Slide 1

DIVIDING TASKS & MULTIPLYING SUCCESS: REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORT DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Lauren Butler, Okeechobee County Extension Director/Livestock Agent

Slide 2

History

- Established in 1981
- 16 Counties + UF Range Cattle REC
- Members have varying backgrounds
- 49% of Florida’s 1.7 million head of cattle

Slide 3

SFBFP Making it Work

- Group Structure
- Collaboration
- Program Development
- Division of Tasks
Slide 4

**Education and Research**

- Reproductive Management
- Herd Health
- Winter Supplementation
- Grazing Management Tour and Workshop
- Cattlewomen’s College
- Quail Management
- Research - Calf loss, herbicide labeling, bio-control release, new forage varieties, nutrient leaching, etc.

Slide 5

**Forage Management Tour and Workshop**

- Purpose: adoption of best management practices to optimize forage production to increase economic viability while sustaining the environment
- Format: seminars and field visits
- Topic: forage varieties, grazing systems, weed control practices, healthy soil practices, nutrition practices and economics of grazing practices
- 2019 Results:
  - 73% knowledge gain
  - 88% behavior change

Slide 6

**Nutrition for Beef Females**

- Purpose: improve production practices in cattle nutrition, body condition and overall weight gain of cattle
- Format: seminar and interactive software platform
- Topic: Body Condition Scoring, nutrition practices
- 2019 Results
  - 20% knowledge gain
  - 98% behavior change
Slide 7

**Herd Health**
- **Purpose:** improve overall health of herd, increase weight gain in weaned calves
- **Format:** seminar and producer panel
- **Topics:** vaccination protocols, emerging diseases, health protocols
- **2019 Results:**
  - 93% knowledge gain
  - 72% behavior change

Slide 8

**Winter Supplementation**
- **Purpose:** producers address nutritional needs of the cow herd, maintain body condition and improve productivity
- **Format:** seminar and producer panel
- **Topics:** nutritional requirements for cattle, body condition maintenance, trace minerals, molasses composition
- **2019 Results:**
  - 42% knowledge gain
  - 82% behavior change

Slide 9

**Reproductive Management School**
- **Purpose:** to improve understanding of the broad subject of breeding herd management to better equip participants to accomplish breeding program objectives
- **Format:** multi-day hands-on labs, chute side demonstrations, classroom presentations, seminars
- **Topics:** nutrition, pasture management, bull health, breeding season lengths, artificial insemination practices, BQA practices, genetic selection, palpation
- **2019 Results:**
  - 93% knowledge gain
  - 88% behavior change
Additional Components

- Florida Cattlemen’s Association Infographics
- Monthly Newsletters
- Facebook: UF/IFAS South Florida Beef Forage Program
- Webpage: https://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/
- Value to Producers
- Value to Specialists/UF