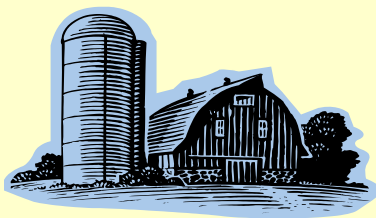


# HOMESTEAD & FARM NOTES

*February 2013*

*www.solutionsforyourlife.com*



## In This Issue

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## Upcoming Events & Programs

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

**February 4<sup>th</sup>:** **Florida Energy Stakeholders Workshop** at the Columbia County Extension Office, 6:30PM. Please call (386) 752-5384 to pre-register. Free workshop to discuss Loan & Grant programs for Small Businesses and Agricultural Producers with USDA and Florida Office of Energy.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>:** **23<sup>rd</sup> Tri-County Pesticide Update** at the Lake Butler Community Center, 5:00PM. Please call (386) 496-2321 by February 1st to pre-register.

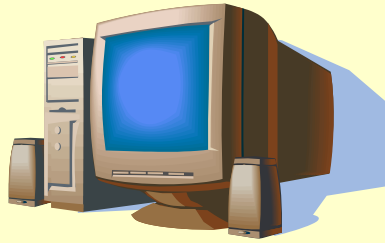
**February 7<sup>th</sup>:** **Forest Stewardship Workshop: Timberland Security for Landowners.** Contact the Columbia County Extension Office at (386) 752-5384 for more information.

**February 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>:** **Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening** free class at Alachua County Extension Office. February 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30PM to 7:30PM, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00PM to 4:00PM. Call (352-955-2402) for more information and to pre-register via voicemail call (352) 337-6209.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>:** **North Florida Cattlemen's Association Quarterly Meeting** at Suwannee Valley Ag Extension Education Center at 6:00PM, Dinner at 6:30PM. Call (386) 752-5384 to register by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**February 14<sup>th</sup> & February 28<sup>th</sup>:** **Tomatoes** free class (learn how to grow successfully). Alachua County Extension Office from 6:30PM to 7:30PM. Call (352) 955-2402 for more information and to pre-register via voicemail call (352) 337-6209.

# Office News & Updates



**Hello Readers & Producers,**

We held a Tri-County Beef Update on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The main speakers were Dr. Todd Thrift, Extension Beef Specialist and Dr. Jason Ferrell, Extension Weed Specialist. Most of the time during this event was allotted to a panel discussion during which producers received answers to some of their questions on beef production, nutrition management and weed control.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> we held a Tri-County Forage Update. Dr. Ann Blount provided an update on recommended forage varieties and cultivars for this year's growing season. In addition, the County Extension Agents for Bradford, Baker and Union provided information on the Bermuda Stem Maggot and forage quality.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00PM at the Lake Butler Community Center.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an article from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, please read for more information.

Thank You,

Basil Bactawar, Director/Agent

# Livestock & Wildlife

## Beef Calendar for February:

Top dress winter forages, if needed.

Check and fill mineral feeders.

Put bulls out with breeding herd.

Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc...)

Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.

Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.

Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.

Check for lice and treat if needed.

## Wildlife Happenings for February

Purple martins scouts look over North Florida nesting sites. Make sure houses are up.

Greater Sand hill cranes migrate from Florida northward to Michigan and Wisconsin.

Nesting season begins for ospreys in North Florida.

Watch for Manatees in spring runs.

Woodpeckers begin their mating season and announce territories by drumming on houses, telephone poles and other objects.

To learn more about manatees visit: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw209>



# Small Ruminant Corner



Photo Courtesy Of: Carol Elkins

<http://blackbellysheep.org>

**This month we will focus on: American Blackbelly**

**By: Basil Bactawar**

**Origin:** This breed is sometimes referred to as "Barbados Blackbelly," but it is different from the polled Barbado Blackbelly as a result of crosses with European breeds. This breed was imported in the US in 1904 and was crossed with Mouflon (wild sheep), Rambouillet and other European breeds to produce what is known as American Blackbelly.

**Coat & Color:** Has a variety of color ranging from black and tan through yellow with variegated mottled pattern. Black color covers belly, inside legs and thighs and extends up to the neck. In winter it puts on coat that is shed as temperatures increase. Rams generally have horns.

**Mature Weight (lb):** Ewe = 100-130, Ram = 120-150

**Disposition & Mothering Ability:** Extremely reactive to dogs and cats usually as though they wish to flee. It is more flighty than Dorper, Kathadin and St. Croix breeds. Ewes with young lambs show protective behavior and may raise front feet to strike dogs and cats when confronted. Have good flocking instinct.

**Environmental Adaptability:** Withstand heat and cold well, and part of this adjustment to extremes is behavioral. For example, cold wind and warm sun quickly result in herd finding shelter while woolen sheep remain in the open.

**Breeding Season:** Year Round.

**Lambing Interval:** 7 - 9 months.

**Lambing %:** Average lambing rate is between 150 and 250%. If ewes are fed well, lambing rate approaches the higher end.

**Average Birth Weight (lbs):** 6.5 lbs.

**Weight Gain/Daily:** 0.5 lbs daily.

**Market Weight/Live/Age:** 70-90 lbs / 7-8 months.

**Dressing:** 51%

# Horticulture Hints

**Cool season Vegetables to Plant:** Beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, endive or escarole, kale, lettuces, mustard, bunching onions, multiplier onions, parsley, English peas, Irish potatoes, radish, and turnip.

**Warm season Vegetables to Plant:** (To reduce risk of frost damage, plant after February 15<sup>th</sup>). Cucumber, eggplant, peppers, and tomatoes.

**Annual Flowers to Plant:** Baby's Breath, Calendula, Carnation, Dianthus, Dusty Miller, Marguerite Daisy, Pansy, Petunia, and Snapdragon.

**Fertilize established Fruit Trees:** (More than one year old) Peach, Plum, Pear, Persimmon, Apple, and Fig trees. Apply one and a half (1.5) pounds per tree of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for each year of the age of the tree. No more than fifteen (15) pounds of fertilizer per tree should be applied. For example, a 20 year old apple tree would only receive 15 pounds of fertilizer. This fertilizer should be applied in the tree "drip line."

**Fertilize established Pecan Trees:** (More than one year old). If you had a pecan tissue sample taken last summer, follow that recommendation. If you do not have a pecan leaf sample, then rule of thumb is to apply two (2) pounds of a "pecan type" (10-10-10-1% zinc) fertilizer for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, if the trunk is 12 inches in diameter, then the tree should receive 24 pounds of fertilizer (2x12). Rule of thumb is to apply no more than 50 pounds per tree of the "pecan type" fertilizer in February. Most of this fertilizer should be applied in the "drip line" of the pecan tree. The drip line region under the tree is where most of the feeder roots are.

**Mature Blackberry Vines:** Should be fertilized in late February. Apply one third (1/3) of a pound of 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer per vine.

**Bearing Blueberries:** Should be fertilized lightly. Two (2) ounces of an Azalea/Camellia type of fertilizer should be sufficient now. Fertilizing too much can injure blueberries and increase the damage from late winter freeze events.

**Fertilize established Chestnut Trees:** The rule of thumb is to apply one pound of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for each year of age of the tree. There is a maximum of 15 pounds of fertilizer per tree. For example, a five year old tree would receive five pounds of fertilizer. This fertilizer should be applied in the tree drip line.



## 4-H Happenings



### Are you ready for Union County 4-H

**February 5<sup>th</sup>: Leaders Meeting** 6:00PM at the Union County Rescue. Please plan on about 1 ½ hours.

Double check your Fair projects and equipment

Start meeting and sending letters to your prospective buyers and supporters

If you need help, please ask. Do not wait until you are late

**ALL 4-H Record Books are due February 21<sup>st</sup> by 4:30PM**

**March 9<sup>th</sup>: 4-H County Events**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>: Bradford County Fair**

Got your speech or demonstration ready?

How about your 4-H attire? Cleaned??? Pressed????



## **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update**

Lake Butler Community Center - Lake Butler, FL

**Tuesday February 5, 2013**

- 5:00PM Registration Table Opens**
- 5:30 CORE: The Principles of Pest Control**  
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 5:55 Pesticide Safety**  
Barton Wilder, UF/IFAS, Extension Agent Alachua County
- 6:20 Meal (Buffet)**
- 6:35 Plant Pathology**  
Nick Dufault, UF/IFAS, Plant Pathology Specialist – Gainesville
- 7:00 Update on Weed Control**  
Barton Wilder, UF/IFAS, Extension Agent Alachua County
- 7:25 CORE: Law & Rule Updates**  
Dr. Mike Davis, CED, Baker County
- 7:50 CORE: Pesticide Formulations**  
Tim Wilson, CED, Bradford County
- 8:15 Updates for Integrated Pest Management in Vegetable Crops**  
Dr. Susan Webb, ASO Professor, UF/IFAS Entomology & Nematology – Gainesville
- 8:40 CORE: Personal Protective Equipment**  
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 9:05 Evaluation and Adjourn**

**A total of 4 C.E.U.'s have been applied for (2 CORE + 2 Private/Ag Row) for Restricted Pesticide Applicators attending this program.**

FDACS Pesticide Certification Section Program ID#:

**To register call the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321 by **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:30PM.****

**Fee is required (early \$10, late \$15)**

**Venue: Lake Butler Community Center, 155 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Lake Butler, FL 32054**

Rick Scott  
GOVERNOR



Jesse Panuccio  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of*  
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

January 23, 2013

Mr. Basil Bactawar, Director  
Union County Extension Office  
25 NE 1st St.  
Lake Butler, FL 32054-1701

Dear Mr. Bactawar,

The Department of Economic Opportunity will be conducting prevailing wage surveys of hand harvesters of several citrus fruit varieties during 2013. The surveys will be mailed directly to employers and will request information for a typical day during the planting, cultivation and the harvest periods. A survey of areas of intended employment is planned for the citrus industry, tomatoes, and several vegetable, melon and berry varieties that are characterized by progressive movement of workers through different areas of Florida.

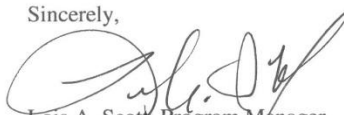
Full participation in these voluntary surveys by the employers represented by Florida Citrus Packers Association is essential. The reliability of survey results increases as employer participation increases.

The piece rates, hourly pay rates, and practices established by the surveys are important measures relied upon by many sectors of the citrus industry, government and the public. The results of these surveys are used in the labor certification process and are useful to the industry in ensuring a steady supply of labor, particularly in instances where the normal recruitment methods result in a shortage of workers. Areas of intended employment of workers have been identified by the United States Department of Labor as a critical element of worker protection.

We hope you will share this information with members of your organization, explain its potential usefulness and encourage them to participate. The wage information submitted by each employer is treated as confidential information; United States Department of Labor regulations prohibit the release of the identity of employers who submit information. Data collected is combined and placed in a report form that insures that no individual employer can be identified.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please direct them to Walter Jants at 850-921-3466.

Sincerely,



Lois A. Scott, Program Manager  
Workforce Program Support

LAS/wcj

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity | The Caldwell Building | 107 E. Madison Street | Tallahassee, FL | 32399-4120  
866.FLA.2345 | 850.245.7105 | 850.921.3223 Fax | [www.FloridaJobs.org](http://www.FloridaJobs.org) | [www.twitter.com/FLDEO](https://twitter.com/FLDEO) | [www.facebook.com/FLDEO](https://www.facebook.com/FLDEO)

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