



Newsletter

October 2007

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University of Florida
BLOCK AND BRIDLE

Florida's Little International Livestock Show

The Department of Animal Sciences Block and Bridle Club will be holding their annual "Florida's Little International Livestock Show" on Saturday, November 17 at 5 PM at the Department of Animal Sciences Horse Teaching Unit. The annual event is organized by Block and Bridle club members, which are undergraduate students attending either the University of Florida or Santa Fe Community College and have an interest in promoting animal agriculture in the state of Florida. We invite you to join us in meeting and supporting our agricultural leaders of tomorrow and enjoy their fellowship. The day's events will consist of the livestock show, a fundraising auction, and a catered meal. If you would like to attend or have questions please contact one of the Block and Bridle Club advisors, Dr. Lori Warren (LKWarren@ufl.edu; 352-392-1957) and Dr. Joel Yelich (yelich@ufl.edu; 352-392-7560).



Dates to Remember

October

- 4 2007 York Distinguished Lecturer Series - Gainesville, FL
- 4-5 Deer & Turkey Short Course - Quincy, FL
- 5 Mo Brangus & Oak Knoll Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 10-12 Florida Farm Bureau Annual Convention - Daytona Beach, FL
- 12 Small Ruminant Production Conference - Lake City Community College
- 12 Pine Ridge Angus Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 12-13 Cow Creek Ranch Bull Sale - Aliceville, AL
- 16-18 Sunbelt Agricultural Expo - Moultrie, GA
- 17-18 National 4-H Meat Judging Contest - Manhattan, KS
- 19 Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okcechobee, FL
- 20 Walden Farms Charolais/Angus Fall Sale - Brantley, AL
- 23 Fall Cow/Calf Management Demonstration - Rodeheaver Boys Ranch
- 25 Ankony Bull Production Sale (Private Treaty) - Clarksville, GA
- 25 Kempfer/Callaway Sale - Kissimmee, FL
- 26 Lemmon Cattle Enterprises Bull Sale - Okcechobee, FL
- 26 Soda Apple Meeting - Bartow, FL
- 27 Debter Hereford / Fleming Angus Bull Sale - Horton, AL
- 30 Beef Cattle Nutrition Short Course - Interactive Video/Variou Florida Locations

November

- 1 Southern Cattle Company Fall Sale - Marianna, FL
- 2 Jorgensen Land & Cattle Angus Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 2-4 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup - Louisville, KY
- 5 Three Trees Farms Bull Sale - Woodbury, GA
- 10 Swine Judges Clinic - Gainesville, FL
- 12-15 National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest - Louisville, KY
- 17 Florida's Little International Livestock Show - Gainesville, FL
- 27 Beef Cattle Nutrition Short Course - Interactive Video/Variou Florida Locations
- 30 Lemmon Cattle Enterprises - Lake City, FL
- 30 All Breed Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL



La Niña Watch Issued for Alabama, Florida, and Georgia

A La Niña watch has been issued by the Southeast Climate Consortium and the state climatologists of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. A watch means that conditions are likely for the development of a full-fledged La Niña event.

The watch will be followed by an official La Niña declaration if development continues in the next one to three months.

The tropical Pacific Ocean is now poised to slip into a full-fledged La Niña. Chances are very good that La Niña conditions will develop, strengthen and persist through the fall and winter months. This follows months of cooler than normal water temperatures near the coast of South America.

La Niña is commonly thought of as the opposite of El Niño. Under La Niña conditions, sea surface temperatures along the equator in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean are a few degrees colder than normal for a minimum of five months. La Niña typically returns every two to seven years.

La Niña conditions usually bring a warmer and drier cool season (October through March) to Florida, central and lower Alabama, and central and south Georgia.

With the arrival of La Niña, there is a good chance that drought conditions, currently ranging from exceptional across much of Alabama and Georgia to moderate in south Florida, will continue and possibly worsen throughout the winter and into next spring.

If below normal rainfall occurs during the cool season, moisture recharge of groundwater, soils, ponds and reservoirs will be limited. Southeastern states depend on water recharge during the cool season.

Farmers who plan to plant winter forage and do not have irrigation capability have a high risk of being seriously impacted by the winter drought.

In addition the risk of increased wildfires should be expected during the winter and spring wildfire season in Florida, south Georgia, and lower Alabama.

The Southeast Climate Consortium has estimated the impacts on climate based on past La Niña events. For central Florida, the probability of normal or above rainfall

for January 2008 is only 8 percent. The chance of moderately dry (rainfall amounts from just below normal to half of normal) is 20 percent, and for very dry conditions (less than half of normal rainfall) is 72 percent. For the Panhandle of Florida, south Georgia, and lower Alabama the probability of normal or above rainfall in January 2008 is 20 percent, for moderately dry 50 percent, and for very dry 30 percent.

More information on the developing La Niña and its potential impacts can be found at www.AgClimate.org and www.CoastalClimate.org.

The Southeast Climate Consortium is a research group aimed at aiding the use of climate forecasts in agriculture, forestry, and water resources. The consortium is a partnership of six universities, The Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Miami, The University of Georgia, Auburn University, and University of Alabama Huntsville.

David Emory Stooksbury is the state climatologist of Georgia, John Christy is the state climatologist of Alabama, David Zierden is the state climatologist of Florida and Jim O'Brien is professor emeritus at Florida State University.

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New Testing Protocol and Nutrient Recommendations for Bahia Grazing Pastures

Based on the recommendations of the IFAS Pasture Fertilization Committee and approval by the IFAS Plant

Nutrient Oversight Committee, the ESTL has created and implemented the following new protocol for Bahiagrass pastures starting today for testing and nutrient recommendations, throughout the state.

There will be four possible tests available for Bahia pastures through out the state. The north-south line has been removed. The new crop code for Bahiagrass established pastures is 36.

Available Tests for Bahiagrass pastures:

2 - Soil pH and Lime Requirement - \$3.00

3 - Soil Micronutrients (pH, Cu, Mn and Zn) - \$5.00

#13 - Bahia Standard Soil Fertility Test (pH, Lime Requirement, K, Ca, and Mg with recommendations; and P soil test value only but no recommendation) - \$7.00

#B1 - Bahia P Test - requires both soil and tissue samples submitted together (pH, Lime Requirement, P, K, Ca, and Mg with recommendations) - \$15.00

(If phosphorus recommendation is required, please choose the test # B1)

The new sample submission forms are available on the ESTL web site (<http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/>).

Please discard the old Producer Sample submission forms that you may have. Faculty are encouraged to check the web site for all the latest forms.

Please email for further information - Soilslab@ifas.ufl.edu.

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Fuller W. Bazer, International Expert on Animal Reproductive Biology

*Featured speaker at UF York
Distinguished Lecturer Series*

Fuller W. Bazer, a distinguished professor and associate vice president for research at Texas A&M University in College Station, will be the featured speaker Oct. 4 for the 2007 York Distinguished Lecturer Series at the University of Florida.

The title of Bazer's lecture will be "Animal Sciences in the Era of Systems Biology," which will be presented at 1:30 p.m. in the President's Room at Emerson Alumni Hall in Gainesville. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking will be available in the northeast corner of the O'Connell Center parking lot located at the intersection of West University Avenue and Gale Lemerand Drive.

As associate vice president for research at Texas A&M University, Bazer oversees and provides direction for biotechnology, bioinformatics and life sciences programs, research compliance and homeland security. He is also a Regents Fellow and the O.D. Butler Chair of the Department of Animal Science.

Bazer, whose research on reproductive biology focuses on uterine biology and pregnancy, joined the faculty at Texas A&M University in 1992. He is a former director of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center Institute of Biosciences and Technology and director of the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics.

Between 1994 and 2001, Bazer was a member of the organizing committee and vice president for research and interim dean, graduate school of biomedical sciences of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center. He also served as associate vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences, executive associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and associate director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Prior to joining Texas A&M University, Bazer was a faculty member at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences where he held a dual appointment as graduate research professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Department of Pediatrics.



Bazer is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he is the recipient of numerous awards, including the American Society of Animal Science Physiology and Endocrinology Award, the Society for the Study of Reproduction Research Award, the Distinguished Service Award and Carl Hartman Award, the Biotechnology 94 Award, the American Society of Animal Science L.E. Casida Award for Graduate Education, the Gamma Sigma Delta International Distinguished Achievement Award in Agriculture, the Texas A&M University and the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Research, the Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in Agriculture, the Vice Chancellor for Agriculture Award in Excellence for Research, the Wolf Prize in Agriculture, the Vice Chancellor for Agriculture Award for Team Research in Uterine Biology and Pregnancy, and the Society for Reproduction and Fertility Distinguished Research Award.

Bazer received a B.S. degree in biology from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1960, an M.S. degree in animal science from Louisiana State University in 1963 and a Ph.D. in animal science at North Carolina State University in 1969.

The York Distinguished Lecturer Series was established in 1984 through an endowment from E.T. York and Vam York. As provost for agriculture and vice president for agriculture and natural resources at UF from 1963 to 1973, E.T. York brought together the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station under a single administrative umbrella of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). For more information, go to <http://yorklecture.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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Program Targets Veterinary Students with Emphasis in Beef Production

NCF, Fort Dodge Animal Health unite to offer scholarships

The National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and Fort Dodge Animal Health are proud to announce a new scholarship program – the Fort Dodge Animal Health Legacy Scholarship. Through producer participation, Fort Dodge Animal Health will sponsor five scholarships of \$5,000 each. Three scholarships will be directed to veterinary school students that have designated an emphasis in beef production. Two scholarships will be directed to undergraduate students enrolled in an animal science program.

Cattle producers can use their Fort Dodge Animal Health invoices to help support this scholarship program – in turn, helping cattle production and cattle-producing families for the next generation. Contributing to the Legacy Scholarship is as simple as purchasing qualifying Fort Dodge Animal Health products from September 1 through November 30, 2007. Producers then simply fax in their invoices, and a contribution of 3 percent of each qualifying invoice (with an overall total of \$25,000) will be made to the scholarship fund. For more information about the program and how to turn your purchase into an investment, visit www.fortdodgelivestock.com.

The National Cattlemen's Foundation will begin accepting applications in February 2008 for the 2009-2010 academic year. Winners will be announced at the Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver, CO, July 15 - 19, 2008. In addition to the scholarship, all five recipients will receive an expense-paid trip to attend the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference. More information about scholarship criteria and how to apply will be posted soon at www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org.

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