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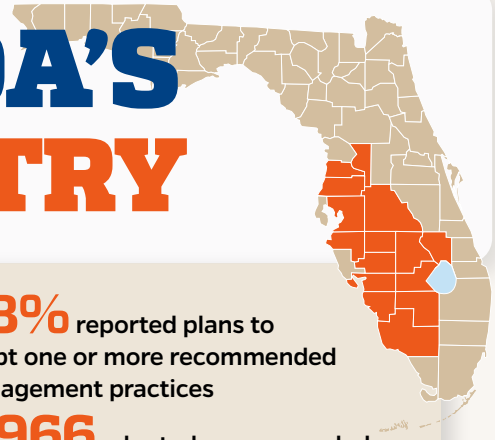
PDEC Program Development & Evaluation Center

IMPROVING FLORIDA'S BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY



THE SOUTH FLORIDA BEEF FORAGE PROGRAM

The South Florida Beef-Forage Program coordinates UF/IFAS research and Extension activities to help livestock producers enhance their forage and cattle production.

321 south Florida livestock producers participated in our educational programs in 2018, representing **41,000** cattle and **400,000** acres of range land.

50% increase among south Florida participants in overall knowledge of reproduction, forage, herd nutrition, herd health management and general ranch management.

48% reported plans to adopt one or more recommended management practices

6,966 adopted recommended livestock production practices statewide.

3,205 adopted recommended forage management practices statewide.

GRAZING Management

Grazing positively impacts native ranges by reducing invasive vegetation and increasing wildlife habitats.

50% of participants said they would increase profits due to using new practices such as better weed management, rotational grazing and land management improvements.

WINTER Supplementation

Providing knowledge and tools to economically and efficiently manage nutritional requirements of the cow herd.

75% of participants plan to change an existing practice or begin a new one such as troubleshooting mineral supplementation, seasonal forage deficits, and animal traceability.

REPRODUCTIVE Management

By implementing recommended practices, participating producers can increase their reproductive efficiency

5-20%

– a value[1] of

$300,000 - $1.2M.

[1]Using 2017 market figures based on a 70% calf crop.

NUTRITION for Beef Females

Body condition score (BCS) positively correlates with reproductive performance across several cattle breeds.

90% of south Florida participants plan to implement at least one nutritional supplementation strategy presented.

HERD HEALTH Management

Most herd health is provided by ranchers or their employees rather than veterinarians. Many cattle handlers are hired without formal training on beef cattle protocols, and even experienced ranchers need timely information on new and emerging technological advances in medicine.

$607,000

potential savings by participants who use the recommended "tail bleeding" technique to determine pregnancy and take advantage of market prices for the open (non-pregnant) cows.

sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu

Search South Florida Beef-Forage Program

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