



# Florida Panhandle Beef Cattle & Forage Management Calendar

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The purpose of this cattle and forage management calendar is to provide reminders for management techniques with similar timing to those used at the North Florida Research and Education Center's Beef Research Unit, Marianna, Florida.

## Overview

### **75 Day Breeding Season**

Cows—AI & Bulls March 17 – May 31 (75 days)

Heifers—AI & Bulls March 3 – May 4 (62 days)

### **Calving Season**

Cows: ~December 24 – ~March 9 (+/- 10 days)

Heifers: ~December 10 – ~ February 10 (+/- 10 days)

### **Spring Working—April**

- Cows & calves - vaccinate & parasite control
- May booster vaccines for calves

### **Weaning—August**

- Wean and market calves
- Booster Vaccinate Replacement Heifers
- Pregnancy test and cull open and aged cows

### **Fall Working – October**

- Pre-breeding vaccinations and parasite control

**Stocking rate**—2 acres permanent bahiagrass pastures per cow

**Hay**—feed 4-5 rolls (2 tons per cow)

- Note: More hay required if winter grazing not utilized

**Annual winter pasture**— ½ to one acre per cow

**Annual summer pastures (tilled soil):** ½ to one acre per cow

# January

## Cattle Herd Management

- Update herd & equipment inventory records
  - [Florida Beef Cattle Ranch Record Book](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/jackson/documents/Complete-Ranch-Record-Book.pdf) (https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/jackson/documents/Complete-Ranch-Record-Book.pdf)
- Monitor body condition of breeding herd
  - [Body Condition Scoring Beef Cows](https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/50710/400-795.pdf) (https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/50710/400-795.pdf)
- Check calving cows and heifers 2-3 times daily
  - [Beef Cattle Calving Management](https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558_0.pdf) (https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558\_0.pdf)
    - Move cows and newborn calves out of calving pasture
      - Record calf birth date, weight, tag calves, (optional: castrate bull calves)
    - Evaluate body condition of nursing cattle and increase energy supplement as needed
    - Feed best hay available to nursing cows & heifers
    - Check calves for scours
      - [Calf Scours: Causes, Prevention & Treatment](https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/bitstream/handle/10365/5323/as776.pdf?sequence=1) (https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/bitstream/handle/10365/5323/as776.pdf?sequence=1)
- Develop herd health plan and schedule for the year with veterinarian
  - [A Planning Calendar for Beef Cattle Herd Health](http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1920/ANSI-3260web2015.pdf) (http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1920/ANSI-3260web2015.pdf)
- Check mineral
  - Use high magnesium mineral if grazing winter annuals to prevent grass tetany
    - [Grass Tetany in Cattle](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137)
- Weigh and work replacement heifers
  - Vaccinate with IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI<sub>3</sub>, vibrio-lepto, 7-way clostridial, and dewormer
    - [Vaccinations for the Beef Cattle Herd](https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/) (https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/)
  - Take pelvic measurements and palpate repro tract
    - [Pelvic Measurements for Reducing Calving Difficulty](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/bch/PelvicMeasurements.pdf) (http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/bch/PelvicMeasurements.pdf)
  - Cull heifers with small pelvis, low tract score or that weigh less than 600 pounds
  - Purchase additional replacement females, vaccinate and isolate from herd for 30 days

## Pasture Management

- Begin grazing winter forage at 10-12 inch canopy height and remove cattle when forage canopy is 4 inches.
  - If possible, limit-graze for 2-3 hours per day, plus free choice hay to acclimate cattle and stretch grazing days
  - After initial grazing, top-dress with 40-50 lbs. N per acre

## Pest Management

- Burn pastures for thatch removal
  - [Management of Spittlebugs in Pasture](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag242) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag242)
- Apply dormant season herbicide treatments
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006)

## Annual Events

- Attend [Florida Bull Test Sale](http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-bull-test/) (http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-bull-test/)

# February

## Cattle Herd Management

- Check calving cows 2-3 times daily
  - [Beef Cattle Calving Management](https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558_0.pdf) (https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558\_0.pdf)
  - Move cows and newborn calves out of calving pasture
    - Record calf birth date, weight, tag calves, (optional: castrate bull calves)
  - Evaluate body condition of nursing cows and increase energy supplement as needed
  - Feed best hay available to nursing cows & heifers
- Monitor & record body condition of breeding herd
  - [Body Condition Scoring Beef Cows](https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/50710/400-795.pdf) (https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/50710/400-795.pdf) (https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec281.pdf)
  -
- Turn bulls in with replacement heifers
- Watch calves for scours
  - [Calf Scours: Causes, Prevention & Treatment](https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/bitstream/handle/10365/5323/as776.pdf?sequence=1) (https://library.ndsu.edu/ir/bitstream/handle/10365/5323/as776.pdf?sequence=1)
- Check mineral, use high magnesium mineral if grazing winter annuals to prevent grass tetany
  - [Grass Tetany in Cattle](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137)

## Pasture Management

- Continue grazing winter annual pastures down to 4 inch stubble (fertilize after grazing)
- Begin grazing overseeded ryegrass once it reaches 8-10 canopy height and remove cattle when grazed down to 3-4 inches
- Plant bermudagrass from dug sprigs while grass is still dormant
- Prepare land to establish new bahiagrass pastures for a March planting

## Pest Management

- Burn pastures for thatch removal
  - [Management of Spittlebugs in Pasture](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag242) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag242)
- Apply dormant season herbicide treatments
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006)
- Control thistle
  - [Thistle Control in Pastures](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag253) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag253)
- Control weeds in newly established pastures
  - [Weed Management during Pasture Establishment](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290)

## Annual Events

- Attend the Northwest Florida Beef Conference second Wednesday in February



## March

### Cattle Herd Management

- Check calving cows 2-3 times daily
  - [Beef Cattle Calving Management](https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558_0.pdf)  
([https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558\\_0.pdf](https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/p2558_0.pdf))
  - Move cows and newborn calves out of calving pasture
    - Record calf birth date, weight, tag calves, (optional: castrate bull calves)
    - Evaluate body condition of nursing cows and increase energy supplement as needed
    - Feed best hay available to nursing cows & heifers
- Monitor body condition of breeding herd
  - [Body Condition Scoring Beef Cows](https://vttechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/50710/400-795.pdf)  
(<https://vttechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/50710/400-795.pdf>)  
(<https://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec281.pdf>)
- Turn bulls in with mature cow herd
- Order vaccines, dewormer, and external parasite control for April working
  - [Vaccinations for the Beef Cattle Herd](https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/)  
(<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/>)
  - [External Parasites on Beef Cattle](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/IG/IG13000.pdf)  
(<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/IG/IG13000.pdf>)
- Make repairs and adjustments to cow pens for April working
- Check mineral, use high magnesium mineral if grazing winter annuals

### Pasture Management

- Prepare land for planting summer annual grasses and legumes on tilled land
  - [Annual Warm-Season Legumes for Florida](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an259) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an259>)
  - [Pearl Millet: Overview and Management](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG347) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG347>)
  - [Forage Sorghum: Overview and Management](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag343) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag343>)
- Plant bahiagrass pastures after danger of frost and adequate soil moisture
  - [Agronomic Crop Species and Variety Selection](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa113) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa113>)
  - [Bahiagrass: Overview and Management](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag342) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag342>)
- Fertilize permanent pastures & hay field in late March to early April, based on soil test
  - [Fertilizing and Liming Forage Crops](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179) (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179>)

### Pest Management

- Apply herbicide to control thistles
  - [Thistle Control in Pastures](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag253) (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag253>)
- Control weeds in newly established pastures
  - [Weed Management during Pasture Establishment](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290)  
(<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290>)



## April

### Cattle Herd Management

- Stop feeding hay and supplements as soon as adequate grass allows
- Work replacement heifers, cows and calves
  - Cows—dewormer, and external parasite control
    - if fly tags are used, alternate between organophosphate and pyrethroid types each year
  - Cull dry cows (cows without calves)
  - Calves—vaccinate, deworm, castrate, growth implant, and weigh
    - Vaccinations: 7-way Clostridial (black leg)
    - IBR-BVD-BRSV-PI<sub>3</sub>,
      - [Vaccinations for the Beef Cattle Herd](https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/)  
(<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/>)
- Check bull pasture fences and remove bulls from replacement heifers
- Observe bull condition and success in mature cow herd, rotate and rest if needed
- Check mineral, use high magnesium mineral if grazing winter annuals

### Pasture Management

- Plant summer annual grasses and legumes (millet, sorghum x sudan, alyce clover) for grazing, haylage or silage, when there is adequate moisture
  - [Annual Warm-Season Legumes for Florida](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an259) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an259>)
  - [Pearl Millet: Overview and Management](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG347) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG347>)
  - [Forage Sorghum: Overview and Management](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag343) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag343>)
- Inspect hay equipment and make needed repairs and maintenance
- Prepare hay storage areas to protect hay quality
- Rotate pastures to prevent overgrazing

### Pest Management

- Control weeds in newly established pastures
  - [Weed Management during Pasture Establishment](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290)  
(<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290>)
- Scout Pastures & control problem weeds prior to maturity
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006>)





**May**

### **Cattle Herd Management**

- Remove bulls from mature cow herd
- Booster vaccination of calves (2-4 weeks after initial vaccination)
  - 7-way Clostridial (black leg)
  - modified live IBR-BVD-BRSV-PI<sub>3</sub>
- Check mineral feeders

### **Pasture Management**

- Make first hay cutting (weather permitting)
- Fertilize hay fields after each cutting (except the last one)
  - 50-80 lbs N & 40-60 lbs K<sub>2</sub>O per acre
- Fertilize newly planted summer annual pastures with 30-40 lbs N per acre and other nutrients as recommended by soil test report after 3-4 inches of initial growth
  - [Fertilizing and Liming Forage Crops](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179)
- Rotate pastures to prevent overgrazing

### **Pest Management**

- Control weeds in newly established pastures
  - [Weed Management during Pasture Establishment](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290)
- Scout Pastures & control problem weeds prior to maturity
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006)



## June

### Cattle Herd Management

- Monitor horn fly population and use drench, ear tags, dust bags or spray when cattle average 100 flies per side
  - [Horn Fly Management](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in952) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in952)
- Check mineral feeders

### Pasture Management

- Remove cattle from bahiagrass fields used for seed harvest in mid to late June
- Begin grazing summer annuals when forage canopy is at least 20 inches tall and remove cattle after being grazed to 10 inch stubble height
  - Use limit grazing for 2-3 hours to acclimate cattle and stretch grazing days

### Pest Management

- Control weeds in newly established pastures
  - [Weed Management during Pasture Establishment](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290)
- Scout Pastures & control problem weeds prior to maturity
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006)
- Control Smutgrass
  - [Smutgrass Control in Perennial Grass Pastures](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa261) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa261)
- Scout for Armyworms, control if 3 worms/sq. ft. threshold is reached
  - [Management of Fall Armyworm in Pastures and Hayfields](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-1019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields_06242019L.pdf) (https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-1019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields\_06242019L.pdf)





## July

### Cattle Herd Management

- Make repairs on working pens and weaning pasture prior to August working
- Monitor horn fly population and use drench, ear tags, dust bags or spray when cattle average 100 flies per side
  - [Horn Fly Management](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in952) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in952) Check mineral feeders

### Pasture Management

- Plant bermudagrass pastures and hay fields from cut tops, following adequate rain
- If you have excess forage, consider haylage, baleage, silage or hay harvesting options

### Pest Management

- Control weeds in newly established pastures
  - [Weed Management during Pasture Establishment](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag290)
- Scout Pastures & control problem weeds prior to maturity
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006)
- Control Smutgrass
  - [Smutgrass Control in Perennial Grass Pastures](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa261) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa261)
- Scout for Armyworms, control if 3 worms/sq. ft. threshold is reached
  - [Management of Fall Armyworm in Pastures and Hayfields](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-1019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields_06242019L.pdf) (https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-1019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields\_06242019L.pdf)





## August

### Cattle Herd Management

- Wean, weigh, and market calves (or start pre-conditioning program)
- Select replacement heifers
  - identify with tag & RFID tag, tattoo or brand
  - booster vaccine IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI<sub>3</sub> (MLV)
  - deworm/external parasite control
  - start on limited supplemental feed
    - [Pre-Breeding Considerations for the Development of Replacement Beef Heifers](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN329) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AN329)
- Pregnancy test cows and cull open cows, aged cows losing teeth, cows with bad udders, cancer eyes, and low calf weaning weight cows as replacements permit
  - [Beef Cow Pregnancy Examination](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ANR-1417_BeefCowPregnancyExam_031618.pdf) (https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ANR-1417\_BeefCowPregnancyExam\_031618.pdf)
  - [Culling and Replacement Rate in the Beef Cow Herd](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an323) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an323)
    - Sort pregnant cows into breeding herds by age and body condition score (thin vs. fat)
- Update production records with pregnancy rate, calf weaning weights, cows culled and income from sale
  - [Florida Beef Cattle Ranch Record Book](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/jackson/documents/Complete-Ranch-Record-Book.pdf) (https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/jackson/documents/Complete-Ranch-Record-Book.pdf)
- Check mineral feeders

### Pasture Management

- Annual soil test recommended to prepare fertility for winter and plan for next summer (collect bahiagrass tissue sample for IFAS phosphorus recommendation)
  - [Producer Soil Test Form](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/SS/SS18600.pdf) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/SS/SS18600.pdf)
- Apply lime, if recommended by soil test report
  - [Fertilizing and Liming Forage Crops](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179)
- Harvest bahiagrass seed from pastures set aside for late seed production

### Pest Management

- Scout Pastures & control problem weeds prior to maturity
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006)
- Control Smutgrass
  - [Smutgrass Control in Perennial Grass Pastures](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa261) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa261)
- Scout for Armyworms, control if 3 worms/sq. ft. threshold is reached
  - [Management of Fall Armyworm in Pastures and Hayfields](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-1019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields_06242019L.pdf) (https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-1019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields\_06242019L.pdf)



## September

### Cattle Herd Management

- Move weaned heifers to pasture and continue limited feeding
- Order pre-breeding vaccines and dewormer for October working
  - [Vaccinations for the Beef Cattle Herd](https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/)  
(<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/>)

### Pasture Management

- Select varieties and order seed for annual winter pastures
  - [Cool-Season Forage Variety Recommendations for Florida](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa266)  
(<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa266>)
- Prepare land for winter pastures,
  - Add lime or dolomite if needed prior to disking for faster incorporation
- Heavily graze pastures to be overseeded for winter pastures

### Pest Management

- Scout Pastures & control problem weeds prior to maturity
  - [Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006) (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg006>)
- Control blackberries
  - [Blackberry and Dewberry: Biology and Control](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag238) (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag238>)
- Scout pastures for poisonous weeds, spray, mow, or remove if found
  - [Poisonous Plants of the Southern US](https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf? fwd=no)  
(<https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf? fwd=no>)
- Scout for Armyworms, control if 3 worms/sq. ft. threshold is reached
  - [Management of Fall Armyworm in Pastures and Hayfields](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields_06242019L.pdf) ([https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields\\_06242019L.pdf](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields_06242019L.pdf))

### Annual Events

- Submit entries to the [Southeastern Hay Contest](https://site.caes.uga.edu/sehaycontest/)  
(<https://site.caes.uga.edu/sehaycontest/>)

## Cattle Herd Management

- Pre-breeding Cow & Heifer Vaccination (30-45 days prior to breeding)
  - vaccinate with IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI<sub>3</sub>, vibrio-lepto, 8-way clostridial
    - [Vaccinations for the Beef Cattle Herd](https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/) (https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/beef/vaccinations-for-the-beef-cattle-herd/)
  - remove fly tags
  - deworm
  - record body condition scores
- Feed weaned heifers limited supplement
- Inventory hay and purchase additional bales as necessary (2 tons/cow)
  - Forage test hay to determine supplement needs
    - [Forage Testing](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa192) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa192)
- Evaluate and repair hay feeding equipment and replace as needed
  - Hay rings, spears, trailers
- Move yearling heifers to clean, dry calving pasture & record body condition
- Put together calving emergency kit
  - Vet phone numbers, O.B. chains, calf puller, gloves, lube, antibiotic, syringe and needles, prolapse S needle and surgical thread, antibacterial soap, bucket and a clean towel, colostrum and milk replacer
    - [Calving Time Management for Beef Cows and Heifers](http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9389/E-1006web2014.pdf) (http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-9389/E-1006web2014.pdf)
- Evaluate breeding bulls secure needed replacements
  - [Considerations for Selecting a Bull](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an218) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an218)
- Increase supplementation to weaned replacement heifers and start feeding hay

## Pasture Management

- Plant prepared seedbeds with annual winter forages (ryegrass, oats, rye, wheat, clovers, vetch) for grazing, haylage or silage when there is adequate moisture after Oct 15
  - [Agronomic Crop Species and Variety Selection](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa113) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa113)
- If considering alfalfa as monoculture, adjust pH near 7.0 and use a prepared seedbed

## Pest Management

- Scout for Grass Loopers, control if 3 worms/sq. ft. threshold is reached
  - [Management of Fall Armyworm in Pastures and Hayfields](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields_06242019L.pdf) (https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ANR-019ManagementFallArmywormPasturesHayfields\_06242019L.pdf)
- Control blackberries
  - [Blackberry and Dewberry: Biology and Control](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag238) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag238)
- Scout pastures for poisonous weeds, spray, mow, or remove if found
  - [Poisonous Plants of the Southern US](https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf?fwd=no) (https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf?fwd=no)
- Use nonselective herbicide on pastures that are due for renovation

## Annual Events

- Attend Sunbelt Expo 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October (SE Hay Contest Results)





## November

### Cattle Herd Management

- Check calving heifers 2-3 times daily
  - Move heifers and newborn calves out of calving pasture
    - Record calf birth date, weight, tag calves (optional: castrate bull calves)
  - Evaluate body condition of nursing heifers and increase energy supplement as needed
  - Feed best hay available to nursing heifers
- Begin hay supplementation as needed
  - [Strategies for Cost-Effective Supplementation of Beef Cattle](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an085)  
(<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an085>)
- Develop winter supplementation plan based on forage quality test results
- Begin feeding high magnesium mineral 30 days prior to grazing winter annual pastures
  - [Grass Tetany in Cattle](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137) (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137>)
- Pre-breeding bull evaluation
  - breeding soundness exam (BSE)
  - vaccinate for vibrio/lepto, IBR, BVD, BRSV, PI<sub>3</sub>
  - Parasite control
- Move mature cows to clean, dry calving pasture & record body condition
  - [Implications of Cow Body Condition Score on Productivity](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an319)  
(<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an319>)
- Check fences in fields to be used for winter pastures and make needed repairs

### Pasture Management

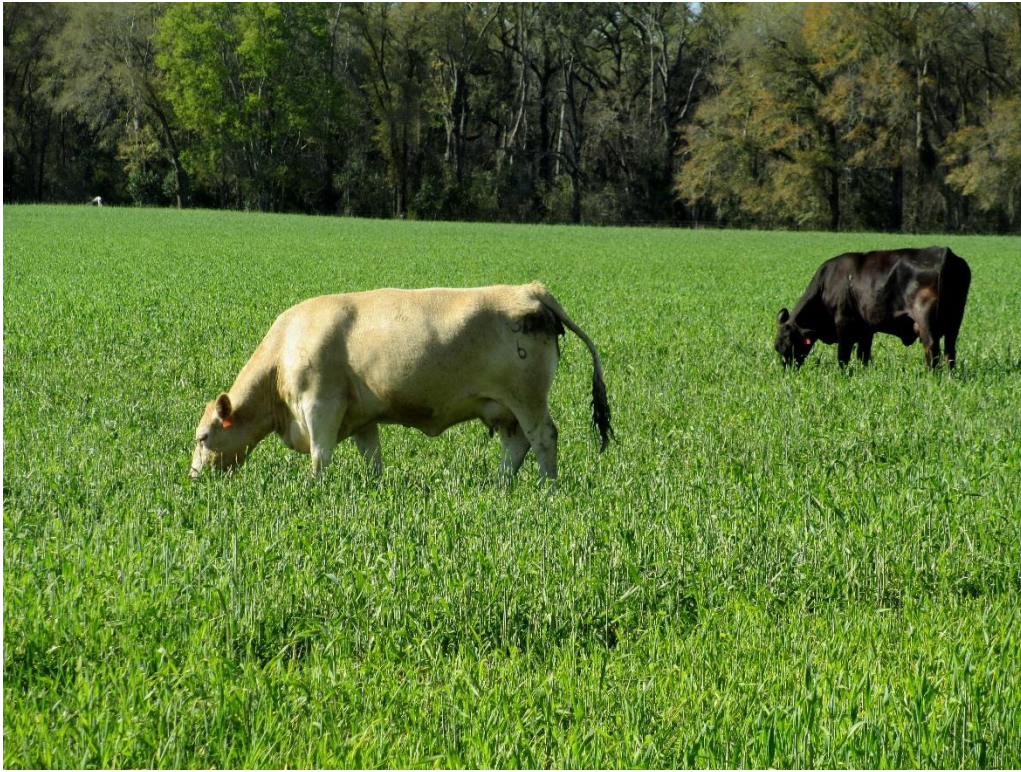
- Plant overseeded winter grazing on hayfields or pastures (ryegrass, clovers, vetch, and other miscellaneous winter forages)
- Fertilize winter pastures at 30-40 lbs N per acre and other nutrients as recommended by soil test report after canopy reaches 2-3 inches
- Check fences in winter pastures and make any needed repairs

### Pest Management

- Scout pastures for poisonous weeds, spray, mow, or remove if found
  - [Poisonous Plants of the Southern US](https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf?fw=0)  
(<https://carteret.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Poisonous-Plants-of-the-Southern-United-States.pdf?fw=0>)

### Annual Events

- Celebrate Farm-City Week in your community (Week before Thanksgiving)



## December

### Cattle Herd Management

- Check calving cows and heifers 2-3 times daily
  - Move cows and newborn calves out of calving pasture
    - Record calf birth date, weight, tag calves, (optional: castrate bull calves)
  - Evaluate body condition of nursing cattle and increase energy supplement as needed
  - Feed best hay available to nursing cows & heifers
- Begin supplementing bulls 60 days prior to breeding
  - [Nutritional Management of Bulls](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an211) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/an211)
- Watch calves for scours
- Feed high magnesium mineral if grazing winter annuals and watch for grass tetany
- Summarize annual cattle herd performance & financial records
- Prepare record book or calendar to keep herd records for the year ahead
  - [Florida Beef Cattle Ranch Record Book](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/jackson/documents/Complete-Ranch-Record-Book.pdf) (https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/jackson/documents/Complete-Ranch-Record-Book.pdf)

### Pasture Management

- Begin grazing winter annual pastures when forage canopy is 10-12 inches tall and
  - Remove cattle when forage is 4 inches tall
  - If possible, limit-graze for 2-3 hours per day, plus free choice hay to stretch grazing
- Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures (feed high magnesium mineral)
  - [Grass Tetany in Cattle](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ds137)
- Lime permanent pastures, based on recommendations from soil test report
  - [Fertilizing and Liming Forage Crops](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179) (https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag179)

### Pest Management

- Calibrate sprayers and replace nozzles and screens as needed
  - [Calibration of Herbicide Applicators](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg013) (http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/wg013)