

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS TO REACH A COMMON GOAL

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Introduction: The UF/IFAS Central Florida Livestock Agents Group (CFLAG) has offered a hands-on beef cattle reproduction school at the Deseret Ranch for 30 years. Multiple partners come together to provide participants with the latest beef cattle reproductive technology. Our goal as extension professionals is to bring real-world, hands-on, practical knowledge to our clientele in a way attendees easily understand. Extension Agents bridge this gap daily using available resources, even if unfamiliar with the subject material.

Objective: Develop partnerships with University experts, private industry professionals, and veterinarians to provide education for program participants and Extension Agents.

Methods:

- The 5-day agenda includes multiple classroom presentations and chute-side, hands-on activities.
- Topics included beef cattle handling, palpation, ultrasound, blood sampling, nutrition, artificial insemination, herd health, bull and heifer selection, safety, and management.
- Partners include UF/IFAS Extension Agents, UF/IFAS professors and graduate students, University and private veterinarians, and industry professionals.
- Provide networking opportunities for clientele to learn from everyone.



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Figure 1. Extension Agents demonstrating calm cattle handling in the pens.



Figure 2. Private industry professionals and a UF graduate student teaching at the school.



Figure 3. UF/IFAS Extension veterinarian Dr. Bittar giving a hands-on demonstration on how to manage calving problems.

Results: During 2023, this partnership included four Florida Extension districts with 16 livestock agents from 16 counties, two UF/IFAS Animal Science Professors and three of their graduate students, one UF Extension Beef Cattle Veterinarian, one private veterinarian, four cowboys from the Deseret Ranch, and three representatives from one allied industry company.

Together, we partnered to provide specific outreach education on beef cattle reproduction.

Conclusion: Extension professionals benefited by developing partnerships focused on outreach topics they may not be familiar with. By doing this, Extension professionals improved their skill set to share with their clientele. Participants gained knowledge and hands-on experience from multiple sources that otherwise may not have been available.



Figure 4. Extension agents, veterinarians, graduate students, and private industry leaders showing teamwork at the school.

Acknowledgments:

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