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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
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Seminole County Crop News

Water for Elephants… I mean to say Calves

August 29, 2011

I had an interesting call this week asking if young calves need water. We might think of them getting all they need from cows' milk, but no they need water , and it can be a deadly situation when it's hot and dry. The cattleman had water nearby but he noticed that the 2 month old calves were panting like they were thirsty and then noticed that they couldn't reach the water in the trough, they were too short. One thing that happens over time at almost every cattle water trough is that cattle drag or pack down the level of dirt at the water trough. In other words, what may have been within reach may not be in reach later. When temperatures are high the amount of water that cattle need rises as well of course.

In talking with Decatur County Agent Mitchell May, he says a 250 pound calf may use 3 gallons a day and even the youngest calves need clean water.

About 6 months ago the cattleman had dirt and rocks piled up around this waterer so that the calves could easily get to the water. The level was up to about where the fist ring is, where my knees are now in the photo. It's amazing how quickly cattle will drag dirt away from the watering trough. Cattleman Robert Faircloth says that during rainy weather it happens even quicker, I guess the muddy dirt sticks to their hooves worse?

Here's some info below from the UGA website also more info is at this link.

http://www.caes.uga.edu/topics/disasters/drought/commodities/waterfacts.html

"Water is the most important nutrient for cattle. It accounts for 50 to 80% of an animal's weight and is involved in every physiological process. Cattle cannot adapt to water restriction and feed intake will be greatly decreased if water is restricted. Water availability and quality can become a major issue during a drought. It is important to check water sources frequently for water availability and quality during a drought."

“Water is the most important nutrient for cattle, but providing clean water for cattle is often overlooked. Most problems will occur in the summer when pond water is contaminated with one of the anti-water quality factors such as manure, dissolved solids, nitrates, algae, or sulfates. Research is variable, but has shown weight gain increases up to 20% in calves provided water pumped into a tank versus calves drinking from a pond to which they had access. Poor water quality can lead not only to poor performance and poor reproduction that often goes unnoticed, but can be deadly as well. Special attention should be given to water quality during the hot summer months when most problems occur. Using the best quality of water available will contribute to the optimal production of cattle.”

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Cotton/Peanut Research Field Day set for September 7, 2011

August 26, 2011

Cotton/Peanut Research Field Day set for September 7, 2011 in Tifton, Ga.

Tifton, GA - Aug. 17, 2011 - The Georgia Cotton Commission, Georgia Peanut Commission and the University of Georgia Extension Cotton and Peanut Teams, will co-sponsor a joint research field day on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, in Tifton, Ga.

Here's a bad area of white mold in peanuts. Plant pathology is one of the topics of research that will be addressed at this event.

There is no charge to attend the field day and everyone should arrive at Gibbs Farm between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. After a short welcome, the trams will leave about 9:05 a.m. and the tour will conclude at 12:30 p.m.

The purpose for the tour is to showcase current research which is funded by the respective commissions in plot-side presentations by the researchers themselves. The sponsors' goal is to provide an educational environment for cotton and peanut producers and give them the opportunity to pose questions directly to the researchers and to express opinions and concerns pertinent to the production of their crops.

Chairmen of the peanut and cotton commissions, Armond Morris and Louie Perry, respectively agree this event presents a chance for the commissions' board members and staff to interact with growers and other attendees. "It is an excellent place for both commodities' producers to observe, firsthand, the research program funded by their check-off investments," Morris and Perry says.

Both Commissions urge cotton and peanut growers to mark their calendars and plan to attend this important event. This is an excellent place for cotton and peanut producers to observe, first-hand, the research program funded by their check-off investments.

Immediately following the tour, a lunch co-sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission and Georgia Peanut Commission will be served at the Blackshank Farm.

Please RSVP to Sara Cates at 229-386-3006 or sbcates@uga.edu by Friday, September 2, 2011, if you plan to attend.

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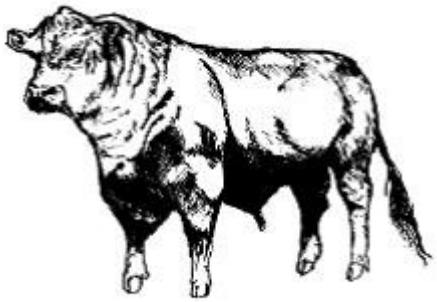
Tifton Bull Evaluation

August 26, 2011



Bull Evaluation Objectives

A. To record differences in ability of bulls to gain in uniform environment.

B. To provide breeders with a sound scientific basis for selecting bulls with ability to gain weight rapidly and to make such bulls available to cattlemen.

C. To serve as an educational demonstration of the value of records of performance.

54th TIFTON BULL EVALUATION

ENTRY & DELIVERY DATES

Birth Dates: Dec. 1, 2010 – Feb. 28, 2011

Entry Deadline: September 1, 2011

Delivery Dates: October 3-4, 2011

Sale Date: March 7, 2012

The deadline for entering bulls in the 2011-12 Tifton Bull Evaluation is September 1. Those rules are posted at http://www.caes.uga.edu/commodities/animals/beef/stations/index.html

Once you get to the site, scroll down to Tifton Bull Evaluation Center.

Click on Rules – 2011-12 (pdf).

Click on Rules Letter: 2011-12 (pdf).

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Yellow Peanuts

on August 25, 2011

The issue is yellowing in parts or sections of fields. It looks as if the primary issue is manganese deficiency. If you look closely, the yellowing only goes down 3-4 nodes from the terminal. Most of the leaflets are showing the typical Mn deficiency symptom of interveinal chlorosis. Manganese deficiency is associated with a high pH (6.5 or greater). If the fields showing the conditions are within 3 weeks of harvest there is no economic advantage to treating them. If the fields

are greater than 3 weeks from harvest, spot spraying the affected areas with manganese sulfate may be recommended.

Drs. John Beasley and Glen Harris, UGA Extension Scientists contributed to this article.

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Peanut Leaf Scorch

August 25, 2011

Leptosphaerulina crassiaca is the causal organism of Peanut Leaf Scorch. We're seeing more of this than I care to see. Dr. Bob Kemerait, UGA Extension Plant Pathologist, says it causes some leaf symptoms but does not cause yield loss in peanut. Our normal fungicides used in peanut probably help with this as well.

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2011 Georgia Peanut Tour

August 25, 2011

The Georgia Peanut Tour Committee has set September 27-29, 2011, as the dates for the 25th Annual Georgia Peanut Tour. An Early Bird Hot Topics' Seminar will also be held Tuesday, September 27, at 3:00 p.m.at the Holiday Inn Express in Bainbridge, Ga.

The tour spotlights the southwest part of Georgia's peanut production area. The tour includes a cross section of field conditions, peanut harvest clinics, production research at the University of Georgia Attapulgus Research Farm, peanut handling and grading facilities on-farm demonstrations and equipment manufacturing.

The tour also includes a special private performance of the local annual production of "Swamp Gravy," a community play with local citizens about the life, events and antics of their forefathers and families who settled the area.

Registration Information:
The registration fee is $60 per person, which includes all meals and reserved transportation during the tour. After August 8 the registration fee is $70.00.For more information about the 25th Annual Georgia Peanut Tour contact the Georgia Peanut Commission at (229) 386-3470 or rebecca@gapeanuts.com.Here's a link to more information

http://www.gapeanuts.com/growerinfo/PeanutTour/2011/pt2011.asp

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Question of The Week – Sheep Dairy

August 25, 2011

Question

Last week I asked about my photo of a small scale dairy and I didn't have anyone to answer correctly. Someone thought it was a goat dairy. It was a Sheep Dairy. They milk sheep there twice a day. Then they make cheese from the sheep milk that retails for around $30 per pound. I tasted it and it's different but good if you like it. I toured it on my trip to Kansas a couple of weeks ago. The dairy is on Green Dirt Farm near Weston, Missouri. Here's a link to their web site. http://www.greendirtfarm.com/ Here's a photo I took at the farm of the sheep before milking.

This week's question is, " What is this critter crawling up the wall just outside our office?"