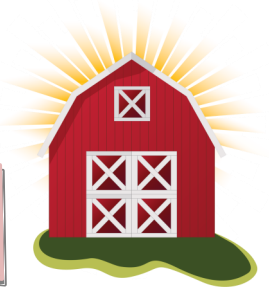


# BARNYARD BULLETIN



Volume 2, Issue 4

UF/IFAS Duval County Extension

July/August 2018

In this edition of Barnyard Bulletin you will find information regarding poultry biosecurity, an important topic amidst the Salmonella & Newcastle Disease breakouts, also find information about adding value to cull cows & a visit to the dairy goat farm.

Check out our upcoming events sections so you don't miss a thing! Lots of exciting classes coming up in the next few months. Make sure to join us for our Chicken Treats & Toys Workshop on July 14th!

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# Poultry Biosecurity

Author– Nick Simmons, Escambia County

Recent reports of salmonella sickness by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has caused an increased focus on animal-human interaction. According to these reports, over 100 people in multiple states have been ill with salmonella. The CDC states that the most likely cause is their interaction with live poultry in backyard flocks. More recently, there have been at least 18 outbreaks of Virulent Newcastle Disease in Southern California. This disease is a highly contagious and often fatal virus that affects the respiratory, nervous, and digestive system of birds and poultry. It is important to note that no human cases of Newcastle have been reported from the consumption of poultry products (proper handling and cooking is always important.)

These reports are a good reminder that proper biosecurity by both small poultry flock owners and visitors should be exercised. It should come as no surprise that there are associated risks with livestock production, even in the smallest backyard flocks. Poultry are in constant contact with the outside world and their desire to scratch and peck the ground exposes them to numerous biological pathogens. Standard biosecurity practices within a home flock should become normal practice for poultry owners and can be easily implemented. Some steps you can take to best secure your flock include:

- Washing, rinsing and disinfecting feeders and waterers every week to 10 days. More often if heavily used
- Quarantine any birds that appear to have even slight to moderate symptoms of abnormalities
- Implement a pest control program, this should include rodents, insects, and snakes.
- Secure your poultry from natural predators, this may include a family pet like a dog or cat
- Limit the number of people who encounter your poultry, especially family or friends who own flocks
- Ensure you are acquiring birds from reputable sources. Most commercial hatcheries have stringent biosecurity measures at their facilities.
- Quarantine any new birds for at least 14-21 days before introducing them to your flock .
- Wash your hands before and after handling birds. A disinfectant by the coop can be handy as well.

Enjoying your backyard flock should be one of the delights of raising poultry on your own. They provide hours of entertainment and usually a few eggs each day! Ensuring that you and your animals are safe should be a top priority. As always, reach out to professionals, hatcheries, Extension agents, or other seasoned poultry owners for information.

These University of Florida publications are also great resources for additional information.

[Bio-security for the Poultry Industry](#)

[The Role of Humans in Poultry Disease Outbreaks](#)



# Flip this Cow

## Adding Value by Recondition Cull Cows– By Matt Hersom (State Specialist)

Culling cows from the herd is a normal part of annual ranch management. How and when cull cows are marketed represents your last opportunity to generate revenue from each cow. There is an opportunity to add value to cull cows to generate some additional revenue for a cattle enterprise. Just as there are options to be compared before marketing weaned calves, producers should weigh their options before marketing cull cows.

There are a number of reasons for a cow to be culled from the herd. A primary reason is that the cow is open (not pregnant) when the herd is pregnancy tested. Without the prospect of a calf to sell, the open cow becomes an expense. Secondary to pregnancy status is age, as older cows are less productive or have greater risk of health and structural issues. Other reasons to cull a cow include disposition, not weaning a calf, overall poor performance, poor body condition, sickness, or injury. Certainly cows with active sickness/disease or that have not yet cleared withdrawal dates for animal health products should not enter market channels. Cattle producers may have an interest in adding value to their own cull cows, or in creating another potential revenue stream, there is opportunity for improving the value of culls cows.

### Adding Value to Cull Cows

Before embarking on the process of adding value to cull cows, you need to identify your goals and what resources you have available. Many cull cows are in poor body condition and will require a higher plain of nutrition to add weight. A primary consideration then for adding value to cull cows are economical feed resources. If pastures will be used to provide the base nutrition for reconditioning cows, make sure there is enough extra so that the main herd will not be impacted. Any supplemental feed-stuffs used must provide the opportunity for a low cost of gain. Often these supplemental feeds might be leftover or excess hay or feed, or a delivery of low-cost byproducts from the previous year. However, not sacrificing the performance of the primary cow herd by diverting feed resources is important. The amount of pasture and supplementary feeds necessary to achieve an acceptable level of gain should be considered before you start. You also need to estimate the number of days necessary to add value to cull cows, so a total cost can be determined.



Aside from the feeding aspect of improving cull cow value is the marketing aspect of the reconditioned cull cows. For cull cows, the concept of differentials of weight, condition, price, and overall value drives profit potential. The differential timing of cull cow purchasing and marketing and the associated prices can be large influences on the profit potential for improving cull cow value. Seasonal price differences in the cull cow market can influence profit potential. Likewise, the weight differential of purchasing light-weight cows and adding body weight is imperative. More pounds at the selling point drive the profit potential and decreases the overall cost of gain. Along with the body weight change, the differential change in perceived body condition is an important driver in cull cow value. Reconditioning of cull cows changes body composition and may move cows into improved value categories. Finally, determining the acceptable level of risk and available opportunity for profit should be evaluated. Each operator will have different comfort levels with risk, and different opportunities for profit.

# Flip This Cow

(Cont.) Adding Value by Recondition Cull Cows– By Matt Hersom (State Specialist)

## Summer vs Fall Comparison

Table 1 has two examples of cull cow value improvement ventures. One initiated in the summer with six cows, the other initiated in the fall with five cows. In each case there was ample bahiagrass pasture available and available cheap by-product feed because of an existing contract. At each time cows were fed as a group in a single pasture. In-values are the price paid at the auction barn, in-weight and body condition score were determined at the farm. Data presented are the mean and range for the responses collected. All animals in each group were fed for the same number of days. In the summer group there was quite a spread in cull cow in- weight (200 lbs) and in-value (nearly \$200) that existed. Likewise there was a spread in the cull cow average daily gain (1.3 lbs/day), cost of gain (\$0.21/lbs), and final profit (\$416.49) when the cows were marketed. In fact, in the summer group, three of the six cows resulted in an average loss of \$110, whereas the other three resulted in a mean profit of \$183. In contrast, the fall group was a much more uniform group in body weight, but still varied by \$159 for in-value. Final body weight differed by only 50 lbs, but out-value differed by \$415, and profit differed by \$400. Compared to the summer group, the fall group did not gain as well, had higher cost of gain, but reconditioning resulted in all cows making a profit. Figure 1 presents a before and after example of a fall cull cow venture. Cow 931 had an in-weight of 985 lbs, body condition score of 2.2, and in-value of \$434. After 84 days, cow 931 had an out-weight of 1,140, body condition score of 4.3, and out-value of \$655, resulting in a profit of \$127.

## Summary

Improving the value of cull cows offers income opportunity for cattle producers. Keys to success include having cheap feed resources available in the form of un-utilized pasture or forage and supplemental feed-stuffs at low or no-cost. Low-value cows can be turned into a value-added product by improving the carcass weight and condition of the cow to place into a different carcass quality category. Realize that some cows will have a ceiling of value and not every cow will make a profit. Cow performance and market timing affect a cow's value ceiling. So each producer must evaluate the risk associated with flipping cows, the added costs and most importantly, the opportunity for profit.

**Table 1. Examples of improving cull cow value through re-conditioning, summer and fall ventures with group mean and lowest and highest final value cow**

Cow ID	In Wt. lbs.	In BCS	In Value	Out Wt. lbs.	Out BCS	Out Value	Gain lbs.	Days on Feed	ADG lbs./day	Cost of Gain	Feed Cost	Profit
<b>Summer</b>												
Mean	985	3.1	\$593.46	1,229	5.3	\$738.03	244	93	2.63	\$0.46	\$107.73	\$36.84
Low cow	695	2.3	\$543.75	890	4.5	\$547.20	195	-	2.10	\$0.55	-	\$ -104.28
High cow	885	3.8	\$561.00	1,110	5.5	\$967.50	225	-	2.42	\$0.48	-	\$298.77
<b>Fall</b>												
Mean	951	2.7	\$463.65	1,147	4.8	\$721.07	196	84	2.33	\$0.49	\$93.76	\$163.66
Low cow	930	2.7	\$506.15	1,155	4.7	\$606.85	225	-	2.68	\$0.42	-	\$6.94
High cow	970	3.0	\$533.50	1,140	4.8	\$1,021.50	170	-	2.02	\$0.55	-	\$394.24

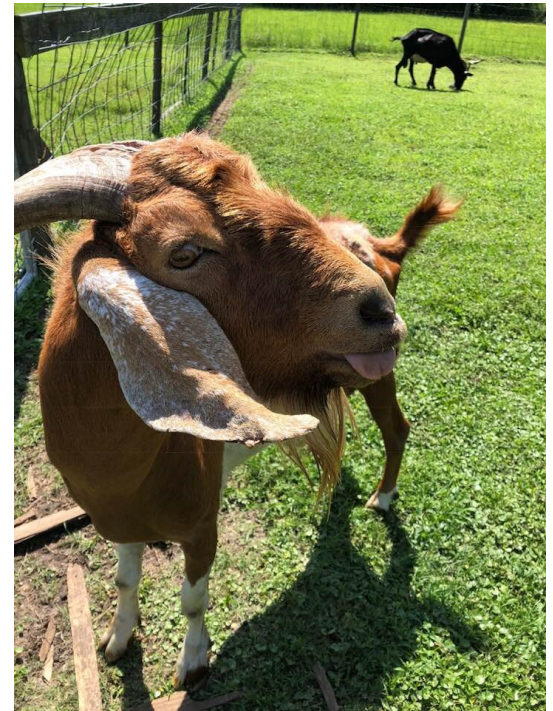
# Animal A Day 4-H Camp Highlights

Author: Alicia Halbritter

Animal A Day Camp is an annual summer camp held by our 4-H Agent, Kelsey Haupt. Each year livestock agent, Alicia Halbritter, leads a farm animal day. Last year we visited Diamond D Ranch, a cattle & Horse farm, and this year we visited Star D Ranch, a dairy goat farm!



Youth got to pet & feed the goats. They were thrilled with how friendly goats can be.



Youth learned about breeding management and weaning babies from their moms once it is time to milk. They also witnessed how goofy goats can be.



Youth learned how to hand milk and milk by machine.

Our campers had so much fun at Star D!

Thank you so much to Garry Dubois and family for their generosity!

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Backyard Poultry Basics**

Call 904-255-7450 to Register, \$5  
July 12th 6-8pm  
August 13th 6-8pm  
August 20th 9-11am

## **Chicken Treats and Toys Workshop**

July 14th  
10am– 12pm  
<http://bit.ly/TreatsandToys>

## **Livestock & Forage Field Day**

\$20 early registration  
\$50 at the door

Santa Fe River Ranch  
July 26th 8 am-3pm

<https://tinyurl.com/y71xdpv2>

## **Small Ruminant Workshop**

September 8th, Gainesville, \$20  
<http://bit.ly/SheepandGoat>

For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact our office (904-255-7450) within a minimum of 5 working days of the program. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, when contacting our office please use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

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