



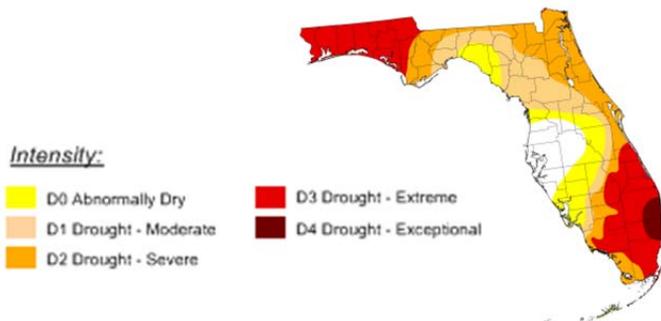
# Farm & Ranch Advisor

Jackson County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

Spring 2011

Volume 1 Number 1

## US Drought Monitor – May 31, 2011



## Drought Worsens in the Panhandle

*Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Director*

Drought remains the biggest challenge facing area farmers and ranchers this year. The La Niña forecast for this spring has certainly come true. Climate forecasters predicted the Panhandle area would be warmer and dryer than normal this spring. At the end of May, the FAWN automated weather station located at the Research Station near Greenwood, had only measured 15.1” for the calendar year. That is 8” below the 59 year average of 23” for January through May. In addition, the extreme heat has dried out all of the moisture that has been received. May was hot, but June has started with record high temperatures.

### 2011 Jackson Weather Summary

Month	Air Temp			Soil Temp			Rainfall Inches	Dev from Avg	
	High	Low	Avg	High	Low	Avg			
January	74	20	46	55	33	45	4.33	-0.70	
February	82	26	55	70	37	53	4.04	-0.91	
March	88	35	63	78	48	63	5.00	-0.47	
April	92	41	70	89	56	74	0.92	-3.24	
May	100	47	75	99	64	81	0.78	-2.83	
UF/IFAS Marianna FAWN Station							<b>Total</b>	<b>15.07</b>	<b>-8.14</b>

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period Valid June 2, 2011 - August 31, 2011 Released June 2, 2011



The latest NOAA seasonal forecast does not offer much hope of improvement in the months ahead, with the Panhandle in the persistent drought category through the end of August. Farmers and ranchers need to make some tough choices over the next few months based on the ongoing severity of the drought. Certainly this is the time to work very closely with your Crop Insurance Agent.

For row crops, the key will be what kind of stand survives. Replanting is risky and expensive. Thrips and other insects will be even more destructive on weak, drought stressed plants. Pre-emergence herbicides that are best the defense against difficult weeds like Palmer Pigweed may have failed if there was no rain to incorporate them at planting in dry-land production. Once rain does come, expect a weed explosion. Post-emergence herbicide options for both cotton and peanuts are mainly limited to controlling small, seedling weeds, so application timing will be critical.

Ranchers will have to decide if their pastures can provide enough grazing for their herds. Early weaning and herd reduction decisions need to be made very soon to preserve enough forage for the cows that are kept. If the herd has not been checked, hire a veterinarian to pregnancy test the herd and sell open, or non-pregnant cows first. Early weaning does not reduce forage consumption that drastically, but dry cows have much lower maintenance requirements. The main thing is to reduce the herd by 30-50% now while the cattle are still in descent condition. Don't sell a few at a time and use the money to buy feed, instead put the money in the bank to buy replacements when conditions improve. There are tax laws that can protect this income. Be sure to keep records of all cattle sold and feed purchased due to the drought.

**Dr. Ron Gill's, Texas A&M, drought de-stocking order:**

1. Dry, open cows not raising offspring
2. Early wean calves (4-6 calves=1 mature cow)
3. Cows palpated open with calf at side
4. Animals with structural or production defects
5. Young replacement heifers
6. Cows palpated short-bred
7. Older cows with calves, with worn teeth
8. Older cows with calves at side
9. Thin, quality cows with calves at side
10. Good condition, 4- to 8-year-old cows

For the cattle that are kept, there are some options for purchasing feed to stretch remaining hay supplies or to utilize high fiber feeds like peanut or cottonseed hulls. Here are some possible rations developed by Dr. Jonny Rossi for emergency drought situations.

**UGA Drought Emergency Ration**

Ingredient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Corn	1200		1050	1000			850
Whole Cottonseed		550	550			550	
Cottonseed meal	400						
Corn Gluten				600	600		
Soy hulls		1050			1050	1050	
Distiller's Grain							750
Hay, Cottonseed or Peanut Hulls	400	400	400	400	350	400	400
Total	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000

*Feed 1.9% of body weight per day to lactating cows, & 1.4% of body weight per day for dry cows.*

The preceding table suggests rations that must be fed each day to either dry or lactating cows in limited amounts. Several important management practices need to be evaluated before limit-feeding grain-based rations.

- 1) Adequate bunk space must be provided so that all cows can eat at one time to prevent less aggressive cows from getting too little feed. In addition, cows should be fed at the same time every day to decrease the risk of digestive problems.
- 2) When selecting a site for feeding, make sure it is well drained and has a secure fence around it. Select an area with poor quality pasture and few trees.
- 3) Corn or by-product feeds do not have to be cracked or ground before feeding. Sorghum grain and wheat must be ground or rolled before feeding.
- 4) A limited amount of roughage must be fed every day to limit digestive problems such as bloat and acidosis. If feeding hay, square bales are the easiest way but availability may be limited. The best way to feed a round bale is to either roll the hay out or place in rings and limit the time cows are allowed to eat the hay. It will take some practice to estimate the time required for cows to eat three to five pounds of hay, but expect 30 to 45 minutes to be the optimum amount of time. Also, all cows must be able to eat at one time, so make sure to provide adequate bales for all cows to eat at once.
- 5) Cows will be eating approximately half as much feed as they are accustomed to. Therefore, cows will act very hungry for the first couple of weeks. Resist the temptation to feed cows more as this will negate feed cost savings. Only increase feed if cows are losing body condition.
- 6) Cows should be gradually started on feed. Begin with feeding 5 lb of grain and increase 2 lb every other day until the desired grain level is reached.
- 7) A mineral supplement must be fed that is high in calcium (20%) and contains trace minerals and vitamins. Grains are low in calcium, so a high calcium mineral supplement should be fed. An ionophore such as Bovatec or Rumensin must be fed. Feed efficiency is significantly improved

and digestive upsets greatly decreased by feeding an ionophore.

8) Drought stressed corn can be contaminated with aflatoxins. Make sure the corn is not contaminated before you buy it.

Last year was also a challenging weather year for area farmers and ranchers. The FAWN station recorded 38.1” for 2010, which was 16.2” below the 59 year average rainfall of 54.3”. As dry as it was last year, the county did receive 24” in the first five months of the year. The 4” of rain that fell in April and 5.1” in May provided the needed moisture to get our crops off to a good start before the heat and drought took hold in June. For farmers and ranchers needing weather data for 2010 crop loss claims, a complete 2010 Jackson County Weather Summary is available to download at:

<http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/weather.shtml>. Scroll down the third header entitled Local Weather Summaries. This file contains daily summaries for temperature, soil temperature, rainfall, and evapotranspiration. In addition there is a summary of monthly rainfall totals since 1952. There is also a current summary for 2011 updated at the beginning of the next month.

## Ag Extension Team Changes

*Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Director*

The Jackson County Extension Team is changing. Clyde Smith has left Extension to become a technical support person for United Phosphorous International (UPI). Clyde still lives outside Mariana, so he will remain an active member of our community, but he will no longer be providing educational training, cotton variety tests, or advice for farmers in the region. I am hopeful that his position will be advertised in the coming months.

Charles Brasher, who has worked for the Jackson County Extension Service for over 37 years, is retiring at the end of June. Charles served as the FAMU Small Farms and Horticulture agent in Jackson County for his entire Extension Career. The Extension Service will be hosting a luncheon honoring Charles on June 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Agricultural Conference Center. Due to budget constraints with FAMU, his position is currently frozen. We do hope to be able to fill this position in the future.

We are fortunate to have Rob Trawick, who was hired last October, as our new Horticulture Agent. Rob will be working with vegetable, fruit and other specialty crops growers. He will also be leading the Master Gardner Volunteers who provide training and advice to home gardeners and landscapers.

I say all of this to let you know that there have been some changes at the Extension Service. I am still here and will be doing my best to serve the livestock, forage and row crop farmers in the county. In previous years I provided a periodic update to beef and forage producers. At least for a time, instead of the Jackson Stockman, I will be sending out the Farm & Ranch Advisor to keep you updated on Peanut, Cotton and Beef Cattle educational programs and information.

## Market Watch

*Doug Mayo, Jackson County Extension Director*

I am considering offering a service that should be useful to the farm community. UF/IFAS has developed the technology to allow for automated emails or text messaging to our mailing list. I find it useful to monitor commodity prices from the same source each week as well as common input prices. The following is an example of information that is available each week from USDA. If you would be interested in getting a text message on your phone or an email message with a link to these posted prices, please contact the Extension Office at 850-482-9620. Please be prepared to provide us with your email address, or your cell phone number and service provider.

Commodity	Spot Market Price		
	May	April	March
NASS Peanut Prices	22.4¢/lb	22.6¢	22.6¢
Dec 11 Cotton Futures	\$1.31/lb	\$1.25	\$1.27
500-550 AL #1 Steers	\$1.36/lb	\$1.38	\$1.50
AL Cull Cows 85% lean	\$0.75/lb	\$0.74	\$0.72
Inputs	May	April	March
Ammonium Nitrate	\$468/ton	\$449	\$440
Diammonium Phosphate	\$690/ton	\$707	\$707
Potash	\$595/ton	\$590	\$585
Farm Fuel	\$3.49/gal	\$3.57	\$3.40
Feed	May	April	March
#2 yellow corn	\$8.40/bu	\$8.40	\$7.80
Soybean hulls	\$190/ton	\$190	\$195
Corn Gluten pellets	\$208/ton	\$215	\$218
Whole Cottonseed	\$265/ton	\$263	\$213



## Upcoming Programs & Events

Complete listing of events and information available at <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>

### Beef Cattle Market Seminar June 16

Jackson County Extension is the host site for a Beef Cattle Market Seminar to be broadcasted live via Internet Video to 21 other counties in Florida, on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

The Seminar will feature Dr. Curt Lacy, UGA Beef Cattle Extension Economist. He will provide you with a market update and outlook for 2011 for both the Cattle Market, as well as other input commodities that affect the cattle market. Dr. Lacy will also show you some decision aides that have been developed that are available to download from the Southeast Cattle Advisor website.

With cattle prices and input prices at record highs, cattle producer have a greater investment and greater risk than ever before. This is an opportunity to gain some valuable advice to assist in your marketing and purchasing decisions this year.

Since we are the hosting county, Dr. Lacy will actually be in Marianna. This is a great opportunity to meet one of the top beef economists in the Southeast, and get some insight into the Cattle and Input markets.

There is no registration fee, but also no dinner provided for this event. I would appreciate it if you would RSVP to 850-482-9620, so that adequate preparations are made for you. The flyer for this event is available to download, if you want to print it out to share with neighbors or to hang on your refrigerator as a reminder: <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu>.

### Gulf Coast Turfgrass Field Day June 15

Join turfgrass managers from all segments of the industry to hear about the latest research in turfgrass management on the upper Gulf Coast. The event

will feature tours of research plots, workshops for CEUs, equipment demonstrations, pesticide and fertilizer evaluations and industry exhibitors. Come out to the 17th Annual Gulf Coast Turfgrass Field Day and Expo, Wednesday, June 15th.

Register today and save money at <http://turf.ifas.ufl.edu>. Pre-registration is \$35, registration on-site is \$45. We look forward to seeing you at the West Florida Research & Education Center in Jay, FL on June 15th! For additional information, contact Robin Vickers at 850-983-5216 extension 113.

### Sunbelt Expo Row Crop Field Day July 7

If you are a farmer or associated with agriculture in any way, mark your calendars for Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day, scheduled for Thursday, July 7 at the Sunbelt Expo. Field Days gives farmers and the public a chance to see research projects in progress and talk with the researchers involved in the experiments, and an opportunity to view the latest in modern agriculture.

Trams depart starting at 8:30 and a complimentary lunch is served at 12:15. Register before 8:15 a.m. for a chance to win a \$100 early bird cash prize. There will be door prize giveaways, and every attendee receives an Expo cap. More information is available at 229.985.1968 or [www.sunbeltexpo.com](http://www.sunbeltexpo.com). Also make plans to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunbelt Ag Expo, October 18-20, 2011.

### Pesticide License Training July 19 & 20

Jackson County Extension Service will participate in the annual multi-county, restricted-use pesticide (RUP) training, which has been scheduled for July 19-20. It is an ideal way for growers to: 1) gain the necessary knowledge of chemical safety, application rates, pest control methods, etc.; 2) take the exams immediately after each class, while newly-gleaned information is still fresh; and 3) licensed applicators will earn continuing education units (up to 5 Private and 7 Core CEU's available) for license recertification. More information will be available on our web site, at <http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu>, or by contacting Judy Ludlow, Calhoun County Extension, at (850) 674-8323.

## Pine Beetle Prevention Program

The Division of Forestry at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has announced that the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Assistance and Prevention Program will accept applications from non-industrial, private forest landowners beginning Monday, May 23, through Monday, June 27.

The program, supported through a grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, offers an incentive payment for landowners who conduct a first pulpwood thinning and partial cost reimbursement for pre-commercial thinning, prescribed burning, mechanical underbrush treatments and planting longleaf pine. The program is limited to the 44 northern Florida counties located within the range of the southern pine beetle.

Qualified landowners may apply for no more than two approved practices per year. Projects must cover at least 10 acres and funding requests may not exceed \$10,000. All qualifying applications received during the submission period will be evaluated and ranked for approval. To obtain application forms and more information on program requirements and procedures, visit your County Forester or on the web at: [www.fl-dof.com](http://www.fl-dof.com).



## Cotton Briefs

### Thrips in 2011 Cotton Fields

*Phillip Roberts, UGA Extension Entomologist*

Thrips, thrips, and more thrips. Thrips have been much higher than normal in Georgia, the southeast and mid-south this year. In addition to high populations, slow plant growth for various reasons has compounded plant injury symptoms. A vigorous growing seedling is much more tolerant of thrips feeding compared with a slow growing plant.

We are hopeful that populations will begin to decline on cotton which has recently emerged (plantings after mid-May usually experience lower thrips populations than April and early May plantings). Some early planted fields have received two foliar insecticide applications, and many one. We need to protect young seedlings, especially during early developmental stages (1-2 leaf) but we do not need to apply unneeded applications due to the potential of flaring other pests such as spider mites and aphids, so scout and treat on an as needed basis. The threshold for thrips treatment is when 2-3 thrips per plant are counted and immatures are present. Treatment is rarely necessary after plants have 4 true leaves and are growing vigorously; we want to stress **growing vigorously**. If cotton is not growing vigorously, seedlings with 4 or more leaves may still need to be treated. We recently toured thrips research trials with Dr. Mike Toews, UGA Research Entomologist, and the most striking observation we made was the difference in thrips damage in conventional and strip tillage plots. There was much less thrip damage in the conservation tillage plots

For updates on current insect conditions, check the UGA Cotton Insect Hotline 800-851-2847.

### Cotton Herbicide Issues Seem Overwhelming This Season

*Stanley Culpepper, UGA Extension Weed Scientist*

This year has simply been a nightmare when it comes to herbicides and cotton injury, if you are lucky enough to have cotton up. Therefore, lets attempt to address some of the more common and challenging questions.

1. Why am I getting so much herbicide injury in a drought? In most situations, the level of injury from at-plant herbicides is directly related to the time in which rainfall (irrigation) occurs and the specific herbicides used. In cotton, herbicide injury from at-plant products often takes two forms.

The first type of injury is observed when the herbicide is moved into the soil profile (rain/irrigation) where the herbicide is surrounding the germinating seed. As the seedling is emerging, herbicide uptake by roots and shoots are occurring. This type of injury most often results in stand loss,

stunted (slower emerging) plants, and or plants that exhibit chlorosis. Obviously, stand loss can influence cotton yield but in most cases where cotton plants are slightly stunted, yield loss is not observed. However, slower growing cotton increases the likelihood that growers will delay postemergence herbicide applications. Delayed postemergence applications will likely reduce pigweed control and increase management costs. The second type of injury is observed when the herbicide is sitting on the soil surface and rainfall or irrigation occurs at or near emergence (usually 1 day before emergence through 5 days after emergence). In this situation, the herbicide injury is a result of foliar uptake as the herbicide often splashes onto the emerging plant or is taken up as the cotyledons (crook) push through the soil surface. Injury (necrosis, malformed leaves etc...) of this sort can vary widely depending on the herbicides applied.

The level of injury noted this season is likely a response to the increased number of irrigations being required to get a stand of cotton. Multiple irrigations are essentially making herbicides much more available, thus more active. There is no good solution as growers must provide water for the cotton but understanding the relationship of irrigation and herbicides can be beneficial.

2. Herbicide injury is killing us, we have to stop with these at-plant herbicides. There is essentially no way to produce Roundup Ready cotton in our state without at-plant herbicides. In fact, for a Roundup Ready system, growers will need either a Reflex mixture or a mixture of Prowl + Staple + Diuron (or Cotoran) behind the press wheel. Ignite-based programs do allow much more flexibility in selecting at-plant herbicides but we strongly encourage growers apply at least one residual herbicide at planting.

3. In Roundup Ready cotton, I have half a stand up and I am waiting on the rest of my cotton to emerge but weeds are up? For a Roundup Ready producer, three valid topical options exists including 1) Roundup + Dual Magnum (or other Dual products), Roundup + Warrant, or Roundup + Staple. In this situation, Dual is out of the question as it could severely injure the cotton that has not emerged. Our 2011 research with Warrant is very intriguing, but

for now we would still encourage growers to avoid this application to cotton seeds that have not emerged. Thus, the best option would be Roundup + Staple as Staple can be applied both pre-emergence or post-emergence safely to our cotton crop.

4. I have not decided if I am going to replant or keep the stand I have. While I am deciding, weeds are emerging and I need to spray, what should I spray? Again our topical applications in Roundup Ready cotton include Roundup + Staple, Roundup + Dual, or Roundup + Warrant. If we don't replant, all of these options are valid. But, if we do re-plant, then this herbicide application would be made prior to re-planting, essentially being a burndown treatment. None of the residual herbicides (Dual, Warrant, Staple) are labeled for a burndown and therefore are not recommended; however, research suggests the greatest potential for injury to re-planted cotton would be Dual, with Staple being the least concerning.

In an Ignite-based program, simply apply Ignite and then decide if you are going to replant or keep the stand that is present. Apply residual herbicides in the system once the final decision is made.



## **Peanut Pointers**

### **Dry-land or Non-irrigated Peanut Production**

*John P. Beasley, Jr., UGA Peanut Specialist*

We continue to have approximately 50-55% of the Georgia peanut acreage planted in non-irrigated production. We've had concerns the past couple of years that some of the more recently released large-seeded cultivars, Georgia-06G, Georgia-07W, Florida-07, and Tifguard, would not perform as well under non-irrigated conditions compared to Georgia Green, Georgia-02C, or Georgia Greener. Research conducted by USDA scientists approximately 10 years ago indicated Georgia Green has a lower water requirement than other

peanut cultivars with medium to large seed size. This seems logical since Georgia Green has a smaller pod and seed size, and less canopy than other runner-type peanut cultivars. Logically, we figured Georgia Green would be the best cultivar option under non-irrigated production.

Research in the 1970's that determined water response curve and irrigation requirement for peanut was conducted on Florunner. That was the basis of our UGA peanut irrigation recommendation. The research results of the 1970's indicated that a peanut plant needs approximately 23 inches of water from planting until harvest. Approximately 18 of those 23 inches (78%) of water is needed during weeks 10-17 of the 20-week growing season.

Rarely do we receive 23 inches of rainfall during the growing season. The closest we came to receiving that much rainfall during the growing season was in 2003. Therefore, in most every year we are in a rainfall deficit for peanut production. The key to making above average yields in a non-irrigated situation is receiving timely rainfall during pegging, pod fill, and pod maturation.

The number one question to answer is "which cultivar do I plant in a dry land situation"? Since Georgia Green has a lower water requirement than other cultivars then it made sense that it would be a good choice for non-irrigated fields. Other medium seed-size cultivars such as Georgia Greener and Georgia-02C are also good options. Another trait of Georgia-02C that makes it a good dry land peanut is its late maturity. The longer maturity range provides more opportunities to overcome short dry spells.

In a growing season in which we receive normal to slightly below normal rainfall we feel that the larger-seeded, higher-yielding cultivars such as Georgia-06G, Florida-07, Tifguard, and Georgia-07W will all perform better than Georgia Green in a non-irrigated production system. However, in a year in which we receive well below normal rainfall, like 1980, 1990, or 2000, Georgia Green or Georgia Greener would be the better options. The problem is we never know at planting if we are going to have a year with well below rainfall.

The 2010 growing season provided a wide range of rainfall deficient areas across the Georgia peanut production belt. There were some areas that had extremely dry conditions, most notably the area around Americus and Plains, while other areas, like the southern tier of counties in Georgia, had rainfall deficits but not near the level as the northern tier of counties. Despite the dry conditions in most areas, the large-seeded runner cultivars still out yielded Georgia Green. Therefore, we feel confident in recommending the large-seeded runner cultivars for non-irrigated production. The large-seeded cultivars are: Georgia-06G, Georgia-07W, Tifguard, and Florida-07. The best option in a very dry year is Georgia Greener, since it has a seed size similar to Florunner. Georgia Green is no longer a good option simply because of the extremely limited seed supply.



### **Reducing Deer Damage to Peanuts**

*Holley Ober, David Wright, & Jim Marois, UF/IFAS NFREC Quincy*

Damage to agricultural crops by wildlife has increased over time. A recent survey indicated that white-tailed deer are responsible for the greatest amount of crop loss in north Florida. A confusing array of materials is available on the market to deter deer from crops and ornamental plantings. These materials vary in cost, effectiveness, and duration of viability.

Most deterrents operate through one of several mechanisms: odor aversion, taste aversion, or fear inducement. Products containing capsaicin (an extract from hot peppers) appear to be promising as a topical deterrent for a variety of wildlife species, including deer, because capsaicin promotes both scent and taste aversion.

We conducted a 4.5 month trial to test the efficacy of a capsaicin-based deterrent, BrowseBan®, in protecting peanut plants over the course of a growing season at NFREC-Quincy. We established 1 acre of “FLA 07 variety” peanuts on 22 June 2010. Plants in the northern block were treated with BrowseBan® once per week, while plants in the southern block were treated once per week as well as after every rain event >0.25 inches to determine if reapplication after rain was worthwhile.

We created a three yard wide strip of soil around each block to facilitate track counts of wildlife entering and leaving the peanut blocks. The number of deer tracks entering and leaving each block varied from 0 to 54 trails per night, and increased over the course of the trial. This indicates deer did not find the BrowseBan® so offensive that they were deterred from the vicinity of the crop fields.

Stem damage to peanuts was generally low in both plots, and tended to increase with the number of days since BrowseBan® application, as expected. However, there was no indication that applying the deterrent after every rainfall reduced the severity of stem damage, and there was no indication that the efficacy of the deterrent was affected by the amount of recent rainfall or by the intensity of UV radiation. Thus, BrowseBan® appeared to protect peanut plants from deer damage, and the high levels of humidity, rainfall, and UV radiation in our region did not seem to reduce the efficacy of the product relative to testing done in other regions of the country.

Because we did not compare the efficacy of BrowseBan relative to other deterrents, we cannot recommend this over other commercially available alternatives. BrowseBan is less expensive than other capsaicin-based deterrents on the market, but requires more frequent reapplication than others. Regardless of which chemical deterrent is used, we recommend treating as soon as possible after planting because it can be difficult to change foraging patterns of deer once they have become established. Spraying early in the growing season can prevent local deer from becoming accustomed to foraging on unprotected, succulent plants.



## Beef Tips

### The 2011 Bull Test Nomination and an Overview of 2010-11 FL Bull Test

2011-12 Florida Bull Test nominations are due by June 15. The total cost of having a bull in the test is \$800. Fifty dollars is due at the time of consignment, \$400 when the bull arrives on July 26, and \$350 by January 5, 2012. The test rules, schedule and consignment forms are available on the bull test website: [http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/fl\\_bull\\_test/](http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/fl_bull_test/) or you can call 850-394-9124.

On January 15, 2011, of the 42 bulls that qualified for the sale, 30 were on offer at the 2010/2011 Florida Bull Test Sale located at the North Florida Research and Education center in Marianna, FL. The sale grossed \$67,550 with an average of \$2,252 per lot. Angus bulls averaged \$2,342 on 18 lots; Brangus averaged \$1,963 on 4 lots; Hereford averaged \$1,825 on 2 lots; Limousin averaged \$1,933 on 3 lots; Parthenais averaged \$1,450 on 2 lots; and one Simmental sold for \$3,200. The high selling bull was lot 5, R&A Hi Volume 111, selling for \$3,500. He was purchased by Larry Ford of Greenwood, FL. The consignor was R&A Angus of Mebane, NC.

The Florida Bull Test focuses on testing bulls on a diet that includes a high proportion of forage, targeting an average daily gain (ADG of 3.5 pounds of gain per day). In addition, bulls were placed in the University of Florida – NFREC Feed Efficiency Facility to obtain individual feed intake data and calculate feed efficiency. Overall ranking for the test is based on ADG and the weight per day of age (WDA) generating an index ratio. The top performing bull and top performing SimAngus bull in the test was Cast Iron W200, owned by John Hill of Altha, FL who indexed 120 with an ADG of 4.13

and WDA of 3.54 lbs/day. The top Angus bull, Dove Creek Rednock HV562-D002 owned by Dove Creek Angus from Winder, GA was ranked second overall and indexed 118 with an ADG of 4.11 and WDA of 3.44. The top Brangus bull, Southern Bear Bryant owned by Southern Cattle Company, Marianna, FL, was ranked 4th overall and indexed 117 with an ADG of 3.86 and WDA of 3.66. The top Charolais bull, HBR Profit 763 P owned by Rogers Bar HR from Collins, MS, was ranked 3rd overall and indexed 117 with an ADG of 4.41 and WDA of 3.12. The top Hereford bull, SRH Image Maker R125 9056 owned by Sunset Ridge Herefords from Cumming, GA, was ranked 29th overall and indexed 97 with an ADG of 3.36 and WDA of 2.88. The top Limousin bull, FNGC Platinums Pride 184 owned by G & S Farm from Chipley, FL was ranked 9th overall and indexed 115 with an ADG of 3.61 and WDA of 3.77. The top Parthenais bull, Uranium's Protege owned by G & S Farm from Chipley, FL was ranked 12th overall and indexed 109 with an ADG of 3.73 and WDA of 3.25. Feed efficiency data is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of feed efficiency data for 48 bulls in the 2010/11 FL Bull Test

Item	Daily Intake, lbs/day	RFI, kg/day	Feed:Gain
Average	24.10	0.00	7.69
Range	14.46 – 34.48	-3.67 – 4.83	5.13 – 11.25

## What is a "Freemartin"?

*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Animal Scientist*

Freemartinism is recognized as one of the most severe forms of sexual abnormality among cattle. This condition causes infertility in the female cattle born twin to a male. When a heifer twin shares the uterus with a bull fetus, they also share the placental membranes connecting the fetuses with the dam.

A joining of the placental membranes occurs at about the fortieth day of pregnancy, and thereafter, the fluids of the two fetuses are mixed. This causes exchange of blood and antigens carrying characteristics that are unique to each heifers and bulls. When these antigens mix, they affect each other in a way that causes each to develop with some characteristics of the other sex.

Although the male twin in this case is rarely affected by reduced fertility, in over ninety percent of the cases, the female twin is completely infertile. Because of a transfer of hormones or a transfer of cells, the heifer's reproductive tract is severely underdeveloped and sometimes even contains some elements of a bull's reproductive tract. A freemartin is genetically female, but has many characteristics of a male. The ovaries of the freemartin do not develop correctly, and they remain very small. Also, the ovaries of a freemartin do not produce the hormones necessary to induce the behavioral signs of heat. The external vulvar region can range from a very normal looking female to a female that appears to be male. Usually, the vulva is normal except that in some animals an enlarged clitoris and large tufts of vulvar hair exist. Freemartinism cannot be prevented; however, it can be diagnosed in a number of ways ranging from simple examination of the placental membranes to chromosomal evaluation. The cattleman can predict the reproductive value of this heifer calf at birth and save the feed and development costs if he is aware of the high probability of freemartinism. In some cases, there are no symptoms of freemartinism because the male twin may have been aborted at an earlier stage of gestation.

Estimates of the percentage of natural beef cattle births that produce twins vary. One estimate (Gilmore) puts the percentage at about .5% or 1 in every 200 births. Approximately one-half of the sets of twins should contain both a bull and a heifer calf. (Source: "The Causes and Effects of Freemartinism in Cattle" by Laurie Ann Lyon.)

## Protecting More Calves from Respiratory Diseases and Reduce "Calf-Working Time"

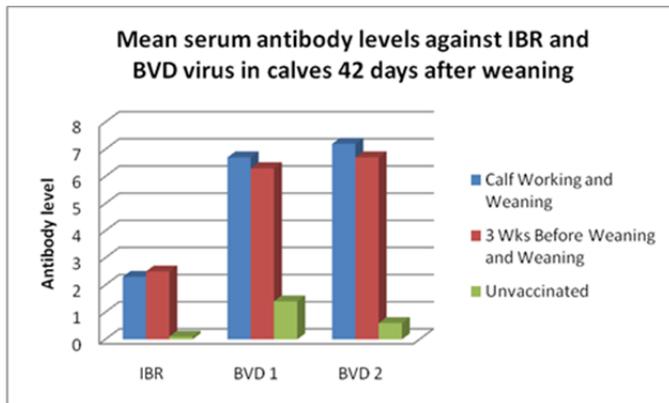
*Glenn Selk, Oklahoma State University Emeritus Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist and John Kirkpatrick, DVM, Professor Emeritus, Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine*

It soon will be time to "work" the spring-born calves. Research is available that suggests that the young calves may be vaccinated with products used for protection against the respiratory diseases (IBR and BVDV). By vaccinating the calves now, the first immunization takes place when there is very little stress on the calf, giving the calf an excellent

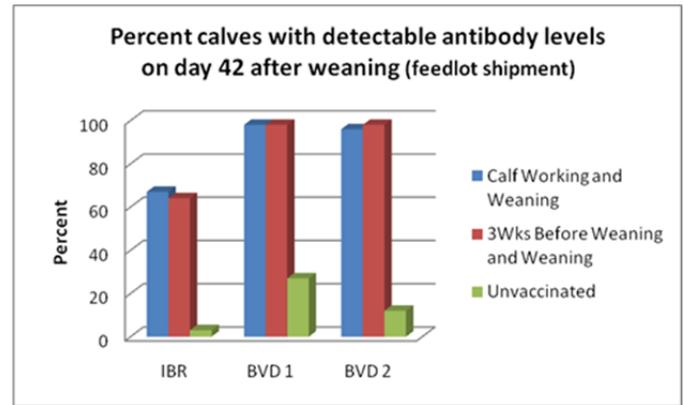
opportunity to begin to develop cell-mediated immunity. The calf then is re-vaccinated at weaning time.

The July, 2008 issue of the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association contains the results of the study comparing a "calf-working" vaccination with the traditional "pre-weaning" vaccination. Oklahoma State University veterinary scientists cooperating with the Noble Foundation of Ardmore studied the timing of modified-live virus vaccinations in beef calves. For years, the recommendation for the timing of modified-live vaccines called for the vaccine to be given after maternal passive immunity antibodies had disappeared from the blood of the calf. It was thought that maternal antibodies (received in the colostrum) would interfere with the effectiveness of the vaccine. Therefore most viral vaccines were not given until the calves were at least 4 to 5 months or older.

However, the OSU/Noble Foundation research has shown otherwise. They vaccinated calves at 67 days of age (calf working) and re-vaccinated them at weaning (190 days) and compared that with vaccinating at 167 days of age (3 weeks before weaning) and boosted at (190 days) weaning. The result with both vaccination schedules was very similar and improved serum antibody titers compared with un-vaccinated control calves.



There was no difference in the percentage of calves protected by the vaccine due to the timing of the first vaccination.



Not surprising was the fact that the vaccinated calves had lower treatment costs and less mortality in the feedlot than the non-vaccinated control calves.

Before the study was initiated, all cows and replacement heifers were vaccinated after calving and 30 days before breeding with a modified live vaccination for IBR, BVD types I and II, PI-3, and BRSV. This research suggests that the first vaccination with a modified live virus vaccine can be given at normal "calf-working" time, if boosted again at weaning. The calves would not need to be gathered at a separate time (approximately 3 - 4 weeks prior to weaning). The cows that nurse these newly vaccinated calves should have already been protected with a modified live vaccine against these same respiratory diseases. This data has led to an acceptable option for value added calf pre-conditioning programs such as the Oklahoma Beef Quality Network. Hopefully, more calves will be vaccinated for the respiratory diseases and improve the health and quality of Oklahoma-raised calves.



## Forage Bites

### Perennial Grass Variety Test Summary

The following is a summary of a three year variety test of warm season perennial grasses conducted at the USDA Coastal Plains Experiment Station in Tifton Georgia from 2006-2008.

Variety	Forage Type	3 yr Avg yield dry lbs/acre
Tifton 85	Hybrid Bermuda	24,630
Coastcross II	Hybrid Bermuda	23,583
Russell	Hybrid Bermuda	19,592
P2 (experimental)	Seeded Bermuda	18,840
Coastcross I	Hybrid Bermuda	18,045
UF-Riata	Bahia	18,013
TifQuik	Bahia	16,318
Tifton 9	Bahia	15,439
Coastal	Hybrid Bermuda	14,343
Pensacola	Bahia	12,539
Tifton 44	Hybrid Bermuda	12,150
Cheyene	Seeded Bermuda	11,707
Laredo	Seeded Bermuda	10,806
Wrangler	Seeded Bermuda	5,002



## From the Bull Pen

### The Snotty Receptionist

Yesterday I had an appointment to see the urologist for a prostate exam. Of course I was a bit on edge because all my friends have either gone under the knife or had those pellets implanted. The waiting room was filled with patients. As I approached the receptionist's desk, I noticed that the receptionist was a large unfriendly-appearing woman who looked like she could be a Sumo wrestler. I gave her my name. In a very loud voice, she said, **“YES, I HAVE YOUR NAME HERE; YOU WANT TO SEE THE DOCTOR ABOUT YOUR IMPOTENCE, RIGHT?”**

All the patients in the waiting room snapped their heads around to look at me, a now very embarrassed man. But, as usual, I recovered quickly, and in an equally loud voice replied, **“NO, ACTUALLY I'VE COME TO INQUIRE ABOUT A SEX CHANGE OPERATION, BUT I DON'T WANT THE SAME SURGEON THAT DID YOURS.”**

The room erupted in spontaneous applause!

### Cowboys Never Back Down from a Fight

A cowboy appeared before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. “Have you ever done anything of particular merit?” St. Peter asked. “Well, I can think of one thing,” the cowboy offered.

“On a trip to the beach down in Panama City, I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most tattooed biker and smacked him in the face, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring, and threw it on the ground. I yelled, Now, back off or I'll kick the snot out of all of you!”

St. Peter was impressed, “When did this happen?” The cowboy responded, “Couple of minutes ago.”

### A Terrible Condition

Two medical students were walking along the street when they saw an old man walking with his legs spread apart. He was stiff-legged and walking slowly. One student said to his friend: “I'm sure that poor old man has Peltry Syndrome. Those people walk just like that.” The other student says: “No, I don't think so. The old man surely has Zovitzki Syndrome. He walks slowly and his legs are apart, just as we learned in class.” Since they couldn't agree they decided to ask the old man.

They approached him and one of the students said to him, “We're medical students and couldn't help but notice the way you walk, but we couldn't agree on the syndrome you might have. Could you tell us what it is?” The old man said, “I'll tell you, but first you tell me what you two fine medical students think.” The first student said, “I think it's Peltry Syndrome.” The old man said, “You thought - but you are wrong.” The other student said, “I think you have Zovitzki Syndrome.” The old man said, “You thought - but you are wrong.” So they asked him, “Well, old timer, what do you have?” The old man said, “I thought it was GAS - but I was wrong, too!”

Truly Yours,

Doug Mayo  
Jackson County Extension Director

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## Livestock & Crops Calendar of Events

June	Event	Location
15	Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day	West FL REC, Jay
16	Beef Cattle Marketing Seminar 5:30-7:30	Jackson County Agricultural Conference Center
27	Deadline to sign up for Pine Beetle Prevention Program	County Forester
July	Event	Location
7	Sunbelt Expo Row Crop Field Day	Moultrie, GA
19 & 20	NW District Pesticide Training & Exam with Core and Private CEU's available	County Extension Office
August	Event	Location
18	UF/IFAS Peanut Field Day	NFREC Marianna

UF/IFAS Extension programs are open to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability, religion, or national origin. Persons with special needs should contact the Extension Office at least 5 working days prior to the event, to allow consideration to be given the request.

# Jackson Farm & Ranch Advisor

Jackson Co. Extension Agriculture Newsletter

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