



# Evangeline Ag News

News and information for our parish's agricultural producers and dealers

**September 2006**

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY ACADIANA CATTLE PRODUCERS FALL FIELD DAY SERIES

The Acadiana Cattle Producers Fall Field Day, sponsored by the Louisiana Cattleman's Association, the Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council, and the LSU AgCenter, will be held September 14, 2006 at Dominique's Stockyard in Opelousas. The program is as follows:

4:00-5:00 p.m. – Registration and Orientation

**Trade Show** – Mr. Joe Hidalgo and Mr. Keith Normand – View vendor exhibits and speak with company representatives.

**Welcome** – Dr. Steve Linscombe, Regional Director, Southwest Region LSU AgCenter  
- Mr. Felix Morein, Vice-President, District 8, La. Cattlemen's Association  
- Dr. Allen Deramus, President, Louisiana Forage and Grassland Council

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Ranch Tour

**Visit Mr. Doris LeBlanc's Farm**

**Pasture/Fence Weed Control Demonstration** – Dr. Ed Twidwell and Mr. Keith Normand – Learn how to control/eradicate "Chicken" trees, privet, and briars.

**Electric Fencing System Demonstration** – Mr. Doug Gevedon and Mr. Stan Dutile – View Mr. LeBlanc's recently completed pasture fence system and learn the keys to constructing an electric fence system.

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Dinner – provided by the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association

7:30 – 8:45 p.m. – Presentations

**Cow Herd Management Through the Winter** – Dr. Jason Rowntree – Learn about proper cow nutrition and a cost comparison of direct feeding vs. grazing ryegrass pastures.

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS: Cow Herd Decisions for Future Tough Times** – Dr. Ron Gill, Professor, Department of Animal Science, Texas A & M University – Strategies for maintaining/building a cow herd in a declining cattle market in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

8:45 – 9:00 p.m. Door Prizes and Closing Remarks –

Mr. Mike Dominique

## MARKETING YOUR EXCESS RICE STRAW

Do you have any rice straw you will not be baling for your cattle, or any rice fields that you will use for crawfish that you want someone to bale the straw out of to help with your water quality?

**Industrial Fabrics**, out of Baton Rouge, is looking for rice straw to bale and use for erosion control blankets. They would bale the straw and haul it out. All the producer would do is provide the field. They are willing to pay **\$8 dollars a bale** for every bale they make and remove from your field. They have been running into problems with fields being wet and not wanting to rut fields up any worse than they already are. If you are interested please call **Loretta at 225-273-9600**.

## LIVESTOCK BRANDS & REGISTRATION

Livestock Brands are regulated through the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, specifically through the Brand Commission. Occasionally we get requests asking about how to register a brand or wanting to look at the "Brand Book". Some people want to see if they have an old brand still registered or to look at designs for a new brand.

You may access the "Brand Book" on the internet by following these directions: Go to: [www.ldaf.state.la.us/](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/) This is the LA. Dept. of Ag website Click on: **divisions**; Then go to: **Animal Health Division**; Click on **Brand Commission**;

Finally go to **Brand Book**. Once here you can use the alphabetical listing to search for recorded brands, and locations of owners.

**2006-2007 LOUISIANA  
CALF TO CARCASS PROGRAM**

*LSU AgCenter  
McNeese State University  
University of Louisiana at Monroe  
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry*

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Project is entering into its 2006-2007 feed-out year. There were over 310 calves consigned to the 2005-2006 feed out. Of this group, 53 head were heifers. The feed out and carcass information provided to producers through this program is very useful in making management decisions on breeding, genetics, nutrition, and herd health. In addition, valuable marketing information is obtained about a producer's product. The exposure to preconditioning and retaining ownership of one's calves, plus the educational tour in the spring, makes the Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program an outstanding educational program for Louisiana's cow/calf producers. Since implementing preconditioning of all steers and heifers going to the feedlot, we have clearly seen its benefits with a reduction in death loss.

The Louisiana Calf to Carcass Program will accept nominations for heifers and steers. After nominations are in, we will determine if we have enough heifers nominated to make a pen. If we do not have enough heifers nominated to make a full pen, we will refund your nomination fee. When completing the Nomination Form, available in our office, please indicate the number of steers and/or heifers as well as which preconditioning site you will be sending your cattle to.

Electronic identification of cattle leaving the premises is going to be mandatory so we will continue to use electronic identification tags on the cattle. It also helps us in collecting carcass data accurately.

The method of selling the cattle, cash sale or value based grid sale, will be determined this year when the cattle are sold. The decision will be made by Dave Foster, Tim Page and Hitch Feed Yard personnel. The historical data from the program and the marketing conditions at the time of the first sale will be used to obtain what is believed to be the best price for the cattle consigned to the program this year.

The following is a brief overview of the program. **Nomination fee is \$35.00** per head and payment must be made at the time of nomination. We have to have this money to pay for the trucking. This is NOT an increase from last year and we think it will cover high fuel and trucking costs.

- 1) **Nomination deadline** with fee: postmarked by **August 17, 2006.**
- 2) A **minimum of three (3)** steers or heifers per producer weighing **at least 500 lbs.**
- 3) You must have a Premise ID number. You may get one by contacting the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry at: [www.ldaf.state.la.us/programs/premises.asp](http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/programs/premises.asp).
- 4) You must provide either individual birthdates on your calves or provide the calving season (EX: first calf born – December 12, 2005; last calf born – March 5, 2006).
- 5) **Preconditioning** as outlined in the attached document is **required**. If you opt to precondition your cattle at home, you **must** follow the guidelines we have established for preconditioning. Your county agent and/or Tim Page will work with you on preconditioning at home. A form is available at the parish office for you and your county agent to sign that ensures that the calves followed the established guidelines for preconditioning.
- 6) **Loading points** will be at the preconditioning sites.
- 7) Length of the **preconditioning period** will be approximately 30-32 days.
- 8) **Preconditioning fee** will be **due in full** at the end of the preconditioning period. We **must** have this money at that time in order to reimburse the preconditioning sites their costs as well as pay for the feed.
- 9) All calves must have **producer identification** (i.e.: ear tag, legible brand) upon arrival.
- 10) **Only non-pregnant heifers** will be accepted (i.e.: do not send pregnant heifers).
- 11) All cattle **MUST** be dehorned and healed before arrival at the preconditioning site.
- 12) Cattle will arrive at the preconditioning site on **Thursday, September 7, 2006.**

NOTE: The nomination deadline has been extended; contact me asap if you have a pen of 3 calves to nominate.

## COOL SEASON FORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS, PLANTING DATES, & RATES

| Mean dry forage production from annual ryegrass entries at four locations in Louisiana during three growing seasons, 2003-2006. |                 |        |          |           |        |
|---|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Entry   | Trial Locations |        |          |           | 3-year |
|   | Franklinton     | Iberia | Rosepine | Winnsboro | Mean   |
| ----- Dry forage, lbs./acre -----   |                 |        |          |           |        |
| <b>Prine</b>  | 9692            | 5990   | 6422     | 7666      | 7331   |
| WAX ME94  | 9329            | 5874   | 6184     | 8048      | 7245   |
| <b>4X</b>   | 9201            | 5975   | 5996     | 8080      | 7210   |
| <b>Marshall</b>   | 9482            | 5722   | 5689     | 8281      | 7173   |
| <b>Passerel Plus</b>  | 9281            | 5794   | 5488     | 8401      | 7130   |
| <b>Ed</b>   | 8913            | 5832   | 6446     | 7451      | 7058   |
| <b>Beefbuilder III</b>  | 9039            | 5874   | 5805     | 7887      | 7053   |
| <b>Dyna Gain</b>  | 9246            | 5788   | 5783     | 7652      | 7015   |
| <b>Abundant</b>   | 9374            | 5645   | 5718     | 7727      | 7003   |
| <b>Rio</b>  | 9054            | 6022   | 5813     | 7428      | 6998   |
| <b>Graze-N-Gro</b>  | 9069            | 5898   | 5625     | 7643      | 6970   |
| <b>TAM 90</b>   | 8901            | 5939   | 5329     | 8000      | 6957   |
| <b>Diamond T</b>  | 8748            | 5624   | 5732     | 7946      | 6906   |
| <b>Gulf</b>   | 9360            | 5759   | 5383     | 7493      | 6904   |
| <b>King</b>   | 8576            | 6025   | 5579     | 7476      | 6846   |
| <b>Jackson</b>  | 8655            | 5829   | 5617     | 7577      | 6836   |
| WMN97   | 8332            | 5308   | 5408     | 8160      | 6687   |
| Shiwasuaoba   | 6493            | 4750   | 4093     | 5815      | 5246   |
| Mean  | 8930            | 5758   | 5673     | 7707      | 6920   |
| CV %  | 15              | 9      | 17       | 9         | 13     |
| LSD (0.05)  | 1234            | 435    | 879      | 625       | 393    |

Varieties in bold are recommended for planting in 2006

### SEEDING RATES AND DATES FOR COOL-SEASON PASTURE AND FORAGE CROPS

| Crop                | <u>Seeding Rate (lb/A)</u> |                    | <u>Planting Dates For</u>                          |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|
|                     | Planted Alone              | Planted in Mixture | Prepare Seedbed                                    | Approx. Sod Planting |
| <b>Grasses</b>      |                            |                    |  |                      |
| Tall Fescue         | 30                         | 20                 | Sept 20 - Oct 15                                   |                      |
| Oats                | 100                        | 60                 | Sept 1 - Oct 15 (N La.)<br>Sept 15- Oct 15 (S La.) |                      |
| Cereal Rye          | 90                         | 50                 | Sept 20 - Oct 15                                   |                      |
| Annual Ryegrass     | 30                         | 20                 | Sept 20 - Oct 15                                   |                      |
| Wheat               | 90                         | 60                 | Sept 20 - Oct 15                                   |                      |
| <b>Legumes</b>      |                            |                    |  |                      |
| Alfalfa             | 20-30                      | ---                | Oct 5 - Oct 20                                     |                      |
| Arrowleaf Clover    | 8                          | 5                  | Oct 1 - Nov 15                                     |                      |
| Berseem Clover      | 20                         | 15                 | Oct 1 - Nov 15                                     |                      |
| Crimson Clover      | 15                         | 12                 | Oct 1 - Nov 15                                     |                      |
| Red Clover          | 12                         | 8                  | Oct 1 - Nov 15                                     |                      |
| Subterranean Clover | 15                         | 12                 | Oct 1 - Nov 15                                     |                      |
| White Clover        | 5                          | 3                  | Oct 1 - Nov 15                                     |                      |

## FORAGE LAB CHARGES FOR FORAGE ANALYSIS

The LSU AgCenter's Forage Quality Laboratory, located at the Southeast Research Station near Franklinton, has performed nutrient quality analyses on feed and forage samples for beef, dairy, and forage producers at no charge for over 23 years. This free service has been unique among land grant universities across the U.S. However, due to inflationary costs and recurring budget constraints during the past 5 years, the AgCenter has found it necessary to begin a fee program for forage and feed analyses. Beginning September 1, 2006, the cost for a standard analysis (dry matter, protein, acid detergent fiber, neutral detergent fiber, and total digestible nutrients) will be \$10 and a complete analysis (Standard analysis plus the minerals Ca, P, Mg, K, Cu, Zn, and Mn) will cost \$15. In addition, we are offering individual analyses on a number of feed and forage nutrient components. Rates for individual analyses will be posted on our web site: [www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our\\_offices/research\\_stations/Southeast](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/our_offices/research_stations/Southeast). Payment will be by check or money order only and must accompany the sample.

We regret the need to initiate the fee program, but we will strive to keep our rates below those cited by other forage testing labs in the Southeastern United States. Should you have questions concerning the lab analyses or fee schedules please contact us at the office (985-839-2322) or lab (985-839-3740).

## LOUISIANA FORAGE-BASED BULL PERFORMANCE TEST

You are invited to participate in the 2006-07 forage-based bull test to be conducted at the DCI Feedlot near Wilson, LA. The nomination, health and vaccination and pedigree forms are available at the County Agent's Office.

A change that needs your attention include an increase in the cost for the test, due to the increase in the cost of seed, fertilizer and fuel. Other changes are in regard to the health requirements. Beginning in the fall of 2007, all consignors to the bull test must have a premise ID.

Also beginning with this fall test, required for each bull is a negative BVD test. The test involves obtaining a skin biopsy from any location on the body. The most convenient method is to collect an ear notch. A triangle-

shaped notch ranging between 1/4 and 1/2 inch on a side is an adequate size. Biopsies should be placed in individual tubes (red-topped tubes which can be obtained from your local veterinarian) with neutral-buffered formalin. **Do not use Whirl-Paks.** Skin samples should not be held in formalin for more than one week prior to submission to the Nebraska Diagnostic Center. Extended storage in formalin will result in falsely negative tests. The tubes need to be labeled to identify the calf from which the biopsy was collected. Please be sure to fill out the accession form completely, including tube # and animal ID for each ear notch submitted. This form can be obtained from your county agent. Additional charges may be assessed if the paperwork is not filled out properly. Please allow 5-7 working days for faxing of results. The negative results should accompany your nomination form. These changes have been made to ensure the health of all bulls consigned to the test.

The forage bull test is supported by Merial Animal Health and Fort Dodge Animal Health Companies. Walt Giffin and Danny Hoover with DCI and Prison Enterprises manage the bulls on a daily basis.

This forage-based performance evaluation will be conducted at the Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI) Feedlot located in East Feliciana Parish near Jackson, Louisiana. This farm is operated by Louisiana Department of Public safety and Correction, Prison Enterprises.

**Schedule of Events** - Dates may change slightly depending upon ryegrass availability, weather conditions, and other factors.

Eligible Birth Dates – Between September 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006

October 6, 2006 – Nomination deadline (postmarked)

October 27, 2006 – Deadline for withdrawal of a consigned bull. Consignment fee of \$30 per bull will not be refunded after this date.

November 2006 – TBA – Delivery date and start of the 2 week adjustment period (delivery between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.); Delivery subject to change due to labor constraints.

November 21, 2006 – Start of the test – weigh bulls and place on ryegrass full time

February 19, 2007 – Mid-test weigh day (90 day weight)

March/April – Bull forage test field day

May 1, 2007 – End of the test – final weigh day, breeding soundness exam, ultrasound measurements for ribeye area and fat thickness

## LOUISIANA FORAGE-BASED BULL PERFORMANCE TESTING PROGRAM GUIDELINES

**A)** The total number of bulls accepted on the test cannot exceed 100. However, there is no limit on the number of bulls that can be consigned per Louisiana breeder.

**B)** Decisions of the Forage-Based bull Performance Testing Program Committee shall prevail in all circumstances. For the year 2006-07, Dr. James Devillier, Livestock Agent, LSU AgCenter, will coordinate the program.

**C)** The purpose of the evaluation is to provide purebred and commercial cattleman with information on growth performance of their bulls under forage conditions and provide additional tools to help identify superior bulls.

**D)** The 2006-2007 test will be conducted at the Dixon Correctional Institution (DCI) Feedlot located on Hwy. 19 near Wilson, LA.

**E)** Ryegrass will be planted according to LSU AgCenter recommended production practices. At least 175 acres of winter grazing will be available and the bulls will be provided with good quality hay and minerals free choice throughout the trial.

**F) Eligibility of Bulls:** Purebred bulls must be registered or recorded in one of the recognized breed associations. Preference will be given to bulls which are 7/8 or higher percentage blood; however, all bulls will be considered (e.g., certified F1 bulls, etc.). Copies of registration papers and/or pedigree information must be submitted when bulls are delivered to the test site.

Preference will be given to bulls that are bred by the consignor and in contemporary groups of two or more. Bred by the consignor means the consignor owned the cow at the time of conception.

Bulls must be born between September 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, inclusive.

Priority will be given to bulls nominated by a Louisiana breeder. If space is available, bulls will be accepted from herds in states bordering Louisiana.

**Birth weight and weaning weights are required on all bulls.**

Bulls must be structurally sound and must have an ear tag, legible tattoo or brand.

Bulls are eligible for sale at private treaty throughout the test period. However, bulls sold under private treaty will remain on test until final weighing.

**G) Charges:** A flat rate of **\$350.00** will be charged for the basic care and feeding of the bull. A **\$30** per bull nomination fee must be sent in with the nomination form and this fee is nonrefundable unless notification of withdrawal is made by October 27, 2006.

A \$120.00 per bull fee is due at the time the bull(s)

is delivered to the test site. Final payment will be due upon completion of the test. The nomination fee (\$30.00) and deposit (\$120.00) will be applied toward the final/total cost. The basic veterinary and drug fee to cover the costs of vaccines and dewormer is included in the deposit. Special treatment for specific illnesses/conditions will be itemized to the individual bull and charged to the owner.

All accounts must be settled in full before a consignor will be allowed to continue to participate in this forage based bull performance test. Failure to remove bulls from the test site at the end of the test will result in additional charges of \$25.00/bull/day.

**H) Health:** All bulls must be accompanied by a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Required vaccinations are listed on the Louisiana Forage Bull Test Health and Treatment Certificate, available at the County Agent's Office. Bulls must be vaccinated with two doses of Leptospirosis (five way), Vibriosis, Clostridial complex (seven or eight-way), and BRD-complex (IBR, PI-3, BVD, BRSV). The second dose should be given 2-3 weeks prior to delivery. Bulls should also be vaccinated against Pasturella with either one or two doses according to the product label. **It is required that bulls be weaned a minimum of 45 days prior to delivery to test site.**

**I) Liability:** Each bull is the property of the owner/consignor. While every effort will be made to safeguard the health and well being of the bulls, neither Prison Enterprises, Dixon Correctional Institute, LSU AgCenter nor the attending Veterinarian may be held liable for loss of bulls due to theft, injury, sickness, death or any other cause. Prison Enterprises, DCI and the LSU AgCenter agree to take responsibility for supervising the grazing, the feeding, and necessary health care, but will be released of all responsibility in case of death or injury of the animal. Any breeder desiring insurance on their bull(s) should obtain such coverage prior to delivery. The owners' signature on the consignment form indicates that he/she has read and understands, and agrees to the conditions stated in this paragraph.

If you have any questions, contact us at 363-5646, 230 Court Street in Ville Platte.

**Keith Fontenot**  
County Agent  
Evangeline Parish

**LSU AgCenter  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Evangeline Parish  
230 Court Street  
Ville Platte, La. 70586**



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