

## CATTLE IN THE ENVIRONMENT

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FLORIDA'S RANCHES PROVIDE AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WILDLIFE AS WELL AS LIVESTOCK. CATTLEMEN WHO HAVE GROWN UP ON THE LAND HAVE LEARNED TO KEEP HAMMOCKS AND TIMBER AS PROTECTION FOR THEIR CATTLE, AND THEY REALIZE THAT BIRDS, GAME AND PREDATORS COMPLEMENT THE CATTLE RATHER THAN COMPETE. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN MANAGERS BROUGHT IN THAT CLEAR ALL COVER, THESE PEOPLE GENERALLY DO NOT STAY IN BUSINESS VERY LONG BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE WAY THAT FLORIDA'S CLIMATE AND INSECTS AFFECT THEIR CATTLE.

YOU CANNOT CHANGE FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT. IT IS HOT AND HUMID WITH LOTS OF INSECTS. THE GRASS IS PLENTIFUL AND THE SUPPLY IS DEPENDABLE. HOWEVER, IT IS HIGH IN MOISTURE AND FIBRE AND RELATIVELY LOW IN TOTAL DIGESTIBLE NUTRIENTS. BECAUSE OF THIS YOU MUST ADAPT THE CATTLE TO FLORIDA RATHER THAN TRY TO CHANGE FLORIDA TO FIT BRITISH OR EUROPEAN CATTLE.

TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL RANCH PROGRAM YOU MUST HAVE THE TOTAL PICTURE IN MIND. THE LAND, WATER, TREES, GRASS, CATTLE AND THE WILDLIFE ALL HAVE A PLACE. THE CATTLE PAY THE BILLS, KEEP DOWN THE UNDERBRUSH, PROTECT AGAINST FIRE, AND ARE THE REASON TO BE IN BUSINESS. THEY RESTORE ORGANIC MATERIAL TO THE SOIL AND ARE THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF PROTEIN FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. GRASS HOLDS THE SOIL, FEEDS THE CATTLE, AND IN TURN IS FED BY CLOVER AND LEGUMES. BIRDS CONTROL ARMY WORMS, GRASSHOPPERS AND INSECTS THAT INFECT THE PASTURES, PREDATORS PICKUP RATS, RABBITS AND SNAKES. WITHIN FLORIDA'S ECOSYSTEM THERE IS A NATURAL CONTROL FOR ALL OF OUR MAJOR PROBLEMS. ONLY AS WE GET INTO ABNORMAL CONCENTRATIONS OF CATTLE SUCH AS DAIRIES OR FEEDLOTS DO WE INCUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE CATTLE PROGRAM THAT WE HAVE CONTINUOUSLY USED IN FLORIDA FOR OVER 40 YEARS HAS BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRAFORD BREED. THIS HAS BEEN DONE WITH THREE THINGS IN MIND. FIRST TO DEVELOP CATTLE THAT ARE ADAPTED TO FLORIDA'S GRASS, CLIMATE AND INSECTS. SECOND TO SELECT BULLS AND FEMALES THAT ARE HIGH PRODUCING CATTLE. THIRD TO RECOGNIZE AND USE NATURAL SELECTION. NATURAL SELECTION INSURES THAT CATTLE REMAIN SOUND, AND ARE ABLE TO BREED NATURALLY AND CALVE WITHOUT ASSISTANCE. OUR CATTLE REQUIRE LITTLE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION JUST AS DEER OR WILDLIFE ARE PERFECTLY SUITED TO PRODUCING AND REPRODUCING WITHOUT MUCH HUMAN ATTENTION.

FLORIDA'S WATER WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE PERFECTLY CLEAR AND PRACTICALLY STERILE LIKE LAKES IN CANADA OR THE ADIRONDACKS. FLORIDA'S WATERS ARE MORE LIKE AFRICAN LAKES AND STREAMS IN THAT THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF SUNLIGHT, HEAT AND LIFE IN THE FLORIDA WATER. IT IS A NATURAL OCCURRENCE AND IS THE REASON THAT WE HAVE SO MANY FISH, BIRDS, INSECTS AND LIFE OF ALL KINDS IN FLORIDA. IF WE TRY TO CHANGE THIS, FLORIDA WILL BE A CLEAN BUT STERILE LANDSCAPE.

AS WE PROCEED WITH TOTAL STATE REGULATIONS OF OUR LAND, AIR, AND WATER, WE WILL FIND THAT STATE SOCIALISM WILL NOT WORK ANY BETTER IN FLORIDA THAN IT

**HAS IN RUSSIA. FOR US TO BE SUCCESSFUL WE MUST KEEP OUR LAND IN PRIVATE HANDS AND EDUCATE THE CATTLEMAN TO THE ADVANTAGES OF WILDLIFE AND A TOTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYONE MORE CONCERNED WITH LAND PROTECTION THAN THE OWNER WHO LIVES ON HIS LAND.**