

Iberia

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1. Accession 0224503	Agency Identification No. 2. NIFA 3. LA.B	5. Work Unit/Project No. LAB04081	6. Status Annual Report
7. Title Profitability for Small Beef Producers through Sustainable Forage Systems and Value Added Forage Fed Beef Production			
12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) Scaglia, G.; Gillespie, J.; Harrison, R.; Janes, M.; Malekian, F.; McMillin, K.; Prinyawiwatkul, W.; Westra, J.			
20. Termination Date 01/14/2015		40. Period Covered (mo/da/year): 01/15/2011 TO 01/14/2012	
Outputs: The project generated oral presentations at Pasture Walks and Field Day (Iberia Research Station), and at the Agribusiness Council of Louisiana Quarterly Meeting (New Orleans, LA). A poster was presented at the Project Directors' Annual Meeting in November (Miami, FL). The project serves not only as a framework for outreach activities in topics of interest for beef cattle and forage producers in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, but also, to develop projects that may attract more extramural funding. Increased support from producers has improved the visibility of the project.			
Outcomes/Impacts: Winter gains of steers ranged from 1.2 to 1.6 kg. In May 2011, 18 of these steers were harvested (six steers/treatment), carcass data collected and steaks obtained. Shear force values were determined from each steak and beef samples were analyzed for proximate analysis, fat content and fatty acid profile. The first consumer (n=112 representing the Hispanic population) panel evaluation fresh beef samples and represented the three forage systems and a commercial control. Preliminary data showed that regardless of the cooking methods (skillet and grill), there were no significant differences in acceptability scores for appearance and overall flavor all samples. Interviews with 10 Louisiana forage-fed beef producers have been conducted and a national survey. In June 2011, the next grazing season began with a new group of steers. Steers have been in preparation for a grazing summer pastures until November, with conserved forages being fed thereafter until the end of the year. Performance has been as expected, with moderate gains during the months of direct grazing and limited gains during the hay feeding period.			
Publications: Scaglia, G. 2011. Issues to consider in forage-fed beef production. Part 3. Louisiana Farm and Ranch. Vol. 7:(11)34-35. November issue. Scaglia, G. 2011. Issues to consider in forage-fed beef production. Part 2. Louisiana Farm and Ranch. Vol. 7:(8)28-29. August issue. Scaglia, G. 2011. Issues to consider in forage-fed beef production. Part 1. Louisiana Farm and Ranch. Vol. 7:(7)30-33. July issue.			
Participants: G. Scaglia, (PI), Jose Rodriguez, Kenneth McMillin, and Mr. Persica, Jeffrey Gillespie, Mr. Rodriguez, Witoon Prinyawiwatkul, Wannita Jirangrat, Marlene Janes, LSU AgCenter; Fatemeh Malekian, Southern University.			
Target Audiences: Target audiences include beef cattle producers, forage producers, beef cattle specialists, county agents, and other professionals (businessmen, company representatives). These audiences were reached during the pasture walk, field day, and Agribusiness Council of Louisiana's meetings.			
Project Modifications:			

Nothing significant to report during this reporting period.

Approved (Signature)	Title	Date
B. R. U. S.		