
LIVESTOCK NEWSLETTER

May - June 2001

AS-1



2001

Georgia National Fair

October 5-14, 2001

Perry, GA

New

Following are some of the changes for the 2001 Georgia National Fair Junior Shows.

Steers

- , **Weigh-in** time has changed 10 am - 2 pm on Friday.
- , Class winners will no longer be *reweighed*.

Heifers

- , **Check-in, Weigh-in** (Commercial Heifers) has changed to 10 am - 3 pm on Friday.
- , **Commercial Heifers** must be born August 1, 2000 and after. (Registered heifers must still be born September 1, 2000 and after.
- , A breed show has been added for **Red Angus**.

Market Swine

- , Exhibitors must fully attend and complete the **Pork Quality Assurance Youth Curriculum** by entry deadline, September 1, and be certified by agents/teachers/parents as having done so.

Breeding Gilts

- , Gilts may stay over until Saturday morning, Oct. 13, but must be out of barn by **noon** on Sat.
- , There will no longer be a breed show for **Chester Whites**.

Breeding Ewe

- , **Showmanship** classes are now offered for 1st-4th grade, 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grades.
- , A **Supreme Champion** will no longer be chosen.

Commercial Dairy Heifer

- , Exhibitors must be at least **nine years of age** by entry deadline, September 1.

Market Meat Goat

- , Market Meat Goats must now weigh **45-110 lbs**.

Important Reminder

- , Exhibitors may spend the night inside the barns only to tend to **lactating** animals and must do so within their assigned stalling area or purchase additional stalling space, **if available**. No other camping is allowed in or around the barn areas.
- , In order to create a good public image and add to the attractiveness of the livestock area, all beds, cots, **bedding**, etc. should be stored out of sight by 8 am each morning.
- , No **cooking** is allowed inside or around the outside of the barns to comply with local fire codes.

Second Annual HERD Sale at Tifton, Sale Summary

Johnny Rossi
Extension Animal Scientist

The Second Heifer Evaluation and Reproductive Development Sale was held at the Tifton Bull Evaluation Center in Irwinville on April 24, 2001. A total of 185 heifers sold for an average of \$936. There was a good crowd with a total of 28 buyers from Georgia and Florida.

Congratulations to Bobby Lovett of Lovett Farms for consigning the top two selling heifers. The top-selling heifer was a commercial Angus x Simmental that sold for \$1800 and was purchased by Andy Carter of Moss Oaks Farms in Lake Park, GA. Ottawa Farms in Bloomingdale, GA, purchased the second highest selling heifer for \$1,600, also an Angus x Simmental crossbred from Lovett Farms. There were a total of 28 buyers with 5 buyers purchasing 10 or more heifers. The volume buyer was Jay Durham of Crenshaw Farm in Bishop, GA, who purchased 33 head at an average of \$1,072.

In all, 40 consignors entered 225 heifers in the program at the beginning of October. Heifers were heat-synchronized and bred A.I. for two heat cycles to a calving ease Angus bull. A cleanup bull was put with the heifers for two more heat cycles. The A.I. conception rate was 75%, and overall pregnancy rate was 89%.

The test is designed to maintain a moderate growth rate so heifers will obtain at least 65% of their mature weight by 15 months of age. The heifers averaged 1.37 lb/d, which allowed the heifers to achieve their target weight by the beginning of the breeding season. In addition, heifers were evaluated for disposition, pelvic area, ribeye area, and frame score.

The Herd program would not be possible without the support of the Heifer Team. This group of Extension agents forms guidelines, promotes the program and does a large portion of the work. Teamwork was the primary

Plans will begin soon for the 2001-2002 HERD program with heifers being delivered in the fall. If you are interested, contact your local Extension agent or Johnny Rossi at 912/386-3407 or e-mail at jrossi@uga.edu.

Minerals and Reproduction

Timothy W. Wilson
Extension Animal Scientist – Beef Cattle

Each year, purebred and commercial cow/calf producers strive to reach production goals. Brood cows are expected to produce top quality calves either for market or breeding purposes. If a cow or heifer fails to produce a calf or produces one that does not perform well, her ability and long-term use is evaluated. Management practices such as controlled breeding, breeding soundness exams and body condition scores are used to determine the reproductive ability of the herd.

Nutrition plays an important role in the reproductive process. Cattle in poor condition may fail to show signs of estrus, fail to conceive and/or express reduced fertility. Balanced rations are designed so that cattle will maintain or gain weight according to their nutritional needs. Costly mistakes in overall reproductive efficiency could be made if these needs are not determined and met.

Forage testing is the most accurate way to begin designing a sound nutritional program. If a forage analysis is not available, then mineral content can be determined from book values. If the balance between minerals, such as calcium and phosphorus, is not within an acceptable range, decreased production may occur. When evaluating a ration, it is important to remember that forages are usually going to have a relatively high concentration of calcium and a low concentration of phosphorus. The opposite is seen with a concentrate (grain and protein supplement) diet, with calcium having a low and phosphorus a high concentration. The ratio for calcium and phosphorus is 1.5:1, with an acceptable range of 1:1 to 2:1 being satisfactory. A deficiency or imbalance in the ratio of these minerals can cause decreased weight gain and/or decreased efficiency of gain. Cows that are have a superior milking ability can require up to three times the normal calcium as a dry cow. Heifers may express a delayed puberty, and cows returning to heat postpartum can be delayed if there is a phosphorus deficiency.

Sodium and chlorine are very important in cattle diets. These minerals make up salt and must be supplied in order to maximize production. Cattle that lack these minerals can have decreased appetite and weight gains. Cattle will usually consume .005 to .01% of their body weight in salt daily.

It is important to balance out minerals in the ration. These are just a few of the minerals that can have a direct impact on reproductive efficiency. By simply supplementing cattle with the proper mineral requirements, overall performance can be enhanced.

If you have any questions regarding minerals or their role in reproductive efficiency, please feel free to contact your county agent or call me at (912) 681-5639.

Source: Mineral Supplements for Beef Production
By Robert Stewart and Mark McCann
UGA Extension Bulletin 895

A Holistic Approach to Vegetation Control in Fish Ponds

Gary J. Burtle
The University of Georgia, CAES
Animal & Dairy Science
Tifton, GA

We are faced with a continual need to manage the plants in fish ponds with a diminishing number of tools. Aquatic herbicides available for fish ponds, especially ponds with fish intended for sale as food fish, are few in number. Recently, use of the algicide, simazine, was lost due to the decision by the manufacturer not to reapply for a label for aquatic uses. Now management of aquatic plants is a bit more difficult without that useful tool. Proactive management must be considered to manage aquatic plants. Consider the pond itself, the fish in the pond, and the chemical tools that are available.

Pond construction for weed control is the first step in a holistic approach. Choose a pond site that will allow a pond to be constructed without shallow areas or standing trees and brush. Most aquaculture ponds fit that description, but some of our watershed ponds, even those used for aquaculture do not. Shallow areas in ponds allow light penetration to the pond bottom so that aquatic plant growth is encouraged. The general rule is to design ponds so that very little area is less than 3 feet deep. When renovating ponds it may be desirable to deepen the areas that are too shallow. Standing woody vegetation allows plants, like filamentous algae and duckweed, to attach and find shelter from wind action. Protection of two or more sides of a pond by trees also prevents wind action that can discourage aquatic plant growth.

Shading pond bottoms to discourage weed growth is not always easy. Proper fertility and alkalinity should be present to allow a planktonic algal bloom (phytoplankton) to develop. Catfish ponds with an alkalinity of 20 ppm or above will develop suitable algal blooms when catfish feeding results in nitrogen and phosphorus addition to the pond water. Other fish ponds may need fertilization with inorganic fertilizer to support a phytoplankton bloom. Liming a pond according to the lime requirement of the soils in the pond bottom is essential to allow phosphorus to dissolve from the pond soils and enter the water column where phytoplankton can utilize it for growth. Your county agent can determine the lime requirement by measuring the water pH or the soil lime requirement. Occasionally, a pond will be constructed so that inflowing water dilutes the minerals that are added and a phytoplankton bloom is discouraged. Avoid construction of ponds over high producing springs or across large drainage areas. A diversion ditch may be needed to prevent too much water from entering the pond.

Fish can be used to reduce the chance that aquatic weeds will become problematic. First, larger fish reduce aquatic weeds and small fish tend to allow weeds to develop. Hatcheries have a very hard time with aquatic weeds. In ponds with small fish, little feed is added so few nutrients are available for stimulation of phytoplankton. These ponds tend to be clear so that light can reach the bottom of the ponds even when deeper than 3 feet. Pre-emergent herbicides are no longer registered for food fish use so that ponds are more vulnerable now to aquatic weed growth when small fish are stocked. The grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, is utilized to control most problematic aquatic weeds in aquaculture ponds. However, grass carp must be stocked at rates exceeding 50 fish per acre to control filamentous algal infestations. In fact, with grass carp stocked at 80 per acre, certain species of filamentous algae can thrive in ponds.

A Holistic Approach to Vegetation Control in Fish Ponds (continued)

Chemical control can help in many ways although chemicals must be reapplied on at least a yearly basis. One method to reduce chemical usage is to stock grass carp immediately after chemicals have been utilized to reduce weed growth. The grass carp are then able to control new weed growth when they are stocked at rates as low as 20 carp per surface acre. Small grass carp, those less than 8 inches in length, should not be stocked to control heavy weed growth. Also, carp in excess of 14 inches should be stocked when a population of largemouth bass is already in the pond. A 4 pound bass can eat grass carp up to 14 inches in length. Since only sterile grass carp are legal for weed control in Georgia, no reproduction can be expected. After several years, the grass carp grow to a large size, diminish in number, and lose weed control effectiveness. Therefore, plan to restock grass carp every 6 to 8 years. Even with restocking, the cost of grass carp may be more economical than yearly chemical treatment.

Timing chemical treatments and grass carp stocking is of utmost importance. By waiting until weed growth has covered more than 10 percent of a pond, weed control expenses may exceed your desire to ability to pay. In fact, severe weed infestations may be impossible to control. Treat with an effective treatment as soon as possible. Positively identify the weeds that are present in your pond. Coordinate with your county agent to do this as well as to choose an effective treatment matching the weed identity.

Utilize an effective chemical application method to avoid wasting chemical and improve weed control. A method that allows even application of a chemical over the entire pond area to be treated is the best method. Take into consideration the properties of the chemical and the possibility of water surface tension that may prevent your chemical from reaching plants that are below the surface of the water. Treating plants that have waxy leaves may require you to add a surfactant to your sprayer tank. For example, copper sulfate may be absorbed by the pond bottom if applied to a localized area or if applied as large granules that settle to the pond bottom. Also, diquat will adhere to suspended silt or clay particles and is an ineffective chemical treatment in turbid water.

Finally, leave some aquatic weeds alone and untreated. Cattails are sometimes effective to control erosion on pond banks. Control the spread of the cattails with spot treatments. Your pond management may include a goal to encourage wildlife, if so, leave areas of aquatic weed for wildlife food and shelter. Lily pads offer shelter to fish and wildlife. Submerged pond weeds provide food for waterfowl. Determine your goals for aquatic weed management and use timely and appropriate measures to reach those goals.

Dates To Remember

June 2	Lamb Workshop	Athens
June 5	North Georgia H.E.R.D. Sale	Calhoun
June 9	State Livestock Judging Contest	Perry
June 19-23	State 4-H Horse Show	Perry
June 24-28	State 4-H Horse School	Perry
July 19-21	Georgia Junior Beef Futurity	Perry
July 20-21	GCLPA Futurity	Perry
July 21-22	UGA Block and Bridle Summer Classic Lamb Show	Perry
July 27-28	Georgia Limousin Field Day Franklin County Ag Center Contact: Lillian Youngblood (229) 567-4044	Carnesville

Junior Update

Ronnie Silcox
Extension Animal Scientist

News From Gwinnett County Fair

Meat Goat Show - September 13, 2001

The Gwinnett County Fair is planning a new Meat Goat show for 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 13, 2001 in Lawrenceville. For more information about the show and entry requirements contact Robert Brannen at the Gwinnett County Extension Service (678-377-4010).

Southeast Empire Lamb Show - September 15, 2001

The Southeast Empire Lamb Show will be held at the Gwinnett County Fair on Saturday, September 15, 2001. Check-in is Saturday morning with the show starting at 11:30 a.m. Any lamb entered in the Georgia State Lamb Show is eligible to enter. Contact Ronnie Silcox, Extension Animal Scientist (706-542-1852) for Entry Materials.

Southeast Empire Breeding Sheep Show - September 16, 2001

The Southeast Empire Breeding Sheep Show will be held at the Gwinnett County Fair on Sunday, September 16, 2001. Any Georgia 4-H or FFA exhibitor eligible to enter the State Breeding Sheep show is eligible, for entry materials contact Ronnie Silcox, Extension Animal Scientist, (706-542-1852).

2001-2002 State Livestock Shows

Dates for the State Market Lamb Show in Perry are Friday, October 5 - Saturday, October 6, 2001.

Dates for the Junior National Livestock Show in Perry are February 20-24, 2002.

Deadlines for entries and an order form for entry materials are included in this newsletter.

Ear tags and entry cards should be ordered by county extension agents or agriculture education teachers at least two weeks before the entry deadline for a show.

ORDER FORM FOR EAR TAGS AND ENTRY CARDS
(To be ordered by County Agents or Agriculture Education Teachers)

Please send the order below to:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

COUNTY/CHAPTER _____ Circle one: 4-H or FFA

ADDRESS _____

UPS ADDRESS (if different) _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

SHOW NAME	NO. TAGS REQUESTED (\$1.25 each)	NO. ENTRY CARDS REQUESTED* (only 1 per exhibitor) (no charge)	AMOUNT DUE
2001 STATE LAMB EAR TAGS @\$1.25 each AND ENTRY CARDS (available now)			
2002 STATE STEER SHOW EAR TAGS @\$1.25 each AND ENTRY CARDS (available now)			
2002 STATE MARKET HOG SHOW EAR TAGS @\$1.25 each AND ENTRY CARDS (available now)			
2002 STATE HEIFER SHOW ENTRY CARDS (available now)			-0-
2002 COMMERCIAL BEEF HEIFER SHOW EAR TAGS @\$1.25 each AND ENTRY CARDS (available now)			
2002 COMMERCIAL DAIRY HEIFER SHOW EAR TAGS @\$1.25 each AND ENTRY CARDS (available now)			
2002 COMMERCIAL BREEDING EWE SHOW EAR TAGS @ \$1.25 each AND ENTRY CARDS (available now)	N/A		-0-
2002 STATE BREEDING SHEEP SHOW ENTRY CARDS (available now)			
2002 BEEF QUIZ BOWL ENTRY FORMS AND INFORMATION (available 12/1/01)	N/A		-0-
2002 SWINE QUIZ BOWL ENTRY FORMS AND INFORMATION (available 12/1/01)	N/A		-0-
2001-2002 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL STATE SHOWS	N/A		-0-
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			

NOTE: You will only need to order one (1) entry card per exhibitor, per show. Please keep this in mind when ordering.

Order all of the above entry cards, tags and rulebooks from:

Ronnie Silcox
 Animal & Dairy Science Complex
 University of Georgia
 Athens, GA 30602-2771
 Phone: (706) 542-1852

Make checks or money orders to Georgia 4-H Foundation (DO NOT SEND CASH). **ABSOLUTELY NO PHONE/FAX**

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN. Make additional copies as needed of this order form.

**GEORGIA JUNIOR STATE LIVESTOCK SHOWS
ENTRY DEADLINES**

2001 State Market Lamb Show - Perry, GA.....	July 15, 2001
2002 State Steer Show - Perry, GA	November 1, 2001
2002 State Heifer Show - Perry, GA	November 1, 2001
2002 State Junior Commercial Dairy Heifer Show - Perry, GA.....	November 15, 2001
2001 Market Lamb Record Books.....	December 1, 2001
2002 State Market Hog Show - Perry, GA	December 1, 2001
2002 State Breeding Sheep Show - Perry, GA	December 1, 2001
2002 Beef and Swine Quiz Bowls	February 1, 2002
2002 Junior National Banquet Adult Ticket Reservation (Order Form will be sent in January, 2002)	February 6, 2002
2001-2002 Market Hog Record Books	April 1, 2002
2001-2002 Steer/Beef Heifer, and Dairy Heifer Record Books	April 1, 2002