

# Homestead & Farm Notes

25 NE 1st Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Basil Bactawar MSc., Director  
Pam Toney, Secretary  
Phone: 386-496-2321

[union@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:union@ifas.ufl.edu)  
<http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>

## April 2012

## Events to Remember:

- Tues. April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Tri-County Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations: Baker County Extension Office, 1025 W Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida. Registration begins at 8:30AM. Call the Baker County Extension Office to pre-register at (904) 259-3520 by March 28, 2012; or call the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321. Flyer enclosed.
- Thurs. April 12<sup>th</sup>** Northeast Florida Forage School: Baker County Extension Service Auditorium, 1025 W Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, Florida. Call (904) 259-3520 by April 9<sup>th</sup> to pre-register. Registration begins at 4:30PM. Flyer enclosed.
- Fri. April 13<sup>th</sup>** Annie's Project: Six week course especially designed for farm/ranch women. Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, 8202 CR 417, Live Oak, Florida. Flyer enclosed.
- Thurs. April 19<sup>th</sup>** Tri-County Beef Update: Beef Cattle Genetics Workshop at Bradford County Extension Office 2266 N Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Contact the Bradford County Extension Office at (904) 966-6224 to pre-register. Registration \$5.00. Flyer enclosed.

---

## In This Issue:

- Beef Cattle Management Calendar
- Citrus fertilization
- Repairing Winter-Killed lawn areas/ Sodding New lawns
- Watering recommendations for established lawns
- Recently-Planted shrub irrigation scheduling & fertilization recommendations
- Irrigation scheduling & fertilization recommendations for recently planted trees

- Vegetables & bulbs to plant
- Fish Pond management (water quality & other factors that need to be taken care of now to prevent problems later).
- Mineral Supplementation for Cattle: Publication by Basil Bactawar, MSc

### **Enclosures:**

- ✓ **Tri-County Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations**
- ✓ **Northeast Florida Forage School**
- ✓ **Annie's Project**
- ✓ **Tri-County Beef Update**

### **Beef Calendar for April:**

- This is the month to plant millet, sorghum-sundagrass, browntop millet pastures if you are going to do so.
- Check mineral feeders and keep them filled. This is the month of "spring starvation" and you might have to continue feeding hay and other low quality roughages until summer pastures come in.
- Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.
- Observe cows as needed.
- Worm cows as needed.
- Observe bulls for condition and success, rotate and rest bulls.
- Vaccinate against blackleg and brucellosis after 3 months of age and before 12 months of age.
- Market cull cows and bulls.
- Update market information and refine market strategy for calves.

### **Citrus Trees:**

- ❖ **Newly set trees** (trees that you planted in February or March) should be fertilized in April with 12 ounces of a 6-6-6 analysis fertilizer per tree. Five more applications (once every 6 weeks) of 12 ounces of a 6-6-6 analysis fertilizer spread evenly around the root zone and extending past the drip-line should be made.
- ❖ **The second year**, beginning after trees leaf out, they should be fertilized five times during the growing season with two pounds of 6-6-6 analysis fertilizer at each application.
- ❖ **If trees are three years old**, they should be fertilized in April with three pounds 6-6-6 analysis fertilizer, with two more applications during the growing season at the same rate.
- ❖ **If trees are four years old**, they should be fertilized with three pounds 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer in April, with two more applications during the growing season at the same rate.

## **Repairing Winter-Killed lawns & Sodding New Lawns:**

- Frequent, short, watering are needed to develop a root system when repairing dead lawn areas or planting new lawns.
- Objects in watering during establishment are to keep the sod root system alive until it starts to peg down, then to encourage deep rooting. To ensure that roots don't die from lack of water following planting, irrigate a few times during the day until roots have pegged down into the soil. This generally takes five to ten days.
- Only irrigate enough to wet the top few inches of soil for this period (5-15 minutes per zone). After roots are pegged down, reduce irrigation gradually over the next 2-3 weeks to twice to three times weekly.

Later in the summer months, under drought conditions, daily irrigation may be necessary.

## **Begin fertilizing newly planted lawns about two weeks after planting.**

- Apply a complete (N-P-K) turf-type, slow release nitrogen fertilizer (e.g., 16-4-8 or 15-4-15) to provide  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Do this every 2-3 weeks until lawn has completely filled in, and then follow fertility regimes as recommended for your grass species.

## **Time for establishment will vary, but most lawns should be considered established 2-3 months after planting.**

- If you are planting centipede grass, only apply fertilizer once during establishment.
- **Look for the words slow-release or controlled-release on fertilizer labels.**
- Nitrogen in this type of fertilizer will not burn or wash away as readily as quick release nitrogen sources. Don't be fooled by the word organic. Some organic fertilizers are water-soluble and can leach as quickly as inorganic fertilizers.

## **Watering recommendations for Established lawns:**

- ✓ Irrigate when about half of the lawn shows wilting.
- ✓ Apply  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch of water when you irrigate (you can use a coffee can to measure how much water you have applied).
- ✓ Water in the early morning hours.
- ✓ Rule of thumb is 2 to 3 watering per week when there are no rainfall events during the week.

## **Recently Planted Shrub Irrigation Scheduling and Fertilization**

### **Recommendations:**

Recently transplanted shrubs survive best and establish most quickly with light, frequent irrigation. The following might be a helpful guide:

- **One-Gallon container size shrubs** take 3-6 months to establish (where you don't have to water so frequently). Apply one quart of water when irrigated.
- **Three-gallon container size** shrubs take 6-12 months to establish. Apply 2 quarts of water when you irrigate.
- **Seven-gallon container size** shrubs take 1-2 years to establish. Apply 1 gallon of water when you irrigate.

- **Slow-release fertilizer** can be used to increase growth rate once it's established (read the label and stay away from water-soluble fertilizers as they can damage root hairs). If you don't know what you're doing, you can actually do more damage and set growth back by over-fertilizing and using water-soluble fertilizers.

## Irrigation Scheduling & Fertilization Recommendations for Recently Planted Trees:

To ensure survival, provide two irrigations each week during the first few months after planting. **Daily irrigation provides the quickest establishment.** Following the initial few months of frequent irrigation, provide weekly irrigation until trees are fully established. At each irrigation, apply about two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter (e.g. 4-6 gallons for a 2 inch tree) over the root ball. Never add irrigation if root ball is saturated. The following might be a helpful guide:

- If trunk is 2 inches in diameter, irrigate daily for 2 weeks, every other day for 2 months, weekly thereafter until it is established.
- If trunk is 2-4 inches in diameter irrigate daily for 1 month, every other day for 2 months, weekly thereafter until it is established.
- If trunk is 4 inches in diameter irrigate daily for 6 weeks, every other day for 5 months, weekly thereafter until it is established.

Controlled-release fertilizer can be applied on top of the root ball and backfill soil or on top of the mulch at planting. There is no need to mix it with the backfill soil or place it at the bottom of the planting hole. Mulch usually doesn't prevent fertilizer from reaching tree roots. **Slow release fertilizer** at planting has not been associated with improved survival but can increase growth rate in some situations. Adding **soluble fertilizer** to newly installed plant could burn roots if too much applied. This will injure the tree and could kill it.

## Vegetables to plant:

April is the last month to plant many vegetables because of the upcoming hot weather. **Vegetables that should be planted no later than April include:** Bush beans, pole beans, cantaloupes, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, summer squash, tomatoes, collards, turnips. **Vegetables that can be planted from now into the summer include:** okra, southern peas, lima beans, sweet potatoes.

## Bulbs to Plant this Month:

African Lily (Morea), Amaryllis, Aztec Lily, Caladium, Crinum, Dahlia, Dutch Iris, Gloriosa Lily, Gloxinia, Ixia, Kaffir Lily, Marcia (Walking Iris), Morea, Spider Lily, Tritonia, Tuberose, Voodoo Lily, Watsonia, and Zephyr Lily.

## Fish pond owners need to pay attention to water quality and related factors:

As water temperatures warm in response to spring, fish pond water quality, water depth, water temperatures, pond stocking (how many fish you put in or have bred), fish size (biological demand for oxygen), aeration that you provide, how many pounds of fish food you give your fish, how often you feed your fish—all of these interacting factors will come into play very soon. You will soon know how well you are managing by how healthy your fish are. Warm water stresses fish from a water quality standpoint. Warm water holds less dissolved oxygen, increases the toxicity of ammonia thereby makes fish metabolism run faster aggravating stresses even further. Fish then can't deal with normal stressors when there are other fish in the pond, normal numbers of fish parasites, normal numbers of pathogenic micro-organisms, sounds, dissolved gases, normal pH fluctuations in the pond water during the day.

Healthy fish can usually take quite a bit of naturally occurring stresses during the day if pond water quality is high. We can manage our ponds to maintain high water quality by:

- ✓ Not over-stocking
- ✓ Not over-feeding
- ✓ Harvesting fish on a regular basis
- ✓ Installing a timed aeration system
- ✓ Adding water to keep pond depths constant and dilute ammonia
- ✓ Adding a dye to keep submerged weeds from growing

We often feed fish too much. Over-feeding leads to higher ammonia levels and lower water quality. Ponds are productive enough for fish to forage from the pond food chain. We need to catch fish on a regular basis just to weigh them and adjust feeding. If we stock with **200 catfish fingerlings per acre**, each fingerling weighing 0.06 pound then we should start off feeding once a day with no more than 4 ounces per day (or even less, if they clean all the feed up in less than a minute).

$$\begin{array}{r} (0.06 \text{ pounds per } \mathbf{\text{fingerling body weight}}) \\ \times \\ (200 \text{ fingerlings/surface acre of water}) \\ \times \\ 2\% \text{ of body weight (0.02)} \\ = \\ \mathbf{0.24 \text{ pound (4 ounces) of fish food to give fish every day}} \end{array}$$

If we are feeding catfish that have now grown to a weight of half a pound each then we need to feed (2) pounds of floating feed per day.

$$\begin{array}{r} (0.5 \text{ pounds } \mathbf{\text{body weight per catfish}}) \\ \times \\ (200 \text{ catfish/surface acre of water}) \\ \times \\ 2\% \text{ of body weight (0.02)} \\ = \\ \mathbf{2 \text{ pounds of fish food every day}} \end{array}$$

Mineral Supplementation for Cattle  
Basil Bactawar  
County Extension Director/Agent, Union

Forages grown in North Florida do not provide enough of some of the minerals that are required for reproduction, optimal growth and health for beef cattle. Some of the forages are deficient in macro-minerals such as phosphorus and sodium. Macro-minerals are required in relatively large amounts. They are expressed as percentage (%) on the labels of mineral supplements. In addition, forages are deficient in some micro-minerals such as copper, cobalt and selenium. These are generally expressed on the labels as milligrams per kilogram which is the same as parts per million. They are required in very small amounts.

There are interactions among minerals in the body of an animal. Consequently, minerals are dependent on one another to maintain the health of an animal. If one of these minerals is lacking in the diet, this deficiency can affect the health of an animal despite the adequacy of the rest of the required minerals in the diet.

Consequently, all the required minerals must be present in the mineral supplement in the right proportion.

Commercial mineral mixes offered free choice should meet the daily mineral requirement for beef cattle. You may wish to consider the following before purchasing commercial mineral mixes:

- (1) Mineral requirements vary with different stages of production of beef cattle. For example, growing and lactating cattle need more calcium than dry cows.
- (2) The preferred calcium to phosphorus ratio may range from 1:1 to 2:1. Cattle can tolerate a ratio of up to 7 to 1. The ideal ratio is considered to be 2:1 or 2 parts of calcium to 1 part of phosphorus in the final dry matter intake.
- (3) Phosphorus is the most expensive ingredient in a typical mineral mix, and so its level in commercial free choice mineral can vary from 0-12%. If one purchases a mineral supplement, based on price alone, it is possible that this may result in one's animal not getting enough phosphorus in the diet.
- (4) Sodium is always lacking in forages and feed for beef cattle. The source of sodium is common salt. The term salt and minerals are sometimes used interchangeable. Please note that salt is sodium chloride, and a mineral mix consists of other required minerals including salt. Salt is not stored in the body. Daily feeding of mineral supplement is necessary if salt is not provided separately.
- (5) Beef cattle can become deficient in magnesium especially when grazing lush pasture in early spring. This deficiency is referred to a grass tetany, and can lead to death. You may wish to provide high magnesium mineral during late winter and early fall.

In concluding, remember to buy the right mineral mix for your cattle by knowing which one (s) they need and by reading the label before purchasing them.

**Tri-County  
Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations  
April 3, 2012**

**Registration Deadline – March 28, 2012 5:00 PM**

Baker County Extension Office

**8:30 a.m.** Registration (\$5 per person for CEU's, \$45 if taking exam - includes 2 books)

**8:45 a.m.** **CORE Principles** (Applying Pesticides Correctly)  
(Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension)

Pest Control                      Pesticides in the Environment  
Pesticide Labeling              Special Environmental Concerns/Ground Water  
Pesticide Formulations        Harmful Effects & Emergency Response

**10:00 a.m.** **CORE Principles** (Applying Pesticides Correctly)  
(Tim Wilson, Bradford County Extension)

Personal Protective Equipment              Pesticide Handling Decisions  
Mixing & Loading of Pesticides              Applying the Correct Amount  
Effects of Pesticides on the Human Body    Florida Laws Regulations  
Transportation, Storage, Disposal & Spill Cleanup

**11:15 a.m.** **CORE EXAMINATION**

**12:15 p.m.** **Lunch – on your own**

**12:45 p.m.** **Private Applicator Agriculture Pest Control**  
(Tim Wilson and Basil Bactawar)

Pests & Their Control  
Application Equipment  
The Worker Protection Standard

**1:45 p.m.** **Equipment Calibration** (Mike Davis, Baker County Extension)

**3:00 p.m.** **Pesticide Arithmetic** (Mike Davis, Baker County Extension)

**4:15 p.m.** **PRIVATE APPLICATOR AGRICULTURE PEST CONTROL EXAM**

**CEUs (7 total, 3 CORE & 4 Private Ap/ Ag Row) have been requested for current Private Applicator License holders attending this program.**

**Call the Baker County Extension Office at 904-259-3520 to pre-register by March 28th.**

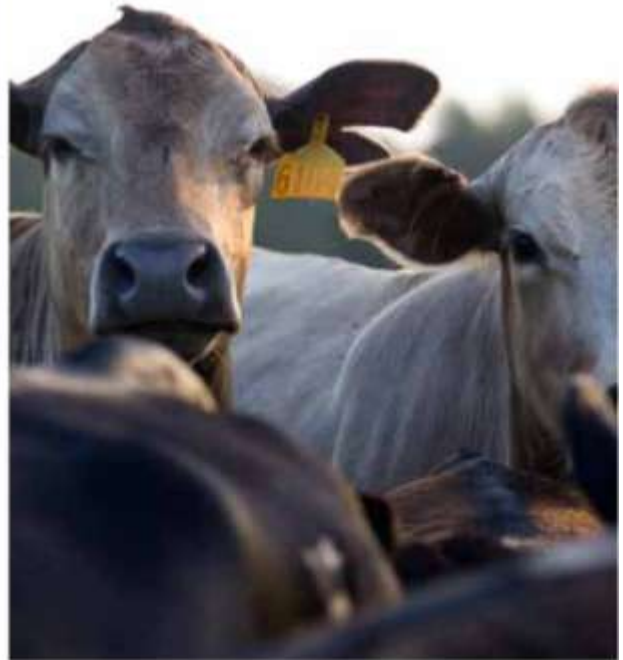
For individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Bradford County Extension Service at least 5 working days prior to the program in order for proper consideration to be given to the request. For TDD service, call the Florida Relay Service Center at: 1-800-955-8771



2012

# Tri-County Beef Update

## Beef Cattle Genetics Workshop



Contact the Bradford County Extension Office at (904) 966-6224 to register.

### WHEN:

Thursday, April 19, 2012

### WHERE:

Bradford County Senior Center

### HOW MUCH:

Registration is \$5.00.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

April 16, 2012

5:45 Registration

6:00 Welcome, Introductions and Meal  
*(Sponsored)*

### Forage Quality

*Tim Wilson (Bradford County Extension)*

### Nutrition

*Basil Bactawar (Union County Extension)*

### Agriculture Damage Assessment

*Mike Davis (Baker County Extension)*

### Beef Cattle Genetics

*Dr. Todd Thrift, (Professor, University of Florida, Animal and Dairy Science)*

### Questions, Answers & Evaluations

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.



5:45 Registration







## What is Annie's Project?

Annie's Project is a 6 week course designed especially for farm/ranch women. Sessions will combine lecture, discussion, individual and small group activities as well as software training. Annie's Project is designed to help farm/ranch women gain the understanding and knowledge necessary to be active and involved farm partners. Annie's Project will also help women find new ways to balance the demands of family, community and professionalism within the Ag community.

### Annie's Project Curriculum

Human Resources	Using Spreadsheets
Woman and Money	Marketing Plan & Strategies
Business Plans	Types of Insurance
Alternative Enterprises	Social Style
Financial Records	Farm Succession
How to Interpret Information	Estate Planning & Retirement and Much More

### COLUMBIA/SUWANNEE COUNTY - Class Time: 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

#### DATES

Friday, April 13, 2012  
 Friday, April 20, 2012  
 Friday, April 27, 2012  
 Friday, May 4, 2012  
 Friday, May 11, 2012  
 Friday, May 18, 2012

#### LOCATION

Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension  
 Center, Farm Classroom  
 8202 County Road 417  
 Live Oak, FL 32060

A Registration Form and \$40.00 fee must be received by Friday, March 30, 2012. Register early, class size limited to 20 participants. After March 30, 2012 there will be a \$10.00 late fee.

#### **MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SENT REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

Suwannee Extension Program Account  
 Suwannee County Extension Service  
 c/o Annie's Project  
 1302 11<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
 Live Oak, FL 32064

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

In Columbia County:

Jenny Jump  
 386-752-5384  
[Jenny.rae.jump@ufl.edu](mailto:Jenny.rae.jump@ufl.edu)

In Suwannee County:

Mary Sowerby  
 386-362-2771  
[meso@ufl.edu](mailto:meso@ufl.edu)

#### **The Foundation for The Gator Nation An Equal Opportunity Institution**

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact the Extension Office at least 10 working days prior to the event so that special consideration can be given to the request.

### **ANNIE'S PROJECT REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form along with a check for the registration fee, made payable to Suwannee Extension Program Account.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Millie Ferre-Chancy, Interim Dean.



Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group Presents

## Northeast Florida Forage School

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

5:00PM—9:00PM

**BAKER COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE AUDITORIUM  
1025 W. MACCLENNY AVE., MACCLENNY, FL 32063**

**Registration 4:30pm.  
\$10 per person. Contact your  
local Extension agent to  
register by April 9, 2012.**

### Basic Educational Topics:

- Warm & Cool Season Forages
- Improvement of Existing Pastures
- Soil Fertility
- Soil Amendments
- Weed Control
- Equipment Maintenance

<b>Alachua County:</b>	<b>(352) 955-2402</b>
• Cindy Sanders & Barton Wilder	
<b>Baker County:</b>	<b>(904) 259-3520</b>
• Michael Davis	
<b>Bradford County:</b>	<b>(904) 966-6224</b>
• Tim Wilson	
<b>Clay County:</b>	<b>(904) 284-6355</b>
• David Nistler	
<b>Columbia County:</b>	<b>(386) 752-5384</b>
• Derek Barber	
<b>Duval County:</b>	<b>(904) 255-7450</b>
• Mike Sweat & Brad Burbaugh	
<b>Hamilton County:</b>	<b>(386) 792-1276</b>
• Keith Wynn	
<b>Madison County:</b>	<b>(850) 973-4138</b>
• Dan Fenneman	
<b>Nassau County:</b>	<b>(904) 879-1019</b>
• Steve Gaul	
<b>Suwannee County:</b>	<b>(386) 362-2771</b>
• Elena Toro	
<b>Union County:</b>	<b>(386) 496-2321</b>
• Basil Bactawar	