

# Homestead & Farm Notes

August 2012

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**4-H Happenings:** Annual 4-H Foundation, Inc. Auction, New 4-H year coming soon.

## Upcoming Events & Programs

Visit <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu> for more events and programs

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group Presents **Weed Management in Pastures** 9:00AM - 11:00AM at Sonny Register's Farm 12846 Turner Cemetery Road in Sanderson.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>:** Muscadine Grapes Program, Columbia County Extension Office, 6:30PM - 8:00PM. 164 Mary Ethel Lane, Lake City.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>:** Teening-Up, Train the Trainer, (Six Sessions) Baker County Extension Office 9:30AM - 12:30PM 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Optimize Pasture & Grazing Management Program, Alachua County Extension Office, 6:00PM - 8:00PM. 2800 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>:** Food Preservation Program, Bradford County Extension Office, 9:30AM - 2:00PM.

# Office News & Updates

**Hello Readers and Producers,**

Greetings from your Union County Extension Office. You will notice that the appearance of this newsletter has changed. We have made these changes so that the images on the electronic copies are more vivid and appealing to the eye. In addition, we have organized the newsletter by separating the information into sections so that it is easy to find information you may be looking for. You will notice that the newsletter also includes information about our 4-H Programs and Events, and we have also included a Homestead Goat Notes section. We look forward to improving the appearance and content of these newsletters for all to enjoy.

Our 4-H Shooting Sports Team went to the National's held in Grand Island, Nebraska. Four 4-H'ers were accompanied by two adults and Colan Coody, 4-H Program Assistant. There were 37 other states, with 537 youth attending. Our youth enjoyed and learned more about other 4-H programs. Of the 37 states, there were ten hunting disciple teams, our team finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place. Our team members ranked as follows: Case Emerson, Mitchell Cribbs, Witt Thomas, and Serena Roberts. We are very proud of all these young members, they all did an excellent job and this is an experience they can carry with them for a lifetime. This trip would not have been possible if we didn't have help by our many sponsors. You know who you are and we just want to say **THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

A note to let you know the Florida Organic Growers is pleased to announce the 2011-2012 Cost Share Program. This will reimburse you up to 75% of the costs associated with your organic certification up to \$750. Please visit [www.union.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.union.ifas.ufl.edu) to obtain a copy of the application, you must send to Florida Organic Growers, or visit [www.foginfo.org](http://www.foginfo.org). Their phone number is 352-377-6345 if you need more information. Please take advantage of this program, we want to keep and support as many organic farmers as possible!!!

Don't forget the **Union County Farmers' Market** is open every Saturday 8:00AM to Noon. Come and support your local farmers.

Please log on to our website at [www.union.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.union.ifas.ufl.edu) to take advantage of much information and you can see more listings for programs and events in your area.

Thank You,

Basil Bactawar

County Extension Director/Agent

# Livestock & Wildlife

## Beef Calendar for August:

- ✓ Now is the time to lime fields that you plan to have winter pastures on such as rye. It takes at least 60 days for lime to neutralize soil acidity. If your rye fields need liming and you plan to plant November 1<sup>st</sup>, you need to lime now.
- ✓ Keep mineral feeders full. Grass quality will be dropping. Rumen microbes utilize minerals as they break roughage and low quality forages down into digestible microbial products. Your herd will just do better with adequate mineral supplementation as we go into fall.
- ✓ Look for fall Armyworms and Striped Grass Loopers this month and treat Bermudagrass hayfields as necessary. Striped grass loopers can continue cycling and showing up in hayfields into September if we have warm temperatures and moisture.
- ✓ If bahiagrass pastures have a severe mole cricket problem, take a soil sample (to check pH) as well as treat with labeled bait (just before sundown after a rain, so mole crickets will come up at night and eat the treated bait). Low pH Bahiagrass fields have been associated with severe mole cricket problems and dieback, according to work by Dr. Martin Adjei in South Florida.
- ✓ Fields with bad Spittlebug infestations should be identified and a note put on your calendar to plan on burning that field in February, to control Spittlebug outbreak next year.
- ✓ Check dust bags and make sure they are working properly for you.
- ✓ Wean calves, pregnancy test and cull herd (especially open cows).
- ✓ Watch for evidence of abortions in your cowherd, determine cause and treat or cull as necessary.
- ✓ This is the month to treat cattle for grubs if you found grubs in your herd last winter or saw heel flies in your pastures bothering your cattle by flying around their heels.

To learn more on Armyworms follow this link:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/IN/IN70200.pdf>



Figure 1. Adult armyworm, *Pseudaletia unipuncta* (Haworth).  
Credits: John L. Capinera, University of Florida

# Livestock & Wildlife

## Homestead Goat Notes:

In my last article in the Homestead news I wrote about the growing meat goat industry. I would like to focus a little more on this topic, and talk about what this means for our local goat producers in Union County.

The USA was a net exporter of goat meat before 1990. Export of this product stopped because of an increase in demand within the country. Consequently the US became a goat meat importing country. For example, the USA imported approximately 750,000 goat carcasses in 2006. More than ninety (90) percent of this import came from Australia. Although the US Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Services reported approximately 2.7 million meat goats on farms in 2007, American producers were unable to meet the local demand for goat meat. The increase in demand for goat meat is driven by a growing ethnic population with preference for goat meat. They are mainly Hispanics, Asian and people from the Middle East.

What does this mean for goat producers or potential goat producers in Union County? The demand for goat meat is projected to remain strong because the ethnic population is expected to grow, especially the Hispanics. This is a good opportunity for the goat business, but it is important that producers minimize their production cost without adversely affecting production efficiencies so as to compete with the imported frozen product. One of the advantages producers have is consumers prefer fresh goat meat instead of the frozen product. Additionally producers need to understand the market so as to add value to the goat they produced. Please see below a list of initiatives that can add value to the meat produced on your farm:

1. Consider producing and selling goats when their meat consumptions increase e.g. during Easter and Ramadan (Muslim holiday).
2. Use handling and harvesting procedures e.g. Muslims prefer Halal and Jews prefer kosher techniques.
3. Organic raised goats and/or goats produced under an on-farm food safety program.
4. Direct marketing by arranging to have animals slaughtered, cut, wrapped and delivered in accordance with consumers' request or preference.
5. Build a list of clients who return to purchase your goat or goat meat based on customers' satisfaction and loyalty.

Goat production presents a good opportunity for farms to target the markets mentioned above and to diversify their farm products through adding value. Do not forget to keep an eye on your production cost, as they determine your bottom line. If you need help in learning how to calculate your production costs and bottom line, Union County Extension Agent can help you set up an Excel spreadsheet on your computer, and show you how to use it. Please call 386-496-4264.

Basil Bactawar MSc.

Extension Director/Agent

UF/IFAS Union County Extension Office

Lake Butler, FL

# Livestock & Wildlife

## Wildlife events for August:

- ❖ Black Bear cubs are weaning from their mothers.
- ❖ Purple Martins and Tree swallows begin gathering to migrate south for the winter.
- ❖ Yellow Warbles migration begins.
- ❖ Gopher Tortoise and turtle eggs are hatching.
- ❖ Indigo snake and other snake eggs are hatching.
- ❖ Young sea turtles are hatching.
- ❖ Swallow-tailed Kites begin gathering in communal roosts before migrating.

# Horticulture Hints

## Now is the time to prepare your garden for fall planting:

If you've had nematode problems in your okra, tomatoes, squash, eggplant, etc., now is the time to rotate out of your old garden and till up some new soil for your fall garden.

If you still want a garden in your old spot, now is the time to use the heat of the sun to sterilize your old garden site for the next six weeks. First, till the soil up really well, apply lime if your soil test recommends it before tilling.

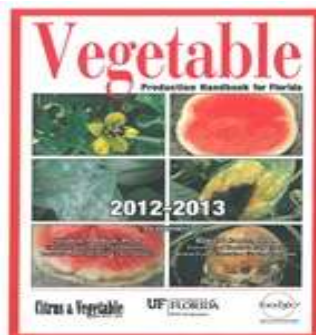
## Heat loving Vegetables to plant:

Bush beans, pole beans, lima beans, cucumbers, sweet corn ( if you really spray to control the worms) southern peas, peppers, pumpkins, summer squash, winter squash, tomatoes, watermelons (marginal success).

Some cool season Vegetables for August are: Broccoli seed, cauliflower seed, collard seed, bunching onion seed or sets, multiplier onion sets, turnip seed.

To view the 2012 - 2013 Vegetable Production Handbook visit

[http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/vegetable\\_handbook.shtml](http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/vegetable_handbook.shtml)



# Lawn & Garden

## August Lawn (grass-stress reduction) Considerations:

- ❑ Raise the height of your mower, sharpen blades and only remove 1/3 of the leaf blade height of your lawn grass. This will help reduce stress to your lawn grass.
- ❑ Hold off on using "weed & feed type" fertilizers especially those with Atrazine as the active ingredient.
- ❑ If you have to irrigate, do so early in the morning, applying 3/4 to 1 inch of irrigation water (use a can or rain gauge in the irrigated area to catch and measure how much water you've applied).
- ❑ Post-pone fertilizer applications other than iron.

## August can limit the annual flowers that can be planted:

As you replace spent plants in the flowering beds and flowering landscape, think about planting coleus, salvia, or garden mums.

To learn more about Coleus follow this link:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FP/FP13600.pdf>



## Plant bulbs in August for later color:

We still have a lot of options this month. Choices include Aztec lily, butterfly, lily, gladiolus, gloriosa lily, grape hyacinth, iris, kaffir lily, leopard lily, morea (African lily), Scarborough lily, sternbergia, spider lily and walking iris.

For more gardening tips visit [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn\\_and\\_garden/](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden/)

For a free guide to Bulbs of Florida visit

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MG02900.pdf>

This has a complete listing for bulb planting and when to plant.

# 4-H Happenings

Dates and times you need to remember:

August 9, 2012

## ANNUAL 4-H FOUNDATION INC. AUCTION

6:00PM

Lakeside Community Center, Lake Butler

Cost of Meal: \$6.00

**MENU:** Boston Butt, Whitehead Chicken & Rice, Green Beans & Taters, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Cake, Tea, Coffee, Water

### **We need you to:**

- Come and bring your family and friends
- Get with your 4-H Club Leader and see how you can help
- Wear your 4-H Official Dress
- Bring a dessert to go with our meal
- **SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

### **Brand New 4-H Year Coming!!!!**

Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for another exciting year in Union County 4-H. We are hoping to have two (2) new Clubs this year. Please remember your 4-H Club is like any other activity, it requires your time and attention.

**ALL 4-H'ERS MUST BE REGISTERED BY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

Check out <http://www.union.ifas.ufl.edu> and read about Union County 4-H

#### Contact Information - Union County Extension Office

25 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054

Phone: (386) 496-2321 Fax: (386) 496-1111

Email: [union@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:union@ifas.ufl.edu) Hours: 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday-Friday

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Director/Agent

4-H Program Assistant

Administrative Secretary