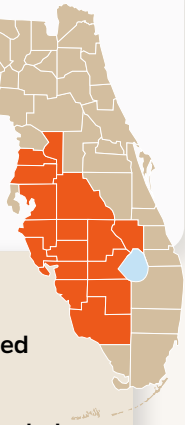



# IMPROVING FLORIDA'S BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY



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

[sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu](http://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu)

 Search South Florida Beef-Forage Program

**352**

South Florida livestock producers participated in our educational programs in 2019, representing

**120,000**

cattle and

**377,000**

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.

**82%** reported plans to adopt one or more recommended management practices

**5,002** adopted recommended livestock production practices statewide.

**4,039** adopted recommended forage management practices statewide.

## FORAGE Management

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

**88%** of participants said they would use new practices such as better weed management, rotational grazing and land management improvements.

## NUTRITION for Beef Females

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

**98%** of South Florida participants plan to implement at least one nutritional supplementation strategy presented.

## WINTER Supplementation

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

**82%** of participants plan to change an existing practice or begin a new one such as troubleshooting mineral supplementation, seasonal forage deficits, and animal traceability.

## 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.

## REPRODUCTIVE Management

By implementing recommended practices, participating producers estimate they can improve the profitability of their operations by

**\$7/head/year**

— a combined annual increase of

**\$114,723.**

**\$345,562**

potential revenue increase on South Florida ranches as a result of implementing recommended herd health practices.

