## GROWING TOGETHER FROM A DISTANCE: CENTRAL FLORIDA LIVESTOCK AGENTS SEIZE ON OPPORTUNITIES TO VIRTUALLY PROGRAM TOGETHER DURING ERA OF PHYSICAL SEPARATION

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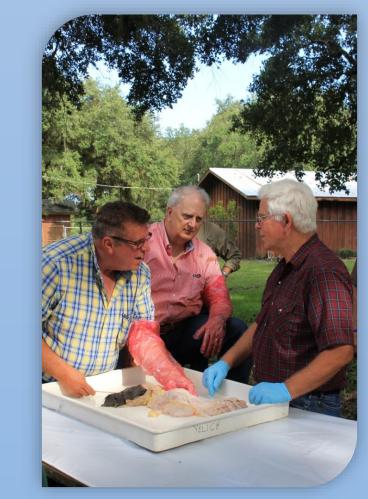
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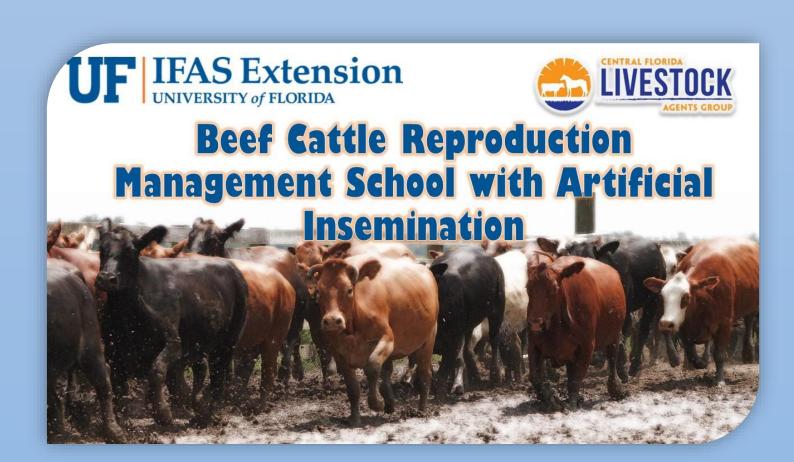


The Central Florida Livestock Agent's Group (CFLAG) is a professional organization of Extension Agents who work in Central Florida and frequently collaborate to provide cross-county programming to shared clientele. In "normal" times they met quarterly to program plan in person and put on several hallmark programs each year including the Spring Ranchers Forum, the Equine Institute, the Small Ruminant Production Conference, and the Beef Cattle Reproduction Management School.









When Covid-19 brought in-person meetings and programs to a halt, the members of CFLAG transitioned to weekly online meetings using the MS Teams platform. They used this time to strategize ways to meet their clients ongoing using new methods, to develop online programs, to shore up their online presence, and to brainstorm as a team.

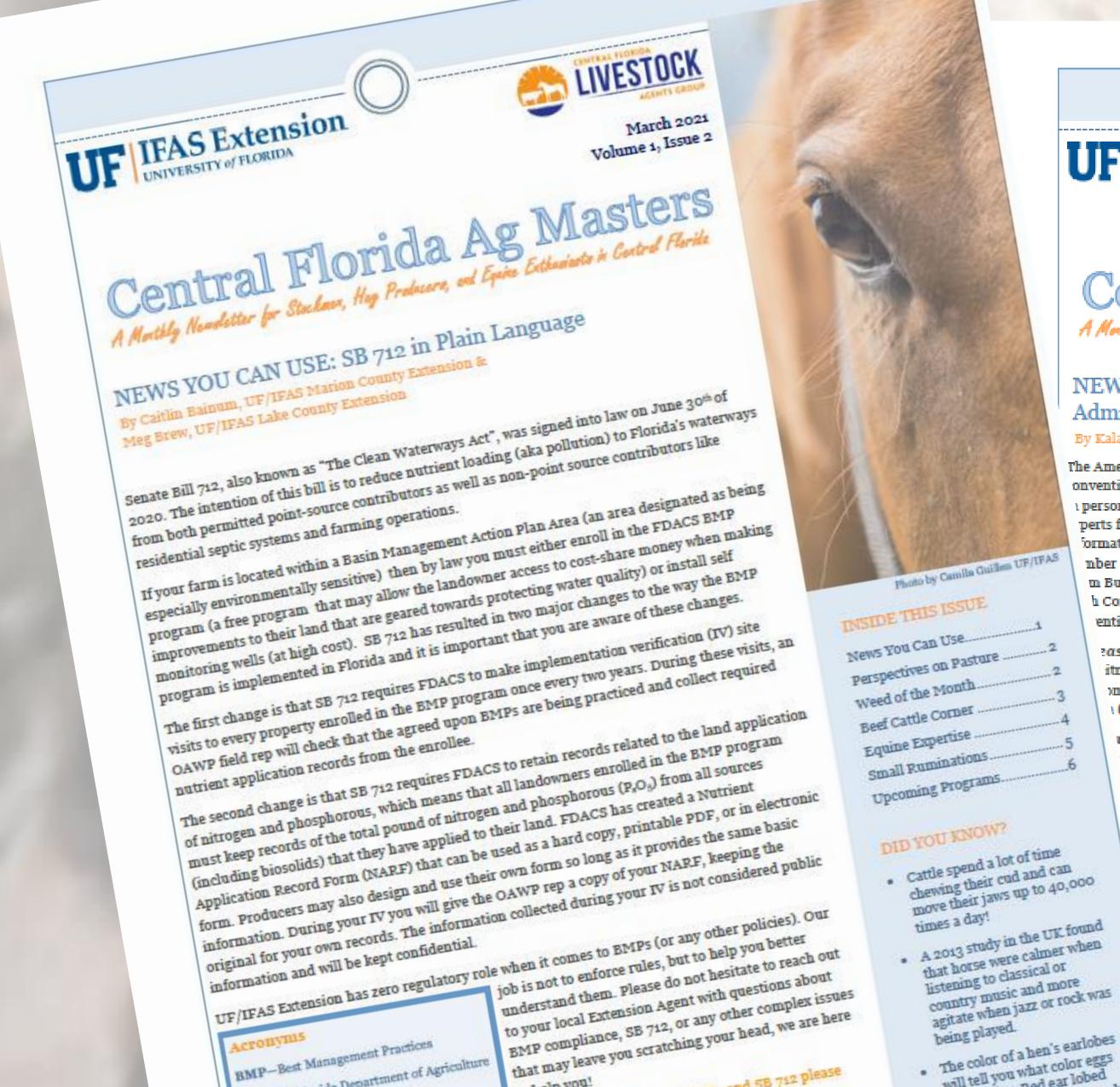
A survey of CFLAG members who attended weekly meetings (n=8) reported that as a result of their attendance they...

Were collaborating more with their colleagues

Felt more comfortable asking a colleague for assistance

Felt their professional development had been enhanced

Felt better equipped to serve their clients







Central Florida Ag Masters
A Morthly Newdotter for Stuckner, Hop Producers, and Equine Extrainate in Central Florida

NEWS YOU CAN USE: What to Expect from our New Administration and the 117th Congress By Kalan Taylor, UF/IFAS Volusia County Extension

The American Farm Bureau Federation recently hosted their 102nd annual onvention virtually this year. This was the first time in the convention's history that it was not held 1 person. The convention covered four days and brought together farmers, ranchers, and industry perts from across the country to discuss the top issues facing agriculture. While the industry formation was very educational and brought to life a number of ideas for producers, I would say a 1 nber of people joined this convention eager to hear what information and insight the American 1 m Bureau Federation had in regards to our new administration and the 2 h Congress. Hopefully you were able to attend, if not here some key topics covered during the 1 ention

easing Markets Abroad. Three key take home messages - #1. Hold China to their itment to the China Phase 1 trade agreement. #2. Look to Southeast Asia, the United markets. #3. Increase trade deals such as the United States-Mexico (USMCA). Click to learn more about USMCA.

vsible Agriculture Labor Reform. Farmers and ranchers need a dependable, skilled ve. Farm work is not easy, work is often seasonal and temporary, and fewer Americans are villing to work these types of jobs. To protect our agricultural labor work rificant changes to immigration reform needs to be passed by Congress. This

valid address agriculture's current workforce and create a new flexible worker program.

\*ning the 2023 Farm Bill. There are a number of important discussion items for the 'arm Bill but the three major topics are rural infrastructure, strengthening the safety net and ranchers, and climate/conservation. Rural communities play a vital role in our nomy and a crumbling rural infrastructure threatens the ability for our farmers and neet domestic demands and to compete globally. The deterioration of peopardizes jobs, health, education, and access. Every part of infrastructure will be

uding roads, inland waterways, ports, railways, and broadband.

Tri-State Livestock News article, the chief economist for American Farm Bureau to strengthen the safety net in the next farm bill. "The 2018 farm bill does not 3, but hurricanes and the derecho as well as the trade problems show it has become in the current safety net in the farm bill is not adequate enough to help farmers and unicating that to the farm community is a high priority", Newton said. He also is reations on the farm bill will start sooner rather than later."

discussion is climate and finding a way to work with Congress and the vrovide financial incentives to expand climate – smart practices and make in a revenue stream, Newton said.

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DID YOU KNOW?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

 We often associate cowboy culture with the old west, but cattle were first brought to the new world by way of Florida!

 The American Quarter Horse is thus named for being the fastest horse in the world at

the quarter mile sprint!

It is widely believed that goats are one of the first

One of the fruits that came out of the weekly CFLAG meetings was a new team newsletter, the Central Florida Ag Masters, which allows agents to increase the quality and depth of their writing by having each agent take turns authoring articles in their area of expertise.