



Homestead & Farm Notes

4-H Happenings



February 2015

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Florida Energy Workshop

USDA Rural Development will be conducting an Energy workshop with the Florida Department of Energy on February 25, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. The primary focus is to notify all the local small businesses and agricultural producers of **grant opportunities available** to purchase energy efficient and renewable energy equipment with USDA Rural Development providing a 25% grant of the total project costs. In addition, the Florida Department of Energy has grant opportunities to provide energy efficient financing for construction, equipment, and energy audits. The workshop will be held at Alachua City Hall, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, FL 32615 on February 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 AM. - please RSVP to Marty Sanders (marty.sanders@fl.usda.gov) or Kenda Robison (kenda.robison@fl.usda.gov) at Rural Development at 386-719-5590 no later than February 17, 2015.

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Upcoming Programs & Events

For more visit: <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>

February 9th: BUSA Meeting MANDATORY at the Bradford County Fairgrounds at 7:00PM.

February 10th: Beekeepers Club Meeting at 7:00PM at the Union County Extension Office.

February 10th: Cow/Calf Management Workshop at the Bradford County Fairgrounds Bldg. 1 from 5:45PM to 8:30PM. Call the Bradford Office at 904-966-6224 to pre-register.

February 17th: 25th Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update at Lakeside Community Center at 5:00PM. Please see enclosed flyer.

February 20th: Growing Backyard Blueberries & Blackberries at the Baker County Extension Office from 10:00AM to Noon. Call 904-259-3520 to pre-register.



Keeping Diseases off your Farm

Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension Director/Agent

There are many small ruminants (sheep and goat) farms in Northeast Florida. Movements of people, vehicles and equipment among farms are common. These activities can spread diseases from farm to farm unknowingly. If you wish to maintain a healthy herd of goats, cattle or a flock of sheep you may wish to consider implementing a biosecurity protocol on your farm. The following can serve as a basis for a biosecurity protocol:

- ◆ Control traffic on and off your farm by discouraging unnecessary visitors.
- ◆ Purchase healthy livestock from trusted or reputable suppliers.
- ◆ Isolate the animals you purchased for a minimum of two (2) weeks.
- ◆ Buy quality feeds.
- ◆ If an animal becomes sick, separate it from the healthy animals.
- ◆ Dead stock should be removed immediately from other animals and disposed of (burying) according to Union County and State regulations.
- ◆ Send the dead animal to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory to confirm cause of death, if you suspect a reportable disease.
- ◆ Keep all equipment, buildings, and the surrounding areas clean.
- ◆ Use disinfectants and detergents on equipment when required.
- ◆ Control or eliminate vermin.
- ◆ Make a concerted effort to protect your feed and water supplies from fecal contamination, especially by wildlife.

USDA Cattle Traceability Requirements

Chapter 9, Part 86, Code of Federal Regulations, Published January 9, 2013

- All cattle moving interstate must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (health certificate) or other approved document such as FDACS-09158 Permit for Interstate Movement from a USDA Approved Livestock Facility.
 - Official identification is required and must be listed on approved documents for:
 - ◊ Beef cattle 18 months of age and older and
 - ◊ All dairy cattle and
 - ◊ All show and rodeo cattle
 - Exceptions:
 - ◊ Cattle moving directly to slaughter (from farm or ranch to plant without unloading) or through a market and then directly to a slaughter plant
 - ◊ Cattle moving directly to an Approved Tagging Site
 - ◊ Cattle accompanied by a Commuter Herd Agreement
-

Florida Cattle Identification Rules

Chapter 5C-31, Florida Administrative Code, Effective September 4, 2014

- All cattle 18 months of age and older, moving within Florida, must bear Official Identification.
 - Exceptions:
 - ◊ Cattle moving directly to slaughter (from farm or ranch to plant without unloading) or through a USDA Approved Market and then directly to a slaughter plant
 - ◊ Cattle moving directly to an Approved Tagging Site
 - ◊ Cattle moving between pastures under normal ranching management without comingling with cattle of separate ownership
-

- ⇒ Various types of official tags can be purchased from tag manufacturers or Official metal tags are available at no charge from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- ⇒ To obtain tags, producers must provide a Premises Identification Number (PIN) which can be obtained from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Information is available at: www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability and www.FreshFromFlorida.com/ai

Additional Questions? Please call Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at 850-10-0900 or specifically Stephen Monroe 850-410-0944 or Dr. Diane Kitchen 850-251-1225. Revised August 20, 2014

Livestock Calendar

- 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).
- Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy. Check for lice and treat.
- Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases. Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.

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.

Working with the Union County Soil and Water Board

Most of us don't think twice about turning on a water spigot to enjoy the crisp cleanness of water pumped from the ground we walk on. Years ago, it wasn't a concern. Times have changed due to an increase in human mouths to feed, farm raised animals, and farm produce, which we all need. Times have also changed in the many different ways we enjoy and use water like watering our lawns, our flowers, our gardens, filling our pools, washing our cars etc...Many people think, once we get rain, the aquifer is "recharged." This is not always true. Just because it rains, doesn't mean that all that rain makes it to the aquifer. Water has a long and tedious journey to travel, sometimes getting trapped by layers of clay. While some counties have a higher rate of rain water that percolates to the aquifer, Union County only has a 5% rate. Most of Union County's water follows a route of runoff creeks and rivers. The Union County Soil and Water Conservation Board is exploring ways to help conserve drinking water usage by storage of rain water that would otherwise runoff or evaporate. These stored waters would be suitable to flush toilets, water flowers, gardens, and can be used for animal consumption.

We encourage all members of the community, from homeowner, flower gardener, the hobby farmer, and the bigger producers to conserve our aquifer drinking water. An easy way for homeowners to conserve is by collecting water with a barrel, aka: **the rain barrel**. You can find, relatively inexpensive barrels in Providence, just off CR 238 or check down on 8th Street in Lake Butler. Prices may range from \$25 to \$100. (Keep in mind that it doesn't have to be a barrel, it just needs to be able to hold water). To keep mosquitoes out of the barrel, make sure your barrel has a lid. Attach a hose or pipe to the bottom of the barrel before you set it in place. Use the gutters of a rood to guide the rain to your barrel. Additional information can be found at the following site, from the University of Florida Extension Service: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/barrels.htm>. YouTube is another resource for ideas on rain barrels.

By using the rain runoff to water your flowers, garden, lawn, and animals you are saving hundreds of gallons of drinking water that would otherwise come from the aquifer.

Laurel Schaafsma, Union County Soil & Water Conservation Board

Family Nutrition Program



There is something new in Lake Butler and all of Union County. It is called the Family Nutrition Program and is sponsored in part by the USDA and the University of Florida IFAS. I am Kimberly L. Shaw and I am the Family Nutrition Educator for this program. You, of course, are now asking, "What is FNP and what does it have to do with me?"

The Family Nutrition Program, or FNP for short, encourages the adoption of healthy lifestyle behaviors by (1) teaching nutrition education using the USDA's My Plate and Dietary Guidelines; (2) Providing food demonstrations; (3) Improving access and availability to local community resources; (4) Helping participants to stretch their food dollars, plan menus, and read food labels; (5) Encouraging participants to devote more time to being physically active.

As the Nutrition Educator for Union County I will be providing programs to all residents of Union County who are SNAP eligible as we target limited resource adults living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level and youth at schools, groups, churches, or summer camps where more than 50% of the participants are eligible for free/reduced lunch program.

I am very excited to be a part of this program and look forward to bringing you numerous nutrition, food and physical activity projects designed to help limited resource families, youth, and adults improve their health. FNP also targets risk factors associated with obesity, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and other chronic diseases.

Keep alert!!! Watch your local newspapers, library, and ad flyers for upcoming information about this exciting program for our county and **STAY HEALTHY AND BE ACTIVE!**



By: Kimberly L. Shaw

4-H Happenings

February Birthday's: Hunter Williams, Derald McManus, Jonathon Huntley, Codi Huntley, Tanner Connell, Hunter Merritt, Darby Andrews, Serenity Sharp, Kenli Jenkins, Celia Elixson, Miley Wilson, and Malia Williams,

County Events forms are due at the Extension Office by **February 9th**

February 3rd: Growers & Showers Club Meeting

February 9th: BUSA Mandatory Meeting, Bradford County Fairgrounds, 7PM

February 11th: Cooking Club Meeting & Livestock Club Meeting

February 12th: Pioneers Club Meeting

February 18th: Shooting Sports Club Meeting

February 21st: County Events at Union County High School at 8AM





25th Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update

Lake Butler Community Center

Tuesday February 17, 2015

- 5:00PM** **Registration Table Opens –**
- 5:30** **Pests and Pest Control**
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 5:55** **CORE: Personal Protective Equipment**
Tim Wilson, CED Bradford County
- 6:20** **Meal (Buffet)**
- 6:35** **Plant Pathology Field Diagnostic Update**
Nick Dufault, UF/IFAS, Plant Pathology Specialist - Gainesville
- 7:00** **Weed Control Identification**
Tim Wilson, CED, Bradford County
- 7:25** **CORE: Transportation, Storage and Security, and Disposal of Pesticide Wastes**
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 7:50** **CORE: The Label**
Tim Wilson, CED, Bradford County
- 8:15** **Weed Management Updates for Vegetable Crops**
Dr. Peter Dittmar, UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist—Gainesville
- 8:40** **CORE: Harmful Effects and Emergency Response**
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 10th, 4:30PM.

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

For individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Union County Extension Service (386-496-2321) at least 5 working days prior to the program in order for proper consideration to be given to the request. For TDD service, contact the Florida Relay Center at: (800) 955-8771.

Venue: Lakeside Community Center, 155 NW 3rd Street Lake Butler, FL 32054

Lets Jam...Berries

Taste and Take :

Sweetheart Jam

Chocolate Raspberry Jam

Strawberry Rhubarb Jam



If you have never made a Jam before or you are an expert... this is a fun opportunity to try new recipes!

February 26, 2014

Time:

5:30pm-7:30pm

Location:

Union County Extension

25 N. E 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32025

Cost \$10.00

Registration Due by February 19,2015

Call for more info and to register: (386)496-2321

Union County Extension Office
25 NE 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 19
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Union County Extension Office

25 NE 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054

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

Email: union@ifas.ufl.edu Hours: 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday-Friday

<http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>

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