warts. Multiple vaccinations with commercial vaccines should start 100 to 120 days before the show season or sale. In addition the use of bleach for halters, feeders and waters and isolation of clinically affected cattle may help slow the spread of this disease.



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

## **Beef Cattle Vaccination Workshop**

**November 2, 2010 - 6 to 8 pm**

Bradford County Extension Office

Sponsored Meal

The beef cattle production program will feature Dr. Max Irsik, UF/IFAS Veterinarian and Bradford County Livestock Agent Tim Wilson. Materials will be provided on vaccinating your herd and beef cattle management. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the latest information to protect your investment in the cattle industry. To RSVP, contact Tim Wilson at (904)-966-6224 by October 28.

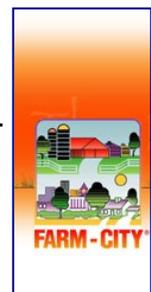
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## **Farm-City Celebration Luncheon**

**November 16, 2010 - 12:00 to 1:00 pm**

In Building I of the Bradford Fairgrounds

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the many Americans whose hard work and ingenuity reflect the true spirit of America and help to ensure a prosperous future for all. This celebration will include a Chicken and Rice lunch served by the Bradford County Master Gardeners and a Key Note Address from Jeb Smith. This celebration is free and open to the public; however space is limited to the first 200 residents who RSVP by November 1, 2010 by contacting the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6224.



## **Small Ruminant Workshop**

**November 18, 2010 - 5:30 to 8:00 pm**

Alachua County Extension Office

Registration = \$5.00

Topics include: Toxic Plant ID, General Herd Management and Fencing and Winter Forages. This program is a multi-county effort that provides programming to Small Ruminant producers. RSVP by November 12 by calling Tim Wilson at (904)-966-6224.

## Resent University of Florida/IFAS Publications of Interest

### **AN247 Summary of Alternative Cooling Procedures for Large Bone-In Hams**

AN247, a 4-page fact sheet by Chad Carr and Larry Eubanks, discusses cooling requirements for heavier weight hams to avoid bacterial contamination. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Animal Science, July 2010.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an247>

### **AN248 Custom Exempt Red Meat and/or Poultry Slaughter Facilities in Florida**

AN248, a 3-page illustrated fact sheet by Chad Carr and Larry Eubanks, discusses custom exempt slaughter facilities in Florida, and how these facilities differ from other meat processing facilities. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Animal Science, July 2010.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an248>

### **FCS8577/FY084 Healthy Living: Diabetes Warning Signs**

Revised! FCS8577, a 1-page handout by Linda B. Bobroff, informs older adults of the risks of untreated diabetes, and provides a checklist of the warning signs of high blood glucose levels. Published by the UF Department of Family Youth and Community Sciences, August 2010.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy084>

### **AN243 Forage Mineral Concentrations in Grazed, Warm-Season Bahiagrass Pastures in Florida**

AN243, a 4-page fact sheet by Bob Myer, Lee McDowell, Cheryl Mackowiak, and Ann Blount, discusses the concentrations of forage minerals in bahiagrass pastures for beef cattle, to determine adequate mineral levels and use of mineral supplements. Includes references. Published by the UF Department of Animal Science, July 2010.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an243>

### **ENY150/IN720: Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in Honey Bees**

Revised! ENY-150, a 5-page illustrated fact sheet by Jamie Ellis, explains what is known about this problem threatening the beekeeping industry in the U.S. — its symptoms, theories about its cause, how it affects the general public, what's being done, and management recommendations for beekeepers. Includes selected references. Published by the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology, July 2010.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in720>

### **IPM147/IN853 How to Use Nematac® S against Pest Mole Crickets in Pastures**

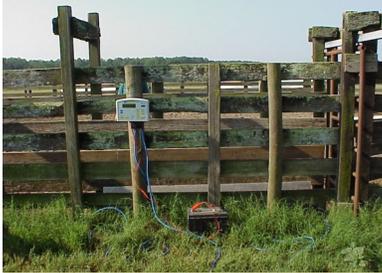
Revised! IPM147, a 3-page illustrated fact sheet by N.C. Leppla, J.H. Frank, and J.A. Graesch, discusses the use of the proprietary formulation of insect-parasitic nematode *Steinernema scapterisci* for use against mole crickets, which can severely damage Florida pastures. Published by the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology, June 2010.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in853>

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



# SOLUTIONS for *your* LIFE

## Beef Management Calendar

### November

- Watch pasture conditions as residues are eaten and supplement when necessary.
- Evaluate body condition score and supplement when needed.
- Feed poor quality hay to dry cows when needed. Save your best hay for the calving season.
- Make sure you have all of your calving supplies.
- Check your heifers for signs of calving.
- Get the bull ready (Breeding Soundness Exam testing).
- Remove old insecticide ear tags.
- Treat cattle for lice as it gets colder.

(Source: Silcox and McCann)

### December

- Watch for calves.
- Calf management - tag, weigh, tattoo, castrate and dehorn.
- Feed the appropriate nutrition - the energy requirement in cattle increases after calving.
- Check with vet about pre-breeding vaccinations.
- Start breeding heifers about 3 - 4 weeks prior to the cow herd.
- Check body condition.
- Prepare breeding program.

