Dear Extension Clientele

I will be serving as your new animal sciences/natural resources agent. I am excited about meeting all of your agricultural education needs. I would like the opportunity to meet each of you thru a farm or office visit so feel free to call and make an appointment or come by my office.

I grew up on a cow/calf ranch in Citrus County and am an active member of the Cattlemen’s Association and Farm Bureau. I grew up showing animals in 4-H and FFA. I look forward to having a strong youth livestock program here in Lake County.

I recently graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelors degree in Animal Sciences where I specialized in Beef Cattle Production. I then received my Masters in Extension Communication and Education. After graduating I spent almost a year at Central Beef LLC., in Center Hill, FL where I worked as the Quality Control Inspector.

I have enclosed a survey along with the newsletter so please fill it out and send it back to the Extension Office so that I will be able to meet the needs of all my clientele. Once again I am pleased to be serving in this position and look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely

Martha Thomas
Animal Science/ Natural Resources Agent
(352)343-4101
marthat@ufl.edu
http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu
Pasture Management

Well it is once again spring time and we need to be thinking about pasture renovation and improvements. If you are planning to make major improvements you need to begin by getting a soil sample to see what the pH of your soil is and how much Dolomite, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium you will need to add to your pastures.

If you already have good permanent pastures you may need to think about adding fertilizer and Dolomite this spring. You also need to be planning how you are going to manage weeds this year. You may want to try the new herbicide from Dow Agro sciences, Milestone. UF research has shown this to be very effective on horse nettle, tropical soda apple, Spanish needle, and thistles. The herbicide can control weeds at any growth stage. Also, tropical soda apple seeds will not reappear in treated areas for at least six months.

Spring Calves

If you have cattle be aware that cattle buyers will be paying a premium for uniform, vaccinated, and source verified feeder calves. Reason being is that feedlots want healthy cattle that can be traced back to the ranch where they originated. The article below explains the Voluntary animal ID program which will be mandatory in a couple of years. If you are interested in having more uniform calves and a vaccination program please contact me and we can put together a progressive plan for your herd.

Florida Animal Identification Program (FAIP)

National Animal Identification System (NAIS) (Application is attached)

The National Animal Identification System is being implemented by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry on a voluntary basis. In 2004/2005 Florida entered a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop an animal identification system for Florida. The Division of Animal Industry implemented a premises identification system and expanded work with producers and industry groups on pilot animal identification projects. Division of Animal Industry personnel continue working with producers and industry leaders to develop practical approaches to meeting the animal health and animal movement challenges of today’s global marketplace.

As of September 15, 2005, more than 1,025 Florida premises were registered into the system. This methodical start set the foundation for further development of the program with approximately 85% of cattle being on registered premises since January 2005, the beginning of the project.

Pilot projects focused on four segments of the Florida cattle industry to test the application and aid implementing the basic animal tracking and disease management directives of the NAIS. Participating
cattlemen viewed the feedback of performance and health related information as a breakthrough in ranch management and marketing.

The Calf segment tracked electronically identified Florida calves in interstate commerce while evaluating tag retention and electronic readers and technology to support the electronic Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI). Approximately 17,000 Florida calves shipped to Texas and Kansas feedlots were part of this project.

The Cull Cow segment tracks cattle individually identified by conventional or electronic means to verify farm or ranch of origin and age, and track through the processing system. Florida producers received industry driven monetary premiums for these source verified cattle and Florida Animal Identification Program eID and visual tags to stimulate further application of individual animal ID.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida segment electronically identified approximately 12,000 head of brood cows and their calf crop to aid in computerizing record management of 68 individual herd owners’ cattle managed in commingled herds. The addition of electronic scales and readers put the tribal cattle herd at the cutting edge of computerized cattle management systems. This allowed the Seminole Tribe to incorporate individual animal ID for information management and value added opportunities.

The Equine segment implemented an individual horse identification card program. The ID cards show a photo of the horse with test history and health certification. Ten states now accept the Florida Equine Interstate Passport Card for equine movements. As of July 1, 2005, premises registration will be required for passport cards, event extensions, etc. Two hundred horses were implanted with electronic microchips to test and demonstrate the technology and monitor tracking through the state’s Agricultural Interdiction stations.

Source:  http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/adc/adc_nais.shtml

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**Ag Related Service Free Advertisement**

If you have a personal business and would like to be added to my contact sheets that I give to clientele and list on the county extension web site please give my your contact information and the services you provide.
2006 Planning Calendar

Links to most programs and agendas may be found at: http://cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu

March
9 …..Beef Quality Assurance Training – Program presented by Todd A. Thrift
University of Florida, Department of Animal Science
Osceola County Extension Office
1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane
10:00 am / 3:00 pm

The Florida Beef Quality Producer Program will focus on these topics and many others including:

• Injection site management
• Avoiding residues from antibiotics, medicated feeds, chemicals, feed contaminants, feed toxins, ruminant by-products
• Foreign object avoidance
• Breeding and genetic selection
• Utilization of animal health products
• Cattle handling/processing
• Cull cow management

Most importantly, the training will focus on the Record Keeping that will help you DOCUMENT the beef quality practices on your operation.

30 …..Spring Ranchers Forum – Pasture Management
Yarborough Ranch
1355 Snow Hill Road, Geneva, FL
8:30 am

Directions to Yarborough Ranch

- I-4 to the 408 East (East-West Expressway-Toll Road) Drive 3.9 miles.
- Take State Road 417 (Toll Road) NORTH exit, exit #18A on the LEFT, towards Sanford. Drive 0.4 miles.
- Take the exit on the LEFT toward Central FL Greenway-SR417 NORTH ramp. Drive 0.8 miles.
- Merge onto Central L Greenway (Toll Road) SR417 N. Drive 7.3 miles.
- Take the Red Bug Lake Rd. exit, #41 on RIGHT. Drive 0.3 miles.
- Take the Red Bug Lake Rd. East exit on the RIGHT towards Oviedo. Drive 0.1 miles.
- Stay straight to go onto W. Mitchell Hammock Rd. Drive 1.1 miles.
- W. Mitchell Hammock Rd. becomes E. Mitchell Hammock Rd. Drive 1.8 miles.
- Turn left onto Lockwood Road. Drive 2.0 miles.
- Turn RIGHT onto Oviedo Rd-County Road 426. Drive 3.4 miles.
- Oviedo Rd-CR426 becomes CR426. Drive 0.5 miles.
- Turn RIGHT onto Snow Hill Road. Drive 0.8 miles to 1355 Snow Hill Rd.

Alternate Directions (Bypass Orlando)

- Take Route 46 to Geneva.
- Turn SOUTH on state road 426.
- Turn LEFT onto Snow Hill Rd.

May
3-5 …..Beef Cattle Short Course – Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, FL
“Meeting the Challenges of Preserving Our Land, Managing Our Cattle, and Feeding Our Consumers.”
**APPLICATION FOR NAIS PREMISES IDENTIFICATION**

**Business/Farm/Ranch/Stable Account Information**

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<th>Information</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Business or Mobile Phone</strong></td>
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**Business Type (please check only one)**

- Individual
- Partnership
- Incorporated Company
- Limited Liability Company
- Limited Liability Partnership
- Non-Profit
- State or Federal Government Entity

**Premises Information (where animals are located or Florida management headquarters)**

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<td>Zip:</td>
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<td><strong>County:</strong></td>
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**Primary Business Function (please check only one)**

- Production Unit (Farm, Ranch, Flock, Equine Facility)
- Clinic (Location where animals are treated for disease)
- Market/Collection Point (Backgrounder, Order Buyer, USDA Approved Market, Approved Dealer)
- Laboratory
- Non-producer Participant
- Port of Entry
- Rendering

**Species on Premises (please check all that apply)**

- Cattle
- Horses
- Goats
- Sheep
- Swine
- Deer
- Elk
- Llama
- Bison
- Poultry
- Chickens
- Ducks
- Geese
- Guinea
- Pheasants
- Quail
- Turkeys
- Emu

**Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent:**

**Date:**
SURVEY
(Please return to address shown above)

1. What type of agriculture operation are you associated with and the size of your operation?
   - Horse (Indicate your discipline) ________________________________________________
   - Beef Cattle
     - Registered ______________________________________________________________
     - Cross Bred ______________________________________________________________
   - Dairy Cattle (Indicate Breed) _________________________________________________
   - Meat Goats (Indicate Breed) _________________________________________________
   - Dairy Goats (Indicate Breed) _________________________________________________
   - Hogs (Indicate Breed) _______________________________________________________
   - Poultry (Indicate Type) _____________________________________________________
   - Aquaculture __________________________________________________________________
   - Sod/ Seed/ Hay (Indicate acreage) _____________________________________________
   - Forestry (Indicate acreage) __________________________________________________

2. Do you consider your operation □ commercial agriculture or □ hobby?

3. Are you the □ owner or □ manager of the operation?

4. In the next five years what are your plans?
   - □ Increase  □ Decrease  □ Stay the same  □ Get out of the Business

5. Do you have another job?  □ Yes  □ No
   - If yes  □ Full time  □ Part time
6. What percent of your land is improved pasture? ________________________________

7. What species and about how many acres of forages do you produce for feed and hay production?
   Grazing (list species and acres) _____________________________________________
   Hay (list species and acres) _________________________________________________

8. What percent of your land is improved pasture? ________________________________

**Beef Cattle** (If this does not pertain skip to question #19)

9. How many breeding females were exposed to a bull in 2005? ______________________

10. Do you keep bulls in with the breeding herd during the entire year?  
    □ Yes  □ No

11. How long were the bulls in with the breeding herd in the 2004-2005 season? ______________

12. What month did you put the bulls out to begin the breeding season? _________________

13. How are your cows and calves marketed? _________________________________________

14. Which of the following practices are used on your calves before they are sold? (Mark all that apply)
    □ Castrate  □ Growth Implant  □ Deworm  □ Creep Feed  □ Taught to eat feed from a feed bunk
    □ Dehorn genetically (polled bulls)  □ Dehorn physically  □ 7 of 8 way clostridium (blackleg)
    □ Vaccinate twice of shipping fever (IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV)
    □ Vaccinate once for shipping fever (IBR, PI3, BVD, BRSV)
    □ Sort calves into uniform groups by sex and weight

15. Do you vaccinate the breeding herd?  □ Yes  □ No
    If yes which vaccinations are given to the mature breeding herd?
    □ Vibrio/Lepto  □ Hemophilus somnus  □ Trichomoniasis fetus  □ Worming & Parasite Control
    □ Pinkeye  □ Calf Scours (E.coli, rotvirus, coronavirus)  □ IBR, BVD, PI3 & BRSV
    □ Other
16. What type of records do you keep on your cattle operation?

☐ Financial (expense, income)

☐ Production (birth date, birth weight, weaning weight, pregnancy status etc.)

☐ Health Records (Vaccinations and wormings)

17. Did you use these records for annual business analysis during the last 12 months?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

18. Did you use the records to select or cull cattle during the last 12 months?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

**Extension Programming**

19. Have you attended an educational event or received information about livestock and forages from UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service during the last 12 months?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

20. If Yes, how good or poor would you rate the information provided by UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service?

☐ Very Good  ☐ Good  ☐ Fair  ☐ Poor  ☐ Very Poor

21. When is the best time to schedule educational programs? (Mark only one)

☐ Weekday mornings (8-12)

☐ Weekday afternoons (1-5)

☐ Weekday evenings after 6PM

☐ Saturdays

22. What are the three biggest challenges, problems or needs that you would like addressed by Extension educational programs or new research?

a. __________________________________________________________________________

b. __________________________________________________________________________

c. __________________________________________________________________________

23. Please indicate any programs you would like to have more information on in the near future.

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________