

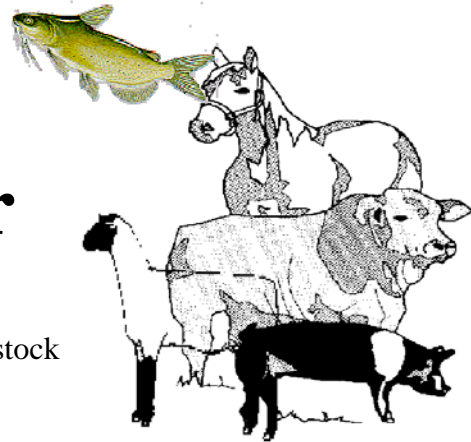
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Animal and Dairy Science Department
Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science

Livestock Newsletter

May/June 2006

<http://www.ads.uga.edu/extension/newsletters.html#livestock>



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Please give credit to the author if you use an article in a non-Extension publication and please send a copy of the article to the author. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert L. Stewart
Extension Coordinator
Animal and Dairy Science Department

LIVESTOCK NEWSLETTER

May/June

AS-1

2006 Southeast Georgia Beef Cattle Short Course

Tim Wilson
Extension Animal Scientist – Beef

The University of Georgia's Animal and Dairy Science Department and Cooperative Extension will hold the 2006 Southeast Georgia Beef Cattle Short Course on August 29, 2006 in Sylvania, GA. This short course will include both outdoor (Screven County Ag Center) and indoor (Screven County Extension Office) discussions on topics related to practical beef cattle production and management.

Lunch will be provided so hurry now and pre-register by August 21, 2006. You must pre-register to receive a lunch ticket. To receive registration information, contact Tim Wilson, UGA Extension Animal Scientist, at (706) 624-1403, Ray Hicks, Screven County Extension Coordinator, at (912) 564-2064 or you can contact your County Extension Agent. Additional information can be obtained on the web at www.ugabeef.org.

Using distillers grains in beef cattle rations

Johnny Rossi - Extension Animal Scientist

Distillers grains are a by-product feed produced during the production of ethanol. Approximately 30% of a bushel of corn remains after the starch is converted to ethanol. With over 2 billion bushels of corn expected to be used for ethanol in the next year, there is a considerable amount of distiller by-product available to feed cattle.

Distillers grains are high in protein (28 to 30%) and energy (92% TDN). The fat content varies from 9 to 14% which increases the energy content. In comparison, corn gluten feed is 21% protein and 80% TDN. Distillers grains are a good source of "bypass" protein for young cattle that have high

protein requirements. The ‘bypass’ protein is not degraded in the rumen, rather it escapes digestion in the rumen and is absorbed in the small intestine. About 70% of the protein is ‘bypass’ protein in distillers grains, whereas, only 25% of the protein in corn gluten feed is ‘bypass’. Distillers grains can be an economical source of supplemental protein in addition to energy when feeding growing cattle or poor quality hay to cows. This simplifies feeding, as one ingredient can provide all the needed supplemental energy and protein.

Calves consuming distillers grains will have greater gains than calves fed a similar amount of corn gluten feed. One study found that calves fed a diet of 40% roughage, 40% distillers grains, and 20% corn gluten feed had higher daily gains (2.77 vs 2.53 lb/day) than calves fed a 40% roughage, 40% corn gluten feed, and 20% distillers grains diet. However, calves fed the 40% level of corn gluten feed were more efficient (6.86 vs 7.45 lb of feed per lb of gain) than calves fed the 40% distillers gains diet. When feeding high grain diets, distillers grains have generally not depressed performance or affected carcass traits when fed at 40% of diet dry matter, which equates to replacing 50% of the corn in the diet.

Distillers grains have also been evaluated as the primary source of energy in limit-fed grain rations for wintering cows. A study compared feeding lactating Simmental cows either distillers grains or corn gluten feed. Cows were fed either distillers grains or corn gluten at 77% of the diet with ground cornstalks at 23% of the diet. Cows were fed 8% more feed in the corn gluten feed (22.8 lb/day) vs distillers grains (21.2 lb/day) group. No differences were observed for calf daily gains. These diets should be fed at approximately 1.75% of body weight to mature cows producing 15 lb of milk per day. The energy value of corn gluten and distillers grains appears to be similar when provided as a supplement to lactating cows. The determining factor as to which feed to use should be based upon price and amount of supplemental protein needed. Distillers grains is an excellent source of supplemental protein and energy for cows fed hay. Producers should have a nutrient analyses conducted on each cutting of hay. The amount of distillers grains required to provide adequate protein and energy can easily be determined using the forage nutrient analyses. Contact your local county extension agent for testing and ration balancing procedures.

Sixth Annual Calhoun HERD Sale Summary

Tim Wilson
Extension Animal Scientist – Beef Cattle

On May 31, 2006 the University of Georgia’s Animal and Dairy Science Department, Cooperative Extension, College of Veterinary Medicine, Northwest Georgia Research and Education Center and the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association hosted the Sixth Annual Calhoun Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development (HERD) Sale in Calhoun, GA.

This years program began with 192 heifers from 44 in-state consignors. All heifers were evaluated

for pelvic area, reproductive tract maturity score, disposition, structure and were bred by artificial insemination (AI) at least once. Heifers were fed corn gluten, hay and mineral containing Rumensin® to reach approximately 65% of their mature weight at breeding. They were estrous synchronized using a progesterone/prostaglandin protocol and were bred using AI for five days. Any heifers not determined in estrus and bred by 72 hours after prostaglandin were given a single injection of gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH) and were bred by fix-time insemination.

Of the 179 heifers on the program at breeding, 55% (98/179) conceived during their first service to AI (Table 1). Since every heifer was inseminated at least once, first service conception rate is the same as the pregnancy rate.

One-hundred and thirty-six heifers were available for sale to the 64 registered buyers from Alabama and Georgia. Twenty-eight of these buyers purchased at least one heifer with the volume buyer purchasing a total of 15. The sale grossed \$178,200 which resulted in a sale average of \$1,310. Artificially inseminated bred heifers (89) sold for an average of \$280 more than heifers bred by the clean-up bull (34), \$1,407 and \$1,127 respectively. Registered heifers (41) also sold for an average of \$280 more than commercial heifers (95), \$1,506 and \$1,226 respectively. The highest selling heifer sold for \$2,700, the top ten heifers averaged \$2,095 and the top twenty heifers averaged \$1,850.

This year's HERD Program was successful in demonstrating replacement heifer development techniques to producers throughout the state. With the leadership of the Heifer Team, lead by county extension agents, this program continues to serve as an educational tool that can be incorporated at the farm level.

If you have heifers and are interested in participating in this program, contact your county extension agent or contact Tim Wilson at (706) 624-1403 for additional details.

Table 1. 2006 Calhoun HERD Program Breeding Results.

n = 179

Conception Rates *(in this case, same as Pregnancy Rates)*

<i>1st Service (Synchronized)</i>	<i>98/179</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Pasture Exposed Pregnant</i>	<i>34/179</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>19%</i>
<i>Pasture Exposed Open</i>	<i>47/179</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>26%</i>

Seventh Annual HERD Sale at Tifton, Sale Summary

Johnny Rossi
Extension Animal Scientist

The Seventh Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development Sale was held at the Tifton Bull Evaluation Center in Irwinville on April 18, 2006. In all, 23 consignors entered 186 heifers in the program at the beginning of October. A total of 121 pregnant heifers were sold for an average of \$1192. There was a good crowd with a total of 25 buyers from Georgia and Florida. The top-two selling heifers sold for \$1,600 and were consigned by Lovett Farms and Jack and Sherry Jones.

Heifers were heat-synchronized by inserting a CIDR for seven days and a shot of Lutalyse® at CIDR removal. Heifers were bred A.I. for two heat cycles to a calving ease Angus bull. A clean-up bull was put with each group of heifers for two more cycles. The A.I. conception rate was 79%, and the overall pregnancy rate was 88%.

The test is designed to maintain a moderate growth rate of approximately 1.5 pounds per day to achieve a target weight (65% of estimated mature) at the beginning of the breeding period on January 1. Heifers were fed Coastal bermudagrass hay (9% crude protein, 55% TDN) plus 6 lb/d corn gluten pellets and 3 lb/d soybean hull pellets. Heifers gained 1.89 lbs/day during the program which began 80 days prior to breeding and ended 120 days after the start of the breeding period. A free choice mineral containing an ionophore (Bovatec®) was fed. In addition to weight gain, heifers are evaluated for reproductive tract maturity, disposition, pelvic area, and frame score.

The HERD program would not be possible without the support of the HERD Team. This group of Extension agents forms guidelines, promotes the program and does a large portion of the work. This years program was a great success and many consignors and other cattle producers are beginning to use the HERD program protocol on their cattle at home.

Plans will begin soon for the 2006-2007 HERD program at Tifton with heifers being delivered in the fall. If you are interested, contact your local Extension agent or Johnny Rossi at 229/386-3407 or e-mail at jrossi@uga.edu. The Calhoun HERD program will kick off in December, for more information contact Tim Wilson at 706/624-1403 or e-mail at twwilson@uga.edu.



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Tel 912-226-1641



Agricultural Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

WEEK ENDING: 7-14-06 The Cooperative Extension Service would like to thank Terry Harris for submitting this information.

GEORGIA CATTLE: RECEIPTS: 16700 LAST WK Holiday YEAR AGO 12900

<u>FEEDERS</u>	<u>STEERS</u>	<u>MED & LARGE 1</u>	<u>HEIFERS</u>
	<u>130.00-160.00</u>	<u>300/350 LBS</u>	<u>119.00-157.00</u>
	<u>120.00-146.00</u>	<u>350/400</u>	<u>111.00-130.00</u>
	<u>112.00-136.00</u>	<u>400/450</u>	<u>105.00-125.00</u>
	<u>108.00-130.00</u>	<u>450/500</u>	<u>102.00-121.00</u>
	<u>107.00-130.00</u>	<u>500/550</u>	<u>100.00-116.00</u>
	<u>100.00-124.00</u>	<u>550/600</u>	<u>95.00-113.00</u>
	<u>97.00-122.50</u>	<u>600/650</u>	<u>92.00-112.00</u>
	<u>98.00-107.00</u>	<u>650/700</u>	<u>92.00-107.00</u>

<u>SLAUGHTER COWS % LEAN</u>	<u>75-80% 850-1200 LBS</u>	<u>42.00-48.00</u>
	<u>80-85% 850-1200 LBS</u>	<u>42.00-56.00</u>
	<u>80-86% OVER 1200 LBS</u>	<u>43.00-58.00</u>
	<u>85-90% 800-1200 LBS</u>	<u>42.00-50.00</u>

5 Area Daily Wtd Average - Texas/Oklahoma; Kansas; Nebraska; Colorado; and Iowa/So Minnesota Feedlots:

Steers...Select/Choice 65-80% Weighted Average Price Range 80.50-82.00

Heifers..Select/Choice 65-80% Weighted Average Price Range 81.50

By-Product Drop Value (Steer)...Hide and Offal Value 8.22cwt.

Box Beef Cut-Out ValueChoice 1-3 550/750 LBS. 148.49

Select 1-3 550/700 LBS. 126.30

Georgia Hogs: GA-FL-AL Direct Area Receipts Trends Lower

US 1-2 220/260 LBS. 36.00-38.00 Sows 300/500 LBS. 500-UP

<u>FEEDER PIGS</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>	<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>	<u>TENNESSEE</u>
<u>US 1-2 35/40 LBS.</u>				<u>55-60</u>
<u>40/45</u>				<u>60/65</u>
<u>45/50</u>				<u>65/70</u>
<u>50/55</u>				<u>70/80</u>

IOWA-SOUTHERN MINNESOTA DIRECT HOGS: RECEIPTS TRENDS 1.50 higher

BARROWS & GILTS 49-51% LEAN 185 LB CARCASSES RANGE 60.00-68.75 WTD AVG. 67.66