

# Homestead & Farm Notes

## 4-H Happenings

*August 2013*

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### In This Issue

Livestock & Wildlife

Lawn & Garden

4-H Happenings

### Upcoming Events & Programs

For a listing of more programs visit: <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>

**August 16th:** **Union County Annual 4-H Foundation, Inc. Auction** at the Lakeside Community Center, Lake Butler at 6:00PM.

**August 2-4<sup>th</sup>:** **Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference** at Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee. Hosted by UF/IFAS Extension and Florida A&M University. For more information visit <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>

**August 6<sup>th</sup>:** **Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Program** at the Alachua County Extension Office from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. Call (352) 955-2402 to pre-register.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>:** **Fall Vegetable Gardens** at the Clay County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 10:30AM. Call (904) 284-6355 to pre-register.



## 4-H Happenings



**Annual Union County 4-H Foundation Auction August 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 6:00PM at the 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. Please remember your 4-H Club is like any other activity, it requires your time and attention.

# Small Ruminant Corner

## The Spanish Meat Goat

Basil Bactawar, County Extension Director/Agent

It is believed that the Spanish goat came in the 1540's from Spain to the USA via Mexico. This breed was developed through natural selection; hence there is no specific breed ancestry. It is known as the wood, briar or brush goat. The size of the Spanish meat goat varies with the climate and terrain. The buck weighs about 100 pounds and can weigh up to 200 lbs. The does weigh an average of 70 lbs. and can weigh up to 130 lbs. They have horns. The color of the coats consists of a variety of colors and pattern. They have small udders and teat. These anatomical features make them good range animals because the teat and udder are not easily injured. They are known to breed out of season. One of the most desirable features is their tolerance to parasites.



# Livestock & Wildlife

## Beef Calendar for August:

- Now is the time to lime fields on which 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 pasture bothering your cattle by flying around their heels.

## Wildlife Happenings for August

Purple Martins and Tree swallows begin gathering to migrate south for 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.

# 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.

## 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>

## Heat Loving Vegetables to plant:

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

## Cool Season Vegetables for August are:

Broccoli seed, cauliflower seed, collard seed, bunching onion seed or sets, multiplier onion sets, turnip seed.

**Union County Extension Office**

**25 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Lake Butler, FL 32054**

**Non-Profit Organization**

**Permit No. 19**

**Postage Paid**

**Contact Information - Union County Extension Office**

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

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