



Newsletter

September 2007

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Dr. Chad Carr

Dr. Chad Carr is the newest addition to the UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences, serving as the Extension Meats Specialist. Dr. Carr grew up in Bethpage, TN, 30 miles north of Nashville on a diversified livestock operation, which included purebred Hampshire hogs and commercial beef cattle production. Dr. Carr received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Animal Science at Oklahoma State University and his PhD in Animal Science at the University of Missouri. He and his fiancée Cathy will be married in September and plan to live in Williston.

Dr. Carr encourages you to contact him by phone at (352) 392-2454 or email at chadcarr@ufl.edu.



Dates to Remember

September

- 1** Partners in Progress XXI Sale - Wadley, GA
- 5-6** Advanced Pasture Management School - Arcadia & Ona, FL
- 12-14** FCA Fall Quarterly Meeting - Sarasota, FL
- 19** CIH Educational Seminar "Managing Prices for Optimal Cattle Returns" - Okeechobee, FL
- 20** CIH Educational Seminar "Managing Prices for Optimal Cattle Returns" - Kissimmee, FL
- 20** FL Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show - Ocala, FL
- 21** CIH Educational Seminar "Managing Prices for Optimal Cattle Returns" - Gainesville, FL
- 22** Pine Ridge Angus Sale - Omega, GA
- 25** Beef Cattle Nutrition Short Course - Interactive Video/Various Florida Locations
- 28** Pine Ridge Angus Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 29** Open Hereford Show, Suwannee River LS Pavillion - Fanning Springs, FL
- 29** SE Georgia Heifer Sale - Baxley, GA

October

- 5** Mo Brangus & Oak Knoll Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 12** Pine Ridge Angus Bull Sale - Arcadia, FL
- 12-13** Cow Creek Ranch Bull Sale - Aliceville, AL
- 17-18** National 4-H Meat Judging Contest Manhattan, KS
- 19** Graham Angus Bull Sale - Okeechobee, 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 - Okeechobee, FL
- 27** Debter Hereford / Fleming Angus Bull Sale - Horton, AL
- 30** Beef Cattle Nutrition Short Course - Interactive Video/Various Florida Locations



Bronson Warns of Severe Economic Losses Facing Florida Agriculture Unless Lake Okeechobee Water Level Rises

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson says consumers will see food prices increase and the state faces serious economic consequences if the prolonged drought in southeast Florida continues. Total statewide economic losses have already topped an estimated \$100 million this year, and are expected to surpass \$1 billion over the next two years if the current situation is not altered.

“Some agricultural industries like cattle, citrus and sugar won’t feel the worst of their financial pains until 2008 and 2009,” Bronson said.

While the normal summer rains have eased the severity of urban water shortages throughout the state, many Floridians are unaware that agricultural producers around Lake Okeechobee are facing ongoing water shortages and storage dilemmas that will continue well into next year and beyond.

In addition to providing a backup drinking water supply for the densely populated communities of South Florida and a critical supplemental water supply for the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee stores irrigation water for some 700,000 acres of agriculture - considered by some as the most productive farm land in the world.

“Agriculture around the lake is facing a dire situation,” Bronson said. “If there’s any hope of avoiding a financial meltdown, it’s absolutely essential that the state, the South Florida Water Management District and the Army Corps of Engineers do everything possible to increase water levels in Lake Okeechobee.”

Even with the increasing rainfall in recent weeks, Bronson believes that state agencies must find a way to put more storage water back into the lake. Florida’s “dry season” starts in November, and most agricultural producers do not feel that there is sufficient water to get them through the critical period until next spring.

And without ample water, the state’s valuable winter vegetable production, citrus crop and sugar production are in peril, Bronson said.

Many South Florida farmers have been under water restrictions since November of 2006 and some are now

questioning the viability of even planting a fall crop.

“This is a tough situation,” Bronson said. “Think about it; would you invest hundreds-of-thousands of dollars planting crops with the prospects of having an insufficient water supply to keep them alive?”

Bronson stressed that agriculture losses will no doubt also show up in lost tax revenues, unemployment and higher food prices.

“It’s not just about farm profitability; it affects everyone who eats and relies on the economy,” he said.

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USDA Announces Sign-up Dates for New Livestock and Crop Disaster Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced sign-up dates for the new Livestock Compensation Program, Livestock Indemnity Program, and Crop Disaster Program. The three ad hoc disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years.

Eligible ranchers and other livestock producers can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) beginning September 10, 2007. Eligible farmers can sign-up for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) beginning October 15, 2007, if they suffered quantity losses to their crops. USDA will announce and conduct CDP sign-up for quality losses as soon as possible.

LCP compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, due to a natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disasters occurring during

the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Also, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible. Producers incurring a loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits.

LIP compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007, are eligible as are producers located in counties contiguous to those counties. Also, producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible. Producers incurring eligible livestock losses in more than one of the 2005, 2006, or 2007 calendar years must choose only one year for which they want to apply for benefits.

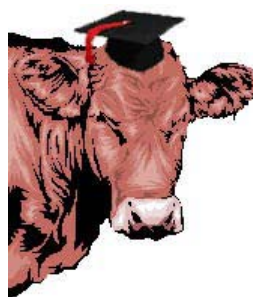
CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or, in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

On May 25, 2007, President George W. Bush signed into law the "U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007" (2007 Act). The 2007 Act authorizes LCP, LIP and CDP. It also authorizes funding for the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP), Emergency Conservation Program and Dairy Disaster Assistance Program III (DDAP-III). USDA recently

announced sign-up for EFCRP and the distribution of funds to 18 states under ECP. USDA will announce and conduct sign-up for DDAP-III as soon as possible. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is charged with administering the programs.

More information about LCP, LIP, and CDP is available in a fact sheet titled, Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007, found on FSA's Web site, <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on Disaster Assistance Programs. USDA is developing individual fact sheets about these programs that will be posted online.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington D.C.
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Students Encouraged To Apply For Beef Industry Scholarships

Applications are being accepted for the 2008 Beef Industry Scholarship Program, sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Foundation and the CME Group. All entries must be postmarked by October 5, 2007.

Ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to young people pursuing careers in the beef industry. The program encourages talented and thoughtful students who have demonstrated a commitment to a career in the beef industry, either through classes, internships or life experience. Graduating high school seniors or full-time undergraduate students enrolled at a two-year or four-year college for the 2008-2009 academic year are encouraged to apply.

Applications must include a 750-word essay that identifies a key issue confronting the beef industry and suggests a solution. Applicants must also submit a letter expressing future career goals and two letters of recommendation. A full description the scholarship program and application requirements can be found at the National Cattlemen's Foundation website: <http://www.nationalcattlemensfoundation.org/scholarship.aspx>

or obtained by calling (303) 850-3345.

In addition to a scholarship, the first-place winner will receive airfare and lodging to attend the Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in Reno, NV, February 6-9, 2008.

The Beef Industry Scholarship Program is a cooperative effort of the CME Group and the National Cattlemen's Foundation. It was launched in 1989 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Live Cattle Futures Contract on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The CME Group has been a leader in the live cattle market since 1964, and the Beef Industry Scholarship Program exemplifies its commitment to the beef industry.

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Florida Farm Bureau Quiz Bowl

**Wednesday, October 10, 2007 -
Friday, October 12, 2007**

New this year! Youth between 13-18 years old will compete in teams of 4 participants by answering agricultural questions. Teams will compete at the Florida Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Daytona Beach on October 10th, 2007.

The Farm Bureau Youth Quiz Bowl Registration Form can be downloaded from <http://floridafarmbureau.org/uploads/mainsite/files/QuizBowlRegForm.pdf>.

Teams will be quizzed on a brief understanding of the following Subject Areas: Farm Bureau 101, Field and Specialty Crops, Livestock, Natural Resources and the Environment, Agriculture History, AgriTechnology, Agriculture Issues and Civics and Government.

The registration deadline is September 10th and due to limited space, only the first eight teams to register will compete. You won't want to miss out!

Prizes: For winning First Place each team member will receive one free ticket to either Busch Gardens or Sea World (you choose) and the team will jointly receive \$200! Each member of the second place team receives one free ticket to either Busch Gardens or Sea World (you choose)!

Please contact Rachel Kudelko at 352-378-8100 ext. 1030 for more information.

SOURCE: <http://floridafarmbureau.org/>



USDA Reviews Proposals For National Animal ID Ear Tags

The U.S.D.A.'s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is reviewing several proposals for the production and delivery of 1.5 million radio frequency ear tags that are compliant with National Animal Identification System standards.

These ear tags will be used to uniquely identify U.S. livestock that are part of current animal disease programs, particularly within geographic regions where bovine tuberculosis testing and the brucellosis calfhood vaccination programs are most active.

For more information about NAIS, visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>.

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